

Desert locust situation update for the 1st dekad of May 2007

Central region

A significant number of locust groups and populations were detected and controlled in the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa, but they continued declining along the western side of the Red Sea coast during this period.

Ethiopia

Survey operations are in progress in eastern **Ethiopia** where DLCO-EA and the MoA teams detected mature, gregarious and scattered adults, hatchlings and young hopper bands on more than 900 hectares (>2,205 acres). Control operations were carried out on 4-5 May and treated 2nd instar hoppers on 280 ha in Harewa near Dire Dawa, in Shinile Woreda (USAID/OFDA augmented a DLCO-EA aircraft re-directed to carry out these operations). Rains that fell in March and mid-April created favorable conditions and lead to breeding and hatchings over the past several weeks. Survey and control operations will likely continue until

the locust populations become insignificant.



Sudan

Control operations declined during this dekad and only a few groups of immature and mature adults were treated in crops along the Nile River between Atbara and Dongola (FAO/DLIS) in Sudan. Out to the 5,600 ha surveyed along the Red Sea coasts near the **Eritrean** border during the first few days of May, only 120 ha were found infested with low-density populations. Small-scale breeding is expected in the coming weeks.

As locust numbers continued declining, ground and aerial control operations treated less than 70 ha during the entire third dekad of April in **Eritrea** and control operations were not reported in the first dekad of May.

No locust were reported in **Northern Somalia** during this period, but it is likely that the locusts that escaped from the northwestern part of the country earlier may have moved here and perhaps began breeding in areas of recent rainfall.

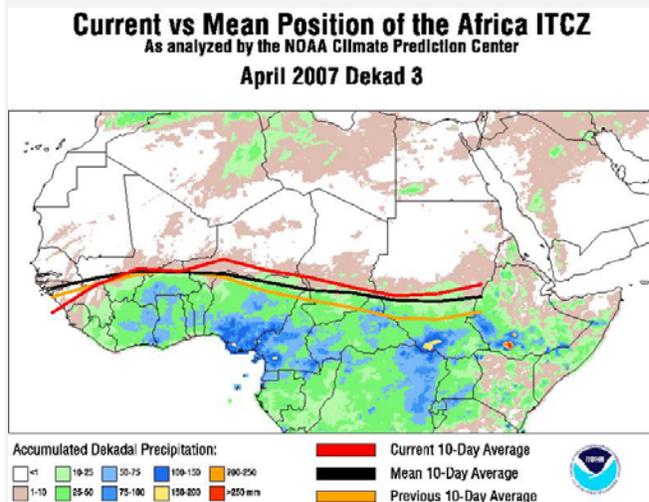
Saudi Arabia

According to FAO/DLIS aerial and ground control operations continued on the Red Sea coast of **Saudi Arabia** against late instar hopper bands and residual groups of mature adults, and in the interior against mature swarms that are laying eggs. Saudi locust control unit treated nearly 13,000 ha from 1-10 May. Hatching is expected to occur this week in the interior and small hopper bands could form and if left uncontrolled, mature and possibly form small swarms by mid-June.

Hatching and hopper band formation is underway **Yemen** in the interior near Al-Abr and Thamud. Small adult groups have formed and perhaps a few swarms could form in areas on the southern coast near Sayut and move into the Hadhramaut interior. Control operations have not been implemented yet because of beekeepers in the area.

Eastern Region

Ground teams treated gregarizing hoppers, fledglings and a mature swarm west of Jaisalmer, **India** near the **Pakistan** border (FAO/DLIS).



From April 21-30 2007, the average location of the African portion of the ITCZ from 15W-35E was 12.5 degrees north latitude when averaged over the ten day period. Much of the central and eastern region saw the ITCZ move significantly to the north which at times was associated with precipitation during the previous dekad. In the far west the northward movement of the ITCZ as less significant (see figure).

East Timor:

Plans for aerial control of the migratory locust in East Timor is underway. An FAO spray helicopter and a locust expert from the Australian Plague Locust Commission will be arriving in Dili, East Timor soon and start control operations.

Western region

The situation in the western region outbreak areas remained calm during the 1st dekad of May. Only a few isolated mature and immature individual adult locusts

were reported in southwestern Algeria, southern Morocco, and northwestern Mauritania. No locusts were reported in other countries in the region and significant developments are not expected in the coming dekad.

Note: The central region is often referred to as the epicenter of the desert locust outbreak, where in almost all cases, massive outbreaks originate here and invade other regions. The 2003-05 upsurge was considered by many as a new phenomenon. Nevertheless, had it not been for the diligent and aggressive move by the central region countries, the Central Region Commission for the control of the desert locust, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa and FAO/EMPRES program, the locust outbreaks that originated in this region in late 2003 and early 2004 could have migrated further west and trigger a larger outbreak. End note.

It is important that frontline countries in winter and summer breeding areas stay vigilant, maintain effective survey and monitoring system and exercise preventive control operations as necessary.

AELGA will continue monitoring the situation in close collaboration with its partners and issue updates and advise accordingly.