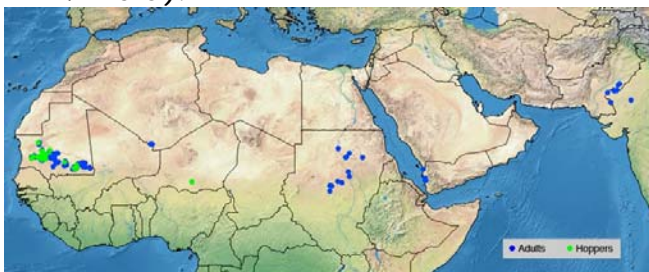


**Emergency Transboundary
Outbreak Pest (ETOP) situation
update for August with a forecast
till mid-October, 2009**

Summary

The DL situation remained relatively calm in August. Only scattered adults and small-scale breeding were reported in **Mauritania**. A similar situation may also be in **Mali, Niger, eastern Chad** and southern **Algeria**. Scattered adults were reported in the summer breeding areas in **Sudan** and **Eritrea**. A few solitary adults were detected along the **Indo-Pakistan** borders. Swarms that were sighted in northeastern **Ethiopia** in mid-August disappeared into the Afar lowlands and ground control treated 154 ha in August.

Small-scale breeding will likely continue in **Mauritania** and locust numbers will increase and perhaps lead to localized outbreaks in areas where rainfall occurred. **Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan** and **Eritrea** may also experience a slight increase in locust numbers but significant developments are not likely during the forecast period, however, active surveillance and monitoring are necessary (FAO-DLIS, DLCO-EA, AELGA, PPD/Addis, CNLA/Mauritania, PPD/India).



The Desert Locust situation in August
(Source: FAO-DLIS, .9.09)

OFDA Pest & Pesticide Activities

- OFDA/TAG continued its initiatives in **pesticide risk reduction** through stewardship network (PRRTSN). The overarching objectives of these initiatives are to ensure the safety of vulnerable communities and protect their assets and the environment. OFDA/TAG launched the second sub-regional PRRTSN workshop (the first for the Horn of Africa) from 23-27 August, 2009. The PRRTSN workshop was conducted in Nazareth, Ethiopia and attended by 31 participants from Djibouti, Ethiopia and Sudan. Invitations were also extended to Eritrea and Somalia, but neither country responded. It is to be recalled that the first such workshop was launched in **Tanzania** in May 2008 where all three East African countries, including Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda participated. A similar initiative is being discussed with **Kenyan** counterparts.
- OFDA sponsored DLCO-EA's capacity strengthening activities to support emergency ETOP operations in Greater Horn of Africa. Funds from this sponsorship have been accessed to support emergency survey operations and training.
- OFDA continues supporting capacity strengthening through FAO's EMPRES programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to DL emergencies.

- OFDA co-sponsored assessment and project development missions for locust operations in Central Asia, the Caucasus and neighboring counties (EECAC). The assessment has enabled FAO to develop a technical assistance project for the sub-region and identified a platform for a coordinated ETOP control.
- OFDA seed money to FAO's pesticide disposal and prevention program helped leverage more than \$2.2 million from GEF and other sources. These funds are being used to develop/implement obsolete pesticide disposal and prevention initiatives/activities in EECAC countries.

Other ETOPs

The **red locust** situation was relatively calm in August. Control operations were carried out in Buzi-Gorongosa and Dimba plains in **Mozambique** and treated a total of 3,100 ha. Some infestations were sighted in Lake Chilwa/Lake Chiuta plains in **Malawi** and **Mozambique** in August (IRLCO-CSA).

Armyworm activities were not reported in August and it will likely remain calm until November/December 2009 when the pest starts appearing in the southern outbreak areas. Operators are advised to ready their traps.

Quelea birds were reported in several districts in **Kenya** during this month. It is likely that Quelea birds will continue being a problem to wheat growers in the Rift Valley Province and to irrigated

rice farms in western and Nyanza Provinces of **Kenya** as well as to winter wheat in **Zimbabwe**.

No updates were received on other ETOPs during this period.

OFDA's Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) will continue monitoring the situation and issue advise. End summary

This and other SITREPS can be accessed on our website at:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/

Weather and ecological conditions

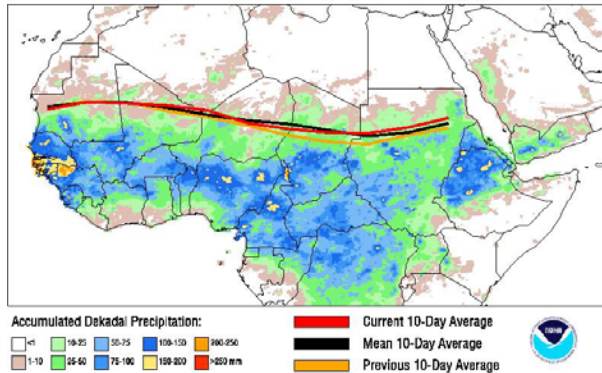
During the last dekad of August, 2009, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located near 18.4N, slightly higher than the normal for this time of year. This is the first time since April, 2009 that the ITF is north of its mean position. The current position of the ITF is near normal across the continent and slightly north of its historic average position of the past 30 years both in the east and the west (see figures below).

