



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Capacity Building Working Group for Inter-regional Platform for the Management of Desert Locust and Other Trans-Boundary Pests

1. Invasion of Desert Locust in the IGAD region

Between 2018 and 2021, Eastern Africa witnessed an upsurge of desert locusts that spread across several countries and exacerbated the food security situation in the region. Thousands of hectares of cropland and pasture were damaged with severe impact on the livelihoods of millions of households. Scientists have since linked the infestation to the warming climate and increasingly extreme weather events. It is argued that increase in temperature and rainfall over desert areas (that soaks land to create ideal conditions for desert locusts egg laying and hatching), and the strong winds associated with tropical cyclones, provided a conducive environment for pest breeding, development and migration¹. This suggests that global warming and subsequent climate change played a role in creating the conditions required for the development, outbreak and survival of the locusts.

Although, the scale and extent of the pest is currently significantly smaller compared to 2021, 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.

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0835-8>

2. IGAD's Response to the Desert Locust Invasion

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was mandated to coordinate Desert Locust (DL) issues by the IGAD Heads of State and Governments at their 34th Extra-Ordinary Summit on Feb 9, 2020 in Addis Ababa. To implement this, the IGAD Executive Secretary appointed a Desert Locust Task Force – comprising of IGAD specialized institutions and divisions including the; IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), Agriculture and Environment Division (AED), Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN), IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) and Special Envoy Offices.

During the outbreak, ICPAC developed desert locust spread prediction using climate/weather forecasts and environment monitoring.

Further, IGAD organized various multistakeholder forums in order for stakeholders to share lessons on good practices in desert locust management, discuss challenges and propose a framework for joint complementarity in DL eradication. These forums included; high level inter-regional technical and ministerial meetings held on 23 April and 21 May 2020 respectively, followed by another round of technical and ministerial meetings on 4 May and 17 June 2021 respectively. IGAD also utilized the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), to intensify awareness creation efforts and desert locust response advocacy using different media.

3. Inter-Regional Platform for the Management of Desert Locusts and Other Trans-Boundary Pests in the IGAD Region

The 2018 desert locust upsurge brought to light the ill-preparedness and capacity gaps within the region, 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. Sustainable control and management of the desert locusts and other transboundary pests' invasion requires coordinated interventions with all affected countries, and a regional platform that provides an early warning system for continuous intensive surveillance and monitoring in a coordinated way could help the region.

With funding support from the World Bank, IGAD will set up and operationalize an Inter-Regional Platform for the Management of Desert Locusts and other Trans-Boundary Pests, as part of the Bank's Emergency Locust Response Program Phase 3 (SSELRP) that supports the Republic of South Sudan and IGAD to respond to the challenges posed by the desert locust invasion².

The overall goal of the platform will be to strengthen synergies and sustained management of desert locusts and other transboundary pests in the IGAD region. The platform will be utilized to strengthen inter-regional, regional and national capacity for coordination, monitoring, surveillance, and control operations and to improve early warning and early response. Operationalization of the platform will be conducted in partnership with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC).

4. Importance of Capacity Building and Development in DL Management and Control

While capacity is defined as the ability of individuals and systems to perform functions effectively, efficiently and sustainably, it is also a process through which the systems or individuals develop, strengthen and maintain their skills, instincts, abilities and resources to achieve agreed upon goals or objectives over time. Although, capacity building is often equated to trainings and workshops, the process entails much broader components such as:

- i. Developing an operating framework and fostering a shared vision among stakeholders;
- ii. Ensuring the necessary human resources through targeted recruitment, training and other supports;
- iii. Putting in place the appropriate infrastructure, such as equipment and supplies to facilitate implementation;
- iv. Developing or expanding partnerships to optimize the resources and effectiveness of interventions by bringing together the strengths and assets of different stakeholders;

² <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/130801618252711943/pdf/Project-Information-Documents-Emergency-Locust-Response-Program-Phase-3-South-Sudan-and-IGAD-P174546.pdf>

- v. Increasing technical and financial resources.

Capacity building is critical in addressing the challenges posed by natural disasters. In recognition of this, the global conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) held in Yokohama (1994), Kobe (2005) and Sendai (2015), identified capacity development for DRR as one of the primary means through which disaster losses can be substantially reduced³. Similarly, the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness highlighted the importance of enhancing a country's capacity for its overall development endeavours.

Within the IGAD Region, a number of development actors such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank have provided capacity building support to member states and regional bodies in the management of desert locusts and other transboundary pests thus contributing to improvement in their level of preparedness and response. Such support includes, among others; training of the relevant experts in the agriculture sectors on the latest techniques and best practices in transboundary pest management, information and experience sharing as well as infrastructure development.

5. The Capacity Building Working Group

With regard to transboundary pest management and control, it is widely agreed that human capacity within national institutions for surveillance and early detection in frontline and invasion countries is currently lacking and should be strengthened. Capacity development is therefore integral to the Platform's efforts in fighting the pests in the IGAD region and neighbouring countries.

The Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) will therefore be constituted to facilitate an evidence-driven process of strengthening the abilities of individuals, organisations and systems to perform the core functions of the Platform in a timely and sustainable manner.

The overall goal of the CBWG is to facilitate and support timely, effective and quality capacity development interventions in response to transboundary pest management and control operations. Notably, the working group will be required to promote the principles of

³ Hageslteen M and Burke J (2016). Practical aspects of capacity development in the context of disaster risk reduction. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*. 16: 43 – 52.

providing conceptual support to the transboundary pests related design, development, implementation and evaluation of capacity development interventions at regional and national levels.

6. Composition of the Capacity Building Working Group

Members of the working group shall comprise of capacity development and other technical experts that deal with DL and other transboundary pests. These will be drawn from IGAD member states, IGAD secretariat and its specialized institutions, DLCO-EA and its specialized units, the World Bank, FAO and other partners. The Platform's Steering Committee shall establish this Technical Working Group in its first meeting.

The activities of the CBWG will be envisaged according to the following articles:

1. Members of the PSC shall, voluntarily propose technical officers from their desert locust and other transboundary pest control units to be part of the CBWG. The nominees shall then be vetoed and approved by the PSC during one of its meetings.
2. Members of the CBWG may recommend an organization to be admitted to the committee, through a nomination process. The co-Chairs will, through writing, formally invite the nominated organisation to join the working group. After approval by the PSC, the organization shall prescribe to the rules and regulations of the CBWG.
3. The CBWG will be chaired by a member nominated, volunteered or elected by other members of the working group at the beginning of every meeting.
4. The working group is made up of the national units which are the basic coordination structures for development of national capacity on transboundary pest operations. They also share data with various governmental entities on existing and new technologies that impact transboundary pest control.

7. Functions of the Capacity Building Working Group

The specific tasks of the Technical Working Group include:

Knowledge Management

1. Support research and development of a digital educational platform to provide information on transboundary pest biology and behaviour, survey, reporting, control and safety.
2. Support coordination and operationalisation of experience sharing mechanisms at national, regional and international level.
3. Propose effective regional information sharing mechanisms, best practices and equipment.

Institutional Development

4. Support establishment and/or strengthening of desert locusts and other transboundary pest centres at the regional and national level in collaboration with other development partners.
5. Support capacity strengthening of the IGAD member states in developing an integrated regional desert locust and other transboundary pest management strategy. The strategy is required to ensure the necessary institutional capacities for adequate preparedness and timely response in case of an invasion.

Resource mobilisation

6. Support resource mobilisation efforts for transboundary pest management at national and regional level.

Research and Training

7. Support the IGAD member states and partners in conducting capacity needs assessments in order to have a better understanding of the capacity level (knowledge, legal framework, equipment etc) available in the relevant national institutions, academia and other stakeholders.
8. Support development of a regional/inter-regional capacity building plan.
9. Support review, harmonisation and standardisation of capacity building tools.
10. Enrich training programmes to establish specialised curriculum with universities, focusing on the governance of transboundary pest control activities and to develop and implement regional training plans and joint resources.
11. Support training of plant protection officers and managers on sprayer usage and maintenance and transboundary pest survey and management.

12. Support development of a standard transboundary pest training manual and toolkit that will contribute to the establishment and/or strengthening of national level master trainers.
13. Recommend effective and efficient approaches to improve regional capacity on transboundary pest infestation risk management, including risk transfer and micro-insurance.

8. Coordination mechanisms of the Capacity Building Working Group

The CBWG will be coordinated by the Platform Secretariat.

The working group shall meet four times a year or as otherwise decided by the members. The working group can have an extraordinary meeting if, and when two-thirds of its members formally ask for a meeting.

The working group shall report to the Platform Steering Committee.

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