



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Commission  
for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in the Central Region

# The high-level emergency consultative meeting for member countries of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
29-30 November 2023



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**Report of**

**The high-level emergency consultative meeting  
for member countries of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in the Central Region (CRC)**

Cairo - Egypt  
29-30 November 2023

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**  
**2023**

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**Group photo of the participants**

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## Abbreviations

<b>CLCPRO</b>	Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region
<b>CR</b>	Central Region
<b>CRC</b>	Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region
<b>DLCO-EA</b>	Desert Locust Control Organization in Eastern Africa
<b>DLIS</b>	Desert Locust Information Service
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FAO RNE</b>	Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>ha</b>	Hectares
<b>IGRs</b>	Insect growth regulators
<b>NSPMD</b>	Locust and Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases Division
<b>SFERA</b>	Special Fund for Emergencies and Resilience Activity
<b>TCP</b>	Technical Cooperation Programme

# 01

**Introduction**

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## Introduction

It is known that the desert locust is considered one of the most dangerous agricultural pests known since the beginning of history, still posing a threat to food security and the welfare of humanity in vast regions of Asia and Africa. The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) has been making great efforts since its establishment to mitigate the impacts of desert locust crises, often described as catastrophic and destructive. This is done through adopting a strategy of preventive control, continuous monitoring of the locust situation at both the regional and international levels, providing technical and logistical support to member countries, and enhancing cooperation and collaboration among its members to ensure the readiness and preparedness of locust control teams and units to address any emergencies.

It is worth mentioning that in July 2019, as soon as available data confirmed the likelihood of a major locust outbreak in the region, the Secretariat of the CRC called for an emergency high-level meeting to present the situation of the desert locust and clarify the urgent needs to take immediate actions in response to the expected outbreak. During the meeting, the Secretariat of the CRC requested emergency funding of USD 3 million to support control operations in affected countries. With a delayed response to this urgent appeal and the rapid development of the locust situation, a locust upsurge occurred between 2019 and 2022, resulting in massive losses in the region. Over USD 336 million were spent to suppress this large-scale upsurge. Later, thanks to continuous efforts and urging for assistance to countries affected by the locust upsurge, the Secretariat of the CRC secured financial resources from regional donors, totalling about USD 3.5 million (Saudi Arabia contributed USD 1.5 million, the United Arab Emirates USD 1 million, and USD 1 million from the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development). This support greatly contributed to assisting the countries affected by the locust upsurge.

There are many lessons to be learned that should be taken into consideration to avoid the recurrence of the crisis caused by the recent locust upsurge. Among the most important lessons is to take early warnings and monitoring data seriously, respond promptly to them, and collaborate efforts while providing the necessary funding to support the CR Commission's efforts to address the locust situation before it reaches the outbreak stage.

In this context and within the framework of its continuous monitoring of the locust situation in the region, the Secretariat of the CRC observed a rapid development in the current desert locust situation starting from the summer breeding period of 2023. It is characterized by instability, indicating the likelihood of a new outbreak if necessary precautions are not taken, especially in the shade of unstable security and political conditions in many countries that are significant breeding and spreading for locusts. This includes, in particular, the countries of Sudan, Yemen, and Somalia.

Additionally, the meteorological data suggests environmental conditions favourable to locust breeding in the coming period, especially with the region being exposed to Tropical Cyclone Tyg, a situation similar to the conditions before the previous upsurge in 2019. When the tropical cyclones Mekunu and Pawan hit the region in May 2018 and December 2019, respectively, leading to heavy rainfall and providing a favourable environment for locust breeding that lasted for up to six months.

This prompted the Commission, based on its mandates, to call for this emergency consultative meeting at the level of agricultural ministry representatives and relevant ministries of the seventeen member countries in the CR Commission, in the Arab Republic of Egypt, Cairo, on November 29-30, 2023. The invitation was also extended to the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO RNE), the Locust and Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases Division (NSPMD), the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), and Desert Locust Control Organization in Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA). See Annex (1) for the list of participants of the meeting.

**The purpose of this meeting is to review the desert locust situation in the shade of current developments and the potential serious implications for the member countries in the Central Region. The objectives of the meeting focused on the following:**

1. discuss the current situation of the desert locust and potential forecasts;
2. review and assess the preparedness of member countries to face a locust outbreak;
3. discuss regional collaboration methods and how to provide support to countries vulnerable to locust outbreaks, especially Sudan, given the current state of insecurity and political instability hindering control efforts;
4. discuss locust risk management plans, activating national and regional emergency plans, and sustainable funding mechanisms for the CR Commission.

The meeting was held at the specified location and time, according to the designated program. See Annex (2) for the meeting agenda.



# 02

Opening Session

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## Opening Session

The meeting was opened by Engineer Ayman Al-Ghamdi, the Chairman of the CR Commission (representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), who welcomed the attendees and expressed gratitude for their prompt response to the invitation and attendance at this emergency meeting, especially under these exceptional circumstances. These conditions closely resemble those before the locust outbreak in 2019, warning of a similar outbreak to the recent large locust upsurge between 2019-2022. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of learning lessons from the previous upsurge and urged for early intervention to prevent the recurrence of a major outbreak. This should be achieved through prompt response at both national and regional levels, accompanied by issuing necessary recommendations to prepare for controlling locusts in the upcoming period.

On behalf of Mr Abdelhakim Al-Waer, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Food and Agriculture Organization for the Near East and North Africa, Mr Mamoon Al-Alawi, the Executive Secretary of the CRC, welcomed the participants, hoping for a fruitful meeting and positive recommendations. He emphasized the seriousness of the current desert locust situation in the region due to favourable environmental conditions for breeding, especially in Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen. He highlighted the difficulty of control efforts in Sudan due to the current challenging circumstances. He pointed out the current uncertainty of the desert locust situation, resembling the conditions before the previous upsurge between 2019-2022, which resulted in significant losses and high financial costs exceeding USD 300 million. He called for the importance of implementing preventive plans to control desert locusts and taking necessary measures to avoid repeating such losses. He affirmed the FAO's support for the CR Commission in fulfilling its role and assisting member countries in locust control with available resources, technical capabilities, and financial support. He concluded his speech by thanking the attendees and wishing them success.

