



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



The 2nd Platform Steering Committee Meeting

On 2 and 3rd March 2023, The IGAD Platform jointly with Co-chairs DLCO-EA, held a Steering Committee meeting in Entebbe Uganda to review the 1st PSC Meeting held in June 9-10, 2022. The meeting also discussed and adopt key activities of the Platform and strengthen the linkages between the platform secretariate, DLCO-EA, the national focal points, development and technical partners. The meeting was attended by steering committee members as nominated by IGAD Member States, representatives from IGAD divisions and specialized institutions, DLCO-EA, World Bank, CABI, ICIPE, CRC and FAO.

The Steering Committee obtained and discussed recommendations of the Technical Meeting that was held prior on the 28 February and 1 March, 2023. The platform partners gave updates and on key activities that synergies or collaborate with the Platform's activities.

REF: PSC-02-2023
2-3, March 2023
Entebbe, Uganda

Minutes of the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the Inter-Regional Platform for the Management of Desert Locusts (DL) and other Trans-Boundary Pests

Attendance

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| 1. | Dr. Artan Guleid (Chair) | Director | ICPAC |
| 2. | Moses Mwesigwa (co-Chair) | Director | 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.	Belayneh Nigussie	Director, Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture	Ethiopia
6.	Eliud Baraka	Principal Agriculture Officer Plant Protection and food safety Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives	Kenya [Temporary Nominated Representative]
7.	Ken Orumo	Lead Officer - Coordination and Early Warning Preparedness	Kenya - ELRP
8.	Abdi Mohamed Hussein	Director of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation	Somalia
9.	Dr. George Tokporo Tadu	Research Scientist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	South Sudan
10.	Mahgoub Mousa Mohamed	Director of Desert Locust Control Department, Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture	Sudan
11.	Dr. Stephen Byantwale Tibeijuka	Commissioner, Crop Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	Uganda
12.	Elias Felege	Senior Information and Forecasting Officer	DLCO-EA
13.	Dr. Osman M. Abdalla	Chief Research Officer	DLCO-EA
14.	Mehari Tesfayohannes	Chief Information and Forecasting Officer	DLCO-EA
15.	Moses Mafabi	Senior Research Officer	
16.	Dr. Ivan Rwomushana	Senior Scientist, Invasive Species Management	CABI
17.	Abdel-Rahman, Elfatih	Data Management Expert	ICIPE
18.	Dr. Saliou Niassy	Head, Agricultural Technology Unit	ICIPE
19.	Welela Ketema	Senior Agriculture Specialist	World Bank
20.	Dr. Orlando Sosa	Crop Production Officer	FAO/SFE
21.	Abdelmonim Ali Ahmad Ebrahim	Representative of the Executive Secretary	CRC
22.	Dr. Ahmed Amdihun	Programme Coordinator, Disaster Risk Management	ICPAC
23.	Dr. Wamalwa Kinyanjui	Animal Health Expert	ICPALD
24.	Dr. Mohyeldeen El-Taha	Programme Manager - Agriculture & Food Security	IGAD - AED

25. Camlus Omogo	Director	IGAD - CEWARN
26. Dr. Sunday Angoma Okello	Conflict Analyst	IGAD - CEWARN
27. Christine Bukania	Head of Programming and Planning	IGAD Secretariat
28. Mubarak Mabuya	Manager - Cooperation and Partnerships	IGAD Secretariat
29. Jemal Mensur	Knowledge Management	IDDRSI
30. Dr. Abdi Fidar	IFRAH Coordinator	ICPAC/Platform Secretariat
31. Kenneth Kemucie Mwangi	Project Lead and Early Warning Expert	ICPAC/Platform Secretariat
32. Charity Mumbua	Data Management Expert	ICPAC/Platform Secretariat
33. Ahmed Sulaiman	Food Security Analyst	ICPAC/Platform Secretariat
34. Emebet Jigssa	Communications and Reporting Officer	ICPAC/Platform Secretariat
35. Steve Otieno	Accountant	ICPAC/Platform Secretariat
36. Edwin Kiplagat	Communications Assistant	ICPAC
37. Leonard Kimotho	IT Administrator	ICPAC
38. Barbara Olwande	Administrative Assistant	ICPAC
39. Paul Chacha	Support Assistant	ICPAC
40. Achamylesh Wesenu	Administrative Assistant	ICPAC

