



## Desert Locust Bulletin

General situation during February 2018  
Forecast until mid-April 2018

### WESTERN REGION: CALM

**SITUATION.** No significant rain fell and ecological conditions were mainly dry. No locusts were reported.

**FORECAST.** The situation is expected to remain calm. Isolated adults may appear during the forecast period in parts of the spring breeding areas along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in **Morocco**. No significant developments are likely.

### CENTRAL REGION: CALM

**SITUATION.** No significant rain fell and ecological conditions were drying out in coastal areas of **Sudan** and **Saudi Arabia**. Isolated solitary adults were present in a few places of Tokar Delta in Sudan.

**FORECAST.** The situation is likely to remain calm. Low numbers of adults may appear in the interior of **Saudi Arabia** and breed on a small scale if rainfall occurs. Scattered adults are likely to be present on the Red Sea coastal plains in **Yemen** where small-scale breeding could occur. No significant developments are likely.

### EASTERN REGION: CALM

**SITUATION.** No locusts reported.

**FORECAST.** Low numbers of solitary adults may appear in the spring breeding areas of southwest **Pakistan** and southeast **Iran** and breed on a small scale if rains fall. No significant developments are likely.



### The Desert Locust situation continued to remain calm during February

No significant rain fell for the third consecutive month in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea during February. Consequently, unusually dry and unfavourable breeding conditions persisted in most areas. No locusts were reported except for scattered solitary adults at two places on the Red Sea coast of Sudan. The poor rainfall this year has kept locust numbers very low in the traditional winter breeding areas at the time of year when locusts generally increase in number. Low temperatures and poor rainfall so far in the spring breeding areas suggest that breeding is likely to be limited and on a very small scale this year in Northwest Africa, the interior of Saudi Arabia and in southeast Iran and southwest Pakistan during the spring. Unless unusually heavy rainfall occurs followed by substantial breeding, it can be anticipated that only very low numbers of locusts will be present at the beginning of the summer in the Sahel of West Africa and Sudan, and along the Indo-Pakistan border.

The FAO Desert Locust Bulletin is issued every month by the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) at FAO HQ in Rome, Italy. DLIS continuously monitors the global Desert Locust situation, weather and ecology to provide early warning based on survey and control results from affected countries, combined with remote sensing, historical data and models. The bulletin is supplemented by Alerts and Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity. Products are distributed by e-mail and Internet.

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## Weather & Ecological Conditions in February 2018

No significant rain fell during February for the third consecutive month and vegetation started to dry out in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea.

### WESTERN REGION

Very little rain fell during February. Showers may have fallen in parts of northern Mauritania (Nouadhibou, Inchiri, southwest Adrar and northeast Tiris-Zemmour) and in adjacent areas of southwestern Western Sahara. Light to moderate rain fell in northwest Libya. Dry and unfavourable breeding conditions persisted throughout the region except near irrigated parameters in the Adrar Valley of the central Sahara in Algeria, in parts of the Draa and Ziz-Ghris Valleys along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and in parts of central Western Sahara between Guelta Zemmour and W. Sakia El Hamra. Low temperatures prevailed throughout most of Northwest Africa.

### CENTRAL REGION

No significant rain fell during February in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. Consequently, vegetation was dry or drying out in most places except for a few spots along the northern and southern coastal plains in Saudi Arabia, and on the central coast of Sudan. In general, very little rain fell this year in the winter breeding areas with the last significant rainfall occurring in November on the coast of Saudi Arabia. This has contributed to poor breeding conditions and hence only low and insignificant numbers of solitarious locusts present during this winter. In the spring breeding areas, light rain may have fallen in the interior of Saudi Arabia between Gassim and Hail during the last week of the month. Elsewhere, light rains fell at times in parts of northern Oman where temperatures were unusually warm, causing mostly vegetation to remain dry.

### EASTERN REGION

Very little rain fell in the region during February except for some showers at mid-month in the Jaz Murian Basin in the interior of southeastern Iran, and vegetation continued to become green in adjacent areas along the southeastern coastal plains. Dry and unfavourable breeding conditions prevailed elsewhere in the region.



