



Report of Monitoring, Early Warning and Assessment of Desert Locust

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Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen (December 2025)

Integrated with multi-source Earth Observation data, e.g. meteorological data, field data, and remote sensing data (such as MODIS in the US, etc), and self-developed models and algorithms for Desert Locust monitoring and forecasting, the research team constructed the 'Vegetation pests and diseases monitoring and forecasting system', which could regularly release thematical maps and reports on Desert Locust.

The remote sensing monitoring results showed that, in December 2025, desert locusts were primarily distributed in the Nile Valley irrigation zone and the southern border areas of Egypt, the central-to-southern Red Sea coastal zone of Saudi Arabia, and the southern Gulf of Aden coastal plains of Yemen, affecting 17.0, 18.5, and 22.2 thousand hectares of vegetation, respectively. Over the next two months, desert locust activity across the region is expected to remain at generally low levels. In Egypt, limited effective rainfall replenishment in the southern border areas and the Nile irrigation zone will constrain sustained breeding, and a substantial upsurge is unlikely. In southwestern Saudi Arabia, localized habitats along the Red Sea coast may support small-scale winter breeding following earlier rainfall, but overall population levels will remain low. In Yemen, coastal green vegetation along the western Red Sea and southern Gulf of Aden coasts may support small numbers of adults and hoppers. As this period coincides with the main growing season for food crops in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and the major harvest season in Yemen, continued monitoring of desert locust dynamics is essential to prevent recurrent losses to crop growth and agropastoral production. The specific results are as follows:

■ 1. Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Egypt

In December 2025, affected by generally limited rainfall and the fragmented distribution of suitable habitats, desert locust populations in Egypt remained at relatively low levels. Locusts mainly occurred as isolated scattered adults distributed in the Nile Valley irrigation zone and the southern border areas adjacent to Sudan. Monitoring results showed that desert locusts affected 17.0 thousand hectares of vegetation in Egypt in December, including 3.9 thousand hectares of cropland, 7.5 thousand hectares of grassland, and 5.6 thousand hectares of shrubland (Figure 1), accounting for 0.10%, 0.55%, and 0.70% of the country's total cropland, grassland, and shrubland areas, respectively. New Valley recorded the most extensive damage, with 8.5 thousand hectares of affected vegetation, followed by Aswan with 4.4 thousand hectares; Qina was also affected, with 4.1 thousand hectares.

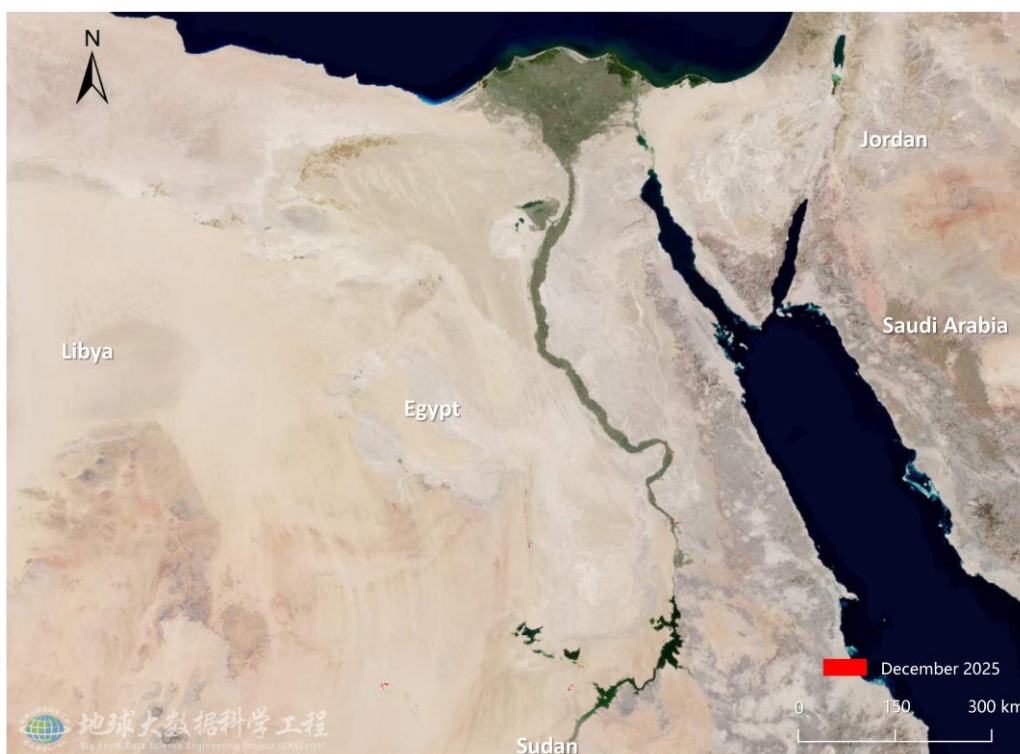


Fig. 1 Monitoring of Desert Locust damage in Egypt (December 2025)

■ 2. Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Saudi Arabia

In December 2025, desert locust activity in Saudi Arabia continued to be concentrated along the central-to-southern Red Sea coastal zone. Driven by earlier episodic rainfall, vegetation locally greened up and maintained limited suitable habitat conditions, and locust activity remained at generally low intensity, characterized by localized scattered occurrence. Monitoring results showed that desert locusts affected 18.5 thousand hectares of vegetation in Saudi Arabia in December, including 2.7 thousand hectares of cropland, 7.1 thousand hectares of grassland, and 8.7 thousand hectares of shrubland (Figure 2), accounting for 1.23%, 0.36%, and 0.21% of the country's total cropland, grassland, and shrubland areas, respectively. Jizan recorded the most extensive damage, with 7.8 thousand hectares of affected vegetation, followed by Makkah with 6.2 thousand hectares; Al-Baha was also

affected, with 4.5 thousand hectares.