# 03

## Session one

Desert locust situation in the Central Region

## Session one: Desert locust situation in the Central Region

### • Desert locust situation and forecast for the forthcoming period

Mr Keith Cressman, the senior information officer of DLIS at FAO, presented an analysis of the desert locust situation in the Central Region starting from July to November 2023. During this period, scattered groups of mature locusts and some hopper groups were observed in Sudan (859 ha treated), Eritrea (780 ha treated), Somalia, and the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia (995 ha treated) and the eastern coast of Oman (70 ha treated). Additionally, mature locusts and hopper groups appeared in the interior regions of Yemen (1 470 ha treated) as a result of their migration from the summer breeding areas in Saudi Arabia. Refer to Figures 1 to 6 for developments in the desert locust situation from June to November 2023.

The situation developed in September with the emergence of more hopper bands and groups of mature locusts in Sudan (1 477 ha treated), Ethiopia (286 ha treated), Oman (668 ha treated), and Saudi Arabia (105 ha treated). On October 25-26, the tropical cyclone “Tyg” struck the southeast regions of Yemen, extending to the Empty Quarter in southern Saudi Arabia. This led to rainfall, creating a suitable environment for locust breeding. During this period, control operations were conducted (396 ha) in Egypt, (3 403 ha) in Sudan, (1 170 ha) in Saudi Arabia, and (2 ha) in Yemen.

The winter breeding season started earlier than usual, resulting in the appearance of hopper and mature locust groups along the Red Sea coasts in Egypt and Sudan (1 398 ha treated), Eritrea (2 400 ha treated), Somalia (178 ha treated), Saudi Arabia (4 ha treated), and Yemen. In this regard, Mr Cressman praised the efforts in control operations across all countries in the region, with special mention to Saudi Arabia and Sudan (see Figure 7, treated areas in the Central Region from June to November 2023). He emphasized the importance of the quality and prompt transmission of field data to analyze and formulate accurate forecasts in a timely manner, commending the performance of Saudi Arabia and Yemen in this regard.

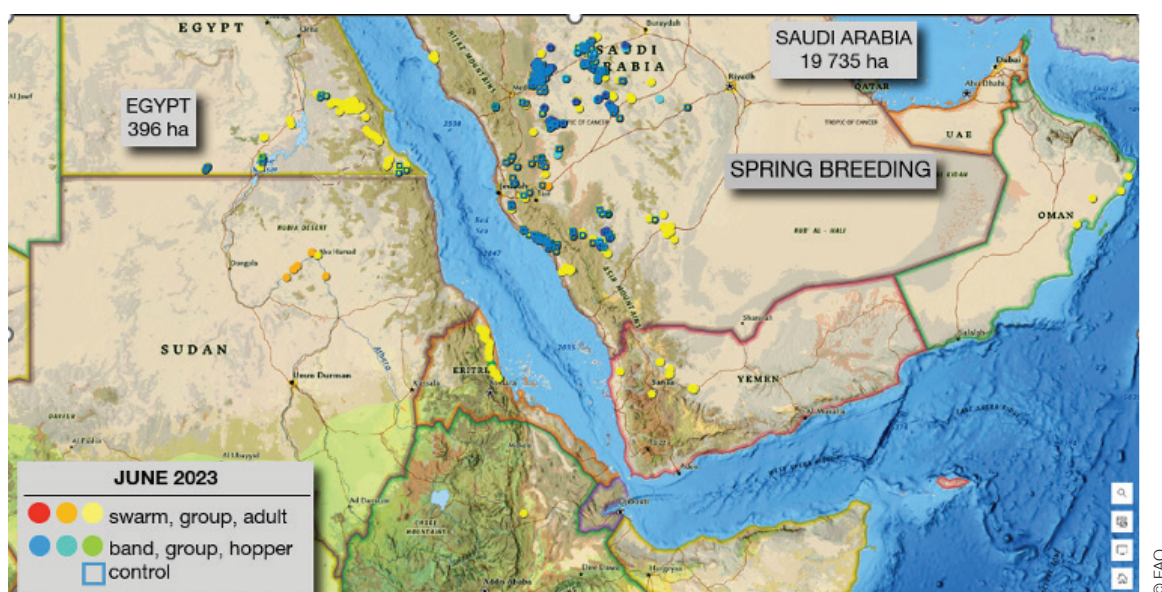


Figure 1. Locust status (June 2023)

