Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for July 2007

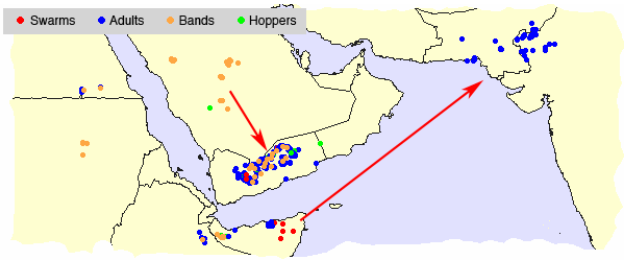
Central Region:

The desert locust (DL) situation continued to be extremely serious in **Yemen** in July, where, according to FAO, breeding intensified, hopper infestations occurred in many places and large numbers of immature swarms were seen moving into cropping areas. Ground control operations treated more than 18,590 ha during this period. More swarms will likely form in the interior of the country in August, some could move west into the Red Sea coasts of **Yemen** and **Saudi Arabia** or east into **Oman** and could eventually reach the **Indo-Pakistan** border. If more rain falls in August, another generation of breeding will commence by the end of the month and hatching and band formations will occur in September. Aerial control operations are being organized by MoAI/Yemen with the help of FAO and WFP. The operations, which are largely supported by the Government of Japan, UN/CERF-FAO and YoG, will likely run for two to three months targeting areas between Al Abr and Thamoud in the interior of the country.

In **Sudan** survey operations were carried out on some 3,500 ha in the River Nile State and 21 ha were found infested with low-density isolated mature adults, but **c**ontrol was not necessary. Ecological conditions are expected to improve and hoppers will likely develop in the summer breeding areas which were flooded during the past several weeks in **Sudan**. Solitary adults laid eggs in northeastern **Eritrea** and locust numbers will slightly increase in the coming weeks.

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in eastern **Ethiopia** and no reports were received from **Somalia** in July but residual individuals could begin breeding in areas between eastern **Ethiopian** and northern **Somalia** if the situation improves over the coming weeks.

Allochthonous hoppers and adults were controlled in 1,500 ha in **Oman** near the **Yemen** border in July, but the situation remained calm in **Saudi Arabia** during this period.



(FAO, projected swarm movement as of 06/07)

Western Region

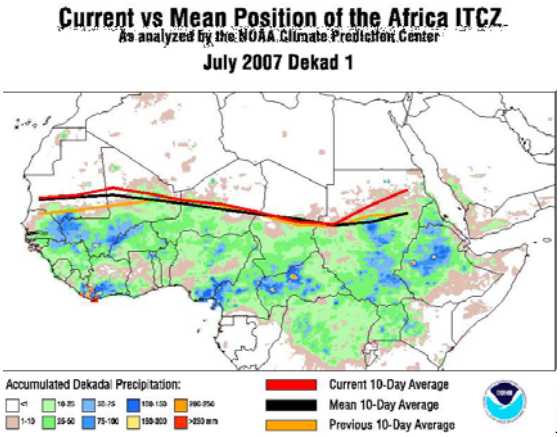
The western region outbreak areas remained calm in July. No locusts were seen in **Algeria** or **Libya** (except for a single mature adult found in Qarat Ghadames in northwest) during surveys carried out in July. Locusts were not reported in **Morocco** or **Tunisia** during this period. Isolated mature adult locusts were reported in southern **Mauritania** and a similar situation may exist in northern **Mali**, northern **Niger**, eastern **Chad** where small-scale breeding could commence in the coming weeks, but significant activities are not expected.

Eastern Region

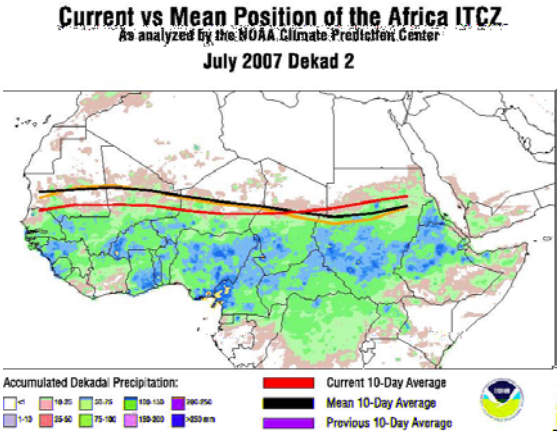
Adult locusts were seen in coastal areas in Gujarat in early July and small-scale breeding occurred in Rajasthan, **India** following the onset of the monsoon rains. A similar situation may have occurred in adjacent areas of **Pakistan.** Some swarms may also arrive from **Yemen** in the coming weeks. If so, the number of locusts will likely increase over the coming months.

No locusts were reported elsewhere in the western or eastern outbreak regions during this period, nevertheless, vigilant survey and monitoring are recommended in all front-line countries.

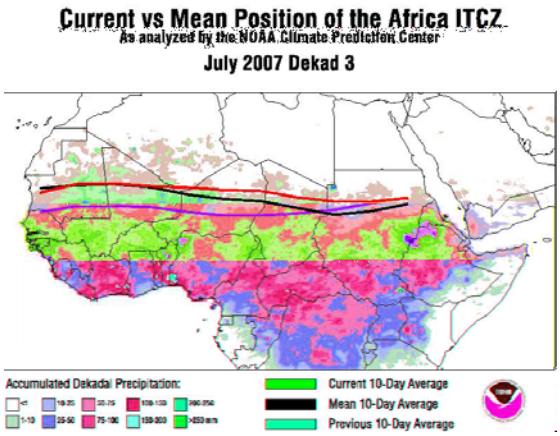
The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone



During the first dekad of July, the African portion (AFR-) of the ITCZ was located near 17.5 degrees N latitude when averaged over this period and from 15W-35E. This is 0.8 degrees N of a normal position of 16.7N and 1.1 degrees north of a position last year. From 10W-10E, the ITCZ was located near 18.4 degrees north or 0.6 degrees north of its normal position and 0.5 degrees N of its last year's position. From 20E-35E, the ITCZ was located near 16.6N, 1.3 degrees N of its normal position and 1.9 degrees north of last year. The ITCZ has advanced significantly over southern Mauritania and northern Sudan since the third dekad of June which had a 10-day average of 16.3 degrees N, i.e., more rain in hiked areas (mod from NOAA).



During the second dekad of July, the AFR-ITCZ was located near 16.7 degrees N latitude when averaged over this period and from 15W-35E, 0.8 degrees lower than the previous dekad, 0.9 degrees south of the normal position and 1.5 degrees south of last year's. In the east, 10W-10E, it was located near 16.7 degrees N, or 2.0 degrees south of the long term mean of around 18.7 degrees north, and 2.7 south of last year's. From 20E-35E, it was located near 17.1N, 1.0 degree N of its mean position, but 0.1. degree south of last year's. The ITCZ continues to move erratically in the west, while in the east it remains above normal (mod from NOAA).



During the third dekad of July, the AFR-ITCZ was located near 19.0 degrees N latitude when averaged over this period and from 15W-35E. This is N of a normal position and those of the previous dekad and last year's. In the west, from 10W-10E, the ITCZ was located near 19.8 degrees N, far N of the previous dekad, the mean position of around 19.3 degrees N, and a position last year of 18.3N. In the east, from 20E-35E, the ITCZ was located near 18.0N, compared with 16.6N for the mean, and 16.5N for last year. The ITCZ moved N rapidly during the last dekad. It is now positioned at, or above normal across most of Africa meaning more rain (mod from NOAA).

Central Asia

Massive invasions of Moroccan locust **(*Dociostaurus maroccanus*)** and Italian locust **(*Calliptamus italicus*)** were reported in **Tajikistan** and **Kyrgyzstan** earlier and up on the request of the GoT FAO deployed a locust expert in June to coordinate control operations in the country. Additional information was not

received at the time this report was compiled.

