# Report of Monitoring, Early Warning and Assessment of Desert Locust

[2026] NO.03 Total 78
March 2026

Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences
State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth
The International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)
Key Laboratory of National Forestry and Grassland Administration on Forest and Grassland Pest Monitoring and Warning
National Engineering Research Center for Agro-Ecological Big Data Analysis & Application
China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
Sino-UK Crop Pest and Disease Forecasting & Management Joint Laboratory
Key Lab of Aviation Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, P.R. China

## Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Morocco, Algeria and Egypt (February 2026)

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 February 2026, desert locusts were mainly distributed in the central-southwestern regions of Morocco, localized western and southern areas of Algeria, and the upper Nile Valley corridor and southern inland areas of Egypt, affecting 61.9, 20.4, and 18.4 thousand hectares of vegetation, respectively. Over the next two months, desert locust activity across the region is expected to remain active as spring rainfall gradually increases. Populations are also expected to increasingly concentrate within the spring breeding belts. In Morocco, the central-southwestern region is expected to remain the core area of activity, and localized adults may continue to migrate northeastward, resulting in a sustained influx into Algeria. In Algeria, activity may increase in the western and northwestern regions under the combined influence of external population input and improving spring vegetation conditions, while small-scale breeding may occur locally and small numbers of residual adults may persist in the southern irrigated agricultural areas. In Egypt, activity is expected to remain concentrated in the Nile Valley and southern inland irrigated areas, where small numbers of scattered adults may persist locally and small-scale breeding may occur under suitable conditions, although the overall distribution is expected to remain low-density and dispersed. Given that this period aligns with the main growing season

in Morocco and Algeria, and the late growing to early harvest stage in Egypt, continued monitoring is recommended to prevent recurrent impacts on agropastoral production. The specific results are as follows:

## ■ 1. Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Morocco

In February 2026, rainfall increased in the southwestern regions of Morocco, and spring breeding conditions gradually improved. Desert locust development conditions were generally suitable, and under the continued influx of northward-migrating desert locust populations from Mauritania, locust numbers rose and remained relatively high. Monitoring results showed that in February 2026, desert locusts affected 61.9 thousand hectares of vegetation in Morocco, including 17.2 thousand hectares of cropland, 25.7 thousand hectares of grassland, and 19.0 thousand hectares of shrubland (Figure 1), accounting for 0.23%, 0.38%, and 0.13% of the country's total cropland, grassland, and shrubland areas, respectively. Tadla-Azilal recorded the most extensive damage, with 24.3 thousand hectares of affected vegetation, followed by Souss-Massa-Draâ with 16.7 thousand hectares. Marrakech-Tensift-Al Haouz, Guelmim-Es-Semara, Chaouia-Ouardigha and Doukkala-Abda were also affected, with 10.4, 4.7, 4.4 and 1.4 thousand hectares, respectively.


Fig. 1 Monitoring of Desert Locust damage in Morocco (February 2026)

## ■ 2. Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Algeria

In February 2026, spring breeding conditions began to form in localized western and southern areas of Algeria. With the continued replenishment of immigrating populations from the southwest, desert locust numbers increased compared with the previous period, with population activity mainly characterized by incoming populations persisting locally and

sporadic breeding. Monitoring results showed that in February 2026, desert locusts affected 20.4 thousand hectares of vegetation in Algeria, including 4.8 thousand hectares of cropland, 6.6 thousand hectares of grassland, and 9.0 thousand hectares of shrubland (Figure 2), accounting for 0.31‰, 0.52‰, and 0.34‰ of the country's total cropland, grassland, and shrubland areas, respectively. Tlemcen recorded the most extensive damage, with 7.4 thousand hectares of affected vegetation, followed by Sidi Bel Abbès with 6.8 thousand hectares. Aïn Témouchent and Adrar were also affected, with 4.1 and 2.1 thousand hectares, respectively.

