



# ECLO Operations Report

## EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR LOCUST OPERATIONS

### SITUATION UPDATE as of 11 August

The Desert Locust situation continues to be a cause for concern in central and eastern Chad and western Sudan. In addition, new infestations have been found in eastern Eritrea which are being assessed, but the first indications are that they could cause an outbreak if not properly controlled. Breeding is in progress in Chad and Sudan and there is a risk of outbreaks developing there too. Hopper bands formed during July in both countries but only limited control operations could be carried out because of the difficulty of access to many of the infested areas. A few small swarms could form in Chad and Sudan during August and September followed by another generation of breeding during which locust numbers could increase rapidly. Despite unusually good rainfall and excellent breeding conditions elsewhere in the Sahel, very few locusts have been seen so far in the summer breeding areas in southern Mauritania, northern Mali, Niger and western Chad. Seasonal forecasts suggest that good rainfall will continue in August and September; consequently, increased vigilance and intensive survey operations should be maintained in all countries. Locusts that are dispersed in these good conditions may be breeding, but their numbers may only become apparent later in the season.

#### FAO Subregional Desert Locust Office in Dakar

The Subregional Desert Locust Office in Dakar was established in May 2005 to ensure a regular dialogue with regional donor representatives, assist countries of the Southern Circuit and to promote human health and environment issues in the region.

#### Desert Locust Survey and Treatment Programme in the Sahel

Survey and control of the Desert Locust have been ongoing since June and will continue through September in the frontline Sahelian countries that are most seriously threatened by the Desert Locust: Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Through donor funding, FAO has fielded experts since June and contracted one helicopter to each country from the end of July to the end of September. FAO continues to strengthen the national capacities in these countries and in Burkina Faso, the Gambia and Senegal to monitor the Desert Locust situation during the summer as recommended at the Desert Locust Contingency Planning and Donor Meetings held in April/May in Mali. Survey results towards the end of September/early October will be instrumental in determining the Desert Locust outlook until the end of the year.

In Mauritania, the summer locust control campaign was officially launched on 28 July with the deployment of 20 additional mobile teams to reinforce the five teams already in the field. The number of teams of the *Centre de lutte antiacridienne* (CLAA) currently mobilized is 25 survey teams and 6 specialized teams for coordination, logistics, maintenance, follow-up, human health and the environment, and empty pesticide containers. The helicopter contracted by FAO arrived on 4 August and is already carrying out surveys, supported by a CLAA team. The reinforcement of surveying in Mauritania should make it possible to detect and treat, in a timely manner, any potential locust infestation.



Official reception of helicopter in N'Djamena, Chad, 6 August



Deployment of mobile teams in Mauritania, 28 July

## Health and Environment Issues

### Trials with Alternative Pesticides

Successful trials organized jointly by the National Plant Protection Service of Algeria and FAO in April–May using the biopesticide *Metarhizium* showed that locusts were efficiently controlled by the natural fungus. The product resulted in 100 percent efficacy within seven days. More field testing is required to explore the potential and limitations of the product under different climatic conditions.

The biopesticide is not toxic to humans and kills only locusts and grasshoppers and a very limited number of other insects; it has no other environmental side-effects. It is expected that this biopesticide will be useful as a Desert Locust preventive control strategy.

### Environmental Monitoring of Locust Control

Environmental teams are monitoring the spraying operations in Chad and are ready in Mali, Mauritania and Niger if the need arises. Additional national training of the monitoring teams will take place in September in these countries and in Burkina Faso and Senegal.

### Pesticide Storage

Pesticides storage facilities are being renovated in Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. A pesticide store is planned to be constructed in Mauritania that meets international standards, and similar stores will be constructed in other countries as necessary.

### Drum Crushers

The collection of empty pesticide drums for rinsing, crushing and recycling has been completed in Niger and Senegal. A drum crusher was installed in Nouakchott in July that rinses and crushes 100 barrels a day. Another drum crusher for Mali is expected to arrive at the end of September.



Cleaning

Domestic use of empty pesticide containers is a serious problem in the region. FAO promotes the collection and elimination of empty drums as they can endanger human health and the environment. Participants were informed of how to raise the awareness of rural and urban populations of this danger. Participants encouraged the extension of the national programme on the management of empty pesticide containers and pesticide stocks that is implemented in the Sahelian countries, with FAO assistance, to other countries affected by the Desert Locust emergency in the region, such as Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

## TRAINING

### Workshop on Management of Empty Pesticide Containers

A regional workshop on the management of empty pesticide containers and remaining pesticide stocks from the Desert Locust campaign of 2004–2005 was organized by FAO in Mauritania, 2–5 August, with funding from Austria, EC, IFAD, Italy, the Netherlands and FAO. Participants from 14 countries affected by the Desert Locust (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia) and local NGOs attended the workshop. Information was exchanged on the impact of pesticides and the dangers of domestic use of empty pesticide containers for human health and the environment. A drum crusher was demonstrated for washing and crushing empty pesticide containers to allow recycling of drums. Participants established a regional strategy for better management of pesticide stocks and empty pesticide containers.



