

Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for December 2007

Summary:

The Desert Locust situation was reported serious in southeast **Ethiopia**, northeast **Kenya**, and the **Red Sea region** of **Sudan** in December.

Cross-border survey and interventions were launched in south-eastern Ethiopia and **Mandera District** of **Kenya** later in the month after the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) received clearance from GoE for air space. Close to 350 ha were sprayed in southern Ethiopia and some 1,250 ha were treated in Mandera, Kenya in December.

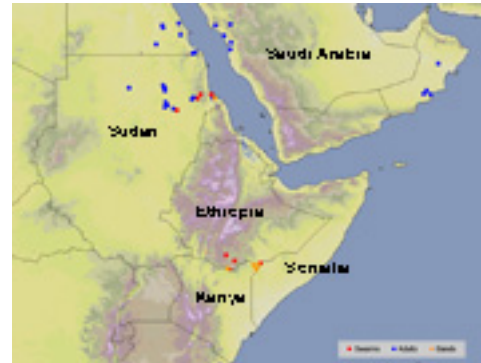
The situation in Mandera District was reported improved by the end of the month, but unconfirmed reports of the presence of hopper bands across the border in **Somalia** and southeast **Ethiopia** where survey and control operations were not possible until late in the month remained a concern during this period.



Immature locust swarm near Kebri Dehar, eastern Ethiopia, Dec. 31 (FAO/DLIS)

In Sudan, more than 9,820 ha were sprayed in Tokar Delta, in the Red Sea State against local populations and

locusts from the summer breeding areas (PPD/Sudan).



Locusts invasion areas in NE Kenya, SE Ethiopia, NE Sudan, Saudi Arabia and S Oman in December 07 (FAO/DLIS)

Ecological conditions remained favorable in and south of Tokar Delta and breeding will likely continue in the coming month. In **Egypt**, immature and mature adults were controlled on 10 ha near Lake Nassir and in **Saudi Arabia**, 27 ha were treated on the Red Sea coast in December (FAO/DLIS).

Scattered adults were sprayed in 766 ha in central **Algeria** and 3 ha in **Mauritania**. The situation remained calm in other areas in the region in December. Limited scale-breeding will likely occur in **southern Algeria** and **southeastern Morocco**, but significant activities are not expected in the coming month.

Mature locusts were controlled on 350 ha in the central eastern coastal plains of **Oman**. Hoppers and immature solitary adults were seen further north. Small-scale breeding occurred on the southeast coast of **Iran** where scattered hoppers were detected in December. No locusts were reported along the **Indo-Pakistan** borders. A few scattered adults will likely appear in spring breeding areas in **Baluchistan, Pakistan** (FAO/DLIS).

ETOP activities were not reported in **Central Asia**. Migratory locusts have begun developing in **West Timor** where control operations were minimal to none despite support provided by Australia and FAO. Locust operations are expected to escalate in 2008 in **Australia** in areas where long drought spells were broken by unusually good summer rains. **End summary**

This and previous Sitreps can be downloaded on AELGA webpage:

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

Climatological factors:

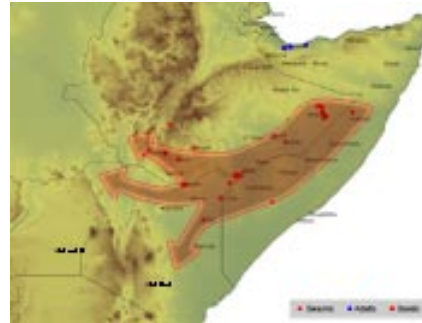
The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone remained far south of the summer invasion and outbreak areas across the Sahel and central Africa. Dry and unfavorable ecological conditions forced locusts to move to the winter breeding areas in northern Red Sea areas, southeastern Ethiopia, Somalia and northern Kenya where favorable conditions allowed the locusts to persist, breed and threaten crops and pasture.

Central Region

The Desert Locust situation remained serious in **southeast Ethiopia**, northeast **Kenya**, and the **Red Sea region of Sudan** in December. According to PPD/Addis and DLCO-EA, an immature swarm was seen flying over Kerbosh (N5297/E43164) towards southwest on 24 December, 2007.

Ground surveys covered some 885 ha and 5th instar hoppers and fledglings were controlled on 189 ha in Afder Zone, Heloguduudo (N0558/E4329), Kurtumale (N0556/E4330), Gebile (N0557/E4329)

and other areas in Gode (N5559/E43327, N55624/ E43308, N5548/E43342) in southeastern Ethiopia from 24-28 December 2007.



