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# FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Hundred and Ninety-eighth Session**

**Rome, 6-10 November 2023**

**Budgets of the Desert Locust Commissions for 2023-24**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- There are three Desert Locust Commissions currently operated by FAO:
  - the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia, (Eastern Region) (SWAC);
  - the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC);
  - the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO).
- The budgets submitted in this document are the standard budgets approved by the 10th CLCPRO Session held in November 2022 and 32nd CRC Session held in June 2022, whereas the 33rd SWAC Session was not organized as planned in 2022 and the budget presented in this paper is the same approved in the last online session of December 2020.
- According to the treaties establishing the commissions [*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 is 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.

1. There are three regional Desert Locust Commissions operated by FAO: the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC), established in 1964, the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC), established in 1967, and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO – *Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale*), established in 2002.
2. The commissions play an increasingly important role in the effective sustainable 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. As such, the work of commissions contributes to all FAO's four betters.
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 annual assessed contributions made by the member countries of the commission, in addition to any other voluntary contributions. 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 sometimes additional amounts, based on planned activities. Normally, the session approves the expenditures of the previous two years and the budget for the two subsequent years.
4. The budgets submitted in this document are the proposed budgets approved by the last commission sessions. For CLCPRO and CRC, the presented budgets were approved at their last sessions: 10th CLCPRO Session held in November 2022 and 32nd CRC Session held in June 2022. In the case of SWAC, the 33rd SWAC Session could not be organized in 2022 and is planned to take place in December 2023; hence, the budget presented in this paper is the same indicative budget approved in the last online session of 2020.
5. Whereas each budget is shown as “indicative”, it represents the standard budget that is generally approved by the individual commission, reflecting the level of annual contributions.
6. The CLCPRO approved the budget for 2023 and 2024 during its 10th Session held in November 2022. The budget is presented in Appendix A. The budget supports the key activities of the CLCPRO workplan under five agreed outcomes:
  - Outcome 1 includes the support to the organization of joint surveys of CLCPRO member countries, national contingency planning simulation exercises, Desert Locust data transmission and management, communications activities, monitoring and evaluation, functioning of FIRO<sup>1</sup> bases, and technical and financial support to the member countries in case of emergencies;
  - Outcomes 2 and 3 focus on national and regional trainings, and support to the national Desert Locust projects and the regional research projects on locust behaviour and innovations;
  - Outcome 4 supports member countries in implementing environmental requirements and the acquisition of biopesticides and insect growth regulators; and
  - Outcome 5 is related to supporting the operational capabilities of the Commission's Secretariat, including the Desert Locust data management, advocacy activities and the organization of the statutory meetings of the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> FIRO (*Force d'Intervention de la Région Occidentale*): Western Region Intervention Force. The principle of the FIRO is the implementation of a regional cooperation tool through the CLCPRO, capable of ensuring the continuity of survey and preventive control activities in the frontline countries (Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Chad) and thus reduce the risk that a locust situation of slight outbreak evolves into a critical locust situation of sharp outbreak or upsurge or even locust invasion.

7. In addition, 15 recommendations have been endorsed at the 10th CLCPRO Session by member countries for implementation in the biennium 2023-2024. The recommendations are related to emergency fund, risk management, technical, programme and development aspects, environment and promotion of biopesticides, promotion of the use of new technologies as well as operations, communication and advocacy.

8. The CRC approved the budget for 2023 and 2024 during its 32nd Session held in June 2022, as presented in Appendix B. The programme of the Commission focused on five outputs:

- Output 1 ensures that the National Locust Control Units/Centres (DLCUs) are constantly operational and well equipped;
- Output 2 relates to follow-up with the NLCUs in member countries and ensure that they have qualified Desert Locust staff;
- Output 3 supports the implementation of effective locust monitoring and early warning system, and national and regional contingency plans;
- Output 4 supports the promotion of research, innovative technologies for the Desert Locust monitoring and control; as well as the use of safe alternatives and the implementation of Human Health, Safety and Environment Standards; and
- Output 5 is related to the Secretariat operational costs, communication and advocacy.

