

FAO DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No 138

GENERAL SITUATION DURING FEBRUARY 1990 FORECAST UNTIL MID APRIL 1990

The recession continues with very few Desert Locusts reported during February. Only a few scattered adults were present along the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. Although no other locusts were reported, it is likely that small numbers of adults are present in Makran and Baluchistan of Pakistan and in eastern Arabia. METEOSAT imagery indicated that there has been widespread rain in the interior of the southern Arabian Peninsula. There are unlikely to be many adults in the area to take advantage of this rain but the situation needs to be closely monitored. In East Africa, scattered adults may have moved westwards along the northern coast of Somalia. Elsewhere, very small numbers of adults are likely to be present in North-West and West Africa.

Although only a few scattered adults were observed on the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia, it is likely that small numbers of adults are present in other parts of the coastal plains on both sides of the central and southern Red Sea. During the forecast period, numbers will decline as adults start to move from the coastal plains into the interior.

Elsewhere, there are two areas of interest. First, it is likely that significant numbers of scattered adults migrated to Makran and the interior of Baluchistan in Pakistan last autumn. These may have laid following recent rainfall and it is possible a few small groups may form by the end of the forecast period. Second, scattered adults have probably drifted westwards along the northern coastal plain of Somalia and these may have started to breed on a small scale since moderate rain has fallen in the area.

In North-West and West Africa, very small numbers of adults are likely to be present in southern Algeria, south-western Morocco, northern Mauritania, the Adrar des Iforas of Mali, Tamesna, northern Air of Niger, and possibly in Tibesti of southern Libya and northern Chad.



WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

During February, the ITCZ was located south of 9°N over West Africa. METEOSAT imagery indicated substantial cloud masses over the extreme south-west of Morocco on 3 and 22 February, over Mauritania between Tidjikja and Ouadane on the 3rd, 15th, and 23rd, and Inchiri on the 22nd, and over the extreme north-west of Mali on the 24th. These clouds may have produced some rain since some green patches of vegetation were reported in inter-dune areas in Adrar of Mauritania. Temperatures generally remained too cold to allow for night flight in North-West Africa.

On the Red Sea coast of Sudan, Tokar received 24 mm of rain on 21 January. However, vegetation was starting to dry out in many areas by mid February. Heavy rain was reported on the Tihama of Saudi Arabia on the 4th in Jizan and light rain fell near Qunfidah on the 4-6th. Rain was also reported on the Tihama of Yemen AR on the 5-6th.

METEOSAT imagery suggested that rain may have fallen in Djibouti and the north-western coast of Somalia during the last week of February.

Light rains fell on the coast west of Aden on 19 January and north-east of Aden on the 31st; however, vegetation and soil conditions are still very dry. METEOSAT imagery suggested that heavy rain may have fallen in the Wadi Hadhramaut area in early February. On 7 February, Saiyun reported 57 mm, Ketbah 37 mm, and Shibam 12 mm during a four hour period. Standing water was present in Wadi Hadhramaut and soil conditions were moist and favourable for laying over a large area from Wadi Hainan to Wadi Khon. Vegetation is expected to improve by the end of the month.

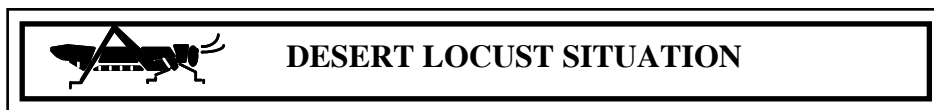
METEOSAT imagery indicated substantial cloud masses during the first half of February over the Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and the coast of Oman. Freezing rain was reported in Muscat during the second week of February. Other confirmed reports of rainfall were not available.

Heavy floods were reported in south-eastern Iran near Chah Bahar in early to mid February. Widespread rains were reported in Baluchistan during the second week of February.



AREA TREATED IN FEBRUARY 1990

During February, there were no reports of control operations.



WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Surveys during the second half of January in Tagant and Adrar regions confirmed that the situation remained calm. No further details were available.

Surveys during early February from Tidjikja (1832N/1123W) to 40 km west of Tichit (1828N/0930W) did not find any locusts.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 28 February.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, LIBYA

No locust activity was reported up to 10 February.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

No locusts were found by ground surveys on the Red Sea coast from Suakin to Port Sudan and in the Karora area during the first half of February.

