

# DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 276  
(4 Oct 2001)



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

The Desert Locust situation continued to remain calm during September. Isolated breeding occurred in Mauritania and Sudan and probably also in the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border. Despite unusually favourable conditions, locust numbers remain low and non-threatening. Breeding may continue in a few places in the Sahel of West Africa during the forecast period but no significant developments are expected.

**Western Region.** Scattered adults were present in Mauritania and Niger and isolated instances of breeding were reported in a few places in southern Mauritania. Although no survey reports were received from northern Mali and eastern Chad where breeding conditions are favourable, there is no evidence so far to believe that the situation is any different from that in their neighbouring countries where surveys have been undertaken. During the forecast period, breeding is expected to continue in parts of southern Mauritania and northern Mali. Consequently, locust numbers will gradually increase and, when vegetation begins to dry out, adults may concentrate and perhaps form a few small groups. Some of these could move to northwest Mauritania where conditions are becoming favourable. Nevertheless, locust numbers should remain at non-threatening levels.

**Central Region.** Small-scale breeding occurred in Northern Kordofan, Sudan and probably in adjacent areas on Northern Darfur during September. This may have extended into the western lowlands of Eritrea where conditions are unusually favourable. During the forecast period, low numbers of solitary adults are likely to appear on the Red Sea coastal plains of Sudan and Eritrea. There was one report of a few adults already present on the Eritrean coast. Scattered adults were seen on the Red Sea coastal plains of Yemen and they may be present near Jizan, Saudi Arabia. Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in both countries but numbers should remain low. A few locusts were reported in cropping areas near Lake Nasser, Egypt.

**Eastern Region.** Breeding conditions continue to remain favourable along the Indo-Pakistan border where only low numbers of solitary adults were reported in India and Pakistan. By the end of September, the monsoon rains had ended and vegetation was starting dry out in a few places. No significant developments are expected.

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 September 2001

**Good rains continued for the fourth consecutive month in the summer breeding areas of the Sahel in West Africa and Sudan but declined along the Indo-Pakistan border. Conditions are likely to remain favourable for breeding longer this year than in most years.**

In **West Africa**, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) gradually moved southwards during September, reaching about 15°N by the end of the month. Prevailing winds north of the ITCZ were from the north and northeast while south of the ITCZ they were from the south and southeast. Good rains continued to fall throughout most of the summer breeding areas although there was a steady decline in Mauritania and Niger during September. In Mauritania, light to moderate rains, heavy at times, were reported in the south where conditions remain favourable except in parts of the southeast where some vegetation began to dry out at the end of the month. During the last dekad, there was an increase in rainfall in the west, especially in Inchiri where vegetation is becoming green in some places. In Mali, light to moderate rains fell in the Adrar des Iforas and southern Tamesna. Heavy rains were reported at Tessalit (50 mm on 2-4 September). Green vegetation continues to be present in the main wadis of the Adrar des Iforas north to the Algerian border, in the Tilemsi Valley and in a few places of Timetrine near Tin Kar. In Niger, cold cloud activity declined throughout the month, moving steadily southwards, and only light rains fell in Tamesna. Vegetation was green as far north as In Abangharit and in the western Air. Light rains fell in the east at Bilma. In eastern Chad, vegetation remained green as far north as Fada (17°N).

In **North-West Africa**, hot and dry conditions persisted throughout the region and no significant rainfall was reported. Because of rainfall during August, vegetation was reported to be green in a few places in southwest Morocco near Dakhla. Nevertheless, ecological conditions were not favourable for breeding in the Region.

In **Eastern Africa**, good rains, heavy at times, continued to fall in the summer breeding areas of Sudan where green vegetation favourable for breeding was present as far north as 16°N in Northern Darfur and Northern Kordofan. In northern and eastern Sudan, conditions were also favourable along the Atbara River, the Gash near Kassala and Khor Baraka because of recent rains. In Eritrea, significant cold cloud activity most likely resulting in light to moderate rains was apparent over the western lowlands where green vegetation is already present along Khor Baraka and over the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea. There were reports of vegetation starting to green up on the northern coastal plains. In Northern Somalia, light to moderate rains fell on the northwestern escarpment and heavy rains fell at Borama.

In the **Near East**, significant cold cloud activity was present along the Red Sea coastal plains of Yemen extending north to Jizan, Saudi Arabia throughout September. Consequently, low to moderate rains fell in these areas and vegetation is green in the main wadis where conditions are favourable for breeding. Elsewhere, dry conditions prevailed throughout the region except for the coastal plains of Salalah, Oman where the summer monsoon was in progress until mid month.