### Area Treated

No control operations were reported during February.



## Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

### WESTERN REGION

#### MAURITANIA

##### • SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during February.

##### • FORECAST

*Low numbers of adults may be present in parts of southwest Adrar and Tiris-Zemmour where small-scale breeding could occur once temperatures warm up and if more rains fall.*

#### MALI

##### • SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during February.

##### • FORECAST

*Low numbers of adults may be present and could persist in parts of the Adrar des Iforas.*

#### NIGER

##### • SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during February.

##### • FORECAST

*Low numbers of adults are likely to be present and will persist in a few places in the Air Mountains.*

#### CHAD

##### • SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during February.

##### • FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

#### SENEGAL

##### • SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during February.

##### • FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

#### BENIN, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CAPE VERDE, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GAMBIA, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, LIBERIA, NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND TOGO

##### • FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

#### ALGERIA

##### • SITUATION

No locusts were seen in the Adrar Valley (2753N/0017W) of the central Sahara and west of Tamanrasset (2250N/0528E) in the south during February.

##### • FORECAST

*As temperatures warm up, low numbers of adults may appear near irrigated cropping areas in the Adrar Valley and start to breed on a small scale. No significant developments are likely.*

## MOROCCO

### • SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during February.

### • FORECAST

*Isolated adults may appear along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains and breed on a small scale if rains fall.*

## LIBYA

### • SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during January and February.

### • FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

## TUNISIA

### • SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during February.

### • FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

## CENTRAL REGION

### SUDAN

#### • SITUATION

During February, no locusts were seen on the Red Sea coast from north of Port Sudan (1938N/3713E) to the Eritrean border except for a few scattered mature solitary adults at two places in the Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E).

#### • FORECAST

*Small-scale breeding will occur on a limited basis along the Red Sea coast between Port Sudan and Karora as well as in subcoastal areas of the northeast in Wadi Oko/Diib, causing locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels. Breeding is expected to finish by mid-March.*

### ERITREA

#### • SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported in February.

#### • FORECAST

*Isolated adults may be present in a few places on the central and northern Red Sea coastal plains but, unless further rains fall, breeding is not expected and no significant developments are likely.*

### ETHIOPIA

#### • SITUATION

No reports were received in February.

#### • FORECAST

*Isolated adults may be present along the railway area where small-scale breeding could occur if rains fall.*

## DJIBOUTI

### • SITUATION

No reports were received in February.

### • FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

## SOMALIA

### • SITUATION

No reports were received in February.

### • FORECAST

*Low numbers of adults may be present on the northwest coast and could breed on a small scale in any areas that receive rainfall. No significant developments are likely.*

## EGYPT

### • SITUATION

During February, no locusts were seen on the Red Sea coast and subcoastal areas between Marsa Alam (2504N/3454E) and the Sudanese border, and in the interior near Lake Nasser between Abu Simbel (2219N/3138E) and Tushka (2247N/3126E).

### • FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

## SAUDI ARABIA

### • SITUATION

During February, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out along the Red Sea coastal plains from the north near Al Wajh (2615N/3627E) to the south near the Yemeni border.

### • FORECAST

*Low numbers of adults may appear in the spring breeding areas of the interior between Gassim and Tabuk where small-scale breeding may occur once temperatures increase in any areas that receive rainfall.*

## YEMEN

### • SITUATION

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported in February.

### • FORECAST

*Small-scale breeding may take place on a limited basis in parts of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains where rainfall occurs.*

## OMAN

### • SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the Musandam Peninsula, the Batinah coast and in the northern interior during February.

