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## Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

### DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 49 SEPTEMBER - EARLY OCTOBER 1982

#### SUMMARY

Rainfall was generally below average in the summer breeding areas. There was widespread, mainly low density breeding in Pakistan and north-west India but three loose swarms were produced in the border area. Aerial and ground control was undertaken in Pakistan and ground control in India. Ground control was also in progress against patchy gregarious breeding in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Elsewhere small numbers of adults were reported from Oman, Somalia and Djibouti.

W/Q0181

## DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, SEPTEMBER - EARLY OCTOBER 1982

### WEST AFRICA

#### Meteorology

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moved slowly to the south (south of 20°N) and had a pronounced wave and well marked trough west of 5°W, as in August. The West African monsoon was gradually less active.

In the Sahelian countries, rainfall anomalies were again observed with values above normal at Thies, Nara, San, Koutiala and Sikasso during the first decade and M'Bour, Nioro, N'Guigmi and Gaya for the second decade of September.

#### Breeding conditions

The NOAA/AVHRR vegetation index imagery coverage for the second decade of September showed that vegetation conditions in the Western Sahara, northern Mauritania, the Tamesna, the Adrar des Iforas and the surroundings of the Tibesti massif in Chad were unfavourable for desert locust population development. Favourable breeding conditions were observed during early September in several major wadis east, north and north-west of Agades in Aïr, Niger, following heavy rains in the middle of August. However, the imagery coverage for Aïr of late September indicated that there was no further rainfall and vegetation was observed to be drying out.

#### Locusts

##### MAURITANIA

On a ground survey of the Tagant, Boutilimit, Aouker, Aftout, Akjoujt, Adrar Atar areas from 18 to 24 September no locusts were seen or captured.

##### ATLANTIC OCEAN

As reported in Summary No. 48 yellow locusts were seen at sea over a distance of 340 kilometres on 21-22 September off the West African coast and it is probable that they were Oedaleus senegalensis. Another ship reported sighting groups of locusts at 1413N/1815W at 1200 hours GMT on 29 September. They were stated to be yellow with green stripes, yellow with brown stripes and some were grey. Length about 5 cm. Surface wind NE 14 kts. From the reported colours it is almost certain that they were not desert locusts.

There have been no reports of locusts from MALI, NIGER or CHAD.

### NORTH-WEST AFRICA

#### Meteorology

Thundery weather associated with eastward moving mid-latitude depressions was predominant in northern Algeria and Tunisia, with maximum temperature often above 25°C. In Libya and Morocco the weather was mainly dry. Sandstorms were observed in the Sahara.

### Breeding conditions

The summer breeding areas of southern Algeria were observed to be extremely dry throughout September. In the extreme south of Morocco and the bordering area of western Algeria a substantial area of low density vegetation cover was observed to be developing in early September between 27°20' and 28°N and 6°10' and 10°30'W. By 20 September however, most of this green flush had dried out.

### Locusts

There were no reports of locusts within the Region.

## EASTERN AFRICA

### Meteorology

In spite of the erratic supply of GTS data from the Region, it is evident that thundery conditions, mainly associated to orographic effects, were predominant in Ethiopia.

### Breeding conditions

The coastal plains of northern Ethiopia, Djibouti and northern Somalia continued to be very dry during all of August and September. Also in the interior of Somalia and the Ogaden of Ethiopia there was very little annual vegetation.

### Locusts

Solitarious adults were found on the north-western coastal plains of SOMALIA and adjoining areas of Djibouti during the third decade of September.

There were no reports of locusts from ETHIOPIA, SUDAN, KENYA, UGANDA or TANZANIA.

## NEAR EAST

### Meteorology

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was generally situated parallel to and inland from the southern coast of Arabia. There were moderate to heavy rains in coastal and interior areas of Yemen PDR. Dry weather was predominant and sandstorms were observed in Saudi Arabia.

### Breeding conditions

The substantial areas of green vegetation observed in the interior of Yemen PDR, Yemen Arab Republic and south-west Saudi Arabia during August was seen to be drying out by the middle of September, notably in Yemen PDR. The coastal plains of the Tihama and the Gulf of Aden coastal plains were extremely dry during this period.

## Locusts

### PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Following reports of groups of locusts reaching the Shabwa area on 31 August extensive ground surveys were undertaken in the Ataq area. On 5 September one small group of copulating adults settled over 10 hectares was found at Bannoob (1424N/4649E) and sprayed on 6 September. Another high density population covering 1 square kilometre was sprayed on 8-9 September at Ahl Ba-Ras in Wadi Saddar (1421N/4655E). Yellow adults were also observed migrating westward at Al-Mashari in Wadi Beihan on 8 September. Low density solitary adults were observed in Wadi Thallan (1319N/4357E) on 22 September.

