



# DESERT LOCUST UPDATE

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



(20 Jan 2005)



## General Situation as of 20 January 2005

The Desert Locust situation is improving in Northwest Africa where control operations are still in progress but declining against immature swarms in northern Morocco and Algeria. In West Africa, control operations have ended in Mauritania. Small infestations of immature swarms are present in Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and southern Senegal. Although the situation is expected to continue to improve in the coming weeks, survey and control operations must be maintained and Sahelian countries should prepare themselves for any swarms that could arrive from Northwest Africa at the beginning of the summer. In winter breeding areas along the Red Sea, several copulating swarms were treated in northeast Sudan where small-scale breeding is likely to occur.

There has been a significant decline in locust activity and, accordingly, aerial and ground control operations in Morocco. Consequently, only low numbers of small immature swarms persist in a few places in the northeast near Oujda, in the southeast near Bouarfa, in the Souss-Massa Valley and the High Atlas Mountains. The situation is calm in the Draa Valley and in Western Sahara. Control operations have also declined in Algeria where immature swarms persist in parts of the northern Sahara. Despite the improvement in the situation, control operations must be maintained to reduce the scale of spring breeding and the eventual swarm threat to Sahelian countries at the beginning of the summer.

Control operations have ended in Mauritania and the situation is relatively calm. One immature swarm was seen on the 10th on the coast north of Nouakchott and scattered immature adults were present at a few places in the south near Kaedi. Light rain may have fallen at times along the Mauritanian/Western Sahara border and in parts of northeastern Mauritania. In Senegal, several immature swarms were present in the southern province of Kolda near the Guinea Bissau border where aerial control operations were in progress during the first half of January. Immature swarms arrived in northwest Guinea (Koundara, Gaoual and Mali regions) on 13 January. In Guinea Bissau, several immature swarms persisted in different parts of the country, a swarm over flew the capital on the 7th and a few swarms were reported off the coast on the Bijagos islands. Control operations are being organized.

In the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea, several swarms were copulating during the first decade of January in Wadi Diib in northeast Sudan just south of the Egyptian border, and isolated adults were present in Tokar Delta. Although aerial control operations were carried out in Wadi Diib, hopper bands could form in the coming weeks from any breeding that occurs. In Yemen, scattered locusts were maturing on the Red Sea coast near the border with Saudi Arabia. No locusts were reported in Saudi Arabia.

The most up-to-date information on the situation and photos are available on the Internet ([www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm](http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm)) as well as maps of the latest infestations (193.43.36.11/mapper).

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

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