

Saudi Arabia

December 2014 - February 2015

Outbreak

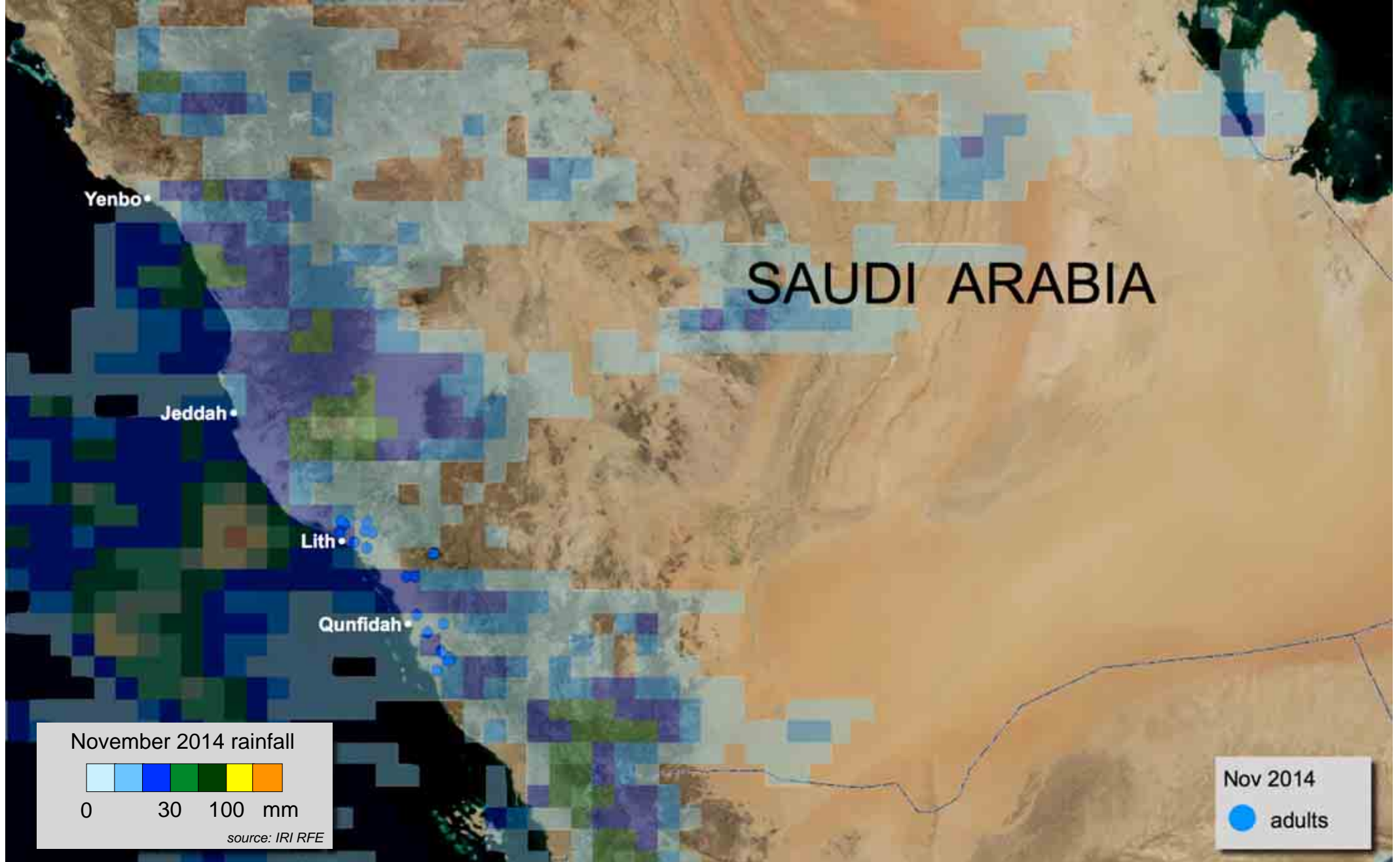


Desert Locust Information Service

FAO, Rome

www.fao.org/ag/locusts

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DLIS

NOV 2014 Good rains fell in winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast from Qunfidah to Yenbo during November. An increasing number of scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were seen on the coastal plains from Lith to about 80 km south of Qunfidah.



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DEC 2014 As a result of the good rains last month, ecological conditions became favourable for breeding on the coastal plains near Qunfidah, Lith and Yenbo. Groups of adults were seen laying eggs close to the foothills of the Asir Mountains near Mecca where hatching occurred at mid-month and small hopper groups and bands formed. Scattered adults were present on the northern coast near Yenbo while adults already present on the central coast near Lith and Qunfidah continued to mature. A few groups of adults formed and laid eggs south of Qunfidah. Control operations were launched and treated 1,823 ha of which 1,200 ha were by air.



JAN 2015 Although little rain fell along the coast, favourable breeding conditions persisted in most areas. A mature swarm and a few adult groups laid eggs during the first week on the northern coast between Yenbo and Umm Lajj. Hatching and band formation occurred on the central coast between Thuwal and Mecca, and near Lith and Qunfidah where, by the end of the month, fledging had commenced. Control operations treated 8,693 ha of which 300 ha were by air.



FEB 2015 Hatching and band formation occurred in areas of previous egg-laying on the northern coast between Yenbo and Umm Lajj while hoppers continued to form small but numerous bands on the coast between Thuwal and Mecca. Groups of adults reportedly formed in a few areas about mid-month. Control operations treated 2,570 ha of which 440 ha were by air. The situation improved on the coast south of Jeddah where no locusts were seen during February.