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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Sixty-ninth Session

Rome, 6 - 10 November 2017

Budgets of the Desert Locust Commissions for 2018-19

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- There are three Desert Locust Commissions currently operated by FAO:
 - The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in Southwest Asia (Eastern Region);
 - The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region;
 - The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region.
- The Budgets submitted in document FC 169/INF/6 are those approved by the three Commissions in December 2016 for Southwest Asia (Eastern Region), in February 2017 for the Central Region and in July 2016 for the Western Region.
- According to the treaties establishing the Commission [Article IV, section 4 Administrative Matters (b)] for the South-West Asia Commission and the Central Region Commission, and Article VII, section 4 “Functioning (c) of the Desert Locust Control Commission for the Western Region], and in line with consistent past practice, the Budget of each Commission should be submitted to the Council (delegated to the Finance Committee) for information prior to implementation.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Finance Committee is invited to take note of the three Commission budgets as presented.

Draft advice

- **The Finance Committee takes note of the budgets of the three Desert Locust Commissions.**

1. There are three Desert Locust Commissions currently operated by FAO: the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in Southwest Asia (SWAC), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO – Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale).
2. The Commissions play an increasingly important role in the effective implementation of the preventive control strategy adopted by all locust-affected countries to reduce the frequency, duration and intensity of devastating locust plagues through early warning, early reaction and contingency planning. These pillars are in line with FAO's five strategic objectives.
3. The Budgets of the Commissions draw on the funds available in the Trust Fund of each Commission. The source of these funds is the contributions made by the member countries of the Commission. The Budgets are decided upon at each Commission Session held every two years and their level is generally agreed according to a standard budget, with additional amounts sometimes included that draw on unspent balances from previous years. Normally the Session approves the budget for the two subsequent years.
4. The Budgets submitted in this document are the budgets approved by the Commission Sessions held in December 2016 for Southwest Asia, February 2017 for the Central Region and in July 2016 for the Western Region.
5. Where the budget is shown as “indicative”, it represents the standard budget that is generally approved by the individual Commission, reflecting the level of annual contributions. The next Session of each Commission will prepare a more precise budget for these years, in which some unused balances may or may not be employed and which may be adjusted.
6. The 30th Session of the SWAC, held in December 2016 approved the budget as presented in Appendix A. The primary activity of the Commission is an annual 30-day joint survey on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border in the spring breeding areas of the Desert Locust. The survey results are used for planning the summer campaign along the Indo-Pakistan border. The remaining activities concentrate on strengthening the national capacities of the countries in early warning and early reaction through contingency planning, training and new technologies. They include the introduction of the new eLocust3 system that allows field data to be recorded in situ and transmitted in real time to national locust centres, and an updated custom geographic information system (RAMSESv4 GIS) for data management. The national locust information officers of member countries are trained to use the new tools in an annual inter-regional CRC/SWAC workshop, supplemented by expert visits and continual backstopping of the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) of the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGPM) at Headquarters. Improving the skills of field officers continues to be emphasized through national training courses organized by National Master Trainers and translation of training materials into local languages. The procurement of small quantities of equipment to maintain a basic level of preparedness and make use of appropriate technologies also continues.
7. The 30th Session of the CRC, held in Muscat, Oman, in February 2017 celebrated its 50th anniversary of the Commission. For this occasion, the Commission produced a book entitled “A celebration of 50 years of service”. The Session members again discussed recommendation no. 28 of the 29th Session regarding the doubling of member countries' contributions to the Trust Fund of the Commission, which was endorsed. The Session members appreciated the member countries that paid double its contribution while requesting the other member countries to continue the process of implementing the doubling of the annual contributions. The Commission continues to implement the preventive control strategy in the key sectors of:
 - Early detection: development of Desert Locust survey and forecasting capacities, improvements of data management (recording, transmitting, analysing and reporting) through

an annual inter-regional CRC/SWAC workshops for national locust information officers with the FAO Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS);

- Early reaction: technical assistance provided to countries to increase their early intervention capacity and ensure effective and environmentally safer control operations;
- Capacity building support: the Commission encourages member countries to support their national training courses running costs, supplemented by the continued Commission's support to national and regional training courses, publications and scientific exchange visits as requested by members;
- Environment: implementation of the Environmental and Health Standard Requirements (EHS) developed by the Commission;
- Pesticides: implementation of the Pesticide Stock Management System (PSMS) which is an important FAO tool to manage pesticide stockpiles that provides detailed information on the inventory of useable and obsolete pesticide stocks, identifies the registration status of the pesticides in stock, and monitors pesticide quality, movements and use in the country, including disposal;
- Contingency planning: use of the updated tools (**Desert Locust Contingency Planning Assistant (DeLCoPA)**) to improve preparedness for Desert Locust interventions so that necessary resources can be mobilized early enough when an emergency situation arises;
- Visibility: continual update of a newly redesigned CRC website in English and Arabic and produce flyers to publicize the Commission activities;
- Research: provision of a platform for joint research programmes on improved Desert Locust control strategies and tactics based on research proposals submitted by the member countries;
- Future plans: in the framework of the joint and ongoing cooperation among the regional Commissions, it has been agreed to investigate and field test the potential use of drones in locust early warning and preventive control. The use of fixed and rotary wing (drones) could be a potential means of improving Desert Locust monitoring, early warning and rapid control, and reducing the costs of survey and control operations.

