

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 328

(1 Feb 2006)



General Situation during January 2006 Forecast until mid-March 2006

The Desert Locust situation was calm during January. Small-scale breeding continued in Mauritania, Niger and Sudan but locust numbers remained low and only limited control operations were required in Mauritania. Although good rains fell at times in parts of the Sahara, low temperatures will delay locust maturation. Breeding is expected to continue along the Red Sea coast, primarily in Sudan and perhaps to a lesser extent in Eritrea and Yemen. Breeding should decline in Mauritania and Niger as vegetation dries out further. No significant developments are expected during the next six weeks.

Western Region. Small-scale breeding continued during January in western and central Mauritania where low numbers of late instar hoppers and adults were present. Ground control operations treated less than 100 ha. Only scattered adults were reported in northern Mauritania and similar populations are likely to be present in adjacent areas of Western Sahara where good rains fell at times during January. Limited breeding also occurred in Tamesna, Niger where low numbers of hoppers and adults were reported. A few adults may be present in parts of northern Mali. Small residual populations are likely to remain in these countries during the winter if ecological conditions remain favourable. No locusts were seen during surveys in southern and eastern Algeria.

Central Region. Small-scale breeding continued during January in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in Sudan where scattered hoppers and adults were present in the Tokar Delta. Isolated adults were seen in the interior of northeastern Sudan. Good rains fell along the Red Sea coast in southeastern Egypt but so far locusts have not been detected. Scattered locusts may be present and breeding on a small scale in a few places along the coast in Eritrea and Yemen where conditions remained favourable in January. Small-scale breeding is likely to continue in the winter breeding areas during February and, unless further rains fall, eventually come to an end by March. There were no other reports of locusts elsewhere in the region.

Eastern Region. Cool and mainly dry weather prevailed in the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan and southeastern Iran during January and no locusts were reported. Nevertheless, scattered adults are likely to be present in some areas and small-scale breeding should commence once temperatures increase.

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by 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 January 2006

Good rain fell in winter breeding areas on the Red Sea coast in southeast Egypt and breeding conditions were favourable in some coastal areas of Sudan, Eritrea and Yemen. Light rain fell in the winter breeding areas in northern Mauritania and Western Sahara where breeding conditions were favourable but temperatures were low. Dry conditions prevailed in western Pakistan and southeastern Iran.

In the **Western Region**, good rain fell at times during January in parts of the western and central Sahara. Dry weather prevailed during the first half of the month except for isolated showers in a few places in Western Sahara and northwest Mauritania. Localized showers also fell in southern Algeria and in northwest Libya. During the second half of January, widespread but light rain fell in parts of southern and eastern Algeria, extending to northwest Libya on the 18-20th and, again on the 22-25th from the Atlantic coast of Western Sahara and southwest Morocco to northern Mauritania and Algeria. Light rain may have fallen on the 26th in southeast Libya near Jebel Uweinat. Light rain fell at the end of the month along both sides of the Algerian/Libyan border. Although ecological conditions are likely to improve in some of these areas, low temperatures (less than 20°C during the day and close to 0°C at night) will limit breeding and delay egg development and locust maturation. In Western Sahara, breeding conditions were favourable in some places in the north between Laayoune and Smara. In Mauritania, vegetation continued to dry out in infested areas in central and western Mauritania near Tidjikja and Aftout Fai but was green in the north between Zouerate and Bir Moghreïn. In northern Mali and Niger, conditions remained favourable enough to allow low numbers of locusts to survive in a few places in the Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna. In Algeria, green vegetation was limited to a few places south of Tamanrasset and along the Libyan border.

In the **Central Region**, very little rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea during January except in southeast Egypt where good rains fell during the first decade along the coast and in

subcoastal areas between Shalaty and the Sudanese border. Breeding conditions are expected to become favourable in these areas in the coming weeks. Light rain fell on the 21st in a few places on the Sudanese coast. Ecological conditions remained favourable for breeding mainly in the Tokar Delta and in small areas south of Tokar to Mehimet in northern Eritrea. On 20-21 January, light rain fell on the plateau in northwest Somalia and along the coast in Djibouti. Although rain was not reported along the Red Sea coast in Yemen, breeding conditions remained favourable in some areas.

