

SITREP.06.03

**A SITUATION REPORT ON
EMERGENCY TRANSBOUNDARY
OUTBREAK PESTS (ETOPS) FOR JUNE
WITH A FORECAST TILL MID-
AUGUST, 2003**

SUMMARY

1. **Summary:** This report provides an update on the situation of emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in June with a forecast till mid-August 2003 in Africa, the Middle-East, Central and Southwest Asia, and Latin America. Key ETOPs, including locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating red-billed *Quelea* birds are covered by the report. A brief overview of the current status of each of these pests is outlined in the remainder of this summary and detailed accounts and a six-week forecast are provided thereafter.

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

2. **Desert locusts, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.)**. The desert locust situation remained fairly calm in June in most of the summer breeding areas in the western region. Adult populations were sprayed on some 807 ha in southern Algeria between the last week of May and the first week of June. A few hoppers and adult locusts were also reported in northwestern Libya, northern Mali and Niger.

3. While the desert locust situation remained calm in most of the central region countries, populations of immature and mature adult desert locusts and tree locusts were seen in northern Kordofan and in the White Nile areas,

Sudan during ground surveys carried out in mid July. A mixed population of desert locusts and the African migratory locust were seen in agricultural fields in southern Egypt. No locusts were reported in June from the other invasion and/or outbreak countries in the region. As a result of the good rains that fell in parts of the interior of Sudan, conditions continued becoming favorable and it is likely that small-scale breeding could occur in North Kordofan, North Darfur and West Darfur. Significant locust activities are not expected in other countries in the region during the forecast period.

4. No desert locusts were reported in Iran, Afghanistan, India or Pakistan in June. As a result of the Monsoon rains that have begun falling in Rajasthan, India, in the eastern region desert locust summer breeding areas in mid June, it is likely that conditions will continue to improve and adult locusts begin appearing along the Indo-Pakistan border during the forecast period. However, significant activities are not expected during the forecast period.

**OTHER LOCUSTS AND
GRASSHOPPERS.**

5. **Red locusts, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville):** Red locust concentrations were reported in Iku-Katavi and Wembere outbreak areas, Tanzania. The unconfirmed locust swarm reported on May 27, 2003 in Mabote district, Inhambane Province, Mozambique was suggested by the IRLCO-CSA to have not been red locust. Limited locust populations were reported in Lake Chilwa Lake Chiuta plains, Malawi and Buzi-Gorongosa plains, Mozambique. Red locusts were not reported from elsewhere in the other outbreak countries. Limited locust activities are likely to continue breeding in Tanzania and other countries where

concentrated populations exist. Significant development is not likely in other invasion areas. Nevertheless, routine survey and monitoring are recommended to avoid any surprises.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.)**. No reports were received from in Madagascar in June. With the ecological conditions remaining relatively dry, it is likely that locust activities will remain at the low during the forecast period.

7. Some *Zonocerus variegatus* (L) activities were reported in the Casamans region, Senegal. Mixed populations of the African Migratory Locust, *Locusta migratoria migratorioides* (L.), and the desert locusts persisted in crop fields in southern Egypt in June. Grasshopper outbreaks were reported in the western lowlands of Eritrea in June. Specific information on the species and extent of infestation is not available. No reports were received on the tree locust, *Anacridium melanorhodon* (Walker), the Senegalese grasshopper, *Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss) or brown locust, *Locustana pardalina* (Walker). With breeding conditions improving in some of the places where rains fell in June and part of May, it is likely that some limited locust/ grasshopper activities may be seen in a few places during the forecast period.

8. **Italian locust *Calliptamus italicus* (L) and migratory locust populations were reported in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in June and part of July. Control operations were carried out against the migratory locust in Uzbekistan, where heavy flooding had helped control the locust. No reports were received on Moroccan locust, *Doclostaurus maroccanus* (Thunberg) in Central Asia.** No further reports were received on Italia and

Moroccan locusts in the other outbreak countries Central Asia. Information on this will be relayed as soon as received.

