

# DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



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## General Situation during July 2001 Forecast until mid-September 2001

The locust situation continued to remain calm during July. Despite widespread rains and good breeding conditions in West Africa, Sudan and along the Indo-Pakistan border, only insignificant numbers of solitarious adults have been reported in Sudan and Pakistan. Locust numbers are expected to increase gradually, but remain at non-threatening levels, in these areas as a result of breeding during the forecast period

**Western Region.** Although no locusts were reported in the Region, low numbers of solitarious adults are likely to be present in breeding in areas in southern **Mauritania**, northern **Mali**, northwestern **Niger** and perhaps in eastern **Chad** where rains fell during July. Locust numbers are expected to increase gradually in these areas during the forecast period. Surveys are recommended during August to monitor the situation.

**Central Region.** Isolated adults are present in a few places of the summer breeding areas in the interior of **Sudan** where small scale breeding is expected to occur during the forecast period because of the good rains that fell in July. A few locusts may be present and breeding in the interior desert and perhaps on the Red Sea coastal plains of **Yemen**

where good rains fell during July. A mixture of what is thought to be African Migratory Locust, grasshoppers and a few Desert Locusts persisted in agricultural areas in the Western Desert of **Egypt** where control was undertaken.

**Eastern Region.** Exceptionally good rains fell for the second consecutive month over most of the summer breeding area along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. So far, only insignificant numbers of adults have been detected in **Pakistan** while similar populations are also likely to be present in adjacent areas of Rajasthan, **India**. Numbers will increase gradually as a result of breeding during the forecast period.

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

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### Weather & Ecological Conditions in July 2001

**Good rains continued to fall in the summer breeding areas of the Sahel in West Africa and Sudan and along the Indo-Pakistan border for the second consecutive month. Consequently, conditions are favourable or becoming favourable for breeding in most areas.**

In **West Africa**, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) oscillated between 18-20°N over West Africa and at times reached as far north as 25°N bringing rain to central Mauritania, northern Mali and Niger. During July, seasonal rains began in many areas of southern Mauritania and by the end of the month most areas of the two Hodhs and southern Trarza had received enough rain to allow conditions to become favourable for locust breeding. Elsewhere, rains were irregular in parts of Brakna and Assaba and isolated showers fell at the end of the month in central (Tidjikja) and northern (Bir Moghreïn) regions. In Mali, heavy rains were reported in the Adrar des Iforas on the 26th (Tessalit, 69 mm) and good rains fell further south to Gao. Good rains also fell along the Niger River to Tombouctou. Consequently, ecological conditions are improving and are expected to be favourable for breeding in these areas. In Niger, breeding conditions have become favourable in most of southern and central Tamesna and in parts of Air because of light to moderate rainfall during July. In northeastern Chad, conditions are expected to be improving in Ouaddai, Biltine and near Fada in BET where lights rain fell.

In **North-West Africa**, hot and dry conditions prevailed throughout the region and no significant rainfall was reported. Consequently, ecological conditions were not favourable for breeding.

In **Eastern Africa**, good rains continued to fall in the summer breeding areas of Sudan extending from the Chad border and Northern Darfur to Northern Kordofan and the Nile River. Heavy flooding was reported in the Kassala area. Consequently, breeding conditions are favourable in most of these areas. Elsewhere, light to moderate rains were reported near

Dire Dawa, Ethiopia and in a few coastal and interior areas of northwestern Somalia. Conditions in these areas are less favourable than in Sudan.

In the **Near East**, mostly dry and hot conditions prevailed throughout the Region except in Yemen where light to moderate showers were reported in the Shabwah region of the interior and heavier rains fell on the Red Sea coastal plains. Breeding conditions are likely to be already favourable or improving in these areas. In Saudi Arabia, light rain was reported on the Red Sea coast at Jizan. In Oman, light rain fell in the northern interior where it is hot and dry, and misty conditions prevailed in the south at Salalah because of the monsoon.

In **South-West Asia**, unusually heavy and widespread rainfall associated with the monsoon fell for the second consecutive month over the entire summer breeding area along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. Consequently, breeding conditions are exceptionally favourable this year in both countries and should remain so for several months. Elsewhere, light to heavy rains fell in coastal and some interior areas of Baluchistan, western Pakistan.



### Area Treated

Egypt 70 ha<sup>1</sup> (July)

<sup>1</sup> mainly Migratory Locust and grasshoppers mixed with some Desert Locust



### Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

( see also the summary on the first page )

#### WEST AFRICA

##### **Mauritania**

##### • SITUATION

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

##### • FORECAST

*Isolated adults are likely to be present and scattered throughout parts of the south from Trarza to the two Hodhs. Small scale breeding is likely to be in progress in areas of recent rainfall or will occur during the forecast period. Initial hopper numbers will be low and probably difficult to detect. It is expected that it will take several generations of breeding before numbers increase to significant levels.*

## **Mali**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*Locust numbers are expected to gradually increase in the Adrar des Iforas where scattered adults are likely to be present and breeding in areas of recent rainfall.*

## **Niger**

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported and no surveys were carried out up to 18 July.

