

Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for November 2007

Summary:

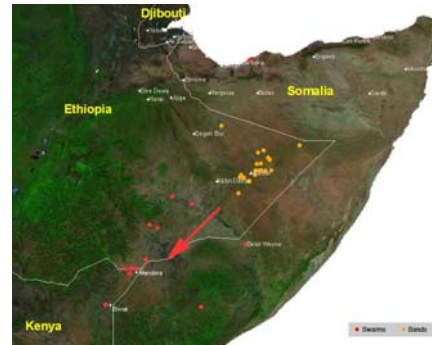
The desert locust (DL) situation continued gaining momentum in **Ethiopia, Somalia** and **Kenya** where swarms, egg laying and hoppers were seen. Control operations were carried out on more than 1,700 ha in eastern Ethiopia from 1-23 November. Swarms invaded northeastern **Kenya** (Mandera and Kalala) near the **Ethiopian** and **Somalia** borders, a phenomenon not seen for more than four decades. Crop damage was observed near the Dawa River on the **Ethiopian-Kenyan** border. Control operations are being coordinated by PPD/Kenya and DLCO-EA. In **Sudan** survey operations covered more than 134,000 ha and close to 17,200 ha were sprayed in November (PPD/Sudan). Adult locusts were seen and controlled in the Western Desert in **Egypt**. Small-scale breeding was reported in northeastern **Eritrea**, and **Yemen** and a similar situation may have occurred in **Saudi Arabia** (DLIS).



Adult DL basking in the early morning sun in Mandera, northeastern Kenya, Nov. 2007 (ASEP)

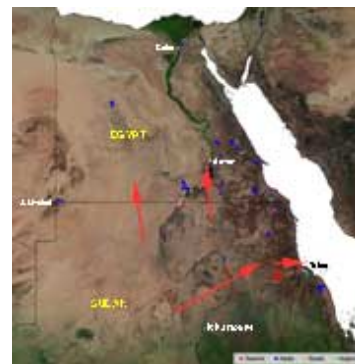
West and Northwest Africa remained calm and only a few groups of adults and hoppers were seen in central **Mauritania** and northern **Niger** where small-scale breeding took place (CNLA/Morocco, INPV/Algeria and PPD/Libya). Summer breeding areas in Southwest Asia

remained fairly calm and only two small swarms were treated in 250 ha in Baluchistan, **Pakistan** during the first week of November (DLIS).



Swarms migration pattern, hatching and hopper locations in eastern Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya (mod from FAO/DLIS).

Locust numbers will gradually increase in winter breeding areas in the Horn and the Red Sea regions in Sudan, Egypt, Yemen, S. Arabia and also in the West in Mauritania and Niger (PPD/Sudan, DLIS, PPD/Eritrea, CLAA/Mauritania). Active survey, monitoring and preventive interventions are recommended. **End summary**



Swarms are moving towards the Red Sea coast in Sudan and adult are moving northwards in Egypt (FAO/DLS)

This and previous Sitreps can be accessed on AELGA webpage:

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

Central Region:

Swarms from southeastern Ethiopia invaded northeast **Kenya** (Mandera and Kalala) near the tri-state borders with **Ethiopia** and **Somalia** in November. Crop damage was observed near the Dawa River on the **Ethiopian-Kenyan** border. This phenomenon has not occurred for nearly five decades in this country. Control operations are being coordinated by PPD/Kenya and DLCO-EA. Gregarious and solitary hoppers were detected in **Belet Weyne** in **Juba** region in **Somalia** near the **Kenya** border by a local NGO around mid-November. A similar situation may be in progress in central and southern **Somalia** where survey and control operations cannot be carried out. In eastern **Ethiopia**, breeding, hatching and hopper bands were detected in parts of the Ogaden region where PPD/Ethiopia and DLCO-EA treated more than 1,700 ha in November. Hopper bands that are not controlled in **Kenya** could form swarms in January and move further south and threaten agriculture here and perhaps in **Tanzania**.

Survey operations were carried out in more than 134,000 ha and close to 17,200 ha were sprayed against adults and hoppers in the Northern State, the River Nile State, Kassala State, Northern Kordofan, and the Red Sea State in **Sudan** in November (PPD/Sudan). Several small swarms from summer breeding in the interior of the country have begun moving east towards the Red Sea coast where breeding is already in progress. Small hopper bands were reported in the main agricultural area in coastal areas of Tokar Delta.

Groups of adult locusts have been reported in oases in the Western Desert in **Egypt** some of which have reached Cairo. These locusts may have come from

summer breeding areas in **Sudan** and augmented by local breeding in Upper Nile in **Egypt**. Control operations treated some 168 ha. Small-scale breeding has also occurred in the winter breeding areas in southeastern **Egypt**, northeastern **Eritrea**, and **Yemen** and will likely continue and locust numbers will increase gradually and during the coming months if conditions remain favorable (PPD/Sudan, DLIS, PPD/Ethiopia, PPD/Eritrea,).