Absent with Apology

1. Collin Marangu, Director Plant Protection and food safety Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Kenya
2. Dr. Mamoon Alsarai Alawi, Executive Secretary, Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC)
3. Dr. Dereje Wakjira, Ag. Director, ICPALD
4. Anthony Awira, Director, IGAD PCPD

Agenda 1: Opening Session and Platform Updates

Opening Session

1. The 2nd Steering Committee Meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, 2 March and was co-chaired by IGAD and DLCO-EA

2. The meeting was attended by 40 participants from 7 IGAD member states, 6 IGAD specialized institutions and divisions, 3 DLCO-EA specialized units, 1 observer from ELRP-Kenya and 5 partners.
3. At the invitation of the co-chair, each participant was given a chance to introduce themselves.
4. The meeting agenda was reviewed and adopted by the members.

Opening Remarks

5. **Remarks by IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC)**
By Dr Guleid Artan, Director

The state of food security and conflict in the IGAD can be directly linked to climate change due to an increased extreme event of droughts and floods. In turn, droughts and floods 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.

Much needed capacity needs have been assessed and IGAD has consultatively developed a Capacity Building Plan and Strategy for validation in this Steering Committee

The Platform has developed, and continues to disseminate of knowledge management and communication products targeting member states, development partners, and other stakeholders and has also initiated support the development of regional policy guidelines on pesticides governance, drone guidelines and cross-boundary control on transboundary pests.

IGAD supports DLCO-EA process of restructuring and modernization, and calls upon member states, together with partners to avail the much-needed resources to DLCO-EA to strengthen and carry out its regional mandate. With Platform's Secretariat fully operational at ICPAC in Nairobi. IGAD continues to work closely with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) to in implementing the activities of the platform. In this 2nd Steering Committee, ICPAC and DLCO-EA will formalize and strengthen this partnership through MoU signing.

6. **Remarks from Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA)**
by Mr. Moses Mwesigwa Rwaheru, Director

The director expressed his gratitude and support to the collaborative approach in the management of migratory and transboundary pests. He took the opportunity to outline key

challenges on effectiveness and limited capacity that DLCO-EA faces in the current state of increased requests for control.

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 is currently handling increase control requests from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, in addition to any that might come for other pests. Current demands make the organization unable to meet migratory control current and future needs and this necessitates for organization modernization.

DLCO-EA calls for support of the Modernization and Restructuring of DLCO-EA which was approved the technical meeting that the DLCO-EA's 67th Council of Ministers' meeting in Kampala, Uganda approved the Terms of Reference for Restructuring the Organization to address the current challenges and emerging issues; and mandated the DLCO-EA Management on strengthening the organization by commissioning a study in collaboration with the development partners that would inform the restructuring process.

7. Remarks by Hosting Member State Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries - Uganda

by Dr. Steven Byantwale, Representative of Permanent Secretary

MAAIF welcomed the Steering Committee meeting to Uganda, and views the meeting timely in the wider agenda of supporting the management of transboundary pests and modernization of DLCO-EA. The government of Uganda is spearheading to support the revitalization of DLCO-EA and enhancing the institutions' policy level influencing by recommending a working integration with IGAD which has instruments to engage at Heads of State level.

The signing of the MOU between DLCO-EA and IGAD's ICPAC is a move in the right direction and highly recommended to ensuring regional cooperation, country level and even international support to DLCO-EA.

8. Official Opening Remarks by Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture Uganda

by Major (Rtd.) Bwino Fred Kyakulaga (MP)

The Hon. State Minister informed the meeting that Uganda as an agricultural economy was vulnerable to the vagaries of transboundary crop pests and diseases and therefore this Platform and engagement is timely and appreciated by the Ugandan Government.

An invasion of quelea birds in 2013 later in 2020 the locust also affected cereals heavily especially in North Easter region. Quelea birds continued to destroy rice in Eastern Uganda.

Recently, and continuously the country is experiencing intermittent outbreaks of African army worm with losses to cereals and pasture.