- **FORECAST**

*Locust numbers are expected to gradually increase in Tamesna and parts of Air where scattered adults are likely to be present and breeding in areas of recent rainfall.*

## **Chad**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*A few isolated adults may be present in parts of Biltine and near Fada in BET where small scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall.*

## **Senegal**

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported in the Senegal River Valley up to 31 July.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

## **Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry**

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

## **NORTH-WEST AFRICA**

### **Algeria**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

### **Morocco**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

### **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during June and July.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

## **Tunisia**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

## **EASTERN AFRICA**

### **Sudan**

- **SITUATION**

A late report stated that isolated mature solitary adults were present at two locations in the summer breeding areas of White Nile and Northern Kordofan provinces between Ed Dueim (1400N/3220E) and Umm Saiyala (1426N/3112E) on 28-29 June.

During July, no locusts were seen during surveys throughout most of Northern Kordofan except for isolated mature adults at one location near Sodiri (1423N/2906E) on the 19th.

- **FORECAST**

*Locust numbers are expected to gradually increase, but remain at non-threatening levels, in parts of Northern Kordofan and Northern Darfur as a result of small scale breeding during the forecast period. Isolated adults may appear in areas of recent flooding near Kassala.*

### **Eritrea**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

### **Somalia**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*Scattered locusts may be present in a few areas of the northwestern escarpment. No significant developments are likely.*

### **Ethiopia**

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys on 3-12 July in the eastern region.



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- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

### **Djibouti**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

### **Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda**

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

### **NEAR EAST**

#### **Saudi Arabia**

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during July in the interior and along the Red Sea coastal plains.

- **FORECAST**

*A few isolated adults may be present on the Red Sea coastal plains near Jizan. No significant developments are likely.*

#### **Yemen**

- **SITUATION**

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

- **FORECAST**

*A few adults may be present and breeding on a limited scale in areas of recent rainfall in the Shabwah region of the interior and perhaps on the Red Sea coastal plains. Surveys are recommended in these areas to check the situation.*

#### **Egypt**

- **SITUATION**

During July, mixed infestations of grasshoppers, Migratory Locust and probably a few Desert Locusts persisted in cropping areas at Sh. Oweinat (2240N/2845E) where 30 ha were treated on the 20th. Elsewhere, isolated immature adults were reported in a few cropping areas along the shoreline of Lake Nasser.

- **FORECAST**

*Low numbers of Desert Locust are likely to persist and become mixed with other locust and grasshopper species in agricultural areas at Sh. Oweinat and Tushka. No significant developments are likely.*

#### **Kuwait**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

#### **Oman**

- **SITUATION**

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

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

#### **United Arab Emirates**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

#### **Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria Arab Republic and Turkey**

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

### **SOUTH-WEST ASIA**

#### **Iran**

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys in Kerman and Hormozgan provinces in July.

- **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

#### **Pakistan**

- **SITUATION**

During the second half of June, low numbers of mature solitary adults, at densities of 1-6 per ha, were present at 18 locations scattered throughout the summer breeding areas between Tharparkar and Cholistan and two west of Karachi near Las Bela.

During the first half of July, the number of locations reporting locusts increased slightly to 21 along the Indo-Pakistan border and three at Las Bela. There was no significant change in locust densities.

- **FORECAST**

*Small scale breeding is likely to be in progress within a large portion of the summer breeding areas between Tharparkar and Cholistan where good monsoon rains have fallen. Consequently, hoppers should appear and locust numbers are expected gradually to increase but remain at non-threatening levels during the forecast period.*

#### **India**

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during surveys carried out in Rajasthan from 19 June to 17 July.

• **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present and breeding in Rajasthan near the Pakistan border between Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. Surveys are highly recommended in these areas.

**Afghanistan**

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.



## Other Locust species

**Peru**

During July, gregarious populations of *Schistocerca gregaria* persisted in the northern departments of Lambayeque and Cajamarca. Most of the infestations are affecting the three western provinces of Cajamarca. Hoppers have fledged and most of the resulting adults have formed groups that are moving towards the south where they should arrive shortly in the department of La Libertad.



## Announcements

**Locust reporting.** Affected countries are kindly reminded to make sure that locust situation reports are sent to FAO HQ by the 25th day of the month so the information can be included in the FAO bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

**Reporting by email.** Affected countries are encouraged to send completed *FAO Desert Locust Survey and Control Forms* with a brief interpretation of the results by email to [eclo@fao.org](mailto:eclo@fao.org).

