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# Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

## DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

NO. 35 JULY - EARLY AUGUST 1981

### SUMMARY

A swarm was sighted from a ship in the Gulf of Aden on 5 August and mixed maturity adults were also seen flying north-east in the same area over a distance of 210 kilometres on 29 July. Scattered adults and groups of adults of mixed maturity were seen in July at several localities on the coastal plains of north-west Somalia. Breeding was in progress in Mali and Niger and control operations were undertaken in Niger against hoppers and fledglings. Scattered adults were reported from the Yemen Arab Republic and India. Heavy widespread rain fell in the summer breeding areas of India and Pakistan.

W/P4324

## DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - JULY TO EARLY AUGUST

### NORTH-WEST AFRICA

No reports have been received for July.

### WEST AFRICA

#### MAURITANIA

##### Weather

Rainfall was generally below average during the first two decades but above average in many areas during the last decade. For the month the following amounts were recorded: Nouakchott 59 mm (normal 12 mm), Tadjikja 62 (19), Boutilimit 8 Nema 47 (68), Aïoun el Atrouss 47 (96) and Kiffa 66 (89).

Ecological conditions were becoming very favourable for breeding in the triangle Atar - Boutilimit - Tadjikja.

No locusts were reported.

#### MALI

##### Weather

Only slight rain was recorded in the Adrar des Iforas during the first two decades but above average rain was recorded in the third decade. For the month Kidal recorded 37 mm (37). Ecological conditions were becoming favourable for breeding in the Adrar des Iforas.

##### Locusts

Hoppers were seen at densities of 1-2 per square metre over 20 hectares in oued Tin Biden (1848N/0157E).

#### NIGER

##### Weather

Agadez received 45 mm of rain (47), all of which fell in the second and third decades. Western Aïr and the area around In Abangharit were favourable for breeding.

##### Locusts

Control operations started against third to fifth instar hoppers and fledglings at densities of 500 to 10,000 per hectare over an area of 600 hectares.

No locusts were reported from CHAD.

EASTERN AFRICA

Weather

Widespread heavy rainfall was reported in the Railway Area, Dankalia, the Dessie Escarpment and northern highlands of Ethiopia and north-west Somalia. Conditions were suitable for breeding on the north-western coastal plains of Somalia. Conditions were becoming favourable for breeding in the summer breeding area of Sudan.

Locusts

On 7 July a traveller from Djibouti to Hargeisa reported seeing scattered adult locusts between Sillil (1059N/4326E) and Garisa (1036N/4327E). A ground team sent to survey the area encountered immature adults in the area on 17 July and flushed 1,459 adults in a distance of 12 kilometres. Scattered adults were also seen between Bulhar (1024N/4425E) and Sabawanak (1030N/4407E) from 21 to 23 July.

Scattered adults were also seen on a ground survey between Sillil and Berbera in early August. Some were old yellow males and females but others were light greyish brown. The maximum density was about 40 per hectare. The soil was generally dry and Panicum was only partly green.

No locusts were seen during ground surveys of the Railway Area, Jigjiga and Dankalia.

No locusts were reported from DJIBOUTI, SUDAN, KENYA, UGANDA or TANZANIA.

NEAR EAST

GULF OF ADEN

On 29 July isolated grey and yellow locusts were seen from a ship from 0400 hours GMT at position 1230N/4700E to 1800 hours at 1320N/4846E. The surface wind at the time was south-westerly 25 knots.

On 5 August another ship reported a large swarm flying north-east at 1000 hours GMT about 30 miles south of Mukalla (1403N/4910E). The surface wind was south-westerly, strong.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Reported clear in July.

A ground team surveyed the area east of Mukalla on 6-9 August following the ship's report of 5 August but were unable to locate the swarm.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Solitarious adults were seen mixed with Tree Locusts for 3 kilometres along the road between Hodeidah and Zohraa (1544N/4300E) at a density of about 10 locusts per Acacia.

No locusts were reported from SAUDI ARABIA or OMAN.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

The south-west monsoon reached west Rajasthan on 9 July and resulted in widespread light to moderate rain up to mid-July. The heaviest rain of the century fell over east Rajasthan around 18 July and led to widespread flooding. There was also widespread heavy rain in Pakistan, particularly around Dera Ismail Khan on about 24 July.

INDIA

In the first half of July solitarious adults were reported from ten localities of Bikaner, Churu, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan and Banaskantha district of Gujarat at a maximum density of 750 per square kilometre. In the second half of July mature solitarious adults were reported from 46 localities in Bikaner, Churu, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Sri Ganganagar areas of Rajasthan and Banaskantha district of Gujarat, at a maximum density of 1,125 per square kilometre.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear. IRAN was reported clear in June. No reports were received from PAKISTAN.

FORECAST FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1981

Breeding will continue in the summer breeding areas and there is likely to be a second generation in parts of Mali, Niger, perhaps southern Algeria and in India and Pakistan which have received heavy rains. The adults reported from the Gulf of Aden in late July and early August may breed in Oman if ecological conditions are favourable. If not, they are likely to reach Pakistan and perhaps India.

In West Africa considerable numbers of adults are likely to have reached Timetrine, Adrar des Iforas, Tamesna and Aïr areas of Mali and Niger. One generation has already been completed and a second one is anticipated in view of the widespread and moderate to heavy rains between May and July. Hopper bands may be produced in some or all of these areas. North or north-westerly migration, mainly at night, is likely towards the end of the forecast period. It is also possible that breeding on a similar scale may occur in Mauritania.

In North-West Africa it is likely that breeding will occur in Tassili Adrar, Tassili Ou-a-n Ahaggar and Tamesna of southern Algeria and some hopper bands may form. Towards the end of the forecast period mainly scattered adults may reach central and western Algeria and southern Morocco at night from the south and south-east.

In Eastern Africa mainly scattered adults are likely to be drifted eastwards the Erigavo and Mijertein areas of north-east Somalia. Small scale breeding may occur in areas which have received rainfall or run-off, both along the coast and in interior valleys as far south as the Nogal. There may also be small scale breeding in the Awash Valley and Danakil depression and western lowlands of northern Ethiopia. Widespread low density breeding will end in the interior of Sudan and increasing numbers of adults will arrive along the Red Sea coast of Sudan and probably also of northern Ethiopia.

In the Near East the adults reported from the Gulf of Aden in late July and early August may breed in Oman if ecological conditions there are favourable (rainfall data has been requested). If conditions are not suitable for breeding these adults will reach Pakistan and perhaps India. Small numbers of adults are likely to persist along the Tihamas of the Yemen Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia.

In South-West Asia low density breeding will continue in Rajasthan in India and in the Cholistan, Nara, Khipro and Tharparkar deserts of Pakistan. Considerable numbers of mainly scattered adults may reach the Lasbela district of Pakistan from Arabia and may breed there if conditions are suitable. If not, they will move further east to the Tharparkar, Khipro and Nara deserts and some may reach Rajasthan and breed.

Rome  
21 August 1981

