

Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for December 2006

Summary:

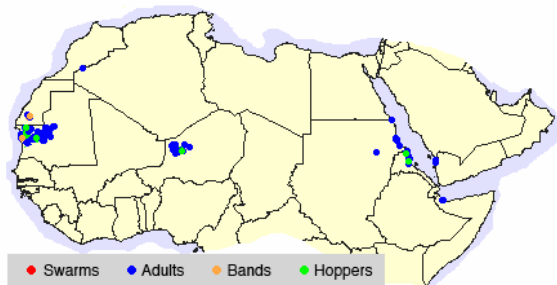
The desert locust (DL) situation has begun developing along the Red Sea coastal plains in Eritrea where, according information received from Department of Crop Protection (DCP) Asmara and UN/FAO, breeding commenced in November. By the end of December, DCP treated more than 11,400 ha. Locusts will likely continue breeding and increase in areas where ecological conditions are favorable and threaten neighboring countries in the coming months.

Scattered adult DL were reported in southeastern **Egypt**, the Red Sea coasts of **Sudan, Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen** as well as northern **Somalia** where breeding could commence in the coming weeks.

Control operations were carried out against DL on some 3,650 ha in **Niger, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania** and **Western Sahara** in December.

A few scattered adult DL were detected in December in the eastern region outbreak areas.

Control operations are in progress against Brown Locust and African Migratory Locust in **Lesotho** and **South Africa** and in **Zimbabwe**, respectively.



(FAO/ECLO)

Desert Locust Situation:

Eritrea:

DL infestations occurred in the eastern lowlands and coastal plains in Shelshela, Marsa-Kobae and Karura, Eritrea. Control operations began on December 9 and more than 11,418 ha as of January 4th with 5,718 l of insecticides (there are 32,000 liters of ULV pesticides in the DCP storage facilities and this quantity could be easily slashed should the current locust situation worsen).

Ecological conditions will likely continue favoring breeding and further development in areas of recent rainfall and the run-off wadis where locust numbers will increase. This situation could pose a threat to adjacent areas and neighboring countries. Active surveillance and monitoring are essential.



The Red Sea region:

Scattered adult locusts were reported in southeastern **Egypt**, the Red Sea coasts of **Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen** as well as northern **Somalia**. Small-scale breeding is in progress in the **Tokar Delta, Sudan**. A similar situation could develop in areas that received good rains in Yemen and Somalia in the coming months. Active surveillance is recommended.

Mali:

Ground operations controlled locusts on 1,000 ha in Tombouctou region northwestern Mali in mid-December. No locusts were detected in the outbreak areas thereafter and operations have been concluded. Significant developments are not expected in the coming months.

Mauritania:

The DL situation has improved over the past weeks in **Mauritania**. Locust numbers have declined and only 20 ha were treated in December. This brings the total areas treated since August 2006 to 2,359 ha. The situation will likely remain calm over the coming weeks. *(Note: Mauritania sprayed close to 1.07 million ha from August to December 2004; that is more than 453 times the current figure. End note).*

Niger:

Ground control operations treated 1,800 ha against hoppers and adults that were forming small concentrations in the central Tamesna, **Niger** as a result of drying up of vegetation.

The situation in other counties in the Sahel remained calm in December and significant developments are not expected in the coming weeks.

Morocco:

60 ha were sprayed against 4th and 5th instar hoppers and immature adults in Maatam zone, **Morocco** during the third dekad of December bringing the total areas treated as of November 16, 2006 to 1,650 ha. No locusts were detected in other areas in the country. The situation will likely remain calm and only few individuals may persist in the southwest and some, possibly, ride the warm southerly winds and reach Draa Valley over the coming months.

Infestations continued declining in **Western Sahara** where 770 ha were treated in December. Residual populations may persist in the coming weeks but significant developments are not likely.

No locusts were reported in **Libya** in December and no reports were received from **Algeria**.

Eastern region:

A few scattered adult DL were detected in December in Baluchistan in the eastern region winter outbreak areas. Significant developments are not expected in the coming months.

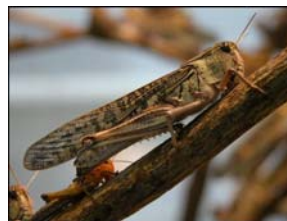
Other ETOPs:

Control operations are in progress against **Brown Locust** infestations in southwest **Lesotho** and the **Karoo district**, the Northern Cape Province **South Africa**. In South Africa, the locust mainly affected grazing land and farmers in the region have been battling sizeable swarms since mid-October 2006. Information on the damage caused by the pest was not available at the time this report was compiled.



Brown Locust

Infestations of **Africa Migratory Locust** have been reported in Middle Sabi, southeast **Zimbabwe**.



Control operations were carried out against hoppers and groups using Carbaryl 85% WP and

Fenitrothion ULV. Damage data was not available at the time this report was compiled.

No reports were received on Red Locust, Tree Locust, and Armyworm or Quelea birds at the time this update was compiled. However, it is expected that quelea activities may be taking place in irrigated fields in Kenya and perhaps Tanzania.



Quelea breeding will likely occur in the coming months in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The resulting fledglings and the parental stocks will likely threaten small grain cereals.

Note: Quelea birds can travel ~ 100 km/day looking for food. Each bird can consume 3-5 g of grain and perhaps destroy approximately the same amount each day. A colony of up to a million birds is capable of consuming and destroying 7-10 tons (= 7,000 – 10,000 kg) of seeds/day. **End note.**

Armyworm activities are expected to have occurred in Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and other countries in the region.



Red Locust hatching may have occurred and low to medium size hopper bands may have begun forming in the Iku-Katavi and the Wembere plains, Tanzania where residual populations were present.

PESTICIDE STOCKS

Pesticides stocks in the DL front-line countries slightly changed in December. Relatively small quantities were used in Eritrea, Niger, Mauritania, Mali, and Morocco. Efforts to develop effective and safer handling and use of these products and avoid potential disposal problems are in progress.

Country	Quantities in liters
Algeria	Data not available
Eritrea	32,000*
Libya	Data not available
Mali	222,524*
Mauritania	585,189*
Morocco	3,998,365*
Niger	184,084*
Saudi Arabia	Data not available
Senegal	532,950*
Sudan	Data not available
Tunisia	Data not available
Yemen	Data not available

* The current quantity may be less due to spray operations carried out against DL and/or grasshoppers.

Announcement

The webpage of Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) can now be accessed at: http://www.usaid.gov/ourwork/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/

For further information on AELGA and related matters, please, contact Dr. Yene T. Belayneh: ybelayneh@ofda.gov

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