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## Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

# DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 76      DECEMBER 1984 - EARLY JANUARY 1985

### SUMMARY

The Desert Locust situation remains exceptionally calm. Small numbers of adults were found in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

\* For technical reasons, the map which should accompany this summary will be dispatched with the next summary.

W/R 2543

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, DECEMBER 1984 - EARLY JANUARY 1985

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

The Intertropical Front continued its displacement towards the Gulf of Guinea and by 1 January it had reached 5°N. To the south rainfall amounts did not exceed 40 mm in 24 hours. Meteosat infra-red imagery confirmed that thermoconvective activity was mainly over the Atlantic ocean and in particular over the Gulf of Guinea.

Meteosat imagery also showed that an Atlantic disturbance crossed Mauritania from west to east between 29 December and 2 January, but according to GTS data associated rainfall total did not exceed 3 mm daily. Sandstorms were reported from Mauritania and Mali.

Maximum daily temperatures ranged from 32°C in the interior to 20°C in Atlantic coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

According to the OCLALAV report for November there were considerable areas of green vegetation in Mauritania in the Khar el Moinane (1914 N/1127 W), Agane, Aouker of Boutilimit, in the sand dunes south of the Adrar, north-west of Aioun el Atrouss, and the two Adafers (1855 N/1055 W). Elsewhere there was green vegetation in Mali in north-eastern Adrar des Iforhas, South-west Tamesna and southern Timetrine. There were also some patches of green vegetation in Tamesna in Niger.

NOAA/AVHRR imagery for December does not show any green vegetation north of 16°N but in view of the OCLALAV report for November it is clear that some green vegetation will have persisted.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

Scattered hoppers and adults were found at several localities around Aioun el Atrouss in November.

MALI

Further surveys in Tamesna revealed that the populations seen in September and October had declined. In Oued In Oumfassen (1827 N/0251 E) there were immature adults at densities of 5,000 - 25,000 per hectare over an area of 150 hectares of Schouwia and at 500 - 1,000 per hectare over an area of 1,000 hectares of Tribulus. In Oued Tan Bakri (1821 N/0245 E) there were immature adults at 50 per hectare over 500 hectares, at Tin Essako there were immature adults at 25 - 100 per hectare

over 70 hectares, at the confluence of Tin Eze and Tin Essako there were immature adults at densities of 1,000 - 20,000 per hectare over 15 hectares and hoppers at densities of less than 100 per hectare, in Tin Eze (1816 N/0243 E) there were immature adults at densities of 25 - 500 per hectare over 300 hectares and several areas of fledglings at densities of 5 - 25 per hectares over areas of 25 - 500 hectares.

#### NIGER

Three adults were seen at Tchissightam in Tamesna in November.

### NORTH-WEST AFRICA

#### Meteorology

Numerous Atlantic disturbances and in particular some very active cold fronts and troughs crossed the Maghreb from Morocco to Libya and resulted in frequent heavy rain in coastal and mountain areas. No significant rain, however, was reported via the GTS from the desert areas.

Maximum daily temperatures were in the region of 25°C in interior areas, whilst in coastal areas they were usually in the range 15°-20°C.

#### Breeding conditions

The only areas within the recession area suitable for breeding are probably in the Libyan oases.

#### Locusts

There were no reports from the Region.

### EASTERN AFRICA

#### Meteorology

A disturbance from the Indian Ocean crossed northern Somalia and the Gulf of Aden between 6 and 9 December and almost certainly resulted in rain along the northern Somali coast. Djibouti reported 0.2 mm on 9 December. Massawa recorded 14.5 mm during the first decade of December whilst later there were further periods when rain may have fallen on the Ethiopian and Sudan Red Sea coasts, associated with a quasi-permanent zone of instability situated along 38°E.

Further south the ITCZ moved south and gave rise to moderate to good rainfall over Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Maximum temperature ranged from 35°C in lowland areas to 15°C in the highlands.

Breeding conditions

According to DLCO-EA the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal areas were dry in the first decade of December but NOAA/AVHRR imagery for the last decade indicates that conditions had become suitable along the southern sector in Sudan, around the Gulf of Tadjoura, between Zeila and Bulhar and east of Mait.

Locusts

No locusts were reported in the first decade of December.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

From 3 December a Mediterranean depression moved across Saudi Arabia to the United Arab Emirates. Meteosat imagery confirmed the movement of the associated rainy belt but until 9 December the GTS did not report any rainfall over 5 mm. The disturbance from the Indian Ocean led to major variations in the position of the Red Sea Convergence Zone and resulted in some showers in coastal areas of Yemen PDR up to 8 December and along the Tihama of Saudi Arabia, while inland Najran received 20 mm of rain in 10 December. There were frequent rains in north and centre of Arabia. Maximum temperatures ranged from 20°C in the north to 30°C in the south.

Breeding conditions

Conditions had become favourable for breeding in coastal areas of Yemen PDR, but were unfavourable on the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic.

Locusts

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Low density solitarious adults were reported at Az-Zaghfah (1441 N/4930 E) on 15 December.

There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

Although no rainfall data for Iran have yet been received under bilateral arrangements, Meteosat imagery showed that the Mediterranean depressions which affected northern Arabia extended to Iran and Afghanistan, where they weakened under the influence of continental high pressure. Qetta received heavy rain on 11 December, while Nushki received heavy rain on 29 December.

Elsewhere there was only light rain in the winter-spring breeding areas during December, but there were light to heavy rain throughout Baluchistan during the first half of January, Quetta recorded 20 mm on the third. Maximum temperatures were generally in the range 17°-27°C.

