



SUSTAINABLE CONTROL OF THE DESERT LOCUST IN WEST AND NORTHWEST AFRICA

The desert locust is a dangerous pest which destroys crops and pastures, threatens food security and the economic, social, health and environmental stability of the countries in the western area of its range (west and northwestern Africa). To combat this scourge, ten countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal and Tunisia) joined together in 2002 to form the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) and coordinate the preventive control strategy. This regional institution has been instrumental in containing a number of locust outbreaks in recent years, notably by implementing FAO's Emergency prevention system in west and northwest African Countries (EMPRES-WR).

The project was designed to contribute to the implementation of Phase II of the EMPRES-WR Programme by building capacity at national and regional levels and deploying mechanisms for the sustainable management of the Desert Locust Preventive Control System in the Western Region.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project consolidated the achievements of Phase I of the EMPRES-WR Programme (2006-2010), made it possible to develop the existing tools and lay the foundations for sustainable control, thanks to significant institutional and operational changes. The review of the agreement that established the CLCPRO has given the Commission more responsibility and autonomy to manage locust control; its Secretariat received technical assistance with operations. National Locust Control Units (NLCUs) set up during Phase I are fully operational thanks to the mobilization of national funding. The units' officers and managers have undergone training at regional and national levels and new and efficient instruments that have been developed (nine national locust risk management plans, the National Locust Monitoring System, the Monitoring and Evaluation System) support the NLCUs in managing their operations. The locust control financing system, which began in 2014, was formalized and the Regional Locust Risk Management Fund (RLRMF) was set up with contributions from the member countries totalling USD 2.5 million. This sum is expected to rise to USD 6 million to cope with upsurges. CLCPRO's appeals for funding are ongoing. After evaluating the first Regional Research Plan (RRP), RRP II was developed by control officers working with experts and research institutes. The plan aims to improve pest control methods and boasts new instruments (satellite imagery, UAVs) that have been tested and improved thanks to the project. The Environmental Specifications Document, which was produced and validated in all CLCPRO countries (except Libya), lays the foundations for control that complies with environmental safeguards and reduces the risks of poisoning and/or exposure to pesticides.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 1 699 112

Duration

July 2014 – December 2019

Resource Partner

Government of France

Partners

Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO)

Beneficiaries

Farmers, breeders, nomads and locust control bodies in the 10 CLCPRO member countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal and Tunisia)

IMPACT

At the end of the project, the foundations were in place for sustainable preventive control to protect the livelihoods of the end beneficiaries (herders, nomads and farmers). The project contributed to food security for people throughout the Western Region, to protecting their environment and combating migration in the event of a crisis.

The new instruments that were developed and implemented (satellite images, UAVs) not only facilitated data collection and monitoring of the biotopes but also made it possible to cover areas that had become inaccessible due to rising insecurity in the region.

The impact of climate change on locust population dynamics, which is still poorly understood, will have to be considered in conducting preventive control and refining the locust prospection.

ACTIVITIES

- Amendment to the 2002 Agreement establishing the CLCPRO.
- Technical assistance at CLCPRO meetings and sessions.
- Creation and USD 2.5 million of financing for the Regional Locust Risk Management Fund.
- Development of the Monitoring and Evaluation System during two regional workshops.
- Updating and validation of nine National Locust Contingency Plans in CLCPRO member countries and one Regional Locust Risk Management Plan.
- Review and updating of the third version of the National Locust Monitoring System.
- Review and implementation of regional training plans and organization of 23 theoretical and practical training courses for more than 240 beneficiaries.
- Translation of four locust control training modules into Arabic.
- Development of the second Regional Research Plan and collaboration with other research programmes to introduce and test new tools (satellite images and UAVs).
- Development and validation of environmental specifications and review of the Pesticide Stock Management System.
- Production of a short film on the results of the preventive locust control strategy in the Western Region.
- Independent evaluation of Phase II of the EMPRES-WR Programme in the second half of 2017.



Project Code

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ID donor: CS-015-30

Project Title

Project to support the implementation of Phase II of the EMPRES Programme (Desert Locust) in the Western Region

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Partnerships and Outreach

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