

Meteorological and ecological conditions

Moderate to heavy rainfall was recorded between the Mangoky and Manambaho Rivers in the western and central outbreak areas as well as in the eastern and central outbreak areas and the transitional initial multiplication zones. Manja Zazafotsy recorded 40.7-46 mm, 46.2 mm in Mahasoa and 28.9 mm in Ihosy.

Good rains were also reported in the invasion areas in the central west coast and between Maintirano and Morondava. Light rainfall was recorded in the South and Central outbreak areas. With the exception of the invasion areas in the North West where heavy rains were recorded, other parts of the country remained dry during this period. Vegetation was greening in Miarinarivo, Soavinandriana, Faratsiho and Mandoto regions where rainfall was reported during the third dekad of September. Prevailing wind was reported blowing from the southeast to the northwest suggesting possible swarm movements towards the Central West and North West.

Survey

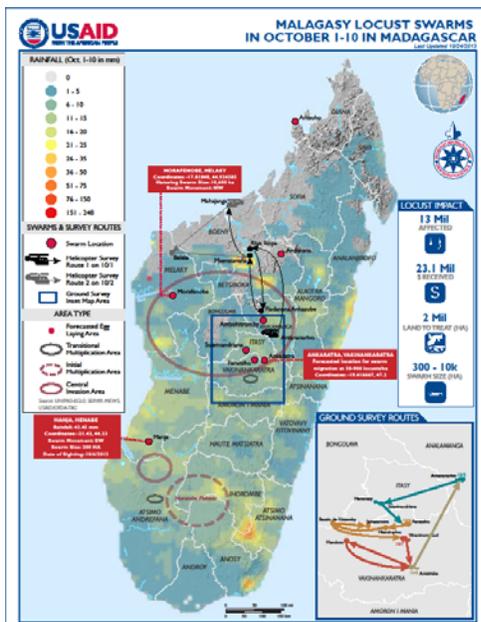
Aerial surveys were carried out in the central and northern invasion areas using a helicopter. The helicopter logged 10 hours and 1 minute during the first dekad of October (26 h and 40 minutes have been logged since the current campaign began on September 26th, 2013 a few days after first the helicopter that is leased by FAO arrived in Antananarivo). Survey routes were Antananarivo - Rive Ikopa - Fiadanana Ankazobe - Maevatanana and Mahajanga on October 1st and Mahajanga - Belela and Maevatanana on October 2nd. The second helicopter (Ecureuil AS 350 B2 type) arrived in Antananarivo on October 10th.

Ground surveys were carried out from 5-8 October and covered the following routes: Antananarivo - Soavinandriana - Mananasy – Faratsiho on October 5th, Faratsiho - Miandrarivo - Bassin de Kitsamby - Sahasarotra and Vinaninony South on October 6th, Vinaninony South - Antsirabe - Mandoto and Antsirabe on October 7th and Antsirabe - Antsapandrano and Antananarivo on October 8th.

Locust situation

No swarms were observed during surveys carried out in the Northern Invasion Areas (NIA), but three swarms were reported crossing Andakana, Antsoho and Ambohitromby during the last dekad of September.

On 1st October, a *swarm measuring 10,600 ha* was detected 50 km north-east of Morafenobe (17°28'20"S /45°2'30"E) in the *Central Invasion Areas (CIA) and observed* heading Northwest. The swarm was composed of maturing and mature adults. More swarms were seen moving in the same direction.



Low density (50-900 locusts/ha) populations were observed in Ankaratra around Soavinandriana and Faratsiho in the western massif during ground surveys carried out in the invasion areas in the central highland (CHIA), from 1-5 October. First to fifth instar hoppers were observed at densities ranging from 5,000-10,000 larvae/ha indicating the beginning of an early breeding. On October 6th, an immature swarm measuring 200 ha was reported passing through Manja in the Transitional Multiplication Areas (ATM) and heading southwest. The ongoing locust situation in the various invasion regions of the country is a sign of possible intensive locust season in the making and requires active monitoring and timely interventions.

Control operations

Control operations were not conducted during this dekad.

Pesticide stocks

So far, about 22% of the 575,790 l/kg of pesticides estimated for the 1st phase of the campaign has been received (63,600 l of Chlorpyrifos 240 ULV on Oct. 10, 64,800 l of Teflubenzuron UL 50 on Oct. 7, and 210 kg of GreenMuscle on Oct. 09).

Forecast

During the remainder of the month, mating and egg laying are likely in the central invasion areas, the mid-West and the West coast where maturing swarms were observed, provided favorable ecological conditions persist. A similar situation could be seen in the initial multiplication areas in the north, central and western regions. Hoppers will likely develop and form groups and bands in the Western Ankaratra Massif where parental populations were seen laying eggs in September and early October.

Plans for the next dekad

Aerial surveys will commence within 200 km radius of Tsiroanomandidy and involve an international consultant and a national expert. All eyes should be on the locust behavior, ecological conditions, and cropping areas to determine the path of the campaign.

Annex: Quantities of pesticides expected to arrive in the country in the coming months.

Type	Quantities	Arrival	Port	Vessel
Chlorpyrifos 240 ULV	195,000 l	11/2013	Antananarivo	Air
Chlorpyrifos 240 ULV	290,000 l	02/2014	Betioky/Ejeda	Air
Teflubenzuron 50 UL	80,000 l	10/2013	Antananarivo/	Air
		11/2013	Toamasina	Ship
Biopesticide	790 kg	10/2013	Toliara	Air
<u>Grand total</u>	<u>575,790 l/kg</u>			

(DPV-FAO-LWU)

OFDA/TAG will continue monitoring the situation closely and issue updates and advises as often as necessary.