



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



## INTER-REGIONAL PLATFORM ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF DESERT LOCUST & OTHER TRANSBOUNDARY PESTS

### DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

08 JUNE 2022

#### Introduction

With funding from the World Bank, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is currently implementing a three-year project (2021-2024) that will establish an Inter-Regional Platform for the Management of Desert Locusts (DL) and other Trans-Boundary Pests.

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 by IGAD in partnership with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA). The Platform's coordination unit is constituted at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi.

On 7-8 June 2022, IGAD held an inception meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to advance the operationalization of the Platform by setting up linkages between the platform coordination unit (DLRCU)<sup>1</sup>, the national focal points, DLCO-EA and other development partners. The meeting was

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<sup>1</sup> Desert Locust and Transboundary Pest Response Coordination Unit

attended by national focal points nominated by Member States, representatives from IGAD divisions and specialized institutions, DLCO-EA, World Bank, CABI and ICIPE.

Participants presented status reports on the management of desert locusts and other transboundary pests, reviewed the terms of references for the Early Warning and Capacity Building Working Groups and National Task Forces in readiness for operationalizing the steering committee.

## Recommendations

The technical experts came up with the following recommendations for the Platform Steering Committee:

### STRATEGIES AND PREPAREDNESS

- 1.1 Develop national preparedness strategies (where they do not exist) encompassing the required capacity – human, infrastructure| technology, financial – for sustainable management of transboundary pests.
- 1.2 Develop and implement a regional preparedness strategy to create a connection to the individual national preparedness strategies and support cross-border cooperation.
- 1.3 Build and support an efficient and effective regional early warning and early action systems that bring together IGAD member states, other countries affected by transboundary pests, relevant regional bodies and development partners to prevent pest upsurges in the region.
- 1.4 Strengthen the capacity of DLCO-EA – financial, human resources, applied research, infrastructure and equipment (aircrafts, laboratory, and vehicles among others).
- 1.5 Member states should honour their financial commitments to DLCO-EA to ensure that it is well-resourced to deliver on its mandate.
- 1.6 Build capacity for efficient and effective management of transboundary pests – strengthen national plant protection organisation, establish training centers, establish pest management bases, strengthen national rapid response teams, and establish dedicated pest units or teams in relevant national entities (where they do not exist).

- 1.7 Promote and make use of the newly established IGAD Disaster Risk Response Fund to facilitate early action and rapid scale up of response in the event of an invasion.
- 1.8 Build resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems<sup>2</sup> for communities threatened by the perpetual threat posed by desert locust and other transboundary pests in the region.

## REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- 1.9 Develop a broad knowledge management and communications strategy for the platform, differentiating between emergency and information communication. Include the crisis communication plan, with clear criteria on how to classify crises and the steps to take prior to any formal communication.
- 1.10 Strengthen sharing of data and information on transboundary pests among member states, other countries (Arabian Peninsula), IGAD, DLCO-EA, and development partners among others, and establish sharing mechanisms.
- 1.11 Encourage south-south cooperation to promote experience sharing and learning.
- 1.12 Consider inclusion and engagement of other relevant stakeholders to the platform – African Union, RECs (such as ECOWAS, EAC), national and regional research institutions, and academia among others.
- 1.13 Establish and strengthen public-private partnerships to ensure availability (supply) of inputs and services needed to manage transboundary pests.

## GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

- 1.14 Embrace an inclusive and collaborative inter-regional approach to enhance surveillance, monitoring and control of desert locust and other transboundary pests – the Inter-Regional Platform on Sustainable Management of Desert Locusts and other Transboundary Pests.
- 1.15 Develop and implement transboundary control protocols – review policies and regulations to support effective response at national and regional (cross-border) levels to facilitate synchronised management of transboundary pests, including desert locust.

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<sup>2</sup> "A sustainable food system delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition are not compromised" (FAO)

- 1.16 Continuously engage – local communities, governments, regional organisations, development partners, research institutions, academia, policy makers.

### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- 1.17 Promote collaborative research through specialised research institutions at national, regional and international levels, to find appropriate and effective solutions for sustainable management of transboundary pests.
- 1.18 Expand the research and innovation agendas on the use of bio pesticides, benefits of some of the pests (feed and food sources), gene isolation (pheromone) among others.
- 1.19 Relatedly, promote and upscale environmentally friendly control measures in the region such as the use of bio pesticides and insect growth regulators (IGRs) and registration of biopesticides in the member states.
- 1.20 Leverage technology – digital data collection tools, information management systems, application of artificial intelligence, and machine learning among others to facilitate timely generation and dissemination of data and information.
- 1.21 Explore use of modern technology such as drones for surveillance, monitoring and control operations.

### POLICY AND ADVOCACY

- 1.22 Continuously lobby governments to allocate resources to the management of transboundary pests.
- 1.23 Advocate for purchase of new and maintenance of available equipment such as aircrafts and appropriate technology transfer.

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