Preparation

Crushing

### National Training Courses

The 20 participants from 10 countries in the Western Region that were trained in the first regional training-of-trainers course entitled «*Ce qu'il faut savoir, ce qu'on doit transmettre sur le Criquet pèlerin*» (What to know, what to teach on the Desert Locust) that was held in Niamey, Niger, in March and April led three training courses in their respective countries in May. During these courses, more than 600 participants concerned with Desert Locust management were trained.

## Informative Meetings

### Ministerial Meeting on Locust Control, 17 May, Dakar

Ten countries participated in this meeting that was preceded by a two-day technical session in order to evaluate the locust situation and discuss the creation of a sub-regional coordination body (*Coordination Sous Régionale de Lutte Anti-Acridienne* - COSRELAA) and how to coordinate with CLCPRO. A decision was taken to establish COSRELAA, subject to comments being received from countries not present, as a mechanism for improved coordination. The declaration resulting from the meeting also supported FAO's efforts to create an emergency fund and invited locust-affected countries of the Southern Circuit to become members of CLCPRO.

### Meeting of FAORs, 18–19 May, Dakar

Thirteen FAO Representatives in the countries affected by the 2004 Desert Locust upsurge met with FAO/ECLC staff to discuss their experiences during the past year. The session was opened by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture of Senegal. Desert Locust bio-ecology, development of the current situation and EMPRES programme as well as FAO's Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS), an information tool established for monitoring the Desert Locust operations, were presented. This was followed by the presentation of the plan of action for the next Desert Locust campaign, and the overview of environmental aspects of the past campaign.

### Donors' Meeting on the 2005 Desert Locust Campaign, 21 June, Dakar

The meeting was to inform the donor community of the current Desert Locust situation and plans for the 2005 control campaign as resulting from the Contingency Planning and Donors' Meetings held in April/May in Bamako. Donors were briefed on the role of the Subregional Desert Locust Office based in Dakar. The meeting was jointly chaired by the EC and the French Cooperation and attended by eight other donors: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and USAID.

### Consultative Workshop on the 2005 Desert Locust Campaign and FAO's Programme, 13 July, Nouakchott

The workshop was attended by government officials of Mauritania and representatives of the EC, France, Spain, Germany, USA, Saudi Arabia, Italy, UNDP, the World Bank, GTZ, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and NGOs. Participants were updated on the Desert Locust situation and the plan of action for the 2005-2006 Desert Locust control campaign at the national and regional levels. The programmes for prevention and emergency response (EMPRES/RO) as well as those relating to agricultural rehabilitation were presented and discussed.

### Donors' Meeting, 21 July, Rome

The meeting, chaired by the FAO Director-General, was attended by the Permanent Representatives of 39 donor and beneficiary countries. The objectives of the meeting were to present to the Permanent Representatives the current Desert Locust situation and the forecast for the summer period, the results of the Contingency Planning and Donor Meetings in Bamako (April/May) regarding the summer locust control campaign, and the progress made on the preparation for the campaign as well as the funding situation. The coordination role of FAO in the forthcoming summer locust control campaign, the possible conclusion of the emergency situation by the end of 2005 and the need for a Desert Locust Emergency Fund were discussed.

### 27<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC), held in Khartoum, Sudan, 24–28 July

Members of the Executive Committee (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Oman and Yemen) participated in the meeting that was also attended by FAO Senior Locust Officer. The current locust situation in eastern Chad and western Sudan which could potentially threaten the Central Region was discussed in detail and necessary preparations agreed upon. Regular emergency meetings have taken place between the frontline countries, and it was agreed to share the related reports with all 15 member countries. Joint surveys between neighbouring countries were also planned.

### ECLO contacts

#### Operational

Hilde Niggemann-Pucella  
Coordinator and Locust-Related Emergencies  
Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division, FAO  
Tel. 0039 06 57053286  
E-mail:  
[Hilde.Niggemann@fao.org](mailto:Hilde.Niggemann@fao.org)

#### Technical

Clive Elliott  
Senior Officer, Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group,  
Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO  
Tel: 0039 06 57053836  
E-mail:  
[Clive.Elliott@fao.org](mailto:Clive.Elliott@fao.org)

### Funding Update

- To date, funds received are US\$73.7, of which US\$67.4 million is from donors and US\$6.3 million from FAO.
- An additional US\$6.5 million has been pledged by donors but not yet received.
- The total budget allocation for locust control operations is US\$80.2 million (US\$73.7 + US\$6.5).
- US\$47.3 million (64 percent of funds received) has been spent/committed for locust control operations.
- The balance of funds received is US\$26.4 million (US\$73.7 – US\$47.3).
- US\$2.1 million is still being negotiated with donors.

Access to the "Permanent Representatives" Module in FPMIS was expanded as of 20 July to include additional financial information  
(<https://extranet.fao.org/fpmis/permereps>).