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## Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

# DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 65 JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY 1984

### SUMMARY

The overall situation is very quiet. The failure of winter rains in most areas around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden ensures that only scattered adults will be produced in the winter-spring breeding areas in the Central Region. Scattered adults were present in Baluchistan of Pakistan. The situation in West and North-West Africa is calm.

W/Q7631

# DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY 1984

## WEST AFRICA

### Meteorology

The median position of the ITCZ was about 6°N. Rains associated with it extended to the Gulf of Guinea. In the Sahel sandstorms were reported on 3-7 January and 13-17 January. Daily maximum temperatures generally ranged from 30-35°C in the interior and were about 25°C in coastal areas.

### Breeding Conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR monthly composited imagery conditions are unfavourable for breeding throughout the Recession Area in West Africa.

### Locusts

#### MALI

In December the only locusts encountered were at two localities in northern Tilemsi, oued Tizerin (1935N/0010E) and In Cheker 1940N/0015E), over a total area of 10 ha at densities of 10-50/ha.

There were no other reports from the Region.

## NORTH-WEST AFRICA

### Meteorology

Commencing on 4 January some Atlantic depressions, sometimes thundery, coming from Spain affected Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, while the Azores high reduced their influence over Morocco. During the first decade the most important rains provided by the GTS were: 15mm on 2 January at Shahat, 26mm on 4 January at Algiers, 25mm at Bejaia and 13mm at Casablanca on 5 January, 11mm at Constantine on 6 January, 9mm at Djelfa on 8 January and 19mm at Fes-Sais on 10 January.

During the second decade the strengthening of high pressure over Morocco led to a return of dry weather, while the rest of the Maghreb were affected by Mediterranean disturbances. According to the GTS the following rains were recorded: 12mm at Gabès and 10mm at Tripoli on 11 January, 5mm at Jandouba and 7mm at Agedabia on 12 January, 14mm at Bejaia and 12mm at Benina on 13 January, 10mm at Jendouba and Agedabia and 13mm at Zuara on 14 January and on 15 January Sirte received 8mm.

The third decade was characterized by the passage of several depressions coming from the Atlantic and by falls of rain which rarely exceeded 10mm daily. Several sandstorms were recorded by the GTS on 5 January in central Algeria, on 7 January at Jamal Abdel Nasser and on 26 January at Mersa Matruh.

Midday temperatures were usually in the region of 15°C in coastal areas and between 20-25°C in the interior.

### Breeding Conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery favourable breeding conditions were confined to Kufra and Sarir oases and to the oases between Tasawah and El Fuqaha in the Fezzan.

### Locusts

#### MOROCCO

No locusts were found in the course of ground surveys of southern and south-eastern Morocco, which were concluded on 10 December.

There were no other reports from the Region.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

Dry weather persisted over northern and central Sudan, most of Ethiopia and Somalia throughout January and up to 22 February. The Red Sea Convergence Zone lay between 17°N and 23°N.

The only GTS data received for Sudan was for 23 January; it confirmed regular Meteosat imagery which showed little cloud and dry weather. Midday temperatures were generally around 25°C in the north and 32°C in the south.

Djibouti data received via Bracknell show that the weather was dry with midday temperatures around 30°C. There were several cloudy periods in Ethiopia and Somalia but virtually no rain. Maximum temperatures were around 20°C in the highlands but up to 36°C in Somalia.

The only significant rains in the Region, sometimes accompanied by thunderstorms, were recorded in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. For example, GTS data show that Meru received 22mm and Mtware 33mm on 15 January. Maximum daily temperatures ranged from 25-35°C.

Breeding Conditions

NOAA/AVHRR monthly composited imagery showed that the only areas providing favourable breeding conditions during January were around Halaib (where there was heavy rain in November and December), in the Tokar delta, the Akban azuf dunes north-west of Massawa (where 22mm of rain were recorded on 27 December), the coastal plains of northern Somalia around Mait, between Durdureh and Bosasa and Tug Herbit, inland from Alula.

Locusts

SOMALIA

On a ground survey along the route Bosaso - Karin - Buran - Erigaro - El Afwein - Las Dureh - Berbera - Hargeisa, two adults were flushed by a vehicle 15 km north-west of El Afwein on 23 December and two adults were seen at Sanka Beriska on 25 December.

SUDAN

Three locusts were flushed between Dongonab and Maroub in late December.