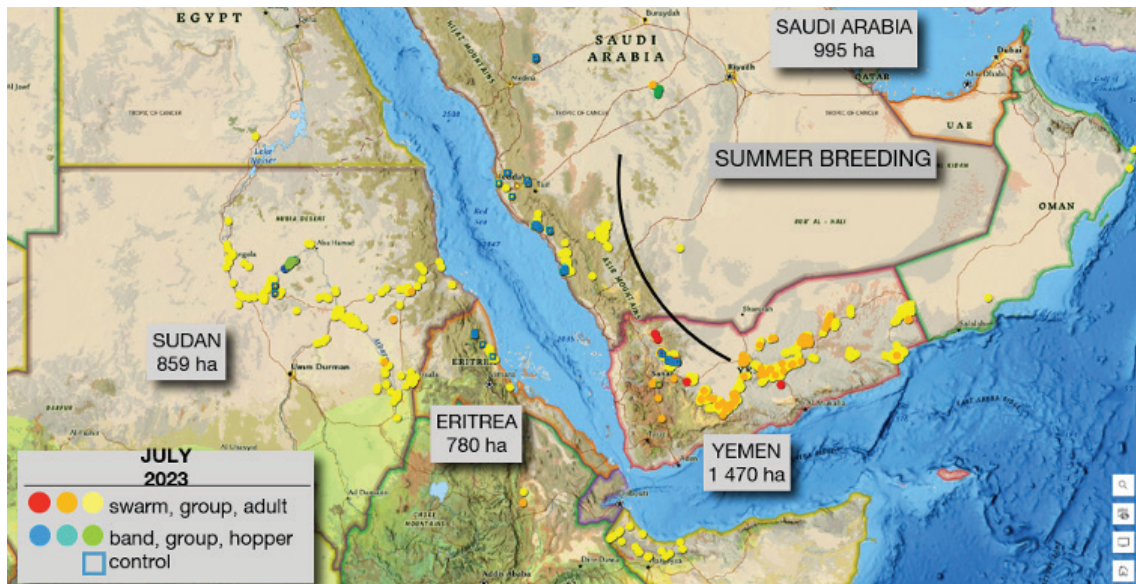


Figure 2. Locust status (July 2023)

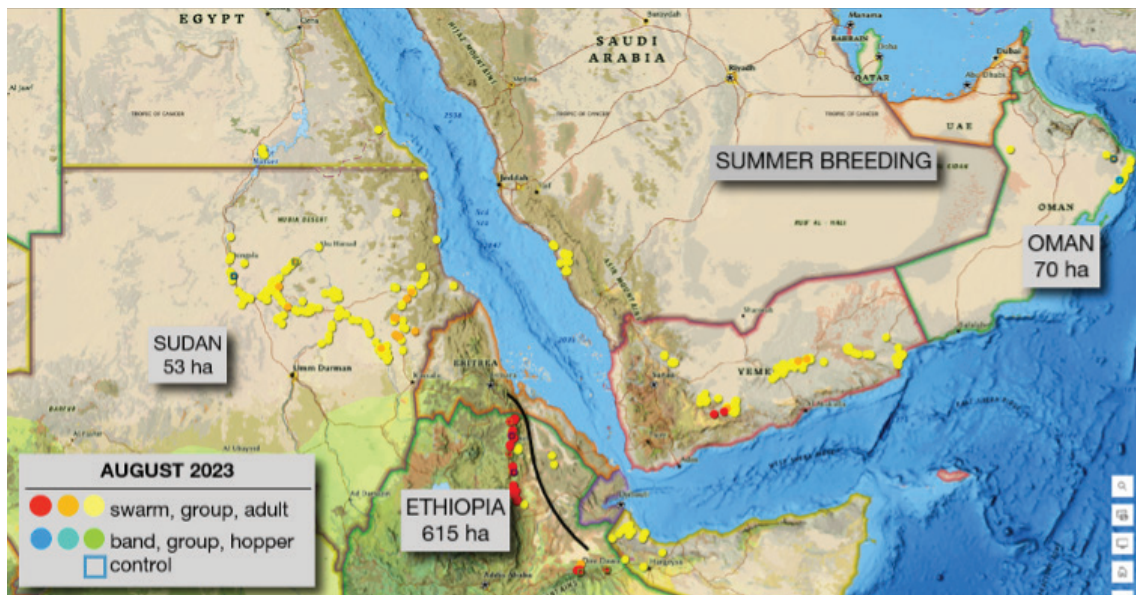


Figure 3. Locust status (August 2023)

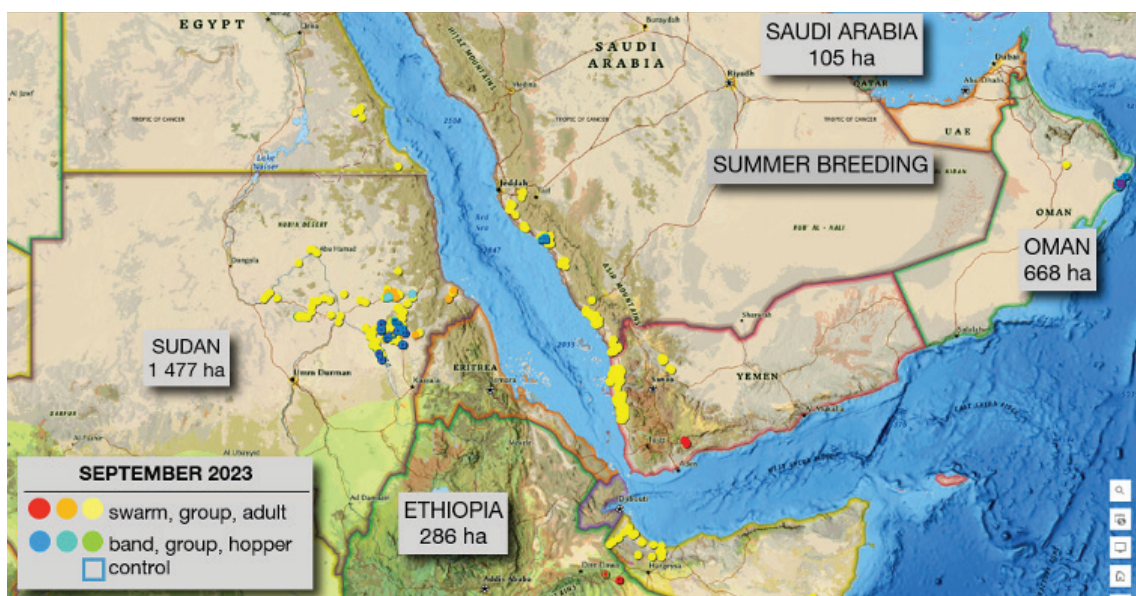


Figure 4. Locust status (September 2023)

