

Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for August 2007

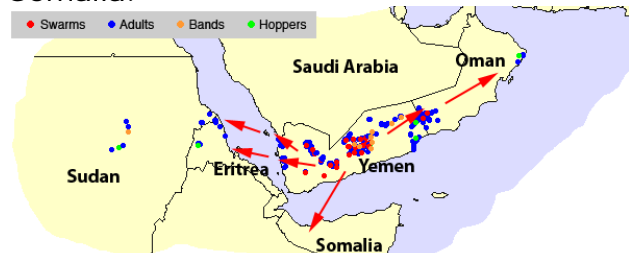
Central Region:

The desert locust (DL) situation remained serious in August in **Yemen** where, according to FAO, large numbers of immature swarms were seen moving from the interior of the country into the central highlands and southern Oman. Some crop damage has been reported. Ground and aerial control operations treated more than 12,664 ha during this period. More swarms will likely form and move west into the Red Sea coasts of **Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Sudan** and **Eritrea**, east into **Oman** and eventually reach the **Indo-Pakistan** border. Survey and control operations are expected to continue for two to three months and target the most affected/vulnerable areas between Al Abr and Thamoud in the interior of the country.

Breeding was in progress in River Nile and Khartoum states in **Sudan** in August. Immature and mature adults were seen in the Tokar Delta and in the Red Sea Hills near the Eritrean border. Breeding was also reported in the western lowlands in **Eritrea** where heavy rains and flooding occurred in the past several weeks and scattered immature and mature adults were seen in the northern Red Sea coasts near the Sudanese borders. Hoppers and adults were controlled on 1,100 ha in Kerkebet from 25 August to 1 September.

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out between Jijiga and Somaliland border in eastern **Ethiopia**. No reports were received from **Somalia** in August but residual individuals may be present and begin breeding in areas of recent flooding or rainfall between eastern and northern **Somalia**.

Hoppers and adults were controlled in August in 947 ha in **Oman** near the **Yemen** border. The situation remained calm in **Saudi Arabia** during this period, but there is a likelihood of swarms from the interior of Yemen reaching the Red Sea coasts of Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and perhaps Somalia.



Current locust infestations in Yemen and potential migration routes (FAO)



Aerial spraying operations in Wadi Hadhramaut, Yemen on 1 August (FAO)

Western Region

The western region outbreak areas remained calm in August. No locusts were reported in **Algeria, Libya, Morocco** or **Tunisia** during this period. Isolated solitary adult locusts were detected in southeastern **Mauritania**. Small-scale breeding may have commenced or commence in areas that received rain or were flooded in northern **Mali**, northern **Mauritania, Niger** and **Chad**, but significant activities are not expected in the coming weeks.

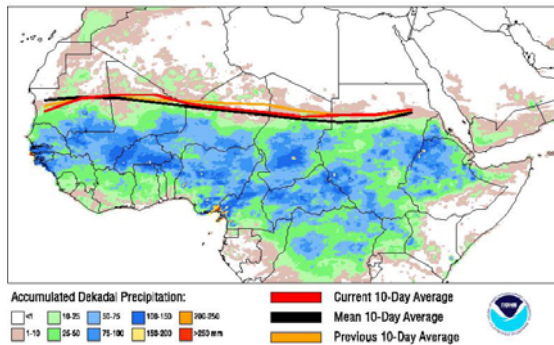
Eastern Region

There is a likelihood of small-scale breeding occurring in areas of recent rainfall and flooding in Rajasthan, **India** and Tharparkar and Cholistan, **Pakistan** in the coming weeks. Control operations treated 50 ha in southeastern **Iran** in August. There is a slight possibility of some swarms from **Yemen** arriving in India or Pakistan in mid-September and increase the number of locusts in these areas, but significant activities are not likely. Survey and monitoring are recommended in front-line countries.

The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone

The African portion of the ITCZ was located near 18.8 degrees north latitude when averaged over the ten day period and from 15W-35E during the first dekad of August. This is slightly south of the previous dekad, north of a normal position of 18.5N but 1.4 degrees north of last year's position of 17.4N. In the west, from 10W-10E, the ITCZ remained slightly north of the long term mean of around 19.3 degrees N, but 1.7 degrees N of a position last year of 18.1N. In the east, from 20E-35E, was located almost the same as the position of the previous month, a bit N of the 17.2N mean, and 16.5N for last year.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
August 2007 Dekad 1

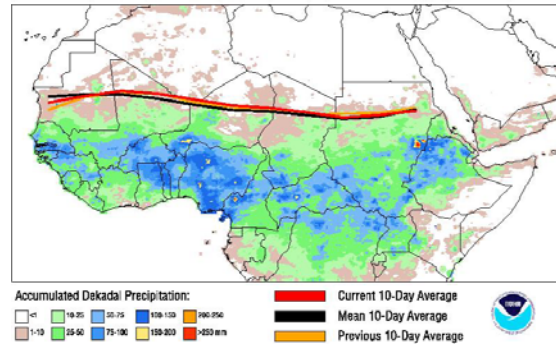


Heavy rains and flooding have been reported in early August in southern Mauritania in Hodh El Gharbi, several villages in northern, western and eastern Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and other neighboring countries (mod from NOAA).

