

SITREP.01.04**SITUATION REPORT ON EMERGENCY
TRANSBOUNDARY OUTBREAK PESTS
(ETOPS) FOR JANUARY WITH A
FORECAST TILL MID-MARCH 2004****SUMMARY**

1. **Summary:** This report provides an update on the situation of emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in January with a forecast till mid-March 2004 in the various outbreak and invasion areas in Africa, the Middle-East, and Central and Southwest Asia. The report covers locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating *Quelea* birds. A brief overview on the status of each of these pests for the month is outlined in the remainder of this summary and detailed accounts with a six-week forecast are provided thereafter.

**DESERT LOCUST, *SCHISTOCERCA
GREGARIA* (FORSKAL)**

2. The desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.), continued to appear in large numbers in Mauritania southern Morocco in January. Massive survey and control operations were carried out in these and other countries in the region where more than 160,000 ha were treated from late December through January. Control operations were also carried out on more than 80,000 ha in Saudi Arabia and some 2,000 ha in Algeria, Niger, Libya, and Sudan combined. Hopper bands were seen along the Red Sea coasts in Eritrea. Most of the other Central region outbreak areas in north-eastern and the horn of Africa,

as well as the southwest Asia remained fairly calm during the month.

3. Forecast: More locusts are likely to be seen in Mauritania, southern Morocco, Mali, Niger and elsewhere in the western outbreak regions and require active survey and control operations. While most of the central region outbreak areas will likely remain relatively calm, some areas, including coastal areas in Eritrea, spring breeding areas in the interior of the Arabian Peninsula and the western part of the eastern outbreak regions could experience some locust activities.

**OTHER LOCUSTS AND
GRASSHOPPERS.**

4. **Red locust, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville):** Red Locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata* Serville) concentrations were sighted at Mhama/Itumba in Wembere plains, Tanzania in mid January 2004. Situations in the other outbreak areas in the region remained relatively calm. It is possible that some hoppers will appear and concentrate in the traditional outbreak areas in Tanzania and elsewhere, but no major developments are expected in other outbreak regions during the forecast period.

5. An outbreak of tree locust, *Anacridium melanorhodon* (Walker), was seen defoliating acacia trees in Turkana district, Kenya, the main source of food for livestock in semi-arid areas, and controlled with the held of DLCO-EA occurred in Turkana district of the Rift Valley Province, Kenya.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.).** No report was received on the Madagascar migratory locust in January. It is likely that some locust activities could be seen more frequently in the

southwestern part of the country where rainfall occurred as the result of the recent cycle.

7. ***Oedaleus senegalensis*** (Krauss) (OES), the Senegalese grasshopper and ***Zonocerus variegatus*** (L), the variegated grasshopper remained in recession in the western region outbreak areas in January. No reports were received on brown locust, ***Locustana pardalina*** (Walker). *Oedaleus* will remain in recession and *Zonocerus* may commence hatching during the forecast period.

8. The Italian locust, ***Calliptamus italicus*** (L), Moroccan locust, ***Dociostaurus maroccanus*** or migratory locust, ***Locusta migratoria migratoria*** activities in Central Asia are still in recession. Limited activities may commence sometime in spring. AELGA will continue monitoring the situation in collaboration with its partners at the FAO's Migratory Pest Unit (MPU).

9. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker)**. Armyworm outbreaks continued to occur in central and southern Tanzania. Bagamoyo district reported infestation on some 300 ha of maize and paddy. Infestations were also reported in Hanang, Morogoro, Kilosa, Mvomero, Handeni and Kilombero districts, Tanzania, Sofala and Manica Provinces, Mozambique, Thyolo, Mwanza, Blantyre and Phalombe districts, Malawi and Mashonaland West, Zimbabwe. The infestations were seen and controlled on maize, paddy and/or pasture in most of these areas.

10. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.)**. No updates were received on Quelea birds at the time this report was compiled. It is likely that quelea populations have begun or will soon begin appearing in the traditional breeding areas in Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia

and the southern Africa regions. Breeding is likely to take place in February/March in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and could cause damage to small grain cereals. End of Summary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

11. Significant precipitation was not reported in the western and northwestern outbreak areas in January, but conditions remained favorable in parts of southern Morocco and Mauritania due to the heavy rains that fell in previous months but not so in Niger, Mali, southwestern Algeria and a few other places.

12. Relatively good precipitation was recorded in most of the spring breeding areas in Arabian Peninsula. Light to moderately heavy rains were also reported in a few places in the central region outbreak areas during the month. Breeding conditions were either favorable or are beginning to become favorable in a few places along the coast and the interior.

13. The Eastern region spring outbreak areas received light to medium rains fell in Baluchistan and other places in the region. Where conditions could improve during the forecast period.

