

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

Summary

Liberia pest outbreak:

Several villages in Liberia were attacked by a large outbreaks of a forest pest, *Achaea catocaloides*, larvae that feed primarily on trees. The infestation was first reported on January 14th in Bong county, Central Liberia and later moved to Lofa and Gbarpolu counties in the northern part of the country. A team of experts from FAO, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana witnessed the situation in seven localities and concluded that most of the damage was done to Dahame trees and only minor damage was seen on coffee, cocoa and plantain banana. Staple crops such as maize and millets were not affected. However, the sheer number of larvae and larvae-induced water and sanitation problems sent a wave of panic among villagers, drove some out of their homes and caused the POL to declare a national state of emergency. The current outbreak and future potential outbreaks can be managed by launching well planned intervention strategies. USAID deployed assessment teams and provided \$100,000 through OFDA to assist affected communities with health and larvae-induced sanitation problems as well as strengthen capacity of GOL and local communities to scout, monitor and respond. OFDA field and HQ staff will continue

monitoring the situation in the sub-region in close collaboration with GOL, FAO and other partners and respond and report accordingly (Note: There is an increasing risk of armyworms and grasshoppers occurring in the sub-region due to the change in the weather patterns and the landscape. End note).



Desert Locust:

The DL situation remained relatively calm in January. Only a few hoppers and adult groups were treated on 621 ha in northern **Mauritania** where much larger areas were sprayed in December. Small-scale breeding was reported along both sides of the Red Sea coast in **Eritrea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen**. Locust numbers increased in northwest **Somalia** around Gulf of Aden in January. Other countries remained calm (FAO-DLIS, AELGA, CNLA/Mauritania, PPD/Addis).

Forecast

Residual populations could persist in **Mauritania** and breed. Breeding may also occur in Algeria and southwestern

Morocco (WS). Hatching and fledging may be seen in the Central region during the forecast period. Some breeding may also occur along the southern adjacent borders of Iran and Pakistan, but nothing significant is expected (FAO-DLIS, CNLA/Mauritania, AELGA).



(potential areas of DL presence, FAO. Feb. 09)

OFDA P&P activities:

- OFDA/TAG is preparing to launch workshops on **pesticide risk reduction** (PRR) for human safety and environmental protection through stewardship network in Ethiopia and Kenya. It concluded a successful PRR workshop in Tanzania in May 2008. The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Cooperatives has since elevated and sponsored the Stewardship Network as a tool for improving pesticide delivery system in the country.
- OFDA is sponsoring capacity strengthening through FAO's EMPRES programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to DL emergencies in the western and the central regions.
- OFDA is sponsoring DLCO-EA to strengthen national and regional capacities for DL emergency and other ETOP operations in Greater Horn of Africa.

- OFDA co-sponsored assessment and project development missions for locust monitoring and operations in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (EECAC).
- OFDA provided seed money to FAO, which helped leverage \$1 million from GEF funds and an additional \$1.2 million from other sources to develop and implement projects on obsolete pesticide disposal and prevention in EECAC countries.

Other ETOPs

No locusts were reported in Central Asia and the Caucasus in January and significant developments are during the forecast period.

Red Locust: No update was received at the time this report was compiled, but breeding may have commenced and hopper bands may have formed as of mid-January 2009 in areas where residual parental populations coincide with rainfalls.

African Armyworm infestations were reported on 620 ha of paddy and maize crops in Kilombero district in Morogoro region and on maize and grasses in Masar district in Mtwara region, **Tanzania** between late December and early January. Positive trap catches were also reported in Dodoma, Kyela, Mbozi and Kilosa during the second third decades of January (DLCO-EA).

Quelea outbreaks were reported in Meru and Tharaka districts in the upper

Eastern Province in Kenya in January. The bird was also detected in Siaya western part of the country. Control operations were conducted by a DLCO-EA aircraft. No reports were received from other countries in the region (DLCO-EA, AELGA).

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

The current and archived SITREPS can be accessed on our website at:

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

Climatological and ecological factors

Precipitation remained insignificant in most of the DL breeding areas and very light showers and rains were reported in central Mauritania, along the Red Sea coasts and in southern Iran and coastal Baluchistan Pakistan during this period. Other outbreak areas remained fairly dry. Ecological conditions were relatively favorable in some of the winter breeding areas in Mauritania and Eritrea while the ITCZ is still south of the equator (AELGA, FAO-DLIS).

