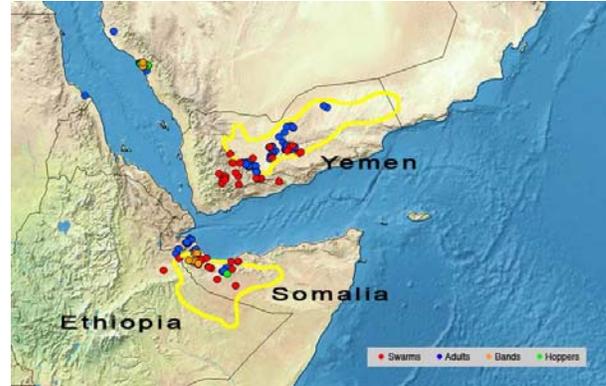


**Emergency Transboundary
Outbreak Pest (ETOP) situation
update for April with a forecast till
mid-June, 2009**

Summary

The desert locust situation remained active in April in northern **Somalia**, southern **Yemen** and parts of eastern **Ethiopia**. Swarms originated in northern **Somalia** and moved to the interior of the country and eastern **Ethiopia** during this period. Control operations treated close to 775 ha in northern **Somalia** with a biological and chemical pesticides and close to 160 ha with chemical pesticides in eastern **Ethiopia** up to May 1st. Several swarms formed in the southern coast of **Yemen** in March and reached the interior of the country where unusually good and widespread rainfall was reported late March and early April. Breeding has commenced here and hatching and band formation will follow soon. Swarms will form sometime in June in these countries and begin migrating to neighboring countries. Vigilant monitoring and preventive interventions are essential. Hoppers from previous breeding that occurred on the Red Sea coast of **Saudi Arabia** were treated on some 240 ha. Scattered solitary adults were reported in southeastern **Morocco**, **Algeria**, western **Pakistan** and southeastern **Iran**. Control operations were launched on 10 ha against hoppers in the interior of **Pakistan**. No locusts were reported in Sahel West Africa or the Central region (FAO-DLIS, DLCO-EA, CNLA/Mauritania, CNLAA/Morocco, INPV/Algeria, PPD/Ethiopia).



Swarms have moved to areas of recent rainfall (yellow) in the interior of Yemen and N Somalia and eastern Ethiopia where breeding will take place soon (FAO-DLIS, 4/09)

OFDA Pest & Pesticide Activities

- OFDA is sponsoring capacity strengthening through FAO's EMPRES programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to DL emergencies.
- OFDA co-sponsored assessment and project development missions for locust operations in Central Asia, the Caucasus and neighboring countries (EECAC). The assessment has enabled FAO to develop a technical assistance project for the sub-region.
- OFDA seed money to FAO's pesticide disposal and prevention program helped leverage more than \$2.2 million from GEF funds and other sources. These funds are being used to develop/implement obsolete pesticide disposal and prevention initiatives/activities in EECAC countries.
- OFDA's sponsorship of DLCO-EA's capacity strengthening activities for

DL emergency and other ETOP operations in Greater Horn of Africa has been extended.

- OFDA/TAG continues its initiatives in **pesticide risk reduction** (PRR) through stewardship network to ensure the safety of vulnerable communities and their environment in countries where the need and readiness are evident. TAG launched a successful PRR workshop in **Tanzania** in May 2008. The country has since elevated the Network through the Ministry of Agriculture to improve the national pesticide delivery system. A similar initiative is in progress in **Ethiopia** and actions are being taken to extend it to **Kenya** and other countries.

Other ETOPs

Red Locust swarms were reported in April in Kigoma District near Malagarasi Basin in **Tanzania**. The International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) is pre-positioning aircraft and supplies to carry out intensive survey and control operations as of the first week of May. Neighboring countries are alerted of a potential invasion of escapee swarms. Red locust swarms also were reported in April in Buzi-Gorongosa and Dimba Plains in **Mozambique** and low density locusts were seen in Lake Chilwa and Lake Chiuta Plains in **Malawi** and **Mozambique** (IRLCO-CSA).

African Armyworm caterpillars were reported causing damage to maize, wheat and pastures in Kilifi District,

Malindi District and the Rift Valley Province in **Kenya** during the last week of April. The situation remained relatively calm in other outbreak and invasion countries (IRLCO-CSA, DLCO-EA).