### • FORECAST

*Isolated adults may appear on the Batinah coast and in parts of the northern interior where small breeding could occur in areas that receive rainfall. No significant developments are likely.*

**BAHRAIN, IRAQ, ISRAEL, JORDAN, KENYA, KUWAIT,  
LEBANON, PALESTINE, QATAR, SOUTH SUDAN, SYRIA,  
TANZANIA, TURKEY, UAE AND UGANDA**

• FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

## EASTERN REGION

### IRAN

• SITUATION

During February, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the southeast coast near Jask (2540N/5746E) and Chabahar (2517N/6036E).

• FORECAST

*Low numbers of solitary adults may appear on the southeast coast and in Jaz Murian, and breed on a small scale if rains fall.*

### PAKISTAN

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the Uthal (2548N/6637E) in the last week of February.

• FORECAST

*Low numbers of solitary adults may initially appear in coastal areas of Baluchistan, followed by interior areas. Small-scale breeding could occur in both areas if rains fall.*

### INDIA

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during survey carried out in Rajasthan and Gujarat in February.

• FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*

### AFGHANISTAN

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

*No significant developments are likely.*



## Announcements

## Locust warning levels

A colour-coded scheme indicates the seriousness of the current Desert Locust situation: **green** for *calm*, **yellow** for *caution*, **orange** for *threat* and **red** for *danger*. The scheme is applied to the Locust Watch web page and to the monthly bulletins. The levels indicate the perceived risk or threat of current Desert Locust infestations to crops and appropriate actions are suggested for each level.

## Locust reporting

**Calm (green).** Countries should report at least once/month and send RAMSES data with a brief interpretation.

**Caution (yellow), threat (orange) and danger (red).**

During locust outbreaks, upsurges and plagues, RAMSES output files with a brief interpretation should be sent at least twice/week within 48 hours of the latest survey.

**Bulletins.** Affected countries are encouraged to prepare decadal and monthly bulletins summarizing the situation.

**Reporting.** All information should be sent by e-mail to the FAO/ECLC Desert Locust Information Service (eclc@fao.org). Reports received by the first two days of the new month will be included in the FAO Desert Locust Bulletin for the current month; otherwise, they will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

## New information

Recent additions to the Locust Watch site ([www.fao.org/ag/locusts](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts)) are:

- **WMO/FAO Weather and Desert Locusts booklet.** Publications – Documents

## Calendar

The following activities are scheduled or planned:

- **CLCPRO.** Regional Desert Locust Information Officer workshop, Algiers (9–12 April)
- **CRC/SWAC.** Interregional Desert Locust Information Officer workshop, Cairo (6–10 May)
- **CLCPRO.** Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation System, Agadir, Morocco (7–11 May)
- **CLCPRO.** Joint meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> session and 13<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee, N'Djamena (18–22 June)
- **DLCC.** 41<sup>st</sup> session, Tunisia (October) tbc



## Glossary of terms

The following special terms are used in the Desert Locust Bulletin when reporting locusts:

## Non-gregarious adults and hoppers

**Isolated** (few)

- very few present and no mutual reaction occurring
- 0–1 adult/400 m foot transect (or less than 25/ha)

**Scattered** (some, low numbers)

- enough present for mutual reaction to be possible but no ground or basking groups seen
- 1–20 adults/400 m foot transect (or 25–500/ha)

**Group**

- forming ground or basking groups
- 20+ adults/400 m foot transect (or 500+/ha)

## Adult swarm and hopper band sizes

### Very small

- swarm: less than 1 km<sup>2</sup> • band: 1–25 m<sup>2</sup>

### Small

- swarm: 1–10 km<sup>2</sup> • band: 25–2,500 m<sup>2</sup>

### Medium

- swarm: 10–100 km<sup>2</sup> • band: 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> – 10 ha

### Large

- swarm: 100–500 km<sup>2</sup> • band: 10–50 ha

### Very large

- swarm: 500+ km<sup>2</sup> • band: 50+ ha

## Rainfall

### Light

- 1–20 mm

### Moderate

- 21–50 mm

### Heavy

- more than 50 mm

### Summer rains and breeding areas

- July–September/October
- Sahel of West Africa, Sudan, western Eritrea; Indo-Pakistan border