No locusts were reported from DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA or UGANDA.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

Generally dry weather persisted over the Arabian peninsula during January and up to 22 February. The first half of January was marked by dry weather and sandstorms, in particular on 2 January at Qaisumah and on 13 January at Luxor. Meteosat imagery showed that from 16 January Mediterranean depressions moved across the area to the Persian Gulf and United Arab Emirates. According to GTS data showers accompanied by thunderstorms and sandstorms gave 14mm of rain at Kuwait, 15mm at Minya while Alexandria received 10mm on 16 January.

After isolated spots of rain up to 27 January a new disturbance affected the area, giving 6mm of rain at Turaif on 28 January and by 31 January had reached Eastern Arabia where Ras Al Khaimah and Sur each received 2mm of rain.

According to GTS data daily maximum temperatures ranged from about 25°C in Oman and the United Arab Emirates to 28°C on the Tihama and 20°C in northern Arabia where a north-easterly airstream predominated.

### Breeding Conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR monthly composite imagery the only area along the western and southern coastal plains of the Arabian peninsula which could provide breeding conditions for the Desert Locust was Wadi Bana, east of Aden.

### Locusts

#### KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

12 Locusts were seen at Khabt Sayid in the Jizan area.

#### PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Low density adults were observed at Al-Harur (1314N/4512E) on 30 January.

#### OMAN

According to a late report large numbers of scattered locusts were seen in the Thumrait area of Dhofar in early November. These were seen by pilots at heights of up to 200-300m and corpses were seen on leading edges of aircraft.

THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC was reported clear. No other reports were received from the Region.

### SOUTH-WEST ASIA

### Meteorology

An anticyclone, with a pressure of 1040 mb, centred to the north of the Himalayas and with a ridge extending to the Arabian Sea resulted in a north-easterly airstream over the winter breeding areas. Areas of low pressure occurred close to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, where they resulted in frequent thundery storms. Between these extremes several rainy disturbances and small mobile depressions were entrained in the north-easterly airstream.

After 27 January the low pressure area extended progressing from southern India to the north towards northern Pakistan and Afghanistan, which the continental anticyclone filled to 1025 mb and was centred close to the Caspian Sea.

According to GTS data, Kandahar received 10mm and Jiwani 22m on 11 January. Quetta received 24mm and Salang 17mm on 12 January. After scattered light rain up to 30 January a new rainy period commenced with 12 mm of rain at Salang on 30 January.

The Pakistan Locust Bulletin reports heavy rain at Nushki on 10-11 January and light-moderate rain at Kharan and Panjgur on 11-12 January. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch were dry.

Maximum temperatures were generally between 22°C and 27°C in Rajasthan. By contrast Pakistan was relatively cold, with temperatures in the interior sometimes below 15°C.

### Breeding Conditions

No NOAA/AVHRR imagery is available for the period.

### Locusts

#### PAKISTAN

Scattered locusts were seen at four localities in the Pasni area, the maximum density being 600/sq km at Gurani (2517N/6317E) on 22 January.

No locusts were reported in AFGHANISTAN or INDIA during January. No report was received from IRAN.

FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL 1984

Due to the failure of winter rains, spring breeding in coastal and subcoastal areas around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden will be very localised and only small numbers of adults will be produced. Spring breeding in Baluchistan of Pakistan and south-eastern Iran is likely to be on a larger scale. The situation in West Africa and North-West Africa will remain calm.

In South-West Asia spring breeding will occur in coastal and subcoastal areas of Baluchistan in Pakistan and perhaps in adjacent areas of south-east Iran, but will be on a small scale. Breeding will also occur in interior valleys and this will probably be on a small scale also. Small numbers of adults will persist in the summer breeding areas.

In the Near East small scale breeding may occur in eastern United Arab Emirates and northern and southern Oman. Only very localised breeding is possible in western and southern coastal areas of the Arabian peninsula. Small numbers of adults may reach the interior of Saudi Arabia during periods of southerly winds.