Quelea birds continued posing serious threats to rice fields in **Mozambique**. *Quelea* damage to irrigated rice and small grain crops was also reported in **Tanzania** and **Kenya** (DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA, AELGA).

(Note: The changes in the weather patterns and the shift in the landscape seem to likely increase the risk of pest outbreaks. Regular monitoring and reporting are essential. End note).

OFDA/Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) will continue monitoring ETOP situation and advise as often as necessary. End summary

This and other archived SITREPS can be accessed on our website at:

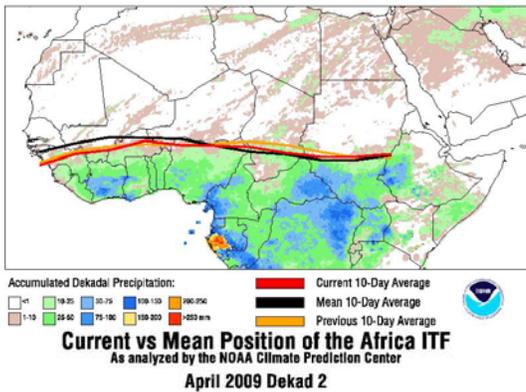
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/

Weather and ecological conditions

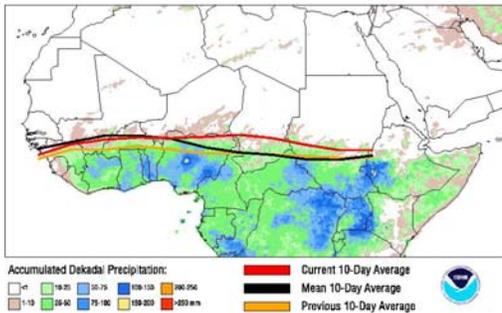
The African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located at around 11.7N latitude during the third dekad of April, compared with the normal position of 12.2N (figures 1a and b). The position is significantly south of last year's as well as the historical average of 13.3N in the east. It remains south of the normal position across much of West Africa, and near normal across Nigeria, Chad and Sudan. It was slightly north of its historic position during the second dekad and near

normal for the first dekad. This resulted in low to no precipitation in most breeding areas in the west and precipitation only improved in northern Somalia, Yemen, eastern Ethiopia and southwest Asia. Ecological conditions are expected to improve in these areas in the coming weeks (NOAA, AELGA, FAO-DLIS)

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
April 2009 Dekad 3



Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
April 2009 Dekad 2



Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
April 2009 Dekad 1

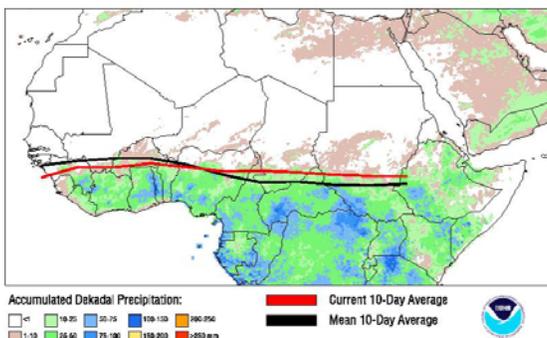


Figure 1. ITF position for dekad 1 of April, 2009 (NOAA)