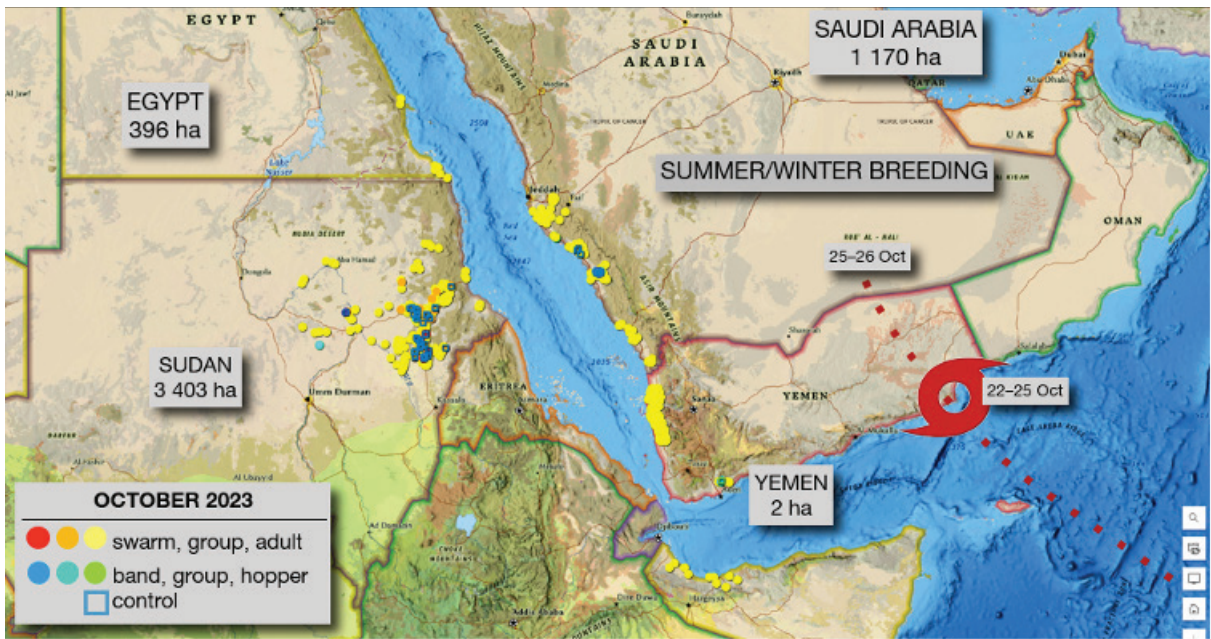


Figure 5. Locust status (October 2023)

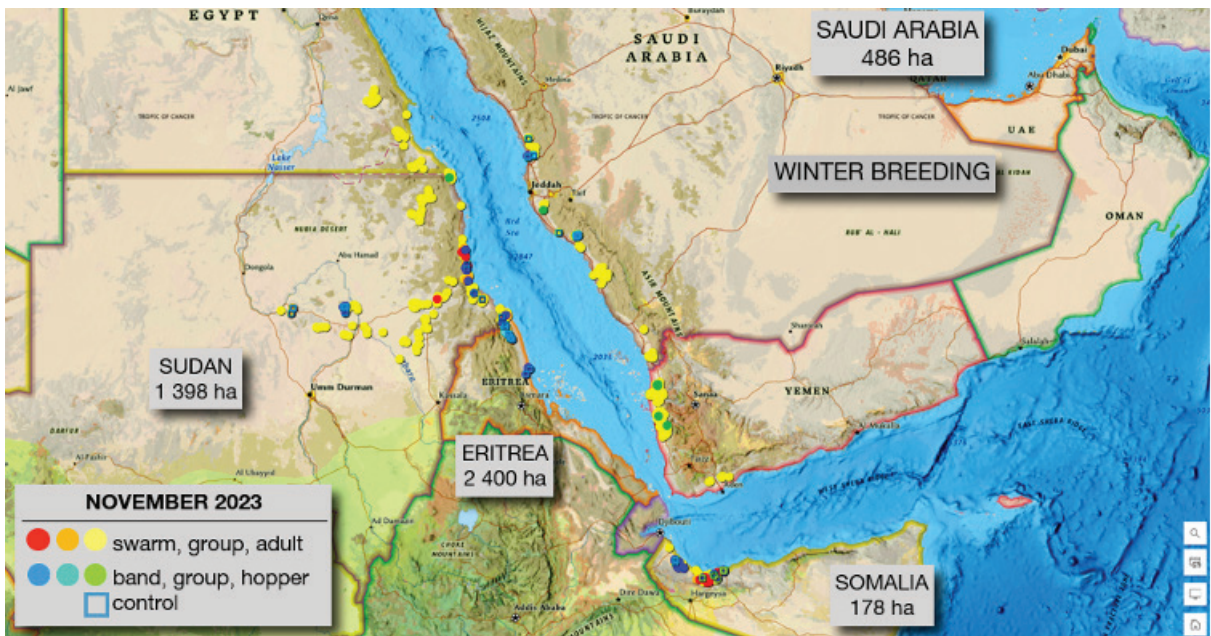


Figure 6. Locust status (November 2023)

