



FAO



EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR LOCUST OPERATIONS

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No. 187



The Desert Locust situation improved during March as the current upsurge declined. Current infestations are restricted to an area south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria where control operations are in progress against low numbers of small maturing swarms. Although conditions are reported to be favourable for breeding, only one incidence of swarm laying has been reported to date. In West Africa, the few remaining swarms have dispersed into the forests of Guinea Bissau. It is expected that a few small swarmlets may re-appear during the forecast in south-west Mali and move north-east.

The Desert Locust situation continued to improve in West Africa. In Mauritania, infestations declined along the coast where only a few residual populations are still present. In northern Mauritania there were several unconfirmed reports of swarms flying northwards near the southern border of Morocco. More significantly, however, is that breeding has occurred only in a few places and on a small and limited scale. No further breeding is expected unless additional rainfall occurs. Therefore, only a few small infestations are expected to persist during the forecast period.

No new swarms were reported in Senegal during the month and very few locusts remain. No new reports of swarms were received from Gambia and Guinea Bissau which indicates that the southern movement of swarms from Senegal was rather limited and has now come to an end. Although a few small swarms are expected to appear in south-western Mali from the forests of Guinea Bissau, they will probably not be very viable and do not constitute a significant threat to the country at this stage.

Very few locusts are present on the coastal plains along both sides of the Red Sea and seasonal breeding has been extremely limited due to poor rainfall and low levels of locust adults. A similar situation exists in northern Somalia where a very small infestation of scattered adults was sprayed.

In South-West Asia, scattered populations are present along the coast of Baluchistan in Pakistan where small scale breeding may be in progress.

The FAO Desert Locust Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, telex, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy.

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WEATHER & ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 1994

Based on field reports, METEOSAT and ARTEMIS satellite imagery, and Météo-France synoptic and rain data. Rainfall terms: light = less than 20 mm of rain; moderate = 20 - 50 mm; heavy = more than 50 mm.

During March, several depressions were present over North-West Africa and adjacent areas of the Sahara. For example, a stationery depression persisted over western Algeria on 1-5 March. A second depression persisted over southern Morocco from the 7th to the 15th which eventually moved east over central Algeria giving rise to a frontal system on the 16th and 17th. This was followed by another mid-level depression over central Algeria on 21-22 March and a low-level depression over the same area on the 23rd and 24th.

These depressions affected the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) by pulling it northward on several occasions up to 15°N from its current position of around 10°N. As a result, south-westerly winds developed over Guinea Bissau and Guinea Conakry, most notably on the 6-7th, 12-15th and on the 25-28th, which could move any locusts present in the area in a north-easterly direction.

Very little rainfall was associated with the depressions except for some light rains falling on the 7-8th in Mauritania over southern and north-eastern Trarza and in Aioun El Atrous. However, ecological conditions were reported to be favourable for breeding south-west of the Atlas Mountains in Algeria and similar conditions are expected to exist in Morocco.

In early March, a frontal system associated with a mid-level depression developed over northern Sudan and extended to north-western Saudi Arabia. Heavy rains fell in the southern and western portion of the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt during the same period.

Along the coastal plains of the Red Sea, very little rains fell during March except for light showers near Jizan on the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia. Favourable breeding conditions were reported to be limited to a few wadis and low-lying areas on the coastal northern coastal plains of Eritrea and southern plains of Sudan. Green patches were also present on the Agbanzauf Plain near Massawa in Eritrea. No rain continued to be reported from Yemen and conditions were unfavourable for breeding.

In Ethiopia good rains were reported along the railway north-east of Dire Dawa during the first half of the month. In Somalia, the winter rains (January and February) failed along the northern coast between Mait and Bosasso and the spring rains (March-May) have not yet started, resulting in drought conditions in many parts of the north except near Las Anod in the interior and Humbeis on the coast east of Mait. Drought conditions were also reported in adjacent areas of the Ogaden of Ethiopia.

Light rains fell in Baluchistan of Pakistan during the first half of March and breeding conditions were improving in coastal areas as a result of scattered rains during the second half of February. No rains were reported from Rajasthan in India.



