

warning level: **CALM**

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 440



**General Situation during May 2015
Forecast until mid-July 2015**

(3.6.2015)

The Desert Locust situation remained calm during May. No significant breeding occurred this year in the spring breeding areas of Northwest Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Southwest Asia where vegetation continues to dry out. During the forecast period, low numbers of solitary adults are likely to appear in parts of the vast summer breeding areas in the northern Sahel, stretching from Mauritania to western Eritrea as well as along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. Small-scale breeding will occur with the onset of the seasonal rains but locust numbers will initially remain low. Summer rains may be delayed or weak in the northern Sahel this year. Regular surveys should commence shortly in all summer breeding areas but some places such as northern Mali, Darfur and the interior of Yemen remain inaccessible due to insecurity.

Western Region. The situation remained calm in May. No locusts were reported in the region except for an individual adult south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Vegetation dried out in the spring breeding areas. No significant developments are expected.

Central Region. The situation remained calm during May. No locusts were reported in the region. Vegetation dried out in the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia. During the forecast period, scattered adults are expected to appear in the

summer breeding areas between North Darfur, Sudan and the western lowlands of Eritrea. Small-scale breeding will occur with the onset of the seasonal rains.

Eastern Region. The situation remained calm during May. No locusts were reported in the region and vegetation dried out in the spring breeding areas of southeast Iran and southwest Pakistan. During the forecast period, low numbers of adults are likely to appear in parts of the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border where small-scale breeding will occur with the onset of the monsoon rains.

The FAO Desert Locust Bulletin is issued every month by the Desert Locust Information Service, AGP Division (Rome, Italy). It is supplemented by Alerts and Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity. All products are distributed by e-mail and are available on the Internet.

Telephone: +39 06 570 52420 (7 days/week, 24 hr)

Facsimile: +39 06 570 55271

E-mail: eclo@fao.org

Internet: www.fao.org/ag/locusts

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faolocust

Twitter: twitter.com/faolocust



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Weather & Ecological Conditions in May 2015

Vegetation dried out in the spring breeding areas in Northwest Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Southwest Asia. Hot and dry conditions prevailed in the summer breeding areas of the Sahel in West Africa and Sudan, and along the Indo-Pakistan border.

In the **Western Region**, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moved slightly northwards over the southern Sahel of West Africa during May but remained well south of the summer breeding areas. Its northerly position for the last two decades of May was one degree below the climatological normal position for this time of year. Consequently, dry and increasingly hot conditions prevailed in the northern Sahel of West Africa. Light rain fell in parts of northeast Chad near Abeche during the first decade of the month. Vegetation was becoming green along a few wadis between Abeche, Arada and Adre. In Northwest Africa, no significant rain fell in the spring breeding areas south of the Atlas Mountains. As a result, vegetation remained dry in most areas and was drying out south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, primarily in the northeast near Bouarfa, in the Draa and Ziz-Ghris valleys and in northern Western Sahara along W. Sakia Al Hamra.

In the **Central Region**, no significant rain fell in locust breeding areas during May and ecological conditions were dry in most areas. In Eritrea, light to moderate rains fell in the highlands with some runoff onto parts of the Red Sea coastal plains. In Yemen, heavy rain fell in the highlands while light showers and runoff may have occurred on the western edge of the summer breeding areas in the interior between Al Hazm and Ataq. Moderate rains fell on the central Red Sea coast near Hodeidah during the second decade but vegetation remained dry. In Oman, light showers fell in parts of the northern interior between Nizwa and Ibra. In the Horn of Africa, seasonal southwesterly winds that feed the Indian monsoon became established over the Horn of Africa by mid-month. Light to moderate rains fell at times in eastern Ethiopia and adjacent areas of the plateau and escarpment

in northern Somalia. Consequently, vegetation was becoming green or was already green in some areas.

In the **Eastern Region**, light rain fell in parts of the spring breeding area in southeast Iran and western Pakistan, primarily in the Mekran Mountains south of Jaz Murian and near Turbat. Nevertheless, ecological conditions remained dry. In the Indo-Pakistan summer breeding areas, light to moderate pre-monsoon rains fell during the first decade of May in parts of Rajasthan, India between Barmer and Jaisalmer, and a few showers may have occurred in adjacent areas of Khipro and Cholistan deserts in Pakistan. Ecological conditions remained dry and unfavourable for breeding.



Area Treated

No control operations were reported during May.



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on page 1)

WESTERN REGION

Mauritania

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

Scattered adults are likely to appear in the southeast and breed on a small scale once seasonal rains commence.

