

## Desert Locust briefs 2006

### 22 December. Desert Locust outbreak develops locally on Eritrean Red Sea coast

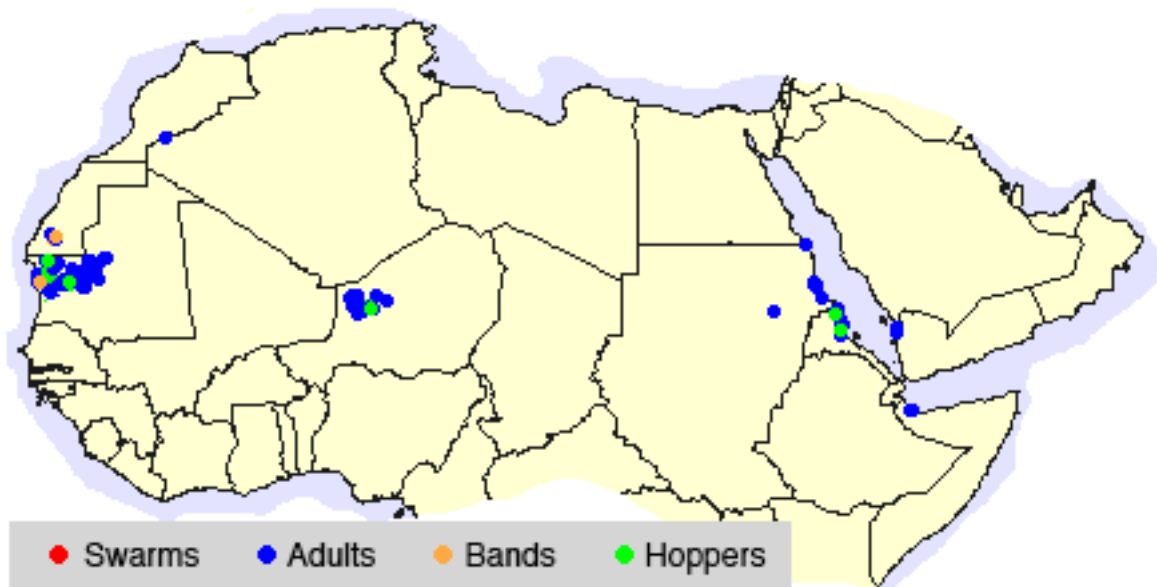
A local outbreak has developed on the central Red Sea coast in **Eritrea** due to good rainfall and green vegetation. Solitarious and transiens hoppers and fledglings are forming small groups near Shieb and Shelshela agricultural areas, and adults are laying eggs. Breeding has also occurred in agricultural areas on the northern coast near Mehimet and the **Sudanese** border. Another generation of breeding is expected to occur which will cause locust numbers to increase. Four survey teams are monitoring the area and seven teams are undertaking control operations, having treated more than 4,000 ha since 9 December.

Ground control operations continue in the central Tamesna Plains of **Niger** against hoppers and adults that are forming small groups in response to drying vegetation.

Locust infestations continue to decline in northwest **Mauritania** and in **Western Sahara** where only small residual populations remain. Ground control operations were undertaken earlier this month against small hopper bands in both countries.

Small-scale breeding is in progress on the Red Sea coast in **Sudan**, mainly in the Tokar Delta. Scattered adults are present on the Red Sea coast of **Yemen** and along the coast of northwest **Somalia**. Small-scale breeding could occur in both countries due to good rains that recently fell.

OTHER LOCUSTS. Control operations are in progress against Brown Locust infestations in southwest Lesotho and Karoo, South Africa - the worst in many years. Control is also underway in southeast Zimbabwe against African Migratory Locust.



Control operations are underway in Eritrea, Niger and Mauritania.

#### 4 December. Hoppers concentrate and form groups as vegetation dries out in W Africa

Ground control teams are treating small hopper bands that have formed in the past few weeks in northwest **Mauritania** and southern **Western Sahara**. During November, 900 ha were treated in **Mauritania** and 600 ha in **Western Sahara**. A field trial using a naturally-occurring fungus (*Metarhizium*) was also conducted in **Mauritania**. Limited infestations are expected to persist in both areas in the coming months. Although low temperatures will delay egg development and locust maturation, there is a slight risk of adults moving further north into northern **Mauritania** and to the Draa Valley in **Morocco** during periods of warm southerly winds.

Small groups of hoppers and adults are forming on the Tamesna Plains in **Niger** and in one area of northwest **Mali**. A few more small groups will form as vegetation continues to dry out in both countries. **Niger** treated 1,700 ha in November.