With such transboundary pests, it is recommended that their management follows a regional and multi-stakeholder surveillance and control approaches and DLCO-EA has enormously contributed to ensuring food security amidst challenges of limited resources since it heavily relies on member country contributions.

The Hon Minister informed that His Excellency the President of Uganda proposed that issues arising out of DLCO-EA Governing Council of Ministers sessions be presented at a forum comprising of the regional Heads of Government to provide an opportunity for the governments mobilize resources to respond to these transboundary pests at the high level of governance.

The Hon Minister commended that the engagement is a platform created at IGAD level, and is co-chaired by DLCO-EA, and development partners including the World Bank, all the DLCO-EA and IGAD member states and registered appreciation that the Platform will strengthen synergies, provide for sustained management and control transboundary pests in the IGAD region.

MOU Signing Ceremony ICPAC and DLCO-EA

9. The co-chairs to the Inter-regional Transboundary Pest's Platform represent by DLCO-EA's director Mr. Moses Mwesigwa and ICPAC's director Dr. Guleid Artan officially signed a MOU.

On the MOU, the purpose of the agreement is to regulate, encourage and foster a relationship of cooperation between ICPAC and DLCO-EA, with a particular focus on the sharing of knowledge, expertise and provide regional governance on an Inter-Regional Platform on the Sustainable Management of Desert Locusts and other Trans-boundary Pests.

The MOU was witnessed by the Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture Uganda together with the 2nd Platform Steering Committee participants.

Agenda 2: Updates to Platform Steering Committee

Update on Inter-regional Platform on Desert Locusts and Transboundary Pests

by Kenneth Mwangi

10. The activities since the inception of the Platform and the key achievements and milestones are summarized the outcomes from operationalizing the technical working groups with the progress on Capacity Needs Assessment, Capacity Building Strategy and Plan, synergizing the platform with national ELRP for National Pest Management Plans, and the strategic

engagements through MOU and partnerships developed to collaborate with institutions in the region and beyond the continent.

ICPAC's, analysis on the impacts of drought observed high linkage to an increase of quelea birds. This was emphasized by reports from media and partners quantified the economic losses due to quelea birds as significant especially in the irrigated areas. With this the Platform, is leading a fact-finding mission in the hotspots on quelea invasion to strengthen the quelea management plan by DLCO-EA while assessing food security and economic impacts of the pests.

Update Updates on State of Transboundary Pests in the Region

by Mehari Tesfayohannes, DLCO-EA

11. Representative from DLCO-EA's presentation gave a summary on Monitoring and Forecasting of Pest Situation, with a focus on Desert Locust, *Quelea quelea* birds, African Armyworm and Tsetse fly.

- A forecast on DL for spring and summer breeding season was also given for mainly Sudan. In summary, DL situation remained calm based on winter monitoring and was also forecasted to be calm since no swarms were reported but rather solitary and scattered adults. Tsetse flies also had no concerning reports for the except for Uganda in October 2022.
- *Quelea* bird outbreaks and infestations were reported mainly on irrigated rice in Tanzania Kenya and Ethiopia during November, 2022 - February, 2023. DLCO-EA has deployed aircraft in Tanzania and Ethiopia while the PPSFD of Kenya used drone applications.
- African Armyworm in Kenya early African Armyworm infestations were reported in the southeastern parts of Kenya during November and in Tanzania and Uganda there were reports of minor infestations.

Statements from Member States

12. **Djibouti**

by Dr. Tabareck Mohamed Isamel

In enhancing desert locust preparedness in control, Djibouti through World Bank support procured spray aircraft. This was important since the country is a frontline state for desert locust invasion and effective locust management offers future regional outbreak prevention. Djibouti

was keen to support regional early warning systems to monitor situation between CRC and IGAD regions.

13. Ethiopia

by Belayneh Nigussie

Highlighted the activities in capacity building and migratory pests' taskforces composed of multi-government agencies, international organizations and development partners. For effectiveness, the taskforce has a technical committee, logistic committee and a pest preparedness plan in place. Ethiopia also operationalized a national DL operation centre which reduced aircraft crash and incidences during locust control and surveillance. Ethiopia was reported to having five spray aircrafts and was open to a regional aircraft sharing framework to benefit neighbouring states.

