

**SITREP.09.03**

**Situation Report On Emergency  
Transboundary Outbreak Pests (ETOPs)  
For September With A Forecast Till  
Mid-November, 2003**

**SUMMARY**

1. **Summary:** This report provides an update on the status of emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in Africa, the Middle-East, Central and Southwest Asia, and Latin America in September with a forecast till mid-November 2003. Key ETOPs, including locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating *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 with a six-week forecast are provided thereafter.

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

2. . Scattered adult desert locusts, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk), were seen breeding in Northern Niger, Mauritania and Mali in September and mature and immature adult congregates and hopper bands persisted in a few locations in these countries and in Chad where favorable conditions prevailed throughout the month. Locust numbers will slightly increase and concentrate in areas of green vegetation. Small swarms could possibly appear in southern Mauritania, Adrar des Iforas, Mali, and Tamesna, Niger and require control interventions during the forecast period. Considering the vast and remote breeding and outbreak areas, it is important that regular survey and monitoring

are carried out to mitigate any unpredicted locust upsurges.

3. Northern Darfur and Northern Kordofan, Sudan experienced more breeding in September. A similar situation was expected to have occurred in western Eritrea. Locusts will probably continue to appear in Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan and eastern Sudan western Eritrea, and along the Red Sea coasts. Coastal areas of Yemen may also experience small-scale breeding. Other countries in the region will likely stay relatively calm during the forecast period.

4. A few isolated adult locusts persisted in the summer breeding areas in the eastern outbreak region in Pakistan and a similar situation might have occurred in Rajasthan, India. Locust numbers are expected to decline as the vegetation continues to dry up. Significant activities are not expected during the forecast period.

**OTHER LOCUSTS AND  
GRASSHOPPERS.**

5. **Red locusts, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville):** A late received report indicated that red locust populations were controlled on some 3200 ha in August 8-25 in Tabora region, Tanzania with the help of the DLCO-EA. No locust activities were reported in September. Some locust activities may be seen in the traditional outbreak areas during the forecast period should the rains commence, however, significant activities are not likely. Routine survey and monitoring are encouraged to avoid any unpredicted invasions.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.).** No reports were received on the Madagascar migratory locust or red locust in September. It is likely that

ecological conditions may slightly improve and small-scale locust activities could begin appearing with the onset of the rains in the outbreak areas during the forecast period.

7. No reports were received in September on *Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss) (OES), the Senegalese grasshopper, that was seen attacking crops in Senegal, the Sahelian zone of Mali, Niger and Chad in July and August.

Very few, *Zonocerus variegatus* (L), variegated grasshoppers, were seen copulating. Egg laying has almost come to an end in the Casamance and Tambakunda areas, Senegal. No reports were received on tree locust, *Anacridium melanorhodon* (Walker) or brown locust, *Locustana pardalina* (Walker).

8. Egg laying of the Moroccan locust, *Doclostaurus maroccanus*, is expected to have been completed in northern Afghanistan. FAO has been following locust activities to implement preventive control operations for the next outbreak season. No reports were received on other locust species in the region in September. It is possible that major locust activities have come to an end, including egg laying that might have been happening in previous months. Survey and identification of egg pod locations are essential to plan and implement a better coordinated and effective preventive control strategy.

9. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker).** Armyworm activities were not reported in September. Significant armyworm activities are not expected during the forecast period.

10. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L).** Grain eating quelea birds were controlled over some 75 ha in eastern Ethiopia on September 30 with the help of a DLCO aircraft. Quelea birds were also control on wheat fields in

Meru, Kenya. A late received report indicated that quelea birds were controlled in Morogoro Region, Tanzania during the first week of August with the help of DLCO-EA aircraft. It is likely that quelea birds will continue posing a threat to crops in the outbreak areas. Regular survey and monitoring are essential to avert any serious bird damage during the forecast period. End of Summary.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

11. In September, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), one of the major determining factors for the Sahelian locust ecology, was hovering between 15-20 N in western Africa and resulted in continued rain fall in Trarza, Brakna, Tagant and the Hodhs, Mauritania, Adrar des Iforas, Mali and Air and Tamesna, Niger during the first two decades of the month. Parts of Chad also receive light rains in September. Green vegetation persisted in most of these places and parts of southern Morocco, but dry conditions dominated the other outbreak areas.

