ICOSAMP News
Information Core for Southern African Migrant Pests

No 35 (Sept 2004)

********** **MONTHLY BULLETIN** **********

The Monthly Bulletin is compiled from information retrieved from monthly Migrant Pest Reports received from SADC member countries, IRLCO-CSA, and the Armyworm Forecasting Service.

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MIGRANT PEST REPORTS AND MAP FOR SEPTEMBER 2004

Migrant pest reports for September 2004 were received from:
Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa(q), Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and IRLCO-CSA.
No reports were received from: *Angola, Congo, Lesotho, South Africa (locusts), or Tanzania.*

ALERT (received 24th October from FAO via SADC-FANR): Swarms of African Migratory Locusts and Red Locusts were reported from the Eastern Caprivi region of Namibia. Although some control operations were undertaken, it is suspected that a few swarms escaped into neighbouring Botswana and Zambia.

SUMMARY (Fig.1)
No outbreaks of the African armyworm were reported from the SADC Region.

Locusts. Isolated and scattered populations of red locust were observed in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. An outbreak of African Migratory **and** Red locusts caused concern in the Caprivi region of Namibia. Widespread Red locust concentrations and swarms were controlled in the Wembere area of Tanzania.

No further reports of locusts were received from the Region.

Quelea roosts were controlled in South Africa. Botswana and Zimbabwe reported the presence of Quelea but no control operations were undertaken. The remainder of the region remained calm.

ARMYWORM

The SADC Region remained FREE of armyworm infestations.

LOCUSTS

Malawi (T Maulana). Surveys of the Lake Chilwa and Lake Chiuta plains were undertaken in the second week of September to determine the current situation of red locust populations. In both areas, the vegetation was dry and grass burning had already taken place in many parts of the plains. Isolated and scattered red locust populations were located at Nayuchi in southern Malawi.

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Mozambique (IRLCO-CSA). Scattered red locust populations were reported in the Buzi-Gorongosa plains in the Sofala Province.

Namibia (G Kanguvi). Red locust - and African Migratory locust - populations intensified in the flood plains of the Eastern Caprivi during August and September. This was largely as a result of spray teams being unable to access flooded areas, as well as the difficulty in persuading farmers to relocate their animals to allow spraying. Farmers have since realised that the locust situation is of concern and allowed control teams from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Rural Development to undertake control operations using Decis® (no further details available). It is possible however that some swarms may have escaped the area and invaded the neighbouring countries of Botswana and Zambia.

Tanzania (IRLCO-CSA). During control operations in the Bahi Plains at the beginning of the month, one low density red locust swarm and several concentrations (infesting an area of 500ha) were sprayed with Fipronil (Adonis 12.5 ULV). During an aerial survey of the Wembere plains, widespread red locust concentrations and 54 swarms were located, and infested areas totalling 4,400ha were controlled with Fenitrothion Technical (610 litres) and Fipronil 12.5 ULV (1,610 litres). Red locust populations of varying densities persisted in the unburnt grass areas in the Bahi, Iku-Katavi, Wembere, and Malagarasi outbreak areas.

Zambia (IRLCO-CSA). Scattered red locust populations were reported in the Kafue Flats (Southern Province).

The remainder of the SADC Region remained calm.

RED-BILLED QUELEA

Botswana (T Moruti). Although no Quelea problems were reported, birds were observed throughout the country but were not considered a threat to crops.

South Africa (L Geertsema). Eighteen (18) roosts were controlled during September in the Limpopo, Free State, Northern Cape, and North West Provinces, with nine sites identified as traditional Quelea sites. Seven of the roosts were located in wetland habitat and eleven in savanna (trees). Estimated damage to wheat crops ranged from 0 to 12%. Sites varied in size from 0.2 to 8.5ha, and the total area treated was 47.7ha with an estimated number of 8.9m birds present. Aerial control was undertaken by the National Department of Agriculture on three sites using Falcolan® (active ingredient cyanophos 520g/l), and on six sites using Queletox. The remaining nine sites were exploded with a paraffin/petrol combination. The percentage success rate ranged from 66 – 99%. Seven of the sites were identified as environmentally sensitive. One Barn Owl and five Wattled Starlings were recorded as non-target mortalities.

Zimbabwe (P Chinwada). Although no quelea reports were received, the birds were present in the country and posed a threat to late-planted wheat.

IRLCO-CSA reported that Quelea roosts were controlled in Kenya (Kisumu and Narok districts) during August 2004.

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

GENERAL NOTICES

1. To date, 4 country collaborators (Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe) have received their new ICOSAMP country systems and computers, and attended training sessions in South Africa. As the network coordinator, I trust that this equipment and training will assist collaborators to improve the collation of migrant pest data in their respective countries, thereby promoting the food security of the SADC region as a whole. Zambia and Lesotho are scheduled to attend training during October.
2. The reporting rate for September is 71%. Country collaborators are reminded that reports should reach the coordinator by the **end of the 1st week of the following month** so that they can be included in the Bulletin. Reports should be sent even if there were **NO** migrant pest outbreaks, or **NO** surveys were conducted.
3. Please forward ANY information you may obtain while recording control operations, of birds that have been **ringed** as this will be sent to the Avian Demography Unit in South Africa who are tracing the migration movements of Quelea. Information needed is: *Locality, date of recovery, control method,* and *Ring number.*

Information and Reports should be faxed or emailed to:
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ON THE WEB

This month's highlighted websites are:

General News in Africa
www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm - Current DESERT LOCUST PLAGUE details
www.arc.agric.za - Agricultural Research Council, South Africa
Early Warning
www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/pcs/MetCCD0.htm - Armyworm forecasting
www.fews.net/south - Famine Early Warning System Network for southern Africa
SADC
www.sadc.int - SADC website
General
www.pestinfo.org - International Society for Pest Information

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information is gratefully acknowledged from collaborators in SADC member countries, the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) in Zambia, and the Armyworm Forecasting and Control Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in Tanzania. Thanks to EcoPort http://www.ecoport.org for hosting our website and maintaining the internet mapper.