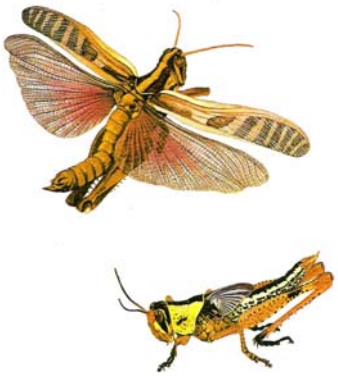
Note: *The Italian locust and the Moroccan locust usually concentrate in pastures and forest areas in the mountains and move to the foothills and low laying cropping areas to forage during drought. They invade* ***Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan*** *and* ***Afghanistan****. During the Soviet era, the locusts were controlled by a centrally organized system. The system ceased to exist after the collapse of the Soviet Union and individual countries were left to take on the challenge. Most, if not all, of these countries lack sufficient resources to prevent and/or abate locust invasions and have to rely on external assistance. Attempts by FAO to establish a similar system to help promote and support cross-border survey and control did not succeed but the idea is still alive in the minds of many.* ***End note****.*

East Timor:

The locust infestations in **East Timor** were handled by MoA, FAO and the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC). A spray helicopter and an APLC locust expert assisted the MoA staff in carrying out survey and control in May and June and follow up activities there after. No update was available in July.

Red Locust

A late received report indicated that red locust ***(Nomadacris septemfassciata)*** invasions continued in the Malagarasi Basin, Iku-Katavi and Lake Rukwa Plains in **Tanzania** where locust populations were well above the control threshold of >10 insects/square meter and required immediate spraying late June. It is likely that some activities may have taken place in Buzi Gorongosa Plains in **Mozambique,** Lake Chilwa and Chiuta Plains in **Malawi,** and in Lake Rukwa, Iku Katavi and parts of Malagarasi basin in **Tanzania**. The International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa has been looking for assistance to support survey and control operations in front-line countries in the region, including Tanzania and anticipates the need for continued operations in July and August.



Red locust adult and hopper

Tree locusts

Tree locust (***Anacridium* spp.**) activities continued in the Afar and Amhara regions of **Ethiopia** in July. Additional information was not received on tree locust in **Kenya**. *Tree locusts defoliate fodder trees, the main source of livestock feed in the semi-arid areas and damage* ***industrial trees*** *such as* ***Acacia senegalensis****, the primary source of* ***Gum Arabic****.*

(source: USAID)

Armyworm:

Armyworm activities are concluded and no reports were received at the time this update was compiled.

Quelea birds:

No updates were received on *Quelea* activities in July, but it is likely that they continue posing a threat to small grain cereal crops in irrigated/rain-fed fields in a few places in **Kenya, Tanzania**, and/or **Ethiopia**.

A roosting Quelea colony, (photo CC)

It is important that front-line countries in the outbreak regions remain vigilant and exercise preventive control interventions to the extent possible and that those in the invasion areas stay alert.

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

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories remained unchanged in July in front-line countries in the western region, except in Mauritania where 40,000 l were donated to Yemen. Data was not available for most of the winter/spring breeding/invasion countries, except Ethiopia and Yemen, where control operations were launched as of May and April, respectively. Efforts to improve handling and use of pesticides are underway.

Country	Quantities in litters
Ethiopia	24,520
Mali	222,524
Mauritania	545,189[@]
Morocco	3,998,365
Niger	184,084
Senegal	532,960
Yemen	<35,000*
Algeria, Eritrea, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia	Data not available

[@] Mauritania donated 40,000 l pesticides to Yemen

***** Yemen was to receive 40,000 l from Mauritania; figure shown is a guesstimate

ETOP updates and other important info. on our activities can be accessed on AELGA web page:

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

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