Unmarked mines in most of the infested areas in Khanabad, Kunduz province may continue to make it difficult to implement survey and control efforts. There is a likelihood of increased locust activities, which could pose threats to crops during the forecast period. Active survey, monitoring, and early interventions using the most appropriate and safe methods will be essential to avert any significant crop loss.

9. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker)**. Armyworm infestations were reported in Tana River District, Kenya, Jijiga Zone, and Eastern Hararghe Zone, Ethiopia. The pest was seen feeding on cereal crops and pasture where it was controlled with insecticides -- Cypermethrin EC in Kenya and Malathion EC and other pesticides in Ethiopia. Armyworm infestations were also reported from Eritrea where they were seen feeding on grasses and some crops, but details were not available at the time this report was compiled. No armyworm reports were received from other invasion countries. Armyworm activities may continue in Eritrea and perhaps move into Yemen should favorable conditions persist during the forecast period. Limited activities may also be seen in the greater lakes region should conditions favor. Vigilant survey and monitoring are recommended.

10. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.)**. Quelea birds continued posing a problem to cereal growers in Kilimanjaro and Singida regions, Tanzania and Narok and Tana River Districts, Kenya. The pests were seen feeding on paddy rice, sorghum, millet and maize in Tanzania and wheat and irrigated rice in Kenya. The birds were controlled with avicides and with the help of the DLCO-EA

spray airplanes. Quelea birds were also reported in the Free State Province, South Africa where they were seen near sorghum fields and controlled using an avicides. No further reports were received on quelea birds from other invasion countries.

There is a likelihood of these birds continue causing a problem to cereal crop growers in the traditional outbreak areas in Tanzania, Kenya, and other outbreak and invasion countries during the forecast period. Survey and monitoring are essential to avert any damage. End of Summary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

11. The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) frequented between 12N and 18N and at times, moved up to 22N over Mali and Niger in June. This was associated with heavy rains that fell in northern Mali, northern Niger, southern Algeria and southern Mauritania during the reporting month. It is likely that conditions will improve during the forecast period in these and other countries where rains might have fallen, but not reported.

12. Good rains fell in parts of the interior of Sudan. Northern Somalia, eastern Ethiopia, Oman and a few places along the Red Sea coastal plains of Saudi Arabia and Yemen received light showers. Hot and dry conditions persisted on the western side of the Red Sea coastal plains from northern Somalia to Eritrea.

13. Monsoon rains have begun falling in Rajasthan, India, in the eastern region desert locust breeding areas in mid June. Light showers were also reported Jodhpur and Bikaner, India and Tharparkar and Cholistan,

Pakistan. Breeding conditions may improve in these and other areas during the forecast period.

14. Except for some light showers that fell here and there, no major precipitation was reported in the red locust outbreak areas in June and most of the areas remained fairly dry.

DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

15. Western and Northwestern Africa

Outbreak Region: The locust situation remained fairly calm in June in most of the summer breeding areas in the western region. Adult locusts were sprayed on some 807 ha between Tamanrassat and In Salah, southern Algeria between May 25 and June 7. Different instar hoppers, fledgling and immature and adults were reported on some 400 ha in northwestern Libya – this is unusual for a recession period. Scattered adults locusts were seen maturing in northwestern and southern Air, Niger. Unconfirmed reports indicated that mature adult locusts were seen in Adrar des Iforas and Aguelho, northern Mali. No locusts were reported from Morocco, Mauritania, Chad, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry in June.

16. Forecast: A few isolated adult locusts may persist in southern Mauritania and northern Mali. Small-scale breeding may occur in Tadress and Air, Niger. A few locusts may be seen breeding in Tibesti and Ennedi, Chad where rains might have fallen in June. Low numbers of locusts may persist near Tamanrassat and other areas that received rain in southern Algeria. Locusts may move from northern Libya south into the summer breeding areas in the Sahel. No significant activities are expected and other countries in the region will likely remain calm during the

forecast period.