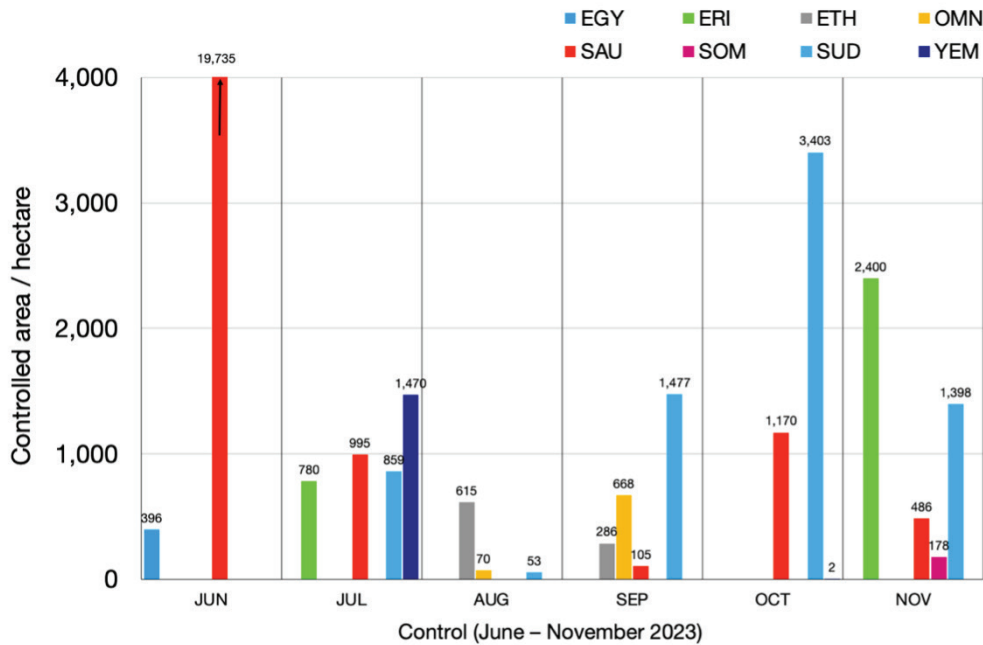


Figure 7. Controlled area in central region (June–November 2023)

Mr Keith Cressman explained, that there is a possibility of higher-than-usual rainfall from January to March, especially in the countries of Yemen, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Eritrea. This increases the expectations of the first generation of locusts appearing in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea coasts in Saudi Arabia (December-January), provided that the rainfall continues at the same rates. The second generation may appear in the same areas starting in March and April. The two generations may overlap if there is sufficient rainfall and suitable environmental conditions, leading to conditions similar to what the region experienced in the past, resulting in the desert locust upsurge of 2019-2021. This calls for attention, caution, and continued survey, control operations, and monitoring of environmental conditions.

With the availability of these environmental conditions, the forecasts indicate the possibility of early appearance of two generations of winter breeding in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea, and Somalia. In case of overlap between the two generations, the appearance of the spring breeding generation may extend from February to April/May. In Egypt, only one generation of winter breeding may appear from December to March.

Based on the above, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Eritrea, and Somalia are advised to continue intensive survey operations along the Red Sea coasts from December to May, and operations should continue in interiors until June. Control measures should be implemented for any locust groups and hopper bands at the appropriate time, with the necessity of regularly and accurately sending field data using available tools, eL3 and eL3mPRO. The data should be sent regularly every three days. He emphasized that all member countries should raise their preparedness levels to confront any potential outbreaks, especially in Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia, as these countries are vulnerable to winter breeding.

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- **Assessment of the available capabilities to deal with the current locust situation and preparedness level to address expected upsurge**

Mr Mamoon Al-Alawi, reviewed the current status of the desert locust at the country level, emphasizing the unstable and continuously changing situation on a weekly basis. Locust infestations were detected in several areas in Sudan and Somalia, and efforts are underway to intensify survey and field monitoring operations. The situation in Sudan is unclear due to the current state of the country, limiting the ability of locust control teams to conduct sufficient and effective survey and control operations, along with a lack of financial resources to sustain these efforts. Nevertheless, the efforts of these teams have not ceased, and Mr Al-Alawi expressed gratitude to the locust unit in Sudan for their significant efforts in this regard.

Mr Al-Alawi pointed out that this year is characterized by the climatic phenomenon of La Niña, meaning that the region is prone to heavy rainfall, creating a suitable environment for the breeding of desert locusts. He also highlighted the impact of Tropical Cyclone Tyg, which struck the eastern part of Yemen, southern Oman, and parts of the Empty Quarter desert, the border region between Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Yemen, from October 23-24, 2023. This situation resembles that of 2019 before the previous upsurge. Tropical cyclones often lead to heavy rainfall, providing a conducive environment for locust breeding for a period of up to approximately six months. Based on this, the possibility of breeding for one or two generations in some countries was explained, indicating a potential outbreak, especially in countries like Sudan, facing many difficulties due to the general situation in the country.

He detailed the current available resources for breeding in countries, including Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. This includes the available stock of pesticides, spraying equipment, vehicles, and aircraft. He stressed the importance of documenting data and continuous communication with the Secretariat of CR Commission to have a full understanding of the capabilities available to member countries.

Mr Al-Alawi highlighted the high costs incurred by countries, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and international partners during the 2019-2021 upsurge, exceeding USD 336 million. Of this, USD 243 million was provided by the FAO and donor entities, and USD 93 million were borne by the affected countries (operational cost), in addition to up to 200 million dollars in financial aid from the World Bank. The total of treated areas during the upsurge reached 5.6 million hectares, with 3.1 million hectares (55%) in the central region alone (16 member countries).

Therefore, he emphasized the importance of full readiness and raising preparedness levels for all countries, activating action plans and national emergency plans when needed to confront any potential developments in the locust situation.

**He then detailed the proposed action plan to be implemented to limit the spread of the desert locust in the Central Region countries and prevent a new outbreak. The action plan includes the following items:**

- continued conduct of survey operations;
- early intervention and implementation of control operations when necessary and without delay;
- sending reports and field information to CR Commission and DLIS on a weekly and regular basis for the importance of early warning;
- conducting maintenance operations for spraying machines and other equipment and preparing for control campaigns;
- activating the national emergency plan when needed;
- activating the regional emergency plan;
- supporting the regional emergency fund of the CR Commission to enable it to provide rapid support to countries in need.

Based on the possible expectations of locust outbreaks in several countries in the region and the resulting need to support countries vulnerable to potential outbreaks, Mr Mamoon Al-Alawi clarified that the regional emergency fund of CRC urgently needs support amounting to USD 8 million as basic support to cover the main needs in the region, including Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. See Table No. 1 the required support for the regional emergency fund of the CRC to support countries vulnerable to potential outbreaks (2023-2024) in the central region.