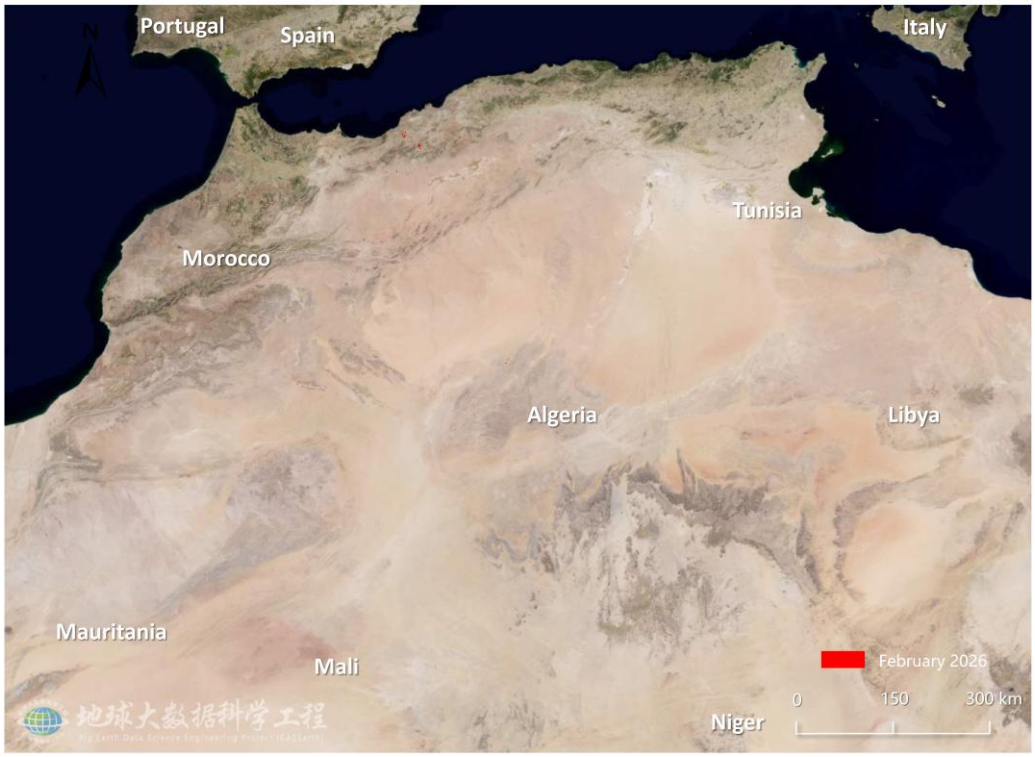


Fig. 2 Monitoring of Desert Locust damage in Algeria (February 2026)

## ■ 3. Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Egypt

In February 2026, overall rainfall in Egypt remained limited, and suitable habitats were mainly concentrated in the southern irrigated areas and the upper Nile Valley corridor. Desert locust development conditions remained generally limited, populations stayed at low levels, and activity was mainly characterized by localized persistence without any evident expansion trend. Monitoring results showed that desert locusts affected 18.4 thousand hectares of vegetation in Egypt in February, including 5.1 thousand hectares of cropland, 8.0 thousand hectares of grassland, and 5.3 thousand hectares of shrubland (Figure 3), accounting for 0.14%, 0.59%, and 0.66% of the country's total cropland, grassland, and shrubland areas, respectively. Asyut recorded the most extensive damage, with 5.5 thousand hectares of affected vegetation, followed by Al Wadi al Jadid with 5.1 thousand hectares. Aswan, Suhaj and Qina were also affected, with 3.0, 2.6 and 2.2 thousand hectares, respectively.


Fig. 3 Monitoring of Desert Locust damage in Egypt (February 2026)

The analysis indicates that desert locust activity across the region is expected to remain active over the next two months as spring rainfall gradually increases. Populations are also expected to increasingly concentrate within the spring breeding belts. In Morocco, the central-southwestern region is expected to remain the core area of activity, and localized adults may continue to migrate northeastward, resulting in sustained influx into Algeria. In Algeria, activity may increase in the western and northwestern regions under the combined influence of external population input and improving spring vegetation conditions, while small-scale breeding may occur locally and small numbers of residual adults may persist in the southern irrigated agricultural areas. In Egypt, activity is expected to remain concentrated in the Nile Valley and southern inland irrigated areas, where small numbers of scattered adults may persist locally and small-scale breeding may occur under suitable conditions, although the overall distribution is expected to remain low-density and dispersed. Continuous monitoring of desert locust dynamics in Morocco, Algeria and Egypt is recommended to prevent repeated impacts on food crop growth and agropastoral production.