In the **Eastern Region**, cool and mainly dry weather prevailed during January in the spring breeding areas in Baluchistan in western Pakistan and southeastern Iran. Isolated light showers fell in a few places in Baluchistan, Pakistan along the coast near Lasbela and Pasni, and in the northern interior near Nushki.



Area Treated

Less than 100 ha were treated in January against small infestations in Mauritania.

Mauritania	278 ha (21-31 December 2005)
	73 ha (1-10 January 2006)

Note: Reporting delays and discrepancies may affect the accuracy of these figures.



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on page 1)

WESTERN REGION

Mauritania

• SITUATION

During January, locust infestations declined in western, central and northern regions. Most of the hoppers that were present in the Aftout Fai (1834N/1424W) area, north of Moudjeria (1752N/1219W) and near Tidjikja (1833N/1126W) had fledged by mid-month and, by the end of January, only a few fifth instar hoppers remained mixed with immature and mature adults. In the northwest, isolated mature adults were present near the coast at Banc d'Arguin in Inchiri. In the north, isolated immature and mature adults were present throughout the month near Zouerate (2244N/1221W) and Bir Moghreïn (2510N/1135W). Ground teams treated 73 ha in the Aftout Fai area during the first decade of January.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of solitary adults are expected to persist in a few areas in Inchiri, Adrar and Tiris-Zemmour as well as in parts of Aftout Fai if conditions remain favourable. Small-scale breeding is likely to occur eventually in a few places in the north but low temperatures will delay egg and locust development.

Mali

- **SITUATION**

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

- **FORECAST**

Isolated adults are likely to be present and will persist in the few places that remain green in the Tilemsi Valley, the Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna.

Niger

- **SITUATION**

During January, low numbers of second to fifth instar hoppers, at densities of 1-3 hoppers/bush, mixed with immature adults, at densities of less than 200 adults/ha, were present at a few places in Tamesna northwest and northeast of In Abangharit (1754N/0559E). No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the Air Mountains.

- **FORECAST**

Isolated adults are likely to persist in the few places that remain green in Tamesna and the Air Mountains.

Chad

- **SITUATION**

No reports were received during January.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during the first two decades in January.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Algeria

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in January southwest of Tamanrasset and along the Libyan border near Djanet and north of Illizi.

- **FORECAST**

Isolated adults may persist in a few places along the southern side of the Hoggar Mountains.

Morocco

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during January.

- **FORECAST**

Scattered adults may be present in parts of Western Sahara and small-scale breeding could occur eventually in a few places but low temperatures will delay egg and locust development.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during January.

- **FORECAST**

Isolated locusts may be present and could persist in any areas that remain favourable in the southwest.

Tunisia

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys in the south along the Libyan and Algerian borders during January.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

CENTRAL REGION

Sudan

- **SITUATION**

During January, scattered solitary fourth and fifth instar hoppers and immature adults at densities up to 750 adults/ha persisted at several places in the Tokar Delta on the Red Sea coast. Further north in the interior near the Egyptian border, isolated solitary mature adults were seen at one place in the Nubian Desert about 75 km west of W. Diib on the 25th. No locusts were seen elsewhere on the Red Sea coastal plains between Tokar and Port Sudan or along W. Diib.

- **FORECAST**

Small-scale breeding is likely to continue during February in the Tokar Delta and locust numbers may increase slightly. By the end of the forecast period, breeding should come to an end as vegetation dries out and temperatures increase.



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Eritrea

- SITUATION

No reports were received during January.

- FORECAST

Scattered locusts may be present and breeding on a small scale on the Red Sea coastal plains near Mehimet and Shelshela. If so, breeding could continue during February and locust numbers may increase slightly. By the end of the forecast period, breeding should come to an end as vegetation dries out and temperatures increase.

Ethiopia

- SITUATION

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

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during January.

- FORECAST

A few isolated adults could appear on the coastal plains between the capital and the Somali border.

Somalia

- SITUATION

No reports were received during January

- FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present on the northwest coast between Djibouti and Berbera and could breed on a limited scale if rainfall occurs.

Egypt

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in January along the Red Sea coast between Marsa Alam and the Sudanese border, in subcoastal areas along W. Diib and in the Red Sea Hills, along Lake Nasser and in Sh. Oweinat.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults may appear in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast between Shalatyn and the Sudanese border and eventually breed if rainfall occurs.

Saudi Arabia

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys undertaken in January along the Red Sea coast and in the interior.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of solitary adults may be present on the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea near Jizan and breed on a limited scale if rainfall occurs during the forecast period.

Yemen

- SITUATION

No surveys were undertaken and no locusts were reported during January.

- FORECAST

Scattered adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small scale along the Red Sea coastal plains and perhaps in a few places on the Gulf of Aden coast.

Oman

- SITUATION

No reports were received during January.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE and Uganda

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN REGION

Iran

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the southeast on 18-20 January.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may be present in coastal and interior areas adjacent to Baluchistan, Pakistan. If so, small-scale breeding could eventually take place if rainfall occurs.

Pakistan

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during the first half of January in Baluchistan. During the remainder of the month, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out near Turbat on the 24-27th.

- FORECAST

Scattered adults are likely to be present in parts of Baluchistan, mainly along the coast and in the Shooli area. Small-scale breeding may take place if rainfall occurs during the forecast period but low temperatures, especially in the interior, may delay hatching and hopper development.

India

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during the first half of January.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.



Announcements

Locust reporting. During locust outbreaks, upsurges and plagues, RAMSES output files with a brief interpretation should be sent twice/week and affected countries are encouraged to prepare decadal bulletins summarizing the situation. During recession periods, countries should report at least once/month. All information should be sent by e-mail to the FAO/ECLO Desert Locust Information Service (ecl@fao.org). Information received by the end of the month will be included in the FAO Desert Locust 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.

Desert Locust Mapper. The Locust Group has launched an updated version of the Desert Locust Mapper that allows users to access locust data, both historical and current, and display swarm, band, hopper and adult infestations on maps at different scales. See: www.fao.org/ag/locusts (Mapper)

eLocust2. FAO has developed a new version of eLocust in collaboration with affected countries and the French Space Agency (CNES/Novacom) that allows field officers to enter survey and control data directly in the field and transmit it in real time via satellite to their national locust centre. Data can also be downloaded to a PC. The software is in both English and French. FAO DLIS is currently distributing units to affected countries with the goal of becoming fully operational by this summer. Photos and more information are available at: www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/activ/DLIS/index.html

Desert Locust environmental brochure. FAO has produced a brochure for the general public and donor community entitled *Fighting the Locusts... Safely*, available for download at www.fao.org/ag/locusts (Publications – documents). It is being translated into French and Arabic.

Publications on the Internet. New FAO publications and meeting reports are available for downloading at www.fao.org/ag/locusts (Publications):

- Report of the 3rd session of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (French, Arabic)
- Report of the 27th Executive Committee meeting of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (English, Arabic)

DLCC. The next session (38th) of the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) has been postponed until 15-19 May so that a comprehensive report of an independent evaluation of the recent Desert Locust campaign can be presented and discussed.

2006 events. The following meetings are tentatively scheduled:

- **EMPRES/WR.** 4th Liaison Officers meeting, Algiers (Algeria), 25 February - 1 March
- **EMPRES/WR.** Steering committee meeting, Algiers (Algeria), 4-6 March
- **EMPRES/CR.** Advanced training for National Locust Information Officers (RAMSES/eLocust2), Cairo (Egypt), 19-23 March
- **SWAC.** 11th Desert Locust joint survey in the spring breeding areas of Iran and Pakistan, 1 April – 1 May
- **CRC.** 25th Session, Dubai (UAE), April
- **FAO/WMO.** Regional workshop on meteorological information for locust control – English-speaking countries, Oman, 8-12 April
- **DLCC.** 38th Session, Rome, 15-19 May
- **FAO Locust Group.** Extended Group meeting, Rome, 22-24 May
- **CLCPRO.** 2nd Session, end May or early June
- **SWAC.** 25th Session, Afghanistan or Iran, October



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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 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 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.

REGIONS

WESTERN

- locust-affected countries in West and North-West Africa: Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia; during plagues only: Burkino Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guidea Bissau and Guinea Conakry.

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, Qatar, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE and Uganda.

EASTERN

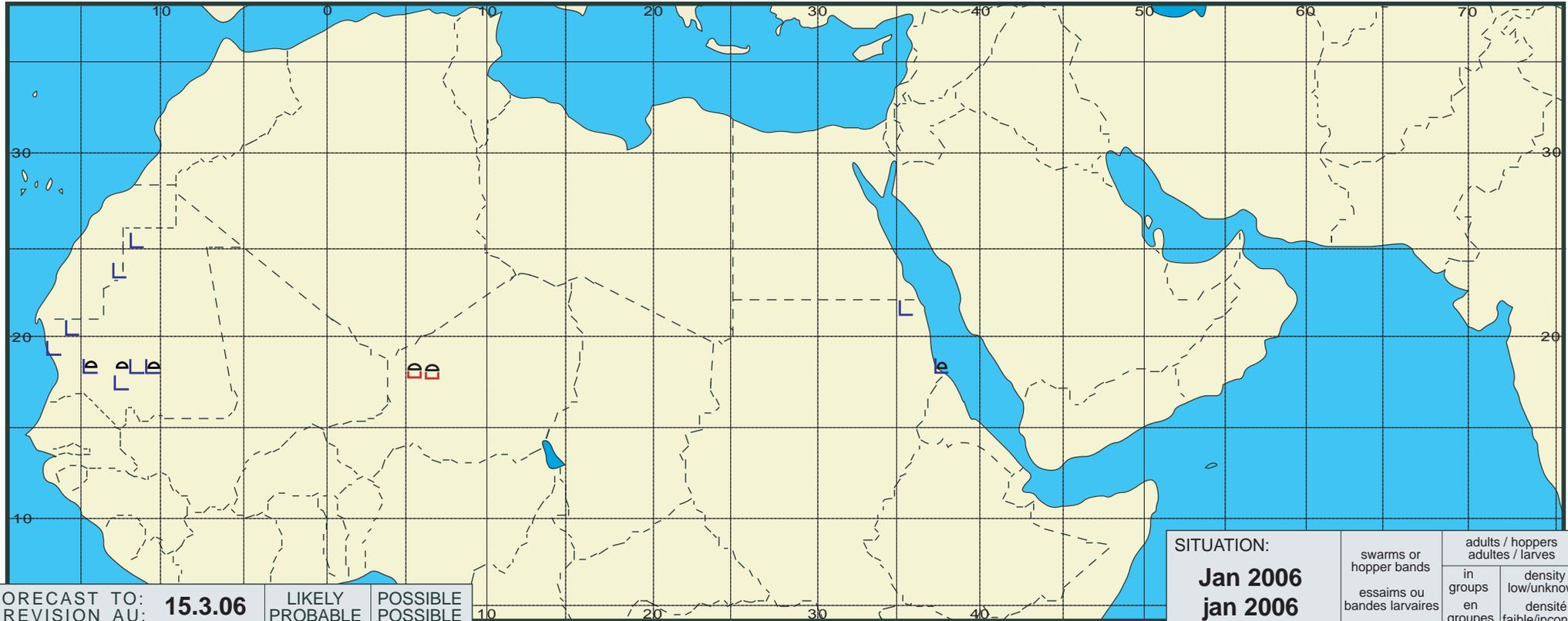
- locust-affected countries in South-West Asia: Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU:	15.3.06	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: Jan 2006 jan 2006	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)			

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)			