AREA TREATED IN MARCH 1994

Algeria	150 ha	(27 February - 20 March)
Mauritania	9,050 ha	(16-28 February)
	5,215 ha	(1-15 March)
Morocco	3,607 ha	(23 February-29 March)
Senegal	370 ha	(22-28 February)
Somalia	300 ha	



DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

During the last decade of February, several small swarms and groups of maturing adults continued to be reported, sometimes by nomads, in previously infested areas near Rosso, Nouakchott reaching north-east as far as 1837N/1442W and the Tijirit region (ca. 1945N/1551W). However, the overall scale of infestation was limited and 9,050 ha were treated. During the same period, isolated immature adults were reported in the north near Chinguetti (2027N/1221W) as well as scattered maturing and copulating adults between Zouerate (2240N/1245W) and Bir Moghreïn (2514N/1234W).

During the first half of March, scattered adults and one very small and loose copulating swarm (2259N/1248W) were seen during a helicopter survey carried out in Inchiri, southern Adrar and central Tiris Zemmour, and limited ground control operations were undertaken. Infestations continued to decline, primarily in the south, while some maturing and mature groups and swarms were reported from north-western Trarza and Inchiri between Benichaab (1928N/1527W), Tmeimichat (2116N/1416W) and Akjoujt. Some of these were copulating and localized breeding occurred west of Akjoujt near Bouchouara (1910N/1458W) where 120 ha of hoppers of all stage and adults were treated. A total of 5,215 ha were sprayed by ground from 1-15 March.

SENEGAL

A late report stated that 370 ha were treated near Richard Toll (1628N/1541W) and Kaolack (1408N/1605W) during the last week of February.

Only scattered adults were reported from Podor (1639N/1458W) in the Senegal River Valley and Kolda (1253N/1457W) in the south on 2-8 March. No new swarms were seen during March and by the end of the month no further locust activity was reported.

GAMBIA

No locusts were found during a survey carried out along the southern bank of the river from Banjul to Fatoto (1324N/1353W) in late March.

GUINEA BISSAU

During the second half of February, several small immature swarms crossed the Gambia border into the northern half of the country where they were seen near Pirada (1238N/1408W) and Bafata (1213N/1440W) on the 23rd-28th.

By mid-March, only some swarm fragments persisted mainly near Bissora (1213N/1527W) in the north and Xitole (1144N/1448W) in the south-east.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 March.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO

On 23 February, scattered adults were reported in the south, north-east of Dakhla at Samlat Amghrach (2506N/1335W). As a result of continuing northern displacement, adults concentrated during the next five weeks along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains between Tan-Tan and Errachidia. Most of these adults were in low densities although several small loose swarms, some of them mature, were treated, primarily south of Errachidia in the Remlia region (3041N/0426W) and to a lesser extent near Ouarzazate (3055N/0655W) and Tata (2945N/0758W). A 60 ha egg-field was found near the Algerian border in Oued Daoura south of Remlia in late March. A total of 3,607 ha was treated from 23 February to 29 March.

ALGERIA

During the third decade of February, a 200 ha loose swarm was partly treated at Oued Fein (2757N/0755W) north-east of Tindouf and there were a few reports of isolated adults from south of the Atlas Mountains to Adrar (ca. 2820N/0030E).

During the first three weeks of March, low density adults were present in a few locations on the southern side of the Atlas Mountains west of Beni Abbes (3007N/0209W). On the 10th, a loose maturing swarm fragment was treated over 70 ha in Oued M'Guirinet (2942N/0336W).

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 March.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

A late report stated that scattered immature and mature adults were present at some places along the southern Red Sea coast between Khor Balatat (1758N/3828E) near the Eritrean border and Khor Gowb (1902N/3721E) near Suakin on 8-18 February.

SOMALIA

On 22-27 February, isolated adults were seen during a survey carried out on the central northern coast east of Bosasso at 1116N/4848E and 1112N/4840E. There was an unconfirmed report of flying locusts in the Rayuda plains (1041N/4629E) during the second half of February.

During March, scattered adults were sprayed by air over 300 ha in the same area at Reban (1108N/4733E). No locusts were seen during an aerial survey along adjacent areas of the northern coastal plains from Silil (1058N/4323E) to Bosasso (1116N/4911E) on 6-9 March.

DJIBOUTI, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA

No locust activity was reported up to 15 March.

NEAR EAST

SAUDI ARABIA

No locust activity was reported during March.

YEMEN

No locust activity was reported from 10 February to 10 March.