14. Kenya

by Eliud Baraka

The country reported invasion and concerning increase in *Quelea* birds in 12 counties mostly in 2022 and 2023 with drone control operations undertaken. The challenges highlighted were on pest reporting and the lack of an integrated regional early warning system to support national monitoring. A national pest management strategy was advanced in development to be included in a wider national pest management plan.

15. South Sudan

by Dr. George Tadu

Informed the steering committee that the country still has limited capacity in surveillance and pest management due to lack of staff in the Ministry. The representative appealed for a focus on capacity development in the government on all aspects of pest control and management. Further, it was highlighted that preliminary reports that *quelea* birds invading crop areas in Sudan (southern areas) are breeding in mostly areas of South Sudan. The country also has unoperated aircraft donated during the last DL invasion and lacks the capacity to maintain and operate the aircraft and was calling for regional support to utilize the resource.

16. Sudan

by Mahgoub Mousa Mohamed

Gave updates on DL management where in 2022, surveyed area was at 791,650 Ha in different months depending on the season. A forecast up to the mid of March was given with Sudan proposing vigilance and intensive surveys to prompt instant and rapid control intervention. Sudan inaugurated the Regional Training Centre in the city of Suakin, offering training of

trainers (TOT) regional training course in the field of desert locust survey and control. Detailed monthly bulletins and a number of reports sent to the local, regional and international authorities are tools that Sudan uses for continuous monitoring.

Quelea birds have destroyed crops in Sudan, but no control activities reported yet.

17. Uganda

by Byantwale Stephen

Updated on the impact of Quelea birds where in 2020 and in 2021 mostly in rice which is a staple. Cases of AAW and FAW had also been reported in recent years. The country reported that due to FAW management, crops damage has been reduced to 5% primarily using pheromone traps and lures for early detection. Surveillance and control capacity for various pests has been done through training under DLCO-EA regional training arrangements, with DLCO-EA also supporting in both DL and aerial quelea control.

Statements by Partner Institutions

18. World Bank

by Welela Ketema

The representative from the World Bank commended IGAD Platform for bringing the actors together and strengthening a regional approach to the management of transboundary pests. The Team Leader for Ethiopia's ELRP shared the key elements of the World Bank Locust Response and reaffirmed the need to focus on preventive management with lessons shared on the high cost of managing pests versus more manageable costs of prevention.

The representative shared ELRP approach that is plant protection was done right it presents many opportunities for investment, enterprise development and job creation; moving to a crisis prevention mode. These could include policy & regulatory reforms, research partnerships, as well as capturing the opportunities in trade, manufacturing, and services; all of which are needed to maintain control of transboundary pests.

19. FAO

by Dr Orlando Sosa

Highlighted the significant economic losses and disruption to livelihoods that the East Africa subregion faces annually due to the emergence and re-emergence of plant pests and the impacts on food and nutrition security, as well as limiting market access opportunities for agricultural products from the subregion.

To address the challenges, the representative from FAO proposed addressing chronic underlying policy and operational constraints to capacity, particularly concerning institutional governance systems and resourcing of phytosanitary control processes of member states.

He applauded and support efforts such as the IGAD Inter-Regional Platform and affirmed FAO's Subregional Office collaboration, and further called for support on "Boosting pest early warning and response capacity in the eastern Africa sub-region", to be presented at the AUC in April 2023 aiming to creating an efficient and effective inter-regional multi-pest early warning-early action system that builds upon existing efforts.

20. CRC

by Abdelmonim Ali Ahmad Ebrahim

On behalf of the CRC Executive Secretary, the representative informed the meeting on CRC's role in promoting synergies and cooperation between its member countries and engagement with national and regional organizations that contribute to crop protection and agricultural research that reduce and manage locust risk, in addition to the technical and financial and training support provided by the Commission's secretariat to member states.

Sharing the history of experiences, CRC gave support to the IGAD Platform, and encouraged collaboration in a coordinated approach for improved early warning and rapid intervention system; the implementation of alternative control methods that respect the environment; the study of the impacts of climate change and socio-economic aspects, as well as the introduction of new technologies in locust control.