### Breeding conditions

Conditions will have become favourable for breeding locally in the winter-spring breeding areas.

### Locusts

#### INDIA

Isolated locusts were seen at Churn (2703 N/7105 E) in Jaisalmer district on 25 November. No locusts were seen during December.

PAKISTAN was reported clear in December and the first half of January. No reports were received from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN.

### FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY-- MARCH 1985

Desert Locust numbers remain exceptionally low and only small scale breeding will occur in the forecast period.

In West Africa adults produced on the summer rains will survive in restricted habitats such as are provided by clumps of green Panicum, Lasiurus, Cornulaca in wadi beds in and around the Adrar des Iforas in Mali, Elsewhere only very small numbers of adults will survive.

In North-West Africa there may be small numbers of adults in restricted habitats in the Sahara and in some oases in Libya.

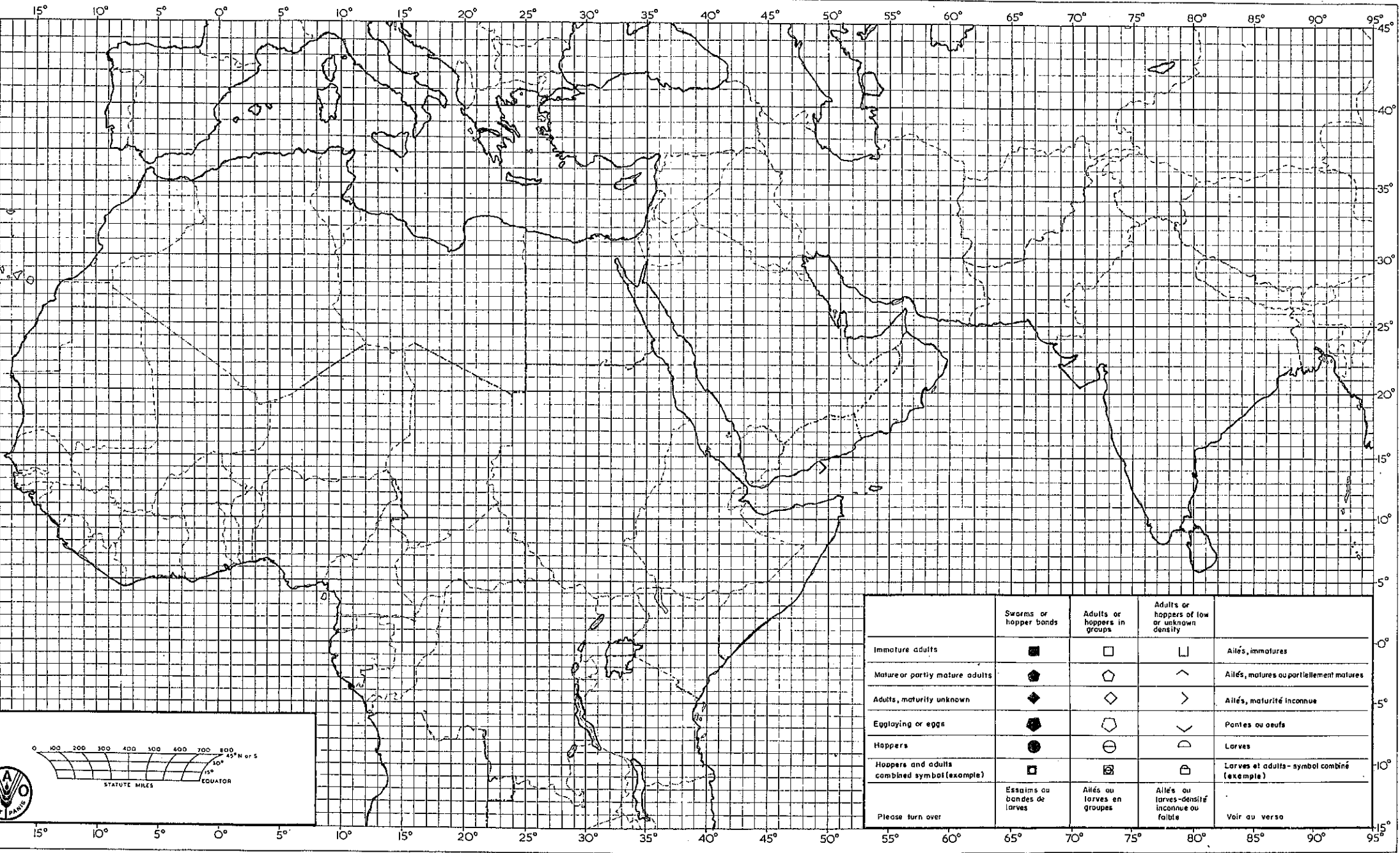
In Eastern Africa small scale breeding will occur in the southern sector of the Red Sea coast of Sudan and possibly in the northern sector and the northern coast of Ethiopia. Small numbers of adults will probably be present on the northern coastal plains of Somalia and small scale breeding may occur.

In the Near East there will probably be small scale breeding in coastal areas of the the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and it may also occur along the Tihama of Yemen AR and Saudi Arabia.

In South-West Asia small scale breeding is likely to start in coastal areas of Baluchistan. Small numbers of adults will persist in the summer breeding areas.

Rome  
17 January 1985

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 76 DEC. 1984 - EARLY JANUARY 1985 / DEC. 1984 - DEBUT DE JANVIER



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of 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