·NO. 20260303078

**This report was released by Professor Wenjiang Huang's and Associate Professor Yingying Dong's research team in Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences.**


## Chinese Contributors

Wenjiang Huang, Yingying Dong, Biyao Zhang, Linyi Liu, Kun Wang, Quanjun Jiao, Xiangmei Qin, Gang Sun, Yanli Zhang, Jingcheng Zhang, Yantao Zhou, Linsheng Huang, Longlong Zhao, Anting Guo, Xueling Li, Yanru Huang, Hansu Zhang, Binxiang Qian, Zhuoqing Hao, Jing Guo, Rui Hou, Mingxian Zhao, Kehui Ren, Xiangzhe Cheng, Bohai Hu, Minghao Wang, Yan Zhang, Xuanli He, Chao Ruan, Huiqin Ma, Yue Shi, Naichen Xing, Qiong Zheng, Xiaoping Du, Huichun Ye, Bei Cui, Huifang Wang, Yu Ren, Chao Ding, Ruiqi Sun, Yingxin Xiao, Weiping Kong, Juhua Luo, Jinling Zhao, Dongyan Zhang, Xiaodong Yang, Yanhua Meng, Yue Liu, Wei Feng, Xianfeng Zhou

## Foreign Contributors

Belinda Luke, Bethan Perkins, Qiaoyun Xie, Yue Shi, Bryony Taylor, Hongmei Li, Wenhua Chen, Pablo Gonzalez Moreno, Sarah Thomas, Timothy Holmes, Stefano Pignatti, Giovanni Laneve, Raffaele Casa, Simone Pascucci, Martin Wooster, Jason Chapman.

## Advisory Experts

Bing Zhang, Gensuo Jia, Jihua Wang, Qiming Qin, Puyun Yang, Guofei Fang, Shouquan Chai, Yuying Jiang, Jingquan Zhu, Jinfeng Zhou, Dongmei Yan, Xiangtao Fan, Jianhui Li, Tianhua Hong,Yubin Lan, Jingfeng Huang, Huo Wang, Anhong Guo, Zhanhong Ma, Yilin Zhou, Xiongbing Tu, Wenbin Wu, Feng Zhang, Zhiguo Wang, Lifang Wu, Dong Liang, Stefano Pignatti , Giovanni Laneve , Liangxiu Han, Yanbo Huang, Chenghai Yang, Jiali Shang, Jadu Dash, Hugh Mortimer、Jon Styles、Andy Shaw.



## Funding Information

National Key Research and Development Program of China (2023YFB3906203 and 2021YFE0194800), National Natural Science Foundation of China (42071320, 42071423 and 32271986), Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO-CR-KP-2021-06), GEO Community Activities "Global Crop Pest and Disease Habitat Monitoring and Risk Forecasting", etc.


## Citation

Report of Monitoring, Early Warning and Assessment of Desert Locust, (2026). *Desert Locust Monitoring and Loss Assessment in Morocco, Algeria and Egypt.* Beijing, China: RSCROP.

## Disclaimer

This report is a product of the Vegetation Remote Sensing & Pest and Disease Application Research Team of the Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The analyses and conclusions in the report do not represent the views of the Chinese Academy of Sciences or the Aerospace Information Research Institute. Users can legally quote the data in this report and indicate the source. However, any judgments, inferences or opinions made based on the report do not represent the views of the Team. The data published in this report are for reference only. The Team does not bear any legal responsibility arising from the use of the report. Official Chinese boundaries are used in the report.

## Contact Us


Tel: +86-010-82178178 Fax: 010-82178177 Email: rscrop@aircas.ac.cn
Address: No.9 Dengzhuang South Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100094, China
Websites: http://www.rscrop.com / http://desertlocust.rscrop.com Post Code: 100094