Mali

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may be present and are expected to persist in parts of the Adrar des Iforas and Timetrine. Small-scale breeding will occur once seasonal rains commence.

Niger

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present in parts of the Air Mountains. Scattered adults may appear in the Tamesna and breed on a small scale once seasonal rains commence.

Chad

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

Scattered adults may appear in central and northeast areas, and breed on a small scale once seasonal rains commence.

Senegal

• SITUATION

No reports were received during May.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Algeria

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the central Sahara near Adrar (2753N/0017W) and the southern Sahara near Tamanrasset (2250N/0528E) in May.

• FORECAST

Scattered adults may be present and are likely to persist near irrigated areas of the central Sahara in the Adrar area. No significant developments are likely.

Morocco

• SITUATION

During May, an individual solitary adult was seen south of Erfoud (3128N/0410W) in the Ziz-Ghris Valley along the Algerian border. No locusts were seen elsewhere in the same area.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Libya

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Tunisia

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

CENTRAL REGION

Sudan

• SITUATION

No reports were received in May.

• FORECAST

Scattered adults are likely to persist in and near cropping areas along the Nile and the Atbara rivers in River Nile and Northern States where small-scale breeding may occur. Low numbers of adults may appear in the summer breeding areas between North Darfur and Kassala, and breeding on a small scale once seasonal rains commence.

Eritrea

• SITUATION

A late report indicated that no surveys were conducted in April. Similarly, no surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during May

• FORECAST

Scattered adults are likely to appear in areas of recent rainfall in the western lowlands where small-scale breeding could commence if more rains fall.

Ethiopia

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

• SITUATION

No reports were received during May.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

• SITUATION

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

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Egypt

• SITUATION

During May, no locusts were seen in the Lake Nasser area near Tushka (2247N/3126E) and Abu Simbel (2219N/3138E).



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- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Saudi Arabia

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen in the spring breeding areas of the interior to the south of Riyadh (2439N/4642E), east of Gassim (2621N/4358E) and near Hail (2731N/4141E) during May.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Yemen

- **SITUATION**

No reports were received in May.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

- **SITUATION**

During May, no locusts were seen during surveys in the northern interior between Buraimi (2415N/5547E) and the Wahiba Sands, on the Musandam Peninsula, and in south-central areas near Marmul (1808N/5516E).

- **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 on the southeast coast near Jask (2540N/5746E) during May.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

- **SITUATION**

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

- **FORECAST**

Scattered adults are likely to appear in the summer breeding areas near the Indian border in parts of Tharparkar, Khipro and Cholistan. Small-scale breeding will occur once the monsoon rains commence.

India

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Rajasthan during May.

- **FORECAST**

Scattered adults are likely to appear in the summer breeding areas near the Pakistan border in parts of Rajasthan and perhaps Gujarat. Small-scale breeding will occur once the monsoon rains commence.

Afghanistan

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.



Announcements

Desert Locust warning levels. A colour-coded scheme indicates the seriousness of the current Desert Locust situation: green for *calm*, yellow for *caution*, orange for *threat* and red for *danger*. The scheme is applied to the Locust Watch web page and to the monthly bulletin's header. The levels indicate the perceived risk or threat of current Desert Locust infestations to crops and appropriate actions are suggested for each level.

Locust reporting. During calm (green) periods, countries should report at least once/month and send RAMSES data with a brief interpretation. During caution (yellow), threat (orange) and danger (red) periods, often associated with locust outbreaks, upsurges and plagues, RAMSES output files with a brief interpretation should be sent at least twice/week within 48 hours of the latest survey. Affected countries are also encouraged to prepare decadal bulletins summarizing the situation. 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.

Locust tools and resources. FAO has developed a number of tools that National locust information officers and other interested individuals can use for Desert Locust early warning and management:

- **MODIS.** Vegetation imagery every 16 days (http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Food_Security/Locusts/.Regional/.MODIS/index.html)
- **MODIS.** Daily rainfall imagery in real time (http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Food_Security/Locusts/index.html)
- **RFE.** Rainfall estimates every day, decade and month (http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Food_Security/Locusts/index.html)
- **Greenness maps.** Dynamic maps of green vegetation evolution every decade (http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/Food_Security/Locusts/Regional/greenness.html)
- **eLocust3 training videos.** A set of 15 introductory training videos are available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjxRk5CAwvG_0iFjZ5C2fLByF3jvhHOx
- **RAMSESV4 training videos.** A set of basic training videos are available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjxRk5CAwvG-PximOs9lCMxzZtYU93tvb>
- **RAMSESV4 and eLocust3 updates.** Updates can be downloaded from <https://sites.google.com/site/rv4elocust3updates/home>
- **FAOLOCAST Twitter.** The very latest updates are posted on Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/faolocust>)
- **FAOLocust Facebook.** A social means of information exchange using Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/faolocust>)
- **Slideshare.** Locust presentations and photos available for viewing and download (<http://www.slideshare.net/faolocust>)
- **eLERT.** A dynamic and interactive online database of resources for locust emergencies (<http://sites.google.com/site/elertsite>)

