

# Eritrea outbreak

OCT 2013 - April 2014

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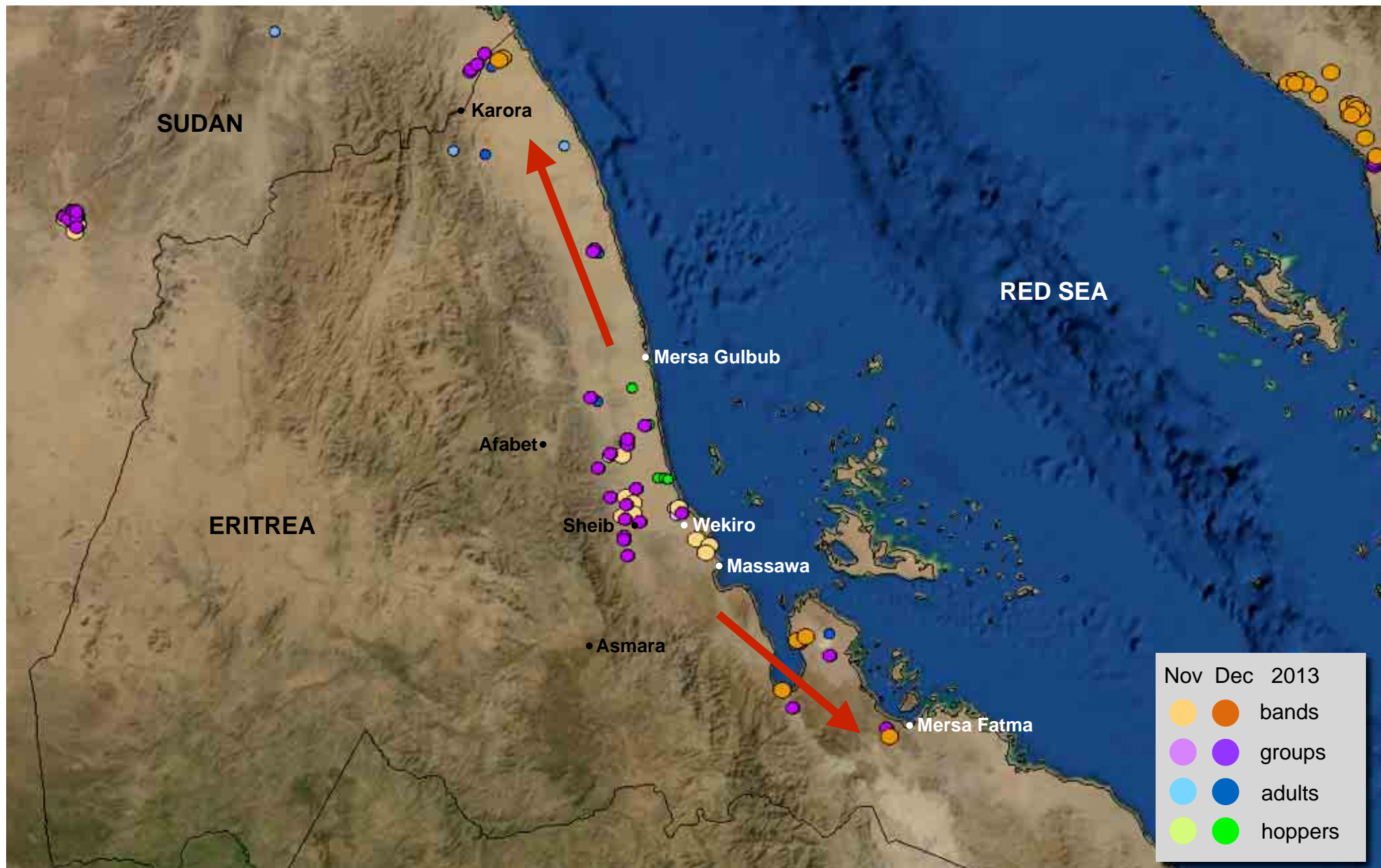


Desert Locust Information Service

FAO, Rome

[www.fao.org/ag/locusts](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts)

