



DLCO-EA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION

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DLCO-EA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS:

The 57th Regular Session of the DLCO-EA Executive Committee was held in Babogaya Resort, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia from 17th – 19th September, 2012 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Komayombi Bulegeya, Commissioner, Crop Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries, Uganda and Chairman, Executive Committee, 2011/2012. All Member States were represented except, **Djibouti, Eritrea** and **Somalia**.

The 57th Regular Session of the DLCO-EA Council of Ministers was also held in Babogaya Resort, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, from 20th – 21st September, 2012, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Wondirad Mandefro, State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia and Council Chairman. All Member Countries were represented except **Djibouti, Eritrea** and **Somalia**.

The 57th Regular Council Session **APPROVED** DLCO-EA's Progress Report for 2011/2012 and Programme of Work for 2012/2013. The Council also

APPROVED the Republic of South Sudan application for Membership to DLCO-EA.



**57th Regular Session of the DLCO-EA Council of
Ministers, held in Babogaya Resort,
Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia**

DLCO-EA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION:

The 50th Anniversary of DLCO-EA was celebrated colourfully at the new African Union Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 22nd September, 2012, where, the Guest of Honour was H.E. Mr. Tefera Deribew, Minister of Agriculture, Ethiopia. The celebrations included Panel discussion, other activities were Photo Exhibition, Launching the DLCO-EA Commemoration Book, Birth Day Cake Cutting Ceremony, and presentation of Certificate of Merit and presents to 3 Members of staff who have served the Organization for over 40 years.

The Council of Ministers, Executive Committee Members, Resident Ambassadors of DLCO-EA Member Countries, Development Partners, DLCO-EA staff and invited guests participated in the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

HISTORY OF THE DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA (DLCO-EA) (Contd):

In the June, 2012 edition of this Newsletter, the first part of the History of DLCO-EA was given. The current (September, 2012) edition is a special one being devoted in part to the History of DLCO-EA to mark the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Organization. This is being done to give our esteemed stakeholders full information about the Organization's development in the first ten years (1962 – 1972), how it changed and developed during 1973 – 2002, and its statutes in the last ten years up to 2012.

THE FIRST 10 YEARS:

The first Headquarters of the DLCO-EA was in **Dire Dawa**, Ethiopia, to which the Headquarters staff transferred in February, 1964.

An early preoccupation of DLCO-EA, organizationally, was to reach an agreement with FAO, whereby the Convention was to be amended to re-establish the Organization within the framework of FAO. The intention of the DLCO-EA Council was that the Organization should become a Commission of the FAO.

The FAO Council approved the Agreement in 1965 under Resolution 7/44. The implication of this Agreement was that DLCO-EA was expected to submit its programme of work and budget to the Director-General for approval and appointments to the post of

Director of the Organization, as decided by the DLCO-EA Council, should be similarly approved.

It was also in 1965, that the council decided to move the DLCO-EA Headquarters from Dire Dawa to Asmara where it was given a handsome building in the then Palace grounds.



DLCO-EA Headquarters Asmara 1965 -1972

Other events that show up in the 4th and 5th annual reports (July, 1965 – June, 1967), are, first, the report of a major accident at the Main Operational Base in Hargeisa which fortunately injured no one but destroyed a number of buildings, requiring extensive renovations. Second, the Desert Locust recession that began in 1962 (just as DLCO-EA was formed), had continued. Locust populations by 1965 had reached their lowest level for 27 years.

This led to the Council to agree the use of DLCO-EA aircraft for various spraying activities other than locusts, contracted to the relevant government on a repayment basis, including carriage of freight, cotton, banana and water hyacinth spraying and control sorties against armyworm, quelea birds and tsetse fly. It is noteworthy that income generation from these sources reached about US\$ 30,000 in June 1966, and had risen to US\$ 70,000 by June 1967.

