Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) situation update for July with a forecast till September, 2008

Summary

Desert Locust: The Desert Locust situation remained relatively calm in July in most of the outbreak areas surveyed. Adult groups were reported laying eggs in Central Sahara in **Algeria** and controlled in 54 ha near irrigated fields. Survey and monitoring were hindered by on-going security problems in **northern Mali**, **northern Niger**, **eastern Chad** and **western Sudan**. It is likely that low numbers of solitary adults are present in these areas and perhaps begin breeding in areas of recent rainfall. No locusts were reported in **eastern Ethiopia** where surveys were carried out in July, despite improved or improving ecological conditions in most of the surveyed areas. The situation in the **Ogaden** region is unclear as surveys are impeded by on-going security problems. Scattered adults were reported in northern **Somalia** and on the Red Sea coast of **Yemen** (FAO-DLIS). Adult locusts may be present in the summer breeding areas in **Sudan** and **Eritrea**. No locusts were detected during surveys carried out in **Egypt**, **Oman** and **Saudi Arabia**. Small-scale breeding is in progress in areas of recent rainfall along both sides of the **Indo-Pakistan** borders.

Forecast

Some adults will persist in the summer breeding areas in northern Sahel and small-scale breeding will likely occur here and along the **Indo-Pakistan** borders and locust numbers will slightly increase during the forecast period. Frontline countries adjacent to outbreak areas where security problems continue hindering survey and monitoring should remain vigilant as they remain vulnerable to *allochthonous* populations. Regular surveys are recommended in all summer breeding areas as ecological conditions continue improving (FAO-DLIS, AELGA, DLCO-EA, PPD/Ethiopia, PPD, Sudan, CLAA/Mauritania, DDLC/Libya, INPV/Algeria).

Other ETOPs

Italian locust, Moroccan locust: **Moroccan** locust infestations were not in sight in southern **Tajikistan** and adjacent areas of northern **Afghanistan**, but **Italian** locust has begun appearing in northern **Tajikistan**.

Note: FAO experts are fielded to assess and assist 10 Central Asian countries with the development of a project to help create a platform to strengthen national and regional capacities for locust survey and control. The mission is being co-sponsored by FAO, OFDA, and others. End note.

Note: Farmers in northern **Afghanistan** who were promised 7 kg of wheat for each kg of dead locusts were disappointed as the promise failed to materialize. Though good intentioned, it appears that the promise was not well coordinated and the PPD staff became aware of it after effect. **End note.**

Rodents: No new information was received on rodents during this period.

Red Locust: Swarms of red locust that originated in **Mozambique** invaded **Zimbabwe** during the second dekad of July. The International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) deployed a helicopter and locust experts and survey and assessments began on 22nd July. All PPD staff and personnel in **Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Swaziland, South Africa** and **Tanzania** have been alerted to remain vigilant and report any locust sightings.
Armyworm outbreaks affected close to 911,000 ha of crops and pasture in **Ethiopia** and more than **187,247** ha were sprayed as of the end of the first dekad of July. The infestations affected more than 290 districts in 8 of the 10 Regional States, including Addis Abeba. Control operations have been concluded in most of the affected areas, but there is a likelihood of new outbreaks occurring in the northern part of the country where the pest can persist for the next several weeks before it moves on to Eritrea.

A late received report indicated that **Yemen** has been fighting armyworm infestations since the end of May, 2008. Control operations were carried out in several governorates and averted what could have become a major threat to maize, wheat, sorghum, millet and pasture.

