FAO DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No 125

GENERAL SITUATION DURING JANUARY-EARLY FEBRUARY 1989 FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL 1989

SUMMARY

The overall situation continued to improve during January with a further general decline in locust population levels. By the end of the first decade of February West Africa, North-West Africa and Eastern Africa appeared to be virtually free of major locust populations. The situation in the Near East also improved significantly during the summary period with the region reported as generally calm in late January apart from a small scale swarm invasion of the United Arab Emirates. However, low to moderate density populations persist in these regions although conditions remain unfavourable for breeding. South-West Asia remained free of any significant locust activity during the summary period.

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology
No significant rainfall was reported in the region during the summary period. However, analysis of Meteosat imagery for the last decade of January indicated significant cloud over Mauritania, Senegal and the Gambia which may have led to rain particularly along northern coastal areas of Mauritania. The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone was located around 10 degrees North over the West African coast and approximately 5 degrees North over Cameroon and Nigeria.

Breeding Conditions
Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for the first two decades of January indicates that vegetation continues to dessicate throughout the Sahel. Small pockets of vegetation persist in the Adrar Des Iforhas in Niger and the Rosso-Aleg area of south west Mauritania and significant areas of vegetation persist in the Abeche-Guereda area of eastern Chad. No significant areas of vegetation were observed in northern Mauritania.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

Trarza
Swarms persisted along the coast from the Senegal River to approximately 80 km north of Nouakchott during the summary period. Swarms were also reported to have re-invaded the Rosso and RKiz areas in late January.

Tiris Zemmour
Immature and mature swarms were reported 40 km south and 10 km east of Bir Moghrein in late January whilst there was an unconfirmed report of hoppers in the same general area in mid January.

Inchiri
A small (3000 ha) infestation of first instar hoppers was reported from Akjoujt in early February.

Both ground and aerial control continued throughout the summary period with 72,317 ha treated from 3 January to 9 February. By the end of the first decade of February control operations had declined significantly as swarm targets became difficult to find.

SENEGAL
In the first half of January swarms were present in the Louga, St. Louis, Thies, Fatick and Cap Vert areas. By late January the Louga-St. Louis area was reported calm but swarms persisted in the other areas mentioned above. By 8 February the situation was reported calm. Ground and aerial control operations continued throughout the summary period but had declined substantially by 10 February.

GAMBIA
Generally small high density immature swarms persisted in the Lower River, Upper River and North Bank districts throughout January and there were reports of swarms invading from the north. One large swarm, estimated size 75 sq. km, was reported in late January. Small to moderate scale aerial and ground control operations continued throughout the summary period.

MALI
No reports of locust activity were received during the summary period.

NIGER
In the second decade of January adult groups of mixed maturity at densities of up to 3 adults per sq. metre were reported from several localities in Air including Abaikor (1824N/0840E), Idabonene (1833N/0854E), Tades (1902N/0826E) and Agalalel (1935N/0830E). Small scale hatching, hoppers and low density mating adults were also reported from the Iferouane, Talak (1838N/0745E), In Ontololog (1838N/0551E) and Ihardanane (1844N/0657E) areas. Small scale control of adults was undertaken in these areas with 275 ha treated.

CHAD
Swarms were reported from the Nokou, Arada-Biltine and the B.E.T. region in late January. Small scale ground control was undertaken.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology
Significant rainfall was mainly confined to coastal areas during the summary period. However, Ouarzazate in south-western Morocco recorded 20 millimetres on 20 January. Analysis of Meteosat cloud imagery for January and early February did not reveal any significant cloud cover in the interior regions of Algeria or Morocco.

Breeding Conditions
Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for the first two decades of January indicates that areas of significant vegetation are confined to the coastal regions north and north-west of the Atlas mountains but these are unlikely to be suitable for breeding due to low temperatures. Small areas of green vegetation were present along the Algerian-Moroccan border in the Wadi Draa and in the Guelmim area of south-western Morocco.

Locusts

MOROCCO
Control operations against swarms continued in the Guelmim, Tata, Errachidia and Ouarzazate regions throughout the summary period but the scale of operations continued to decline. Major control operations were concentrated in the Guelmim region against immigrant swarms from the south and south-east. No reports of breeding have been received. From 10 October to 13 February 1,978,044 ha were treated of which approximately 216,000 ha were treated from in January-early February.

ALGERIA
The situation has remained calm since mid January when a swarm was reported from Bordj Beji Mokhtar area of southern Algeria. A small (1500 ha) immature swarm was controlled in the Adrar region on 9 February. A total of 146,733 ha were treated up to 9 February.

TUNISIA
No report of locust activity was received during the summary period and the situation is believed to be calm.

LIBYA
No report of locust activity was received during the summary period and the situation is believed to be calm.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology
Analysis of Meteosat imagery indicated that significant cloud cover was present over southern Ethiopia and Somalia in the second decade of January and it is likely that light to moderate rain fell. The remainder of the region appeared cloud free during the summary period and no significant rain is believed to have fallen in Sudan or northern Ethiopia.