During the second dekad of August, the African portion of the ITCZ was located near 18.9 degrees N latitude when averaged over the ten day period and from 15W-35E. This

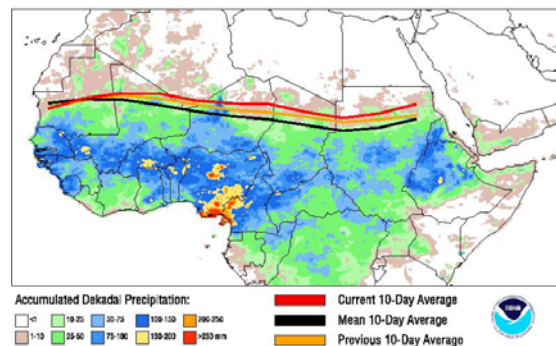
compares with a normal position of 18.7N and a position last year of 18.8N. In the west, from 10W-10E, the ITCZ was located near 19.9 degrees north, compared to the long term mean of around 19.5 degrees north, and a position last year of 19.4N. In the east, from 20E-35E, the ITCZ was located near 17.7N, compared with 17.5N for the mean, and 17.9N for last year.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
August 2007 Dekad 2



The ITCZ now rests near normal position across all of Africa; however it has moved a lot from day to day making for unusually light rainfall just to its south. There has also been a persistent lag of the ITCZ over Mauritania.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
August 2007 Dekad 3



The African portion of the ITCZ was located near 19.6 degrees north latitude when averaged over the ten day period and from 15W-35E during the third dekad of August. This compares with a normal position of 18.2N and a position last year of 18.9N. In the west, from 10W-10E, the ITCZ was located near 20.5 degrees north, compared to the long term mean of around 19.3 degrees north, and a position last year of 20.0N. In the east, from 20E-35E, the ITCZ was located near 18.6N, compared with 16.7N for the mean, and 17.6N for last year. Despite normal southward movement of the ITCZ this time of year, the ITCZ surged northward. Significant

northward and southward movements occurred almost daily.

Central Asia

Massive invasions of Moroccan locust (*Docostaurus maroccanus* - DMA) and Italian locust (*Calliptamus italicus* - CIT) were reported in **Tajikistan** and **Kyrgyzstan** earlier, but additional information was not available at the time this report was compiled.

Note: *The DMA and CIT concentrate in areas of green vegetation up in the mountains and move to the low laying cropping areas to forage during drought. These pests invade **Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan**. Nearly all of these countries lack sufficient resources and rely on external assistance to prevent and/or abate locust invasions. FAO attempted to establish a regional structure to help promote and support cross-border survey and control but did not succeed although the idea is still alive. **End note.***

East Timor:

Operations that were supported by FAO and the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) to control locust invasions in **East Timor** were concluded and additional information was not available at the time this report was compiled.

Red Locust

A late received report indicated that the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (Tanzania) has been carrying out survey operations against Red Locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*) in

the Iku-Katavi plains, the South Rukwa plains and the Malagarasi-Basin as of July 26th. Control operations commenced on July 30th in Iku-Katavi plains and treated 67 swarms and concentrations in 2,200 ha with Fenitrothion 96% ULV. According to IRLCO/CSA, one swarm escaped from Iku plains and settled near Mwese village, about 50 km northwest of Mpanda Town and eventually dispersed into non-burned vegetation. Numerous small swarms were detected and controlled between 6th and 13th August in 200 ha in South Rukwa plains where grass burning was intensive. Similar activities were carried out in 200 ha in Malagarasi Basin from 13th August and operations in to a good part of the month. Total areas sprayed in each outbreak area were smaller than expected due to vegetation burning that forced the locusts to concentrate in patches of green vegetation. IRLCO/CSA has issued advice neighboring countries, including Malawi, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia to stay alert.



Red locust swarm, Malagarasi Plain, Tanzania (Photo: IRLCO/CSA, 08/07)

Tree locusts

Tree locust (*Anacridium spp.*) activities may have continued in the Afar and Amhara regions of **Ethiopia**.

Armyworm:

The armyworm season is concluded and no further information was received at the time this update was compiled.



(source: USAID)

Quelea birds:

The DLCO-EA aircraft controlled nineteen Quelea roosts on 254 ha in Morogoro region, **Tanzania** in August. Similar operations were carried out in Oromia region of **Ethiopia** where two roosts were controlled on 150 ha. Operations also progressed in the Rift Valley and Nyanza Provinces of **Kenya**. Quelea infestations were observed in Southern Kordofan State in Sudan during this period, but details were not available at the time this report was compiled.



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 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 August in front-line countries in the western region, except in Mauritania where 35,000 l of the 40,000 l donated to Yemen have been delivered. Data was not available for most the winter/spring breeding and invasion countries except in where control operations were launched in recent months. Efforts to improve handling and use of pesticides are underway.

Country	Quantities in liters
Ethiopia	24,520
Mali	222,524
Mauritania	545,189 [@]
Morocco	3,998,365
Niger	184,084
Senegal	532,960
Yemen	<25,000*
Algeria, Eritrea, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia	Data not available

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

* Yemen received 35,000 l of the 40,000 l donated by Mauritania due to the capacity of the WFP aircraft that airlifted the donation;

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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