LOCUST BULLETIN No. 66
Winter 2019/2020

FAO - Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP*)*   *06 March 2020*

Situation level: CALM everywhere for all locust pests

General situation from November 2019 to February 2020
Forecast until late March 2020

Natural cycles of the three locust species – Italian Locust (CIT), Migratory Locust (LMI) and Moroccan Locust (DMA) ended in late summer/early autumn in all countries with eggs laid in the soil, where they overwinter (embryonic diapause). During the forecast period, no development is expected as no hatching will occur.

Weather and ecological conditions in November 2019 – February 2020

Mild weather with temperatures close to the climatic norms prevailed. Short periods of colder temperatures occurred. Precipitations in the form of snow were generally lower than the multiannual averages. These conditions are expected to contribute to successful overwintering of eggs in the soil.

Overview on the 2019 national locust campaigns

Results of the national locust campaigns 2019 are presented hereafter.

Areas surveyed in 2019

Afghanistan	80 000 ha
Armenia	No data
Azerbaijan	448 483 ha
Georgia	105 000 ha
Kazakhstan	17 412 000 ha
Kyrgyzstan	156 421 ha
Russia	12 528 770 ha
Tajikistan	410 418 ha
Turkmenistan	359 038 ha
Uzbekistan	719 000 ha
Total	**32 219 130 ha**

Areas infested in 2019

Afghanistan	60 531 ha
Armenia	1 310 ha
Azerbaijan	167 012 ha
Georgia	86 500 ha
Kazakhstan	1 283 900 ha
Kyrgyzstan	121 700 ha
Russia	1 298 790 ha
Tajikistan	103 017 ha
Turkmenistan	84 066 ha
Uzbekistan	513 000 ha
Total	**3 719 826 ha**

Comparison with the previous years shows that the locust infestations continued to diminish and decreased by 17 percent, from 4 428 667 ha in 2018 to 3 719 826 ha in 2019.

Areas treated in 2019

Afghanistan	60 531 ha
Armenia	300 ha
Azerbaijan	52 349 ha
Georgia	31 850 ha
Kazakhstan	567 600 ha
Kyrgyzstan	114 476 ha
Russia	371 050 ha
Tajikistan	114 232 ha
Turkmenistan	84 066 ha
Uzbekistan	503 400 ha
Total	**1 899 854 ha**

Comparison with the previous year shows that the treated areas revealed a sharp 50% decrease from 3 755 972 ha in 2018 to only 1 899 854 ha in 2019.

Forecast for the 2020 national locust campaigns

Forecasted areas to be treated in 2020

Afghanistan	60 000 ha
Armenia	No data
Azerbaijan	50 000 ha
Georgia	35 000 ha
Kazakhstan	553 951 ha
Kyrgyzstan	125 000 ha
Russia	426 980 ha
Tajikistan	102 668 ha
Turkmenistan	85 000 ha
Uzbekistan	640 400 ha
Total	**2 078 999 ha**

According to this forecast, locust recession in CCA should end in 2020 and the overall treated areas in CCA should gradually increase by approximately 180 000 ha. The largest increase is expected in Uzbekistan, and, to a minor extent, in Russia, while in other CCA countries, the 2020 forecasted areas remain similar to areas treated in 2019.

Announcements

Locust warning levels. A color-coded scheme indicates three main locust pests: green for calm, yellow for caution, orange for threat and red for danger. The scheme is applied to the Locust Watch web page dedicated to the current locust situation ("Locust situation now!") and to the regional monthly bulletin header. The levels indicate the perceived risk or threat of current locust infestations to crops and appropriate actions are suggested for each level.

Locust reporting. During calm (green) periods, countries should report at least once/month and send standardized information using the national monthly bulletin template. During caution (yellow), threat (orange) and danger (red) periods, often associated with locust outbreaks and upsurges, updates should be sent at least once/week. Affected countries are also encouraged to prepare decadal bulletins summarizing the situation. All information should be sent by e-mail to CCA-Bulletins@fao.org. Monthly information received by the 1st of each month will be included in the CCA Locust Bulletin to be issued during the first week of the month; otherwise, it will not appear until the next bulletin. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

Events and activities from November 2019 to February 2020

- **Workshop on Locust Data Analysis, Forecast and Reporting in CCA** held with the ten CCA countries on 11-12 November 2019 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

- **Technical Workshop on locusts in CCA** held with the ten CCA countries and JICA representatives on 13-15 November 2019 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (Report under finalization).

- **Training on locust monitoring and information management**, including the "Automatic System for Data Collection" (ASDC) and "Caucasus and Central

Asia Locust Management System" (CCALM) delivered to the benefit of 23 Experts by Mr A. Latchininsky, FAO Agricultural Officer/Locust Management and Ms N. Muratova, FAO International Consultant, GIS Expert, in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan on 18-22 November 2019.

- **Procurement:** purchase of 20 tablets for above mentioned training in Kazakhstan in November 2019 (hand-over pending signature of project GCP/GLO/963/USA); delivery and hand-over of 125 camping beds to Tajikistan in late December 2019 (GCP/INT/238/JPN).

- **Project GCP/INT/238/JPN under operational and financial closure** (Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, December 2015- June 2019).

- **New project GCP/INT/384/JCA** covering Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (five-year duration, USD 7.2 million): support letters sent by the six countries to the respective Embassies of Japan in December 2019/January 2020; project document under Japan/JICA and FAO approval process.

- **Preparatory actions** for activities to be implemented during the 2020 national locust campaigns, as per annual Workplan of the Programme.

Forthcoming events and activities in March 2020

- **Round-trip missions for advocacy on sustainable long-term regional cooperation (March-September 2020)**: first mission by a FAO Team scheduled in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on 9-14 March 2020 *Postponed due to travel restrictions related to covid-19.*

- **Training on locust monitoring and information management**, including the "Automatic System for Data Collection" (ASDC) and "Caucasus and Central Asia Locust Management System" (CCALM) scheduled to the benefit of max. 20 Plant Protection/Locust Experts from Azerbaijan

scheduled in Baku on 30 March-3 April 2020 – *At risk due to travel restrictions related to covid-19.*

- **Human Health and Environmental Monitoring Teams:** comments of the FAO Environmental Expert on the 2019 locust campaign to be shared with countries and Action Plan for the 2020 campaign prepared.

- **New project GCP/INT/384/JCA** under final process, including preparation of exchanges of notes and Grant Agreement between JICA and FAO.

Maps of treated areas in 2018 and 2019 and forecast for 2020 in CCA countries

Treated areas (2018 and **2019**) and forecast (2020) in Caucasus and the Russian Federation

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

371 050	426 980
677 940	

GEORGIA

31 850	35 000
15 200	

ARMENIA

300	?
540	

AZERBAIJAN

52 349	50 000
48 053	

1 000	Forecast for 2020 (ha)
1 000	Treated in 2019 (ha)
1 000	Treated in 2018 (ha)

Treated areas (2018 and **2019**) and forecast (2020) in Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Russian Federation

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

371 050	426 980
677 940	

KAZAKHSTAN

567 600	553 951
1 689 400	

UZBEKISTAN

503 400	640 400
567 400	

KYRGYZSTAN

114 476	120 000
146 034	

TURKMENISTAN

84 066	85 000
139 033	

TAJIKISTAN

114 232	102 668
107 383	

AFGHANISTAN

60 531	60 000
53 189	

1 000	Forecast for 2020 (ha)
1 000	Treated in 2019 (ha)
1 000	Treated in 2018 (ha)