21. CABI

by Dr Ivan Rwomushana

CABI, reaffirmed their commitment in the IGAD coordinated platform and highlighted the opportunities where they could collaborate. The representative highlighted key areas of CABI's engagement with its member states in bio-pesticide portal, policy related recommendations, research and technology transfer. CABI informed the meeting on the process of a MOU between ICPAC/IGAD and CABI to ensure benefits for IGAD member states.

22. ICIPE

by Dr Saliou Niassy

The representative highlighted the institutional historic role in insect research and how they promote technology transfer. ICIPE recognized the role of the IGAD Platform in strengthening early warning systems and promoting collaborative efforts in managing pests. ICIPE is in the

process of developing integrated pest and data management technologies that are environmentally friendly to ecosystems and affordable to communities. ICIPE reaffirmed their participation in the platform where they will share their research and early warning advancements.

Statements by IGAD Institutions and Divisions

23. IFRAH

by Dr Abdi Fidar

IGAD's Food Security and Resilience Analysis Hub coordinator expressed his gratitude to the support of all partners and member states in the various activities of the Platform, terming the regional collaboration as a key input to prevention of food insecurity in current and future pest outbreaks.

24. ICPALD

by Dr Wamalwa Kinyanjui

IGAD's specialized institution ICPALD, represented by the Animal Health Expert, shared with the forum their experience in the development of an IGAD Protocol on Transhumance and Programming. ICPALD informed the forum on the key events since 2017 to adoption and the roadmap to implementation of the protocol (2021-2030). The forum was informed on the objectives of the protocol to; 1) Enable free, safe and orderly cross-border mobility for pasture & water, 2) Commit MS to invest adequate resources to pastoral regions, 3) Harmonization of national laws and policies, and 4) Improved surveillance & monitoring of transhumant herds. ICPALD's experience informs the forum of a roadmap on matters of policy development that would lead to transboundary pest surveillance and control.

25. CEWARN

by Camlus Omogo

IGAD's centre gave compliments to ICPAC for coordinating the Early Warning component, while also sharing the lessons from Conflict Early Warning in the Horn. The director highlighted the centre's recent studies that related climate variables and the satellite derived vegetation indices with human migration and conflict. This was in addition to other factors; economic, social & cultural and governance/fragility that when coupled with the climate and environmental factors, offers ICPALD with early warning tools to predict conflict in parts of the Horn of Africa. ICPALD is further engaged in IGAD's Regional Coordination Mechanism for Climate Security.

26. IGAD Secretariat - Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division (PCPD)

by Mubarak Mabuya

Representing the IGAD Secretariat, the head of PCPD gave his compliments to the Platform members and implementing center - ICPAC. He further gave his commitment to sharing with the meeting experiences on policy instruments of IGAD.

Agenda 3: Capacity Building Technical Working Group

Review of the 1st Steering Committee Recommendations of June 9-10, 2022

27. Dr Fidar, the coordinator of IFRAH gave updates on the status of implementation of the 1st PSC recommendations. The updates were given on actions taken as outline in the table below;

Strategies & Preparedness	Actions
Develop national preparedness strategies encompassing the required capacity - human, infrastructure technology, financial - for sustainable management of transboundary pests.	Platform secretariat alignment with national Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP) to develop guides on National Pest Management Strategies & Plans
Develop and implement a regional preparedness strategy to create a connection to the individual national preparedness strategies and support cross-border cooperation.	Technical engagement with the components of national pest management plans & strategies initiated and these feed into regional strategies
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.	Early warning systems needs assessment, and data mapping done The results inform the regional (multi-pest) early warning system Operationalized EW working group which has monthly meetings for updates
Strengthen the capacity of DLCO-EA - financial, human resources, applied research, infrastructure and equipment (aircrafts, laboratory, and vehicles among others).	Partnering to support of DLCO-EA restructuring and modernization process Strategic support of DLCO-EA in resource mobilization (short term & systemic)
Advocate for the Member states to honor their financial commitments to DLCO-EA to ensure that it is well-resourced to deliver on its mandate.	Support call in the 2 nd PSC agenda Support call planned in the General Assembly 2023
Build capacity for efficient and effective management of transboundary pests - strengthen national plant protection organization, 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).	Capacity needs assessment was conducted in November 2022 Capacity needs harmonized through MS and partners focus group Capacity Development Strategy developed for validation by the 2 nd PSC
Regional And Inter-Regional Collaboration	Actions