### Winter rains and breeding areas

- October–January/February
- Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts; northwest Mauritania, Western Sahara

### Spring rains and breeding areas

- February–June/July
- Northwest Africa, Arabian Peninsula interior, Somali plateau, Iran/Pakistan border

## Other reporting terms

### Breeding

- The process of reproduction from copulation to fledging

### Recession

- Period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms

### Remission

- Period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations

### Outbreak

- A marked increase in locust numbers due to concentration, multiplication and gregarisation which, unless checked, can lead to the formation of hopper bands and swarms

### Upsurge

- A period following a recession marked initially by a very large increase in locust numbers and contemporaneous outbreaks followed by the production of two or more successive seasons of transient-to- gregarious breeding in complimentary seasonal breeding areas in the same or neighbouring Desert Locust regions

## Plague

- A period of one or more years of widespread and heavy infestations, the majority of which occur as bands or swarms. A major plague exists when two or more regions are affected simultaneously

## Decline

- A period characterised by breeding failure and/or successful control leading to the dissociation of swarming populations and the onset of recessions; can be regional or major

## Warning levels

### Green

- *Calm.* No threat to crops; maintain regular surveys and monitoring

### Yellow

- *Caution.* Potential threat to crops; increased vigilance is required; control operations may be needed

### Orange

- *Threat.* Threat to crops; survey and control operations must be undertaken

### Red

- *Danger.* Significant threat to crops; intensive survey and control operations must be undertaken

## Regions

### Western

- Locust-affected countries in West and North-West Africa: Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia; during plagues only: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierre Leone and Togo

### Central

- Locust-affected countries along the Red Sea: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen; during plagues only: Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE and Uganda

### Eastern

- Locust-affected countries in South-West Asia: Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan.



## Useful tools and resources

**FAO Locust Watch.** Information, maps, activities, publications, archives, FAQs, links  
<http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts>

**FAO Desert Locust regional commissions.** Western Region (CLCPRO), Central Region (CRC), South-West Asia (SWAC)  
<http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts>

**IRI RFE.** Rainfall estimates every day, decade and month  
[http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Food\\_Security/.Locusts/index.html](http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Food_Security/.Locusts/index.html)

**IRI Greenness maps.** Dynamic maps of green vegetation evolution every decade  
[http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/Food\\_Security/Locusts/Regional/greenness.html](http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/Food_Security/Locusts/Regional/greenness.html)

**IRI MODIS.** Vegetation imagery every 16 days  
[http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/Food\\_Security/Locusts/Regional/MODIS/index.html](http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/Food_Security/Locusts/Regional/MODIS/index.html)

**Windy.** Real time rainfall, winds and temperatures for locust migration  
<http://www.windy.com>

**eLocust3 training videos.** A set of 15 introductory training videos are available on YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLf7Fc-oGpFHEDv1jAPaF02TCfpcnYoFQT>

**RAMSESv4 training videos.** A set of basic training videos are available on YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLf7Fc-oGpFHGyzXqE22j8-mPDhhGNq5So>

**RAMSESv4 and eLocust3.** Installer, updates, videos, inventory and support  
<https://sites.google.com/site/rv4elocust3updates/home>

