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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Ninety-first Session

Rome, 16-20 May 2022

Budgets of the Desert Locust Commissions for 2022-23

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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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);
 - 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 this document are the standard budgets approved by the three Commission Sessions.
- 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.

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 continue to 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. These pillars are in line with FAO's strategic objectives. In addition, they played a critical role in the recent 2019-2021 Desert Locust upsurge.
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 standard budgets approved by the Commission Sessions. For SWAC, the presented budget was approved at the last Session (32nd Session of the SWAC) held virtually in December 2020. In the case of CLCPRO and CRC, the Sessions could not be organized virtually during 2020 and 2021, so they are planned for the second semester of 2022; hence, the CLCPRO and CRC budgets presented for 2022-23 are estimated budgets at the annual contribution level similar to budgets previously approved at the 9th Session of the CLCPRO and the 31st Session of the CRC.
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. The next Session of each Commission will prepare a more precise budget for these years (2022-23), in which the presented estimated budget may be slightly adjusted.
6. For the first time in 56 years, the 32nd Session of the SWAC was held virtually through Zoom due to COVID-19. The pandemic affected the completion of all the planned activities during the biennium, resulting in lower costs for the Trust Fund. Notwithstanding such setbacks, the Session had a larger audience than usual because the virtual feature offered the opportunity for more attendees. While it is expected that the Commission activities will get back on track during the upcoming future, physical sessions that include a hybrid mode where virtual attendance is allowed should be taken into consideration.
7. The 32nd Session discussed many challenges faced during the year 2019-2020 Desert Locust upsurge and the lessons learnt which can be applied to future Desert Locust control campaigns. The participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with several new innovative technologies developed by FAO in response to the upsurge.
8. The Session agreed on 21 recommendations and the workplan and budget for 2021-22. The same budget is envisaged for 2022-23 (Appendix A).
9. The approved key annual activities to be supported by the Commission's trust fund are:
 - (i) the joint survey on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border in the spring breeding areas of the Desert Locust
 - (ii) organization of the 33rd Session of the SWAC
 - (iii) eLocust3 activities, including monthly data transmission and subscription cost
 - (iv) national training

- (v) CRC/SWAC Interregional Locust Information Officers Workshop and SWAC Regional Locust Information Officers Workshop
- (vi) new and innovative technology support
- (vii) master Training of Trainers (ToT) regional workshop
- (viii) survey exchange activities among the countries
- (ix) promotion of biopesticides
- (x) provision of material, equipment and spare parts, and
- (xi) support the production of standard operating procedures (SOPs)/guides and communication and advocacy material.

10. CLCPRO held an ad-hoc virtual meeting in February 2021 to approve the budget for 2021; however, the CLCPRO budget in this paper for 2022-23 is an estimated budget at the annual contribution level similar to the budget previously approved at the 9th Session of the CLCPRO, as presented in Appendix B.

11. The budget supports the key activities under agreed five outcomes of the CLCPRO work plan, as follows:

- Outcome 1 includes the support to joint surveys in CLCPRO countries: (i) the FIRO (*Force d'intervention dans la Région Occidentale*, Intervention Force of the Western Region) bases in Mauritania and Chad; (ii) the preparation and/or simulation of the implementation of national locust emergency plans; (iii) the updating of national/regional locust emergency plans; (iv) the transmission and management of locust information; (v) country communications activities; and (vi) the monitoring and evaluation of the countries activities and purchase of FIRO vehicles.
- Outcomes 2 and 3 include the support to the national and regional trainings, the national Desert Locust projects, and the regional research projects on locust behaviour and innovations.
- Outcome 4 includes activities to support the integrated and environmentally sound management of Desert Locust.
- Outcome 5 is related to supporting the operation of the Commission's Secretariat, advocacy activities and the organization of the statutory meetings of the Commission.

12. In addition, 12 recommendations endorsed by Member countries in the 9th Session of CLCPRO are carried over for the 2022-23 workplan.

13. The 31st Session of CRC, held in February 2019, approved the budget for 2019 and 2020. A similar budget was applied for 2021 and is expected also for 2022-23 as presented in Appendix C. The next (32nd) Session of CRC is planned to be held in June 2022 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to officially endorse the workplan and budget of 2022-23.

14. The Commission's proposed workplan for 2022-2023 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 survey; promotion of the 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.

15. The Commission will support the implementation of carried-over recommendations endorsed by Member countries at the 31st Session of CRC.

Appendix A

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

Work plan and proposed budget for the years 2022 and 2023 by account

**TRUST FUND BUDGET
GCP/GLO/897/MUL**

Account	Description	2022	2023
5013	Consultants	8 000	8 000
5014	Contracts	15 000	15 000
5020	Locally Contracted Labour	6 000	6 000
5021	Travel	75 000	71 000
5023	Training/Workshops	2 107	5 222
5024	Expendable Equipment	30 000	30 000
5028	General Operating Expenses	40 000	40 000
5029	Support Cost (13% of all accounts)	22 893	22 778
	TOTAL	199 000	198 000

Appendix B

**FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN THE WESTERN
REGION (CLCPRO)**

Work plan and proposed budget for the years 2022 and 2023 by account

**TRUST FUND BUDGET
GCP /GLO/898/MUL**

Account	Description	2022	2023
5013	Consultants	115 000	115 000
5014	Contracts	30 000	30 000
5020	Locally Contracted Labour	4 000	4 000
5021	Travel	111 000	111 000
5023	Training/Workshops	25 000	25000
5024	Expendable Equipment	24 000	24 000
5025	Non-Expendable Equipment	100 000	100 000
5028	General Operating Expenses	156 487	156 487
5029	Support Cost (13% of all accounts)	73 513	73 513
	TOTAL	639 000	639 000

Appendix C

**FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN THE CENTRAL
REGION (CRC)**

Work plan and proposed budget for the years 2022 and 2023 by account

**TRUST FUND BUDGET
GCP/GLO/896/MUL**

Account	Description	2022	2023
5012	Salaries General Service	85 000	85 000
5013	Consultants	25 000	25 000
5014	Contracts	58 000	48 000
5020	Locally Contracted Labour	5 000	5 000
5021	Travel	60 000	50 000
5023	Training	142 000	136 000
5024	Expendable Procurement	40 000	40 000
5025	Non Expendable Procurement	5 708	5 160
5028	General Operating Expenses	20 000	20 000
5029	Support Cost (13% of all accounts)	57 292	53 840
	TOTAL	498 000	468 000