



DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 295

(7 May 2003)



General Situation during April 2003 Forecast until mid-June 2003

The Desert Locust situation remained calm during April. No locusts were reported except for a few solitary adults in Morocco, Niger and in western Pakistan. Unfavourable breeding conditions prevailed throughout most of the recession area although vegetation is becoming green in parts of the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa where good rains fell in mid April. Because of poor rainfall in the spring breeding areas and very few locusts present, there is no indication that locust numbers have increased. Consequently, no significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

Western Region. No significant rainfall or locust infestations were reported during April. Isolated adults were seen in northeastern Morocco and northern Niger and may also be present in a few places in northern Mali and southern Algeria. Locusts are likely to decline in Morocco and Algeria while they will probably persist in Mali and Niger awaiting the start of the summer rains.

Central Region. No locusts were reported in the region during April. Good rains fell on the Red Sea coast near the Yemen/Saudi Arabia border, further inland and in northern Oman at mid month. Consequently, vegetation is likely to become green and there is a possibility that small-scale breeding could occur near Jizan, Saudi Arabia. Seasonal rains are in progress in northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia where breeding conditions are improving.

Eastern Region. No locusts were seen during a joint survey during April in the spring breeding areas of Baluchistan in Iran and Pakistan where conditions were generally dry. Nevertheless, a few isolated adults were present in coastal and interior areas in western Pakistan.

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

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Weather & Ecological Conditions in April 2003

Mainly dry and unfavourable breeding conditions persisted throughout the Desert Locust recession area during April. Vegetation was becoming green in a few places in eastern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula where good rains were reported.

In the **Western Region**, no significant rainfall was reported or is thought to have occurred during April. In Niger, light to moderate showers fell at mid month in the southern Air south of Agadez where conditions were mainly dry except for a few isolated patches of green vegetation. Similarly, in northern Mali, a few isolated patches of green vegetation were said to be present in parts of Timetrine and the central Adrar des Iforas although no rainfall was reported during the month. Conditions were dry and unfavourable for breeding in the other countries throughout the region.

In the **Central Region**, good rains fell during the third week of April in three areas of the Arabian Peninsula. On the 15-17th, light to moderate rains occurred in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen near Al Jawf, Marib, and in northern Shabwah and western Hadhramout. On the 15-18th, two storms brought moderate to heavy rains to UAE and the northern coastal and interior areas of Oman. On the 19th and 22nd, showers fell on the Red Sea coastal plains near the Yemen / Saudi Arabia border between Midi and Jizan (42+ mm), extending into the interior on the edge of the Empty Quarter near Najran (21 mm) and Sharurah (61 mm). Conditions are expected to improve in these areas as vegetation becomes green. In the Horn of Africa, seasonal rains continued in eastern Ethiopia between Dire Dawa and Jigjiga and started in northern Somalia on the coast and the escarpment where light rains fell at times in April. Consequently, vegetation was becoming green in these places and breeding conditions were improving. Elsewhere in the region, conditions were dry and unfavourable for breeding.

In the **Eastern Region**, light rains fell in April in the spring breeding areas in the northeastern interior of Baluchistan near Nushki and on the coast at Pasni.

During the annual Iran/Pakistan joint survey, green vegetation was seen in a few places in the north between Dalbandin and Nushki while conditions were dry and unfavourable elsewhere in the interior and along the coast in both countries because of poor rainfall.



Area Treated

No control operations were reported during April.



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on page 1)

WESTERN REGION

Mauritania

• SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during April.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults are likely to appear between Aioun El Atrous and Nema once the summer rains start in the south. No significant developments are likely.

Mali

• SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during April.

• FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may be present in those few areas that are green in parts of Timetrine and the Adrar des Iforas. If so, these will mature and breed on a small scale once summer rains commence.

Niger

• SITUATION

During March, isolated immature and mature adults, at a density of 20 per ha and nine late instar hoppers were seen near Arlit (1843N/0721E) on the 28th. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the Air or Tamesna.