14. Most stations in the red locust areas received normal to below normal and erratic rains in January; however, some localities received relatively heavy rain (see below)

Station, outbreak area and country	Rainfall (mm)
Nhamatanda, Buzi-Gorongosa, Moz	171.0

Buzi, Buzi-Gorongosa, Moz	232.7
Ntaja, Lake Chiuta, Mlw	226.9
Muze, Rukwa Valley, Tnz	419.8
Mpanda, Iku-Katavi, Tnz	306.6
Kaliua, Malagarasi, Tnz	348.8
Masenge, Wembere, Tnz	76.7
Nakambala, Kafue Flats, Zmb	224.0

DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

15. Western and Northwestern Africa

Outbreak Region: The desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.), situation continued to further develop in northwestern Mauritania, northern Mali, southern Morocco, Niger and Algeria in January. Adult groups and hopper bands were seen and treated on more than 134,000 ha (including 52,130 ha protected through barrier treatments) in Mauritania, some 25,000 ha in Morocco, 800 ha in Libya, 400 ha in Algeria, 616 ha in Niger sometime from 26 December up to 31 January. Other countries in the region remained fairly calm.

16. Forecast: It is likely that locust numbers could increase and give rise to more swarms and groups in the coming months and the situation could become more serious if conditions improve.

17. **Eastern Africa, Northeastern Africa, and the Near East Outbreak Region:** Adult mature and immature locust populations and hoppers were controlled in the Tokar Delta and Atbara River areas in Sudan where more than 542 ha were treated in January. Locusts continued to pose threats in Saudi Arabia where more than 80,700 ha were sprayed during the reporting month. A few scattered adult locusts were seen on the Red Sea coasts in Eritrea, northern Somalia and Yemen. Other countries in the region remained fairly calm.

18. Forecast: Limited scale breeding may occur in a few places along the coastal plains in Yemen and the spring breeding areas in the interior of the Arabian Peninsula. Locusta may also persist in southern Egypt, along the Red Sea coasts in Eritrea, northeastern Somalia and a few places in Djibouti. Other countries in the region will likely remain relatively calm.

19. No locusts were reported in January in the Eastern outbreak region along the Indo-Pakistan borders or Iran.

20. Forecast: A few swarms may cross-over from the spring breeding areas in the Arabian Peninsula into the eastern region outbreak areas but significant developments are not likely during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES

21. **Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Serville):** Concentrations of adult red locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata* Serville) were seen in Mhama/Itumba in Wembere plains, Tanzania in mid January. The situation in the other outbreak areas in the region remained relatively calm.

22. **Forecast:** Hatching that might have occurred in January could result in low to medium size hopper bands in Iku-Katavi plains and the Wembere plains where residual parental populations remained after spraying.

23. An outbreak of tree locust (*Anacridium melanorhodon* (Walker), occurred in Turkana, the Rift Valley Province, Kenya. The outbreak was first reported in mid- December 2003. The locusts were defoliating Acacia trees, the main source of food for livestock in the semi-arid

area. Control was carried out by the Crop Protection Services in collaboration with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) which sprayed 4,000 liters of Fipronil and Chlorpyrifos (Dursban) against the outbreak.

24. An outbreak of African migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratorioides*, occurred in late December 2003 in Kazungula district, Southern Zambia. The pest was controlled by IRLCO-CSA in the first week of January 2004 using 150 liters of Fenitrothion 40%.

25. *Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss) (OES), the Senegalese grasshopper and *Zonocerus variegatus* (L), the variegated grasshopper continued to be in recession in the western region outbreak areas in January. *Oedaleus* will remain in recession and *Zonocerus* may commence hatching during the forecast period.

26. The locust season in Central Asia came to an end several months ago and no locusts were reported in January.

27. Forecast: The Italian locust, *Calliptamus italicus* (L), Moroccan locust, *Dociostaurus maroccanus* or migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratoria* situation will remain calm during the forecast period and the eggs that were laid in late summer/early fall will continue to stay dormant. Hoppers may begin appearing in spring. AELGA will continue monitoring the situation as it evolves.

28. Note: Shortage of technical skills, resources and infrastructure will continue to impede the capacity of the Afghan national crop protection unit to conduct regular survey and monitoring as well as organize and launch control operations

without external support. Thus, locust control in this country will continue to rely largely on external assistance for some time.

29. **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).** No report was received on ETOPs from LAC countries in January. No forecast can be made due to a lack of sufficient information.

30. **Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L).** No report was received on the Madagascar migratory locust in January. It is likely that some locust activities could be seen more frequently in the southwestern part of the country where rainfall occurred as the result of the recent cycle.