Small-scale breeding has started on the Red Sea coast of **Sudan** where hoppers are already present in the Tokar Delta. Breeding is also underway in other coastal areas of **Sudan** and **Eritrea**, and could occur in areas of recent rainfall on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts in **Yemen**. This should cause locust numbers to gradually increase in the region during the coming months.

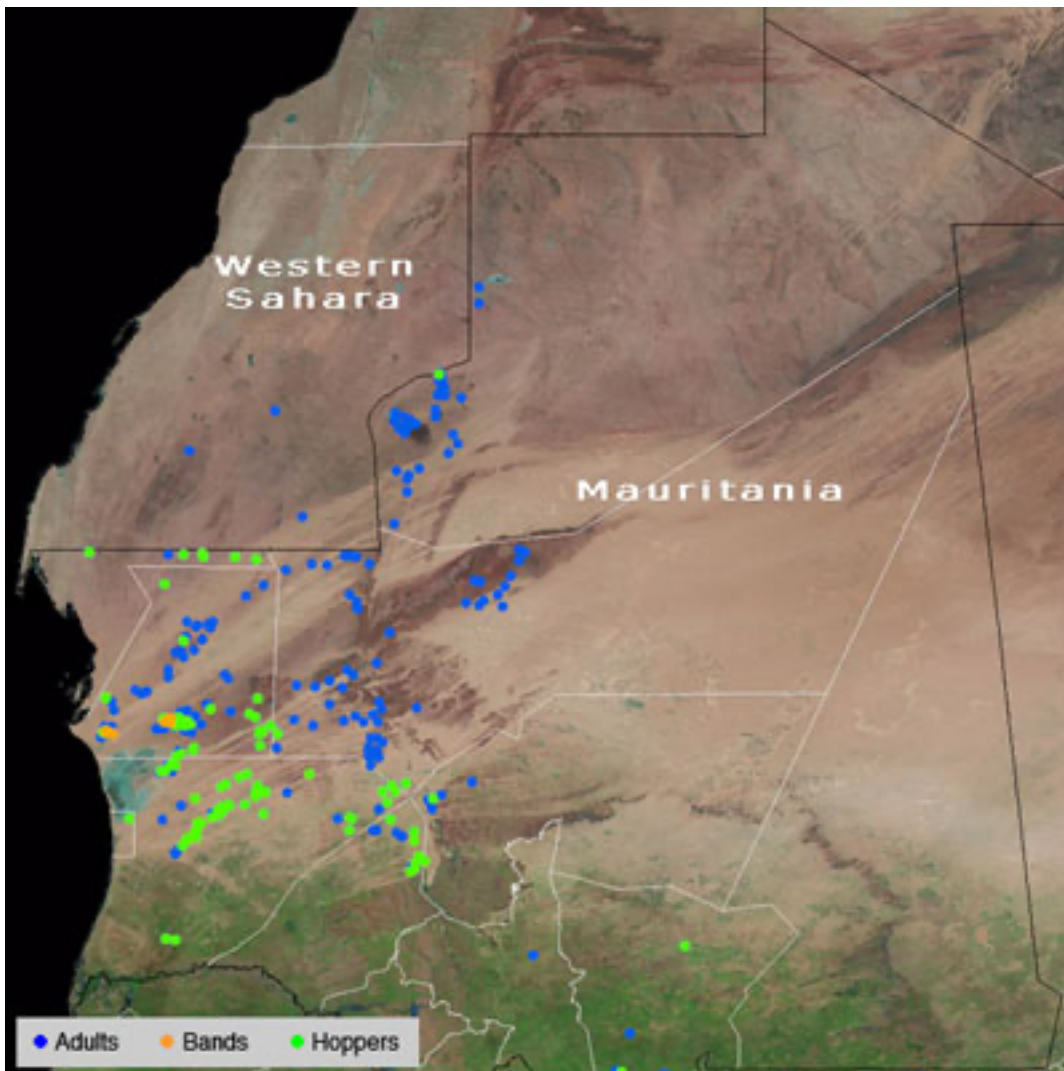
The situation remains calm in Southwest Asia.



Small hopper bands are present in NW Mauritania and W Sahara; hopper groups are forming in Niger.

### **2 November. Small bands start forming in NW Mauritania**

Small hopper groups and bands are forming in northwest **Mauritania** where an outbreak developed last month. Ground control teams have treated nearly 1,500 ha so far. A field trial using a biological control agent (Metarhizium) and helicopter surveys are in progress. So far, the outbreak is limited to **Mauritania** but there is a slight risk of adults moving north into northern **Mauritania** and **Western Sahara** where so far only low numbers of locusts are present. A few adults are present near Tombouctou, **Mali**. Small-scale breeding continues in Tamesna, **Niger** where a few small hopper groups are forming. Low numbers of adults are present along the Atbara River in northeast **Sudan**. Good rains fell along the Red Sea coastal plains in the past few days from **Eritrea** to **Egypt** and in **Saudi Arabia**. Scattered adults persist along the **Indo-Pakistan** border.