EGYPT

Isolated adults, some of them mature, were reported at a few places on the southern Red Sea coast and adjacent interior areas on 13-15 February.

No locust activity was reported in the western and southern areas of Sinai during the first decade of March.

KUWAIT

A late report stated that no locust activity was observed during February.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 March.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

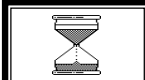
During the second half of February, scattered adults at densities up to 425 per sq. km were reported from 13 locations of the Makran near Gwadar (2507N/6220E), Pasni (2515N/6328E) and Turbat (2600N/6305E), and again in 17 locations along the Makran coastal plains and in Lasbela district during the first half of March.

INDIA

No locust activity was reported during the second half of February.

During the first half of March, isolated adults were reported in Rajasthan at 3 locations between Jaisalmer and Bikaner.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 March.


FORECAST UNTIL MID-MAY 1994
WEST AFRICA**MAURITANIA**

Infestations along the Senegal River Valley will continue to decline and only low densities of scattered adults are expected to persist during the forecast period. In the central western and northern regions, the overall situation will continue to improve although low numbers of adults will persist at places in the Inchiri, Adrar and Tiris Zemmour regions and may form some small groups. No further breeding is likely due to unfavourable conditions and no rains are expected to occur at this time of year. Surveys should continue to monitor the situation.

GAMBIA

A few isolated adults may be present at places near the Senegalese border; however, no further developments are expected.

GUINEA BISSAU

A few group of adults may persist during the first half of the forecast period; however, they will slowly disperse eastwards and no significant developments are expected.

GUINEA CONAKRY

A few groups of immature adults may have reached the northern areas; however, no significant developments are expected.

MALI

There is a moderate probability of low numbers of adults and perhaps a few small swarmlets appearing in the south-west and moving north-east towards Gao late in the forecast period; however, no significant developments are expected. A few isolated adults may be present in Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna.

BURKINA FASO

There is a low probability of low numbers of adults and perhaps a few small groups appearing in the northwest late in the forecast period as a result of the southern circuit migration.

NIGER

A few isolated adults may be present in Tamesna.

CHAD

A few isolated adults may be present in Tibesti.

CAMEROON, CAPE VERDE, SENEGAL and SIERRA LEONE

No significant developments are likely.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO

Low to moderate numbers of adults will persist along the Oued Draa region and possibly form some small loose swarms. Small scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rains. However, the overall scale of the infestations is likely to remain small and the situation is expected to be kept under control.

ALGERIA

A few small loose swarms may continue to appear in some areas of the central western region between Tindouf and Bechar, where they may breed in areas of favourable conditions. However, the overall scale of the infestations is expected to remain small.

TUNISIA and LIBYA

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

Adult infestations on the Red Sea coastal plains will decrease during the forecast period as conditions become dry.

ERITREA

Any adult infestations present on the Red Sea coastal plains will decrease during the forecast period as conditions become dry.

SOMALIA

Isolated adults are likely to persist on the central northern coast and may breed if significant rainfall occurs.

ETHIOPIA

A few isolated adults may occur in the Railway Region and breed in areas of recent rains.

DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA

No significant developments are likely.

NEAR EAST

SAUDI ARABIA

Any scattered adults present on the southern Tihama will decline during the forecast period unless further rains occur.

YEMEN

A few isolated adults may be present on the Tihama and scattered adults may be present on the coastal plains of Aden. Given the lack of rains, no breeding is expected.

EGYPT

Adult infestations will decrease during the forecast period as conditions become dry.

OMAN

Scattered adults may be present and breeding on the Batinah and Musandam Peninsula in any areas that received recent rainfall.

UAE

Scattered adults may be present and breeding on the Fujayrah coast in any areas that received recent rainfall.

BAHRAIN, IRAQ, ISRAEL, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, QATAR, SYRIA and TURKEY

No significant developments are likely.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

IRAN

Any scattered adults present in the south-eastern Baluchistan will decline during the forecast period unless further rains occur.

PAKISTAN

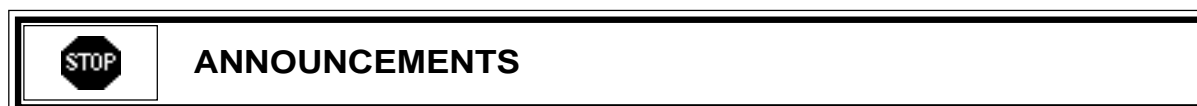
Scattered adults are likely to persist in coastal areas of the Makran and Lasbela and breed in areas of recent rainfall.

