

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 329

(2 March 2006)



General Situation during February 2006 Forecast until mid-April 2006

The Desert Locust situation remained calm during February. Small-scale breeding by scattered adults occurred in northwest Mauritania and locust numbers increased slightly there and in the north of the country. Scattered adults were reported in southwest Libya and similar populations may be present in parts of Western Sahara and northern Mali and Niger. Small infestations persisted on the Red Sea coast in Sudan but no other locusts were seen in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. Similarly, no locusts were reported in spring breeding areas in western Pakistan and eastern Iran. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

Western Region. There was a slight increase in solitary locust adults in northwest and northern Mauritania during February, and localized breeding was reported at one location near Nouadhibou. If ecological conditions remain favourable and as temperatures increase during the forecast period, additional breeding could occur and cause locust numbers to increase slightly. Isolated adults may be present in adjacent areas of Western Sahara. Similar populations may also be present in a few places in northern Mali and Niger where surveys were not carried out in February. Scattered adults were present at one location in southwest Libya. No locusts were seen during surveys in Morocco and Algeria.

Central Region. In the winter breeding areas, only scattered adults were reported in the Tokar Delta and adjacent coastal areas in Sudan. Smaller populations were present on the northwest coast of northern Somalia and near Lake Nasser in Egypt. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

Eastern Region. No locusts were reported in the region although there is a slight possibility that scattered adults are present in parts of Baluchistan in western Pakistan. If ecological conditions are favourable, small-scale breeding could occur in a few places during the spring.

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 February 2006

Good rain fell in Northwest Africa where breeding conditions improved in northern Mauritania and perhaps in Western Sahara. Light to moderate rains fell at the end of the month in parts of the Central Region but ecological conditions remained unfavourable in most areas. Dry conditions prevailed in western Pakistan and southeastern Iran.

In the **Western Region**, light to moderate rainfall occurred during the first decade of February in parts of Western Sahara and in adjacent areas of northwest and northern Mauritania, extending to western Algeria (Tindouf, 79 mm). Light rains fell occasionally during the second decade in parts of the Sahara between northern Mali and western Libya. Showers associated with several eastward-moving Mediterranean depressions fell at times during the month in some places along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria as well as in northwest Libya. In Mauritania, breeding conditions improved in the north between Zouerate and Bir Moghrein but vegetation was drying out in previously infested areas in the centre and northwest of the country. In Western Sahara, annual vegetation was becoming green in parts of the north between Guelta Zemmur and Laayoune. In the Algerian Sahara, vegetation was green in the centre near Adrar and in the east near Illizi but was drying out in the south near Tamanrasset. Vegetation continued to dry out in northern Mali and northern Niger where only small localized areas of green vegetation persisted in parts of the Adrar des Iforas, Tamesna and the Air Mountains.

In the **Central Region**, dry weather prevailed during the first three weeks of February in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea except for light rains in the Tokar Delta, Sudan. During the last week of February, good rains fell in coastal areas of Yemen (the Red Sea Tihama and near Aden), in the spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia and in northern Oman. Although ecological conditions were dry in these areas, vegetation could become green in the coming weeks. Ecological conditions remained relatively dry along the Red Sea coast in southern

Eritrea but were somewhat greener on the northern coastal plains and in southeastern Egypt. In Sudan, vegetation was drying out in the northern interior along Wadi Diib but remained green in the Tokar Delta and in a few places along the central coast. In northern Somalia, vegetation was starting to become green in some areas from rains that fell in January.

In the **Eastern Region**, cool and mainly dry weather prevailed during February in the spring breeding areas in Baluchistan in western Pakistan and southeastern Iran. Light rain may have fallen in some of these areas during the last week of February and ecological conditions are expected to be improving.



Area Treated

No control operations were reported during February.



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on page 1)

WESTERN REGION

Mauritania

• SITUATION

During February, low numbers of immature and mature solitarious adults persisted in central areas near Tidjikja (1833N/1126W) and in the Aftout Fai (1834N/1424W) area to the west. Locust numbers increased slightly in the northwest (Inchiri) and north (Tiris-Zemmour) as solitarious maturing adults were found at more locations between Nouadhibou (2054N/1701W) and Atar (2032N/1308W), and between Zouerate (2244N/1221W), Ghallaman (2410N/0952W) and Bir Moghrein (2510N/1135W). Localized breeding occurred near Nouadhibou close to the Western Sahara border where a few adults were copulating and isolated third to fifth instar hoppers were seen at mid-month.

