



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



REF: PSC-01-2022

09-10 June, 2022

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Minutes of the 1st Steering Committee meeting of the Inter-regional Platform for the
management of desert locust and other transboundary pests**

In attendance:

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Dr. Artan Guleid (co-Chair) | Director | IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC) |
| 2. | Moses Mwesigwa (co-Chair) | Director | Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) |
| 3. | Dr. Tabareck Mohamed Isamel | Technical Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture | Djibouti |
| 4. | Mouktar Mahamoud Waberi | Director for Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture | Djibouti |
| 5. | AbdulSemed Abelo | Advisor to the State Minister of Agriculture and Horticulture sector, Ethiopia | Ethiopia |
| 6. | Esayas Lemma Hayi | Director, Crop Development Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture | Ethiopia |
| 7. | Zebdewos Salato | Pest Management Specialist, Desert Locust Emergency Response Project, Ministry of Agriculture | Ethiopia |
| 8. | Collin Marangu | Director Plant Protection and food safety Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives | Kenya |
| 9. | Abdihamid Salad Hassan | | Somalia |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 10. | Abdi Mohamed Hussein | Director of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation | Somalia |
| 11. | Dr. George Tokporo Tadu | Research Scientist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security | South Sudan |
| 12. | Mahgoub Mousa Mohamed | Director of Desert Locust Control Department (LCD), Plant Protection Directorate (PPD), Ministry of Agriculture | Sudan |
| 13. | Dr. Stephen Byantwale Tibeijuka | Commissioner, Crop Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries | Uganda |
| 14. | Elias Felege | Senior Information and Forecasting Officer | DLCO-EA |
| 15. | Dr. Osman M. Abdalla | Chief Research Officer | DLCO-EA |
| 16. | Dr. Ivan Rwomushana | Senior Scientist, Invasive Species Management | Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) |
| 17. | Emily Kimathi | Research officer | International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) |
| 18. | Melissa Kathleen Williams | Senior Rural Development Specialist | World Bank |
| 19. | Dr. Elliot Mghenyi | Lead Agriculture Economist for the Global Agriculture & Food Practice in East & Southern Africa | World Bank |
| 20. | Xiaoyue Hou | Sustainable Development Specialist | World Bank |
| 21. | Orlando Sosa | Crop Production Officer | FAO/SFE |
| 22. | Dr. Abera T. Haile | Entomology Specialist | FAO/SFE |
| 23. | Edan Marie | Regional Officer for Eastern Africa - Strategy and Partnerships | French Development Agency (AFD) |
| 24. | Paul Ombai | Head of Administration and Finance | ICPAC |
| 25. | Dr. Dereje Wakjira | Acting Director | IGAD Centre For Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) |
| 26. | Dr. Wamalwa Kinyanjui | Animal Health Expert | ICPALD |
| 27. | Nejat Abdulrahman | Senior Program Officer | IGAD Security Sector Programme |
| 28. | Dr. Mohyeldeen El-Taha | Programme Manager - Agriculture & Food Security | Agriculture and Environment Division, IGAD |
| 29. | Daher Elmi Houssein | Director | Agriculture and Environment Division, IGAD |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---|---|
| 30. | Dr. Sunday Angoma Okello | Conflict Analyst | IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) |
| 31. | Christine Bukania | Head of Programming and Planning | IGAD Secretariat |
| 32. | Mubarak Mabuya | Manager - Cooperation and Partnerships | IGAD Secretariat |
| 33. | Dr. Tesfaye Beshah | Program Manager | IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) |
| 34. | Dr. Abdi Fidar | Coordinator | ICPAC/Platform Secretariat |
| 35. | Kenneth Kemucie Mwangi | Climate Monitoring and Early Warning Expert | ICPAC/Platform Secretariat |
| 36. | Doreen Nanyonga | Knowledge Management and M&E Expert | ICPAC/Platform Secretariat |
| 37. | Charity Mumbua | Data Management Expert | ICPAC/Platform Secretariat |
| 38. | Ahmed Sulaiman | Food Security Analyst | ICPAC/Platform Secretariat |
| 39. | Emebet Jigssa | Communications and Reporting Officer | ICPAC/Platform Secretariat |
| 40. | Steve Otieno | Accountant | ICPAC/Platform Secretariat |
| 41. | Edwin Kiplagat | Communications Assistant | ICPAC |
| 42. | Leonard Kimotho | IT Administrator | ICPAC |
| 43. | Barbara Olwande | Administrative Assistant | ICPAC |
| 44. | Paul Chacha | Support Assistant | ICPAC |

Absent with Apology

1. Alexander Ali Natana, Deputy Director General, Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, South Sudan
2. Dr. Mamoon Alsarai AlAlawi, Executive Secretary, Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC)

Agenda 1: Opening Session

1. The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, 9 June 2022 and was co-Chaired by IGAD and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA)
2. The meeting was attended by 44 participants from 7 IGAD member states, 7 IGAD specialized institutions and divisions, 3 DLCO-EA specialized units and 5 partners.
3. At the invitation of the co-Chair, each participant was given a chance to introduce themselves.