It is important that active monitoring and preventive control interventions are implemented to avert a potentially dangerous situation.

Note:** The prolonged and earlier than usual breeding in the Red Sea coasts and the Horn is a phenomenon that may have been influenced by the on-going climatological aberration. **End note.

Western Region

Scattered, solitary and groups of immature and mature adults and hoppers were seen in hundreds of ha in southwest Adrar, northeast and northwest borders of Trarza and Brakna and the northwestern border of Tagant in November. Immature adults were also reported in southeast Hodh el Chargui. Locust numbers will likely increase in the southern corridor of Adrar where hatching may have taken place and will likely continue in the coming dekads in **Mauritania**. Small-scale breeding also occurred in northern **Niger** and perhaps northeastern Chad. No information was received in western Sudan, including Darfur at the time this report was compiled. The DL situation remained calm in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya during this period and no further activities are expected in the coming month.

Eastern Region

The situation in the summer breeding areas in the eastern outbreak region in southwest Asia remained fairly calm and only two unexpected swarms were detected and controlled in some 250 ha in Baluchistan, **Pakistan** during the first week of November (DLIS).

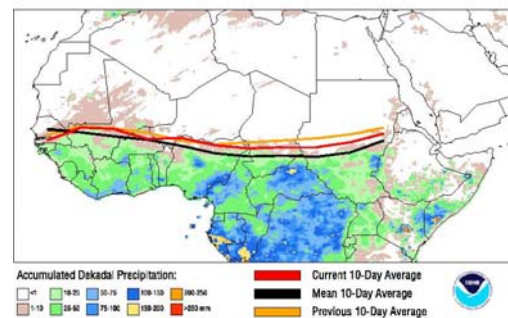
Note: Assistance provided by OFDA through a cooperative agreement (CA) with the UN/FAO continues strengthening capacities of host-countries to prevent, control and mitigate ETOP emergencies and address obsolete pesticides (OPs). CA funds are sponsoring a National Professional Officer seconded to the FAO/EMPRES Program in Yemen to assist Locust Control officers in Yemen and neighboring 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, developing projects for the destruction of OPs as well as assisting host-country decision making processes on this.

*It is worth mentioning that funds from the CA enabled FAO to rapidly relocate obsolete pesticides from flooded areas in the Zambezi basin in Mozambique to a safer location earlier in the year. This has averted a potential crisis of the floods washing away the pesticides and gravely contaminating the environment. **End note***

Climatological factors: In November, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone moved far south of the summer locust invasion or outbreak areas across the Sahel and central Africa (the below map from NOAA shows the ITCZ position by

the end of October for your perception). As most of the locusts in the Red Sea regions have begun moving to the winter breeding areas in northeastern Sudan, southeastern Ethiopia, Somalia and lately to northern Kenya any precipitation in these areas will likely create favorable conditions for the locusts to breed, increase in number and pose a threat to crops and pasture.

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



Central Asia

No information was received on locusts from the central region and no activities are expected in the coming month.

East and West Timor

No information was received from **East** or **West Timor** at the time this sitrep was compiled.

Red Locust:

According to the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA), the Red Locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*, **Serville**) situation remained relatively calm in the primary outbreak areas in Lake Chilwa/Lake Chiuta plains in Malawi, Buzi-Gorongosa plains in Mozambique, Iku-Katavi, Wembere, and Rukwa plains as well as Malagarasi Basin in Tanzania

and Kafue Flats and Mweru wa Ntipa plains in Zambia in November.

African migratory locust

The African Migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria migratorioides*) invasions that occurred in Humera, Kuara, Metema and Tsegede Woredas in northwestern Ethiopia bordering Sudan have been controlled and no further activities were reported by PPD/Ethiopia at the time this sitrep was compiled.

Tree locusts

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

Armyworm:

According to IRLCO-CSA, armyworm outbreaks were reported in several districts in Malawi from late October to early November 2007. The pest was seen attacking maize and pasture and control operations were carried out by farmers with material and technical assistance from the MoA.

Armyworm outbreaks will likely occur in other countries in the region and national PPD staff should maintain regular survey, monitoring and exercise timely reporting of trap catches.

Quelea birds

Quelea (*Quelea quelea* L) and other grain eating birds were reported threatening irrigated paddy rice in Kisumu and Siaya districts in Kenya. It is expected that Quelea activities will commence from January on in other IRLCO-CSA-member countries.

Front-line countries in the outbreak regions should remain vigilance and exercise mitigation and preventive control interventions to reduce risks 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 often necessary.

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories remained unchanged in November in front-line countries except in Ethiopia and in Sudan, where control operations were launched against DL.

Country	Quantities in liters
Ethiopia	56,00
Mali	222,524
Mauritania	545,189
Morocco	3,998,365
Niger	184,084
Senegal	532,960
Algeria, Eritrea, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen	Data not available

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