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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Sixtieth Session

Rome, 2 - 6 November 2015

Budgets of the Desert Locust Commissions for 2016-17

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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 160/INF/X are those approved by the three Commissions in December 2014 for Southwest Asia (Eastern Region), in November 2014 for the Central Region and in June 2014 for the Western Region.
- 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 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*).¹
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 2014 for Southwest Asia, in November 2014 for the Central Region and in June 2014 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 29th Session of the SWAC, held in December 2014, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Commission, FAO's oldest regional Desert Locust commission. This is testimony to the sustainability of this body. The Session approved the budget as presented in Appendix A as well as a 50% increase in the annual member contributions, the first increase since the beginning of the Commission. This will allow an increase of activities for early warning and preventive control, commencing in 2017. 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 29th Session of the CRC, held in November 2014, agreed to double the annual contributions of each member country as the current levels had not been changed since 1980. Commencing in 2017, this will allow sustainable funding of Desert Locust control operations in the

¹ SWAC – Afghanistan, India, Iran, Pakistan

CRC – Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

CLCPRO – Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia

member countries of the Commission and support a quicker response to Desert Locust outbreaks thereby reducing their potential spread within the region and threat to other regions. The Session also agreed to establish a Regional Emergency Fund (REF) to allow further resource mobilization and support for Desert Locust control operations when required. The 29th Session approved the budget presented in Appendix B and authorized the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, to cover the cost of implementing any recommendations that are not reflected in the budget's work plan. 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, analyzing 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 to countries for increasing their early intervention capacity and ensuring effective and environmentally safer control operations;
- Capacity building support: the Commission encourages member countries to support their own running costs of national training courses, supplemented by continued Commission 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;
- 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;
- Contingency planning: use of updated tools to improve preparedness for Desert Locust interventions so that necessary resources can be mobilized early enough when an emergency situation arises; and
- Visibility: continual update of a newly redesigned CRC website in English and Arabic to publicize Commission activities.

8. The seventh Session of the CLCPRO, held in June 2014, approved the budget for 2015 and 2016 as presented in Appendix C. The CLCPRO implements the preventive control strategy through institutional and technical activities:

- The Commission reviewed a study on institutional and financial matters. The Commission validated a road map for the implementation of financial mechanisms in the Western Region and established a regional emergency fund entitled "Desert Locust Risk Management Fund" to support Desert Locust control during the critical outbreak and low upsurge periods;
- As part of the preventive control strategy, the Commission continues to support member countries in using the new elocust3 and RAMSESV4 GIS for early warning and data management and implementing the survey and control annual plan for each country. Delegates also approved the updated survey and control plan;
- Training is a key activity with the updating of five Desert Locust training modules on bio-ecology, survey, ultra-low volume spray of pesticide, environmental and health monitoring. The CLCPRO regularly supports training at national and regional levels on those topics and also awards permanently one doctoral grant. A new regional training plan will be prepared for the period 2015-2018;
- 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 six years, and seven out of ten countries have a national contingency plan tailored to different Desert Locust situation scenarios; and
- The current Desert Locust operational research plan in the Western Region will be reviewed and updated to reflect further activities in this field.

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	2015 (approved)	2016 (approved)	2017 (indicative)
5013	Consultants	4 500	4 500	4 500
5014	Contracts	15 250	15 250	15 250
5021	Travel	44 800	44 800	44 800
5023	Training	6 900	6 900	6 900
5024	Expendable	1 950	1 950	1 950
	Equipment			
5050	Printing	1 750	1 750	1 750
5028	General Operating Expenses	14 650	14 650	14 650
5029	Support Costs(*)	11 486	11 486	11 486
	TOTAL	101 286	101 286	101 286

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

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	2015 (approved)	2016 (approved)	2017 (indicative)
5012	Salaries General	67 538	67 538	67 538
	Service			
5013	Consultants	20 000	20 000	20 000
5014	Contracts	102 000	100 000	80 000
5020	Overtime	4 000	4 000	4 000
5021	Travel	38 000	70 000	50 000
5023	Training	125 000	80 000	70 000
5024	Expendable	15 000	15 000	15 000
	Equipment			
5025	Non Expendable	30 000	30 000	30 000
	Equipment			
5028	General Operating Expenses	41 000	71 000	21 000
5029	Support Costs(*)	56 660	56 530	40 000
	TOTAL	499 198	514 068	397 538

* 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 C

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

TRUST FUND BUDGET

TF 9169.00 MTF/INT/006/MUL

Account	Description	2015 (approved)	2016 (approved)	2017 (indicative)
5013	Consultants	104 000	89 000	65 000
5014	Contracts	60 000	5 000	25 000
5021	Travel	119 500	114 500	133 000
5023	Training	65 000	60 000	135 000
5024	Expendable	40 000	40 000	25 000
5025	Equipment Non Expendable	48 000	48 000	90 000
5028	Equipment General Operating Expenses	90 500	85 500	92 500
5029	Support Costs(*)	68 510	57 460	73 500
	TOTAL	595 510	499 460	639 000

* SC 13% on all accounts