Small hopper bands are forming in NW Mauritania.

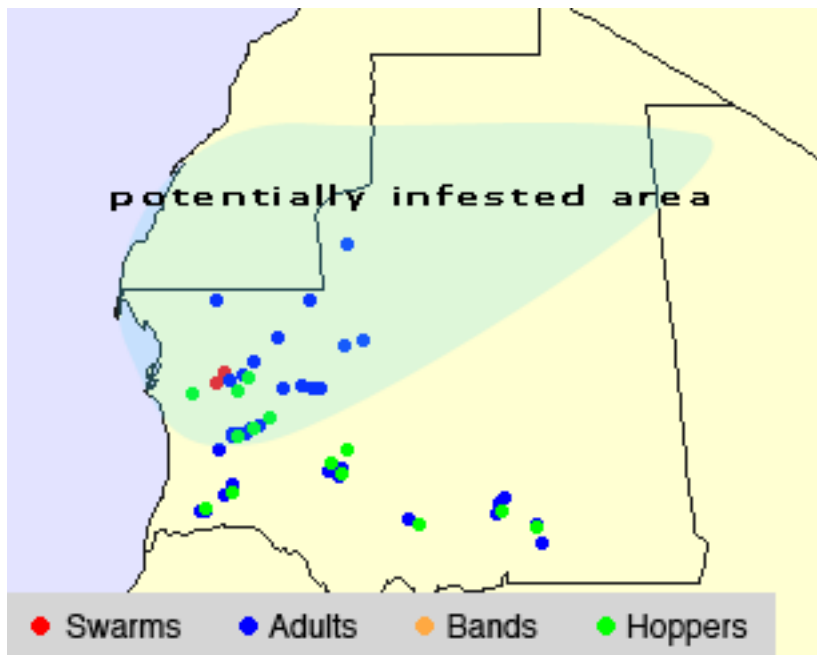
### 13 October. Hatching starts in NW Mauritania

An increasing number of mature adult groups of Desert Locust have been found in northwest **Mauritania** by ground teams since 5 October. So far, one small swarm was seen on the 9th near the coast about 125 km north of Nouakchott. Most of the adults were laying eggs that started hatching on 13 October. Ground teams started control operations on the 9th near Bennichab and, so far, nearly 450 ha have been treated. More survey teams are being mobilized to the northwest (Inchiri), the north (Adrar and Tiris Zemmour) and the centre (north of Aioun El Atrous) to check other areas where rains have fallen last month and where nomads have seen adult groups. Additional locusts are expected to appear and breed in northwest **Mauritania** during the remainder of October as vegetation dries out in the summer breeding areas in southern **Mauritania**.

In the past few days, no locusts have been seen in western **Algeria** near Tindouf nor in **Western Sahara** in the south near Tichla or in the centre near Guelta Zemmur.

FAO has sent funds to support these teams and is arranging for a helicopter to survey larger areas starting in about a week. Biopesticide field trials will be organized against the expected hopper infestations later this month.

The current level of resources in **Mauritania** should be sufficient to address the situation now. Whether external assistance will be needed will depend on how the situation develops during the next couple of months.



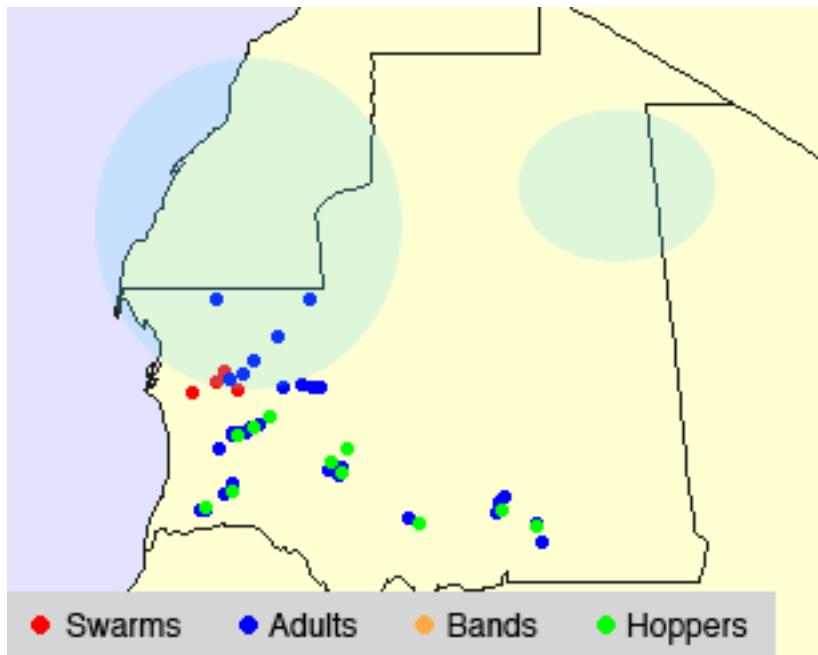
Most of the adults were laying eggs that started hatching on 13 October.

