



Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region Newsletter

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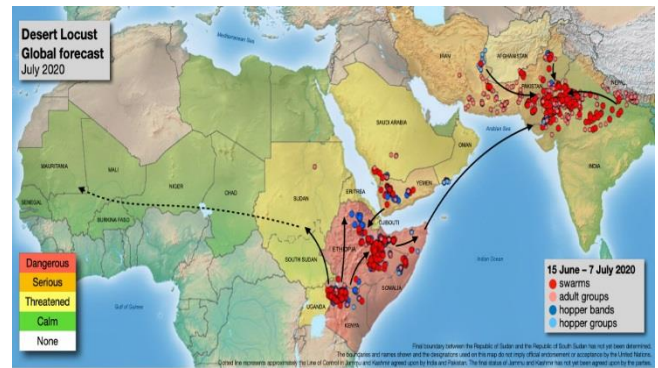


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Locust threat for the western region: strategy and actions

The latest Locust Information Service update does not report a movement of swarms from northwest Kenya to Sudan and therefore reduces the likelihood of a locust invasion in our area. However, we must remain vigilant, as it is difficult to define the probability of occurrence of an invasion in the Western Region given that the desert locust is a biological phenomenon and it is a combination of several factors (rainfall, winds, presence of ecological conditions favorable to breeding and flight capacity of Desert Locust swarms). Thus, the early warning and rapid intervention system mobilized should be maintained from July to October in the four frontline countries (Chad, Niger, Mali and Mauritania).

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION



Desert Locust forecasting

Source: <http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/fr/info/info/index.html>

CLCPRO IN ACTION

At national level

Teams capacity building

As part of the implementation of the locust emergency action plan from June to August 2020, CLCPRO programmed and supported from its regional locust risk management fund (*Fonds Régional de Gestion du Risque Acridien - FRGRA*) 18 sessions of national training (on survey techniques, spraying techniques and health and environmental monitoring -HSE) for the benefit of 132 technicians from the national locust control units (*Unités Nationales de Lutte Antiacridienne - UNLA*) of the six (06) Sahelian member countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad).



Thus, at the end of June, ten training courses were organized out of a total of seventeen. The remaining courses are scheduled on July and August. In addition, and in order to strengthen the intervention capacities of the responsible staff for supervising aerial surveillance and control operations, training on the management of an aerial base in locust control was organized for the benefit of eight (08) technicians from the four (04) front line countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad). Training and continuous monitoring for the benefit of locust information officers are regularly organized through remote conferences on the use of locust information collection tools (eLocust3 g, m and w) and analysis and management (RAMSES).

Pesticide management

Within the framework of strengthening national devices and with CLCPRO's funding:

- 22 samples of 250,000 liters of Chlorpyrifos of the Moroccan stock were analyzed in an international certified laboratory with funding from CLCPRO,
- 12 samples of 30,000 liters of Chlorpyrifos from Algeria's stock and a sample representing 32,000 liters of stock from Mauritania are being sent for analysis in the same laboratory.



In July and after agreement from Morocco and Algeria, a quantity of 60,000 L of pesticide is being shipped to Chad (30,000 L) and Niger (30,000 L) from Morocco and another 30,000 L from Algeria to Mali or Mauritania will follow. For acquisitions and in case of invasion, it is planned to purchase a total of 210,000 L of chemical pesticides: Mauritania (100,000 L), Mali (20,000 L), Niger (60,000 L) and Chad (30,000 L), a quantity of 50,000 L of growth inhibitors: Chad (10,000 L), Niger (10,000 L) and Mauritania (30,000 L) and a quantity of 1,500 kg of biopesticide based on entomopathogenic fungus: Chad (200 kg), Niger (300 kg), Mali (200 kg) and Mauritania (800 kg).

Intervention devices

In its action plan, CLCPRO expected the triggering of the National Locust Emergency Plans (*Plan National d'Urgence Acridienne - PNUA*) and the Regional Locust Risk Management Plan (*Plan de Gestion du Risque Acridien - PGRA*), including the Regional Locust Risk Management Fund.

Thus, CLCPRO funded the deployment of survey/control teams in the four front line countries (Chad, Niger, Mali and Mauritania) in order to deal with any Desert Locust outbreak.