New information on Locust Watch. Recent additions to the web site (www.fao.org/ag/locusts) are:

- **Desert Locust situation updates.** Archives
- **eLocust3.** Activities – DLIS
- **RAMSESV4.** Activities – DLIS

CLCPRO web site. The CLCPRO web site (<http://clcpro-empres.org>) has been improved and updated.

2015 events. The following activities are scheduled or planned:

- **CLCPRO/EMPRES-WR.** Regional workshop for Desert Locust Information Officers in the Western Region, Nouakchott, Mauritania (8-12 June)



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



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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.

WARNING LEVELS

GREEN

- Calm. No threat to crops. Maintain regular surveys and monitoring.

YELLOW

- Caution. Potential threat to crops. Increased vigilance is required; control operations may be needed.

ORANGE

- Threat. Threat to crops. Survey and control operations must be undertaken.

RED

- Danger. Significant threat to crops. Intensive survey and control operations must be undertaken.

REGIONS

WESTERN

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

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

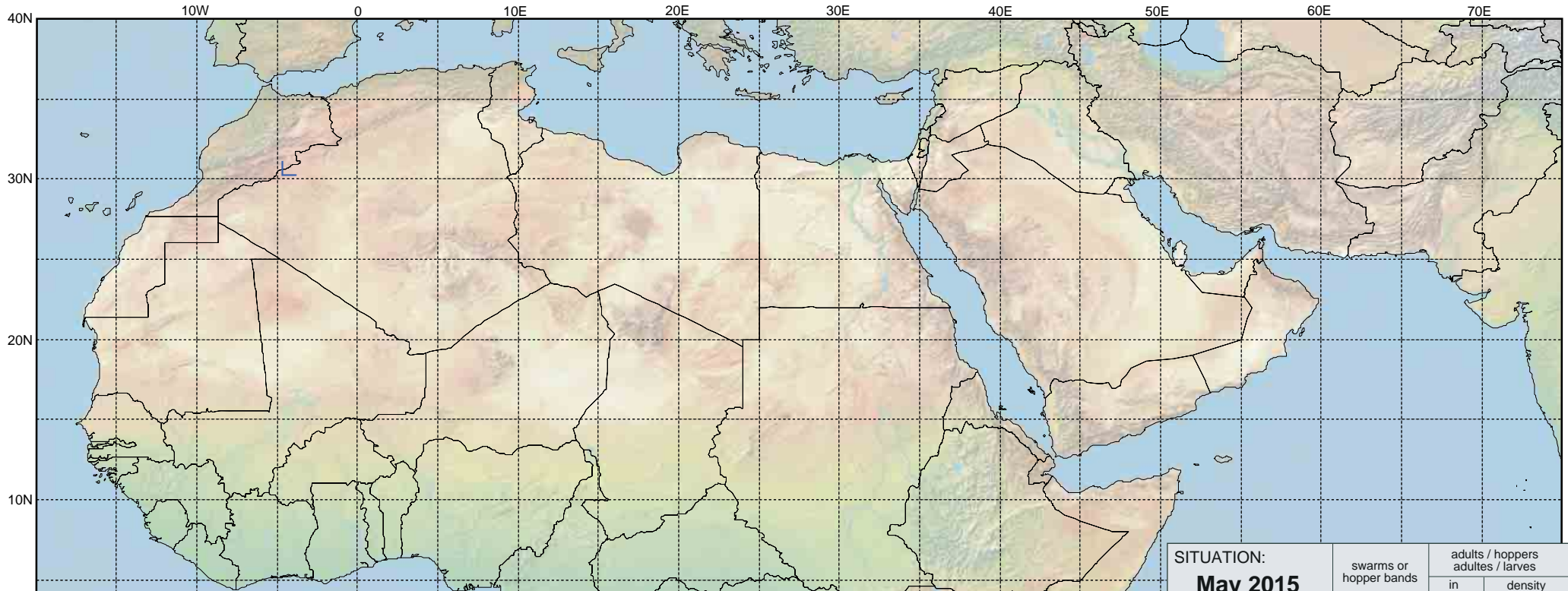
- locust-affected countries in South-West Asia: Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU:	15.07.15	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: May 2015 mai 2015	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)			