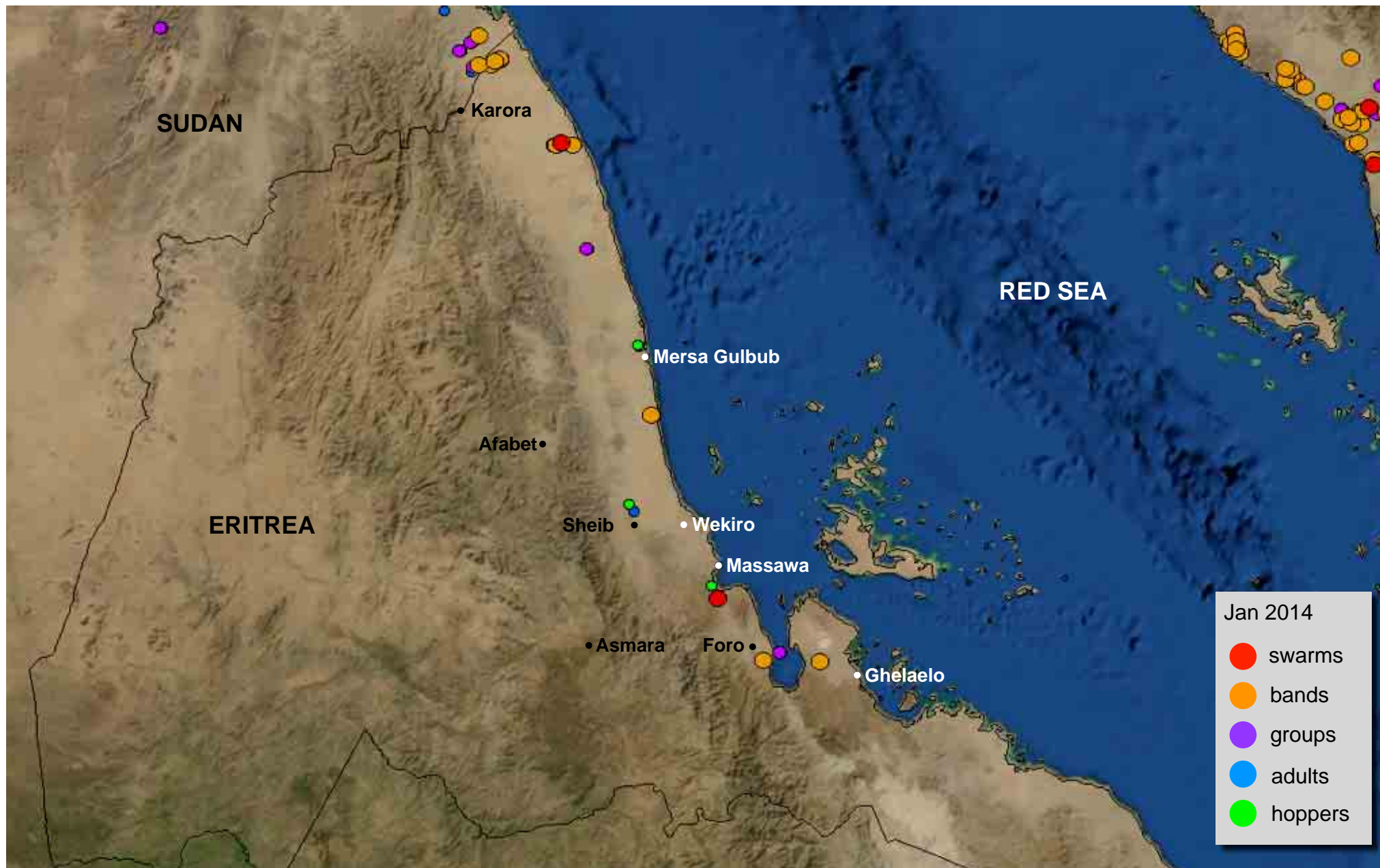
Keith Cressman (Senior Locust Forecasting Officer)



**NOV-DEC 2013** Good rains fell on the central coastal plains of the Red Sea near Sheib in August and again in October. No surveys were carried out until November when suddenly locust infestations were seen between Shieb, Wekiro and Massawa from undetected egg-laying during the last week of October. Adult groups continued to lay eggs in early November. Hatching occurred during the first three weeks of the month. In December, *transiens* and gregarious hoppers formed small groups and bands that fledged, and immature adults formed small groups. Breeding was reported further south than usual between Massawa and Mersa Fatma as well as on the northern coast near Sudan. Nearly 60,000 ha were treated by air and ground.



