

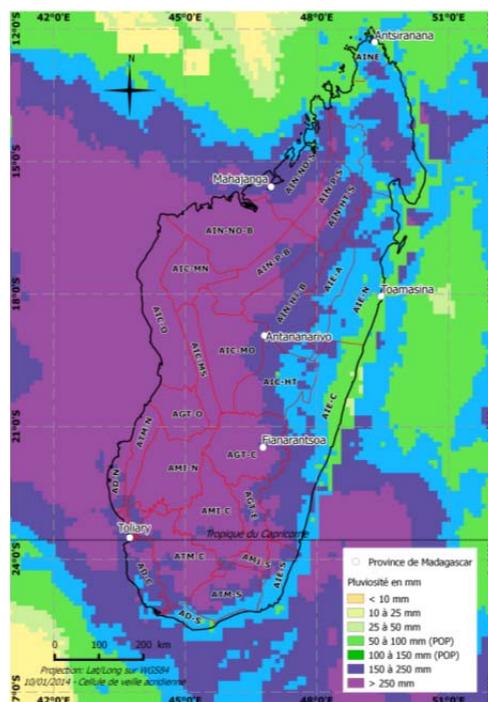
MADAGASCAR LOCUST UPDATE DURING THE FIRST DEKAD OF JANUARY, 2014 WITH A FORECAST FOR THE NEXT DEKADS

SUMMARY

A tropical depression accompanied by gusty winds of up to 61 km/h was formed in the Mozambique Channel and generated excessive moisture in the locust invasion and outbreak areas in Madagascar during the 1st dekad of January. First generation adults presented and migrated to the transitional multiplication areas (TMA) as well as the concentration areas (CA). The National Locust Control (NLC) in rural Tsianihiy in Andranopasy (Manja) reported 10 ha of maize crop, out of 450 ha, destroyed by hoppers; details were not available at the time this update was compiled. Survey or control operations were not conducted by the campaign team during this period (DPV-FAO).

METEOROLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

During the 1st dekad of January, a tropical depression (low pressure area), accompanied by gusty winds of up to 61 km/h formed in the Mozambique Channel. The depression brought excessive moisture, far beyond the optimum amount for the Malagasy locust, in the locust invasion and outbreak areas. Heavy rains were recorded in TMA - 138.3 mm in Bekily Ambovombe and in the initial multiplication areas (IMA) - 71.1 mm in Analamary and 159.1 mm in Betroka Ranohira (see map; DPV-FAO, 2/2014). The rains caused flooding in the South and southeastern parts of the country where soil moisture improved vegetation coverage and created favorable conditions for locusts to further develop for the next 3-5 dekads. Prevailing winds blew eastward on the eastern part of the country and from east to west on the western part of the country.

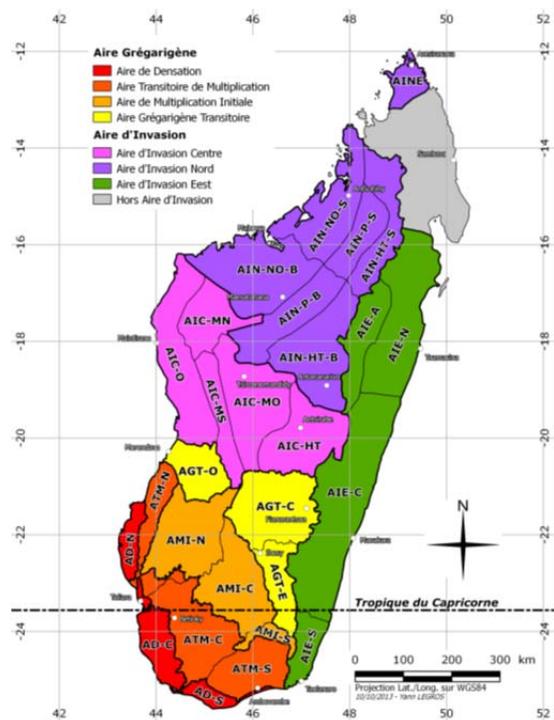


LOCUST SITUATION

No update was available in the transitional outbreak areas (TOA) or the initial multiplication areas (IMA) during the 1st dekad of January; however,

medium to high density 1st instar transient hoppers were observed in parts of the TMA in central areas in Andriabe (see map below for relative ref., DPV-FAO, 11/2013). Medium density scattered mature transient adults were also reported in these areas.

In parts of TMA, low to medium density, mature, solitary transient adults were present in Aboka North, Amangatoka (Andranohinaly), Bevato and Andalarasepa (Vineta) and Ankazotrano (Andranohinaly). Outbreaks were



observed in Andalarasepa. Low density immature solitary adults were reported by the National Locust Control (NLC) center in Bekily, but details were not available at the time the update was compiled. Low density scattered 2nd instar hoppers were reported in Mangibe, Mahazoarivo, Ambolovohitse, Bekijeja and Beteny in the southern zone by NLC. The hoppers were in the solitary phase. Updates were not available for the northern concentration (CA) (densation) areas and invasion areas and only low density mature solitarious adults were reported in Antsirafaly, Andranotohaka, and Ankalindrano in the central CA during the first dekad of January (DPV-

FAO)

SURVEY AND CONTROL

Survey and control operations were not carried out during the 1st dekad of January and the number of hectares treated/protected since the campaign started during the 3rd dekad of September, 2013 remained unchanged, i.e., 68,264 ha, including 18,900 ha protected and 49,364 ha treated. The number of hours logged by the two FAO helicopters remained unchanged as well (186 h 31 m for the one based in Ihosy and 110 h 33 m for the other which is based in Tsiroanomandidy = 297 h and 4 m in total).

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Aircraft: Two helicopters are leased by FAO

Vehicles: Thirteen (13) 4X4 double cabin light truck were acquired as of the 3rd dekad of October to support field operations. By November, 8 of the 13 trucks were deployed to Ihosy and Tsiroanomandidy airbases; additional information was not available during the 1st dekad of January.

Pesticides

Table 1. Pesticide inventory as of 10th January, 2014.

	Pesticide inventory during the 1 st dekad of January		
	T	C	GM
TULEAR	99 400	23 000	360
MIANDRIVAZO	0	400	0
MORONDAVA	4 800	0	0
MANJA	10 000	20 000	0
BEFANDRIANA -SUD	10 000	10 000	0
SAKARAHA	5 000	2 000	0
IHOSY	5 000	6 200	0
BASE 1	0	517	0
BASE 2	6 650	0	0
TOTAL	140 850	62 117	360
	Additional amount expected during February		
	0	388,000	640

(Source: modified from DPV-FAO, February, 7, 2014).

FORECAST

As a result of heavy rains that fell in the northern and central TMA and TCA, breeding conditions significantly improved and adult locusts that are expected to have matured from the 2nd dekad of January on will begin breeding in the IMA and TMA. Hoppers and bands that are expected to may have begun appearing in large numbers in the central and the northern TMA will mature and likely breed as the hot, humid and moist weather over the coming months will likely maintain favorable conditions for locust numbers to increase. *Vigilance, surveillance, and timely interventions remain imperative to avert any major crop damage down the road.* ☒

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