#### 11 October. More locusts reported in NW Mauritania

An increasing number of mature adult groups of Desert Locust have been found in northwest **Mauritania** by ground teams since 5 October. So far, one small swarm was seen on the 9th near the coast about 125 km north of Nouakchott. Most of the adults were laying eggs. Hatching is expected to commence next week. Ground teams started control operations on the 9th near Bennichab and, so far, more than 400 ha have been treated. More survey teams are being mobilized to the northwest (Inchiri), the north (Adrar and Tiris Zemmour) and the centre (north of Aioun El Atrous) to check other areas where rains have fallen last month and where nomads have seen adult groups.

FAO has sent funds to support these teams and is arranging for a helicopter to survey larger areas once the eggs hatch. Biopesticide field trials will be organized against the expected hopper infestations later this month. In **Western Sahara**, only isolated adults have been reported but survey teams have been dispatched to check suspected areas. No locusts have been seen in the past few days in western **Algeria** near Tindouf. Additional locusts are expected to appear and breed in northwest **Mauritania** during the remainder of October as vegetation dries out in the summer breeding areas in

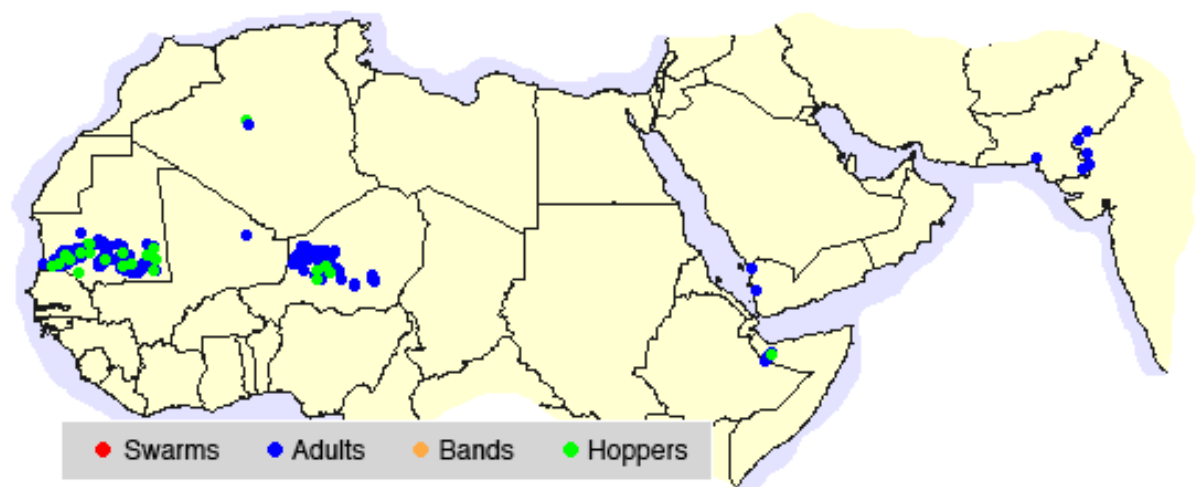
southern **Mauritania**. The current level of resources in **Mauritania** should be sufficient to address the situation now. Whether external assistance will be needed will depend on how the situation develops during the next couple of months.



Groups of adults are laying eggs in Inchiri, while there are unconfirmed reports of adults groups in central and northern Mauritania. Rains (blue) fell last month in Western Sahara and northeast Mauritania.

#### **5 October. Mature swarm in northwest Mauritania**

A small swarm was seen today near Bennichab (1932N/1512W) in northwest **Mauritania** consisting of mature gregarious adults, some of which were laying eggs. Local teams are checking the area.



Control operations were undertaken on a farm in central Algeria. Small-scale breeding

(green) continues in the Sahel in West Africa. Solitarious adults (blue) are present there as well as on the Red Sea coast, in NW Somalia and along the Indo-Pakistan border.

#### **2 October. Breeding in West Africa continues but locust numbers remain low**

Small-scale breeding continues in the Sahel of West Africa in southern and central **Mauritania**, the Tamesna Plains in **Niger** and probably in northern **Mali**. Summer rains may be coming to an end in some of these areas. Consequently locusts could concentrate in those places that remain green and there is a slight risk of small local outbreaks developing. As conditions dry out in the Sahel, low numbers of adults will most likely move to NW and N **Mauritania**, and to the **Western Sahara** where good rains fell recently. Limited control operations were conducted against small hopper and adult infestations that persisted in irrigated areas near Adrar in central **Algeria**. No locusts have been seen during surveys in a portion of the summer breeding areas in **Sudan** and **Eritrea**. Isolated adults are present on the Red Sea coast in **Yemen** and southwest **Saudi Arabia**. As good rains have fallen on both sides of the Red Sea, additional locusts should arrive there shortly and breed on a small scale. Although the monsoon rains have finished along the **Indo-Pakistan** border and only scattered adults are present, limited breeding could still occur in areas that were flooded in August.



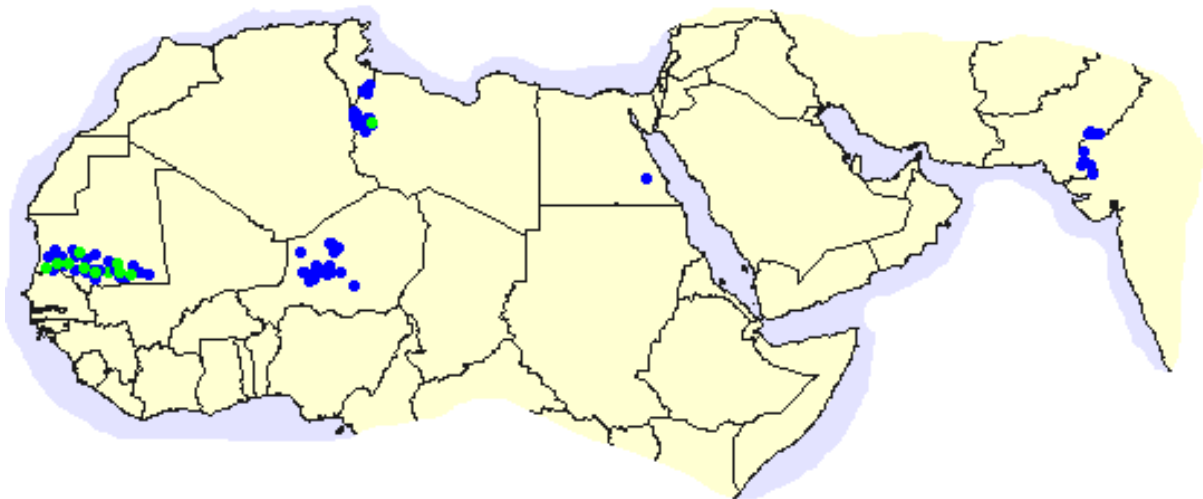
Control operations were undertaken on a farm in central Algeria. Small-scale breeding (green) continues in the Sahel in West Africa. Solitarious adults (blue) are present there as well as on the Red Sea coast, in NW Somalia and along the Indo-Pakistan border.

#### **4 September. Breeding in West Africa; heavy rains in several areas**

Small-scale breeding is underway in **Mauritania** by solitarious adults in the south and the centre where low numbers of solitarious hoppers have been reported. Low numbers of solitarious adults are also present in the Air Mountains and the Tamesna Plains in **Niger**, and probably in northern **Mali** as well. So far, breeding has not been detected but has probably already commenced in both countries because of good rainfall recently in most areas. In northwest **Libya**, ground control teams treated small



infestations of hoppers mixed with groups of adults. Heavy rains and flooding occurred last month in Ethiopia (Dire Dawa), on the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea in **Saudi Arabia** (Jizan) and along the **Indo-Pakistan** border (Rajasthan, **India** and Tharparkar, **Pakistan**) that will allow breeding conditions to remain favourable for several months. Although solitarious populations are only present in Rajasthan and Tharparkar at the moment, there is a slight risk that small outbreaks may develop by mid-October there as well as in the Sahel and near Jizan in **Saudi Arabia**.