Introductory Remarks

4. **IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC)**

by Paul Ombai, on behalf of ICPAC Director

Climate Change has increased extreme events of droughts and floods, which have made the IGAD region prone to transboundary pest invasions. Since the beginning of the desert locust outbreak in 2019, IGAD through ICPAC, has taken on a coordinating role to bring actors together to strengthen synergies and management of the pest and other transboundary pests in and around the region. The need for this platform was brought up by member states through a series of consultative processes carried out in 2020 and 2021.

The Platform's coordination unit is now fully constituted at ICPAC in Nairobi. IGAD will work closely with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) to operationalize the platform. Already, plans are underway to formalize this partnership through an MoU

5. **Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA)**

by Mr. Moses Mwesigwa Rwaheru, Director

For the last six decades, DLCO-EA has been at the forefront of control and management of mandated migratory pests including desert locusts, quelea birds, African army worm and tsetse flies in its 9 member countries and beyond. DLCO-EA successfully suppressed and controlled desert locusts in the main outbreak areas of Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti, which had kept Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and the rest of the region free from locust invasion for the past 6 decades.

However, despite these efforts, the region experienced an upsurge of locusts in 2018 due to climatic changes. DLCO-EA and partners had forecasted the invasion based on surveillance and monitoring data, but couldn't mobilise adequate resources – financial, personnel and equipment, especially aircrafts- to respond in time. The result was catastrophic and impacted the livelihoods of millions of households whose crop and pasture lands were damaged.

The desert locust platform is therefore timely, for it will provide an opportunity to address the emerging challenges of desert locusts and other transboundary pests' management in the region.

6. **The World Bank**

by Melissa Williams

When we talk about the desert locust upsurge, we tend to focus on the years 2020 and 2021, but that is not the whole picture. The seeds of the upsurge were sown in May 2018, when Cyclone Mekunu hit the Arabian Peninsula. By December 2018, the FAO's Desert Locust Information System worked and issued its first warning. IGAD followed quickly with a press release in January 2019. However, despite this, the response to the outbreak was very slow. The first appeal for funding came in January 2020, followed closely by the meeting of IGAD member states on the sidelines of the AU General Meeting in February 2020.

The World Bank became aware of the desert locust problem in January 2020 and approved the Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP) on May 20, 2020. ELRP is an emergency regional program aimed at responding to the threat posed by the locust outbreak and to strengthen systems for preparedness. The program operates through 3 technical phases that closely align to the activities of the FAO emergency response and that reflect lessons from the West Africa upsurge in 2003-2005. The 3 components of focus include: finance surveillance and control of the immediate upsurge, direct income support and restoring productive assets for impacted farmers and pastoralists, and building a stronger system of desert locust monitoring and response for the future.

In May 2020, a higher proportion of funding went to the emergency response activities in Component 1, but with new phases and additional financing, the emphasis has shifted to livelihood protection and restoration, and activities for future preparedness. Thus far, ELRP has provided US\$375.7 million in credits and grants to 5 countries and IGAD, including financing the set up and operationalization of the Platform.

The platform has the potential to coordinate information and action across geographies—from the international, to the regional, the national, to the subnational—and across interest groups or stakeholder groups.

7. **Remarks from the Executive Secretary, IGAD**

by Dahel Elmi, Director of the Agriculture and Environment on behalf of the IGAD Executive Secretary

At the time of the desert locust outbreak in 2018, the invasion was compounded by floods in parts of Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia, which aggravated the already dire food security and nutrition situation in the region. In response, IGAD Heads of States, through a Communique from the 34th Extra Ordinary Summit of IGAD Heads of States and Governments held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 8th February 2020 endorsed three recommendations of the IGAD Council of Ministers on the desert locust invasion which mandated IGAD to coordinate desert locust issues in the region.

IGAD proceeded to conduct a series of meetings that culminated in a ministerial meeting that endorsed a number of recommendations among them: establishment of an inter-regional platform to facilitate exchanges between frontline countries in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula and invasion countries. With funding from the World Bank, IGAD then began the process of setting up the Inter-

Regional Platform for the Management of Desert Locusts and other Trans-Boundary Pests, which was launched in 2021.