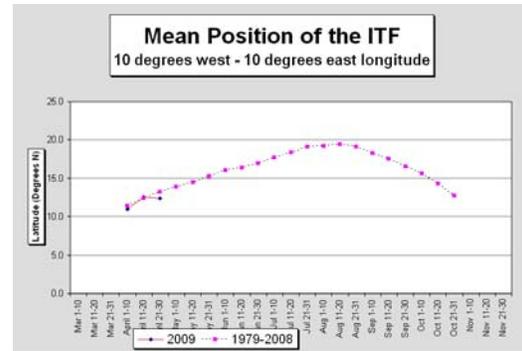


Figure 1a. 10w-103 longitude

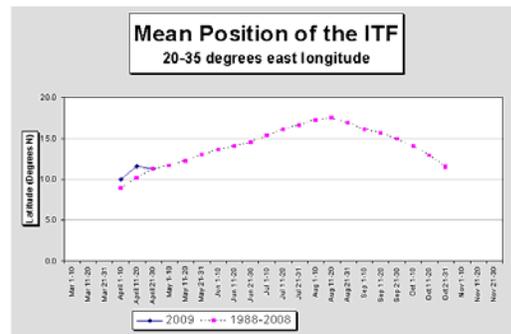


Figure 1b. 11-35 degrees east longitude

Detailed Account of ETOP Situation and Activities

DL - Western Outbreak Region

Scattered solitary adults were present in **Morocco** and **Algeria**, but no locusts were reported from the rest of the countries in northwest Africa and Sahelian West Africa where vegetation was hot dry conditions persisted and just a few scattered solitary adults may be present in northwest Mauritania, northern Mali and northern Niger (CNLAA, FAO-DLIS, INPV, OFDA).

Forecast: Small scale breeding may occur in spring breeding areas in northwestern Africa but significant developments are not likely during the forecast period (AELGA, FAO-DLIS, INPV, CNLA, CNLAA).

DL - Central Outbreak Region

The desert locust situation remained active in April in northern **Somalia**, southern

Yemen and parts of eastern **Ethiopia**. Swarms originated in northern **Somalia** and moved to the interior of the country and to eastern **Ethiopia** during this period. Control operations treated close to 775 ha in northern **Somalia** with a biological (obtained from Yemen via FAO) and chemical pesticides and close to 160 ha with chemical pesticides in eastern **Ethiopia** up to May 1st. Joint surveys by PPD/Eth and DLCO-EA are in progress and control operations will continue in the coming weeks. The onset of the *Belg* (short) rain has improved ecological conditions in eastern Ethiopia. PPD/Eth has transported pesticides and safety equipment to its Dire Dawa store in eastern Ethiopia in preparation for any potential outbreak in the coming months.

Aerial surveys were carried out on April 30th by DLCO-EA over 3,900 sq km in and around Dure-Harmukale, Mille and Harawa to confirm a swarm sighting reported at 0957N/4219E, but most of the areas remained free of locusts despite the presence favorable conditions. Aerial surveys also covered some 200 sq .km west of **Hargeisa** (1003/4258) northern **Somalia** where vegetation was green and most wadis were wet, but locusts were not detected during this period. Mature swarms were detected on April 21-22 on some 500 ha at several locations between Godhere (10 17 04 N/43 34 42 E) and Ban Gubad (10 31 10 N/43 4132 E) in northern **Somalia** during surveys carried out by DLCO-EA and MoA staff.

In **Yemen**, several swarms formed in the southern cost in March and reached the interior of the country by April where unusually good and widespread rainfall was reported in late March and early April. Breeding has commenced here and hatching and band formations will follow soon. Swarms will form sometime in June in these countries and begin migrating to neighboring countries. Vigilant monitoring and preventive

interventions are essential. Hoppers from previous breeding that occurred on the Red Sea coast of **Saudi Arabia** were treated on close to 240 ha (FAO-DLIS, DLCO-EA, PPD/Eth).

Forecast: hatching and hopper formations will begin in May and swarms will likely form sometime in June and could begin migrating to adjacent areas and neighboring countries thereafter, but significant activities are not expected in other countries (FAO-DLIS, AELGA, PPD).

It is to be recalled that in 2007 swarms that originated in **Yemen** and **northern Somalia** invaded areas extending from eastern **Ethiopia** to northeastern **Kenya** all the way to the Konso region of southern Ethiopia.

DL - Eastern Outbreak Region

Scattered adults were reported in southeast **Iran** and western **Pakistan**. Control operations treated hoppers on 10 ha in the interior of **Pakistan**. No locusts were reported during surveys carried out in several places in Rajasthan and Gujarat, **India** (FAO-DLIS, PPD/India).

Forecast: Small-scale breeding may be seen in areas of recent rainfall in Baluchistan, **Pakistan** and southeast coast of **Iran** during the forecast period. The rest of the region will likely remain calm during the forecast period (FAO-DLIS, PPD/India).

Central Asia and the Caucuses

No reports of *Italian* or *Moroccan* or Migratory locusts were received from the CAC region in April.

Forecast: **Moroccan** locust may have begun hatching and hoppers start appearing in northern **Afghanistan** and adjacent areas during the forecast period. Vigilant survey and monitoring are essential.

Red Locust swarms were reported in Kigoma District near Malagarasi Basin in **Tanzania** beginning April 25. Surveys that were carried out by IRLCO-CSA and MoAC/**Tanzania** in January/February estimated hopper and adult infestations on more than 150 000 ha in Iku/Katavi and Rukwa plains with a potential need for controlling some 53 000 ha. IRLCO-CSA with the support of FAO, MoAC and the United Nations under a CERF project is pre-positioning aircraft and supplies to carry out intensive survey and control operations beginning the first week of May. Medium density locusts were also detected in April on some 33,000 ha in Buzi-Gorongosa and Dimba Plains in **Mozambique** and isolated low density locusts were seen in Lake Chilwa and Lake Chiuta Plains in **Malawi** and **Mozambique** during this period and survey and control operations will be undertaken in these countries. Plans are underway to use **biological pesticides to control the locusts in environmentally sensitive areas** (IRLCO-CSA).

Forecast: More swarms will likely form in May/June in Iku-Katavi and Rukwa Valley, **Tanzania** and move out of their primary breeding areas and invade adjacent cultivated areas and further into neighboring countries in the coming months. Neighboring countries are alerted of this situation and remain vigilant and stand ready to avoid invasions (AELGA, IRLCO-CSA)

The Timor and South Pacific

No update was received at the time this report was compiled but it is likely that migratory locusts start posing a threat to crops and pasture.

Australian Plague Locust

No info was received on the **Australian Plague Locust** (APL) at the time this report was compiled.

African Armyworm. Armyworm outbreaks were reported causing damage to maize, wheat and pasture in Kilifi District, Malindi District and the Rift Valley Province in **Kenya** during the last week of April 2009. An estimated 500 hectares of crop and pastures was affected and treated with *cypermethrin*. The situation remained calm in other countries (DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA).



Armyworm larvae (photo: Namibia crop pests #28)

Forecasting: Most areas, except those in the northern migration zone of the pest, i.e., **Kenya** and **Tanzania**, and perhaps southern **Ethiopia**, will remain calm in the coming months. Survey and monitoring officers and [community-forecaster, where available] are advised to continue collecting trap catch data and communicate to the appropriate persons on time to make the necessary arrangements.

Quelea: *Quelea* birds persisted in irrigated rice in **Kenya**. In **Tanzania**, the birds were reported causing damage to crops in the Dodoma, Singida, Tabora and Shinyanga regions and control operations were in progress at the time this report was compiled. Three *Quelea* colonies were identified in April in Irrigation Scheme in Gaza Province in **Mozambique** where chicks were being collected for consumption. An aerial survey is in progress in Chokwe District to identify roosting and plan control interventions. No *Quelea* infestations were reported in **Malawi, Zambia** or **Zimbabwe** and no reports were received from other outbreak areas (IRLCO-EA, AELGA).

Forecast: Quelea populations will likely increase in **Kenya** and northern **Tanzania** with the onset of rains, but decline in **Mozambique** and **Zimbabwe with the end of the** rainy season.

Front-line countries in ETOP outbreak zones are advised to remain vigilant. Countries in the invasion zones should continue to strengthen their capacity to avoid any unexpected surprises. DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA, national PPDs/DPVs and autonomous locust units and ELOs are encouraged to continue sharing ETOP related information with partners and stakeholders as often as possible.

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories remained unchanged in April in most of the outbreaks/invasion countries with the exception of **Yemen** and **Ethiopia** where limited operations were carried during this month.

Country	Quantities in l/kg@
Algeria	1,800,000**
Chad	108,085
Eritrea	44,800
Ethiopia	27,940~
Mali	209,000%
Mauritania	489,400
Morocco	4,107,300
Niger	69,000
Senegal	519,000
Saudi Arabia	??
Sudan	735,676
Tunisia*	167,600*
Yemen	??

some of these pesticide have expired or will soon expire

*Most current data not available

**Most current data not available

~ this represents DL stock

% Mali donated 21,000 l to RL operations in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania late last year and FAO facilitated the triangulation

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