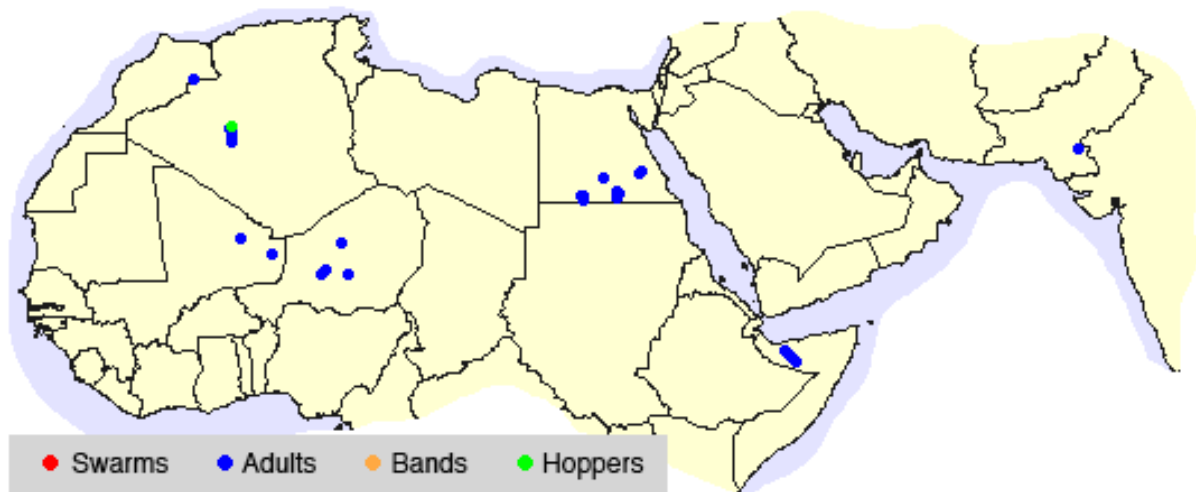


Control operations were undertaken against small-scale breeding (green) in NW Libya. Solitarious adults (blue) are present in the Sahel of West Africa and along the Indo-Pakistan border. Breeding so far has only started in Mauritania.

### 2 August. Locusts present in the summer breeding areas where good rains have fallen

Solitarious adults are present in parts of the summer breeding areas in the Sahel of West Africa in southern **Mauritania** and northern **Niger** and **Mali**. Adults are also present along the **Indo-Pakistan** border. Good rains have fallen in most of these areas and small-scale breeding in August will cause locusts to increase slightly. A similar situation is expected in **Sudan**. Elsewhere, isolated adults are present in southern **Egypt** and northern **Somalia**. Ground control operations were undertaken against small infestations on farms near Adrar, **Algeria**.

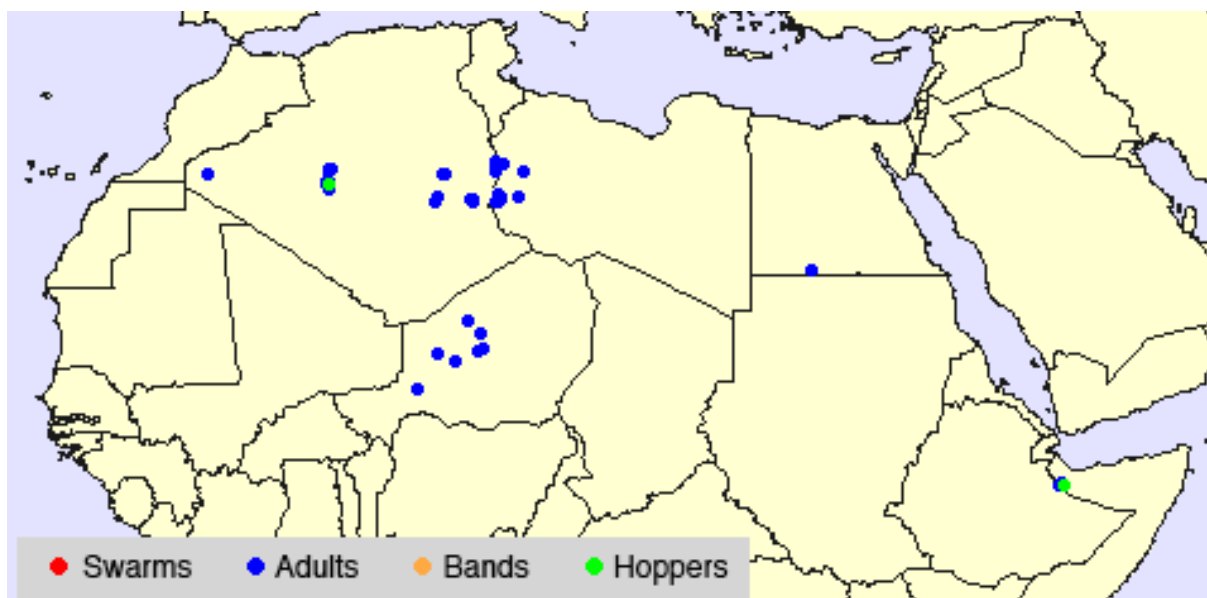




Control operations were undertaken against small-scale breeding (green) in agricultural areas in central Algeria. Solitary adults (blue) are present in the Sahel, southern Egypt, northeast Africa and along the Indo-Pakistan border.