Needs	Cost (USD million)
Pesticides	3
Vehicles	2
Spraying machines	0.5
Operations costs	1.5
Camping equipment and expedition supplies	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

Table No. 1 The required support for the regional emergency fund of the CRC to support countries vulnerable to potential outbreaks (2023-2024) in the central region

After a detailed discussion of the required financial needs and the importance of providing them as quickly as possible, it was proposed that the Secretariat of the CR Commission to send messages to the relevant ministers of the member countries, demanding them to provide financial or in-kind support to the CRC. This is to assist member countries currently facing the current locust outbreak.

# 04

## Session two

The reports of the member countries

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## Session two: The reports of the member countries

- **The action plan of the locust control operations and the preventive procedures taken within the framework of the national contingency plan**

### **The Sudan**

Mr Mahgoub Moussa, the Director of the Locust Control Department in the Ministry of Agriculture of Sudan, presented a detailed report on the current locust situation in Sudan. He indicated that due to prevailing security conditions in the country, no regular survey operations have been conducted in the summer breeding areas. As of September 2023, the desert locust situation has developed, with at least eight swarms controlled. By the end of October, numerous groups of locust adults have moved in the direction of the Red Sea. In November, heavy rainfall in the winter breeding areas (Red Sea coastal) improved environmental conditions for the breeding process. At least four swarms have been detected. Survey operations covered 108 910 hectares, and 1 148 hectares were controlled using 561 liters of ULV pesticides.

Mr Mahjoub pointed out that due to the current circumstances, most of the resources available for locust control in Khartoum have been lost, including vehicles, sprayers, pesticides, computers, and other tools dedicated to controlling Desert Locusts at the main centre in Khartoum. Nevertheless, several measures have been taken to prepare for the developing locust situation. This includes the maintenance and rehabilitation of aircraft runways, the preparation of one spray aircraft, as well as the distribution of survey and control teams (six teams, each consisting of two vehicles) and some available machines in certain areas along the Red Sea coast from the border with Eritrea to near the border with Egypt, conducting periodic survey and control operations in the states along the Nile.

Mr Mahjoub emphasized the ability of the Sudanese locust control unit to contain the situation and prevent it from escalating if the necessary resources are made available as soon as possible. However, if these resources are delayed, the situation will go out of control. He clarified that, in light of what has been mentioned, an amount of USD 2.5 million is required to continue survey and control operations until the end of the winter breeding period in 2023/2024. This allocation includes USD 500 000 for operational expenses, USD 1 million for purchasing pesticides, USD 250 000 for buying spraying equipment, and USD 750 000 for acquiring vehicles.

### **Egypt**

Mr Khaled Abd Rabo, the Director General of the General Department for Locust Affairs and Agro-Aviation, presented a detailed overview of the locust situation in Egypt. He pointed out that survey operations are ongoing in winter breeding areas early in the year, with surveys conducted over an area of 115 401 hectares in these areas. The locust situation has been characterized by a cautious calm, with good vegetation cover and the presence of both mature and immature solitary locusts recorded. Field reports on the situation have been consistently sent according to established methods. Forecasts indicate an increase in the number of insects with the possibility of winter breeding in the southeast of the country along the Red Sea coast. Working teams have been deployed since the beginning of September according to the seasonal action plan. Also, he highlighted the areas of shortage that need to be addressed, such as ultra-low-volume pesticides, four-wheel-drive vehicles, spraying equipment, spare parts, protective clothing, reagents of AChE test mate, eL3 devices, and portable computers to support the information unit.

### **Saudi Arabia**

Mr Mohammed Al-Shamrani, the Director General of the General Administration for Locust Control in Saudi Arabia, presented an overview indicating limited summer and autumn breeding during September and October 2023, with scattered isolated locusts along the Red Sea coast and hatching process in mid-November, where locust control was carried out over an area of 1 740 hectares. Continuous reports, numbering 3 638 surveys and control reports, have been sent through the eL3m Pro application.

Mr Al-Shamrani mentioned that aerial surveys will be conducted in areas that received rainfall in the Empty Quarter desert, which were affected by the tropical cyclone Tyg. These areas contain vegetation cover that could serve as a source for locust aggregation and breeding in those remote regions, using aerial survey aircraft.

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He also noted that the operational plan for locust control for this year has been adopted and is currently being implemented, securing all the necessary supplies, including vehicles, sprayers, pesticides, and campaign equipment, which have been provided through the WEQAA Center (National Center for the Prevention and Control of Plant Pests and Animal Diseases). Additionally, ten mobile camps will be established along the Red Sea coast to enable these mobile teams to move as required by the locust situation.

## **Somalia**

Mr Abdi Hussein, the Director of the Plant Protection Department at the Ministry of Agriculture in Somalia, presented a brief report indicating that with the start of November, rainfall occurred in breeding areas, creating suitable environmental conditions for the appearance of locusts. Survey operations were conducted in various regions and locations, while control operations were limited to the northwest of the country. Early hatching occurred in the same areas, covering an area of 3-4 hectares. Ground control operations were carried out using the biopesticide *Metarhizium anisopliae* and insect growth regulators for hopper groups, aiming to prevent spring breeding from January to March.

## **Ethiopia**

Mr Belayneh Desta, the Director of Plant Protection at the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, presented a report on the locust situation and the actions taken in the recent period. He explained that migratory swarms from Eritrea to Ethiopia were observed from July to October 2023 in summer breeding areas, with surveys conducted in six regions and 67 districts. The surveyed area covered approximately 234 218 hectares, including 25 154 hectares of affected areas, and 1 450 hectares were treated using 718 liters of pesticides. He noted rainfall in the southeast in regions like Somali and Oromia, traditional breeding areas, expecting locust swarms to arrive from neighboring countries. Therefore, intensive survey operations continue in these areas. Mr. Desta emphasized the importance of providing resources such as electronic pesticide pumps, protective clothing, and sprayers, in addition to budget allocations for survey and control operations and capacity building.

