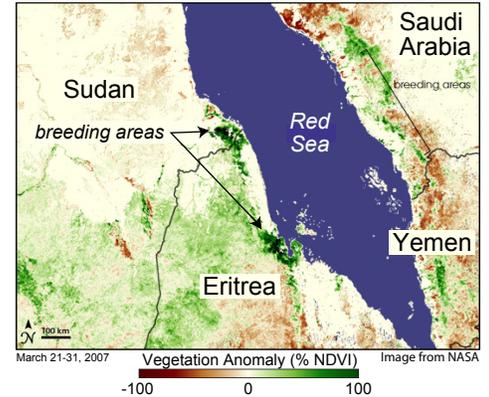
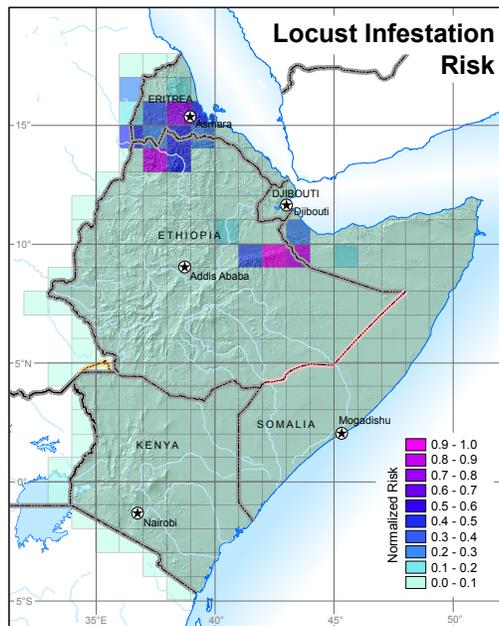
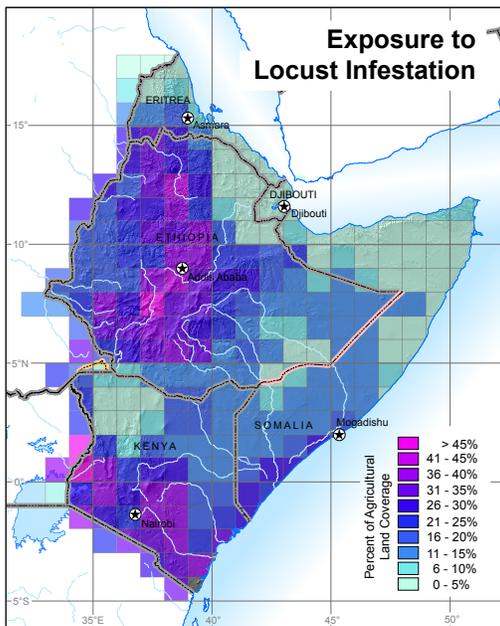


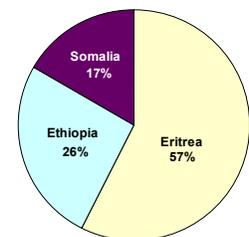
Locust infestations occur periodically and are endemic to a broad band covering northern Africa that extends east to the margins of the Red Sea. A single swarm can cover 1200 square kilometers and can contain between 40 and 80 million locusts per square kilometer. With each insect capable of eating its own body weight in vegetation each day, a swarm that size could consume 192,000 metric tons of vegetation each day.



Along the Red Sea coast, the locusts' winter breeding area, swarms develop when rain falls on the sandy soil to initiate the hatching of locust eggs. If plenty of water and vegetation for food exist in the locust breeding areas, a large number of the insects hatch and form swarms. This SPOT satellite image shows in green where vegetation was more thick and lush in March 2007 than the average March in 1999 - 2006. Strips of dark green line the shores of the Red Sea in the same areas where locust swarms were spotted.



Locations of Locust Infestations



This locust risk analysis incorporates data from 1992-2006 on gregarious populations of hoppers and adults compiled by the FAO Locust Control Office. Infestation frequency and probability are aggregated to the corresponding one-degree grid cells. Societal exposure is based upon the intensity of crop and livestock activities in the region.