In **South-West Asia**, good rains associated with the monsoon continued to fall during the first half of the month in the summer breeding areas of Rajasthan, India. During the second half of the month, less rain fell, and by the end of September, the monsoon had ended. Nevertheless, breeding conditions remained favourable in Tharparkar and Cholistan deserts in Pakistan and in most of Rajasthan, India. Conditions were less favourable in Khairpur desert, Pakistan.



### Area Treated

No control operations were reported in September.

### WEST AFRICA



### Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

( see also the summary on the first page )

#### **Mauritania**

##### • SITUATION

During September, individual mature adults were seen at a few places, primarily in the central areas of the south near Moudjeria (1751N/1228W) where some

120 ha were infested with densities of 20-53 adults per ha, to a lesser extent in the southeast near Nema (1632N/0712W), and in the southwest near Boutilimit (1740N/1446E). Isolated adults were also found west and northwest of Tidjikja (1829N1131W). So far, very little breeding has been detected; only one hopper was seen near Kiffa (1638N/1124W) on the 4th.

• **FORECAST**

*Small scale breeding in the south will be extended this year because of the good rains and unusually favourable conditions. Consequently, locust numbers are expected to gradually increase in the south. As vegetation dries out, adults will move towards the west and northwest and lay in areas of recent rainfall such as Inchiri. The scale of this movement and subsequent breeding is expected to be small and remain at non-threatening levels.*

**Mali**

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

*Scattered adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small scale in the main wadis of the southern Adrar des Iforas and in adjacent areas of the Tilemsi Valley. Consequently, locust numbers are expected to gradually increase and, when vegetation begins to dry out, locusts may concentrate and perhaps form a few small groups.*

**Niger**

• **SITUATION**

Isolated maturing solitarious adults at densities up to 10 per ha were seen in a few places of Tamesna near In Abangharit (1754N/0559E) in early September. Similar populations were reported southwest of Termit Massif near Talras (1630N/1013E).

• **FORECAST**

*Scattered adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small scale in parts of Tamesna as far north as In Abangharit and in the western Air. Although this is expected to continue during the forecast period, locust numbers are likely to remain low.*

**Chad**

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

*A few isolated adults may be present and breeding on a small scale in parts of Biltine and near Fada in BET. If so, locust activity will decline as vegetation dries out during the forecast period.*

**Senegal**

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported in the Senegal River Valley up to 30 September.

• **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 locusts were reported during September.

• **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

**Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

**Tunisia**

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

**EASTERN AFRICA**

**Sudan**

• **SITUATION**

Small-scale breeding occurred during August and September in Northern Kordofan where fledglings were seen at one location west of Umm Saiyala (1426N/3112E) on 3 September. Elsewhere, immature adults at densities up to 25 per ha were reported at three places northwest of Ed Dueim (1400N/3220E) and two places southeast of Shendi (1641N/3322E) during September.



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- **FORECAST**

*Small scale will continue in Northern Darfur and Northern Kordofan and locust numbers will gradually increase but remain at a non-threatening level. Scattered adults and small-scale breeding may occur in areas of previous flooding along the Atbara River and near Kassala. During the forecast period, low numbers of solitary adults are likely to start to appear on the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea.*

### **Eritrea**

- **SITUATION**

Some solitary adults were seen on the northern coastal plains of the Red Sea during September. Further details are awaited.

- **FORECAST**

*Scattered adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small scale in the western lowlands. During the forecast period, low numbers of solitary adults are likely to start to appear on the Red Sea coastal plains.*

### **Somalia**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

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

### **Ethiopia**

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **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 reports received.

- **FORECAST**

*Scattered adults may be present and breeding on the Red Sea coastal plains near Jizan. No significant developments are likely.*

### **Yemen**

- **SITUATION**

Scattered immature solitary adults at densities up to 100 per ha were present at two locations on the northern Red Sea coast west of Suq Abs (1600N/4312E) on 4 September. No locusts were seen elsewhere during surveys carried out on the Red Sea coastal plains, the coastal plains near Aden and in the highlands near Taiz.

- **FORECAST**

*Small-scale breeding will occur during the forecast period in areas of recent rainfall along the Red Sea coastal plains. Consequently, locust numbers will gradually increase but remain at non-threatening levels.*

### **Egypt**

- **SITUATION**

Isolated immature adults were seen in a few cropping areas near Tushka (2247N/3126E) and along Lake Nasser during September.

- **FORECAST**

*Low numbers of Desert Locust, mixed with other locust and grasshopper species, are likely to decline 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 September.

- **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 reports received.

• **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*

**Pakistan**

• **SITUATION**

During September, low numbers of solitary maturing adults at densities up to 7 per ha continued to be reported along the Indo-Pakistan border from Tharparkar in the south to Cholistan in the north. The number of reports steadily decreased during the month. Although breeding was not detected this summer, it is thought to have occurred at a very low level and the current adults probably represent a second generation.

