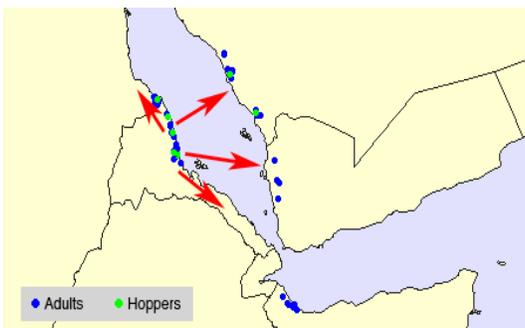


Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for January 2007

Summary:

The desert locust (DL) situation continued developing along the Red Sea coast in **Eritrea** where the Desert Locust Information Office (DLIO)/ Asmara reported treating close to 16,000 ha since the current campaign began on December 9, 2006. According to UN/FAO, small groups of adult DL are forming and a second generation breeding is underway in **Eritrea** where some of the locusts have already spread into adjacent areas of **Sudan**. It is predicted that more locusts may move north and/or south along the coast or cross the Red Sea into **Saudi Arabia** where small-scale breeding is in progress or to **Yemen** and join the few adults that are present. Scattered adults were reported converging and forming small groups in northwestern **Somalia** where limited-scale breeding is likely in the coming weeks. Should more rains fall in Eritrea in the coming months and favorable conditions continue, a third generation breeding could commence in April and May and threaten the region. Vigilant survey and monitoring are essential.



(Source: FAO/ECLC)

The DL situation in northwest, north and western Africa and southwest Asia remained relatively calm in January and significant activities are not likely in the coming months.

Meteorological and ecological conditions

Good rains fell on both sides of the Red Sea coasts where ecological conditions remained unusually favorable. The western and eastern outbreak areas remained fairly dry and conditions were largely unfavorable in the western outbreak areas, but favorable in some places, Rajasthan, India in the eastern region in January.

Locust situation:

Central Region:

The desert locust (DL) situation continued developing along the Red Sea coasts in the winter breeding areas in Eritrea. According to DLIO/Asmara, locusts were detected and controlled on some 4,000 ha in the eastern lowland as of 28 December, 2006 (close to 16,000 ha have been reported treated since the current campaign began on December 9, 2006). The UN/FAO's Emergency Center for Locust Operations (ECLC) indicated that small groups of adult DL are forming and a second generation breeding is underway in Eritrea where some of the locusts have already spread into adjacent areas of **Sudan**. More locusts may move north and/or south along the coast or cross the Red Sea into **Saudi Arabia or Yemen**. Should rains continue falling in the coming several weeks, a third generation breeding could commence in Eritrea in April and May and threaten the region. Neighboring countries along the Red Sea have been alerted and are increasing

survey operations in the winter breeding areas along the RS coasts.

Small-scale breeding is reported on the coast of **Saudi Arabia** and some activities are likely to start in **Yemen**. Scattered adult locusts were seen concentrating and forming small groups in northwestern coasts in **Somalia** where limited-scale breeding is likely in the coming weeks, but significant activities are not expected in these areas.

Western Region:

In Mauritania, the National Center for Locust Control (CNLA) reported the presence of a few scattered mature and immature adults at 1-10 insects/site and isolated hoppers at 8 hoppers/site southwest of Adrar in January. Immature adults, 1-3 insects/site, were also detected in Zouerat region north of Inchiri. Control operations were not necessary during this period and the areas treated since the current campaign began in August 2006 remained unchanged, i.e., 2,359 h (*Note: Mauritania sprayed close to 1.07 million ha (>2.64 million acres) from August 2004 to January 2005; that is more than 453 times the current figure. End note*). The situation in **Mali, Niger, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia** and other countries in the region remained calm and a significant change is not anticipated in the coming month.

Eastern Region:

The situation in southwest Asia remained calm in January. Significant developments are not expected in the coming months, but small-scale

breeding could commence in spring breeding areas along southeastern **Iran** and western **Pakistan** sometime after mid-March.



DL

Other locusts:

No update was received on other locusts at the time this report was compiled. However, control operations launched against brown locust in the Karoo district, the **Republic of South Africa** and southwest **Lesotho** as well as the African migratory locust in Middle Sabi, **Zimbabwe** are expected to have been concluded by now.



Brown Locust

Armyworm:

No new information was received on armyworm at the time this report was compiled. However, it is likely that armyworm activities have been in progress in northern **Malawi**, south-central and central **Tanzania** and southern **Kenya** where pasture and/or irrigated crops may have been affected. Armyworm activities will likely continue and move further north in Tanzania and perhaps Kenya in the coming months. Active monitoring, survey and control

interventions are necessary to minimize potential damage the pest could cause to crops and pasture.



Armyworm caterpillar

Quelea birds:

No update was received on Quelea situation at the time this report was compiled. Nonetheless, it is likely that Quelea activities may have been in progress in the outbreak and invasion areas in southern Africa, **Tanzania** and **Kenya** where irrigated crops may have been threatened. It is likely that Quelea activities will continue here and in other countries in the region in the coming months and active surveillance and monitoring are essential.



PESTICIDE STOCKS

Pesticides stocks are expected to have remained unchanged in January in nearly all of the front-line countries with the exception of Eritrea where some control operations were carried.. Efforts to develop effective and safer handling and use of these stocks and

avoid potential disposal problems are in progress.

Country	Quantities in litters
Algeria	Data not available
Eritrea	<30,000*
Libya	Data not available
Mali	222,524
Mauritania	585,189
Morocco	3,998,365
Niger	184,084
Saudi Arabia	Data not available
Senegal	532,950
Sudan	Data not available
Tunisia	Data not available
Yemen	Data not available

* This quantity should reflect the on-going operations against the DL.

Announcement

Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) webpage can now be accessed at:

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

For more information on AELGA and related matters, please, contact:

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