

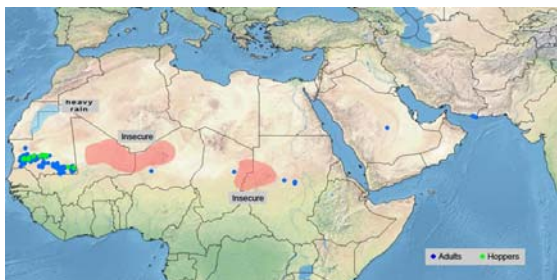
**Emergency Transboundary  
Outbreak Pest (ETOP) situation  
update for September with a  
forecast till November, 2008**

## Summary

**Desert Locust:** Small-scale breeding continued in southern **Mauritania** and a similar situation may exist in northern **Mali** and **Niger** where surveys were impeded by on-going security problems. Scattered adults were reported in northeastern **Chad**, in the interior of **Sudan** and on a farm in **Saudi Arabia**. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the summer breeding areas in the western, central or eastern regions.

## Forecast

Locusts will move from southern **Mauritania** to the north and northwestern Mauritania and southern **Morocco** and will likely breed in the coming months. Locusts will also migrate from the interior of **Sudan** west of the Nile to the Red Sea region and lay eggs. Egg laying could also occur on the coastal areas in **Saudi Arabia**, **Yemen** and **Eritrea** during the forecast period, but significant developments are not expected (FAO-DLIS, DPVs, PPDs).



Insecurity and heavy rains - cause for concern in Sahel West and northwest Africa (FAO-DLIS)

## Other ETOPs

No additional information was received on **Italian** locust or other locusts in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

**Note:** A team of experts is in the field assessing and assisting Central Asian countries to develop a regional platform for locust control. The mission is being sponsored by FAO, OFDA, and others.  
**End note.**

**Red Locust:** No new information was received at the time this report was compiled, however, the extensive grass burning in most of the Red Locust outbreak areas may have forced locusts to concentrate in unburned areas. It is likely that the ground is bare and ideal for egg laying, especially in flooded areas.

**Armyworm** season has ended in **Ethiopia**, **Kenya** or **Yemen**, but the season will soon begin in southern Africa.

**Quelea** New information was not received at the time this report was compiled, however, **Quelea** birds may continue threatening irrigated rice crops in **Kenya** where earlier **DLCOEA** aircraft launched control operations. It may also threaten winter wheat in **Zimbabwe**.  
**End summary.**

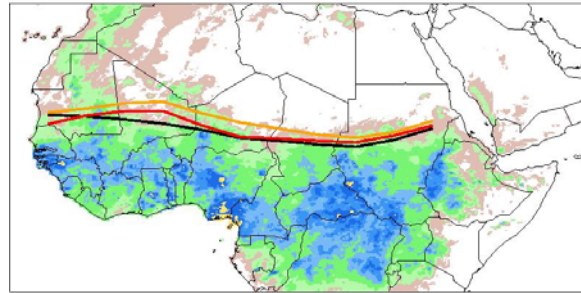
**Current and archived Sitreps can be accessed on our website at:**

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/locust/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/)

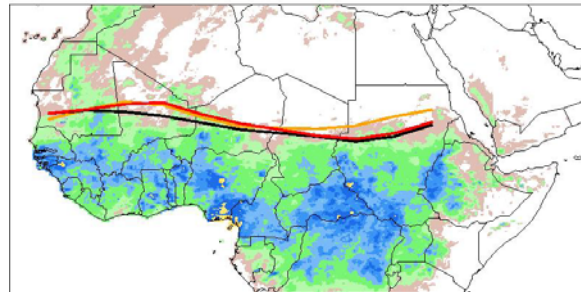
Climatological and ecological factors

In September, the Africa portion of the Intern-Tropical Front (ITF) across the west and the east zones progressively moved south from its position in August. There were a couple of days during the third dekad when ITF surged northward into the Sahara desert across Mali and Mauritania resulting in light precipitation in some areas where conditions were favorable until they gradually began declining. The ITF averaged at 17.3N in the west and 15.1N in the east this month, which is slightly higher than its long-term mean positions of 16.6N and 14.7N in the west and the east, respectively(mod from NOAA). **(Note: the 2004-05 campaign and the harsh weather that followed effectively broke the breeding cycle of the locust upsurge that had the potential to develop into a full blown multiple year plague. End note.)**

