



***** MONTHLY BULLETIN *****
The Monthly Bulletin is compiled from information retrieved from monthly Migrant Pest Reports received from SADC member countries and IRLCO-CSA.

MIGRANT PEST REPORTS AND MAP FOR JULY 2003

Migrant pest reports for July 2003 were received from:
Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe (armyworm and locusts), and IRLCO-CSA.
No reports were received from: *Angola, DRC, Mozambique, Namibia, or Zimbabwe (Quelea).*

SADC Collaborators are kindly requested to read the "General Notices" section.

SUMMARY (Fig.1)

No reports of outbreaks of the African armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) were received from the region.

Concentrations of red locusts persisted in the outbreak areas of Tanzania (IRLCO-CSA report). No further reports of locust outbreaks or activity were received from other countries in the region.

Quelea control operations were carried out in South Africa against two (2) roosts, and birds continued being a problem to small grain growers in Tanzania. No further reports of Quelea activity were received.

ARMYWORM

The region remained free of armyworm infestations.

LOCUSTS

Tanzania (IRLCO-CSA report) The red locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*) concentrations and swarms reported in June in the Iku-Katavi and Wembere outbreak areas persisted. Control operations are scheduled to commence in August.

No further locust outbreaks were recorded in any of the recognised outbreak areas of the SADC region.

A report was received from Malawi on the helicopter survey undertaken in June 2003 of the red locust outbreak areas in Malawi (J.Katheru & W.Chatempa – IRLCO-CSA; T.Maulana – Min.Agric., Irrigation and Food Security). Highlights of the report are provided herewith



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(sampling points are however not indicated on this ICOSAMP map).

Report of red locust helicopter survey in Malawi: June 2003

Summary

During the second week of June 2003 a helicopter survey of the Lake Chilwa and Lake Chiuta plains, two of the red locust outbreak areas in Malawi, was conducted to determine the level of locust populations in Malawi. The two areas were found to be flooded and with insignificant populations of Red Locusts. Prior to this survey in the last week of April, an unconfirmed locust swarm had been reported from Mabote district, Inhambane province in Mozambique. This report had caused concern to the IRLCO-CSA, and the governments of Mozambique and Malawi

Method of survey

A Jet Ranger Bell 206 helicopter from IRLCO-CSA, Ndola, Zambia was used during the surveys. Two observers were on board during each of the sorties. The aircraft was flown along East/West or North/South transects depending on the distribution of suitable vegetation. The observers recorded co-ordinates where locusts were flushed.

Ground survey results

In a ground survey that was conducted prior to this aerial survey in the Lake Chilwa and Lake Chiuta plains on 5th and 6th June 2003, no significant locust population densities were flushed. In another ground survey which was conducted at Nyachilenda and Marka in Nsanje district on 3rd and 4th June 2003 no significant densities were flushed either. However, extension staff were advised to be on the alert for any appearance of swarms.

Aerial survey results

Lake Chiuta Plains

The Lake Chiuta Plains were generally flooded. The vegetation was green though grass had started to dry off around the fringes of the plains. Grass burning had not commenced in any part of the plain. Approximately 80% of the grass plain was flooded. Isolated to scattered red locusts were flushed near Nayuchi. The dominant vegetation was *Hyperrhenia* spp.

Lake Chilwa Plains

Lake Chilwa strides over the Malawi and Mozambique boundary. Like Lake Chiuta Plains, 75% of the plain was flooded. The vegetation was green though grass had started to dry off around the fringes of the plain. Limited grass burning had commenced at some points along the edges. One active fire was observed at 15°16' 40" S 035° 4' 00" E. Overgrazing was observed along the narrow non-flooded areas near Mposa, Namanja, Likhonyowa and Nayuchi villages. Isolated to scattered red locusts were flushed in the dry plain. A mixture of *Hyperrhenia* spp and unidentified short grasses were the dominant vegetation where locusts were flushed.

Recommendations

- The two red locust out-break areas should be visited again in September/October just before the onset of the rains
- A ground survey should be carried out in Mpatsanjoka Dambo in Salima district
- Extension staff for Machinga ADD and the rest of the country should be on the alert and report any sighting (invasion) of locust swarms.



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RED-BILLED QUELEA

South Africa. (L Geertsema) Two explosion control operations were undertaken against roosts in wetland habitat in the Northern Cape Province (Gordonia) near wheat crops. Both sites were identified as 'traditional' Quelea sites. The total area of the roosts was 1,7ha with an estimated number of 240,300 birds. The fuel used was paraffin and petrol at application rates of 1607 and 2513 l/ha. The estimated kill achieved ranged from 70 – 85%. Even though both sites were classified as environmentally sensitive, no non-target mortality was recorded.

Tanzania. (IRLCO-CSA report) Quelea birds continued being a problem to cereal growers in the Moshi and Morogoro regions of the country. Plant Health Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, in collaboration with DLCO-EA who provided a spray aircraft, carried out control.

No further reports of Quelea birds in the SADC region were received.

GENERAL NOTICES

1. As the warmer temperatures approach our region, and the migrant pests associated with it, please remember that samples of armyworm larvae are still urgently needed for research purposes. Please contact the ICOSAMP Co-ordinator for further details.
2. DFID has approved the funding for the second Phase of ICOSAMP which will include the development of individual country systems.
3. Collaborators are reminded that the ICOSAMP migrant pest monthly reporting forms are to be sent to the Co-Ordinator by the **end of the 1st week of the following month**. Reports should be sent even if there were **NO** migrant pest outbreaks, or **NO** surveys were conducted.

Information and Reports should be faxed or emailed to:

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ON THE WEB

This month's highlighted websites are:

Research

<http://www.cpp.uk.com> - DFID's Crop Protection Programme

Food security

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y9715e/y9715e04.htm#AFA> - FAO-GIEWS (Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture) has posted the latest "Foodcrops and Shortages" newsletter No.2, June 2003.

<http://www.fews.net> - Famine Early Warning System Network

Agriculture

<http://www.sadc.int> - SADC website.



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| ICOSAMP COLLABORATORS - 2003 | | | |
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| DR of Congo: | Mr Mula Mafutamingi | NRI (UK): | Prof B Cheke |
| Lesotho: | Mr E Tjelele / Mr P Masupha | Armyworm (RSA): | Dr R Bell |
| Malawi: | Mr T Maulana | | |
| Mozambique: | Mr J Varimelo/Mr A Comes | | |
| Namibia: | Ms P Shiyelekeni | | |
| South Africa: | Mr K Viljoen (locusts) Mr L Geertsema (quelea) | | |
| Swaziland: | Mr M Mbuli | | |
| Tanzania: | Mr R Magoma | | |
| Zambia: | Mr M Kanyemba | | |
| Zimbabwe: | Mrs Ivy Saunyama / Dr G Chikwenhere (locusts/armyworm) Mrs T Couto (quelea) | | |
| Co-ordinator | Mrs Margaret Kieser, South Africa | GIS development | Mrs J Pender, UK |

This bulletin has been sent to you by the ICOSAMP co-ordinator in South Africa, **Margaret Kieser**.

If you think that your colleagues would be interested in receiving this news, please feel free to forward this Bulletin to them. Subscription to the ICOSAMP email list is FREE.

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<http://icosamp.ecoport.org>



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Figure 1. Migrant Pest Situation Map for SADC Region: July 2003