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.	Development of a Knowledge Management and Crisis Communication Strategy. Operationalization of the components of the strategy
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 data sharing mechanisms.	Data needs assessed and framework for data sharing proposed in the early warning working group
Encourage south-south cooperation to promote experience sharing and learning.	MoU DLCO-EA done MoU with CABI in development Joint research activities with ICIPE on locust and breeding prediction in progress
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.	Joint action between the Platform and IGAD's AED on opportunities within the AUC
Establish and strengthen public-private partnerships to ensure availability (supply) of inputs and services needed to manage transboundary pests.	Recommendation and strategy of use of private drone companies for training on the use of agricultural drones for surveillance spatial pesticide application
Governance and Coordination	Actions
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	Link with CRC on lesson sharing and a framework for IGAD-CRC partnership Expanding partnerships and lead in the development of an IGAD Protocol on Transboundary Pest Control
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.	Lesson learning from existing IGAD Protocols (Transhumance) Technical engagement with partners on existing protocols
Continuously engage - local communities, governments, regional organisations, development partners, research institutions, academia, policy makers.	Research collaboration with IGAD's university research network and DLCO-EA applied research on Quelea Birds is in implementation phase
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.	Platform activities with FAO, CABI, ICIPE, DLCO-EA and member states on the research components. Quelea birds' concept to strengthen DLCO-EA and partner's ability to monitor, forecast and predict the birds.
Expand the research and innovation agendas on the use of bio pesticides, benefits of some of the pests	Capacity building on biopesticides included in strategy to be implemented

(feed and food sources), gene isolation (pheromone) among others.

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.	Workshops to promote their use of biopesticides included in activities to be implemented
Research and Innovation	Actions
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.	The Early Warning Working did a data and systems evaluation to improve national pest data management, improve data collection and early warning capability. Open-Source tools were proposed and the design of an Eastern Africa Pest Watch system that inter-links specialized pest risk, and early warning systems.
Explore use of modern technology such as drones for surveillance, monitoring and control operations.	Drone Technologies Working Group proposed by Technical Meeting Platform led Regional Regulation Framework for Registration of Drones for Pest Management proposed
Policy and Advocacy	Actions
Continuously lobby governments to allocate resources to the management of transboundary pests.	Engagement of government actors during Ministerial forums of IGAD
Advocate for purchase of new and maintenance of available equipment such as aircrafts and appropriate technology transfer.	Need for infrastructure development captured in the conducted capacity needs assessment and strategy formulated on partnership and donor engagements for developed needs

Regional Capacity Building Strategy and Plan

by Kenneth Mwangi

28. On behalf of Platform secretariat and the process and results Capacity Need Assessment was presented. This resulted to Capacity Building Strategy approved through the technical meeting. The 2nd PSC members adopted the strategy and took part discussion and recommendations, resulting to input for Regional Capacity Building Implementation Plan. Key outcomes were captured in recommendations. Key recommendations were in captured in *Research and innovation (2nd PSC Recommendation 2.21-2.28)*.

Agenda 4: Early Warning Technical Working Group

by Kenneth Mwangi

29. The outcome of the Early Warning Group and technical meeting Platform Secretariat, presentation on the development of an *IGAD Transboundary Pests' Early Warning Systems and Data Sharing Framework*. The framework highlighted the data needs and on the working group progress of co-designing and development of a regional multi-pest data collection tool and early warning system. The meeting discussed the working group updates and advanced recommendations on the need for early warning system linking with existing early warning systems to avoid release of conflicting information.

IGAD Policy Formulation Process

by Mubarak Mabuya

30. The head of PCPD at the IGAD Secretariat gave submitted to the Steering Committee the experiences on policy instruments of IGAD. Key to the meeting was IGAD Policy Development Process and the mandate to call the Council of Ministers to Assemble on matters of Policy. The policy process outline was; 1. Identification/Initiation, 2. Policy Development, 3. Policy Validation, 4. Approval/Decision Making, and 5. Implementation and M&E. He further gave assurances of IGAD's commitment to supporting the Platform on matters policy development. The Steering Committee outlined policy gaps in Bio-pesticide registration and on transboundary pest control between member states to facilitate efficient pest management.

