



# DLCO-EA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. - 2, No.2

June, 2012

## Contents

History of DLCO-EA .....	1
Review of migratory pest situation .....	2
Pest control operation in non-member countries .....	3
DLCO-EA Aircraft Sitrep. ....	5
Upcoming events .....	6

## HISTORY OF THE DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA (DLCO-EA):

In this edition of the DLCO-EA Quarterly Newsletter and in the subsequent one, a highlight of the history of the Organization will be presented. DLCO-EA was established in 1962 and therefore this year 2012, the Organization will celebrate 50 years of its service to Member Countries. It is therefore important that the Organization's stakeholders and all those who read the DLCO-EA Quarterly Newsletter understand how DLCO-EA has evolved, developed and served its members in the past 50 years and challenges it faced. In this edition a highlight of how DLCO-EA evolved is given.

### How DLCO-EA Evolved:

International concern about the Desert Locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* rose in the 1920s leading to the First International Anti-Locust Conference held in Rome in

1931. The meeting agreed that all the governments involved in locust control should send their reports to the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London (Adefris, 1979). The British established a forecasting system at the Centre. Field stations were created in the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa under the Desert Locust Survey (and Control), known as DLS. The Control element of DLS came into being in 1950 (Report of the Desert Locust Survey and Control, 1953). The DLS was a Department of the East African Common Services Organization and was financed by Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda and the UK. In June, 1961, at a locust meeting, the Director-General of the Food and

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) called for the establishment of a regional body to supplement national locust control efforts and, with political independence arriving, to replace the DLS. Meetings between representatives of the concerned countries continued over the next year, tasked eventually with developing a Convention for the new body. The Convention was signed formally on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1962 by representatives of the Governments of **Ethiopia, Somali Republic and Tanganyika**, and by **Kenya and Uganda** acting with the consent of the UK (First DLCO-EA Annual Report, 1964). **DLCO-EA was born.** A sixth member country joined a few weeks later when **France** signed the convention on behalf of **Djibouti**.

The last Director of the DLS, Mr. (later Prof.) Vernon Joyce (UK), became the first Director of DLCO-EA when he was appointed by the First Council Session in October, 1962. All the equipment, vehicles and aircraft (3 Beavers, an Aero Commander and a Cessna) of the DLS were handed over to DLCO-EA. At its inception, DLCO-EA's mandate was exclusively concerned with Desert Locust and had three major components:-

- To reduce Desert Locust population in eastern Africa to, and maintain them at, a level of economic insignificance;
- To direct research on the Desert Locust to elucidate the problems inherent in achieving this;
- To train national staff in member countries to take over the control and research components.

The first Headquarters of the Organization was in **Dire Dawa, Ethiopia**, to which the Hqts staff transferred in February 1964.

*(To be continued in the next issue.)*

## **REVIEW OF MIGRATORY PEST SITUATION - APRIL - JUNE, 2012:**

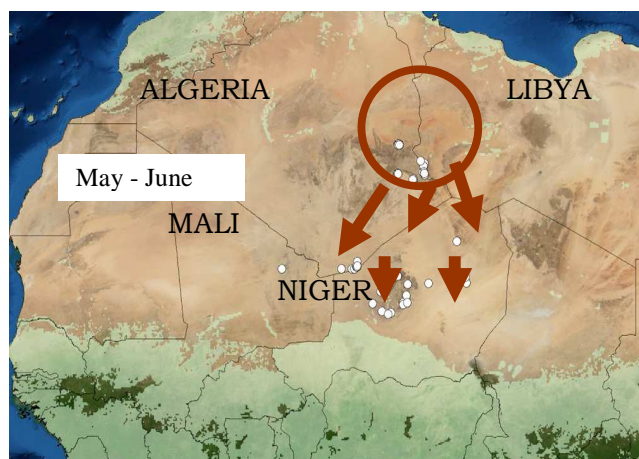
### Desert Locust:

Except for few solitary and isolated adult locusts and hoppers that had been reported in Sudan and eastern lowlands of Eritrea in May, no major infestation of Desert Locust was reported between April and June, 2012 in the region.

Elsewhere, in Libya and Algeria, hoppers developed in April from the eggs laid in late February. Adult locusts moved from Southwestern Algeria westward and reached Niger at the end of May.

Some hoppers and immature adults were seen in Central, Western and Coastal areas in Oman in May where breeding was reported.

In June, Desert Locust adults were maturing in northern Niger and Mali where small groups and swarms were present. There have been an increasing number of immature and mature adults appearing in pasture areas of central Niger between Tanout and Termit. Adults were seen laying eggs in at least one place. In southeast Mauritania, scattered adults have been reported. An immature group of adults were reported in eastern Chad near Adre and the border of Sudan. A similar infestation was reported in North Darfur, Sudan.



### ***Desert Locust situation May - June (FAO)***

In the region, pre-season rains fell in parts of summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan starting from the last decade of May. Light rain fell in southwest Egypt. In the Horn of Africa, light to medium rain fell at times starting from first decade of May on Plateau in Northern Somalia and adjacent areas in Eastern Ethiopia. In Kenya during April heavy downpour had occurred throughout the country. Consequently, damages on houses, crops and livestock were reported in different localities.

Vegetation in and out of the summer breeding areas started greening which makes the environmental condition favorable for Desert Locust breeding.