9. The Commission is engaged in a new dynamic of exchange and sharing efforts and means, supported by FAO and financial partners, notably the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

10. The Commission's proposed workplan for 2023-2024 will continue to promote the implementation of the locust preventive control strategy and new technologies for locust monitoring and early warning, including the expansion of the use of drones for locust surveys; promotion of biopesticides use and implementation of Environment, Health and Safety Standards; and strengthening of the institutional capacity and preparedness of Central Region member countries for effective and early reaction to Desert Locust invasions and outbreaks.

11. The CRC endorsed 24 recommendations to be implemented during the biennium 2023-2024 related to the operational, technical, programme and development aspects.

12. A significant recommendation was endorsed during the Session, that is, to waive all outstanding debts owed to the Commission's Trust Fund as at the end of the fiscal year 2021/22, for all member countries. This decision was reached to demonstrate regional solidarity among Commission member countries and to acknowledge the current challenges they are facing. Additionally, the hope is that this will encourage governments to make their annual contributions in a timely and consistent manner.

13. The Commission extended its membership by accepting the request of the Federal Republic of Somalia to become a member.

14. The SWAC approved the budget for 2021 and 2022 during its 32nd Session held in December 2020.

15. The budget as presented in Appendix C shows the forecast for 2023 and 2024, reflecting the fixed annual contribution of member countries. The primary workplan and activities remain the standard ones as were presented at the 191st Session of the Finance Committee. It includes, among others, the 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. Improving the skills of field officers continues to be emphasized through national

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training courses organized by National Master Trainers and translation of training materials into local languages. The Commission supports the procurement of needed equipment like Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well as spare parts to maintain a basic level of preparedness and make use of appropriate technologies also available with member countries.

**Appendix A****FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN WESTERN  
REGION (CLCPRO)****Work plan and proposed budget for the years 2023 and 2024 by account in USD****TRUST FUND BUDGET**

GCP/GLO/898/MUL

<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
5013	Consultants	80 000	80 000
5014	Contracts	100 000	100 000
5020	Locally Contracted Labour	3 478	3 478
5021	Travel	150 000	150 000
5023	Training/Workshops	50 000	50 000
5024	Expendable Equipment	50 000	50 000
5025	Non-Expendable Equipment	50 000	50 000
5027	Technical Support Services	2 000	2 000
5028	General Operating Expenses	80 000	80 000
5029	Support Cost (13%)	73 513	73 513
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>639 000</b>	<b>639 000</b>

**Appendix B****FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN  
CENTRAL REGION (CRC)****Work plan and proposed budget for the years 2023 and 2024 by account in USD****TRUST FUND BUDGET**

GCP/GLO/896/MUL

<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
5012	Salaries General Service	110 000	110 000
5013	Consultants	30 000	30 000
5014	Contracts	120 000	110 000
5020	Locally Contracted Labour	4 142	4 142
5021	Travel	40 000	80 000
5023	Training	100 000	70 000
5024	Expendable Procurement	14 000	14 000
5025	Non-Expendable Procurement	30 000	30 000
5027	Technical Support Services	2 000	2 000
5028	General Operating Expenses	20 000	20 000
5040	General Operating Expenses - external common services	2 000	2 000
5029	Support Cost (13%)	61 378	61 378
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>533 520</b>	<b>533 520</b>

**Appendix C****FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN SOUTHWEST ASIA  
(SWAC)****Work plan and proposed budget for the years 2023 and 2024 by account in USD****TRUST FUND BUDGET**

GCP/GLO/897/MUL

<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
5013	Consultants	5 000	5 000
5014	Contracts	10 000	10 000
5020	Locally Contracted Labour	5 000	5 000
5021	Travel	15 000	20 000
5023	Training/Workshops	30 000	15 000
5024	Expendable Equipment	10 000	8 000
5025	Non-Expendable Equipment	3 000	15 000
5027	Technical Support Services	1 845	1 845
5028	General Operating Expenses	15 000	15 000
5029	Support Cost (13%)	12 330	12 330
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107 175</b>	<b>107 175</b>