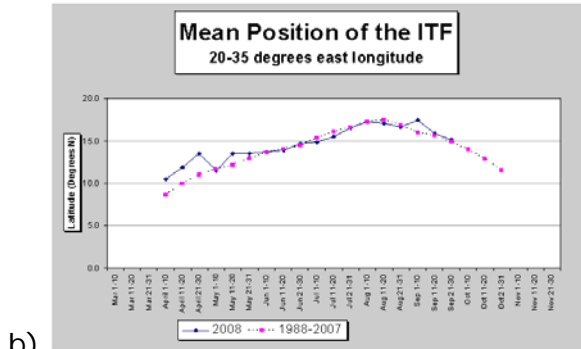
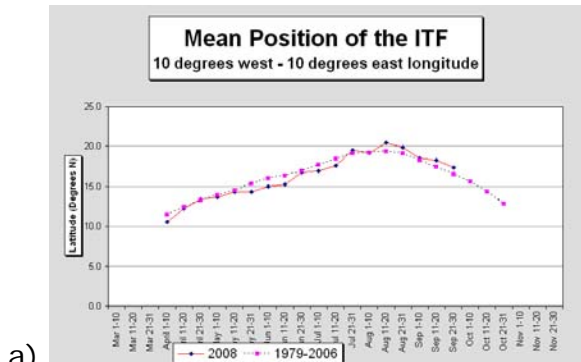
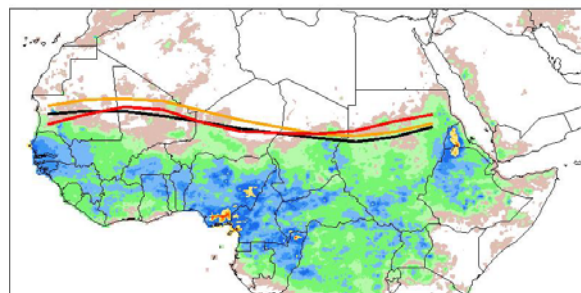
Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF  
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center  
September 2008 Dekad 3



Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF  
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center  
September 2008 Dekad 2



Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF  
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center  
September 2008 Dekad 1



ETOP Situation and Activities

Western Region

The Desert Locust situation remained relatively calm in the western region and only small-scale breeding was reported in southern **Mauritania** in September. A

similar situation may have existed in northern **Mali** and **Niger**, but could not be confirmed due to security problems. A few isolated adults were seen in northeastern **Chad**, but no locusts were reported elsewhere in the region during this period.

### Forecast

With the summer rains ending, vegetation drying out and ecological conditions continue becoming unfavorable, locusts will be forced to move into patches of green vegetation. Adult locusts in southern **Mauritania** have already begun moving north and northwest and some of locusts may reach southwestern **Morocco** where they will likely breed in the months to come (FAO-DLIS).

### Central Region

Adult locusts were reported in the summer breeding areas in the interior of **Sudan** west of the Nile. Isolated adults were also seen on a farm in the interior of **Saudi Arabia**. No locusts were detected in **Egypt**, **Eritrea**, northern **Somalia** or **Oman**. Ecological conditions were unfavorable and surveys were not carried out in eastern and southern **Ethiopia**. Despite good rains that fell in the Red Sea coasts of **Yemen**, surveys were not carried out and it is not clear whether locusts persisted.

### Forecast

Adult locusts will likely move from the interior of **Sudan** to the Red Sea coast and lay eggs during the forecast period. Limited breeding may take place on the coastal areas of **Yemen**, **Saudi Arabia** and **Eritrea** during the forecast period, but significant developments are not expected.

### Eastern Region

The summer breeding areas in Rajasthan, **India** remained calm. Scattered adults were

seen in southeastern coast of **Iran**. No reports were received from **Afghanistan** or **Pakistan** during this period(FAO-DLIS).