The first Platform Steering Committee meeting is therefore a major milestone in the operationalisation of the Platform. Steering Committee members have a huge responsibility that will require dedication, teamwork, funds and sustained enthusiasm in order to prevent future disruptions to the lives and livelihoods of our communities as a result of transboundary pest invasions.

Even though they were slow at responding to the outbreak, World Bank were still among the first to support control efforts by approving a USD 500million grant and low interest loans to countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Official Opening Remarks

by AbdulSemed Abelo, on behalf of the state minister for Agriculture and Horticulture sector, Ethiopia.

8. The IGAD Executive Secretary has done a good job in organizing such an event that brings together various partners to deliberate on an issue that is affecting the entire region.

Africa's tropical climate is very favourable for the survival of numerous pests that affect the continent's crop production. Further, cereal and horticultural production is continuously and severely being affected by drought, climate change and migratory pests which cause crop losses. At the beginning of the desert locust invasion, Ethiopia was ill prepared to manage the pest but was able to mobilize and employ a number of approaches to deal with the upsurge including, awareness creation, aerial and ground spray. However, the nature of the pest, extremely hot weather conditions and the topography of the affected areas negatively affected control operations.

The desert locust invasion affected 806,400 people and damaged over 356,000ha of crop land and an estimated 4.8million cereals which is equivalent of 2% of the estimated total cereal production of 2019/2020.

Concerted efforts are therefore needed in knowledge and information generation and capacity development in order to effectively manage the transboundary pests.

About the Inter-regional Platform on Desert Locusts and Transboundary Pests

by Dr. Abdi Fidar

9. IGAD Heads of State and Governments at their 34th Extraordinary Summit on February 9, 2020 in Addis Ababa mandated IGAD to coordinate desert locust (DL) issues. Specifically, IGAD was tasked with promoting cooperation, mobilising resources, providing information and developing capacity of stakeholders.

Following this mandate, IGAD established a desert locust Task Force in March 2020 and held various regional technical and ministerial meetings to share lessons on good practices, discuss challenges and propose a framework for joint complementarity in DL eradication. These engagements resulted in to a

recommendation from IGAD Member States (MS) and partners that a platform be formed to manage desert locusts and other trans-boundary pests in the region.

The Inter-regional platform is therefore being set up to strengthen synergies and sustained management of DL and other transboundary pests Desert Locusts in the region. It is expected that the Platform will;

- Improve coordination of DL interventions among IGAD MS and between IGAD and non-IGAD MS.
- Sustain capacity among member states and between IGAD and non-IGAD MS to monitor and respond to desert locusts and other trans-boundary pests
- Improve information generation and sharing among IGAD MS and between IGAD and non-IGAD MS.

Transboundary Pests Pest Situation in the Eastern Africa Region

by Elias Felege DLCO-EA.

10. The region is mainly facing four major pests – desert locusts, Quelea birds, African army worm and Tsetse flies.

Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*): The region is free from desert locusts except for a few small remnant immature, mature and hopper/fledgling swarms that were found and treated in southern Ethiopia, Djibouti and Sudan respectively.

Red-billed Quelea birds (*Quelea quelea sp*): Quelea bird infestations have been reported in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda. Assessment and preparation for control operations are ongoing in Kenya where infestations were reported in Narok and Kisumu Counties in May. In Ethiopia, DLCO-EA conducted aerial control operations on an estimated 3million birds using 175 litres of Bathion 40% on 87.5Ha of roosting sites. In Uganda, increasing populations of the birds were reported attacking paddy rice fields in Bulambuli district leading to an increase in demand for aerial control.

In Tanzania, large flocks of quelea birds were reported causing threats to irrigated rice, sorghum and millet in Dodoma, Morogoro, Mbeya Manyara Geita, Shinyanga and Tabora Regions. Aerial control was conducted on 515ha of roosting sites thus killing an estimated 12 million birds.

Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*): Between March-May 2022, African Armyworm incidences were reported in several regions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan and Uganda. June projections indicate that the level of infestation will likely decrease in Kenya and Uganda and increase in southern, eastern, central and northern parts of Ethiopia, southern, western and central highlands of Eritrea, and the southern, northern and southeastern parts of South Sudan.

Regular monitoring of the infestations is needed for effective early detection, forecasting and early response. There is need to strengthen regional, national and international coordination, information network, research and human and material capacity - establishing a training center and migratory pest management bases. Countries also need to prepare contingency plans.