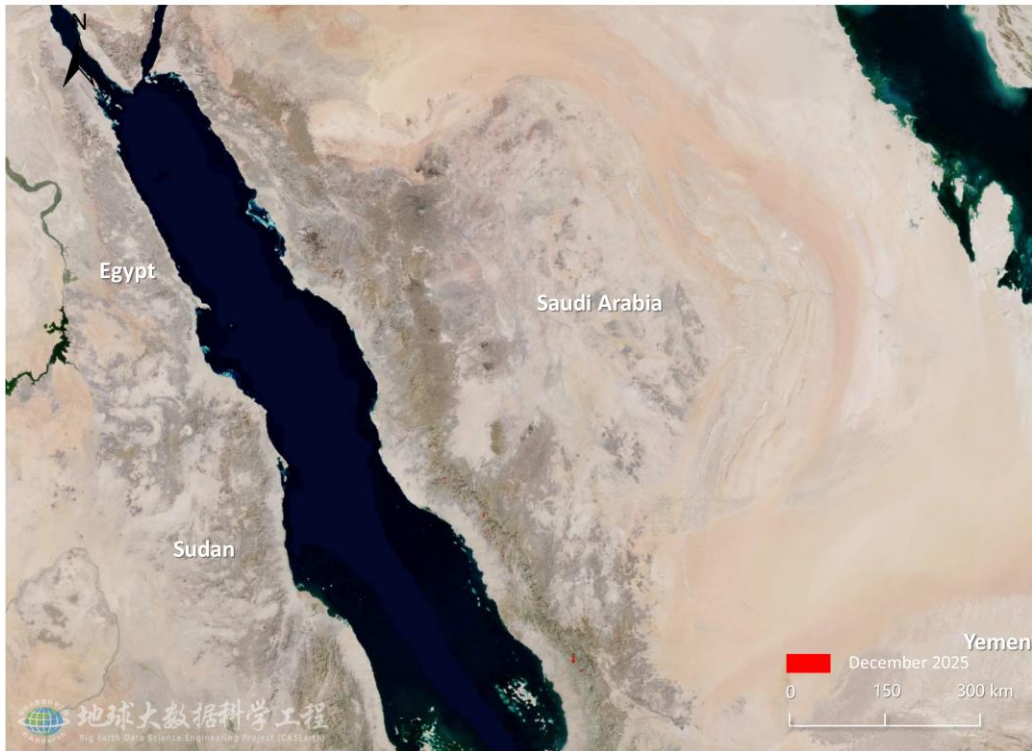


Fig. 2 Monitoring of Desert Locust damage in Saudi Arabia (December 2025)

■ 3. Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Yemen

In December 2025, desert locusts in Yemen were mainly distributed along the southern Gulf of Aden coastal plains and adjacent coastal belts. Coastal vegetation conditions were relatively better than in the interior, whereas activity in the interior was constrained by vegetation drying. Monitoring results showed that desert locusts affected 22.2 thousand hectares of vegetation in Yemen in December, including 7.1 thousand hectares of cropland, 5.4 thousand hectares of grassland, and 9.7 thousand hectares of shrubland (Figure 3), accounting for 1.44%, 0.14%, and 0.18% of the country's total cropland, grassland, and shrubland areas, respectively. Abyan recorded the most extensive damage, with 8.5 thousand hectares of affected vegetation, followed by Ibb with 4.8 thousand hectares; Ta'izz, Al-Bayda and Lahij were also affected, with 3.4, 3.0 and 2.5 thousand hectares, respectively.



Fig. 3 Monitoring of Desert Locust damage in Yemen (December 2025)

The analysis indicates that, over the next two months, desert locust activity in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen will remain at generally low levels. In Egypt, limited effective rainfall replenishment in the southern border areas and the Nile irrigation zone will not support sustained breeding, and a major upsurge is unlikely. In southwestern Saudi Arabia, localized habitats along the Red Sea coast may support small-scale winter breeding following earlier rainfall, but the overall population baseline will remain low. In Yemen, coastal green vegetation along the western Red Sea and southern Gulf of Aden coasts may support small numbers of adults and hoppers. As vegetation in the interior continues to dry, locust activity will be largely confined to short-distance movements within the coastal belts, and no large-scale migration is anticipated. Continuous monitoring of desert locust dynamics in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen is recommended to prevent repeated impacts on food crop growth and agropastoral production.

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