HOW DLCO-EA CHANGED AND DEVELOPED 1973-2002:

During the whole of DLCO-EA's life up to now, the training of staff, or localization as it was called, was an important component of the Organization's work plan. Training was carried out by highly qualified senior expatriate staff such as the Senior Pilot, Chief Aircraft Engineer or the Aircraft Engineer, working side-by-side with staff from the region over a period of years. Several such trainees were also sent overseas for extended periods of time for training, usually through funding provided by the UK. Gradually more and more of the regional staff became highly qualified, a factor which has made a great impact on the viability of DLCO-EA over the years. In fact, these well-trained staff became the backbone of the Organization. In the staffing list for June, 1973, out of 33 Senior and Technical Staff, only the Chief Aircraft Engineer, the Radio Engineer and the Accountant were expatriates. And within a few years, all the DLCO-EA staff were from the region.

The 1972/1973 period covered another outbreak of Desert Locust, this time in the Arabian Peninsula and for the first time DLCO-EA aircraft were sent to assist Saudi Arabia and Yemen. This intervention seems to have been successful and the outbreak was brought under control.

At the organizational level, another layer of committee was also added with the creation of an Executive Committee as well as the Council and the Technical Committee. The Executive Committee met four times during the period. Income generation reached about US\$ 120,000 at this time, with activities limited to Ethiopia (cotton, tsetse), Kenya (grasshoppers), Somalia (banana leaf spot), and Sudan (Water Hyacinth).

In 1974, a DLCO-EA Beaver continued to operate in Saudi Arabia and routine spraying operations took place in Member Countries, principally Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia. This was the time when questions were increasingly being asked about the environmental toxicity of Dieldrin for the control of locust hoppers. The FAO/SIDA project at the HQ in Addis Ababa drew attention to the efficiency of Dieldrin because of its persistence and the likelihood that if the switch was made to less persistent insecticides, it would probably be more expensive because of the need to spray sites two or three times compared to just once with Dieldrin.

Assistance provided elsewhere included a major operation by DLCO-EA Beavers to control Red Locust, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* in the outbreak areas in Tanzania. This seems to have been done within the Organization's mandate. By contrast assistance was also provided to Tanzania for quelea control for which repayment was made. Ethiopia benefitted from interventions against grasshoppers, and Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta*, and Somalia for Banana Leaf Spot, all on a repayment basis.

At the 1975 Council, it was decided to set up a Review Commission to examine and regularize inconsistencies in personal emoluments, and to study additional agricultural pest activities with a view to amending the Convention. The Council also noted the overlap between the Executive and Technical Committees and agreed on their division of responsibilities. It was also in 1975 that the FAO/UNDP Quelea Project began operation in Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia, and subsequently Kenya and Tanzania. The Council agreed to collaborate closely with this project and continue its aerial operations against quelea. It also agreed to assist Uganda with some experimental trials on tsetse fly and grasshopper control at no cost to

that country, provided that the Government provided the chemicals and ground support.

In 1976, the council sought to strengthen the cooperation that existed between the Organization and FAO.

The 15th Annual Report (1977) records that the major talking point at the Council was the Review Commission's report. Other important events included the agreement to establish Sub-bases in Uganda and Tanzania. It was also agreed to accept a project from the Centre of Overseas Pest Research (COPR), Ministry of Overseas Development (ODA), UK on strengthening survey, forecasting and control of the Armyworm with staff to be based in Nairobi and Addis Ababa.

The delegate of France said that his country was making its last contribution to the DLCO-EA annual budget for the 1977/78 financial year because Djibouti became the Independent Nation in June 1977. Djibouti duly became a Member Country of the Organization in 1978.

By the end of 1978, the Director and Associate Director left the Organization. An Acting Director Mr. Mulugetta Bezzabeh was appointed. Within a few months he was replaced by Mr. Daniel Wako who remained Director for nearly 10 years.