During April, isolated immature and mature adults persisted in the above-mentioned area where irrigated crops were present.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults will persist in a few places near Arlit. No significant developments are likely.

Chad

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

• SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during March.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Algeria

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present near Tamanrasset where small-scale breeding occurred in March and perhaps further north near Bechar. Locust numbers will decline as conditions become dry and unfavourable.

Morocco

• SITUATION

During the last week of April, isolated adults were reported in the extreme northeast at two places near Bouarfa (3230N/0159W).

• FORECAST

Locust numbers will decline in the northeast as conditions become unfavourable. No significant developments are likely.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during March and April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Tunisia

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Guinea Conakry

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

CENTRAL REGION

Sudan

• SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during April.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults are likely to appear in a few places in Northern Kordofan and Northern Darfur once the summer rains start. No significant developments are likely.

Eritrea

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the Red Sea coast between Massawa (1537N/3928E) and Mehimet (1723N/3833E) on 14-16 April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the escarpment between Hargeisa (0931N/4402E) and Burao (0931N/4533E) on 20-22 April.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present or appear on the escarpment in areas of recent rainfall and green vegetation. No significant developments are likely.

Ethiopia

• SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

• SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Egypt

• SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Saudi Arabia

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during April.



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• FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present on the Red Sea coastal plains near Jizan and could breed on a small scale in areas that received good rainfall during April. No significant developments are likely.

Yemen

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in April along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains and in the interior near Al-Jawf and Marib.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the northern coastal plains on 26-27 April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Qatar, Syria Arab Republic, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE and Uganda

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN REGION

Iran

• SITUATION

During a joint Iran/Pakistan survey carried out on 16-30 April, no locusts were seen along the coast between Bandar Abbas and the Pakistani border and in the interior as far north as Zahedan in Hormozgan and Sistan-Baluchistan provinces.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

• SITUATION

During the last half of March, isolated adults persisted in a few places near the coast and in the interior in Baluchistan.

During a joint Iran/Pakistan survey carried out on 1-15 April, no locusts could be found in these same areas but national teams reported individual mature adults in a few places during April.

• FORECAST

Although there is a slight possibility that a few adults may persist in areas of recent rainfall near Nushki, locust numbers throughout the spring breeding areas of Baluchistan will decline as conditions become dry. No significant developments are likely.

India

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during the second half of March and in April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.



Announcements

Locust reporting. Affected countries are kindly reminded to make sure that all locust situation reports are sent to FAO HQ by the 28th day of the month so the information can be included in the FAO bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

Reporting by e-mail. After each survey or control operation, affected countries should send completed *FAO Desert Locust Survey and Control Forms* with a brief interpretation of the results by e-mail to eclo@fao.org.

Desert Locust Guidelines. The revised edition in English was issued in September 2001 and is now available from FAO. French and Arabic versions will be released later this year. Please contact the Locust Group for more information.

eLocust. Updated details of a new system for recording and transmitting locust survey and control data collected in the field can be found on the Internet at:

www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/elocust.htm

Publications on the Internet. More reports of FAO locust-related meetings are available for downloading at www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/reports1.htm:

- EMPRES/CR: 2002 Annual Report (English)
- EMPRES/CR and Central Region Commission: 2nd Joint Survey on the Egypt/Sudan border, January 2003 (English)
- SW Asia Commission: 9th Iran/Pakistan Joint Desert Locust Survey, 1-30 April 2003 (English)
- SPOT-VGT: form to be used in the field for validation of satellite vegetation imagery (English, Arabic)

Desert Locust research award. The FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) is pleased to announce a cash award for outstanding research on Desert Locust. For more details, please contact the CRC Office in Cairo (munir.butrous@fao.org).