12. Good rains continued to fall in Northern Darfur and favorable conditions continued to exist in this region and in Northern Kordofan, White Nile and the Eastern State, Sudan. Rains also fell in Dire Dawa and Jijiga, eastern Ethiopia as well as western lowlands of Eritrea during the month. Green vegetation was reported in northern Djibouti. Other countries in the region remained fairly hot and dry.

13. The Monsoon rains have come to an end in the eastern outbreak region where light rains were only reported in Rajasthan, India. Favorable conditions persisted in a few places along the Indo-Pakistan border. No rains were reported from Iran or Afghanistan.

14. No significant precipitation was reported in the traditional red locust outbreak areas in September.

#### DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

15. **Western and Northwestern Africa Outbreak Region:** Scattered adult desert locusts, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.) were seen breeding in Northern Niger, Mauritania and Mali in September. Some congregated mature and immature adults and hopper bands persisted in a few locations in these countries and Chad where favorable conditions prevailed throughout the month.

16. Forecast: Locust numbers will slightly increase and concentrate in areas of green vegetation in western Africa. It is likely that small swarms could be formed during the forecast period in southern Mauritania, Adrar des Iforas, Mali, and Tamesna, Niger where locust numbers continued increasing in September. This condition could call for some type of control intervention during the forecast period. Considering the vast and remote breeding and outbreak areas, it is important that regular survey and monitoring are carried out to mitigate any unpredicted locust upsurges.

17. **Eastern Africa, Northeastern Africa, and the Near East Outbreak Region:** Northern Darfur, Sudan experienced more breeding in September. A similar situation was expected to have occurred in western Eritrea. Locusts will probably continue to appear in Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan, and western Eritrea, along the Red Sea coasts and in eastern Sudan. The Red Sea coasts of Yemen may also experience small-scale breeding. A mixture of a few hoppers and mature locusts, African migratory locusts and grasshoppers were treated in southern

Egypt near the Sudan border in September. Isolated mature adult locusts were seen on the Red Sea coast near Massawa, Eritrea. Other countries in the region will likely stay relatively calm during the forecast period.

18. Forecast: Locust numbers are expected to continue increasing in the summer breeding areas in Sudan where some activities could occur during the forecast period. Locusts could also persist and numbers increase in western lowlands of Eritrea and more adults are likely to be seen on the Red Sea coasts. Low numbers of locusts are also likely to persist in agricultural areas in Egypt, but significant activities are not expected during the forecast period. A few isolated adults could be seen in Yemen. Other countries in the region will likely remain fairly calm during the forecast period.

19. **Eastern Outbreak Region:** A few isolated adult locusts persisted in the summer breeding areas in the eastern outbreak region in Pakistan in September. A similar situation may have happened in Rajasthan, India.

20. Forecast: Locust numbers are expected to decline as the vegetation continues to dry up. Significant activities are not expected during the forecast period.

#### OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES

21. The dense populations of the Senegalese grasshopper, *Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss) that were seen in many areas in southern Senegal in late July into August declined in September. No further reports were received on this and other acridid pests in Senegal, the Sahelian zone of Mali, Niger and Chad during the month. Very few adult *Zonocerus variegatus* (L), variegated grasshoppers, were

seen copulating in Senegal and similar situations might have been occurring in neighboring countries in September. No further reports were received on tree locust, *Anacridium melanorhodon* (Walker) or brown locust, *Locustana pardalina* (Walker).

22. Egg laying was expected to have been completed in Baghlan, Samangan, Balkh and Kunduz, Afghanistan. FAO staff has been monitoring the situation in the country to pre-position preventive control operations for the next outbreak season. No reports were received on the Italian locust *Calliptamus italicus* (L), Moroccan locust, *Dociostaurus maroccanus* or migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratoria* in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in September.

