

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

Summary

Desert Locust:

The Desert Locust situation remained relatively calm in the summer breeding areas in Sahel West Africa, the Central Region and the Eastern Region in October. Only a few scattered adults were reported in northern **Mauritania** and northeastern **Chad** and the interior of **Sudan**. A similar situation may be present in northern **Mali** and **Niger**, where survey operations could not be carried out due to security problems. No locusts were reported in other countries in the Sahel, North Africa or the Horn during this period. The situation also remained fairly calm along the **Indo-Pakistan** borders, **Afghanistan** and **Iran**.

Forecast

Some breeding will likely occur during the forecast period in northwestern **Mauritania** and **Western Sahara** where rains fell in September and conditions are favorable. The unusually heavy rains and flooding that occurred on October 23 and 25th in eastern **Yemen** and the rains that fell in parts of western **Oman** will likely create favorable conditions for locusts to breed and numbers to slightly increase during the forecast period. **Some** locust activities may also be seen in the coasts of **Saudi Arabia** and perhaps, **Sudan** and **Eritrea**, but

significant developments are unlikely (AELGA, CNLA, DLCO-EA, FAO-DLIS).

Other ETOPs

No information was received on **Italian** locust or other locusts in Central Asia and the Caucuses. Significant developments are not expected during the forecast period.

Red Locust: No update was received at the time this report was compiled, however, the extensive grass burning that occurred in most of the Red Locust outbreak areas may have forced locusts to concentrate in unburned areas where breeding may have occurred and locust and numbers have increased in the primary outbreak areas in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia.

Armyworm activities were not reported at the time this Sitrep was compiled, but the pest will soon begin appearing in its seasonal breeding areas in Southern Africa where it will likely threaten grain crops and pasture before beginning its northward migration (DLCO-EA, AELGA).

Large numbers of **Quelea** birds were controlled in September and October in Amhara and Oromiya regions in **Ethiopia**, in Ahita and Kirie areas in **Kenya** and in Kilimanjaro Region in **Tanzania**. The birds were seen feeding on irrigated rice and/or other small grain crops. Aerial control operations were launched by DLCO-EA (AELGA, DLCO-EA).

OFDA supported/launched activities:

- Sponsored capacity strengthening through FAO's EMPRES programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to DL emergencies in the western and the central regions.
- Funding DLCO-EA to strengthen national and regional capacities for DL operations in Greater Horn of Africa.
- Supported assessment and project development missions for locust monitoring and operations in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (EECAC).
- Assisted FAO with seed money to leverage \$1 million from GEF funds and an additional \$1.2 million from other sources for obsolete pesticide disposal and prevention in EECAC countries.
- Planned to launch workshops on **pesticide risk reduction** through stewardship network in Kenya and Ethiopia.

OFDA/TAG through Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) will continue monitoring ETOP situation and issue updates and advise as often as necessary. End summary

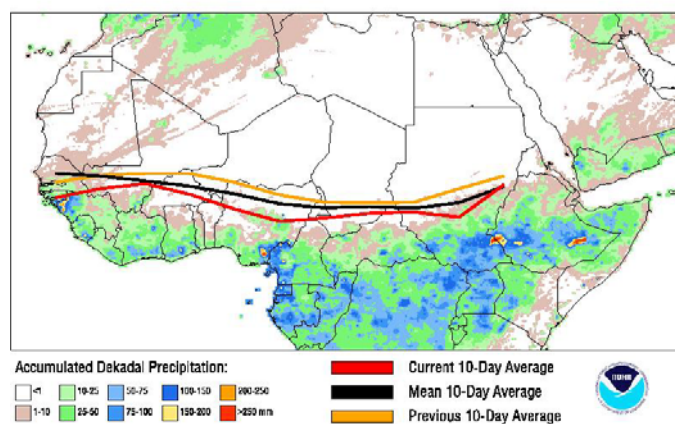
The current and archived Sitreps can be accessed on our website at:

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

Climatological and ecological factors

During the 3rd dekad of October, 2008, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF, the Front), was located at around 11.2N latitude, compared to the mean of 12.4N - approximately a 1.9 degree drop from the 2nd dekad and marks the 2nd consecutive dekad where the Front was south of its normal position.

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

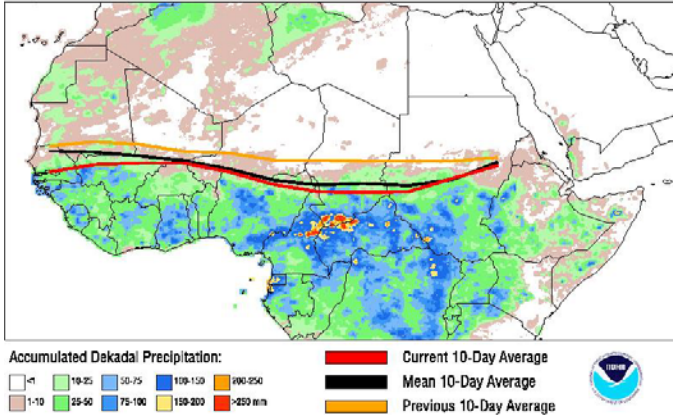


It is now slightly south of its average position across all of Africa with 11.7N north in the west and 10.9N in the east compared with a long-time mean of around 13.0N in the west, and a normal position of around 11.5N in the east (see map and graphs; Mod from NOAA, October, 2008). Unusually heavy rains and severe flooding hit eastern Yemen on 23 and 25 October. The rain, but not the floods, extended to central Oman.