He highlighted the importance of regional support, particularly cooperation and coordination among countries affected by locusts. Mr Desta also discussed Ethiopia's provision of a quantity of available pesticides to Sudan to assist in regular control operations under the triangulation system (supporting countries with pesticides from the available stock, coordinated with FAO).

# 05

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## **Session three**

The reports of the member countries

## Session three: Locust risk management plans and financial mechanisms

### • Lessons learned from the 2019-2022 locust outbreak

Mr Shoki Al-Dobai, Team Leader, Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases at FAO, presented a summary of the lessons learned from the previous locust upsurge (2019-2022) and how these lessons can be employed to prevent future outbreaks. He noted that the costs of preventive control are significantly lower than the costs of reactive control for locust swarms.

During the 2003-2005 upsurge, the Desert Locust control campaign incurred approximately USD 570 million in costs. However, it could have been contained at its outset with just USD 3 million in preventive control expenses. This implies that, within just three years, an amount equivalent to the costs of 170 years of preventive control was spent. (Figure 8).

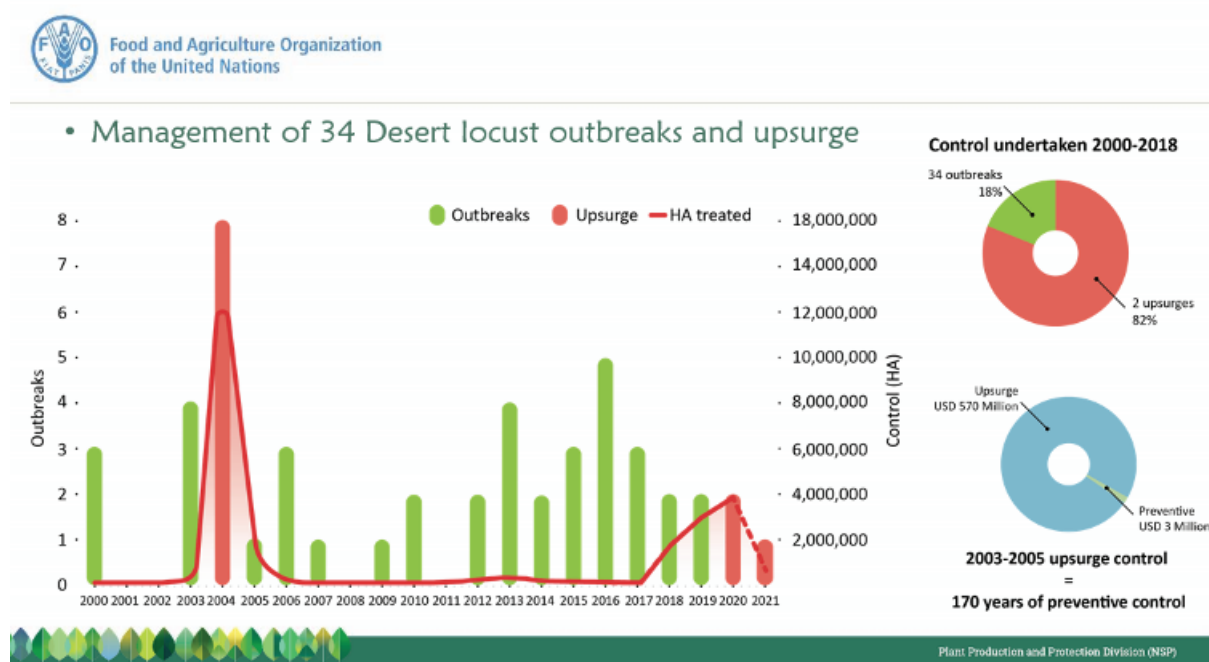


Figure 8. Locust outbreaks (2000-2021)

### The key observations made during that locust upsurge and the lessons learned that should be taken into account to avoid new outbreaks include:

- inadequate attention to the locust management system during extended recession periods (prioritizing and less attention to preparedness levels);
- slow/inadequate response from governments, regional partners, and international entities to limit emergencies (a proactive approach is necessary rather than a reactive one);
- institutional instability and the non-sustainability of technical staff;
- lack of transparency in report preparation and information exchange;
- the importance of strengthening the structure and capabilities of regional entities, such as the CRC and DLCO-EA;
- implementation of a preventive control strategy, enhancing institutional structures and preventive control capabilities in countries, establishing and maintaining autonomous units for locust control in breeding countries;
- developing and maintaining locust management within units responsible for other transboundary pests in breeding countries;
- training a new generation of experts to operate and manage locust centers in the region through long-term training courses and master/doctoral degrees;
- promoting the use of biological pesticides, insect growth regulators (IGRs), and environmentally safe alternatives, while enhancing the use of treatment methods at barriers;
- developing updated emergency plans and conducting regular simulation exercises to maintain preparedness,
- activating well-coordinated systems and unified leadership at the beginning of an emergency through the national emergency plan;
- continuous preparedness and wise management of the information system, early warning, and functional supply chains;
- securing an additional stock of pesticides and equipment for use in emergencies.

- **FAO funding mechanisms to reduce the risk and respond to emergencies of transboundary pests**

Ms Rosanne Marchesich, Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer, Office of Emergencies and Resilience at FAO, presented an informative overview of the financing mechanisms and risk mitigation provided by the FAO. Ms Marchesich emphasized the importance of continuing to focus on preventive measures to avoid future locust developments. She also explained that FAO’s response during the previous locust outbreak (2019-2022) involved providing financing amounting to USD 243 million through the activation of 70 projects and 33 funding sources from partners, including internal financing mechanisms. Additionally, member countries contributed USD 93 million, and the World Bank allocated USD 200 million to build capacities in various countries.

