Ministry of Agriculture
Livestock, Fisheries
and Irrigation

CABI

Terms of Reference for a Consultant to Support the Development of a Strategic Plan for Desert Locust Management Kenya

1. Background

The desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forskal) is arguably the most destructive agricultural pest globally. Prevailing weather conditions in the Eastern African region created conducive environment that favoured rapid locust breeding and migration from December, 2019 to date. This migratory pest was confirmed in the following countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and South Sudan. If left without control, the numbers of this plant-devouring insect can grow exponentially, forming swarms of millions of individual desert locusts. The locusts have high flight capacity, with ability to move 150 km a day. Desert locusts feeding results in devastation of crops and pasture, which ultimately affects rural livelihoods A study by the FAO indicated that in Kenya, the last desert locust plague was observed in the 1970s. However, the current outbreak from December 2019, has been confirmed in over 20 counties and by January 2020, over 3.1 million people had been affected by this pest.

The current locust infestation is believed to have originated in the Arabian Peninsula. In 2018, two cyclones dumped heavy rain on an uninhabited portion of the Arabian Peninsula, creating the ideal wet, sandy conditions the desert locusts require to breed. Generations of breeding occurred in nine months, causing locust numbers to increase by 8,000 times which formed the original source of the Eastern Africa upsurge, that still plagues the region today.

2. Context for a strategic plan

There have been several emergency efforts to control the desert locust in Kenya. Following the invasion, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives (MoALF&C) established a Multi-Institutional Technical Team (MITT) that harnessed the available expertise in the country to strategize and guide the management of desert locust outbreak in Kenya. It should be noted that because the country did not have prior preparations to mitigate against this high magnitude invasion, the immediate response was deployment of insecticides. Several techniques are being used including aerial, vehicle mounted and hand held spraying. In addition, there was extensive capacity building for relevant stakeholders including the extension service providers in the affected Counties. However, the country lacks a comprehensive desert locust management strategy with clearly spelt roles and responsibilities of the relevant actors and stakeholders from County & National Government, regional level actors, research institutions, international organizations, development partners, regulatory agencies and the general public. Due to the diversity of the relevant actors, for effective control of the desert locust, a strong coordination mechanism is critical for effective and efficient use of scarce resources. In addition, the mechanism for reporting outbreaks when

sighted in the field, surveillance and monitoring in Counties with high risk have not been institutionalized.

MoALF&C has developed a Pest Management Plan titled "Contingency Emergency Locust Response Project" with funding from the World Bank to run from 2020 to 2023. The project focuses on execution of control operations to manage current outbreaks, support to affected rural communities coupled with surveillance and monitoring. However, there are some aspects which are not covered by this project including setting up of an early warning system, packaging of IPM options, design of a communication strategy, review of existing policy instruments, setting up of research agenda, and coordination mechanism amongst the relevant actors.

Consequently, CABI with funding from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the Netherlands' Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), through its Action on Invasives Programme, will support the Plant Protection Services Division (PPSD) of MoALF&C to develop a strategic plan to inform the management of the desert locust in Kenya. To fast track this process, CABI will hire a consultant to develop the draft strategic plan document as described in Section 3 below.

3. Duties of the Consultant

The consultant will, under the guidance of a CABI manager and Head of PPSD or their designees, conduct the following activities:

a) Through a consultative process and application of appropriate analytical tools, identify focus areas and develop strategic objectives and key result areas for desert locust management in Kenya;
b) Review the institutional capacity and organizational set-up including administrative systems of key actors in desert locust control in Kenya;
c) Review the financial requirements (implications) for effective control operations from the national, regional and development partners (e.g FAO, DLCO-EA etc) involved in desert locust management;
d) Identify gaps that hinder effective desert locust management including – technological, capacity, research, surveillance and early warning, IPM, communication, policy, coordination etc;
e) Establish the Kenya risk map describing the hot spot Counties in the country for desert locust entry, breeding and migration trends;
f) Identify the challenges/limitations and opportunities in desert locust management in Kenya and come up with the value proposition of the opportunities identified;
g) Propose a strategy for achieving the strategic objectives and key results in the short, medium and long term including a coordination structure;
h) Propose a results and resources framework, and coordination structure;
i) Subject the draft strategic plan to the MITT for further inputs
j) Subject the reviewed draft strategic plan to a wider stakeholder consultation for validation and incorporate suggestions where applicable;

k) Submit final version of the desert locust strategic plan to the policy department of MoALF&C through PPSD

4. Experience and competencies

a) At least a PhD in a relevant field in the area of agriculture and environment, planning, public policy, development studies;
b) At least five years professional experience in strategic planning and management;
c) Demonstrated experience in working with government partners, development partners and other stakeholders in public and private sector development programs;
d) Experience in research, policy development, management and programming-related work;
e) Experience in the field of desert locust management will be an added advantage
f) The consultant shall be a national of Kenya, and be based in the country at the time of the assignment

5. Timing

The entire assignment shall be completed no later than 30th November 2020.

6. Deliverables

a) An inception report of the plan of work to deliver on a strategic plan for desert locust management in Kenya;
b) A national strategic plan for desert locust management including a results and resources framework endorsed by PPSD/MoALF&C
c) Report on the process including consultation with the MITT Technical Working Group
d) Report from wider stakeholder consultations and validation workshop

7. Reporting

The consultant will work closely with the responsible CABI manager and Head of PPSD or their designees.

8. Submission and deadline

Expressions of interest including a detailed CV and technical/financial proposal should be submitted to procurement-africa@cabi.org no later than 28 September 2020.