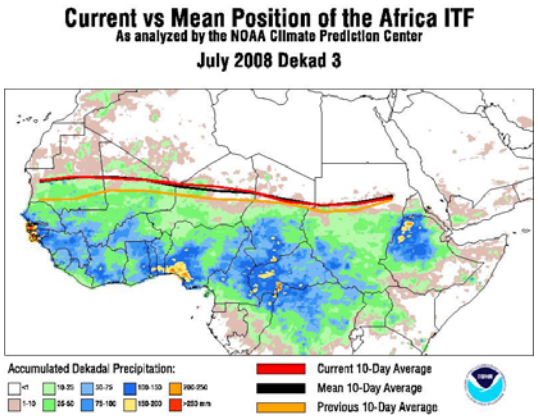
Quelea: Colonies and roosts of **Quelea** birds were controlled in Shinyanga and Morogoro Regions of **Tanzania** and Nyanza and Rift Valley Provinces of **Kenya** using DLCO-EA aircraft (DLCO-EA, IRLOC-CSA). **End summary.**

This Sitrep and previous issues can be accessed and/or downloaded on our website:

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

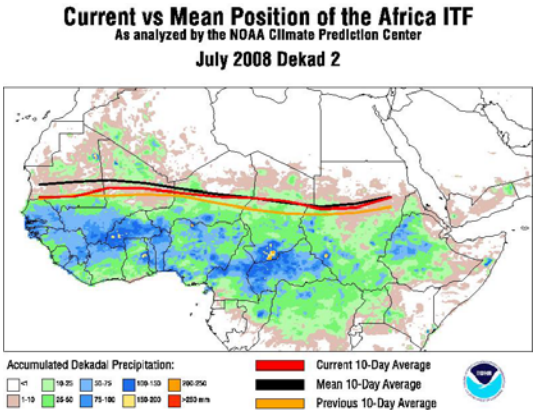
Climatological factors:

The African portion of Intertropical Front (ITF) was located at around 18.3N during the 3rd dekad of July, 2008. In the west, the ITF had been lagging throughout the season, until the last week of July when it surged northward to the average position of 19.5N and 16.5N in the east. These positions are comparable with the 30 year mean positions of around 19.3N in the west and a position of around 16.7N in the east The southward lag has caused a delayed or below normal rain fall in the summer breeding areas in the Sahel (mod from NOAA).

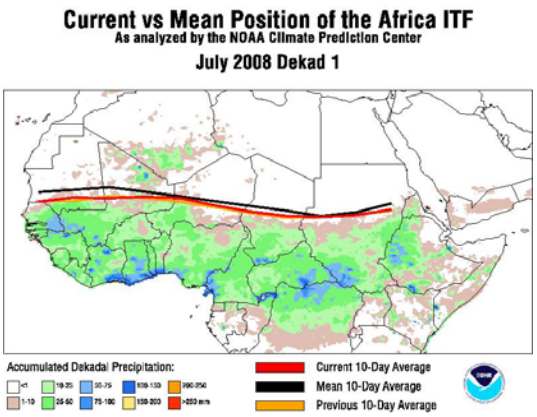


The ITF remained below the 30 year average locations in the first and second dekads of July. It was at around 16.8N in the second dekad, which is

below the average of 17.5N location. It remained at the below normal location in this area for almost three dekads.



During the first dekad, it was located around 16.0N, significantly below the average location of 16.8N. It remained below normal position throughout much of the season in the west and only showed a slight northward movement the last week of June and then stalled during the first week of July across Africa. It then moved slightly to the north in the west, but shifted south in the east during this period and this has negatively affected the rainfall pattern during this period (mod from NOAA).



ETOP Situation and Activities:

Western Region

The Desert Locust situation remained calm in most of the outbreak areas in the western region in July. Only adult groups were observed laying eggs in Central Sahara in near Adrar, **Algeria** where control was carried out in 54 ha near irrigated fields (FAO-DLIS). Survey and monitoring were hindered in **northern Mali**, **northern Niger**, **eastern Chad** and **western Sudan** by the on-going security problems. it is likely that low numbers of solitary adults are present in these areas and perhaps begin breeding in areas of recent rainfall during the forecast period (FAO-DLIS).

Central Region

Locusts were not reported in **eastern Ethiopia** where surveys were carried in more than 5,760 ha in July, but ecological conditions have improved or are improving in most of these areas. The situation in the **Ogaden** region is still unclear as surveys are hindered by the on-going security problems. Scattered adults were reported in northern **Somalia** and on the Red Sea coast of **Yemen** (FAO-DLIS). A sighting of a swarm flying on July 1st over Hargeisa was reported, but additional information was not available on its whereabouts. No locusts were reported in **Sudan** or **Eritrea**, but it is likely that scattered adults may be present in the summer breeding areas in these countries. Locusts were not reported during surveys carried out **in Egypt**, **Oman** and **Saudi Arabia** in July.