**Facts: A locust swarm can be small ( $\leq$  a half a hectare) or huge (more than 1000 km<sup>2</sup>). There could be 50-80 million locusts per km<sup>2</sup>.**

**An adult locust eats an amount approximately its own weight per day i.e. 2g.**

**A swarm size of just a km<sup>2</sup> devours 100-160 tons of vegetation (crops & pastures) per day.**

**A swarm travels on average 250-300km per day while hoppers travel about 1.5 km a day (Symmons & Cressman, 1994).**

**Under suitable conditions, they could have 2-3 generations per year and multiply 16-20 times per generations (Symmons & Cressman, 2001).**

trees with a total bird population estimated to be 7 million were controlled in Dodoma and Singida, where they were feeding on bulrush millet and sorghum. In Mwanza about 10 million birds roosting on 210 ha of typha and acacia trees; 7 million and 5 million birds that were feeding on rice, finger millet, bulrush millet and wheat were controlled in Mara and Manyara regions, respectively to avert damage and loss to rice. In these regions a total of 1800 liters of Queleatox were used.

During April 2012, Quelea control was carried out in Kenya, where about 5 million birds roosting on 570 ha of Papyrus, Reeds and Blue Gum trees in Siyaya at Dominion farm were killed using 220 liters of Queleatox. The birds were feeding on rice.

**Facts: Quelea quelea birds can travel ~100 km/day looking for food.**

**An adult Quelea bird can consume 3-5 g of grain and perhaps destroy the same amount each day. A colony composed of a million birds (very common) is capable of consuming and destroying 7-10 tons of seeds/day (enough to feed 15,000-20,000 people for a day).**

#### Armyworms:

Outbreaks were not reported in the region during April to June and only few moths were caught in the monitoring traps in Rombo, Tanzania. Monitoring of armyworm activity continued in Kenya and Ethiopia.

#### Grain Eating Birds:

From April – May, 2012 Quelea control operations were carried out in Tanzania in Mwanza, Dodoma, Mara and Manyara regions. Six roosts on 280 ha of acacia

#### **PEST CONTROL OPERATIONS IN NON MEMBER COUNTRIES:**

The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) has been assisting its sister Organization, the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) in the control of Red Locust and Quelea birds on payment basis.

Between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, a DLCO-EA Aircraft was in Beira region in Mozambique, to control Quelea birds that were feeding on rice. In the operation, bird population estimated to be 5.1 million were killed on 360 ha of bush where they were roosting. A total of 310 liters of Queleatox were used.

This is not the first time DLCO-EA was involved in the control of cross-border pests outside its mandate. In 2011, DLCO-EA Aircraft spent 79.5 operational hours to control Red Locust in Tanzania on payment basis by IRLCO-CSA.

In 2010, DLCO-EA assisted IRLCO-CSA with spray aircraft for the control of Quelea birds in southern Mozambique.

During the early years of DLCO-EA, 1972/73, when there was an outbreak of Desert Locust in Arabian Peninsula it was the first time DLCO-EA Aircraft were sent to carry out control operation in Saudi Arabia and Yemen outside its mandated areas. The intervention was rated as successful and the outbreak was brought under control.

**DLCO-EA AIRCRAFT SITREP AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2012**

<b>A/C REG.</b>	<b>5Y-BCJ Beaver</b>	<b>5Y-BCK Beaver</b>	<b>5Y-BCL Beaver</b>	<b>5Y-KRD Beaver</b>	<b>5Y-DLA Caravan</b>	<b>5Y-DLO Baron</b>	<b>5Y-BBB Islander</b>	<b>5Y-DLD Turbo Beaver</b>
<b>C OF A DUE DATE</b>	15/04/2013	18/05/2013	<b>01/08/2012</b>	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>	20/02/2013	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>	01/05/2013
<b>CHECK III</b>	20/01/2014	10/06/2015	13/04/2013	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>	N/A	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>	15/07/2014	14/01/2014
<b>PROP. 5 YR OVERHAUL</b>	21/07/2014	17/11/2013	<b>19/12/2012</b>	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>	06/08/2013	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>	PORT:28/9/2014 STBD:28/9/2014	17/07/2012
<b>A/F HOURS</b>	129:20	36:50	116:30	154:35	1750:05	499:15	33:45	113:45
<b>ENGINE (S) HRS</b>	<b>993:40</b>	732:20	576:35	154:35	1578:25	PORT: 00:00 STBD: 00:00	<b>PORT: 1552:15</b> <b>STBD: 1552:15</b>	216:00
<b>PROP. HRS</b>	17:00	426:20	576:35	503:25	3182:35	PORT: 1346:25 STBD: 1278:05	PORT:212:05 STBD:212:05	216:00
<b>LOCATION</b>	NAIROBI STANDBY	NDOLA STANDBY	QUELEA MOSHI TANZANIA	UNDER ACCIDENT REPAIR	MWANZA UNHCR	NAIROBI MAINTENANCE	NAIROBI MAINTENANCE	STANDBY NAIROBI

**NB**



**IMMEDIATE ATTENTION**



**TO BE NOTED**

Prepared by:- Technical Records

Checked by:- Chief Engineer

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Training course on Desert Locust biology, identification, information collection and reporting is planned to be organized in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia and Hargeisa, Somaliland in **August, 2012** for International Non-Governmental Organizations personnel.
- 57<sup>th</sup> Regular Sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Executive Committee Members of DLCO-EA are planned to be held in Ethiopia in **September, 2012**.
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of DLCO-EA is planned to be commemorated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in **September, 2012**.

For more information you can contact:

**Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA)**

P.O. Box: 4255

Phone: +251-11-6461477

Fax: +251-11-6460296

E mail: [dlc@ethionet.et](mailto:dlc@ethionet.et)

Web: [www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)

**ADDIS ABABA**, Ethiopia