**FAOLocust Twitter.** The very latest updates posted as tweets  
<http://www.twitter.com/faolocust>

**FAOLocust Facebook.** Information exchange using social media  
<http://www.facebook.com/faolocust>

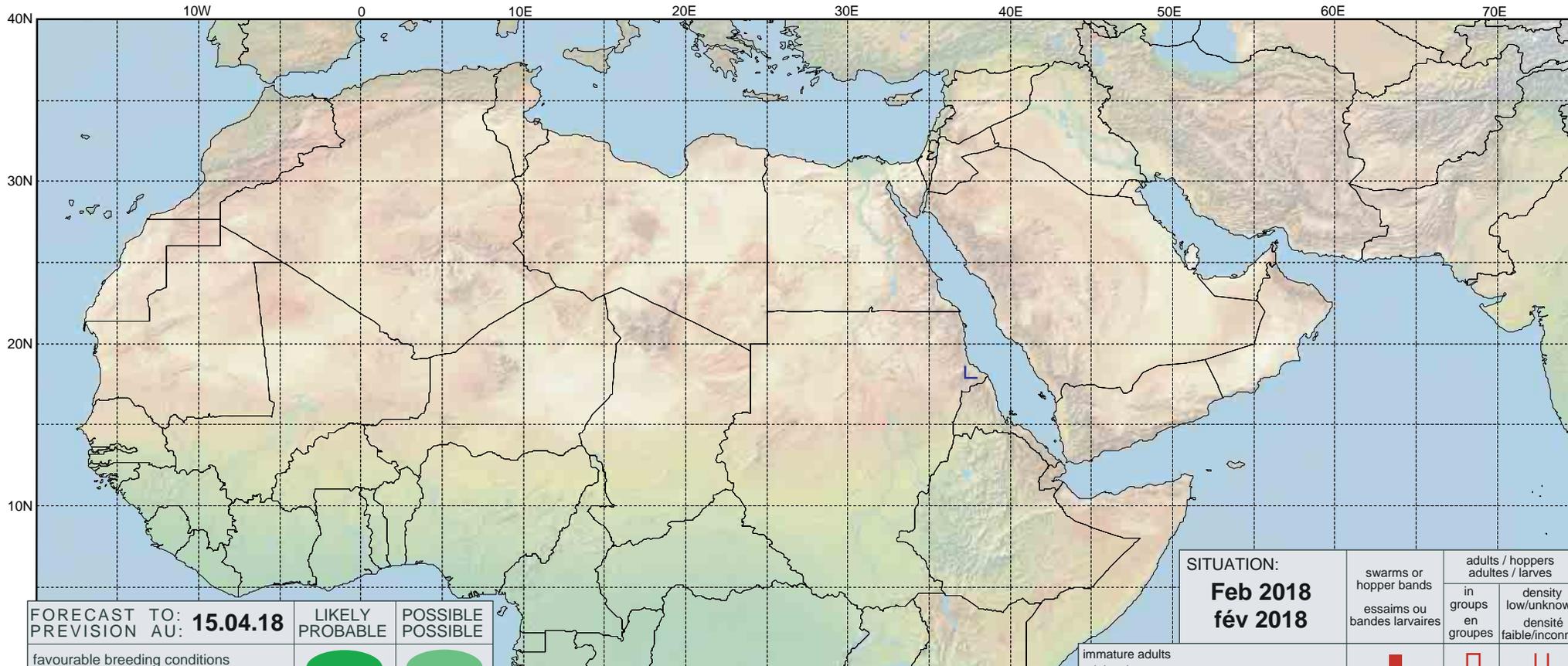
**FAOLocust Slideshare.** Locust presentations and photos  
<http://www.slideshare.net/faolocust>

**eLERT.** Online database of resources and technical specifications for locust emergencies  
<http://sites.google.com/site/elertsite>



# Desert Locust Summary

## Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée



FORECAST TO:  
PREVISION AU: **15.04.18**

LIKELY  
PROBABLE

POSSIBLE  
POSSIBLE

favourable breeding conditions  
conditions favorables à la reproduction



major swarm(s)  
essaim(s) important(s)



minor swarm(s)  
essaim(s) limité(s)



non swarming adults  
adultes non essaimant



SITUATION:  
**Feb 2018**  
**fév 2018**

swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults / hoppers adultes / larves	
	in groups en groupes	density low/unknown faible/inconn
immature adults adultes immatures	■	□
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures	▲	△
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue	▼	▽
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs	●	○
hoppers larves	◐	◑
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)	◑	◑

immature adults adultes immatures	■	□	◐
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures	▲	△	◑
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue	▼	▽	◑
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs	●	○	◑
hoppers larves	◐	◑	◑
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)	◑	◑	◑