**eLocust.** Details of a new system under evaluation for recording and transmitting locust survey and control data collected in the field can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.fao.org/news/2001/010601-e.htm>

**Upcoming meetings.** The following meetings are scheduled:

- 36th session of the DLCC, 24-28 September 2001 (Rome) which coincides with the 50th anniversary of FAO's involvement in Desert Locust management
- 9th EMPRES Liaison Officers Meeting, 13-18 October 2001 (Khartoum)
- 4th EMPRES Consultative Committee Meeting, 15-17 January 2002 (Cairo)
- 23rd session of the FAO Commission for Desert Locust Control in the Central Region (CRC), 26-30 January 2002 (Damascus)

**Central Region Commission.** Correction: The Government of Djibouti has confirmed their acceptance to become the **14th** member of the Central Region Commission.



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### 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 of rainfall.

##### **MODERATE**

- 21 - 50 mm of rainfall.

##### **HEAVY**

- more than 50 mm of rainfall.

#### **OTHER REPORTING TERMS**

##### **BREEDING**

- the process of reproduction from copulation to fledging.

##### **SUMMER RAINS AND BREEDING**

- July - September/October

##### **WINTER RAINS AND BREEDING**

- October - January/February

##### **SPRING RAINS AND BREEDING**

- February - June/July

##### **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.

##### **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.

##### **RECESSION**

- period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms.

##### **REMISSION**

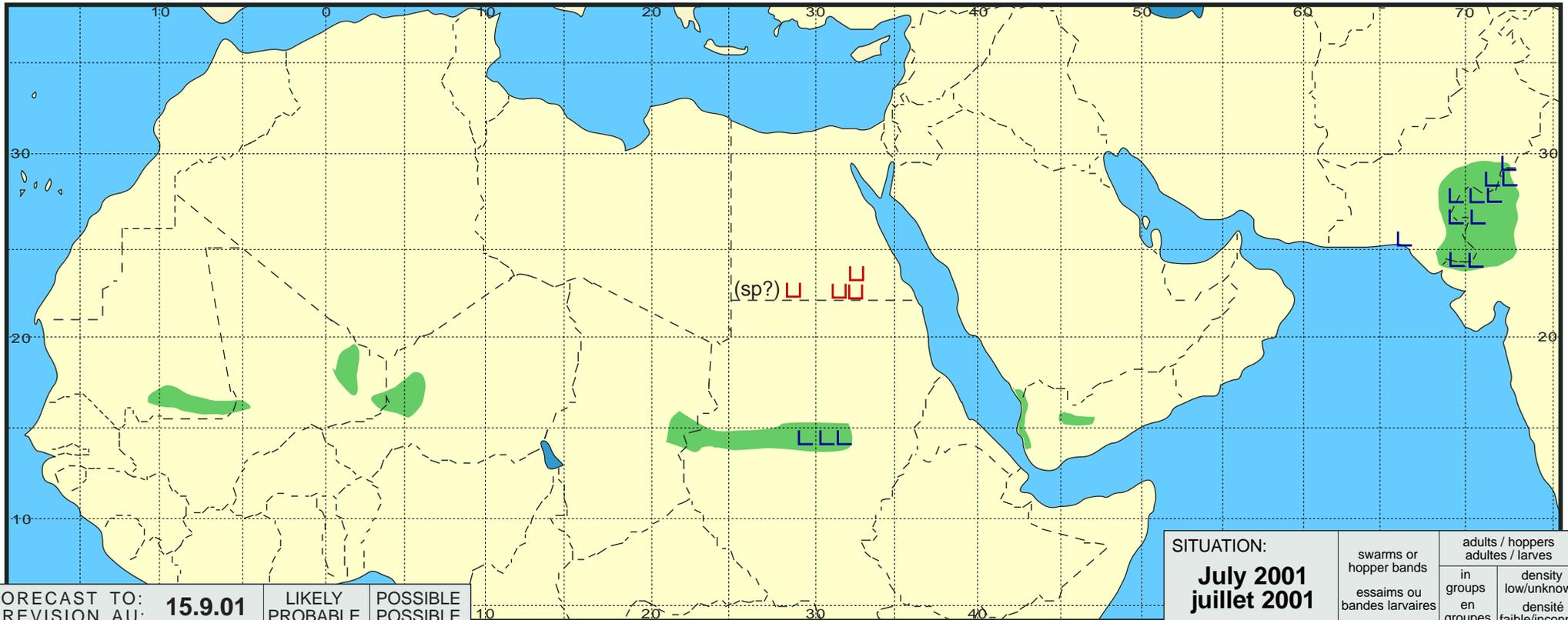
- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.



# Desert Locust Summary

## Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU:	15.9.01	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: July 2001 juillet 2001	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)			