A major development in the work of the Organization in 1978 was the acceptance by the Council (Resolution No:446) of the Technical Committee's recommendation that DLCO-EA should undertake control of Armyworm, "**Weaver Bird**" (quelea) and Tsetse, on the understanding that the Government concerned provides the pesticide and ground support. Such interventions were to be subject to resources not being needed for Desert Locusts.

In November, 1979 the Ugandan government requested DLCO-EA to carry out an extensive operation against Tsetse flies, *Glossina fuscipes*. The exercise was repeated in 1980 and continued for a period of three months. The objective was to reduce the number of sleeping sickness cases and an initial reduction of 60% was achieved.

As a result of the investigations carried out on Armyworm by a team of scientists from the UK (COPR/UK) and DLCO-EA, and the presentation of the results at a Workshop in July 1982, the European Economic Community (EEC) agreed to provide funds. An EEC joint-DLCO-COPR Technical Assistance Contract for a regional program for the control of Armyworm was approved, and ODA also expanded its assistance. The Armyworm project then became an important element in DLCO-EA's activities.

The 21st Annual Report (July, 1982 – June, 1983) reports that a grant of €3,300,000 was received from the European Economic Community (EEC) for migrant pest control in Eastern Africa. The major component of this grant was to construct a new hangar and offices in Nairobi at Wilson Airport. It was also used to build a DLCO-EA Sub-base in Arusha. By June, 1983, the construction works were in an advanced stage. The structure at Wilson Airport has had a major impact on the Organization both in enhancing its status and in ensuring the efficient operation of its Air wing.

THE LAST ELEVEN YEARS OCTOBER 1999 – JUNE 2011:

At the 44th Council Session in October 1999, the Chief, Information and Forecasting Officer, Mr. Peter Odiyo, was appointed as Acting Director, taking over from Dr. Karrar. At that time, the Organization had been suffering a

perpetual malaise of shortage of funds caused by some member countries failing to pay their contributions to the budget. Eritrea and Ethiopia were the exceptions to this rule and their contributions amounted to about half the funds received. Only 44% of the assessed amounts were paid for the 1998/1999 financial year. Furthermore, various countries had built up enormous arrears of unpaid contributions, amounting to over US\$ 18 million by June, 2000. The contributions rose gradually, with one hiccup in 2001 when some payments were made late, reaching a peak of 84% of the assessed budget of US\$ 1,923,000 in 2006. In addition, from 2003 to 2011, significant payments were made against the accumulated arrears, especially by Kenya but also by Tanzania. And finally the Organization continued to generate income by hiring out its aircraft and renting out surplus accommodation.

Despite these generally encouraging signs, several Member Countries at successive Council Sessions expressed the view that their share of the budget was unfair. In particular Ethiopia had long held that its share should have been reduced when Eritrea became independent and the geographical limits of its locust-vulnerable areas were reduced. Sudan and Uganda also complained that they benefitted little from the resources of the Organization, although it was pointed out that they benefitted indirectly if other Member Countries controlled their locusts and quelea.

With the assistance of FAO, an independent consultant was hired to try to develop a new scale of contributions. Fortunately, after some discussions on new shares of the budget, which will come into force in the 2012/2013 Financial Year. The budget ceiling was maintained at the level of US\$ 1,923,000 at which level it has been since 1994.

In 1999 there was the suggestion that DLCO-EA should be merged with the Inter-Governmental Authority on Desertification (IGAD). The hope was that if DLCO-EA became a part of an organization that was overseen by the Heads of State, this would make it more likely that regular payments would be made to its budget. However, Tanzania was not a member of IGAD and its position in relation to a possible merger was unclear. Difficulties were also found in how to merge the mandates of the two organizations as they appeared to be incompatible. Investigation also showed that IGAD itself had its own financial problems and joining it was unlikely to solve those of DLCO-EA. The subject continued to be debated in Council Sessions until the meeting in May 2003 when it was decided to put an end to the negotiations.

