

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

Summary

Desert Locust:

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm in November in the summer breeding areas in Sahel West Africa, the Central Region and the Eastern Region. Limited scale-breeding occurred in northwest **Mauritania** where control operations treated 185 ha of hoppers and bands. Small-scale breeding was also reported in southern **Algeria** near **Mali** (FAO-DLIS). Surveys were not possible in northern **Mali** and northern **Niger** where some breeding may have been in progress. Scattered adults persisted in northeast **Chad**. Small-scale breeding was reported on the Red Sea coast in **Eritrea** and isolated immature and mature adults were detected on the southern coast of **Egypt**, northern coast of **Saudi Arabia** and the Red Sea coast of **Yemen** near the Saudi border. Scattered adults and hoppers were detected in the summer breeding areas in **Pakistan** near the **Indian** border. Control interventions were not required in any of these places as the locust numbers were insignificant. No locusts were reported elsewhere during this period (AELGA, FAO-DLIS, CNLA/Mauritania, PPD/Addis).

Forecast

Small-scale breeding will likely continue along the Red Sea coasts in **Eritrea**, **Saudi Arabia**, **Yemen**, northwestern

Mauritania, **Western Sahara** and **Algeria** in the coming months and locust numbers will slightly increase in these places, but significant developments are not expected during this period (AELGA, CNLA, FAO-DLIS).



(Locusts in recession areas; FAO-DLIS)

OFDA supported P&P activities:

- Sponsoring capacity strengthening through FAO's EMPRES programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to DL emergencies in the western and the central regions.
- Sponsoring DLCO-EA to strengthen national and regional capacities for DL emergency and other ETOP operations in Greater Horn of Africa.
- Co-sponsored assessment and project development missions for locust monitoring and operations in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (EECAC).
- 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.

- Preparing to launch workshops on **pesticide risk reduction (PRR)** through stewardship network in Ethiopia and Kenya. **Just recently concluded a successful PRR workshop in Tanzania, which lead to a sponsorship of follow-on activities by the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development and Cooperatives.**

Other ETOPs

No *Italia* or *Moroccan* or migratory locusts were reported in Central Asia and the Caucuses at the time this update was compiled and significant developments are not expected during the forecast period.

Red Locust: No update was received on red locust at the time this report was compiled, but extensive grass burning that occurred in most of the Red Locust outbreak areas may have forced locusts to concentrate in unburned and favorable areas where breeding may have occurred in the primary outbreak zones in **Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia.**

Armyworm No updates were received at the time this SITREP was compiled, but it is likely that armyworm activities are in progress in southern and south-central outbreak zones and pasture and cereal crops are being threatened. The pest will progressively migrate north with the seasonal wind in the coming months. Active surveillance and monitoring are essential (AELGA).

Quelea birds may be present in irrigated rice in Kenya and Tanzania and in small grain crops in Ethiopia in November.

Quelea activities are expected to continue in irrigated crops in Kenya and breeding will likely commence in Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia in the coming months.

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

The Intertropical Convergence Zone progressively moved southwards in November the precipitation associated with it remained insignificant in most of the DL breeding areas except for the rains that fell in northwestern Mauritania and along the Red Sea coasts in Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen. As a result ecological conditions remained largely unfavorable except in a few places in these countries.

Note: The 2004-05 campaign and the subsequent harsh weather effectively disrupted the development cycle of the locust upsurge that could have otherwise reached a full blown, multiple-year plague. End note.

ETOP Situation and Activities

Western Region

Limited-scale breeding was reported in northwestern **Mauritania** and southern **Algeria** in November. A similar situation may have been present in northern **Mali** and

Niger, but it could not be confirmed due to ongoing security situation in the region. Isolated adults were sighted in northeastern **Chad**, but no locusts were reported in other countries in Sahelian West Africa and northern Africa (CNLA, FAO-DLIS, OFDA).

Forecast

Small-scale breeding will likely continue and/or occur in northwestern **Mauritania**, **Western Sahara**, and southern **Algeria** where ecological conditions are favorable, but major developments are not expected. Other countries in the region will likely remain calm during the forecast period (OFDA, CNLA, FAO-DLIS).

Central Region

Egg laying was reported on the Red Sea coasts in **Eritrea** in mid-November. Isolated mature and/or immature adults were detected along the Red Sea coasts in **Egypt**, **Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen**, but no locusts were seen during surveys carried out in November in **Sudan**, **Ethiopia**, **Somalia** or **Oman** (FAO-DLIS, PPD/Addis).

Forecast

Hatching will likely occur in December on the Red Sea coast in **Eritrea**. Small-scale breeding will be in progress on the Red Sea coasts in **Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen**. Isolated adults will persist and appear in the southern Red Sea coast of **Egypt**. The DL situation in the other countries in the region will likely remain calm during the forecast period.

Eastern Region

Immature and mature adults were seen in the **Cholistan Desert** in **Pakistan** along the summer breeding areas bordering **India**, but locusts were not reported in Rajasthan,

India, **Iran** or **Afghanistan** during this period (FAO-DLIS).

Forecast

Low numbers of adult locusts will likely appear along the **Iran-Pakistan** borders and **Cholistan Desert** in **Pakistan** and begin breeding if rains fall during the forecast period (AELGA, FAO-DLIS).

Central Asia and the Caucasus

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

Note: Three major locust species, namely, **Italian**, **Migratory**, and **Moroccan** locusts affect more than 27 million people in CA&C and region. In pre-independence CA&C, locust operations were carried out through a centralized structure. After independence the structure fell apart and locust operations were left to individual countries. Most of these countries lack functional units or viable technical capability to counter locust invasions on their own. As a result, locusts breed profusely freely and traverse political boundaries causing substantial damage to crops and pasture. With assistance from OFDA and other resources, FAO deployed a team to assess and assist CA&C and to identify ways and means of strengthening capacities for a regional coordination of locust survey and control operations. **End note.**

Red Locust: No new information was received from the field at the time this report was compiled, but concentrations of adults in patches of unburned vegetation and areas of recent rainfall in the primary breeding areas in areas may have begun egg laying. Hoppers will likely develop and threaten crops and pasture in the coming months.

Active surveillance and monitoring are essential (AELGA).



The Timors and South Pacific

No new information was received at the time this update was compiled. However, there is a likelihood of **Migratory locust** attacking pasture, maize and/or rice crops in **East Timor**. Cross-border infestations can affect neighboring countries without surveillance and preventive interventions.

In **Australia**, locust operations are expected to progress in areas where favorable conditions exist. Spray operations began last month to fight the pest (APLC).

Armyworm: No updates were received at the time this SITREP was compiled, but it is likely that armyworm activities may be in progress in parts of Zambia, **Malawi**, **Mozambique** and elsewhere and threaten pasture and crops. The pest will progressively migrate north with the seasonal wind in the coming months. Active surveillance and monitoring are essential (AELGA).



Quelea: No new information was received at the time this report was compiled, but it is likely that the birds continue threatening irrigated rice in **Kenya** and small grain cereals in **Ethiopia** and other countries. **Quelea** birds may also be present in Sahelian West Africa and elsewhere and threaten small-grain crops (AELGA).

Forecast: **Quelea** birds will likely continue threatening irrigated rice in **Kenya** and other small grain crops elsewhere. Breeding will likely commence in **Mozambique**, **Zimbabwe**, **Tanzania** and elsewhere and threaten small grain cereal in the coming months.

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. PPDs and DPVs should continue sharing ETOP and related information with stakeholders as often as they can.

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories in front-line and outbreak countries remained unchanged,

except in **Mauritania** were some 185 ha were sprayed in November.

[manitarian assistance/disaster assistance/locust/](#)

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	497,400+
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

Note: Several countries continue benefiting from obsolete pesticide management activities being co-sponsored by USAID/OFDA's Cooperative Agreement with the UN FAO. **End note.**

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http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/hu