

**THE DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANISATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA
(DLCO-EA) MARKS DIAMOND (60TH) ANNIVERSARY
THE DLCO-EA, 1962-2022!**

The Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) is a nine (09) Member Country Regional Organization with the following composition; **Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia**. The DLCO-EA has been supporting Member Countries in the control and containment of migratory pests (locusts, armyworms, tsetse flies and quelea birds), and other emerging trans-boundary/migratory pests to **ensure food security in the Region**. The DLCOEA is a United Nations (UN) registered Organisation and was established by a **1962 convention**, signed in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. Therefore, DLCO-EA is marking **60 years** of dedicated service to the Region in the year of **2022**.

The DLCO-EA Regional Headquarters and the Secretariat are based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Secretariat, is headed by the **Director**, with staff in all the Member Countries and supported by an **Executive Committee** comprised of all Member Country Heads responsible for Crop/Plant Protection. The supreme governing body that provides policy direction of the organisation is the **Council of Ministers**. In the Member States, the DLCO-EA is hosted through the Ministries responsible for Agriculture thus by default making the Heads of the Crop/Plant Protection, the **Executive Members** and the Hon. Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security the **Council Members** of the Regional Organisation. These two committees **sit annually** to plan, direct and approve the Organisation's work plans and activities. The sessions are **rotational** and the Republic of Uganda will be hosting 67th regular Session in **October 2022, from 24th -28th**.

The DLCO-EA is proud to mark the Organisation's **Diamond (60th) Anniversary** alongside the 67th Regular Session of the Council of Ministers to be held in Entebbe, Uganda in October 2022. The date for this activity has been fixed to rhyme with the closing day of the 67th Session of the Council of Ministers on **Friday 28th October 2022**. Several activities are being planned for the two events and thus calling upon Member Countries for the usual **support and cooperation**, as well ownership of the processes.

The DLCO-EA is very grateful to all the Member Countries for the improvements in the fulfilment of their **obligations** of contributing towards the Organization's operations and activities; however, some Member Countries still have unsettled financial obligations. Furthermore, the DLCO-EA is grateful to several Development Partners such as the FAO, UNDP, EU, GIZ, USAID and among others that have rendered support to the Organisation in different ways over the years.

The DLCO-EA remains as **relevant** as when it was formed in **1962**, and has survived **six decades** of uncertainties while offering dedicated service to Member Countries. The recent **resurgence of desert locusts** across the region and the DLCO-EA's demonstrated capacity in containment of the pest, further demonstrates the Organisation's potential. The current **upsurges** in pests and diseases associated with changing agronomic practices and **climate changes**, call for renewed support and trust of Member Countries, Development Partners, as well strategic formulation of the DLCO-EA's work plans and activities. Hosting the DLCO-EA's **67th Regular session of the Council of Ministers Meeting** as well as commemorating the **60th Anniversary** is another great opportunity towards strengthening and repositioning of the Organisation.