During the first dekad of August, the ITF was located near 17.3N degrees, below the normal for this time of year of 18.5N. This is a very similar position to the last week of July and the first week of August showing a larger southward retreating position this year (see figures) (NOAA, AELGA, FAO-DLIS, PPD/Addis, IRLCO-CSA).

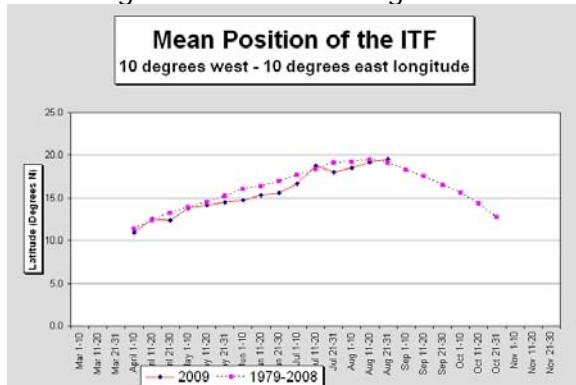
Good rains were recorded in **Sudan, Djibouti, Yemen, Eritrea** and **Mauritania**. Light to moderate rainfall occurred in parts of Rajasthan, northern Gujarat, Saurashtra

and Kutch, **India** during the second and third dekads of August.

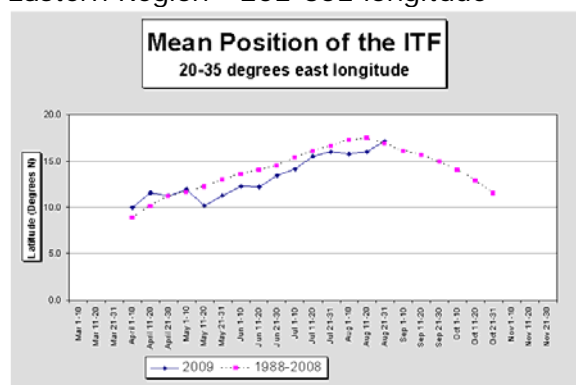
Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
August 2009 Dekad 3



West Region - 10W-10E longitude



Eastern Region - 20E-35E longitude



Dry weather and low temperatures persisted in the red locust regions in August and vegetation continued drying out leaving isolated patches of green grass. This and intensive grass burning in most of the outbreak areas will likely force locusts

to concentrate in a few places and form swarmlets and likely move into adjacent areas.

(Note: Changes in the weather pattern and the shift in the landscape are believed to increase the risk of pest outbreaks. Regular monitoring and reporting are essential at all times. End note).

Detailed Accounts of ETOP Situation and related Activities

DL - Western Outbreak Region

The Western outbreak region remained calm during August and only small-scale breeding occurred in central and southern **Mauritania** and a similar situation may be possible in northern **Mali**, **Niger**, southern **Algeria**, and eastern **Chad**.

Forecast: Small scale breeding will likely increase locust numbers in the summer breeding areas in the Sahel where rains fell, and localized outbreak may occur, but significant developments are not likely during the forecast period (AELGA, FAO-DLIS, INPV, CNLA, CNLAA).

DL - Central Outbreak Region

The summer breeding areas in **Sudan**, **Eritrea**, **Yemen** and **Saudi Arabia** good received precipitation in July and ecological conditions will improve over the coming weeks, but only a few scattered solitary adults were reported in North Kordofan, the Nile River and other summer breeding areas in **Sudan** and a similar situation may exist in the western lowland and the Red Sea coast in **Eritrea**. The locust situation remained calm in **Ethiopia** and ground control treated 154 ha during this period. Swarms that were reported passing through the tri-state corridor near Zoble into Afar region in **Ethiopia** could not be tracked. A few

solitary adults were detected along the Red Sea coast in **Yemen**.

Forecasting: Swarms that were sighted near the tri-region corridor, i.e., Afar-Amhara-Tigray regions of northeastern Ethiopia may begin breeding in areas of recent rainfall during the forecast period. However, the situation will likely remain calm during this period. The Red Sea coasts and other breeding areas in **Sudan**, **Yemen** and **Eritrea** will likely experience small-scale breeding and a slight increase in locust numbers during the forecast period. Active survey and monitoring are essential.