8. The eight Session of the CLCPRO, held in July 2016, approved the budget for 2017 and 2018 as presented in Appendix C. The CLCPRO implements the preventive control strategy through institutional and technical activities:

- The Commission finalized the study on institutional and financial matters. The meeting of the Ministers in charge of locust control in the ten CLCPRO's member countries, held on 25 October 2016 in Algiers, Algeria, endorsed in particular:
 - The establishment of the "Regional Desert Locust Contingency Fund" aimed at enhancing early action and response to Desert Locust outbreaks and initial upsurges. This regional fund with an amount estimated at USD six millions, is to be replenished firstly by voluntary contributions from the CLCPRO's member countries and external assistance.
 - The implementation of FIRO "*Force d'Intervention de la Région occidentale*", a new intervention mechanism for Desert Locust control early reaction.
- During an extraordinary Session of the Commission (Bamako, Mali, 3-6 July 2017) the Member States unanimously endorsed the amendments to the agreement for the establishment of the Commission. These amendments, previously approved by the FAO Council at its 154th Session (Rome, 30 May-3 June 2016), became effective for all Members on 6 July 2017. They further define the responsibilities of the President, the Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary of the Commission and; emphasize south-south cooperation, Desert Locust risk management plans and list of environmental requirements.
- As part of the preventive control strategy, the Commission continues, through its trust funds and the EMPRES programme which is coordinated by the Executive Secretariat of CLCPRO, to support member countries in using the new technologies for data collection, transmission and management of Desert Locust information, such as elocust3 and RAMSESv4 GIS for implementing the survey and control annual plan for each country to ensure the

implementation of early warning and early control reaction systems. Delegates also approved the updated survey and control plan.

- The CLCPRO continues to implement the third regional training plan (2015-2018) through technical and financial support provided to support trainings at national and regional levels on Desert Locust management related matters. The Commission also awards permanently one doctoral grant.
- Environmental-based activities and implementing environmental requirements are supported such as mapping sensitive areas, using the Pesticide Stock Management System (PSMS), implementing mitigation measures in control operations and increasing the progressive use of bio-pesticides.
- Contingency planning has been in progress for more than eight years: (i) nine out of ten countries have a national contingency plan tailored to different Desert Locust situation scenarios and (ii) the regional contingency plan has been elaborated and validated by the 8th Session of CLCPRO and will allow the Executive Secretariat to better manage the Desert Locust risk in the Western Region.
- The second Desert Locust operational research plan in the Western Region (2016-2019) has been developed and primary research activities initiated in 2017. Advocacy will continue to raise the funds needed to implement the regional research plan.

APPENDIX A

**FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN SOUTHWEST ASIA (EASTERN REGION)**

TRUST FUND BUDGET

TF 9123.00 MTF/RAS/001/MUL

Account	Description	2017 (approved)	2018 (approved)	2019 (indicative)
5013	Consultants	8 000	8 000	8 000
5014	Contracts	10 000	10 000	10 000
5020	Locally contracted Labour	3 250	3 250	3 250
5021	Travel	78 612	78 612	78 612
5023	Training	3 250	3 250	3 250
5024	Expendable Equipment	5 500	5 500	5 500
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	2 500	2 500	2 500
5028	General Operating Expenses	34 138	34 138	34 138
5029	Support Costs(*)	17 575	17 575	17 575
	TOTAL	162 825	162 825	162 825

*SC 5% on accounts 5024 and 5025, SC 13% on all other accounts, figures are what was approved in budget and may differ slightly from actual SC

APPENDIX B

**FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE CENTRAL REGION**

TRUST FUND BUDGET

TF 9409.00 MTF/INT/007/MUL

Account	Description	2017 (approved)	2018 (approved)	2019 (indicative)
5012	Salaries General Service	70 000	70 000	70 000
5013	Consultants	20 000	20 000	20 000
5014	Contracts	129 500	112 500	112 500
5020	Locally contracted Labour	4 000	4 000	4 000
5021	Travel	38 000	70 000	70 000
5023	Training	120 000	155 000	155 000
5024	Expendable Equipment	15 000	15 000	15 000
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	30 000	30 000	30 000
5027	Technical Support Services	2 000	2 000	2 000
5028	General Operating Expenses	20 000	20 000	20 000
5029	Support Costs(*)	54 965	61 465	61 465
5040	General Operating Expenses – External common services	2 000	2 000	2 000
	TOTAL	505 465	561 965	561 965

*SC 5% on accounts 5024 and 5025, SC 13% on all other accounts

APPENDIX C

**FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE WESTERN REGION**

TRUST FUND BUDGET

TF 9169.00 MTF/INT/006/MUL

Account	Description	2017 (approved)	2018 (approved)	2019 (indicative)
5013	Consultants	71 500	73 000	73 000
5014	Contracts	30 000	30 000	30 000
5020	Locally contracted Labour	5 750	6 750	6 750
5021	Travel	132 750	146 250	146 250
5023	Training	18 000	18 000	18 000
5024	Expendable Equipment	40 500	47 500	47 500
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	182 750	135 750	135 750
5028	General Operating Expenses	144 750	156 750	156 750
5029	Support Costs(*)	81 380	79 820	79 820
	TOTAL	707 380	693 820	693 820

*SC 13% on all accounts