The September, 2002 Council also examined the need to update the Organization's Convention. A revised version of the Convention was presented at the 2003 Council. It was decided on further amendments including a mechanism for enforcing the payment of contributions by Member Countries. It was also noted that the restructuring that the Organization was undergoing would affect the Convention. As the discussion continued at successive Council meetings, it became clear that resolving the question of the share of contributions for Member Countries was a prerequisite for all Members to approve and sign the new Convention. By 2008, only Eritrea, Kenya and Tanzania had signed the Revised Convention. By 2011, Djibouti and Sudan had joined the list of signatories.

At this time (2003), consideration was given to merging DLCO-EA with the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern

Africa (IRLCO-CSA). Two options were developed:-

- No need for a merger but DLCO-EA should take over the control of outbreak areas in Tanzania and to control any swarms escaped into Kenya, Uganda and other parts of Tanzania. This would require no change in DLCO-EA's geographical coverage but would require an increase in contributions from the concerned countries and a base to be developed in Tabora;
- Full merger with IRLCO-CSA.

Although Council approved parts of the first option, it was recommended that a detailed study of the two options should be carried out, preferably with assistance from FAO.

During the whole decade, DLCO-EA made great efforts to attract donor support for the Organization mainly to cover capital expenditure but also in the research field. For example, in 2005 proposals were submitted to the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), the African Development Bank (ADB), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Department for International Development UK (DFID), the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International (CABI), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and FAO. Some of these approaches were successful, including CIDA which provided funds to overhaul the engine of one of the Beavers, CABI which assisted with the Community-based Armyworm Monitoring and Forecasting Service continued during January. In reacting correctly to this situation, DLCO-EA showed its capacity to protect Member Countries from locust swarms.

(CAMF), and USAID/FAO which provided technical DGPS equipment also for the aircraft. USAID also provided some funds for the CAMF and in 2011, funds for Desert Locust monitoring.

During the decade, income generation continued to be a key element in DLCO-EA's finances. The contract with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) which was initiated in 1994 and served humanitarian operations in the Great Lakes region, continued to function albeit at a gradually reducing level. Spare offices and hangar space at the hangar in Nairobi also brought in some funds. The funds realized were used to purchase spare parts for the aircraft and the fact that the Air wing continued fully operational during the whole period was largely due to these arrangements, supplemented by donor assistance.

A new development at the 2007 Council was that the Director was requested to visit South Sudan to discuss the possibility of opening a DLCO-EA Base in Juba. At the subsequent 2011 Council, it was decided that first South Sudan should formally apply to be a member of DLCO-EA.

In December 2007, Kenya was invaded by Desert Locust swarms for the first time for 45 years. The Organization, in collaboration with the Kenyan Plant Protection Department, carried out efficient and successful operations to control the swarms and also surveyed an extensive area in northern Kenya up to Moyale to make sure that there were no other swarm invasions. The surveys

Another event that took place at the 56th Council Session (2011) was the presentation by a consultant of a Strategic Plan for DLCO-EA for the period 2011-2015. The Council requested that the consultant incorporate the comments made during the meeting, in particular that the Plan be focused on the mandated region of the Organization, not the whole

continent. The Plan was, nevertheless, approved.

The 56th Council was also the first occasion in which the new Director, Mr. Gaspar Mallya, participated, having been appointed from January, 2011.

VIP VISITORS



H.M Queen Wilhelmina of Netherlands listening with great interest to the DLCO-EA Director as He explains facts about Desert Locust invasion and crop damage of 1968

H.I.M the Emperor of Ethiopia was always concerned with Desert Locust Control problems. Here on record his views on the occasion of his visit to HQ said:

It is our pleasure to visit the Organization for Desert Locust Control which has been established by concerted efforts of East African Governments to control Locust and to avoid any harm to human life
H.S1st





**H.I.M Haile Selassie 1st opens the new Headquarters
in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia,
15th May, 1972**



**H.E the President of Uganda visited
DLCO-EA Headquarters in Addis Ababa,
20th August, 1975**

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