



DLCO-EA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Vol-2, No.1

March 2012

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50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF DLCO- EA

The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO – EA) is a Regional pest and vector management Organization established by an International Convention signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1962.

Its Member Countries are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The Headquarters of the Organization is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with

Control Reserve Bases (CRB) in each of the member countries.

DLCO-EA in the past five (5) decades has made the following significant breakthrough in its scientific approach to migrant pest and vector management:-

1. DLCO-EA, in collaboration with its Member Countries and Development Partners, successfully suppressed locust plagues in the region that were inflicting heavy losses to crops, pastures and posed danger on food security of the Member Countries.
2. Following the successful control operations of the Desert Locust plagues in the decades ending 1960s, DLCO-EA has pro-actively maintained the region in stable conditions and put the region free from any fear of locust plagues that might occur, without early detection and timely intervention.
3. DLCO-EA's successful suppression and control of the major locust upsurges/plagues in the main outbreak areas of Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti has kept Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda free from locusts for the past five (5) decades. This also meant saving millions of tones of food as well as foreign exchange that would have

been utilized by Member Countries for importing food in these countries.

4. DLCO-EA has also in collaboration with Member Countries, successfully managed to minimize the frequency of occurrence of major outbreaks of the migrant pests of Armyworm and Quelea birds.
5. The Organization has also played a great role in controlling Tsetse fly that has a great implication in the areas of human health and livestock development.
6. Besides, migrant pest control activities, DLCO-EA has and continued to actively participate in contract works at the request of member countries and other organizations for the control of cotton pests and mosquitoes as well as chartered services.
7. In order to improve the control operations, the organization developed a unique spray system called ULV sprayer for both ground and aerial use against locusts and other migratory pests. Several advances have since been made to the spray system in collaboration with Micronir Company UK. This has led to minimization of the pesticide used and thus reduces environmental pollution.

The Organization has survived for the last 50 years, yet other similar regional Organizations in Africa, have collapsed, due to lack of financial support from the Member Countries. For example, OCLALAV (Joint Locust and Bird Control Organization) based in Dakar,

Senegal (10 member countries), OICMA (International Organization against the African Migratory Locust), based in Bamako, Mali (16 countries), ceased to operate under the original mandates after surviving for 22 and 38 years, respectively.

In September 2012, DLCO-EA will commemorate 50 years of services to its Member Countries at its Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by organizing various events that will greatly reflect its success, challenges and future direction. The Major events for the commemoration will include panel discussions, photo and live material exhibitions, production of commemorative book, documentary film, press release in all Member Countries, presenting certificate of merit to long serving staff, among others.

One full day will be devoted for the commemoration that will involve Council of ministers, DLCO-EA Executive Committee members, DLCO-EA and Development Partners, etc.

A NEW PESTICIDE TO BE RECOMMENDED FOR QUELEA BIRD PEST MANAGEMENT IN EASTERN AFRICA

The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) in collaboration with Plant Protection Department (PPD) and Orion East Africa Ltd. both of Kenya has tested a new pesticide called Alphadime® 85% ULV for the control of Quelea bird infestation to cereal crops in Eastern Africa region.

Both laboratory and field trials were conducted on roosting populations located in Rift Valley Province, Kenya where *Quelea* devastates ripening wheat and sorghum crop which suffers the greatest loss.

The results of these trials have indicated that Alphasime achieved high mortality (70-90%) on adult *Quelea* populations. A report has been submitted to Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) Kenya for further action. It is hoped that should the pesticide be registered, it could replace Queleatox® and Cyanox® that are currently being phased out as *Quelea* control agents.

REVIEW OF MIGRATORY PEST SITUATION

JANUARY – MARCH, 2012

In the region, except in Uganda where moderate to heavy rains were reported, no significant rain fell during January – March, 2012. Consequently, dry conditions persisted in winter Desert Locust breeding areas along both sides of Red Sea Coast and Gulf of Aden. Nevertheless, vegetation continued to be green in Tokar Delta in Sudan and Tihama coast in Yemen.

DESERT LOCUST

A low number and scattered solitaries adults were present laying eggs on the southern coast in Sudan and on the central Red Sea coast in Yemen. No other Desert Locust

reports were received from the region during January – March 2012.

Facts:

A locust swarm can be small (\leq a half a hectare) or huge (more than 1000 km²). There could be 50-80 million locusts per km²

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

A swarm size of just a km² 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 generation (Symmons & Cressman, 1994)

GRAIN EATING BIRDS

The *Quelea* infestation season has commenced in the southern parts of Tanzania during March and the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and cooperatives had submitted a request to DLCO-EA for the deployment of a spray Aircraft.

Facts:

***Quelea quelea** birds can travel ~60 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

The region remained free from Armyworm outbreak, though monitoring of moths continued in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia. Quite a high number of moths (>200/trap) were caught in the monitoring traps in South Eastern Tanzania during first week of January, which was however not followed by armyworm outbreaks. In February moth activity was very low with few traps in Southern Highlands (Mbeya) and North East (Rombo) reporting few moth catches during 1st and 2nd week

EMERGENCY PEST CONTROL OPERATIONS

No aerial control operations were undertaken during the quarter since the migratory pest situation was calm in the region.

AIRCRAFT STATE AND MAINTENANCE CONDITION

In preparation for this year's request for deployment for pest control operations scheduled maintenance program and defects rectification work started in mid-December 2011 on three (3) aircraft positioned in Nairobi. The aircraft are in perfect condition and highly reliable for deployment following maintenance carried out as follows:

Aircraft available for deployment:

- 5Y – BCJ- This Aircraft had a recent check II inspection carried out and is ready for deployment
- 5Y – BCL- This Aircraft had check I inspection carried out,

certified and is ready now for deployment

- 5Y – DLD- This Aircraft had Check I inspection carried out, defects rectified and certified and was released for deployment

Two spray aircraft are still under major maintenance work order as follows:

1. 5Y-KRD had a major repair due to accident. Check III inspection was concluded successfully. Few spares on order which are not locally available in the market are waited
2. 5Y-BCK is undergoing check III that will be followed by C of A. The Aircraft will then be ready for deployment.

DLCO-EA AIRCRAFT SITREP AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2012

A/C REG.	5Y-BCJ Beaver	5Y-BCK Beaver	5Y-BCL Beaver	5Y-KRD Beaver	5Y-DLA Caravan	5Y-DLO Baron	5Y-BBB Islander	5Y-DLD Turbo Beaver
C OF A DUE DATE	IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS	01/08/2012	IN PROGRESS	20/02/2013	IN PROGRESS	23/06/2012	17/04/2012
CHECK III	20/01/2014	IN PROGRESS	13/04/2013	IN PROGRESS	N/A	IN PROGRESS	15/07/2014	14/01/2014
PROP. 5 YR OVERHAUL	21/07/2014	17/11/2013	19/12/2012	IN PROGRESS	06/08/2012	IN PROGRESS	PORT:28/9/2014 STBD:28/9/2014	17/07/2012
A/F HOURS	125:50	389:30	32.00	154:35	1599:50	499:15	22:55	104:30
ENGINE (S) HRS	986:00	694:25	491:55	154:35	1427:00	PORT: 00:00 STBD: 00:00	PORT: 1541:25 STBD: 1541:25	206:45
PROP. HRS	9:20	388:25	491:55	503:25	3031:10	PORT: 1346:25 STBD: 1278:05	PORT:201:15 STBD:201:15	206:45
LOCATION	NAIROBI MAINTENANCE	NAIROBI MAINTENANCE	STANDBY NAIROBI	UNDER ACCIDENT REPAIR	MWANZA UNHCR	NAIROBI MAINTENANCE	MWANZA UNHCR	STANDBY NAIROBI

NB



IMMEDIATE ATTENTION



TO BE NOTED

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