



Inter-Regional Platform for the Sustainable Management of Desert Locusts

Platform Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting 9-10 June 2022 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Concept Note

June 2022

With Support From



Introduction

- 1. Since 2018, Eastern Africa has witnessed an upsurge of desert locusts, spreading across several countries at a high rate, and posing a major threat to food security and livelihoods in the Greater Horn of Africa. Thousands of hectares of cropland and pasture have been damaged, with severe impact on the livelihoods of millions of households.
- 2. Although, the scale and extent of the pest is significantly smaller compared to a year ago, the desert locust upsurge brought to light ill-preparedness and capacity gaps, and reinforced the need for increased flow of information between countries where desert locusts and other transboundary pests are endemic and those where they are not. It is paramount that all countries sustain their survey and control efforts in reducing existing swarms as well as detecting and controlling any breeding in the future.
- 3. With funding from the World Bank, IGAD is currently implementing a three-year project that will establish an Inter-Regional Platform for the Management of Desert Locusts (DL) and other Trans-Boundary Pests. Signed in July 2021, the Platform is part of the World Bank's Emergency Locust Response Project and is expected to run until August 2024.
- 4. The goal of the Platform is to strengthen synergies, sustained management and control of desert locusts and other transboundary pests in the IGAD region. The platform will be extended, not only to IGAD member states, but to the neighboring countries affected by the desert locusts and other trans-boundary pests. Operationalization of the platform will be conducted in partnership with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA).
- 5. The Platform's coordination unit is constituted at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi.
- 6. The main activities of the Platform will include the following:
 - a. Bringing together IGAD Member States (MS), development partners and other stakeholders to promote regional solidarity for the management of DL and other transboundary pests
 - b. Providing a platform for an online forum through which priorities and possible interventions aimed at achieving the objectives of the locust management campaign and other trans-boundary pests are collectively discussed and deliberated,
 - c. Serving as a coordination body for the formulation of plans, review progress, discuss challenges, provide information, and promote actions related to the management of the pests.
 - d. Promoting regional cooperation and coordination and supporting the strengthening of national capacity in locust management by enhancing their capacity in survey and monitoring operations; program development and implementation; mitigation, preparedness, early warning and timely control, and impact assessments to inform policy and decision making.

Platform Steering Committee

Within the institutional structure and arrangements of the platform is a **Steering Committee** comprising of senior executive officials from government ministries and agencies, IGAD and a selected number of partners that deal with desert locusts and other trans-boundary pests. The overall objective of the PSC is to oversee implementation of platform activities, through the Desert Locust and Transboundary Pest Response Coordination Unit (DLRCU). It is against this background that IGAD, in collaboration with DLCO-EA seeks to organise the first Platform Steering Committee meeting.

About the meeting

Objectives of the 1st Platform Steering Committee Meeting

The objective of the meeting is to lay a foundation for the management of the Platform. Specifically, the meeting is expected to provide a forum for PSC members to:

- 1. Launch the Platform Steering Committee
- 2. Discuss and adopt the Terms and References of the Steering Committee
- 3. Discuss and adopt the Rules and Procedures of the Steering Committee
- 4. Develop and approve the annual Workplan of the of the Steering Committee
- 5. Endorse and approve the Working Groups of the Platform

Expected Outputs

- 1. Adopted Terms of Reference and rules and procedures for the PSC
- 2. Established working groups of the Platform Early Warning Working Group and Capacity Building Working Group
- 3. Annual workplan for the PSC
- 4. Decisions and recommendations of the PSC.

Date and Venue

June 9-10, 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Language

English and French will be the languages of the order of business.

Expected Participants

- 1. IGAD Member States
- 2. IGAD
- 3. Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA)
- 4. Development partners
- 5. Technical partners