INDIA

Isolated adults are likely to persist in some areas of Rajasthan.

AFGHANISTAN

No significant developments are likely.



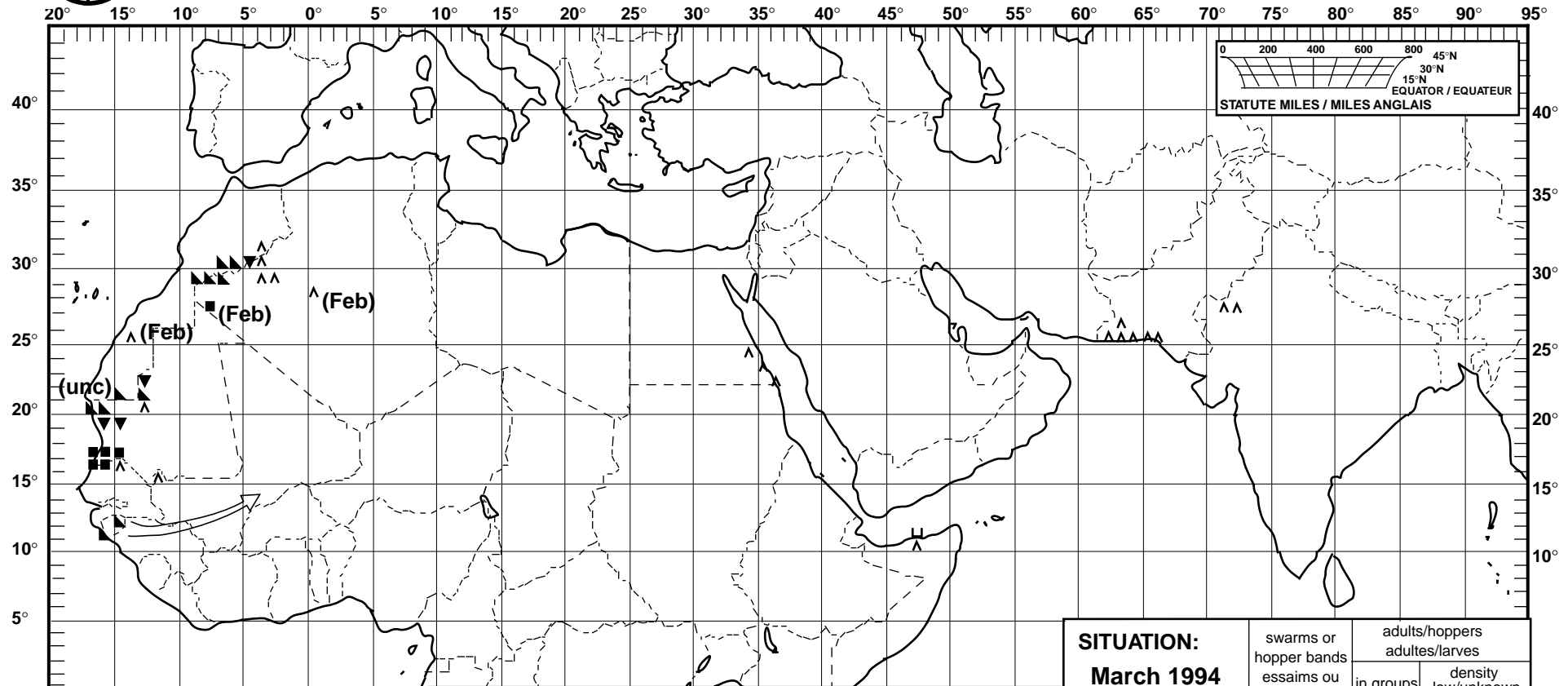
Since the current Desert Locust upsurge is declining, ECLO will discontinue producing a mid-month update but keep on publishing the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin.

31 March 1994



Desert Locust: summary Criquet pèlerin: situation résumée

No. 187



FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: 15.5.94	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
current undetected breeding reproduction en cours et non détectée		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

SITUATION: March 1994 mars 1994	swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults/hoppers adultes/larves	
		in groups en groupes	density low/unknown densité faible/inconnue
immature adults adultes immatures			
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures			
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue			
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs			
hoppers larves			
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)			