A few more swarms were expected to form and move south and southwest in Ethiopia and Kenya (FAO/DLIS)

Most of the infestations in and around Gode occurred in irrigated areas where vegetation was green and the soil was wet, but damage data was not available at the time this report was compiled. Fledging and immature swarms were reported in Mustahel (N0510/E4453) and Kelafo (N0530/E4412). Non-irrigated areas remained dry and no locusts were not reported in these areas (PPD/Addis) during the reporting month.

DLCO-EA commenced cross-border survey and control operations in southeastern and southern Ethiopia on the 3rd week of December after receiving clearance for airspace from the GoE, which it believed had saved time and scarce resources and contributed to abating the locust threat.

On December 20, 2007, DLCO-EA deployed an aircraft from Mandera, Kenya to southeastern Ethiopia where high-density 3rd instar hopper bands were controlled on 160 ha in Kachamo (035951N/414419E), Fikro (040011N/414213E & 040127N/414306E), Burabor (035908N/414506E), and Suftu (035816N/415123E). Another

In **Egypt**, immature and mature adults were controlled on 10 ha near Lake Nassir and in **Saudi Arabia**, 27 ha were treated on the Red Sea coast in December (FAO/DLIS).

Western Region

Scattered adults were sprayed in 766 ha in **central Algeria** and 3 ha were treated in **central Mauritania** in December. Limited scale-breeding will likely occur in southern Algeria and southeastern Morocco, but significant activities are not expected in the coming month. The rest of the countries in the western region remained calm in December and will likely remain so in the coming month (CLAA, DLIS, LAPC, PPDs).

Eastern Region

In **Oman**, control operations treated mature groups on 350 ha in the central eastern coastal plains. Hoppers and immature solitary adults were seen north of the areas where spray operations were carried out in December. Small-scale breeding occurred on the southeast coast of **Iran** where scattered hoppers were detected in December. No locusts were reported along the **Indo-Pakistan** borders. Low numbers of scattered adults will likely appear in the spring breeding areas in **Baluchistan, Pakistan** (FAO/DLIS).

Central Asia

No information was received on ETOP in central Asia and significant developments are not expected in the coming month.

West Timor and South Pacific

Migratory locusts begun developing in **West Timor** where control operations were minimal to none despite support

provided by Australia and FAO. In **Australia**, locust numbers will likely increase and control operations will escalate in spring of 2008 in areas where drought spells have been disrupted by widespread summer rains.

Red Locust:

The International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) reported that isolated, scattered populations of Red Locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*, **Serville**) were encountered during surveys in Buzi-Gorongosa plains in Mozambique. The situation remained relatively calm in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia in December.

African migratory locust

No report was received on the African Migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria migratorioides*) in either DLCO-EA or IRLCO-CSA members countries at the time this update was compiled.

Tree locusts

No report was received on tree locust (*Anacridium spp.*) in Kenya or other countries during this month.

Armyworm:

Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) outbreaks were reported in **Malawi** and **Tanzania** in December. In **Tanzania**, maize fields were attacked in **Same** district, Kilimanjaro region (see picture). Armyworm populations in the primary invasion areas appears to be above normal suggesting that this year may experience elevated outbreaks and threaten crops and pasture in Tanzania and elsewhere in East Africa.



Armyworm larvae damaging young maize plants in Same, Tanzania (Mushobozi, Dec. 07)

Quelea birds

Quelea (*Quelea quelea* L) activities were not reported at the time this update was compiled, but it is likely that they will be threatening crop fields in DLCO (irrigated) and IRLCO regions.

Front-line countries in the ETOP outbreak regions should remain vigilant and exercise mitigation and preventive interventions and minimize unexpected risks. Those in invasion areas should stay alert.

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

Note: Assistance provided by OFDA through a cooperative agreement (CA) continued sponsoring a National Professional Officer seconded to the EMPRES Program through December 2007 to assist countries in the Red Sea and the Horn Region. A number of countries in Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East continue

benefiting from CA-sponsored training in inventory taking, risk assessment, identification, repackaging, safeguarding and shipment of high-risk pesticides, and developing projects for the destruction of OPs decision making processes.

Funds from the CA also helped avert a potential crisis of washing away obsolete pesticides and contaminating the environment the Zambezi floods in Mozambique. **End note**

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories changed in December in Ethiopia and Sudan and to a lesser degree in Mauritania where control operations were launched against DL.

Country	Quantities in liters
Eritrea	44,800
Ethiopia	54,920
Mali	222,524
Mauritania	545,186
Morocco	3,998,365
Niger	184,084
Senegal	532,960
Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen	Data not available

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