

**Emergency Transboundary
Outbreak Pest (ETOP) situation
update for May, 2008 with a
forecast till July**

Summary:

Desert Locust: The desert locust situation remained relatively calm in May in most of the spring breeding areas and control operations only treated 1,280 ha in central **Algeria** and 9 ha in northwestern **Mauritania** during this period. The situation in northern **Mali** and **Niger** where scattered adults normally begin appearing and laying about this time was unclear. No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in southern **Ethiopia**. Nonetheless, the summer rains and favorable ecological conditions will likely allow escapee adults to lay and hoppers to develop. There is also a slight chance of adults moving east into the **Ogaden** region and breeding freely where the ongoing situation will likely undermine interventions. It is important that efforts focus on abating swam movements and unexpected surprises are minimized. No locusts were seen in **Sudan** or **Eritrea** during surveys carried out in May and only a few scattered adults were detected in the Red Sea coasts in **Yemen** and a similar situation may exist on the other side of the Red in **Somalia**. Locust numbers declined in the winter and spring breeding areas in southern **Iran** and western **Pakistan**. A few adults will likely appear along the **Indo-Pakistan** border and begin breeding with the onset of the Monsoon rains, but significant developments are not

expected during this time. Nonetheless, survey and monitoring are essential as the summer rains have begun in many places tailgating the northern migration of the inter-tropical front (FAO/DLIS, AELGA, DLCO-EA, national PPDs/DPVs).

Other ETOPs:

**Moroccan and Italian locusts in
Central Asia:**

Infestations of **Moroccan** locust that were reported in the southern region of **Tajikistan** adjacent to northern **Afghanistan** will soon come to an end as population continue declining. Control operations will soon shift to the northern part of the country where more and more populations of **Italian** locust will likely begin appearing in the coming months. Infestations of Moroccan locust in eastern **Uzbekistan** appeared to have been more serious than anticipated (details are being awaited on this). No locusts were reported in May in **northwest Afghanistan** where plant protection officers launched control operations earlier (FAO, USAID).

Note: OFDA/AELGA is working closely with FAO to explore options to develop a platform or a mechanism to assist Central Asian and Caucus countries to develop and strengthen the capacity for locust operations on a regional scale. End note.

Rat infestations: No new information was received on rodent situation in **Bangladesh** or other countries in the region at the time this report was

compiled and new outbreaks are not expected.

Red Locust: **Red Locust** swarms covering more than 4 km long and 1 km wide were detected in Buzi-Gorongosa, the Dimba Plains during surveys carried out in May by the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture in **Mozambique** and **Malawi**. Crop damage was reported on maize and sorghum. IRLCO cautioned that interventions are urgently needed to abate what seems to be a serious threat to countries in the sub-region

Armyworm outbreaks were reported in **Kenya** and **Ethiopia** and quelea activities were seen in several provinces of **Tanzania** and Eastern Province of **Kenya**. Aerial control operations were carried out on thousands of hectares of crop and fields and grazing land with assistance of DLCO-EA (DLCO-EA, MoAFSC, personal account).

This and other archived Sitreps can be accessed and downloaded on our website:

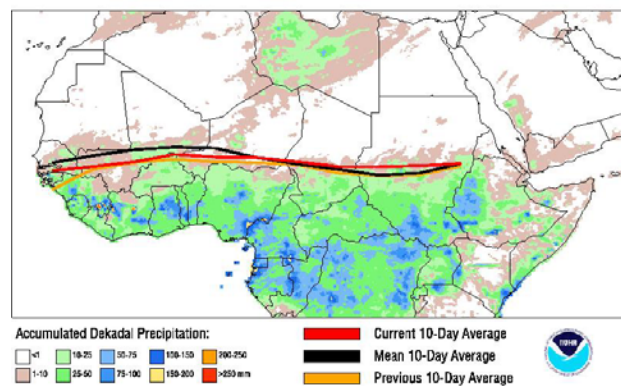
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/ **End summary.**

Climatological factors:

The African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) or Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was located at around 13.9 degrees N, slightly

south of 14.1 degrees N, the normal during the third dekad of May (see map, from NOAA). However, rainfall has been slightly below normal in several locations south of the ITF. The ITF in the west was almost a degree north (14.3 N) than in the east (13.5 N), but still lower than the long time mean of 15.2 N in the west but higher than the mean of 12.9 N in the east (modified from NOAA).

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
May 2008 Dekad 3



ETOP Situation and Activities:

Central Region

Surveys were carried out in May in southern **Ethiopia** and Oromia region where a few highly mobile swarms persisted in previous months, but locust were not detected. However, the onset of the summer rains and improved ecological conditions may allow escapee adults to lay and hoppers to begin developing here. There is a remote chance of some adults moving east into the Ogaden region where they may breed freely due to the ongoing situation that will hamper survey and interventions (PPD/Addis). No locusts were seen in **Sudan** or **Eritrea** during surveys carried out in these countries

and only a few scattered adults were detected in the Red Sea coasts in **Yemen** and a similar situation may exist on the other side of the Red coast (PPD/Asmara, PPD/Khartoum, FAO-DLIS, DLCO-EA).

Western Region:

Small-scale control operations were carried out in **Algeria** and northwest **Mauritania** where a total of 1,289 ha were sprayed (1,280 in Algeria and 9 in Mauritania) in May. The ongoing security problem in **Mali** and **Niger** continued hindering survey operations (FAO/DLIS, CLAA/Mauritania, DDLC/Libya, INPV/Algeria).

Eastern region:

Locust numbers declined in the spring breeding areas in southern **Iran** and western **Pakistan**. A few adults will likely appear and begin breeding along the **Indo-Pakistan** border with the onset of the Monsoon rains, but significant developments are not expected. As the vegetation continued drying up in the region, adult locusts are expected to move to the summer breeding areas along both sides of the **Indo-Pakistan** borders where they will likely begin laying with the onset of the summer rains from June on (FAO/DLIS).

Central Asia - Moroccan and Italian Locusts

Infestations of **Moroccan** locust that were reported in the southern region of **Tajikistan** adjacent to northern **Afghanistan** will soon come to an end

as population continue declining. Control operations will soon shift to the northern part of the country where more and more populations of **Italian** locust will likely begin appearing in the coming months. So far, FAO has put together an assistance package worth over \$410,160 through the UN CERF for **Tajikistan**.

Infestations of Moroccan locust in eastern **Uzbekistan** appeared to have been more serious than anticipated (details are being awaited on this). No locusts were reported in May in **northwest Afghanistan** where plant protection officers launched control operations earlier (FAO, USAID).

Large locust outbreaks can significantly affect grazing land and undermine livestock production which, according to information from USAID field staff, has already been hit hard by lack of grazing land and as a matter of fact, Kuchis in **Afghanistan** requested Turkmenistan to allow them to graze their herds there.

Note: OFDA/AELGA is working closely with FAO to explore options to develop a platform or a mechanism to assist Central Asian and Caucus countries to develop and strengthen the capacity for locust operations in their regional. End note.

The Timors and South Pacific

No new information was received on the locust situation in the **Timors** at the time this update was compiled, but it is likely that hoppers and bands of **Migratory locust** are present and pose threats to pasture, maize and/or rice crops in

valleys and other areas. Cross-border infestations often impact both countries. **This time last year**, control operations missed a chance to abate the making of locust infestations in **West Timor**. It is important that a situation like this is avoided to the extent possible.

Summer locust operations in 2008 in **Australia** was elevated in areas that received unusually good rains after a prolonged drought. Further details are being awaited.

Red Locust:

The International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) carried out Red Locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata* Serville) survey operations in the Buzi-Gorongosa Red Locust outbreak area and the Dimba Plains in Caia district of Sofala Province and the Lake Chilwa/Lake Chiuta plains in the Republic of Malawi in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture in Mozambique and Malawi. Survey operations were conducted using the Organisation's Bell 206 III Jet Ranger Helicopter.

Large and dense swarms measuring up to 4km long and 1 km wide were located in the Dimba Plains (Dimba Plains extend well into Mozambique). Some swarms escaped from the Dimba Plains and caused damage to sorghum and maize in Ntopa, Chatala, Nsona, Nhacueaha, villages some 20 to 45 km from Dimba Plains. **If left uncontrolled, swarms could escape and invade adjacent areas in**

Mozambique and neighboring countries. IRLCO puts a total estimated appeal to address the red locust issue in Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania at about US \$222,000.

Armyworm:

African armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) infestations occurred in 11 districts in Eastern Province of **Kenya** in early to mid-May, 2008. An update from the DLCO-EA indicates that the infestations that were first reported at the end of April in **Kenya** continued being a problem in Eastern and Central Provinces as well as the Rift Valley region of the country. Crop and pasture damage was reported on more than 50,000 ha. Ground control operations were launched and the infestations were abated in many places by the end of May.

Outbreaks of armyworm were also reported on some 279,480 ha of crops and pasture in 93 districts in six regions in the southern and southeastern parts of Ethiopia. Control operations treated more than 26,000 ha of crop fields and pasture (PPD/Addis).

Given the seasonal migration of the pest, and the movement of the ITF, outbreaks will likely be witnessed in the central and northern parts of **Kenya**, the eastern, northern and northeastern parts of **Ethiopia**. The pest will likely begin appearing in southern and the highlands of **Eritrea** by the end of June. Active surveillance and monitoring through trap catches are essential to determine the moth migration patterns and intensity as well as plan on preventive/curative interventions. The armyworm season in Tanzania has come to an end (DLCO-EA,

Mushobozi, Red Cross, personal observations).

operations were carried out during this time.

Quelea birds

Outbreaks of Quelled birds (*Quelea quelea* L) were reported in Kenya and Tanzania in May. This pest will likely continue posing a problem to small grain cereal crop farmers in **Kenya, Tanzania** and **Zimbabwe** in the coming months (MoAFSC/Tanzania, personal account, DLCO-EA).

Country	Quantities in l/kg
Eritrea	44,800
Ethiopia	47,730
Mali	222,524
Mauritania	545,166
Morocco	3,998,365
Niger	184,084
Senegal	532,960
Sudan	735,676

Rodents

No new information was received on the rodent situation in **Bangladesh** or other countries in the region at the time this report was compiled and new outbreaks are not expected.

Data on pesticide stocks was not available for Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen at the time this report was compiled.

Recommendation:

Front-line countries should remain vigilant and exercise preventive interventions. Invasion countries should stay alert and implement preventive strategies. Countries in the outbreak zones should collect information on ETOP regularly and share it with all stakeholders as often as possible.

Note:** OFDA/AELGA is working with the FAO Pesticide Disposal and Prevention Project to address the long-standing issue of obsolete and dangerous pesticide stockpiles in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus where hundreds of thousands of tones of such products are literally littering the environment (residential areas, old state farms, play grounds, pasture, water ways, etc.) of these countries. Currently, a number of countries are benefiting from activities co-sponsored through USAID/OFDA Cooperative Agreement to FAO. **End note

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

Point of Contact:

For more information please, contact:
Yeneneh T. Belayneh, Ph.D.,

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories did not change much in May since no major control

ybelayneh@ofda.gov or visit us at:

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