

Mauritania desert locust update for the 2nd dekad of November, 2013 and a forecast for the next dekads

Meteorological and Ecological Conditions

Light rains were recorded in Nouadhibou on November 17 and in Aioun on the 19th. Minimum temperature was 11.9°C at Bir Moghreïn and maximum temperature was 32.5°C in Zouérate. Annual and perennial vegetation was green in much of the central and north-west areas during this period. Low to moderate wind with north-east to east trajectory improved visibility in Nouadhibou, Atar and Nema during this dekad. Ecological conditions remained favorable in most of the resurgence areas in the north and allowed locusts to persist and reproduce (CNLA)

Locust Situation

The Desert Locust situation continued intensifying in northern Mauritania in Trarza, Inchiri, Adra, Dakhlette and Nouadhibou. Groups of mature and immature adults and hopper bands of all stages were reported scattered in disjointed patches over vast and inaccessible areas.

In **Adrar**, survey teams detected mature and immature adult groups at several locations with densities ranging from a few adults to up to 6,000 individuals/ha. Hoppers ranging from 1-4 insects/m² were also reported. In **Inchiri**, where most of current control operations are being conducted, 2nd-5th instar hoppers were reported in Ivezwiten (18°53'N /15°09'W) and mixed groups of immature adults at densities

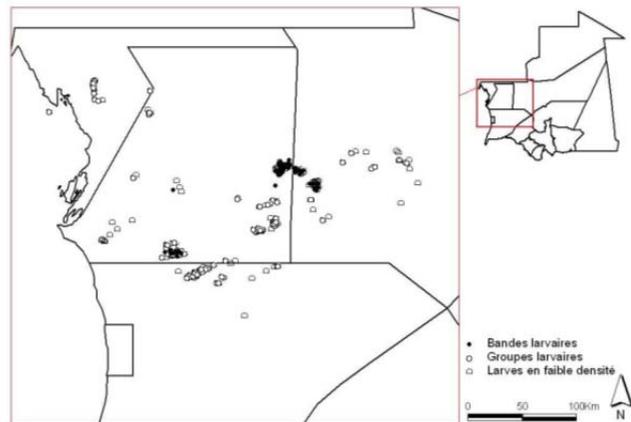
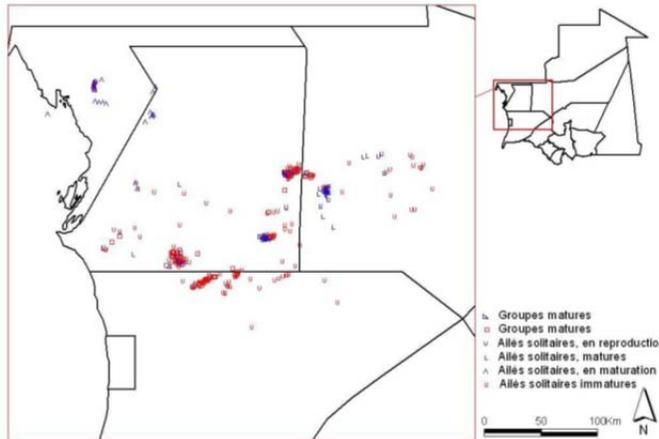


Figure 1. Areas of hopper infestations in northern Mauritania during the 2nd dekad of November, 2013, CNLA

ranging from 700 to 1,800 individuals/ha were detected on areas ranging from a few to 400 ha. Control operations were intensified against 3rd and 4th instar hopper bands in Louweibda (19°55'N/14°19'W), northeast of Ivezwiten and immature adults ranging from 1,500-2,700 insects/ha were also reported in these areas. Further West, in Boumhara (19°09'N/15°22'W)

hopper populations with densities ranging from a few to 25 insects/m² were sighted at several locations and mature adult groups (2,000 insects/ha) were treated in these areas. In Grara (19° 18'N/14° 32'W) hoppers and adult groups with densities ranging from 5,000 to 6,000 individuals/ha were reported. In **North Trarza**, survey teams detected 3rd to 5th instar hopper groups with densities ranging from 1-3 insects/m² mixed with low density



immature adult groups were reported. Hopper groups and low density (up to 200 insects/ha) mature and immature adults were sighted in several locations in **Dakhlet Nouadhibou (CNLA)**.

Figure 2. Areas with adult infestations in northern Mauritania during the 2nd dekad of November, 2014, CNLA

Survey and control operations

During this dekad, CNLA treated an additional 1,200 ha which brings the total ha treated since the current campaign began on October 5th to 25 175 ha. CNLA teams that are currently in **Inchiri** will continue survey and control operations to reduce locust populations in the coming dekads. So far, CNLA/Mauritania has been funding survey and control operations with its own resources.

Note: The current locust situation in Mauritania somewhat resembles the early stages of the 2003-05 upsurges that later affected dozens of countries and required hundreds of millions of dollars to control. USAID/OFDA deployed a month long DART and provided in excess of USD 21 million in response to that upsurge. Some things are different this time: unlike the 2003-05 campaign, front-line countries, including **Mauritania** are now better organized and have the technical capacity to launch *preventive interventions*. The fact that **Mauritania** has not yet requested external assistance speaks to that (**Note: Unlike opposed to preventive interventions, large-scale curative control operations rely on external assistance heavily**). Front-line counties, including **Mauritania** have been benefitting from the assistance provided by USAID/OFDA, other donors and international organizations to strengthen national and regional capacities for the prevention and control of desert locust invasions and

minimize their impacts on food security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations and the shared environment. **End note.**

Forecast for the Next Dekads

With the presence of favorable breeding conditions - green vegetation, moist soil, warm temperatures and parental stocks of adults as well as hopper bands over vast areas in Inchiri, Adrar, Dakhlett Nouadhonou and the extreme northern Trarza, it is highly likely that locusts will further develop in these areas during the next dekads.

Pesticide Inventory

As of the end of the first dekad of November, CNLA reported 70,600 liters of Chlorpyrifos 240 ULV in its Nouakchott warehouse (probably about the same amount is available in other CNLA warehouses outside Nouakchott).

Miscellaneous Events

The National Centre for Locust Control (CNLA) convened a meeting on November 13 to update partners on the evolution of the ongoing locust resurgence, its potential threats, actions CNLA is taking and will take to abate the threat. The meeting was led by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Rural Development and this gives a clear signal that GoM considers this an important problem to be addressed promptly.

On November 13, CNLA/Mauritania received from UN/FAO 2 lightweight trucks, 15 computers, 15 Thuraya phone, 50 GPS, 15 Radio, 200 beds and large quantities of spare parts for vehicles. This donation is coordinated by FAO and provided by an international donor and it will certainly further strengthen CNLA's capacity to abate the impacts of locusts on livelihoods and food security of vulnerable populations.

OFDA will continue monitor the situation closely and issue updates and advise as necessary.

../Mauritania locust update/Mauritania locust updates 2nd dekad. November