Agenda 2: Launch of the Platform Steering Committee

Remarks from Member States

11. Djibouti

Dr. Tabareck Mohamed Isamel

Djibouti has also been affected by transboundary pest including the desert locust. The country was committed to work with the Platform in the management of transboundary pest in the region.

12. Ethiopia

by Zebdewos Salato

The desert locust invasion affected Ethiopia more than any other country in the region and other transboundary pests such as quelea birds continue to affect crop production. Irrigation practices are making invasion of quelea birds more often than in the past and the African Army worm is also on the increase. Ethiopia pledged to work with the Platform in the management of transboundary pest in the region.

13. Kenya

by Collins Marangu

Kenya's vision is to have a coordinated region with the ability to management pests in a timely and efficient manner. The Platform should therefore be utilised to manage pests such as desert locusts at the source rather than waiting for them to spread before responding. This will be time and resource efficient. Strengthening of regional institutions as a DLCO-EA will improve regional preparedness and timely response. As countries promote irrigation, some pests have ceased being seasonal and have become more regular. Pledged Kenya's support to the platform as a place for coordinating efforts.

14. Somalia

by Abdi Mohamed Hussein

Sustainable management of transboundary pests cannot be possible without information sharing, capacity building and an efficient early warning system. IGAD is therefore appreciated for coordinating partners in the management of these pests. Somalia committed to work with the Platform in the management of transboundary pest in the region.

15. South Sudan

by Dr. George Tadu

The country is currently dealing with various pests, including the fall army worm and the African army worm. Government formed two task forces to provide political and policy direction in the management of the pests and the rapid response teams at State level to coordinate and implement control activities.

Limited capacity - human, financial and institutional - still limit sustainable management efforts. Sudan pledged to work with the Platform in the management of transboundary pest in the region.

16. Uganda

by Dr. Byantwale Stephen

Uganda developed a national strategy and action plan for desert locusts, utilised the army for ground control and trained over 3,000 extension workers, all of which contributed to the successful management of the pest. However, other transboundary pests such as the African Army worm, the fall army worm, tomato leaf miner, fruit flies and the banana bunchy top disease continue to affect crop production. Adoption of irrigation practices continues to attract other pests such as the quelea birds.

World Bank and IGAD are therefore appreciated for the support in the establishment of the platform. The hope is that the Platform will be used to enhance the capacity of DLCO-EA to become more equipped and effective in managing transboundary pests. There was an appeal to the World Bank to consider Uganda in the 4th phase of the ELRP not in the management of desert locusts and other transboundary pests that affect food security and trade.

Pledged that Uganda will continuously participate in the Platform

17. Sudan

by Mahgoub Mousa Mohamed

Appreciated the formation of the Platform and pledged to actively participate in its operationalization.

Remarks from Partners and IGAD specialized institutions and divisions

18. ICIPE

by Emily Kimathi

Climate change has exacerbated transboundary pests and the Horn of Africa is more vulnerable to them. The platform will be very important in strengthening early warning systems and promoting collaborative efforts in managing these pests.

ICIPE is in the process of developing integrated pest and data management strategies that are environmentally friendly and affordable to communities. ICIPE is therefore looking forward to being part of the platform where they will share their research and early warning expertise.

19. CABI

by Dr. Ivan Rwomushana

CABI is an inter-governmental organisation which conducts a lot of research on invasive species. The organisation is looking forward to supporting IGAD member states, partners and other affected countries in the control of such pests.

20. **FAO's response to the desert locust outbreak 2020-2021**

by Orlando Sosa

FAO employed a 3-prong approach that consisted of curbing the spread of desert locust, safeguarding livelihoods and coordinating and preparedness. As such, they raised USD 219million and supported 9 countries to manage the pest. 2.2m hectares of land were treated thus resulting into prevention of 4.4+million MT of cross losses, 871.8million litres of milk production losses and 1.7billion in commercial value of cereal/milk losses. The averted losses improved the food security of 39.9million people.

FAO also implemented cash-based interventions and distributed cereal seed and animal feed and mineral blocks to 179,020 farming households as well as 107,350 agro/pastoral households in order to safeguard livelihoods.

FAO worked closely with IGAD and other partners to devise a regional strategy that would enhance coordination and preparedness. A joint communique signed by Ministers of Agriculture from IGAD Member States firmly reiterated the commitments of all the governments in the region towards the establishment of a sustainable system for the management of future upsurges.