**Note: Inadequate technical 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.**

23. Forecast: Locust activities have come to an end. No further locust activities are expected and the situation will likely remain calm during the forecast period. Pre-planning proactive interventions such as survey and monitoring will help identify locations of egg pods for targeted control to avert any potential massive locust outbreaks next season.

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

25. Forecast. Due to lack of sufficient information, a substantive forecast was not possible during the reporting month, however,

some insignificant ETOP activities may appear here and there in the coming months.

26. **Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Surville):** A late received report indicated that red locust populations were treated in August 8-25 on some 3,200 ha in Tabora region, Tanzania. The control operation was effected by DLCO-EA spray aircraft (Beaver 5Y-BCL) using 2000 liters of *malathion* and 300 liters of *fenitrothion* 96 ULV.

27. **Forecast:** Some locust activities may be seen in the traditional outbreak areas during the forecast period with the on set of the rains, however, significant locust activities are not likely. Routine survey and monitoring are recommended to avoid any unpredicted invasions.

28. **Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L.).** No reports were received on the Madagascar migratory locust in September, but it is likely that ecological conditions may slightly improve with the onset of the rains and small-scale activities could begin appearing in the outbreak areas during the forecast period.

29. **Brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker):** No reports were received on brown locust in September. It seems that the situation continued to be calm throughout the month in the Karoo regions of Namibia and South Africa. It is likely that it will remain that way during the forecast period unless the rain starts falling.

#### ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

30. **Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker).** Armyworm activities were not reported in September from the DLCO-EA and IRLCO-CSA regions.

31. Forecast: Major armyworm activities are not expected during the forecast period.

#### QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

32. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.).** Grain eating quelea birds were controlled on some 75 ha in eastern Ethiopia on September 30 with the help of the DLCO aircraft. These birds were also controlled on wheat fields in Meru, Kenya from September 11-22. A late received report indicated that quelea birds were also controlled with *fenthion* during the first week of August in Morogoro Region and the last week of the month in Moshi District, Tanzania. The avicide was applied by the DLCO-EA aircraft. The birds were roosting on reeds and attacking paddy rice. No further reports were received from the other regions.

33. Forecast: It is likely that quelea birds will continue being a problem to crops in a few outbreak areas hence, survey and monitoring are essential to avert any serious bird damage during the forecast period.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

34. Favorable ecological conditions gave rise to a slight increase in the desert locust populations in Niger, Mauritania and part of Mali and could require control operations. Quelea birds and grasshoppers invoked control actions on a limited scale. If left unaddressed, such infestations could increase and cause serious damage to crops and pasture.

Although, ecological conditions are expect to change in these regions, it is evident that a shift in the externalities of the ETOP ecosystem, such as end of the current drought and/or the dry spell could trigger massive pest invasions, which will significantly offset the already precarious food security situation in most of the countries that live under a constant

threat from ETOP outbreaks. **Hence, regular survey, monitoring, reporting and early preventive control interventions are highly recommended to avert any unexpected pest-related disaster.**

#### ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

35. The Assistance for Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Abatement, formerly known as the Africa Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA) project, is managed by USAID, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), Office for U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). AELGA works closely and/or interacts with the UN/FAO, other international organizations, 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 of large-scale emergency outbreaks, and compile and disseminates it to interested parties worldwide as a SITREP.

**Unsolicited reports or information on ETOP situations and activities in your region or country are always warmly welcome and much appreciated.**

36. USAID field Missions with programs and portfolios on food security, agriculture, environment, conflict 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 obtain on ETOP

activities in their countries and/or regions of responsibility. Regional organizations with mandates for ETOPS 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](mailto:ybelayneh@ofda.net) FAX: 202-347-0315 (USA).**

### 37. UPCOMING EVENT

Interregional Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control. **Those interested can contact Dr. Yene T. Belayneh, at [ybelayneh@ofda.net](mailto:ybelayneh@ofda.net) or phone: 202-661-9374 and FAX: 202-347-0315 (USA)**

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### USEFUL LINKS

**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/>

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AELGA'S ACTIVITIES, VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE: [WWW.AELGA.NET](http://WWW.AELGA.NET)**

**P.S.: Our webpage is temporarily out of commission. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused**

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