At the onset of the response, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) provided USD 10 million and capacities, along with 13 emergency projects for the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) supporting 21 countries with approximately USD 6 million when the Level three emergency was declared. This funding approach enabled the CERF and Resilience Capacity (SFERA) fund, a United Nations entity, to collect funds (approximately USD 53 million out of the USD 243 million) to facilitate cross-border movement in affected countries. The funds were utilized for various activities, including monitoring and control, protecting livelihoods, coordination, and innovation. The fund also facilitated the allocation of nearly USD 60 million out of the total received contributions while finalizing donor agreements to enable a rapid response implementation.

It is crucial to note that during this period, donors recognized the severity and damages caused by the desert locust and the importance of responding to its warnings. Therefore, it is paramount to keep them informed about the recommendations, equipment stock status, maintenance, training operations, and the preparation of the next generation of experts, as well as issuing certifications for biological pesticides/insecticides. Overall, the importance of data management, monitoring, and evaluation provides information and evidence to engage financial partners outside the member countries in the organization. Finally, Ms Marchish encouraged action plans to identify operational support priorities and the size of the gap to prevent the spread of the desert locust in the future.



Figure 9. Results of rapid and early intervention to combat locusts and its contribution to maintaining food security for the population (locust outbreak 2019-2022)

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- **Locust Risk Management in the commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region**

Mr Hamouny, Mohamed Lemine, the Executive Secretary of the Commission for Controlling Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) presented the emergency plan in the Western Region and explained that the management of locust outbreaks depends on two elements, the organizational aspect, and the financial aspect. Therefore, the commission prepared a regional emergency plan and helped countries prepare and approve their national plans.

He also stated that the member countries approved an emergency fund with a total financial of USD 6 million, financed by the voluntary contributions of the countries and the Commission Trust Fund.

He also explained the organizing mechanism at the regional and national levels during outbreaks, as well as the voluntary contributions, which had reached USD 4 million contributed by Seven countries out of the ten member states of the Commission, and awareness is underway for the commitment of the remaining three countries to pay their contributions, noting that the facilitating mechanism of financing would not exceed Seven working days.



# 05

**Recommendations**

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## Recommendations

**After the discussions and interventions conducted among the participants, the following recommendations were adopted:**

1. All national locust control units in breeding countries and relevant authorities in invasion countries should take all necessary measures, exercise caution, and be prepared to face potential developments in the current desert locust situation. This includes focusing on the implementation of preventive control strategies and activating national emergency plans when necessary.
2. Regular reports should be submitted to the DLIS at FAO and the Secretariat of the CR Commission, following the established procedures and specified deadlines. Reports should be sent twice a week in case of locust activity and once a month under normal circumstances.
3. All countries should promptly maintain and repair the machinery and equipment used in locust control to ensure they are in optimal readiness.
4. Member countries are required to send a copy of their national emergency plan to the Secretariat of CR Commission by 31 December 2023, for monitoring its implementation within the framework of the regional plan.
5. Member countries should pay their annual and overdue contributions to the CR Commission Trust Fund, if applicable.
6. Encourage member countries to voluntarily contribute to the Regional Emergency Fund to activate the fund's role and urgently support control operations in the region. **The required amount for support is USD 8 million to prevent a locust outbreak.**
7. The executive secretariat of the CR Commission will send urgent messages to member countries, including the recommendations of this meeting, and request urgent support for the Emergency Fund to assist locust control efforts in the most affected countries.
8. The secretariat of CR Commission will address member countries to provide urgent support to assist Sudan with USD 2.5 million to combat the desert locust outbreak in the current situation.
9. The relevant departments at FAO will provide necessary support and inform international partners about the desert locust situation in the Central Region countries and mobilize the necessary support to enhance preventive control in the region.
10. Strengthen collaboration with DLCO-EA in surveying and controlling desert locusts, exchanging information, and building the capacities of member countries.

# 06

**Annexes**

## Annexes

### 1. List of participants

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## 2. Meeting programme



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Commission  
for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in the Central Region

### The High-Level Emergency Consultative Meeting for Member Countries of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region Cairo, Egypt, 29-30 November 2023

**29**  
Wednesday  
November 2023

Time	Subject	Speaker
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Welcoming and opening speeches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome remarks of the Chairperson of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC)</li> <li>Welcome remarks of the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa (RNE)</li> </ul>	<b>Chairperson of the Commission (KSA)</b>  <b>Mr Abdulhakim Elwaer</b>
<b>First Session</b>		
<b>Desert Locust situation in the Central Region</b>		
10:30 - 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desert Locust situation and forecast for the forthcoming period</li> </ul>	<b>Mr Keith Cressman</b>
11:00 - 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open discussion</li> </ul>	<b>Mr Mamoon Alalawi</b>
11:30 - 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of the available capabilities to deal with the current locust situation and preparedness level to address any expected upsurge</li> </ul>	
12:00 - 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open discussion</li> </ul>	
12:30 - 14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
<b>Second Session</b>		
<b>Member countries reports</b>		
14:00 - 15:30	Locust control action plan and anticipatory measures taken within the framework of the national contingency plan	<b>Representatives of member countries</b>
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Break</b>	
<b>Third Session</b>		
<b>Locust risk management strategies &amp; funding mechanisms</b>		
16:00 - 16:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lessons learned from the recent Desert locust upsurge (2019-2022)</li> </ul>	<b>Mr Shoki Al Dobai</b>
16:20 - 16:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO funding mechanisms to reduce the risk and respond to emergencies of transboundary pests</li> <li>Locust Risk Management Plan of the Western Region Commission (CLCPRO)</li> </ul>	<b>Ms Rosanne Marchesich</b>
16:40 - 17:00		<b>Mr Mohamed Lamine Hamouny</b>

**30**  
Thursday  
November 2023

Time	Subject	Speaker
10:00 - 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting outputs and recommendations</li> </ul>	<b>Mr Mamoon Alalawi</b>
12:00 - 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conclusion of the Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>Chairperson of the Commission</b>



Commission  
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