In late September and early October exhaust nozzle sprayers were used to control second to fifth instar hopper bands in the Ataq area at Ash-Shubaykah (1445N/4649E), Wadi As-Surr (1425N/4642E), Wadi Saddar, Ataq, Wai Hammam (1442N/4637E), Wadi Harim (1454N/4655E) and Wadi Al-Watah (1431N/4635E). The total area infested was about 600 square kilometres. 923 hopper bands and 58 groups of fledglings, representing about 70% of the total infestation, had been treated up to 12 October.

### EGYPT

Solitary adults were observed in the Toshka area (2250N/3150E) near Lake Nasser in August at densities estimated at 70-80 per square kilometre.

### OMAN

Two locusts were seen at Izki (2255N/5746E) and Samail (2318N/5800E). No locusts were seen during a ground survey of agricultural areas in Dhofar, where heavy rain was recorded.

### YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

During extensive surveys of the eastern lowlands no locusts were found.

There were no other reports of locusts from the Region.

## SOUTH-WEST ASIA

### Meteorology

In spite of the permanency of the extensive low pressure area, the intensity of the monsoon gradually decreased and withdrew from West Rajasthan on 3 September.

### Breeding conditions

In late September the Makran coast and Baluchistan interior of Iran and Pakistan were observed to be dry. The vegetation in the Las Bela region and the area south-west of Barmer where breeding conditions had been very favourable during late August was seen to be drying out. The critical border area between India and Pakistan west of Jaisalmer remained extremely dry as well as most of the northern part of the scheduled desert area of Rajasthan, but two green areas, each covering approximately 400 square kilometres centred on 2725N/7050E and 2749N/7058E observed in early September were drying out by 20 September. Favourable conditions for breeding were observed to persist east and north-east of Bikaner by 20 September.

## Locusts

### PAKISTAN

On 31 August and 1 September gregarious hatching occurred over an area of 25 square kilometres in Ubai Pawan (254QN/6637E) and Wattodhora (2536N/6635E) areas of Las Bela and gave rise to some small to medium sized bands. One hundred litres of 20% dieldrin and 500 kg of 12% BHC dust were used against these infestations, which were completely controlled by 15 September.

There were widespread hoppers and adults in the Tharparkar, Nara and Cholistan deserts. Although they were generally at low densities preventive ground control operations were undertaken in the Chachro, Khokropar and Virawah areas of the Tharparkar desert and the Tajjal and Khenjo areas of the Nara desert. In addition aerial spraying operations were mounted against three loose swarms of young adults measuring 4, 6 and 12 square kilometres in the Khokropar area between 21 and 24 September. In all 3 400 litres of 20% dieldrin, 1 135 litres 10% dieldrin, 600 litres 96% fenitrothion and 234 kg of 12% BHC dust were used.

### INDIA

There were unconfirmed reports of two swarmlets at Rohodi (255QN/7014E) in Sheo Tehsil of Barmer district on 11 September. Ground parties sent to the area found small patches of hoppers and fledglings over an area of 8 square kilometres. BHC dust was applied over 6 hectares. Hopper concentrations were also observed at two localities in the Kishengarh area of Jaisalmer district in the second half of September and were completely controlled. In all, less than two tons of BHC dust were used. Scattered adults were found in 34 localities in Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Nagant districts of Rajasthan and in 2 localities in Banaskantha district of Gujarat in the first half of September with a maximum of density of 6 250 per square kilometre and at 52 localities in the second half of September when the maximum density exceeded 10 000 per square kilometre at 3 localities.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear; there was no report from IRAN.

### FORECAST FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1982

Rainfall in the summer breeding areas has been generally below average. There has been localised congregans-gregarious breeding in Pakistan, India and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen but elsewhere very few locusts have been reported. The numbers of adults reaching winter-spring breeding areas will be low in all areas except the coastal plains bordering the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, where breeding will commence in areas which have received floods from summer rains, or which received early winter rains.

In West Africa, only small numbers of adults will persist.

In North-West Africa, small numbers of adults may reach central and western Algeria and a few may reach southern Morocco and Western Sahara.

In Eastern Africa adults will accumulate on the Red Sea coastal plains of Sudan and probably northern Ethiopia and breeding will commence in areas which have received summer floods or early winter rains. Adults, perhaps in considerable numbers, may reach the coastal plains of north-west Somalia and Djibouti from south-west Arabia and breeding may commence in areas which receive early winter rains.

In the Near East breeding is likely to end in the interior of Yemen PDR but small scale breeding is likely to start in coastal areas of both Yemens and on the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia. Small numbers of adults may reach the northern Tihama of Saudi Arabia, the south-eastern desert of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

In South-West Asia it is now unlikely that there will be a second generation. Adults at low densities will persist in the Tharparkar and Nara deserts and Las Bela district of Pakistan and in west Rajasthan in India while others will migrate westwards to Baluchistan of Pakistan and some may reach south-eastern Iran.

Rome  
16 October 1982

# Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 49 SEPTEMBER-EARLY OCTOBER/SEPTEMBRE-DEBUT D'OCTOBRE