Forecast

Adult locusts will likely persist in the summer breeding areas in northern Sahel and small-scale breeding will likely take place here and along the **Indo-Pakistan** border and locust numbers will slightly increase during the forecast period. Frontline countries adjacent to outbreak areas where security problems continue hindering surveys and monitoring should be extra cautious as they are vulnerable to invasions by *allochthonous* populations. Regular surveys should be maintained to the extent possible in all summer breeding areas where ecological conditions have improved and/or will likely improve (FAO-DLIS, AELGA, DLCO-EA, PPD/Ethiopia, CLAA/Mauritania, DDLC/Libya, INPV/Algeria).

Eastern Region

Small-scale breeding is in progress along both sides of the **Indo-Pakistan** border in areas where monsoon rains fell (FAO-DLIS). No locust was reported in other countries in the eastern region and significant activities are not expected during the forecast period.

Central Asia

Moroccan locust infestations were no longer in sight in southern **Tajikistan** and adjacent areas of northern **Afghanistan**, but **Italian** locust has begun appearing in the northern part of the country.

Note: Farmers in northern Afghanistan who were promised 7 kg of wheat for each kg of dead locusts were disappointed as the promise failed to materialize. Though good intentioned, it appears that the promise was not well coordinated and the PPD staff was not aware of it until it hit the media outlet. End note.

Note: FAO experts are fielded to assess and assist 10 Central Asian countries with the development of a project to help create a platform to strengthen national and regional capacities for locust survey and control. The mission is being co-sponsored by FAO, OFDA, and others. End note.

Note: During the Soviet era, locust control operations in Central Asia were carried out through a centralized structure. As the countries in the region became independent the structure was disbanded and locust operations were left to individual countries with no operational units or structured technical know-how. This has contributed to the worsening of the locust situation and becoming a serious problem as these pests move freely across the new political boundaries. FAO has been continuously trying to create a platform that could bring together individual countries and help coordinate their efforts to launch regional/sub-regional operations and counter or match cross-border outbreaks. **End note.**

Red Locust:

The International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) in collaboration with the MoAs in **Mozambique, Zimbabwe** and **Zambia** carried out

survey operations in the outbreak areas in these countries and on more than 240,000 ha in Mozambique alone in July. Swarms and concentrations were detected in the Lake Chilwa Plains in **Malawi** and in the Iku-Katavi, Rukwa Plains and Malagarasi Basin in **Tanzania** and required immediate control. Swarms that escaped from Dimba Plains in **Mozambique** invaded **Mashonaland** East and **Mashonaland** Central Provinces of **Zimbabwe**. Isolated and scattered populations were also seen in the Dimba and Buzi-Gorongosa Plains in **Mozambique** and in the Kafue Flats and Lukanga swamps in **Zambia**. However, the threats the locusts pose is limited to irrigated crops as the rain-fed crops have already been harvested. During the second dekad of July, swarms that originated in **Mozambique** invaded **Zimbabwe**. IRLCO-CSA deployed a helicopter and locust experts to the invasion areas and survey and assessments began on 22nd July. IRLCO has issued an alert to all PPD staff and officers in **Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Swaziland, South Africa** and **Tanzania** to remain vigilant and report any locust sightings. It is to be recalled that in June more than 50 dense swarms were reported controlled on more than 10,000 ha in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania (IRLCO/CSA). **Forecast:** The grass burning that has begun and will continue in the coming months will likely concentrate locust populations in unburned patches of vegetation. Some of the swarms could migrate to other locations where grass burning will not take place. IRLCO-CSA is planning on carrying out control operations in the outbreak areas in **Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania** in collaboration with the MoAs. **UN Food and Agriculture Organization h**as responded positively to the IRLCO appeal for assistance (IRLCO-CSA).