### 3 July. Local breeding and control in Algeria and Libya

Small groups of hoppers and adults have developed in **Algeria** and **Libya** as a result of local breeding during this past spring. Although ground control operations have been carried out in both countries, continued vigilance is required. Rains have started in a few places in the Sahel where small-scale breeding is expected to occur this summer in **Mauritania, Mali, Niger** and **Sudan**. So far, only isolated adults have been reported in **Niger** but similar numbers are likely to be present in southern **Mauritania** and northern **Mali**. Local breeding occurred in northwest **Somalia** and a few adults are present in southern **Egypt**. So far, monsoon rains have been poor along the **Indo-Pakistan** border which may limit summer breeding this year.

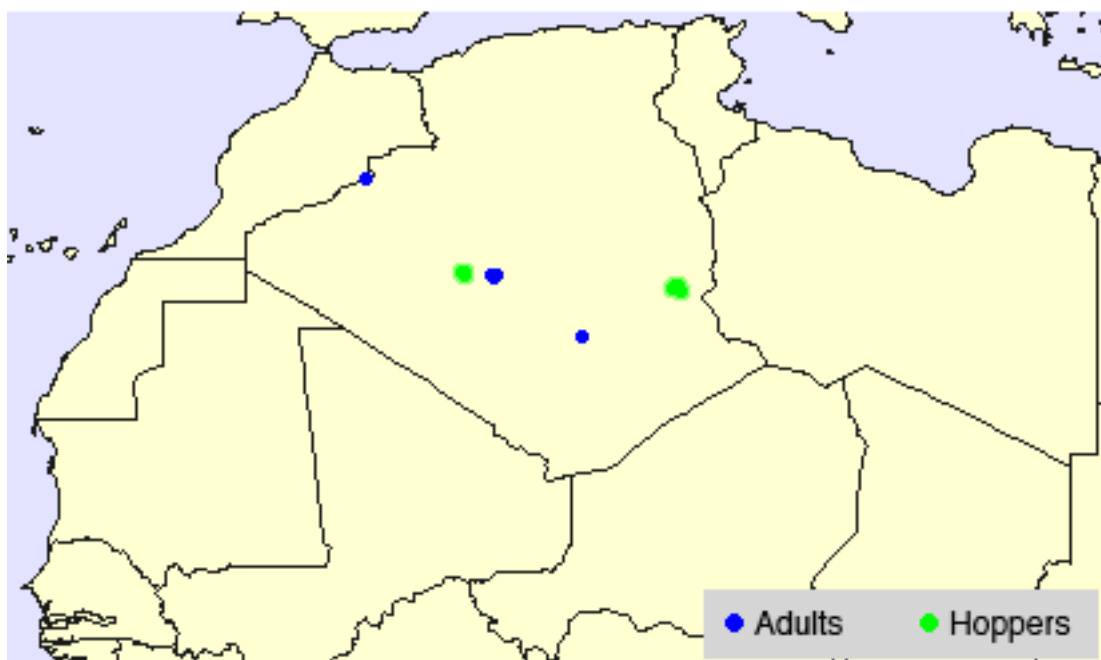


Control operations were undertaken against small-scale breeding (green) in central and

eastern Algeria and western Libya. Solitarious adults (blue) are present in the Sahel and in northeast Africa.

### **5 June. Local breeding and control in Algeria**

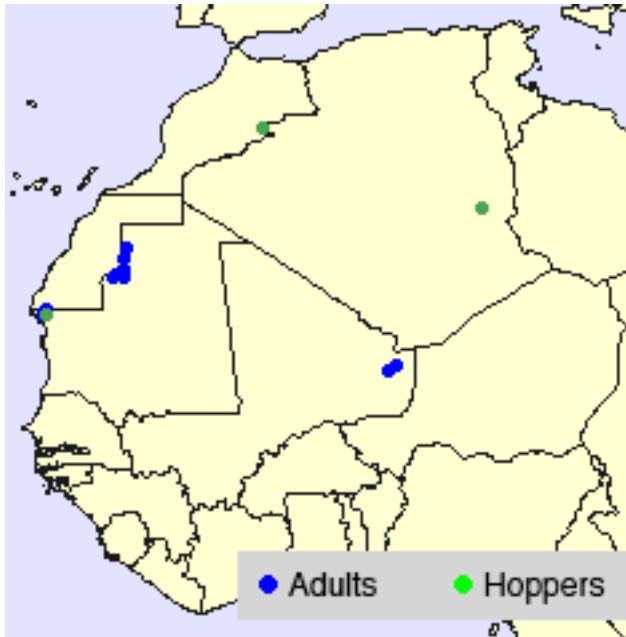
Locust numbers have increased slightly but remain below threatening levels in central and eastern **Algeria** as a result of local breeding. Ground control teams treated nearly 4,000 ha in the past few weeks. Elsewhere, no significant infestations have been reported and dry conditions prevailed. In the coming weeks, low numbers of adults are likely to start appearing in the summer breeding areas in the northern Sahel in West Africa and **Sudan** as well as along the **Indo-Pakistan** border. Small-scale breeding will occur once the summer rains commence.



