



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Steering Committee (SC) 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 increases 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.

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-

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

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 still IGAD organised 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 utilised 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 DL and other transboundary pests are endemic and those where they are not. Sustainable control and management of the DL 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 utilised 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. Composition of the Platform Steering Committee

Within the institutional structure and arrangements of the platform is a **Steering Committee** whose members are senior executive officials at the level of Director/ Director General/Permanent and Undersecretary from IGAD member states, IGAD secretariat and its specialised institutions, DLCO-EA and development partners that deal with DL and other trans-boundary pests. The membership of the Platform Steering Committee will have 32 founding members including:

1. IGAD Member States - 7 members
2. IGAD Executive Secretary
3. IGAD specialised institutions and divisions:
 - i. Planning Coordination and Partnerships - 1 member
 - ii. Agriculture and Environment - 2 members
 - iii. IGAD Centre For Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) - 1 member
 - iv. IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) - 1 member
 - v. Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) - 1 member
 - vi. IGAD Security Sector Programme (ISSP) - 1 member
 - vii. IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)-1 member

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

4. Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) specialised units - 3 members:
 - i. Air-Unit Operations (1)
 - ii. Information and Forecasting (1)
 - iii. Operational Research (1)
5. Development partners:
 - i. World Bank - 1 member
 - ii. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - 1 member
 - iii. French Development Agency (AFD) - 1 member
 - iv. UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) - 1 member
 - v. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - 1 member
 - vi. European Union (EU) - 1 member
 - vii. Gates Foundation - 1 member
 - viii. African Development Bank (AfDB) - 1 member
6. Technical partners:
 - i. Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) - 1 member
 - ii. International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) - 1 member
 - iii. Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) - 1 member
 - iv. African Union Commission (AUC) - 1 member
7. Private sector – 1 member
8. The Desert Locust and Transboundary Pest Response Coordination Unit (Secretariat).

Members of the Steering Committee may recommend an organization to be admitted to the committee, through a nomination process. The IGAD Executive Secretary will, through writing, formally invite the nominated organisation to join the Committee and once admitted, the organization shall prescribe to the rules and regulations of the Steering Committee.

5. Functions of the Platform Steering Committee

Overall, the PSC will primarily oversee implementation of Platform activities, through the Secretariat. Specifically, the PSC will:

1. Constitute sub-committees and technical working groups, such as the Capacity Development and Early Warning Technical Working Groups.
2. Develop and/or review its (PSC) periodic work plans.

3. Review and approve the annual work plans and reports submitted by the Secretariat and the Early Warning and Capacity Building working groups.
4. Review general policy guidelines and provide technical advice to the General Assembly to approve Platform related policy documents.
5. Define, develop and coordinate regional and national level desert locust and other transboundary pest strategies and interventions including pest surveillance, control, recovery and monitoring and evaluation missions in collaboration with the Secretariat.
6. Guide and orient the platform management, programming, implementation strategy and approaches and crisis communication strategy.
7. Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Platform and recommend improvement measures.
8. Liaise with various development and implementing partners including UN agencies and IGAD member states to mobilise resources and identify and prioritize areas of intervention at regional and national level.
9. Resolve conflict or potential conflicts on the Platform.

6. Coordination mechanisms of the Steering Committee

The PSC will be co-Chaired by the Executive Secretary of IGAD and the Director of DLCO-EA or their nominees. The committee shall meet at least twice a year or as otherwise decided by IGAD and DLCO-EA.

The Committee will report to the General Assembly which will be composed of high level technical and political representatives of all stakeholders involved both from within the IGAD region and beyond, to review progress and approve short to long-term work plans and progress after receiving feedback from the technical committee.