• FORECAST

Low numbers of solitarious adults are expected to persist in parts of Inchiri, Adrar, Tiris-Zemmour and, if conditions remain favourable, in a few places of Aftout Fai. Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in the northwest and north where recent rains fell. Consequently, locust numbers will increase gradually in Inchiri and Tiris-Zemmour.

Mali

• SITUATION

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

• 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

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during the first decade of February.

• FORECAST

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

Chad

• SITUATION

A late report indicated that the locust situation was calm from 21 December to 31 January. No reports were received during February.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

• SITUATION

No reports were received during February.

• 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 February in the central Sahara near Adrar, in the east from Djanet to the Tunisian/Libyan border, and in the south near Tamanrasset and Bir Bou Mokhtar.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may persist in a few places in the central and eastern Sahara. Low numbers of adults may be present in the west near Tindouf. Small-scale breeding could occur once temperatures warm up in areas of recent rainfall.

Morocco

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in mid February south of Tan-tan (2827N/1109W) and in the Western Sahara between Guelta Zemmur (2508N/1223W), Laayoune (2708N/1313W) and

Smara (2644N/1142W).

• FORECAST

Scattered adults may be present in parts of Western Sahara and small-scale breeding could occur in a few places.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

• SITUATION

During February, scattered solitary adults were present in the southwest near Ghat in Wadi Flazliz (2641N/1009E) at mid-month.

• FORECAST

Low numbers of adults are expected to persist in the southwest near Ghat. If conditions are favourable and as temperatures increase, small-scale breeding could occur.

Tunisia

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during February.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

CENTRAL REGION

Sudan

• SITUATION

During February, scattered adults at densities up to 800 adults/ha persisted in the Tokar Delta where they continued to mature. Low numbers of adults were also present in a few places along the coast between Tokar (1827N/3741E) and Suakin (1908N/3717E). No locusts were seen further north in the interior along W. Diib up to 12 February.

• FORECAST

Unless further rainfall occurs, breeding should come to an end along the Red Sea coastal plains and only low numbers of solitary adults are expected to remain in the Tokar Delta.

Eritrea

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out along the Red Sea coastal plains between Tio (1441N/4057E) and Mehimet (1723N/3833E) from 30 January to 9 February.

• FORECAST

Scattered locusts may be present and could breed on a limited basis in the few places that remain green on the Red Sea coastal plains north of Massawa.



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Ethiopia

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on 1 February in the Dire Dawa region.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during February.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on 24 to 29 January on the escarpment and along the coast between Hargeisa (0931N/4402E) and Berbera (1028N/4502E).

During February, isolated mature adults were present at five places on the coastal plains west of Berbera from the 16th to the 22nd. No locusts were seen on the escarpment.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults will persist on the northwest coast between Djibouti and Berbera and could breed on a limited scale in areas of recent rainfall.

Egypt

- SITUATION

During February, isolated mature adults were seen in an agricultural area along the shores of Lake Nasser. Elsewhere, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out along the Red Sea coast between Marsa Alam and the Sudanese border, in subcoastal areas along W. Diib, in the Red Sea Hills and in the Western Desert at Sh. Oweinat.

- FORECAST

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

Saudi Arabia

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during February along the central Red Sea coastal plains and in the spring breeding areas in the interior.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Yemen

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in February on the Red Sea coastal plains between Bayt Al Faqih (1430N/4317E) and the Saudi Arabian border and on the Gulf of Aden coast near Aden (1250N/4503E).

- FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present and could persist in any areas that remain green on the coastal plains of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Breeding is unlikely unless further rainfall occurs.

Oman

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during survey carried out in January and February in the interior and on the coastal plains of the north.

- FORECAST

Scattered adults may appear on the Batinah coast and perhaps in the northern interior where they could breed on a small-scale in areas of recent rainfall.

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 on the southern coastal plains between Jask (2540N/5746E) and Chabahar (2517N/6036E) on 17-18 February.

- FORECAST

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

Pakistan

- SITUATION

The situation was reported to calm during the first half of February.

- FORECAST

Scattered adults are likely to be present in parts of Baluchistan, mainly along the coast and in the Shooli area. Small-scale breeding will occur in those places where rains have recently fallen. Low temperatures, especially in the interior, may delay hatching and hopper development.

India

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Rajasthan during the second half of January and first half of February.

