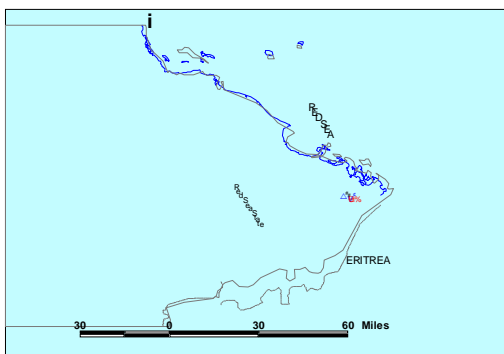


**Emergency Transboundary
Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for
February 2007**

Summary:

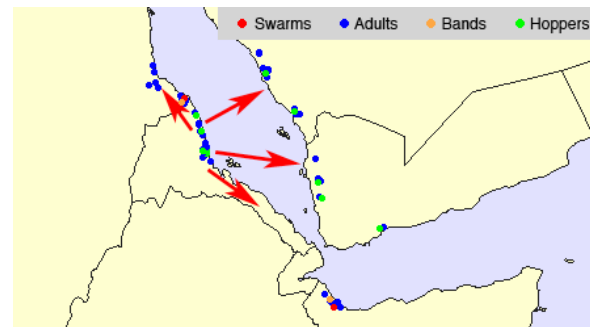
The desert locust (DL) situation continued increasingly developing along the Red Sea coasts in **Eritrea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen** and **northwestern Somalia** in February. According to Sudan Plant Protection Department (PPD), active survey operations were maintained and control operations were carried out against immature and mature adults as well as hopper bands along its borders with northern Eritrea. A swam measuring 70 ha was detected in this area. No reports were received from **Eritrea** in February, but it is likely that locust activities are further developing along the Red Sea coastal areas. Small-scale breeding was reported in **Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen**. Unconfirmed reports indicated locust activities in northwestern coasts of Somalia.



(Source PPD/Sudan)

The situation in northwest, north and western Africa and southwest Asia remained relatively calm in February, only a few isolated solitary adults and

small-scale breeding was reported in Algeria and Mauritania and a few isolated adults were observed in the southern side of Morocco. Significant developments are not likely in the coming months.



(Source: FAO/ECLC)

Meteorological and ecological conditions

Ecological conditions continued to be favorable in the coastal areas in Sudan where rain fell on February 12, vegetation was green, and the soil was moist. A similar situation may have occurred in Eritrea and elsewhere in the sub-region. The western and eastern outbreak areas remained dry and ecological conditions were largely unfavorable in the western outbreak areas and somewhat favorable in some places in Rajasthan, India in February.

Locust situation:

Central Region:

According to Sudan Plant Protection Department (PPD), surveys were maintained throughout February and control operations were carried out during this time against immature and mature adults as well as hopper bands along the Red Sea coasts bordering Eritrea. In the first three days of March PPD surveyed 300 ha in the Red Sea State near the Eritrean borders where 120 ha were reported infested with solitary and

gregarious mature and immature adult locusts as well as first instar hoppers at densities ranging from 80-120 insects/m². A swarm composed of immature and mature adult locusts was also observed on some 70 ha at a density of up to 30,000 insects/ha. Based on information received from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), locust numbers continued to increase along the coast between Massawa in Eritrea and the Sudanese border in February. Small-scale breeding is in progress in coastal areas of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and locust concentrations were reported on the north-west coast of Somalia.



DL

FAO indicated that other countries along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden could face significant locust infestations this winter because of unusually good rains and favorable ecological conditions. FAO warned that Yemen could be invaded at either the end of February or the beginning of March. Vigilant surveillance and monitoring are essential. Although no reports were received Asmara since January 22, it is likely that the locust situation has been further developing along the Red Sea coastal areas.

At the end of December 2006, **Eritrea** reported spraying some 16,000 ha. Should favorable ecological conditions persist, the situation could further exacerbate, a third generation

breeding could commence and locusts move into neighboring **Sudan, Saudi Arabia or Yemen** and pose threats to the countries in April and May. Active survey and timely interventions are essential to avert any major disaster that could emanate from this area.

Western Region:

In Mauritania, the National Center for Locust Control (CNLA) reported the presence of a few isolated scattered mature adults at 6 individuals/100 meter transect and at 4 insects/site of 5th instar hoppers. Limited breeding was observed in Adrar in the northwestern part of the country in February. A similar situation was reported in central Algeria, but control operations were not necessary in either country during this period. The areas treated in Mauritania since the current campaign began in August 2006 remained unchanged, i.e., 2,359 h. *End note.*) In **Morocco**, a few isolated solitary individuals were observed in Oued Talghoumt and Khamlia in Errachidia region on the southern side of the Atlas Mountain. The situation in **Mali, Niger, Libya, Tunisia** and other countries in the region remained calm and significant changes are not anticipated in the coming months. (*Note: Mauritania sprayed close to 1.07 million ha (>2.64 million acres) from August 2004 to January 2005; that is more than 453 times the current figure and Algeria and Morocco both sprayed more than four times as many hectares as Mauritania. End note.*)

Eastern Region:

Southwest Asia remained calm in February but small-scale breeding may have commenced in spring breeding areas along southeastern **Iran** and western **Pakistan**. Significant

developments are not expected in this area in the coming months

Other locusts:

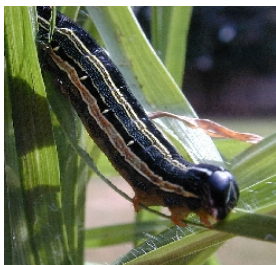
An update was not received on other locusts at the time this report was compiled, but it is expected that control operations in the Karoo district, the **Republic of South Africa**, southwest **Lesotho** and Middle Sabi, **Zimbabwe** have been concluded by now.



Brown Locust

Armyworm:

No new information was received on armyworm at the time this report was compiled. However, it is likely that some activities have been in progress in **Tanzania** and southern **Kenya** where pasture and/or irrigated crops may have been affected. Armyworm activities will likely continue and move north at a reduced rate than previously experienced largely due to heavy rains. Active monitoring and control interventions are necessary at all times to minimize potential damage to crops and pasture.



Armyworm caterpillar

Quelea birds:

No update was received on Quelea at the time this report was compiled. However, it is likely that Quelea activities may have been in progress in the outbreak and invasion areas in southern Africa and eastern Africa where irrigated crops may have been threatened. Quelea activities will likely continue in these areas in the coming months. Active surveillance and monitoring are essential.



Quelea birds

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide stocks remained unchanged in February in nearly all of the front-line countries except in Eritrea, Sudan and Saudi Arabia where some control operations were carried out against DL. Efforts to develop effective and safer handling and use of these stocks and to avoid potential disposal problems are in progress.

Country	Quantities in litters
Algeria	Data not available
Eritrea	<30,000*
Libya	Data not available
Mali	222,524
Mauritania	585,189
Morocco	3,998,365
Niger	184,084
Saudi Arabia	Data not available
Senegal	532,960**
Sudan	Data not available
Tunisia	Data not available
Yemen	Data not available

* This quantity should reflect the on-going operations against the DL.

** This is the most current inventory of stock in the country. Of this, the European Commission donated some 300,000 litres of pesticides in October 2004. Senegal has used up all of the leftover donations from the USAID joint operations. DPV collected empty containers, cleaned and punctured (plastic) or crushed (metal) and sent them to recycling firms in the country. A few leftover plastic containers have been cleaned, punctured and stored at a DPV facility in Dakar.

Announcement

Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) webpage can now be accessed at:

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

For more information on AELGA and related matters, please, contact:

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