African migratory locust

No new information was received in July on the African migratory locust and an AML invasion in northern Ethiopia turned out to be a false alarm.

Tree locusts

No information was received on tree locusts at the time this report was compiled.

The Timors and South Pacific

No new information was received on locusts from the **Timors** at the time this update was compiled, but it is likely that hoppers and bands of **Migratory locust** are present and pose threats to pasture, maize and/or rice crops in valleys and other areas. Cross-border infestations often impact both countries. it is important that incidences that exacerbate cross-border invasions and re-invasions are avoided.

Locust operations are expected to increase in 2008 in **Australia** as most outbreak areas had received unusually good rains after a prolonged drought**.**

Armyworm:

Armyworm outbreaks continued in **Ethiopia** where close to 911,000 ha of crop and pasture were reported infested and more than **187,247** ha were sprayed using close to 121,500

l/kg of pesticides by the end of the first dekad of July. According to PPD/Addis, the infestations were among the worst in decades and they affected more than 290 districts in 8 of the 10 Regional States, as well as Addis Abeba administration and other urban areas. In some instances, crop fields were completely wiped out, e.g., in **Dire Dawa** administration alone, close to 8,050 ha of crop fields were destroyed. A similar situation was reported in western **Arsi, Oromiya zone** where farmers had to re-saw more than 3,364 ha (8,242 acres) of crop fields that were mowed down to the ground. A late received report indicated that **Yemen** has been fighting armyworm infestations since the end of May, 2008 in Taiz, al-Dhalei, Lahj and Ibb governorates and averted what appeared to be a major threat to maize, wheat, sorghum, millet and pasture. More than 25 motorized vehicle mounted sprayers were mobilized to control the infestations (Note: Armyworm infestations occur in **Yemen** during the rainy season as the moths migrate from eastern Africa and the Horn north and northeast following the movement of the ITCZ which is associated with the rains. End note).

Forecast

Control operations have been concluded in most of the areas infested in **Ethiopia,** but there is a likelihood of new infestations occurring in northern part of the country, particularly **Tigray** region where the pest can persist well into August and even early September. According to PPD/Addis, pheromone traps have been set up in several places in Tigray zone and monitoring and surveillance are in progress (note: the higher the moth catch the greater the likelihood of caterpillar infestations occurring). Armyworm infestation will also likely occur in parts of **Eritrean** and it is essential that similar actions are taken to abate any potential threats from this pest (AELGA, PPD/Addis, PPD/Kenya,).

Quelea

Quelea birds outbreaks were reported in Siaya district of Nyanza Province and Naivasha district of Rift Valley Province in **Kenya**. Aerial control operations were conducted using an avicide. There were no reports of Quelea birds causing damage to small grain cereal crops in other IRLCO- member countries (IRLOC-CSA).

Forecast: Quelea birds are likely to continue being a problem to small grain cereal growers in Nyanza Province of **Kenya** and in provinces of **Zimbabwe** where winter wheat is grown.

Rodents: No new information was received on rodents during this period.

Recommendations on ETOPs:

Front-line countries (in particular, those adjacent to areas off limit to survey and monitoring) must remain vigilant and exercise prevention and mitigation to minimize unexpected risks from ETOPs. Those in invasion areas should stay alert and implement preventive intervention strategies. Countries in the outbreak zones should collect information on ETOP regularly and share it with all stakeholders as often as possible.

AELGA (Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement) will continue monitoring the situation and issue updates and advise.

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories did not change much as most of the outbreak countries remained calm and did not carry out significant control operations during the reporting period.

Country	uantities 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	497,600+
Morocco	4,107,300
Niger	69,000
Saudi Arabia*	
Senegal	519,000
Sudan	735,676
Tunisia*	167,600*
Yemen*	
Most current data unavailable at the time this report was compiled + Mauritania donated 70,000 litres to Yemen in July 2007 ** Inventory expected to be updated this month ~ these pesticide stocks represent at of DL	

Note: *Many countries continue benefiting from obsolete pesticide management activities co-sponsored through USAID/OFDA Cooperative Agreement with the UN FAO.* ***End note.***

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or visit our website at:

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