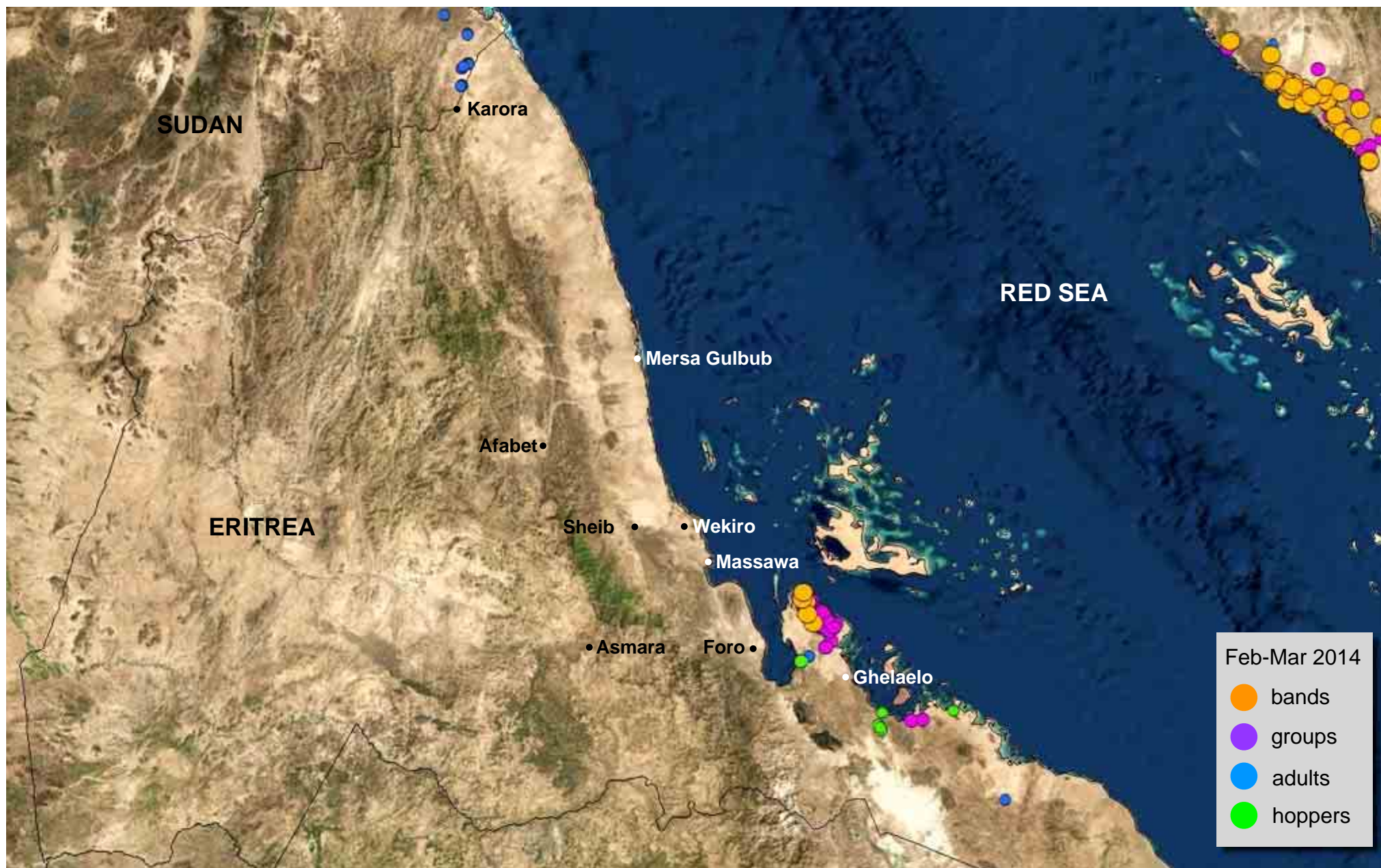
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**JAN 2014** Second-generation late instar hopper bands continued to fledge while adult groups and small swarms matured and laid eggs that hatched, causing hopper groups and small bands to form in the north near Mehimet and the Sudanese border, in the central areas and south of Massawa to Ghelaelo. Faourable conditions prevailed in central (Emberemi - Mersa Gulbub) and southern (Foro - Ghelaelo) areas. Ground teams treated nearly 17,000 ha in January