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ICOSAMP COLLABORATORS - 2004

SADC		**Additional Collaborators**	
Angola:	Mr S Mateus	SADC-FANR:	Mr S de Keyser
Botswana:	Mr T Moruti	IRLCO-CSA:	Mr John Katheru
DR of Congo:	Mr M Mafutamingi	NRI (UK):	Prof Bob Cheke
Lesotho:	Mr E Tjelele / Mr P Masupha	Armyworm (RSA):	Dr Richard Bell
Malawi:	Mr T Maulana	Armyworm Forecasting (Tanzania Min.Agric. & Food Security)	W Mushobozi
Mozambique:	Mr J Varimelo/Mr A Comes/A Ngazero		
Namibia:	Ms P Shiyelekeni		
South Africa:	Mr K Viljoen (locusts) / Mr L Geertsema (quelea)		
Swaziland:	Mr B Makhuba/Mr D Khumalo		
Tanzania:	Mr R Magoma		
Zambia:	Mr M Kanyemba		
Zimbabwe:	Mrs I Saunyama / Dr Peter Chinwada / Mr N Muhau		

Co-ordinator
Mrs Margaret Kieser, South Africa

GIS development
Mrs Judith 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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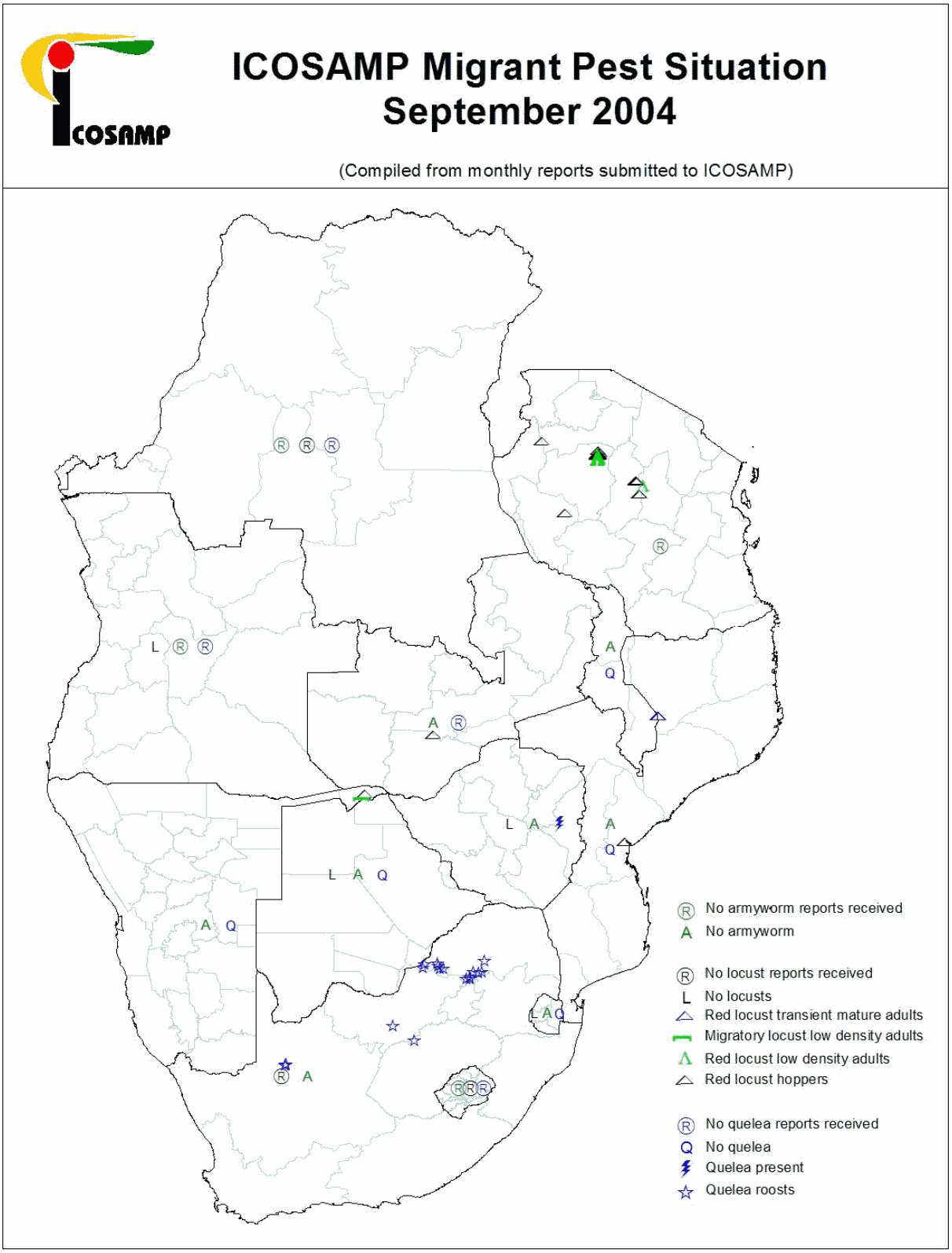
Figure 1. Migrant Pest Situation Map for SADC Region: September 2004



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