Breeding Conditions
Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for January indicates that the Red Sea coast of Sudan remains dry and unsuitable for breeding. However, high resolution NOAA imagery indicates the presence of favourable breeding areas in wadis in the south-western part of the Red Sea Hills draining west towards the Nile and Atbara Rivers, Tokar, Mohamed Gol and the Karora area of the Sudan-Ethiopian border. There are significant areas of vegetation in the Darfur region of western Sudan particularly in the El Fasher-Jebel Marra area which appear suitable for breeding. In Ethiopia the Red Sea coastal area north of Asmara remains dry although areas of vegetation persist in the highlands of Eritrea. The suitability of the Ogaden for breeding continues to diminish although significant green areas persist. Small areas of green vegetation also persist along the northern Somali coast.

Locusts

SUDAN
The overall situation improved substantially during January with a marked and persistent decline in the locust population. In the Red Sea region small mature and immature swarms and small pockets of hopper bands were reported in the Tokar Delta and Wadi Oko areas in late January but by the end of January the sitaution was reported calm as these populations declined further with control. Small areas of hopper bands and scattered mature adult groups also persisted in the Shendi area in the second half of January. Small scale control was undertaken in the summary period with a total of 110,460 ha treated from 15 September to 13 February of which approximately 12,000 ha was treated during January-early February.

ETHIOPIA
There were no confirmed reports of locusts in Ethiopia during January. Aerial surveys were undertaken in the Dagabour area in the second half of January following unconfirmed reports of swarms in the area but no locusts were observed.

DJIBOUTI
Djibouti was reported free of locusts on 8 February.

SOMALIA
Early instar hoppers were present in several localities in the northern and eastern regions in November but was reported clear of locusts on 8 February.

KENYA, **UGANDA** and **TANZANIA** were reported free of locust activity on 8 February.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology
No significant cloud cover was observed on Meteosat imagery of the region during the summary period. However, significant rain was reported along the northern Mediterranean coast of Egypt in the first decade of January with Alexandria recording 25 millimetres and Mersa Matruh 21 millimetres on 10 January. There were also unconfirmed reports of significant rain in the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic in the second decade of January.

Breeding Conditions
Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for the first two decades of January indicates that, in general, conditions remain unsuitable for breeding on the Red Sea coast of Egypt, the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and in both the Yemen Arab Republic and Yemen PDR. However, field reports indicate that limited favourable breeding areas are present in the Hodeidah area of the Yemen Arab Republic. In other parts of Saudi Arabia the Riyadh-Buraydah, Wadi Dawasir and Tabouk areas appeared suitable for breeding.

Locusts

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Scattered immature adult groups reported in the Wadi Dawasir, Harrad, Qunfidah, Jizzan and Mecca areas on 14 January. On 16 January low to medium density swarms were reported to have invaded Tabouk and Umm Lejj. There were also unconfirmed reports of swarms in the Rub El Khali (Empty Quarter) in January. By the end of January all areas were reported as free of swarms and hopper bands and control of residual adult groups was continuing in the Harrad and Wadi Dawasir areas.

EGYPT
Hatching was reported in the South-Eastern Desert in mid to late January but no additional information is available.

RED SEA
A single mature adult was reported by a ship, position 1820N/4000E, on 7 January.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC
Extensive ground surveys undertaken in mid to late January found low density immature and mature adults and small mixed instar hopper bands in the Hodeidah area where conditions were reported as suitable for breeding. The highlands and the remainder of the Tihama were reported as free of locusts and conditions weredescibed as dry and unfavourable for breeding.

KUWAIT
On 22 January a medium density immature swarm, estimated size 25 sq. km, invaded the Al Wafra (2834N/4804E) area but was reported to have been successfully controlled. On 27 January another immature swarm invaded the same general area with approximately 70 sq. km reported to be infested. A total of 7170 ha was reported to have been treated by air from 23 to 31 January and ground control was also carried out.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
A medium density immature swarm was reported to have invaded the north-east of Abu Dhabi on 29 January. Further swarms invaded Abu Dhabi on 31 January and it was estimated that approximately 100 sq. km were infested. Ground control was reported to be in progress with 1000 ha treated by early February.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology
Light to moderate rain fell in Rajasthan in the first decade of January.

Breeding Conditions
Localised areas suitable for breeding are likely to be present in India and Pakistan. Low temperatures would have restricted the possibility of breeding in Afghanistan and Iran.

Locusts

PAKISTAN
Low density adults, maximum density 2255 adults per sq. km, were reported from Rumra (2524N/6344E) and Ormara (2536N/6413E) during January.

INDIA
Scattered adults, maximum density 15 adults per sq. km, were observed at Pugal (2831N/7248E), Ramgarh (2722N/7030E) and Kunjarbet Khavda (2350N/6944E) during January.

FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL

In West Africa populations are likely to further decline in Senegal, Mauritania and the Gambia although there is a low to moderate risk that small scale immigration from northern to southern Mauritania may occur. Some small swarms may occur in the Guinea savannah belt from Guinea Bissau east to northern Nigeria. In the Sahel low density populations are likely to persist in locally favourable areas of Mali, Niger and Chad but these are unlikely to breed within the forecast period unless significant early rain falls.