### Forecast

Due to poor monsoon rains, ecological conditions remained largely unfavorable and limited locust activities. As a result, significant developments are not expected in the coming months.

### Central Asia

No new information was received on the **Italian** locust or other locusts in CA during this period and further development is not expected.

**Note:** Three major locust species, i.e. **Italian**, **Migratory**, and **Moroccan** locusts affect more than 27 million people in CA and the caucuses. During the Soviet era, locust operations in CA and the caucuses were carried out through a centralized structure. After the countries in the region became independent, the structure fell apart and locust operations were left to individual countries. Most of these countries lack fully functional units or viable technical capability to counter locust invasions on their own. As a result, locusts were allowed to move across political boundaries and cause damage to crops and pasture.

With assistance from OFDA and others, FAO deployed a team to assess and assist CA and neighboring countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan as well as Afghanistan and adjacent areas in Russian Federation to identify ways and means of strengthening capacities for a regional coordination of locust survey and control. **End note.**

**Red Locust:-** No new information was received at the time this report was compiled, however, extensive grass burning that took place in most of the Red Locust outbreak areas may have concentrated adult locusts in unburned areas, but significant developments are not expected during the forecast period.



No new information was received on the **African migratory locust** and **tree locusts** in September.

### The Timors and South Pacific

Although new information was not received at the time this update was compiled, it is likely that hoppers of **Migratory locust** are present and threaten pasture, maize and/or rice crops in **East Timor**. Cross-border infestations can impact both **East** and **West Timor** and **require** active surveillance and preventive interventions.

In **Australia**, locust operations are expected to increase in 2008 as a result of unusually good rains that fell in the outbreak areas ending a prolonged drought. Spray operations are expected to commence in October/November.

**Armyworm:-** **Armyworm** season has ended in **Ethiopia**, **Kenya** and **Yemen**, but will soon begin in southern Africa.

**Quelea** No update was received at the time this report was compiled, however, the bird may have continued being a threat to irrigated rice crops in Nyanza and the Rift Valley provinces in **Kenya** where earlier **DLCOEA** aircraft launched control operations and to winter wheat in **Zimbabwe**. **Quelea** activities were not reported in **Tanzania** in September.

**Note:** Grass burning that is practiced in the IRLCO region destroys the primary food source of the **Quelea** birds, grass seeds, and forces them into searching for alternative sources, small grain crops. **End note.**



**Forecast:** **Quelea** infestations are likely to continue being a problem to rice in **Kenya** and perhaps winter wheat in **Zimbabwe**.

### Recommendations:

Front-line countries are advised to remain vigilant. Countries in the outbreak zones should seize every opportunity to strengthen and maintain their preventive capacity to avoid any unexpected surprises. PPDs and DPVs should continue



sharing ETOP and related information with stakeholders as often as they can.

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

### Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories in front-line and outbreak countries remained unchanged as no interventions were undertaken in September.

Country	Quantities in l/kg@
Algeria	1,800,000**
Burkina Faso	0.00
Cape Verde	0.00
Chad	108,085
Eritrea	44,800
Ethiopia	12,300~
Gambia, Libya*	??
Mali	230,000
Mauritania	497,600+
Morocco	4,107,300
Niger	69,000
Saudi Arabia*	??
Senegal	519,000
Sudan	735,676
Tunisia*	167,600*
Yemen*	??

@some of these pesticide have expired or will soon expire

\*Current data not available at the time this report was compiled  
+ Mauritania donated 70,000 litres to Yemen in July 2007

\*\* Inventory expected to be updated  
~ this represents only DLCO's stock

**Note:** Many countries continue benefiting from obsolete pesticide management activities co-sponsored by USAID/OFDA's Cooperative Agreement with the UN FAO through capacity building and by other partners. **End note.**

### Point of Contact:

For more information please, contact:

**Yene T. Belayneh, Ph.D.,**  
[ybelayneh@ofda.gov](mailto:ybelayneh@ofda.gov)

or visit us at:

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/locust/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/)