During the second dekad of October, the Front was located at around 13.1N latitude an approximately a 2.5 degree drop from last dekad (see graphs). It was slightly south of the average across Senegal, Mali and Chad. Due to the rapid movement of the Front during the past dekad, rainfall from early in the period fell north of the dekad long mean. The Front was positioned at 13.9N in the west and 12.5N in the east,

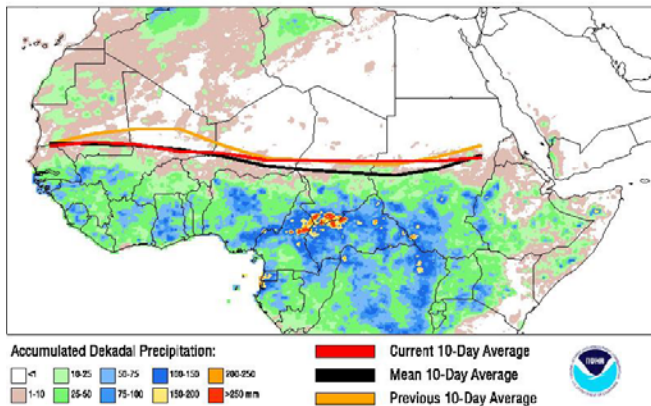
far south of the mean of around 14.5N in the west and 13.0N in the east.

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



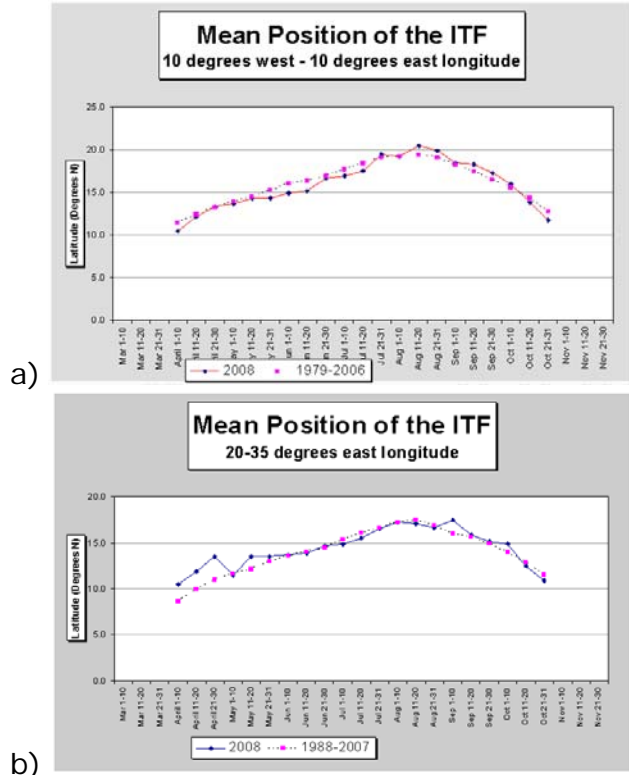
During the first dekad of October, the Front was located at around 15.6N latitude compared to the mean of 15.1N. For a couple of days it surged northward into the Sahara desert across Mali and Mauritania resulting in light precipitation in some areas. It was positioned at 16.0N in the west and 14.9N in the east compared with the mean of around 15.8N in the west, and a normal position of around 14.0N in the east during the past three decades

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



Note: the 2004-05 campaign and the subsequent harsh weather effectively disrupted the

development cycle of the locust upsurge that could have otherwise reached a full blown multiple year plague. End note.



ETOP Situation and Activities

Western Region

The Desert Locust situation remained relatively calm in the western region and only slight increases was seen in northwestern **Mauritania** due to local breeding and locusts coming from the southern parts of the country. Isolated adults were sighted in northeastern **Chad** and a similar situation may be present in northern **Mali** and **Niger**, but could not be confirmed due to the ongoing problem. No locusts were reported in Sahelian West Africa and northern Africa (CNLA, FAO, OFDA).

Forecast

Isolated and small-scale breeding will likely occur in the coming months in northwestern **Mauritania** and **Western Sahara** where ecological conditions are improving due to rains that fell in September, but significant developments are not expected during the forecast period (OFDA, CNLA, FAO-DLIS).

Central Region

A few solitary adults were seen in the summer breeding areas in the interior of **Sudan** east of the Nile and in the Red Sea Hills. A few adult locusts were seen along the coasts of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and limited breeding was detected near Aden, **Yemen**. No locust were reported in other countries in the region in October.