ETHIOPIA, DJIBOUTI, SOMALIA, KENYA, and TANZANIA

The locust situation was reported calm up to 31 January.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

A few scattered newly fledged adults were observed on the Tihama south of Qunfidah along the foothills near Khamis Garib (1910N/4130E) on 4-5 February.

YEMEN PDR

Ground surveys during the second week of February along the coast west of Aden, on the eastern coast from Mukalla to Dis (1453N/4954E), and in Wadi Hadhramaut from Wadi Dour to Wadi Khon did not find any locusts.

IRAQ, KUWAIT, BAHRAIN, and UAE

No locust activity was reported up to 28 January.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 28 February.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

No locusts were reported during January and the first half of February.

INDIA

No locusts were reported during January and the first half of February.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 28 February.

NEW ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

No requests for assistance against Desert Locusts had been received up to 28 February.

CAMEROON has requested 30,000 litres of pesticide for control operations against Locusta in the northern region.

NEW ASSISTANCE PLEDGED

No information regarding assistance against Desert Locusts had been received up to 28 February.



WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Small numbers of locusts are likely only to be present in areas that may have received recent rainfall such as Dakhlet-Nouadhibou, Inchiri, between Ouadane and Tidjikja in Adrar-Tagant, and near Zouerate. Small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation. Surveys in late March are recommended in these areas.

MALI

Small numbers of locusts are likely only to be present in areas that have received recent rainfall, such as in the Adrar des Iforas, where small scale breeding may occur.

NIGER

Small numbers of locusts are likely only to be present only in areas that have received recent rainfall such as the northern Air where small scale breeding may occur.

CHAD

Small numbers of locusts are likely only to be present in areas that have received recent rainfall, such as Kanem and Tibesti, where small scale breeding may occur.

BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, GAMBIA, GUINEA BISSAU, GUINEA CONAKRY, and SENEGAL

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO

Small numbers of locusts are likely only to be present in areas that may have received recent rainfall primarily in the extreme south-west. Small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation.

ALGERIA

Small numbers of locusts are likely only to be present in areas that may have received recent rainfall primarily in the central and southern Sahara. Small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation.

TUNISIA and LIBYA

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

A few scattered locusts may be present on the Red Sea coast; however, numbers will decline as locusts begin to move near the end of the forecast period toward summer breeding areas in the interior of the country.

ETHIOPIA

A few scattered locusts may be present on the northern Red Sea coast; however, numbers will decline as locusts begin to move to summer breeding areas.

SOMALIA

Small numbers of locusts are likely to be present on the northern coast, primarily in areas that may have received recent rainfall such as the north-western coastal plains from Berbera to the Djibouti border. Small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation.

DJIBOUTI

Small numbers of locusts are likely to be present in areas that may have received recent rainfall, such as the coast, where small scale breeding may occur.

KENYA, UGANDA, and TANZANIA

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

NEAR EAST**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

Small numbers of locusts are likely to be present on the Tihama from Lith to the Yemen AR border where small scale breeding may occur. During the forecast period, numbers will decline as adults begin to move into the interior.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Small numbers of locusts are likely to be present on the Tihama, especially in areas of recent rainfall, such as north of Hodeidah, where small scale breeding may occur. By the end of the forecast period, numbers will decline as adults begin to move toward summer breeding areas.

YEMEN PDR

A few scattered adults may be present in Wadi Hadhramaut which received moderate rainfall in early February. Surveys in early March are recommended in these areas.

OMAN

Based on the likelihood that recent rainfall occurred, scattered adults may be present and small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation along the coast and in the interior.

UAE

Based on the likelihood that recent rainfall occurred, scattered adults may be present and small scale breeding may occur on the north-eastern coast and in the interior.

EGYPT

A few scattered locusts may be present in the south-eastern desert.

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

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA**PAKISTAN**

Small adult infestations are likely to be present in Makran and the interior of Baluchistan where small scale breeding may be in progress with just possibly a few small groups forming by the end of the forecast period.

INDIA

A few scattered adults may be present in Rajasthan; however, no breeding is expected.

IRAN

A few scattered adults are likely to be present in the south-east near Chah Bahar and small scale breeding, possibly leading to the formation of some small groups, may occur since recent rainfall was reported.

AFGHANISTAN

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

1 March 1990



DESERT LOCUST SUMMARY NO. 138

CRIQUET PELERIN : RESUME