In North-West Africa the situation is likely to remain calm. However, there is a moderate to high risk of a small scale invasion of Morocco and Algeria from the south.

In Eastern Africa the overall situation is likely to remain calm although there is a low to moderate risk of locusts invading Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia from the east but the scale is likely to be small.

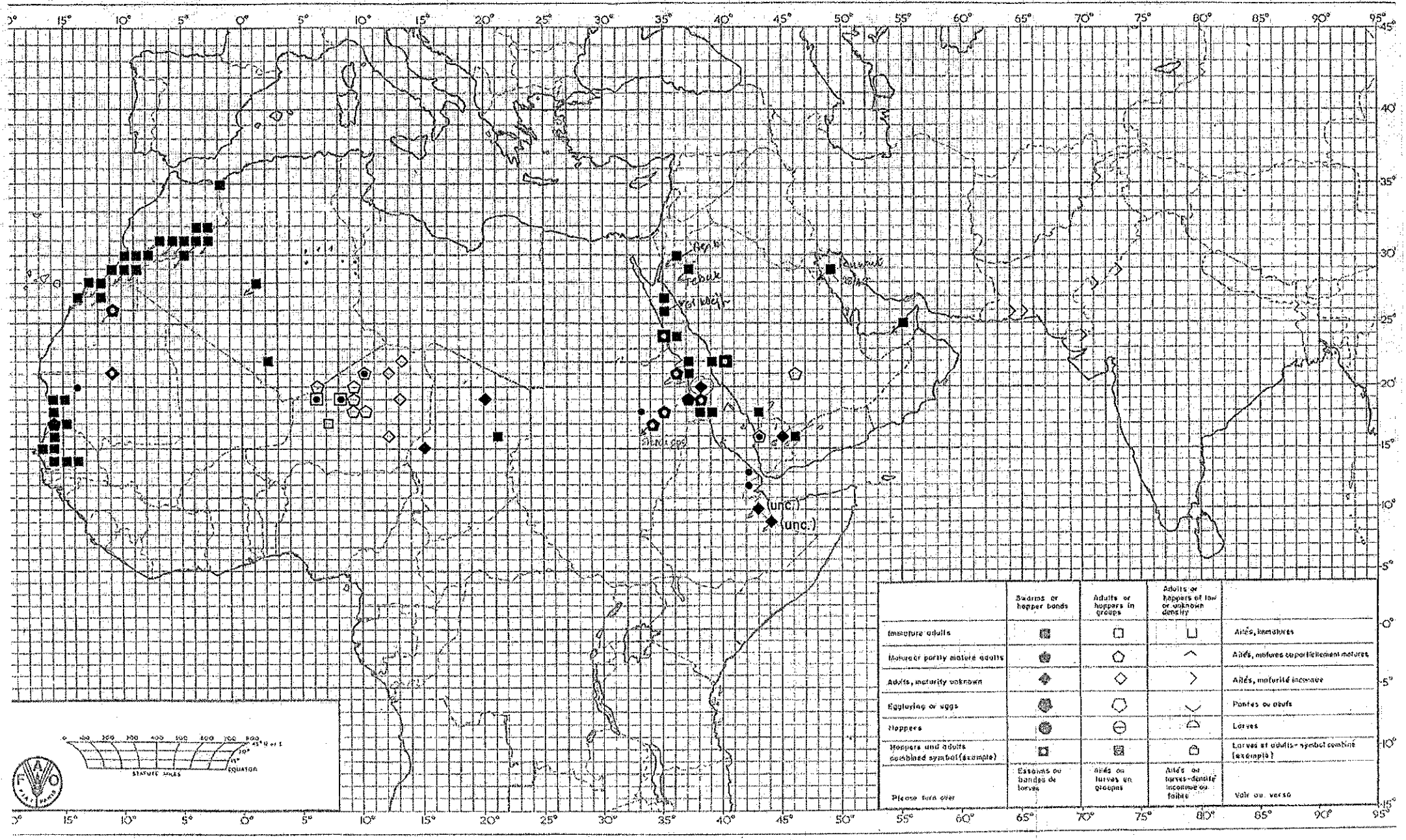
In the Near East there will be an increasing risk of further swarm movement to the north and east as temperatures increase in the spring. There will be a moderate risk of a few swarms invading Jordan, Israel, Syria, Iraq and possibly Lebanon and Turkey. The scale of such invasions is likely to be small. Similarly, there is a risk of further small scale swarm invasions of Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, U.A.E. and Oman.

In South-West Asia there is a moderate risk that a few swarms from the west could invade Iran and possibly the Baluchistan area of Pakistan during the forecast period with subsequent breeding. The situation in India is likely to remain calm.

Rome, 15 February 1989.

Poor registration

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 125 JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY/JANVIER - DEBUT FEVRIER 1989



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers at low or unknown density	
Immature adults				Ailés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults				Ailés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown				Ailés, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs				Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers				Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)				Larves et adultes - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Ailés ou larves en groupes	Ailés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso