



FAO'S COMMISSION ENSURES SUSTAINABILITY OF DESERT LOCUST PREVENTIVE CONTROL IN WEST AND NORTHWEST AFRICA



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CLCPRO *key facts*

TEN MEMBER COUNTRIES: ALGERIA, BURKINA FASO, CHAD, LIBYA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, NIGER, SENEGAL AND TUNISIA

NEW MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE DESERT LOCUST PREVENTIVE CONTROL STRATEGY

The **FAO COMMISSION** for controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) strengthens national capacities of locust-affected countries in West and Northwest Africa in planning, training, research and effective and timely response to Desert Locust invasions in order to prevent upsurges and plagues.

The Commission contributes significantly to food and livelihoods security in northern Africa through its regional approach in preventing serious damage that locusts can inflict on pastures and agricultural production in the concerned member countries.

The Commission fosters sustainable Desert Locust management by implementing harmonized tools and processes for locust monitoring and control that is fully supported by each member country's national budget.

MECHANISMS FOR PREVENTIVE CONTROL STRATEGY OF DESERT LOCUST

The Commission has successfully put mechanisms into place that ensure the long-term sustainability of the preventive control strategy in the Western Region.

First, Commission member countries have developed a strong sense of ownership that resulted in tripling the amount of annual contributions to the Commission's Trust Fund from US\$ 227 000 to US\$ 639 000 starting from 2011. This represents a very good example of country-led development.

Second, a new sustainable financing system for Desert Locust preventive control in the Western Region was adopted by the ten member countries.

This mechanism is composed of eight instruments that are aligned with the four periods of Desert Locust activity (recession, outbreak, upsurge, plague) and includes two new funds.

The key features of the system are:

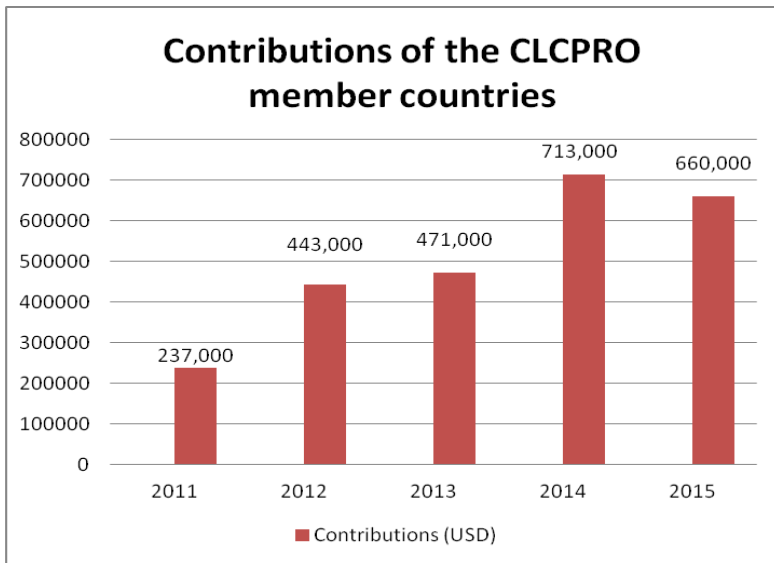
- › the various financing sources at the national, regional and international level complement each other to ensure continuous financing of control operations,
- › contingency plans are the cornerstone of the entire system, and
- › financing instruments calling for the participation of international donors are matched with regular dialogue with these donors.

This system aims at reinforcing national funding, regional solidarity, South-South cooperation and regional institution support.

The third mechanism put in place for the durability of the preventive approach is the organization of periodical ministerial meetings that bring together all members of CLCPRO in order to check and review the Commission's track record and determine strategic orientations.



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CLCPRO features

PREVENTIVE CONTROL STRATEGY IS MORE EFFICIENT, LESS COSTLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

MEMBER COUNTRIES ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMISSION'S TRUST FUND TRIPLED SINCE 2011

NATIONAL LOCUST CONTROL UNITS AND THE CLCPRO SECRETARIAT HAVE ACHIEVED OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

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Finally, to develop the preventive control strategy, which is the most efficient, affordable and environmentally sound instrument available for Desert Locust management, special attention is paid to "front line countries" where autonomous National Locust Control Units were established by national parliaments. These well-equipped and organized units are the pillars of regional and international Desert Locust early warning and control both in frontline and invasion countries. For this reason, it remains critical that such units have access to sufficient national budgetary resources every year.

ADVANTAGE OF DESERT LOCUST PREVENTIVE CONTROL STRATEGY

The cost of the last Desert Locust invasion in the Western Region in 2003-2005 was estimated at US\$ 570 million. The damage to agro-pastoral resources in the Sahel ranged from 30 percent to 100 percent, depending on the type of crop.

Its control required spraying 13 million litres of pesticides with associated risks to human health and the environment that were already vulnerable due to drought and climate change.

CLCPRO estimates that the curative costs of US\$ 570 million was equal to 170 years of preventive control in the ten member countries without using substantial amounts of pesticides.

RESULTS ACHIEVED AND THE WAY FORWARD

Five Desert Locust outbreaks have been contained since 2006 of which some could have evolved into a serious upsurge. Compared to the 2003-2005 upsurge, the response to the 2012-2013 crisis in the Sahel was faster and more efficient, which brought the situation under control and prevented an upsurge.

Several important lessons were learned from managing this emergency: (i) resources were mobilized in 1-2 months, (ii) the lead time for releasing Technical Cooperation Programme funds varied from country to country, showing the need to have country requests prepared at the earliest stages of the threat to accelerate processing, (iii) the procurement and delivery of equipment took much longer than expected, (iv) cooperation between countries facilitated by FAO allowed to meet requirements without having to purchase additional pesticides, and (v) more advocacy is needed to support faster donor involvement.

Overall, the rapid and organized response led to a lower use of pesticides over a much smaller area, causing less adverse impact on the environment than in 2003-2005.

Sustainability of the preventive control strategy is on track, but countries are facing critical challenges especially due to the increasing insecurity in the Western Region that could jeopardize results obtained so far.

New approaches are being investigated in close collaboration with the Desert Locust Information Service in order to get timely locust and habitat information, essential for early warning and rapid response.