



Desert Locust Bulletin

General situation during April 2018
Forecast until mid-June 2018

WESTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. A few more isolated adults reported in central **Algeria** compared to March, some of which were laying eggs.

FORECAST. Small-scale hatching will occur in central **Algeria**. No significant developments are likely.



CENTRAL REGION: CALM

SITUATION. No locusts reported.

FORECAST. Small-scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rainfall on the Red Sea coast in Yemen and in the interior of Saudi Arabia.

The Desert Locust situation continued to remain calm during April

No locusts were reported during April except for isolated solitary adults in central Algeria and southeast Iran. Good rains fell during the month in the interior of Saudi Arabia but annual vegetation was slow to respond and breeding conditions remained generally unfavourable similar to other spring breeding areas in Northwest Africa and South-West Asia. Good rains also fell on the Red Sea coast of Yemen and Eritrea. No locusts were seen during extensive surveys in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and India, and other surveys carried out in Algeria, Egypt, Oman and Yemen. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding may occur in central Algeria and the Jaz Murian Basin in southeast Iran, and perhaps in areas of recent rainfall in the interior of Saudi Arabia and on the Red Sea coast in Yemen. However, no significant developments are likely because of the poor rainfall and very low numbers of locusts this year in the spring breeding areas, and the summer rains are not expected to commence in the Sahel of West Africa and Sudan and along the Indo-Pakistan border until after the current forecast period.

EASTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. Isolated mature solitary adults present in a few coastal and interior areas of southeast **Iran**.

FORECAST. Small-scale breeding may occur in southwest **Pakistan** and southeast **Iran** if rains fall during May. No significant developments are likely.

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 April 2018

Although good rains fell in the interior of Saudi Arabia, ecological conditions remained unfavourable for breeding. Ecological conditions also remained dry in the spring breeding areas of Northwest Africa and South-West Asia.

WESTERN REGION

Very little rain fell during April except for light showers at times in parts of central Algeria. Consequently, dry conditions continued to persist in all areas except in parts of the Draa and Ziz-Ghris Valleys along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and near irrigated perimeters in the Adrar Valley of the central Sahara in Algeria. In West Africa, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) began its seasonal movement northward from the Gulf of Guinea, but remained well south of the summer breeding areas where dry conditions prevailed.

CENTRAL REGION

During April, good rains fell in the spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia accompanied by strong winds and dust storms. Ecological conditions were improving and may be sufficient for small-scale breeding to occur near Tabuk and Wadi Dawasir, and perhaps to a lesser extent between Hail and Gassim if more rains fall. Although good rains fell at times on the northern and central Red Sea coastal plains in Eritrea, mainly near Karora and Ghelaelo, their impact on locusts is likely to be minimal due to high temperatures and the end of the seasonal rainy period on the coast. In Yemen, light to moderate rains fell at times during the second half of April along the Red Sea coastal plains and in parts of the interior between Marib and Wadi Hadhramaut. No rains fell for the fourth consecutive month along the Gulf of Aden coastal plains in southern Yemen where annual vegetation remained dry. In northern Oman, good rains fell during the first decade in Sharqiya followed by lighter rains in the second decade. However, vegetation remained mostly dry due to increasing temperatures. In the Horn of Africa, good rains fell in eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Annual vegetation became green on the Somali plateau between Hargeisa and Jijiga, Ethiopia.

EASTERN REGION

Light rains fell during the second decade of April along the eastern side of the spring breeding areas in Baluchistan of western Pakistan between Lasbela and Khuzdar, causing annual vegetation to become green. Elsewhere, dry and unfavourable conditions prevailed throughout the spring breeding areas in southeast Iran and southwest Pakistan.



Area Treated

No control operations were reported during April.



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

WESTERN REGION

MAURITANIA

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

MALI

• SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during April.

• 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 April.

• FORECAST

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

CHAD

• SITUATION

No reports were received in April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

SENEGAL

• SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during April.

• 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

During April, isolated immature and mature solitary adults were seen at a few more places than in March, mainly near

irrigated cropping areas in the Adrar Valley (2753N/0017W) of the central Sahara. Some of the adults were copulating. No locusts were seen in the centre near Timimoun (2916N/0014E) and Reggane (2643N/0010E), east near Illizi (2630N/0825E) and in the south near Tamanrasset (2250N/0528E).

• FORECAST

Small-scale hatching will occur near irrigated cropping areas in the Adrar Valley. Isolated adults may move towards the south as conditions dry out in the central Sahara. No significant developments are likely.

MOROCCO

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen in the Draa Valley near Fom Zguid (3005N/0652W) in early April.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present in some places along the Draa Valley where breeding is unlikely to occur unless additional rains fall in May.

LIBYA

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

TUNISIA

• SITUATION

No locust activity was reported during April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

CENTRAL REGION

SUDAN

• SITUATION

No reports were received in April.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

ERITREA

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

ETHIOPIA

• SITUATION

No reports were received in April.

• FORECAST

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

DJIBOUTI

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

SOMALIA

• SITUATION

No reports were received in April.

• FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may be present on the northwest coast or escarpment where they could breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall or runoff. No significant developments are likely.

EGYPT

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in April along the shore of Lake Nasser near Abu Simbel (2219N/3138E) and Tushka (2247N/3126E).

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

SAUDI ARABIA

• SITUATION

During April, no locusts were seen on the northern Red Sea coast near Bader (2346N/3847E) and in the spring breeding areas of the interior near Wadi Dawasir, (2028N/4747E), Tabuk (2823N/3635E), between Khaybar (2542N/3917E) and Gassim (2621N/4358E), northwest of Zalim (2248N/4210E), and in the east near Al Hofuf (2523N/4935E).