Agenda 5: Restructuring and Modernization of DLCO-EA

by Moses Mwesigwa

31. The director of the Desert Locust Control Organization of Eastern Africa submitted to the Steering a modernization and restructuring plan aimed at reforming DLCO-EA into an efficient, competitive and sustainable organization and effectively deliver service to the member countries. A budget item on restructuring study was presented for consideration and support from the development partners in attendance. An *ad hoc* committee of willing institutions including 1. DLCO-EA, 2. IGAD AED, IFRAH and ICPAC was set up to offer DLCO-EA with possible financing options to support the restructuring.

Agenda 6: Knowledge Management & Communications Strategy

by Emebet Jigjisa

32. On behalf of the Platform Secretariat, the Communication and Outreach Officer presented on the revised *Knowledge Management & Communications Strategy for DL and other Transboundary Pest Platform*. The key elements of crisis communication were highlighted which covered the channels of communication, information flow coordination and effective media engagement for different audience. The Steering Committee discussed on knowledge products which were included in the meeting recommendation. The *Knowledge Management & Communications Strategy* was approved for implementation.

Agenda 7: Steering Committee Recommendations

by Charity Mumbua

33. Presenting the Recommendations of the 2nd Steering Committee, the overall rapporteur outline the outcome as;

Strategies on preparedness

- 2.1 Continue making preventive management of transboundary pests a national and regional priority.
- 2.2 Leverage the learnings from the Emergency Locust Response Project (ERLP) and other relevant initiatives to promote and support the development and implementation of national pest management plans. These should include strategies around capacity building, early warning, preparedness, contingency actions, livelihood protection and restoration, and will inform the development and implementation of a regional pest management plan.
- 2.3 Support the implementation of efficient and effective inter-regional multi-pest early warning-early action system. The system should build upon existing early warning systems to avoid duplication of efforts.
- 2.4 Integrate climate variabilities and change into pest monitoring and early warning systems, given the observed increase in the frequency and severity of weather extremes, and the impact on transboundary pests.
- 2.5 Support the restructuring of the DLCO-EA into an efficient, competitive and sustainable organization that effectively delivers services to its member states as per its mandate. This includes supporting a study to inform the restructuring and modernization process as a first step.
- 2.6 Urge DLCO-EA Council of Ministers, supported by IGAD, to lead the resource mobilization agenda for the restructuring process.
- 2.7 Build capacity for efficient and effective management of transboundary pests at national and regional levels. This includes, but is not limited to, establishing pest management bases (South Sudan is a priority), training centres, and dedicated pest units in relevant

- national entities, where they do not currently exist, with earmarked expenditure from the government.
- 2.8 Encourage continued and regular simulation exercises during pest recession periods to enhance preparedness.
 - 2.9 Regarding the Regional Capacity Building Plan, develop an implementation plan outlining the activities to be implemented during this first phase of the project, the resources needed to implement these activities, and the tasks or responsibilities of the various actors.

Regional and inter-regional collaboration

- 2.10 Establish strong linkages with other relevant stakeholders - RECs such as EAC, and continental initiatives such as the AU Emergency Fund, AfCFTA, IAPSC Plant Health Strategy, IPPC Plant Health Programme for Africa among others - for sustainability.
- 2.11 Explore linkages between the activities of the platform's Early Warning Working Group and the "Boosting pest early warning and response capacity in the eastern Africa sub-region" as well as the "Tools for countries to assess Pest Emergencies" initiatives by FAO, to complement the efforts of the platform.
- 2.12 Strengthen data and information sharing on transboundary pests, across member states, IGAD, DLCO-EA, CRC, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and other actors, by establishing data and information sharing mechanisms through FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data principles.
- 2.13 Develop and implement regionally harmonized multi-pest, including socio-economic indicators, data collection tools, building on existing ones.
- 2.14 Strengthen public-private partnerships to ensure availability (supply) of inputs and services needed to manage transboundary pests.