• 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 and send RAMSES data with a brief interpretation. All information should be sent by e-mail to the FAO/ECLO Desert Locust Information Service (eclo@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

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)

2006 events. The following meetings are tentatively scheduled:

- **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
- **FAO/WMO.** Regional workshop on meteorological information for locust control – English-speaking countries, Oman, 8-12 April
- **FAO/World Bank.** Pesticide management workshop, Bamako (Mali), 10-14 April
- **DLCC.** 38th Session, Rome, 15-19 May
- **FAO Locust Group.** Extended Group meeting, Rome, 22-24 May
- **EMPRES/WR.** Advanced training for National Locust Information Officers (RAMSES/eLocust2), June
- **CLCPRO.** 2nd Session, June
- **CRC.** 25th Session, Doha (Qatar), 8-12 July
- **SWAC.** 25th Session, Tehran (Iran), November
- **EMPRES/CR.** 14th Liaison Officer Meeting, Oman, November
- **EMPRES/WR.** 5th Liaison Officer Meeting, December



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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

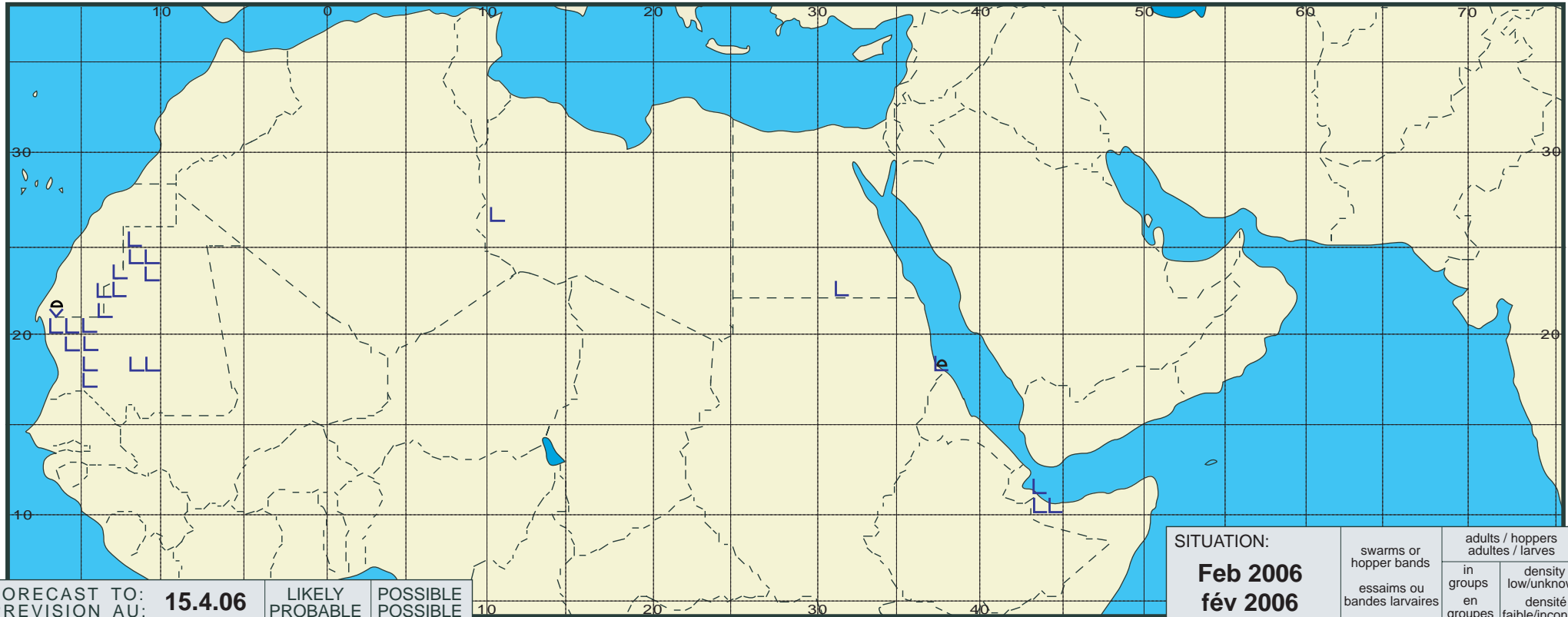
- locust-affected countries in South-West Asia: Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU:	15.4.06	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: Feb 2006 fév 2006	swarms or hopper bands	adults / hoppers adultes / larves	
	essaims ou bandes larvaires	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)			