Master Trainer Course. Details and photos of a FAO training-of-trainers course on Desert Locust survey, control and training skills held in Oman in October 2002 are available at:

www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/omntot/totmain.htm

Desert Locust Control Diploma. The Department of Crop Protection of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Khartoum is offering a one-year post-graduate diploma course in Desert Locust Control that is expected to start in August 2003. Applications should be sent before the end of June to: Registrar of the Graduate College, University of Khartoum, POB 321, Khartoum, Sudan. For more details: selbashir@hotmail.com

2003 events. The following are provisionally scheduled:

- **EMPRES.** 6th Consultative Committee and Phase III Planning Workshop, Rome, 19-23 May
- **CLCPANO.** Extraordinary Session, Alger (Algeria), 7 June
- **CLCPRO.** 2nd Session, Alger (Algeria), 8-12 June
- **DLCC Technical Group.** FAO Rome, 18-20 June
- **DLCC.** 37th Session, FAO Rome, 22-26 September
- **EMPRES/CR.** 11th Liaison Officers meeting, Djibouti (or Egypt), December



Glossary of terms

The following special terms are used in the Desert Locust Bulletin when reporting locusts:

NON-GREGARIOUS ADULTS AND HOPPERS

ISOLATED (FEW)

- very few present and no mutual reaction occurring;
- 0 - 1 adult/400 m foot transect (or less than 25/ha).

SCATTERED (SOME, LOW NUMBERS)

- enough present for mutual reaction to be possible but no ground or basking groups seen;
- 1 - 20 adults/400 m foot transect (or 25 - 500/ha).

GROUP

- forming ground or basking groups;
- 20+ adults/400 m foot transect (or 500+/ha).

ADULT SWARM AND HOPPER BAND SIZES

VERY SMALL

- swarm: less than 1 km² • band: 1 - 25 m²

SMALL

- swarm: 1 - 10 km² • band: 25 - 2,500 m²

MEDIUM

- swarm: 10 - 100 km² • band: 2,500 m² - 10 ha

LARGE

- swarm: 100 - 500 km² • band: 10 - 50 ha

VERY LARGE

- swarm: 500+ km² • band: 50+ ha

RAINFALL

LIGHT

- 1 - 20 mm of rainfall.

MODERATE

- 21 - 50 mm of rainfall.

HEAVY

- more than 50 mm of rainfall.

OTHER REPORTING TERMS

BREEDING

- the process of reproduction from copulation to fledging.

SUMMER RAINS AND BREEDING

- July - September/October

WINTER RAINS AND BREEDING

- October - January/February

SPRING RAINS AND BREEDING

- February - June/July



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DECLINE

- a period characterised by breeding failure and/or successful control leading to the dissociation of swarming populations and the onset of recessions; can be regional or major.

OUTBREAK

- a marked increase in locust numbers due to concentration, multiplication and gregarisation which, unless checked, can lead to the formation of hopper bands and swarms.

UPSURGE

- a period following a recession marked initially by a very large increase in locust numbers and contemporaneous outbreaks followed by the production of two or more successive seasons of transient-to- gregarious breeding in complimentary seasonal breeding areas in the same or neighbouring Desert Locust regions.

PLAGUE

- a period of one or more years of widespread and heavy infestations, the majority of which occur as bands or swarms. A major plague exists when two or more regions are affected simultaneously.

RECESSION

- period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms.

REMISSION

- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.

REGIONS

WESTERN

- locust-affected countries in West and North-West Africa: Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia; during plagues only: Burkino Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Guinea Conakry.

CENTRAL

- locust-affected countries along the Red Sea: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen; during plagues only: Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Qatar, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE and Uganda.

EASTERN

- locust-affected countries in South-West Asia: Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: 15.06.03	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
favourable breeding conditions conditions favorables à la reproduction		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

SITUATION: April 2003 avril 2003	swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults / hoppers adultes / larves	
		in groups en groupes	density low/unknown densité faible/inconnue
immature adults adultes immatures			
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures			
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue			
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs			
hoppers larves			
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)			