Going forward there is need for;

- Contingency plans supported by funds for rapid response
- Strengthening of regional mechanisms (DLCO-EA, CRC)
- Modernization of surveillance (aircraft, drones, remote sensing, etc.)
- Countries to work better with the FAO DLIS
- The locust control units need frequent refresher courses and resources to undertake surveillance
- Commitment of governments

21. **IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Initiative (IDDRSI)**

by Dr. Tesfaye Beshah

The fact that IGAD member states and partners had awakened and risen to the existing and emerging challenges was commendable for it will make the region better prepared in the face of multiple hazards. The PSC meeting was a good initiative that will support the lives and livelihoods of communities.

22. **IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN)**

by Dr. Sunday Okello

CEWARN collects data on various indicators including; economy, society, governance, security, and environmental which is then used to provide early warning and influence early response. Desert locust was part of the early warning information released by the institution.

Security and sovereignty issues were very pertinent during the desert locust invasion because of the transboundary nature of the pest. Therefore, there is need to include issues of conflict sensitivity in Platform documents and activities.

23. IGAD Security Sector Program (ISSP)

by Nejat Abdulrahman

ISSD deals mainly with transnational security threats such as counter-terrorism, transnational organized crime and maritime security. Food insecurity and diminished livelihoods are many a times used by criminal groups to recruit vulnerable people into illegal activities. Therefore, ISSP will be interested in understanding the impact of desert locusts and other transboundary pests on transnational security. Re-echoed the need for the Platform to consider security issues in its operationalization.

24. IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD)

by Dr. Dereje Wakjira

Drylands constitute 70% of the IGAD region and this is where most of the livestock is produced. When desert locusts and other transboundary pests affect vegetation and grasslands, the livestock sector is also negatively affected thus contributing to food insecurity and diminished livelihoods. The Platform offers an opportunity for ICPALD to share experiences with other partners in the effective management of such pests.

25. IGAD Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division (PCPD)

by Mubarak Mabuya

One of the pillars of IGAD's strategy 2021-2025 puts emphasis on tackling natural and human induced disasters, among which are transboundary pests. The range of partners on the PSC will be beneficial in supporting the achievement of this objective and building stronger capabilities and responsive capacity to manage the pests. IGAD is looking forward to the outcomes of the meeting and the functionality of the Platform.

Official Launch of the Steering Committee

26. Dahel Elmi, Director of the Agriculture and Environment Division officially launched the Platform Steering Committee on behalf of the IGAD Executive Secretary.

Agenda 3: Review and Adoption of Terms of References for the Steering Committee

27. The Committee reviewed and adopted the Terms of References for the Platform Steering committee.

Agenda 4: Review and Adoption of the Rules and Procedures for the Steering Committee

28. The Committee reviewed and adopted the Rules and Procedures of the Steering Committee.

Agenda 5: Review and adoption of the Working Groups

29. The Committee reviewed and adopted the terms of reference for the Early Warning Working Group (EWWG). These had previously been reviewed and approved by technical experts during the Platform inception meeting held on 7-8 June 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
30. The Committee reviewed and adopted the terms of reference for the Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG). These had previously been reviewed and approved by technical experts during the Platform inception meeting held on 7-8 June 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Review and adoption of the terms of reference of the National Task Forces

31. The Committee reviewed and adopted the terms of reference of the National Task Forces. These had previously been reviewed and approved by technical experts during the Platform inception meeting held on 7-8 June 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Agenda 6: Decisions and Recommendations of the PSC

32. The Committee reviewed and adopted the 7-months PSC workplan (June-December 2022).
33. The Committee reviewed and adopted recommendations of the Platform inception meeting that was held on 7-8 June 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
34. The Committee adopted decisions and recommendations of the 1st Platform Steering Committee meeting.

Agenda 7: Closure

35. Mr. Moses Mwesigwa appreciated members for their active participation during the meeting. He noted that bringing together different actors will be beneficial in ensuring that the Platform leverages on existing synergies to build national and regional capacity in the proper management of transboundary pests. He also noted that DLCO-EA was looking forward to the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee that will ultimately contribute to improved food security in the region.
36. Dr. Artan Guleid commended members for coming together, through the Platform, to effectively manage transboundary pests within the region. He noted that the IGAD region is dealing with a number of disasters ranging from desert locusts, floods, drought and an increase in pests and diseases, all of which are negatively affecting lives and livelihoods. The Platform is therefore needed to strengthen synergies and control management of transboundary pests. He pledged to work closely with the PSC co-Chair- DLCO-EA, member states and partners to deliver on the objectives of the Platform.

He appreciated the World Bank for funding the set up and operationalization of the Platform, the Government of Ethiopia for hosting the meeting and the IGAD Food security, nutrition and Resilience Analysis Hub (IFRAH), the Platform Secretariat for organizing the meeting.

37. The meeting ended at 12:48pm.

END OF DOCUMENT