17. Eastern Africa, Northeastern Africa, and the Near East Outbreak Region:

While the situation remained calm in most of the central region countries, populations of immature and mature adult desert locusts and tree locusts were seen in northern Kordofan and in the White Nile areas, Sudan during ground surveys carried out in mid July. A few desert locusts mixed with the African migratory locust were also seen in agricultural fields in southern Egypt. As a result of the good rains that fell in parts of the interior of Sudan, conditions continued becoming favorable in these areas. Locusts were not reported from other countries in the region.

18. Forecast: Isolated locusts are likely to appear and breed in northern Kordofan, Northern Darfur and Kassala, Sudan. Locust number may slightly increase in southern Egypt from limited-scale breeding of the existing populations. Isolated adults may be seen in a few places along the Red Sea coasts of Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Significant developments are not likely in these and other countries in the region during the forecast period.

19. **Eastern Outbreak Region:** No desert locusts were reported in Iran, Afghanistan, India or Pakistan in June.

20. Forecast: As the Monsoon rains have begun falling in the summer breeding areas of the eastern region, it is likely that conditions will continue to improve and low numbers of adult locusts will begin to appear and breed in areas of recent rainfall in Rajasthan, India and Cholistan and Tharparkar, Pakistan. Significant locust activities are not likely during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES

21. **Italian locust *Calliptamus italicus* (L) and migratory locust populations were reported in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in June and part of July. Control operations were carried out against the migratory locust in Uzbekistan, where heavy flooding had helped control the locust. No reports were received on Moroccan locust, *Dociostaurus maroccanus* (Thunberg) in Central Asia.** No further reports were received on Italia and Moroccan locusts in the other outbreak countries in Central Asia. Information on this will be relayed as soon as received. **Unmarked mines in most of the locust infested areas in Khanabad, Kunduz province may continue to make it difficult to implement survey and control efforts.**

22. Forecast: There is a likelihood of increased locust activities, which could pose threats to crops during the forecast period. Active survey, monitoring, and early interventions using the most appropriate and safe methods will be essential to avert any significant crop loss.

23. **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).** No reports were received on locusts or grasshoppers in LAC countries in June.

24. Forecast. Some ETOP activities may take place here and there in the coming month or so, but due to lack of sufficient information, a substantive forecast is not possible at this time.

25. **Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Surville).** Red locust concentrations were reported in Iku-Katavi and Wembere outbreak areas, Tanzania. The unconfirmed locust swarm reported on May 27, 2003 in Mabote district, Inhambane Province, Mozambique was

suggested by the IRLCO-CSA to have not been red locust. Limited locust populations were reported in Lake Chilwa Lake Chiuta plains, Malawi and Buzi-Gorongosa plains, Mozambique. Red locusts were not reported from the other outbreak counties in June.

26. Forecast: Limited locust activities are likely to continue persisting in Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique where concentrated populations exist. Significant development is not likely in other invasion areas. Routine survey and monitoring are recommended to avoid any surprises.

27. Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L.). No reports were received on the Madagascar migratory locust in June. Breeding conditions remaining relatively dry, it is likely that locust activities will remain minimized. However, regular survey and monitoring are recommended during the forecast period.

28. Brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker): Brown locust activities continued to be calm in the traditional outbreak regions in the Karoo regions in Namibia South Africa. Unless, rain falls in these areas, the situation will not change during the forecast period.

ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

29. Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker). Armyworm infestations were reported in Tana River District, Kenya, Jijiga Zone, and Eastern Hararghe Zone, Ethiopia in June. The pest was seen feeding on cereal crops and pasture and control operations were carried out using insecticides -- Cypermethrin EC in Kenya and Malathion EC and other pesticides in Ethiopia. Armyworm infestations were also reported in Eritrea where it was seen feeding on crops and pasture, but details were not available at the

time this report was compiled. No further reports were received on armyworm from other outbreak and/or invasion countries.