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present in the spring breeding areas of the interior between Gassim and Hail where small-scale breeding could occur if more rains fall in May. No significant developments are likely.

YEMEN

• SITUATION

During April, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out along the Gulf of Aden coastal plains between Zinjibar (1306N/4523E) and Bir Ali (1401N/4820E) in the first week of the month.

• FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may be present in a few areas along the Red Sea coast where small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall.

OMAN

• SITUATION

During April, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the Musandam Peninsula, along the Batinah coast, and in the northern interior near Buraimi (2415N/5547E).

• 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 April, isolated mature adults were seen at one place on the southeastern coast near Chabahar (2517N/6036E) and at two places in the Jaz Murian Basin in the interior west of Iranshahr (2712N/6042E) and Dalgan (2728N/5926E).

• FORECAST

Small-scale breeding may occur along parts of the southeastern coast and in the Jaz Murian Basin if more rains fall in May. No significant developments are likely.

PAKISTAN

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in coastal and interior areas of Baluchistan during April.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present near Khuzdar where small-scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

INDIA

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Rajasthan and Gujarat in April.

• 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/ECLD Desert Locust Information Service (eclod@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.

Clive Elliott (1945–2018)

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Clive Elliott on 18 April in the U.K. Mr. Elliott was an ornithologist and expert on *Quelea* birds in Africa. He joined FAO in 1975 and was Senior Officer of the Locust Group from 2004 until his retirement in 2006. We would like to express our sincere condolences to his family and his government.

Calendar

The following activities are scheduled or planned:

- **CLCPRO.** Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation System, Agadir, Morocco (7–11 May)
- **CLCPRO.** Joint meeting of the 9th session and 13th Executive Committee, N'Djamena, Chad (18–22 June)
- **CLCPRO.** Regional Desert Locust Information Officer workshop, Algiers, Algeria (1–4 July)
- **CRC/SWAC.** Interregional Desert Locust Information Officer workshop, Cairo, Egypt (15–19 July)
- **DLCC.** 41st session, Tunis, Tunisia (22–25 October)



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 km² • band: 1–25 m²

Small

- swarm: 1–10 km² • band: 25–2,500 m²

Medium

- swarm: 10–100 km² • band: 2,500 m² – 10 ha

Large

- swarm: 100–500 km² • band: 10–50 ha

Very large

- swarm: 500+ km² • 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

IRI Greenness maps. Dynamic maps of green vegetation evolution every decade
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

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>

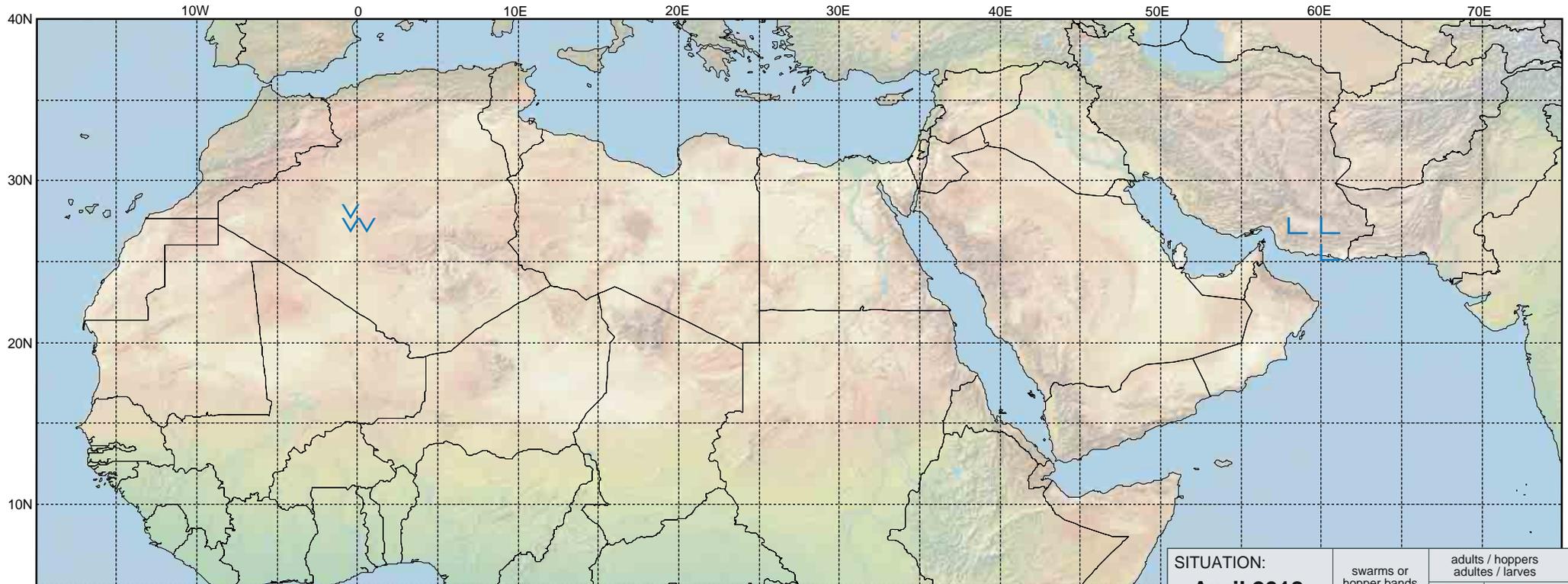
FAOLocust Slideshare. Locust presentations and photos
<http://www.slideshare.net/faolocust>

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: 15.06.18	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: April 2018 avril 2018	swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults / hoppers adultes / larves	
		in groups en groupes	density low/unknown densité faible/inconnue
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)			