Small-scale breeding (green) has occurred in central and eastern Algeria. Solitarious adults (blue) are present there as well as near the Moroccan border.

### **2 May. Local breeding continues in NW Africa but situation remains calm**

Local breeding is in progress in a few places in NW Africa. In NW **Mauritania**, low numbers of solitarious hoppers are present. South of the Atlas Mountains in **Morocco**, hatching is expected this week near the border with **Algeria**. In the eastern Sahara in **Algeria**, ground teams treated 20 ha of hoppers. Isolated adults are present in northern **Mauritania** and **Mali**. Unless further rains fall, adults will eventually start to move towards the summer breeding areas in the northern Sahel during May and June. The scale of this movement will be very limited. Elsewhere, ecological conditions are dry and no locusts have been reported. Nevertheless, some locusts are likely to be present and may be breeding in **Yemen** where unusually good rains fell in early April. No significant developments are expected in the coming weeks.



Small-scale breeding (green) is in progress in NW Mauritania, Morocco, and E Algeria. Solitarious adults (blue) are present in N Mauritania and N Mali.

### 3 April. Local breeding in progress as situation remains calm

Small-scale localized breeding by solitarious adults is in progress in northwest and northern **Mauritania**, eastern **Algeria** and southwest **Libya**. Limited ground control operations were conducted in **Algeria** and **Libya** but have not been necessary so far in **Mauritania**. Although breeding is likely to continue in the three countries during the coming weeks, locust numbers will remain low and should not threaten agricultural crops. Locusts declined in winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in **Sudan** where only a few isolated adults remain in the Tokar Delta. There is a possibility that scattered locusts are present along parts of the Red Sea coast in **Yemen** where good rain has fallen in the past few days. A 30-day joint **Iran/Pakistan** survey is underway in the spring breeding areas of Baluchistan in both countries where low numbers of adults could be present and breeding.



Solitarious adults (blue) are present and small-scale breeding (green) is in progress in Mauritania, eastern Algeria and southwest Libya. Few adults remain on the Red Sea coast in Sudan.

### **2 March 2006. Small infestations persist as situation remains calm**

An increasing number of small infestations of solitarious adults have been found in northwest and northern **Mauritania**. Localized breeding is in progress in one place in the northwest near Nouadhibou and **Western Sahara**. Locust numbers are likely to increase slightly in these areas during the coming weeks if breeding occurs. Isolated adults are present in southwest **Libya** and near Lake Nasser in **Egypt**. In the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, only scattered adults are present in the Tokar Delta of **Sudan** and along the coast to Suakin. Scattered adults are also present on the coast in northwest **Somalia**. No significant developments are likely during March.



Solitarious adults (blue) are present in Mauritania, southwest Libya, southern Egypt, on the Red Sea coast in Sudan and in northwest Somalia. Small-scale breeding (green) is in progress in northwest Mauritania.

### **1 February. Small infestations in winter breeding areas**

Breeding activity has declined in the past few weeks in the central **Mauritania**, the Tamesna Plains in **Niger** and in the Tokar Delta on the Red Sea coast in **Sudan**. Consequently, only low numbers of late instar solitary hoppers and adults are present in these areas. Scattered adults are also present in a few places in northern **Mauritania** and in northeast **Sudan**. Limited breeding will probably continue on the Red Sea coast during February and is likely to commence in western **Pakistan** by early March. There is a low probability of small-scale breeding in northwest and northern **Mauritania** and the chance of a few locusts persisting in northern **Mali**. Low temperatures in both areas are expected to delay locust maturation. No significant developments are likely and the situation is expected to remain calm in all countries during February.



Solitary adults (blue) are present in Mauritania, Niger and Sudan where small-scale breeding (green) is declining.

### 23 January. Limited breeding is in progress in the winter breeding areas.

Limited breeding is in progress in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in Tokar Delta, **Sudan**, and on the northern Tihama coast in **Yemen**. Small-scale breeding continues in western **Mauritania** and southern **Algeria**. Ground control operations have been conducted in both countries against hoppers and adults. Scattered adults are present in a few places in Tamesna, **Niger** and near two farms in southern **Egypt**. Small-scale breeding is expected to commence in the coming weeks in northern **Mauritania** and **Western Sahara** where good rain fell in December. Control operations against swarms on the **Indo-Pakistan** border have ended and only low numbers of solitary adults moved from there to coastal areas in Baluchistan, western **Pakistan**. These adults will eventually breed if rains fall.