Governance and Coordination

- 2.15 Facilitate the development and implementation of regionally harmonized guidelines on the use of drones, that take into account security concerns impacting authorization of the use of drones in the countries, defines the types of drones to be used, and the conditions under which the use of drones is most effective.
- 2.16 Review existing transboundary pest management protocols, including DLCO-EAs, for gaps and, if necessary, update them to fit the current operating environment.
- 2.17 Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track the performance of the core functions of the platform.

- 2.18 Develop a framework for on boarding partners who want to join the platform or contribute to any of platform's activities.
- 2.19 Strengthen the links and establish coordination between CRC, IGAD and DLCO-EA. As a first step, this should include reviewing their roles in the Platform, and identifying synergies.
- 2.20 Explore triangulation mechanisms to facilitate repacking and movement of stocks of pesticides from countries with large stocks to countries in need.

Research and innovation

- 2.21 Promote collaborative research through specialized research institutions and academia at national, regional and international levels, on bio agents and other safer alternative transboundary pest control methods.
- 2.22 Prioritize research activities on quelea birds as a growing threat to food security and livelihoods.
- 2.23 Relatedly, promote research on safer use of fenthion for quelea bird's control.
- 2.24 Collectively lobby for the extended use of fenthion in the control of quelea birds at the Rotterdam Convention before an alternative is found.
- 2.25 Support further impact studies, which should also take into cognizance biodiversity loss and adaptation and/or mitigation strategies against climate change impacts.
- 2.26 Leverage technology such as digital data collection tools, information management systems, satellite monitoring systems, GIS, geospatial modelling and remote sensing technologies, to facilitate timely generation and dissemination of data and information.
- 2.27 Promote exploration of the use of modern technology such as drones and digital tools for pests' surveillance, monitoring and control operations.
- 2.28 Relatedly, explore arrangements with the private sector for hiring/leasing of drones on needs-basis.

Environmental and social safeguards

- 2.29 Continuously lobby governments to allocate resources to the management of transboundary promote and upscale environmentally friendly control measures in the region such as the use of biopesticides and insect growth regulators (IGRs).
- 2.30 Support environmental impact studies to better understand the environmental concerns associated with the use of pesticides and how to best to address them.
- 2.31 Promote exploration of agriculture insurance to assist affected populations in coping with the various risks (on food security, livelihoods) associated with transboundary pests' invasions, and to strengthen their resilience.

- 2.32 Promote the safe disposal of unused and obsolete pesticides, as well as empty pesticide containers, within the confines of existing regulations.

Communication and Knowledge Management

- 2.33 Improve early warning communication by ensuring that early warning information reaches all relevant stakeholders, including end-users such as farmers, the private sector, government, and development partners among others.
- 2.34 Engage national plant protection authorities in affected member states to obtain national governments' approval to communicate or declared a pest invasion or a pest crisis.
- 2.35 Link the Regional Knowledge and Communication Strategy to the existing national communication strategies, in order to mainstream them for coordinated actions and decisions.
- 2.36 Partner with various stakeholders, including the Network of Climate Journalists of the Greater Horn of Africa (NECJOGHA), international, and any other appropriate media to ensure information reaches all the relevant stakeholders.
- 2.37 Create an implementation plan for the Regional Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy, and a Working Group to oversee its execution.

Resource mobilization

- 2.38 Create a strategic resource mobilization group within the Platform to identify resource gaps and lead efforts to secure new and additional funding for the Platform's activities.

The recommendations were discussed and adopted by the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting. The Platform Secretariat were given the role to develop an implementation plan and to update the committee on the progress on implementation.

Agenda 8: Closure

34. Mr. Moses Mwesigwa appreciated members for their active continued support and the Platform collaboration efforts to leverage 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 modernizing and was glad IGAD was partnering on this. The director further noted that recommendations of the Committee that will ultimately contribute to improved food security in the region.
35. Dr. Guleid Artan commended DLCO-EA the co-chairs of the platform and the members present 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 made harder to manage by conflict in the region. The Platform is therefore needed to strengthen synergies and control management of transboundary pests. He pledged to continue to work with the PSC co-Chair- DLCO-EA, member states and partners to deliver on the objectives of the Platform, and support the modernization through IGAD's Council of Ministers.

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

36. The meeting ended at 12:50pm