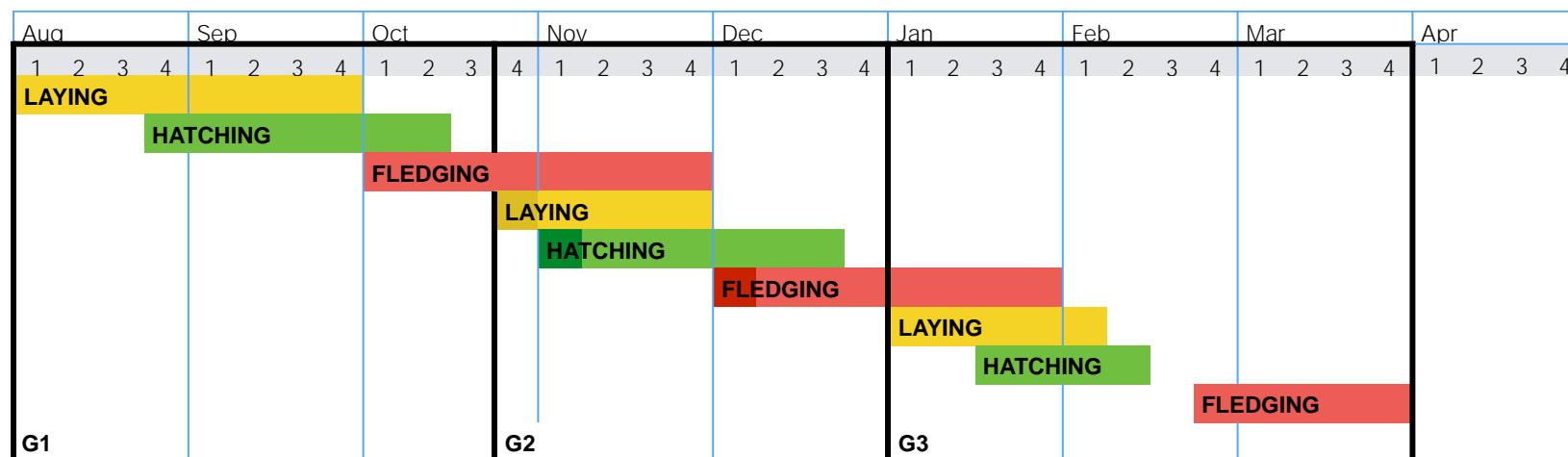


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**FEB-MAR 2014** Infestations began to decline between Massawa and Karora in February as vegetation dried out but increased on the Ghelaelo Peninsula due to hatching and band formation, followed by fledging in March. The situation improved in March due to control operations (5,380 ha in February) and drying conditions. Only a few residual gregarious hoppers and adults remained in April. More than 76,000 ha were treated during the outbreak campaign from November 2013 to April 2014, preventing swarm formation and subsequent emigration to neighbouring countries.

2013

2014



**ERITREA** Light rains fell on the Red Sea coast in late July, followed by good rains during the first decade of August and again in the first two decades of October. A first small generation of breeding probably occurred undetected on the central coast in August and September, giving rise to new adults in October (or in the absence of breeding, adults arrive in October from Sudan), which laid eggs in late October and early November with subsequent hatching during the first half of November, and fledging one month later. Breeding occurred about three weeks later on the northern coast and south of Massawa. Good rains in mid-November allowed ecological conditions to remain favourable for a another generation of breeding with egg-laying and hatching in January and February, extending south of Massawa to the Ghelaelo Peninsula where adults fledged in March.



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