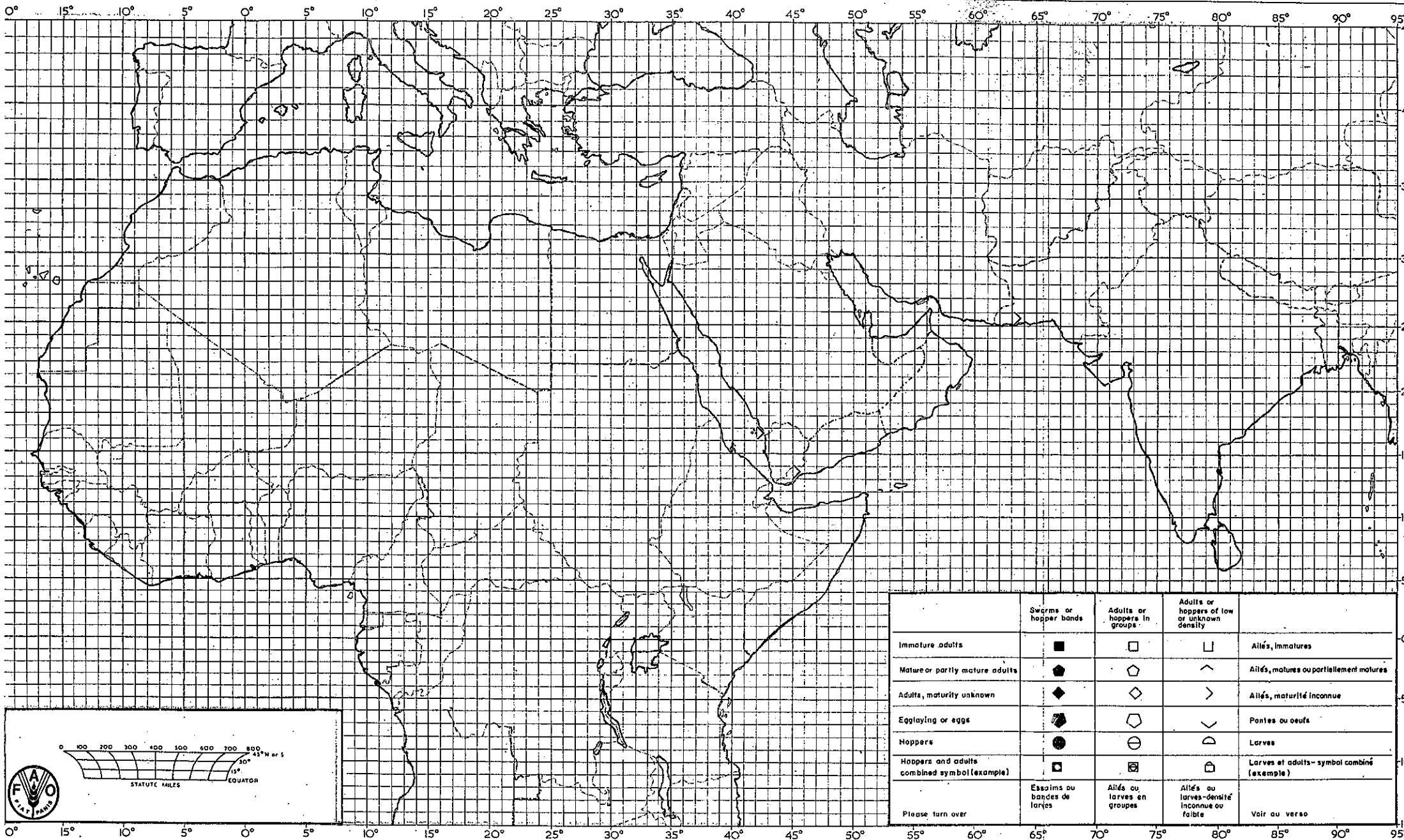
In Eastern Africa small numbers of adults may persist in the Tokar delta. Small scale breeding may occur along the northern sector of the Red Sea coast in areas which received rain in November and December. Scattered adults are likely to be present in northern coastal areas of Somalia and small scale breeding may occur in limited areas which received winter rain or which may receive spring rain.

In North-West Africa localised low density breeding may occur in wadis draining Saharan uplands.

In West Africa small numbers of adults are likely to persist in restricted areas supporting green vegetation.

Rome, 23 February 1984

# Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 65 JANUARY-EARLY FEBRUARY/ JANVIER-DEBUT DE FEVRIER 1984



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Ailés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	◆	◊	◊	Ailés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◊	>	Ailés, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs	●	◊	<	Ponies ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	○	◐	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	◻	◻	◻	Larves et adults - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Ailés ou larves en groupes	Ailés ou larves-densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso

