



DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 292

(3 Feb 2003)



General Situation during January 2003 Forecast until mid-March 2003

The Desert Locust situation remained calm during January. Although conditions continued to be favourable in the winter breeding areas, no locusts have been reported in these places. Only isolated adults were present in Niger, southern Algeria and northern Somalia. There was an unconfirmed report of adults and hoppers in northern Mali. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding could occur along the Red Sea coasts. No significant developments are expected.

Western Region. Low numbers of adults persisted in southern **Algeria** and in **Niger** during January where they will slowly mature in the few areas that remain green. There is a slight possibility that adults may move into southern Algeria during periods of warm southerly winds from northern **Mali** where there were unconfirmed reports from nomads and travelers of locust adults and hoppers. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region and the situation is expected to remain calm during the forecast period.

Central Region. Conditions continued to remain favourable for breeding in many places along both sides of the Red Sea during January but no locusts were reported. Nevertheless, small-scale breeding could occur during the forecast period on the coasts of **Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Sudan** and **Eritrea**. Isolated adults were reported in northwestern **Somalia** where they will mature and breed if conditions remain favourable. No significant developments are expected.

Eastern Region. No locusts were reported in the region. Conditions are improving in the spring breeding areas of western **Pakistan** and eastern **I.R. Iran** where light rains fell during January. Low numbers of adults are expected to appear in the spring breeding areas during the forecast period. No significant developments are expected.

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 January 2003

Although only a few isolated showers fell in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coastal plains, conditions continued to be favourable for breeding in many places. Very little rain fell elsewhere and conditions were generally dry except for parts of northwestern Mauritania, northern Mali, Niger and southern Algeria where localized patches of vegetation were present to allow low numbers of locusts to survive.

In the **Western Region**, very little rain was reported or is thought to have occurred in the locust breeding areas during January. Light rain associated with eastward Mediterranean depressions fell at times during the first half of the month along the Atlantic coast in Morocco near Sidi Ifni and Tan-Tan, and north of the Sahara in Algeria near Ghardaia and Ouargla. Rain was heaviest in southern Tunisia. A few light showers may have fallen in northern Mauritania and southwestern Morocco where scattered clouds were present during the first, third and fourth weeks of January. Clouds were present for several days and isolated showers were reported in southeastern Mauritania (Nema), northern Mali (Aguelhoc and Tessalit) and in eastern Niger (Bilma). Despite the poor rainfall, conditions remained favourable on a localized scale for locust survival near Tamanrasset, Algeria, in parts of northern Mali and in a few wadis in the northern and central Air Mountains, Niger. Vegetation was reported to be nearly dry in Tamesna, Niger.

In the **Central Region**, isolated showers fell in a few places along both sides of the Red Sea. In Eritrea, light rain was reported on the northern coast. Light to moderate rains fell during the first and third weeks of January on the northern Red Sea coast in Yemen and moderate rains fell in early January in adjacent areas of Saudi Arabia in Jizan. Consequently, breeding conditions are favourable in most of these areas as well as on the Red Sea coast of Sudan from Tokar to just south of Mohamed Qol. Unfavourable conditions persisted on the coast further north to Shalatein, Egypt. Clouds were present over the Western Desert in Egypt on several days throughout January. On one

occasion, these clouds extended to Jebel Uweinat and the Chad/Libya/Sudan border. This is one of the driest regions of the Sahara. Clouds were also seen on the Red Sea coast near the Sudan/Egypt border and along the Yemen/Saudi Arabia border in the Empty Quarter north of Wadi Hadhramaut. There is a low possibility that light showers may have occurred in some of these places. Light rainfall was reported in Djibouti Town and in northern Oman and. In northern Somalia, conditions were favourable for breeding on the escarpment and coastal plains west of Berbera where moderate rains fell during the first week of January.

In the **Eastern Region**, isolated showers fell in a few places along the coast in the spring breeding areas of I.R. Iran and Pakistan where vegetation is becoming green. The showers were reported at Jask, I.R. Iran and at Jiwni and Pasni, Pakistan. Light rain also fell in Rajasthan, India at Bikaner and Jaisalmer where temperatures were unusually cold and conditions were generally dry and unfavourable for locusts.



Area Treated

No control operations were reported during January.



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 January.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present in the northwest in Inchiri and perhaps further north in a few places in Adrar and Tiris-Zemmour. No significant developments are likely.

Mali

• SITUATION

There were unconfirmed reports of adult and hopper concentrations at a few places west of Tessalit (2011N0102E) in the Tilemsi Valley and Timetrine during the first three weeks of January.

• **FORECAST**

As vegetation continues to dry out in the Timetrine, Tilemsi Valley and the Adrar des Iforas, locusts are likely to become concentrated and may form a few small groups. During periods of warm southerly winds, there is a low possibility that some adults could move north into southern Algeria.

Niger

• **SITUATION**

On 13-24 December, scattered first to fifth instar hoppers and immature adults were seen on the Talak Plains (1826N/0746E) north of Agadez and in a few wadis in the northern Air Mountains. In two of these places, drying vegetation forced the locusts to concentrate and increase in density, reaching up to 7 hoppers per 10 sq. metres and 4,000 adults per ha.

During the first three weeks of January, scattered immature adults declined on the Talak Plains but persisted at four locations in the central Air Mountains.

• **FORECAST**

Locust numbers will continue to decline in Tamesna and Air as vegetation dries out and breeding conditions become unfavourable. Nevertheless, isolated adults may persist in a few places near Talak. No significant developments are likely.

Chad

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during December.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Algeria

• **SITUATION**

A few individual immature adults were reported to be persisting in a few wadis near Tamanrasset during January.

• **FORECAST**

Isolated adults will persist and slowly mature near Tamanrasset where small-scale breeding could occur if rains fall during the forecast period. These may be augmented by any adults arriving from northern Mali during periods of warm southerly winds.

Morocco

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during January.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Tunisia

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during January.

• **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 locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the Red Sea coastal plains between Tokar (1827N/3741E) and Bir Salalah (2034N/3701E) in the first three weeks of January.

• **FORECAST**

Isolated adults are likely to be present on the Red Sea coastal plains where small-scale breeding could occur in areas that continue to remain green during the forecast period. Other locusts may be present and breeding in the northern subcoastal areas in Wadi Oko/Diib. Regular monitoring should continue in all of these areas.

Eritrea

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on 17-18 January on the Red Sea coast between Massawa (1537N/3928E) and the Sudanese border at Karora (1745N/3820E).

• **FORECAST**

Isolated adults may be present in some areas along the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and Karora. Small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall but no significant developments are expected.



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Somalia

• SITUATION

Isolated immature adults were seen at two locations on the coastal plains west of Berbera (1028N/4502E) at the base of the escarpment on 7 January. No other locusts were seen in nearby areas during surveys carried out on 6-9 January.

• FORECAST

Low numbers of adults will mature and breed on a small scale on the northwest coastal plains. Consequently, locust numbers will increase slightly but remain well below threatening levels.

Ethiopia

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Egypt

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during December and the first three weeks of January along the Red Sea coast or in the Western Desert.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Saudi Arabia

• SITUATION

During the first joint border survey between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, one mature adult was seen near Jizan at Wadi Al-Rubah (1649N/4255E) on 17 December.

No locusts were reported during January.

• FORECAST

Scattered adults are likely to be present in areas of recent rainfall along the Red Sea coastal plains near Jizan where small-scale breeding is expected during the forecast period.

Yemen

• SITUATION

During the first joint border survey between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, one mature adult was seen south of Hodeidah at Al-Bunniah (1442N/4312E) on 15 December. No locusts were seen further north between Hodeidah and the border.

No locust surveys were carried out during January.

• FORECAST

Small-scale breeding is expected to occur during the forecast period along parts of the Red Sea coastal plains. Regular monitoring of these areas is recommended.

Oman

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the north and on the Musandam Peninsula on 8-20 January.

• 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

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Hormozgan and Kerman provinces on 26-27 January.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may start to appear in a few places along the coast in Baluchistan where rainfall occurs.

India

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported up to 23 January.

• 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. Details of a new system under evaluation for recording and transmitting locust survey and control data collected in the field can be found on the Internet at: www.fao.org/news/2001/010601-e.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:

- CLCPANO: 31st session of the Executive Committee (French, Arabic)
- CLCPRO: 1st session of the Western Region Commission (French)
- CRC: 23rd session and 2002-2003 workplans (English, Arabic)
- CRC/EMPRES/DLCO-EA: 1st and 2nd Technical Forums (English)
- EMPRES/CR: 9th and 10th Liaison Officers Meetings (English); 4th Consultative Committee (English)
- FAO: Expert Consultation and Risk Assessment on the Importation and Large-Scale Use of Mycopesticides against Locusts (English)
- SW Asia Commission: 23rd session (English)

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

2003 events. The following are provisionally scheduled:

- **EMPRES.** 6th Consultative Committee and Phase III Planning Workshop, Luxor (Egypt), 18-22 May
- **CRC.** 24th Session of the Executive Committee, Beirut (Lebanon), 10-15 April
- **CLCPANO.** Extraordinary Session, Alger (Algeria), 6-7 June
- **CLCPRO.** 2nd Session, Alger (Algeria), 8-12 June
- **DLCC Technical Group.** FAO Rome, June
- **DLCC.** 37th Session, FAO Rome, 22-26 September
- **EMPRES/CR.** 11th Liaison Officers meeting, Djibouti (or Egypt), December



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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

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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