30. Forecast: Armyworm activities may continue in Eritrea and perhaps move into Yemen should favorable conditions persist during the forecast period. Limited activities may also be seen in the greater lakes region should conditions favor. Vigilant survey and monitoring are recommended.

QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

31. Red-billed quelea, *Q. quelea* (L). Quelea birds continued posing a problem to small grain cereal crop growers in Kilimanjaro and Singida regions, Tanzania where they were seen feeding on paddy rice, sorghum, millet and maize crops in June. Control operations were effected by the MoA in collaboration with the DLCO-EA. Quelea pests were also seen in Narok and Tana River Districts, Kenya feeding on wheat and irrigated rice, respectively. Quelea activities were also reported in the Free State Province, South Africa where they were seen near sorghum fields and controlled using an avicide. No further reports were received on quelea birds from other invasion countries.

32. Forecast: It is likely that these birds could continue posing a problem to cereal crops and pasture in the traditional outbreak areas in Tanzania, Kenya, and other outbreak and invasion countries during the forecast period. Survey and monitoring are essential to avert any serious damage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

33. During the reporting month, a few of the ETOP outbreaks, mainly quelea birds, and armyworm, and locusts and grasshoppers, on a

limited scale, required control actions. Had these infestations been left unaddressed, they could have increased to levels that pose serious threats to crops and pasture. It is evident that a minimum shift in the balance of subsistence production system, can significantly offset the already precarious food availability situation in most of the ETOP outbreak areas. Therefore, it is important that regular monitoring, surveillance and reporting are maintained and results communicated promptly to the appropriate bodies within the national, regional and international structures.

Note: The end of the current drought and/or dry spell in Southern Africa and other outbreak regions would, likely trigger serious ETOP developments in most of these areas and could lead to massive infestations and subsequent crop loss. Therefore, regular survey, monitoring, and reporting are highly recommended to avert any such invasions.

ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

34. The Africa Emergency Locust/Grasshopper/Armyworm Assistance (AELGA) project, previously managed by the USAID's Bureau for Africa (AFR), has been transferred to the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and is currently being managed by the Office for U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). AELGA continues to work closely with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Migratory Pest Unit and its other entities, USAID bilateral and regional missions, DLCO-EA, IRLOC-CSA, host country ministries, and research establishments, and Southern Africa Development Community Drought Monitoring Center (SADC/DMC). Information on ETOPs is regularly collected

from these and other sources, including the Information Core for Southern Africa Migratory Pests (ICOSAMP) to continuously monitor and analyze the potential risks for large-scale emergency outbreaks, and compile and disseminate as [AELGA] SITREPS to all interested parties. Unsolicited reports or information about ETOP situations and activities in your region or country are always warmly welcome and much appreciated.

35. Missions with programs and portfolios on food security, agriculture, environment and related activities are solicited to encourage their host country counterparts to send us updates on ETOP activities as often as possible. FEWS field personnel are also solicited to send us any information they may secure on ETOP activities in their countries and/or regions of responsibility. Regional organizations with ETOPs mandate and host country partners are kindly requested to forward their reports by the last day of the reporting month or within the first three days of the forecasting months. Please, forward reports, information, questions, and/or requests to

Dr. Yene T. Belayneh: ybelayneh@ofda.net
FAX: 202-347-0315 (USA). A copy to Drs. Joe Vorgetts, jvorgetts@usaid.gov and Harry Battenberg, hbattenberg@afr-sd.org is appreciated.

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

<http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/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/>

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ACTIVITIES, VISIT US AT OUR WEB
SITE: WWW.AELGA.NET**

UPCOMING EVENT

Interregional Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control, in 2003. **Those interested can contact Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, via e-mail: ybelayneh@ofda.net sd.org or phone: 202-661-9374 and fax: 202-347-0315 (USA)**

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