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2021 ANGOLA LOCUST OUTBREAK

FAO Angola is providing technical assistance to the Multisectorial Commission

Angola established a Multi sectorial Commission (MC) to coordinated the locust control and monitoring activities. The MC is coordinated by the Minister of State for Security of the Presidency, Pedro Sebastião, and the Minister of the State for Social Area, Carolina Cerqueira. The MC is integrated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Administration of Territory, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment, and Angola Army Forces. FAO Angola has been providing technical assistance to the technical working group coordinating actions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery (MINAGRIP), the National Air Force (FANA), Ministry of Transport, Provincial Governments (Cuando Cubango and Cunene), and the Security office of the Presidency.

Angola Preparedness and Response Plan to control and monitoring the locust outbreak

The MC's technical working group prepared a National Preparedness and Response Plan to control and monitoring the locust outbreak. This plan prioritized five areas of work: a) Establish and train a monitoring working group for locust surveillance, b) Analyze and establish the locust control mechanism and implement procurement plan, c) Define a risk management plan d) Implement a capacity building plan with communities affected and brigade operational preparation for locust control and monitoring, e) Implement a community risk communication plan.

The third week of April 2021 started the Locust Route Mapping mission integrated by FAO, MINAGRIP, and FANA. For this activity, the National Air Force (FANA) provides the best technology to map the locust route and define the best control options. This activity is critical to establish the priority areas and the best control mechanism according to the locust affected areas. Also, the risk management plan will be elaborated considering this mapping.

Background

The African Migratory Locust (AML) outbreak was reported in Angola in 2020 in the south-eastern country in Cuando Cubango. Since March 2021, high rainfall and abundant vegetation have provided optimal conditions for the breeding and multiplication of the AML. The second week of April 2021, swarms of locusts have been observed moving between Cuando Cubango to the Province of Cunene, which still is in the process of recovering from the impact of the drought, grappling with the economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, and experiencing food and nutrition insecurity since last year. Until March 2021, the local monitoring system established in the Province of Cuando Cubango in the municipalities of Menongue, Dirico, Mavinga, Rivungo, and Calai reported a total area surveyed of 10 112 Ha, 1650 Ha of the total area was affected, with 220 Ha of the total area controlled. The monitoring team is still assessing the locust-affected regions of Cunene.



Secretary of State for Agriculture João da Cunha, FAN Brigadiere Jorge Dias, FAO Mpanzo and FAO Angola Representative Gherda Barreto before deployment for mapping activities.

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Equipment and material to Locust control and monitoring

Angola is a beneficiary of the Southern Africa Emergency Locust Response and Preparedness Project funded by FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and the Government of Belgium (USD 400 000). The project supports the technical assistance and procurement to deliver appropriate biopesticides, personnel protective equipment, specialized locust control equipment, and health monitoring material to strengthen the capacity of locust control units to implement timely ground operations. The transport of equipment and materials provided by FAO to affected areas is supported by the National Air Force of Angola (FANA).

Angola's active role in coordinating interventions with Southern countries affected by the locust

At the regional level, FAO is working with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) to support the governments of the affected countries to control the locusts. The Government of Angola, through MINAGRIP, is playing an active role at the regional level proposing the implementation of a simultaneous intervention control in coordination with Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. Angola has been a regular participant in the weekly Subregional Locust Coordination and information sharing meetings facilitated by the FAO and SADC that started early January 2021.

Brigades and Community Communication Activities

FAO is working with a local NGO to implement a Risk Community Communication Plan in Cuando Cubango and with community brigades composed of 32 members from Dirico and Mavinga municipalities. FAO has supported the production and dissemination of locust awareness creation material (posters, banners, charts, TV clips, and radio broadcast).



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Air transport of inputs and equipment for locust control units.



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Mpanzo Domingos, FAO Specialist, examines infestation in millet field.



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FAN, MINAGRIP and FAO operation officer Helinton Carvalho preparing field operations.



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Locust community communication activities with Sobas in Cuando Cubango.

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