• **FORECAST**

*Locust numbers will continue to decline as vegetation dries out. No significant developments are expected.*

**India**

• **SITUATION**

During the second half of August, isolated adults were reported at Ghotaru (2723N/7005E) in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan. No locusts were seen during surveys from 1-25 September.

• **FORECAST**

*Locust numbers will continue to decline as vegetation dries out. No significant developments are expected.*

**Afghanistan**

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

*No significant developments are likely.*



**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).

**Desert Locust Guidelines.** The revised edition in English was issued on 24 September and is now available from FAO. Please contact the Locust Group for more information.

**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:

- 9th EMPRES Liaison Officers Meeting, 13-18 October 2001 (Khartoum)
- Expert Consultation on the Registration of Biopesticides for Desert Locust Control, 3-7 December 2001 (Rome)
- 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), 9-14 March 2002 (Damascus)

**Mr. Moussa Sissoko.** It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Moussa Sissoko (Chief, Plant Protection Unit and Locust Control, Mali) and seven others including PV staff in a helicopter crash near Mopti, Mali on 8 September. We would like to express our sincere condolences to the families and the government.



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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**

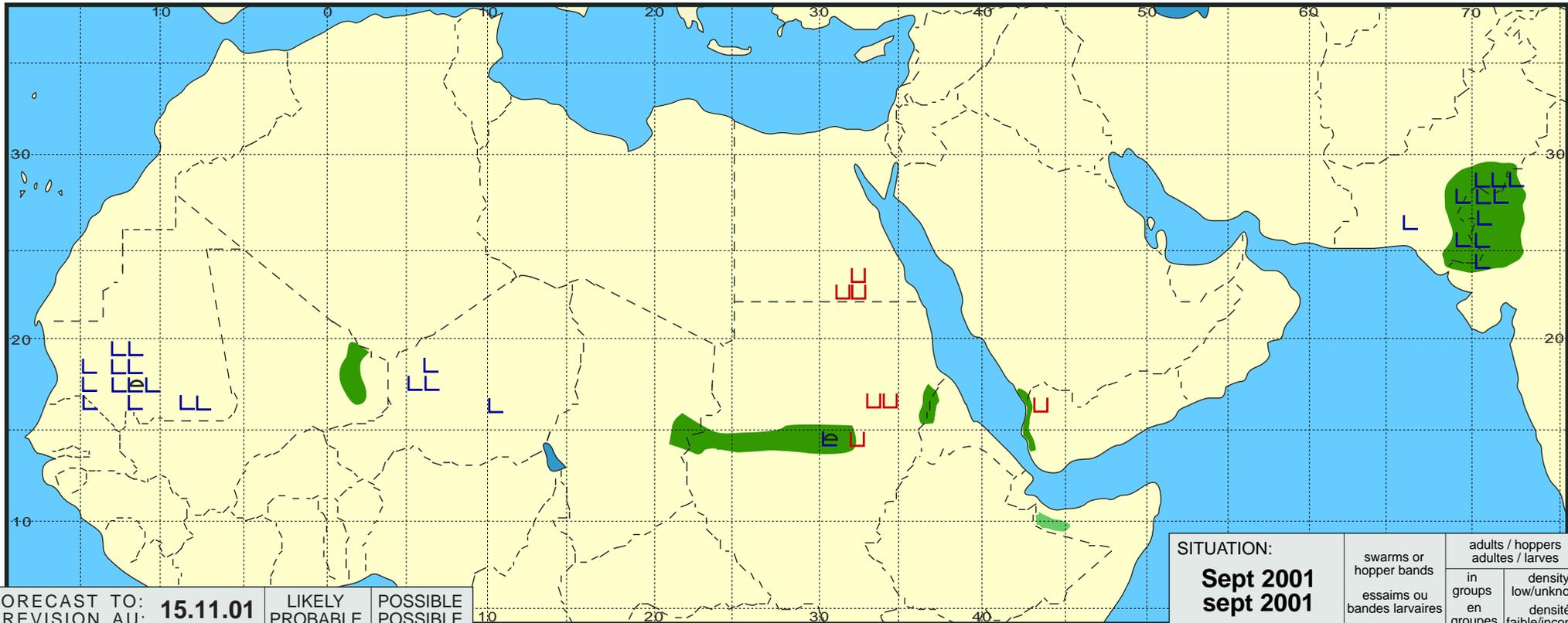
- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.



# Desert Locust Summary

## Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: <b>15.11.01</b>	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: <b>Sept 2001 sept 2001</b>	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)			