ETOP Situation and Activities

Western Region

Adult locusts and hoppers were controlled on 621 ha in northwestern **Mauritania** in January. No locusts were reported in **Algeria or Morocco or Libya** where surveys were carried out during this month. Surveys were not carried out elsewhere in the region, but some scattered adults may be present in **Mali, Niger and Chad** (CNLA, FAO-DLIS, OFDA).

Forecast: Residual populations could persist in **Mauritania** and breeding may occur here and in **Algeria** as well as southwestern **Morocco** (WS). Eggs from previous breeding could hatch in the coming weeks and hoppers could fledge during the forecast period but significant development is not expected (FAO-DLIS, CNLA/Mauritania, AELGA).

Central Region

Small-scale breeding was reported in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea coast in **Eritrea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen**. Locust numbers increased in northwest **Somalia** along Gulf of Aden in January. Other countries remained calm

Forecast: Limited breeding is expected along the Red Sea coast in Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and perhaps northwestern Somalia during the forecast period (FAO-DLIS, AELGA, PPD/Addis).

Eastern Region

Ecological conditions remained dry in January in the eastern region and no locusts were reported.

Forecast: Some breeding may occur along the southern adjacent borders of Iran and Pakistan, but nothing significant is expected (FAO-DLIS, AELGA).

Central Asia and the Caucasus

No **Italian** or **Moroccan** or Migratory locusts were reported in the CA&C region in January and further developments are not expected during the forecast period.

Red Locust:

No update was received at the time this report was compiled, but breeding may

have commenced and formed hopper bands in areas where residual parental populations coincide with rainfalls by mid January 2009.

The Timor and South Pacific

No update was received at the time this report was compiled.

Australia

Swarms of the **Australian Plague Locust** was detected in Riverina and New South Wales (NSW) during November and December as hoppers fledged early November in many locations. Egg laying commenced in late November and progressed through the start of December. Hatching commenced late December and will likely continue in January.



Extensive ground control operations were carried out in NSW by landholders and local government during October–December and the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) controlled swarms in 600 ha in Riverina by air in early December.

African Armyworm infestations were reported on 620 ha of paddy and maize crops in Kilombero district in Morogoro region and on maize and grasses in Masar district in Mtwara region in **Tanzania** between 29 December and 4 January. Positive trap catches were reported in Dododma, Kyela, Mbozi and Kilosa in the second and third dekads of January. No reports were received from other counties in the region (DLCO-EA, AELGA).

Forecasting: Armyworm larvae may be seen in some areas in the region as migration could follow ensuing ITCZ. Active survey and

monitoring are essential. Pheromone traps must be regularly checked and emptied.



Quelea outbreaks were controlled in Meru and Tharaka districts in the upper Eastern Province and in Siaya western part **Kenya**. Aerial operations were launched by DLCO-EA and Plant Protection Services. No reports were received from other countries in the region (DLCO-EA, AELGA).

FACTS: Quelea birds can travel ~ 100 km/day looking for food. Each bird can consume 3-5 g of grain and perhaps destroy approximately the same amount each day. A colony of up to a million birds is capable of consuming and destroying 7-10 tons (= 7,000 – 10,000 kg) of seeds/day.

Front-line countries are advised to remain vigilant. Countries in the outbreak 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 in front-line and outbreak countries remained unchanged, except in **Mauritania** where close to close to 620 ha were sprayed in January.

Country	Quantities in l/kg@
Algeria	1,800,000**
Burkina Faso	0.00
Cape Verde	0.00
Chad	108,085
Eritrea	44,800
Ethiopia	12,300~
Gambia, Libya*	??
Mali	230,000
Mauritania	489,400+
Morocco	4,107,300
Niger	69,000
Saudi Arabia*	??
Senegal	519,000
Sudan	735,676
Tunisia*	167,600*
Yemen*	??

@some of these pesticide have expired or will soon expire
 *Current data not available at the time this report was compiled
 + Mauritania donated 70,000 litres to Yemen in July 2007
 ** Inventory expected to be updated
 ~ this represents only DL stock

Point of Contact:

For more information please, contact:

Yene T. Belayneh, Ph.D.,

ybelayneh@ofda.gov

or you can visit us online:

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