31. **Brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker):** No reports were received in January and no major activities are expected during the forecast period.

ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

32. **Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker).** Armyworm outbreaks continued to occur in central and southern Tanzania. The pest was reported on some 300 ha of maize and paddy in Bagamoyo district. Infestations were also reported in Hanang, Morogoro, Kilosa, Mvomero, Handeni and Kilombero districts. Pheromone traps, the primary forecasting tool, reported the following weekly month catches: 180 in Same, 113 in Mbeya, 81 in Hanang, 56 in Njombe, 53 in Tengeru, 52 in Dodoma, and 33 in Mbozi. Moth catches were also reported in Ifakara, TPRI, Iringa, Mazombe, Kilosa, Tabora, Mtwara, Moshi, and Igunga. Control efforts are being organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) in collaboration with farmers. A late received report indicated that armyworm infestations occurred in Thyolo, Mwanza, Blantrye and

Phalombe districts, Malawi in mid December. Control was carried out by the affected farmers with technical and material assistance, including pesticide (Chlorpyrifos (Dursban 50% EC) from the government. Armyworm outbreaks were reported in Buzi and Beira districts of Sofala Province and in Manica Province, Mozambique in January. A total of 184.5 ha were treated with 553.5 liters of Cyfluthrin (Baythroid 1.2 ULV) in Buzi. Zimbabwe reported armyworm outbreaks on maize and pasture in Mashonaland West in December. The outbreak was controlled by affected farmers using Carbaryl 85% WP which was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural settlements.

33. Forecast: Armyworm outbreaks are expected to occur in Same, Dodoma, Morogoro, Babati and Handeni. Outbreaks in Hanang, Kilosa Mvomero, Bagamoyo will continue. Armyworm outbreaks could also occur in Njombe, Mtwara, Masasi, Lindi, Mpwapwa, and Kondo and Mbeya districts. Farmers and extension staff have been advised to continue monitoring their fields and report trap catches and armyworm situation to the appropriate authorities. Armyworm outbreaks may also occur in Malawi and continue threatening crops and pasture in Mozambique and Zimbabwe during the forecast period.

QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

34. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.).** No reports were received on Quelea birds for January.

35. Forecast: Quelea breeding is likely to take place in February/March in Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Zimbabwe. The resulting populations are likely to cause damage to small grain cereals in these countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

36. Favorable ecological conditions that were created as a result of unusually heavy rains that fell over large areas in the western outbreak region and the central outbreak region gave rise to a significant increase in the desert locust populations in Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Algeria, Sudan and Saudi Arabia. Control interventions have been and are still being implemented in most of these countries. **If left unaddressed, the situation could further deteriorate and result in serious losses of crops and pasture.** Given the fragility of the ETOP ecosystems, a slight shift in the externalities, such as end of drought, could trigger pest proliferation and significantly offset the already precarious food security in most of the ETOP-prone countries. **Hence, regular survey, monitoring, reporting and early control interventions are and should be implemented to avert any unexpected pest-related disasters.**

37. **The Assistance for Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Abatement project (AELGA), formerly known as Africa Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Assistance under the USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), continue monitoring ETOP situations in close collaboration with its partners, including the UN/FAO-MPU and EMPRES Regional Programs, DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA, host-country counterparts, etc. and provides assistance and updates.**

ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

38. USAID field Missions with portfolios on food security, agriculture, environment, and conflict are solicited to encourage host country

counterparts to send us regular updates on ETOP activities. FEWS field personnel are solicited to share with us information they may obtain on ETOP activities. Regional organizations with ETOP mandates and host country partners are kindly requested to send us their updates by the last day of the reporting month or within the first three days of the forecasting months. **Unsolicited reports and/or information on ETOP situations and activities in your region or country are always warmly welcome and much appreciated.**

Please, forward reports, updates, questions, and/or requests to:

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39. USEFUL LINKS

For more information on the weather conditions, you may visit the following web sites:

<http://www.fews.net/http://www.fao.org/WAI/CENT/faoinfo/economic/giews/economic/english/esahel/sehtoc.htm>

<http://www.fews.net>

For more information on ETOP activities, you may visit:

<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuholm.htm/>

<http://www.english/newsroom/news/2002/5000-en.htm/>

<http://www.web.agr.ac.uk/directory/NRI/pcs/>

<http://www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/quel/>

<http://icosamp.ecoport.org/>

<http://www.dmc.co.zm>

40. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES, PLEASE, VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.AELGA.NET

41. UPCOMING EVENTS

 **Pesticide Stewardship Networking Workshop**

 **Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control.**

If interested, please contact: [Dr. Yene T. Belayneh](mailto:Dr.Yene.T.Belayneh)

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