Field survey/control teams

The device consists of:

- Chad: 8 teams (6 for survey, 1 for coordination and 1 for the management of the aerial base);
- Niger: 6 teams (4 for survey, 1 for coordination and 2 for the management of the aerial base);
- Mali: 5 teams (4 for survey, 1 for coordination);
- Mauritania: 12 teams (4 for survey, 6 for control, 1 for coordination and 2 for the management of the aerial bases).

Currently, all the teams are on the ground except those from Mali. The collected data by the teams is transmitted in real time to the national locust control units for analysis and transmission at the national, regional (CLCPRO) and international level (Desert locust information service – DLIS, at FAO headquarters).

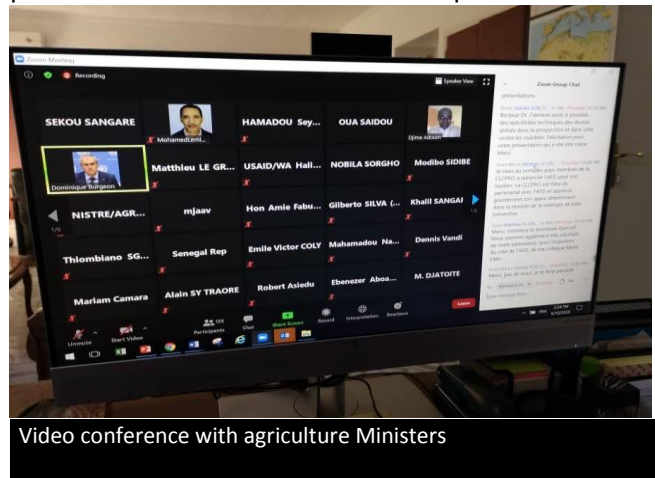
Drones to reinforce the aerial system:

CLCPRO plans to acquire four drones, which will be deployed in Chad and Niger in order to strengthen the land prospecting units through the coverage of very important areas in the short term, which will save time and resources to national units operating in the field. These drones have been adapted to communicate with the eLocust3 available to the survey teams,

specifically for the preparation of missions, the automatic processing of the collected data and the visualization of photos/videos of green vegetation and of the Desert Locust.

Regional / International Level

Since the beginning of the locust crisis in the Horn of Africa and in the Central and Eastern regions, CLCPRO has closely observed the situation and developed its regional emergency action plan in April 2020 in consultation with its member countries and FAO headquarters in response to this locust threat. This plan was shared with all institutional partners.



Video conference with agriculture Ministers

CLCPRO's Secretariat continues to collaborate with its member countries as well as FAO Regional Office for Resilience, Emergencies, and Rehabilitation in West Africa / Sahel (REOWA) in charge of coordinating FAO's response to this threat, for the implementation of anticipatory actions as mentioned above. Virtual meetings are organized regularly, with the directors of national locust control units and FAO representations, as well as with FAO headquarters, in order to take stock and see the progress of the actions to be taken. As part of the mobilization of the necessary funds to face the challenge: "preserving food security and also avoiding an economic crisis", the following actions have been carried out:

1. FAO launched an appeal on May 21st, depending on the two scenarios defined with the CLCPRO (USD 50 M for the first, USD 75 M for the second scenario);
2. CLCPRO and REOWA participated in the meeting of Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the ones of the North African countries, held on June 10th, 2020, by the presentation of its regional emergency action plan;

3. The French Development Agency (AFD) has granted 1 million euros to CLCPRO (on condition that the invasion is declared in the western region) and remains open for other funding;
4. An information note on the locust situation, FAO Appeal for West Africa / Sahel, CLCPRO's action plan and the technical note for locust impact analysis on food security and nutrition were all shared with the DfID Regional Director in order to seek funding through their ongoing projects in targeted countries;
5. An information and sensitization meeting was held with the Regional Director for Africa of the African Development Bank (AfDB);
6. The World Bank has approved a budget of \$ 500 million for desert locust control and other response activities to the consequences of the invasion in Africa and the Middle East. This financial package includes low interest loans and grants to the most affected countries. West Africa is not currently affected by this funding;
7. The donation of USD 1 M from South Korea to West Africa was approved. The countries concerned by this donation are as follows: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad.



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