

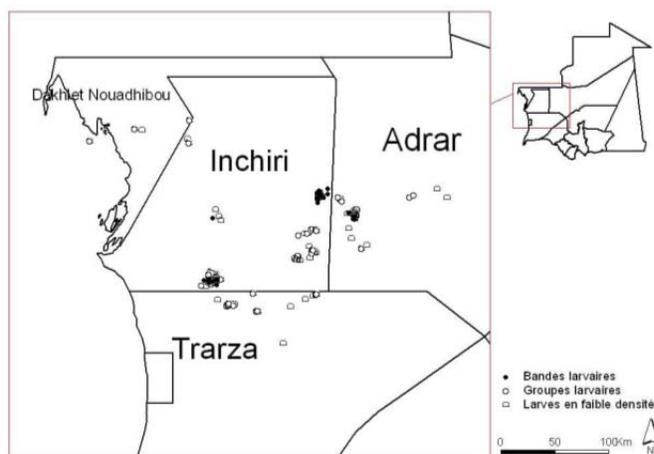
Mauritania desert locust update during the 1st dekad of November, 2013 and a forecast for the next dekads

Meteorological and Ecological Conditions

Cloudy skies dominated the Rosso-Bir Moghreïn axis in the central and north-western parts of the country in Trarza Region in Nouakchott-Inchiri, southern Dakhlet-Nouadhibou and Tiris-Zemmour during the first dekad of November. Light rains fell on 1 and 2 November in most of these areas. Rosso-Boutilimit reported maximum temperature at 39°C on November 10th and Bir Moghreïn recorded minimum temperature at 13°C on November 8th. Light to moderate northeasterly winds with an eastward trajectory dominated the country during this period. Visibility was reduced by sand and dust. With vegetation green and soil moist in the central and north-western parts of the country, ecological conditions continue favoring breeding and further developments (CNLA).

Locust situation:

Breeding continued over vast areas in the central and north-western parts of country during the first dekad of November. Mating and egg-laying adult groups as well as immature adults and hopper bands were observed in Adrar, the extreme northern of Trarza and Inchiri. In **Adrar**, mature and immature adults were detected at densities ranging from 100-3,500 individuals/ha. Low density hopper bands (1-60 hoppers/m²) were observed

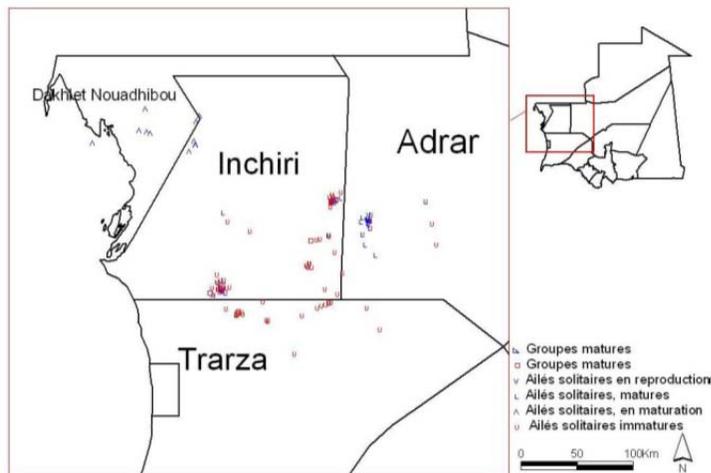


Maps of locust presence - hoppers (above) and adults (below) - in Mauritania during 1st dekad of November, 2013 (CNLA)

in areas measuring 10-45 ha each in **Inchiri**. Mature and immature adult groups with densities ranging from 200-3,500 locusts/ha were also observed in these areas. High density hopper bands (300 hoppers/m²), mostly 4th and 5th instar, were reported in the extreme north of **Trarza** suggesting that breeding has

been going on for quite some time and maturation will commence in the coming

dekads provided ecological conditions remain favorable. Localized fledglings with densities ranging from 900-1,400/ha as well as hopper concentrations were also detected in this region. In **Dakhlet Nouadhibou**, mixed



populations of mature and immature adults and high density hoppers (32 hoppers/ha) of all stages were observed during this period (CNLA).

Survey and Control Operations

During the first dekad of November, more than 5,390 ha were treated with Chlorpyrifos 240 ULV which brings the areas treated since the beginning of the current

campaign to 9,282 ha.

Mauritania has so far deployed sixteen (16) teams to the affected Wilayas, namely Inchiri, Adrar, northern Trarza and Dakhlet-Nouadhibou. The teams are composed of 13 (thirteen) survey and control teams and 3 (three) logistics, health and environmental monitoring and support teams. Two supply units with 2 Unimog trucks are also deployed to those areas (CNLA).

Note: The current locust situation in Mauritania resembles the early stages of the 2003-05 desert locust upsurges that affected dozens of countries and required hundreds of millions of dollars to control. USAID/OFDA provide in excess of USD 21 million and deployed a month long DART in response to that upsurge. However, this time, front-line countries, including Mauritania are better organized and have the capacity to launch *preventive interventions* and the fact that Mauritania has not yet requested external assistance speaks to that (*large-scale curative locust control operations heavily rely on external assistance*). **End note.**

Pesticide inventory

The National Center for Locust Control (CNLA) has some 146,100 l of Chlorpyrifos 240 ULV which should be enough to treat that many ha.

Forecast for the next dekada

With the presence of favorable breeding conditions - green vegetation, moist soil, warm temperature and parental stocks, immature adults as well as hopper bands, it is highly likely that locusts will further develop in Inchiri, Adrar and extreme northern Trarza over the coming dekada. New outbreaks are likely particularly in Tijirit and Taziast in the coming weeks. So far, CNLA/Mauritania has been funding survey and control operations with its own resources. It has not yet appealed for external assistance, which is in a way a good sign.

Note: Front-line counties, including Mauritania have been benefitting from the assistance provided by USAID/OFDA and others to strengthen national and regional capacities for the prevention and control of the desert locust invasions and minimize their impacts on food security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations as well as safeguard their shared environment.

OFDA will closely monitor the situation and issue updates and advices as often as necessary.

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