Note: In 2007/08, swarms that originated in northern **Somalia** and **Yemen** and were later reinforced in the **Ogaden** region (a hard to reach area) invaded eastern and southern **Ethiopia** as well as northern **Kenya** in numbers that were last seen almost half a century ago. Thus, it is important that vigilant surveys, monitoring and preventive interventions are exercised to avoid any unexpected surprises. **End Note.**

DL- Eastern Outbreak Region

Breeding conditions remained unfavorable in most of the summer breeding areas in the eastern outbreak region. A few solitary adults were detected along the **Indo-Pakistan** borders and no locusts were reported in Rajasthan and other scheduled Desert Areas in **India** in August.

Forecast: Ecological conditions will likely improve and some scattered adults will begin appearing in areas of recent rainfall along the **Indo-Pakistan** borders during the forecast period (FAO-DLIS, PPD/India).

Central Asia and the Caucasus

No reports of **Italian** or **Moroccan** or Migratory locusts were received from the CAC region in August.

Forecast: Significant activities are not expected during the forecast period, but routine survey and monitoring are essential.

The red locust situation remained relatively calm in August. Control operations were concluded in **Tanzania** during the last week of July. Survey and control operations were carried out in Buzi-Gorongosa and Dimba plains in **Mozambique** in collaboration with the MoA and with financial assistance from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (UN-CERF) through FAO. A total of 3,100 ha were treated in Buzi-Gorongosa plains using 3,000 liters of Sumi-Combi Alpha and 600 ha in Dimba plain using 360 liters of Fenitrothion 96% Technical. Isolated locust populations infested the Lake Chilwa/Lake Chiuta plains in **Malawi** and **Mozambique**. Dry conditions and the grass burning in the RL outbreak areas concentrated locust populations on unburned patches of green vegetation.



Figure 1: Active fires along Buzi River

Forecast: Dry conditions and grass burning will continue forcing locusts to further concentrate in patches of green vegetation and likely form swarmlets. The swarmlets will start moving into adjacent irrigated fields

in search of food. IRLCO-CSA, in collaboration with MoAs will maintain survey and launch control operations as necessary.

The Timor and South Pacific

No update was received in August.

Australian Plague Locust

No update was received on the **Australian Plague Locust** (APL) at the time this report was compiled.

African Armyworm: The southern armyworm regions remained free of armyworm and no activities were reported in the central and northern regions in August.

Forecasting: The situation will likely remain calm in most of the outbreak and invasion areas during the forecast period, however, regular survey, monitoring and reporting are essential. Armyworm trap operators are advised to ready their traps for the 2009/2010 season in the southern outbreak and invasion areas. Community-based forecasters should be engaged in monitoring and reporting as applicable.

Quelea birds were reported causing damage to irrigated rice in Ungenya District and wheat in Naivasha, Nakuru and Bahati Districts in **Kenya**. In Naivasha, control was carried out by the Crop Protection Services Division (CPSD) using firebomb. In Anyinko Rice Scheme in Ungenya district the birds were controlled jointly by CPSD and DLCO-EA. Control was in progress against roosts in Nakuru and Bahati districts at the time this report was compiled (IRLCO-EA, DLCO-EA).

Forecast: Quelea birds will likely continue being a problem to wheat growers in the Rift Valley Province and to irrigated rice

farms in western and Nyanza Provinces of **Kenya** and to winter wheat growing areas of **Zimbabwe** (AELGA, DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA).

Front-line countries in ETOP outbreak zones are advised to remain vigilant. Countries in the invasion zones should continue to strengthen their capacity to avoid any unexpected surprises. DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA, national PPDs/DPVs and autonomous locust/ETOP units and ELOs are encouraged to continue sharing information with partners and stakeholders as often as possible.

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories remained unchanged in August in most of the outbreaks/invasion countries except in **Ethiopia** where small-scale operations were carried out.

| Country | Quantities in l/kg@ |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Algeria | 1,800,000** |
| Chad | 108,085 |
| Eritrea | 44,800 |
| Ethiopia | 22,576~ |
| Mali | 209,000% |
| Mauritania | 489,400 |
| Morocco | 4,105,300 |
| Niger | 69,000 |
| Senegal | 519,000 |
| Saudi Arabia | ?? |
| Sudan | 735,676 |
| Tunisia* | 167,600* |
| Yemen | |

some of these pesticide have expired or will soon expire
 *Most current data not available
 **Most current data not available
 ~ this represents DL stock
 Mali donated 21,000 l to RL operations in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania late last year and FAO facilitated the triangulation

Point of Contact:

For more information please, visit us at
website:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/

or send an e-mail to:

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