Forecast

The unusually heavy rains that fell in eastern **Yemen** and caused severe flooding and extended into central **Oman** will likely create favorable conditions for locusts to breed and increase in numbers during the forecast period and possibly beyond.



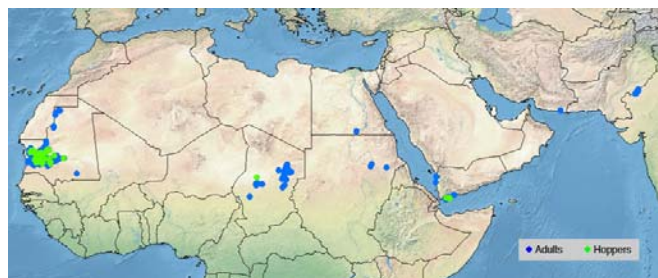
Torrential rains for 30 hours caused severe flooding in eastern Yemen (FAO-DLIS)

Eastern Region

A few isolated scattered adults were seen in southeastern coast of **Iran** and in the **Cholistan Desert** in **Pakistan** along the summer breeding areas bordering **India**, but no locusts were reported in Rajasthan, **India** or **Afghanistan** during this period (FAO-DLIS).

Forecast

As monsoon rains have ended, vegetation has dried up and unfavorable ecological conditions persist and significant developments are not expected and only a few solitary adults will likely persist during the forecast period (AELGA, FAO-DLIS).



Areas with potential breeding during the forecast period (FAO-DLIS)

Central Asia and the Caucasus

No new information was received on the **Italian** locust or other species of locusts in the CA&C region in October and no further development is expected during the forecast period.

Note: Three major locust species, namely, **Italian**, **Migratory**, and **Moroccan** locusts affect more than 27 million people in CA&C and region. In pre-independence CA&C, locust operations were carried out through a centralized structure. The structure fell apart and locust operations were left to individual countries after independence. Most of these countries lack functional units or viable technical capability to counter locust invasions on their own. As a result, locusts were free to breed profusely

and traverse political boundaries causing significant damage to crops and pasture. With assistance from OFDA and other resources, FAO deployed a team to assess and assist CA&C - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan as well as adjacent areas in Russian Federation and Afghanistan to identify ways and means of strengthening capacities for a regional coordination of locust survey and control operations. **End note.**

Red Locust: Extensive grass burning that took place in most of the Red Locust outbreak areas is likely forced the locusts to concentrate in patches of green vegetation and began breeding in the outbreak areas in Lake Chilwa and Lake Chiuta plains in Malawi. A similar situation may be present in other outbreak areas including Buzi-Gorongosa plains in Mozambique, and the Lukanga swamps, Mweru wa Ntipa plains and Kafue Flats in Zambia. Groups of locusts may be present in Iku-Katavi plains, south Rukwa plains and Malagarasi basin. and Malagarasi Plain, Tanzania. These populations could develop further during the forecast period (AELGA).



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

The Timors and South Pacific

No new information was received at the time this update was compiled. However, there is a likelihood of **Migratory locust** threatening pasture, maize and/or rice crops in **East Timor**. Cross-border infestations can affect

bordering counties, thus active surveillance and preventive interventions are needed.

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 were planned to commence in October/November (APLC).

Armyworm:- The armyworm season ended in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania** and **Yemen** long ago. However, the pest will soon begin appearing in its seasonal breeding areas in southern Africa where it will likely threaten grain crops and pasture before beginning its northward migration (DLCO-EA, AELGA).



Quelea: Massive numbers of **Quelea** birds were detected and controlled in late September and throughout October in several districts in Amhara and Oromiya regions of **Ethiopia** where DLCO-EA spray aircraft treated thousands of hectares. **Quelea** outbreaks were also controlled on October 12 and 13 in Ahita and Kirie in Moya District in **Kenya** where they were threatening irrigated Rice. Control operations were in progress in **Kenya** at the time this report was compiled. In Tanzania, **Quelea** colonies were controlled by DLCO-EA aircraft in September in Kilimanjaro Region where they were threatening rice crops. In October, flocks of **Quelea** birds were seen feeding on irrigated rice in this region, but control was not launched as their roosting sites were not detected (DLCO-EA, AELGA).

Forecast: *Quelea* birds will likely continue threatening irrigated rice in **Kenya** and **Tanzania** and other small grain crops in **Ethiopia**. The birds may also pose threats to winter wheat in **Zimbabwe**.



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

Front-line countries are advised to remain vigilant. Countries in the outbreak zones should continue to strengthen their capacity to avoid any unexpected surprises. PPDs and DPVs should continue sharing ETOP and related information with stakeholders as often as they can.

Pesticide Stocks

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

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: Several countries continue benefiting from obsolete pesticide management activities being co-sponsored by USAID/OFDA's Cooperative Agreement with the UN FAO. **End note.**

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or visit us at:

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