



DLCO-EA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Desert Locust swarm over Addis Ababa on 14th May, 2014

DESERT LOCUST SWARMS REACH ADDIS ABABA

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Historically Desert Locust invasions begin from neighboring Somalia and across the Arabian Peninsula in the east. For instance in the last three decades, there were about eight Desert Locust outbreaks and upsurges (1986, 1987, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2005, and 2007); almost these outbreaks started from Northwest Somalia.

Early March of 2014 numerous small swarms formed in Northern Somalia. Following the drying up of vegetation cover in Somalia, the first swarms migrated from Northwest Somalia to Ethiopia, where aerial control operation started using DLCO-EA spray aircraft.



DLCO-EA Aircraft ready for operation

During April - May, 2014, massive swarms of Desert Locust were observed in Eastern Ethiopia around Ayisha, Dire Dawa and Jijiga where a total of 28 Desert Locust measuring from 1 km² over 50 km² were successfully controlled. Few swarms managed to escape from the assault area, however. One of them, on 14 May 2014, composed of mature and maturing adults appeared over the Addis Ababa sky in after more than 50 years and created a lot of havoc to the city dwellers. Other escapees moved further towards west, northwest and eastern highlands to Oromia Amhara and Tigray Regions.



Desert Locust swarm in Eastern Ethiopia April, 2014

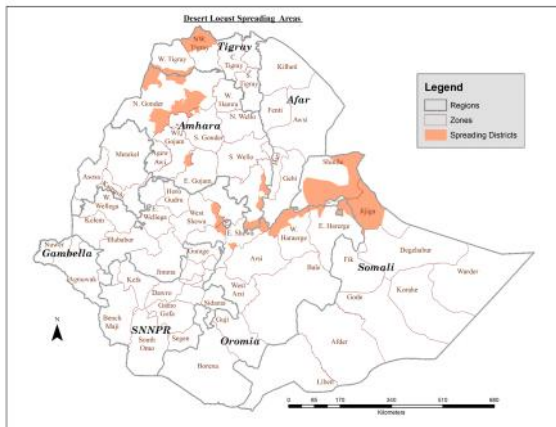


Desert locust Swarm resting on Vegetation in Eastern Ethiopia May, 2014

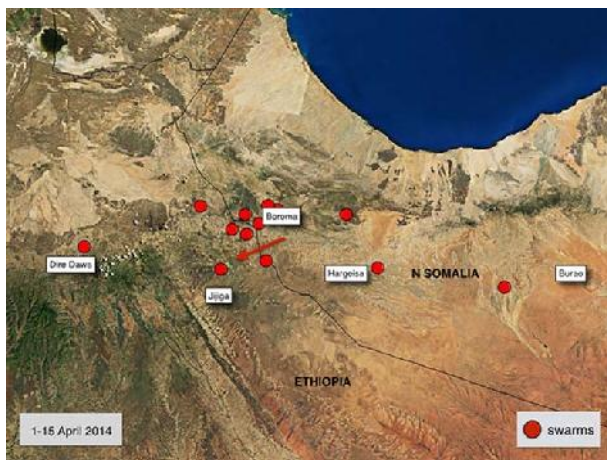
Although the extensive scale of the infestation and the mobile nature of the swarms over a difficult terrain made survey and control operations difficult, much effort was made by the Ministry of agriculture, Ethiopia, and DLCO-EA to bring the infestation under control, to reduce the potential egg laying population.

The swarms that escaped control, remnants from the uncontrolled ones and a possibility of swarms from across the Red Sea, poses a threat as locust breeding may occur in eastern Ethiopia which has been receiving rainfall, resulting in hatching and band formation in these areas.

Failure to control these resulting bands and the swarms that may move to the highlands during the main cropping season will allow further spread of Desert Locust to the summer breeding areas (Ogaden, Somalia Northeastern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia) and will affect crops and pasture in July and August.



The areas shaded are where the Desert Locust swarms migrated to from Somaliland reaching Tigray Region in May-June, 2014



Desert Locust swarm movement in April, 2014

MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION April - June, 2014

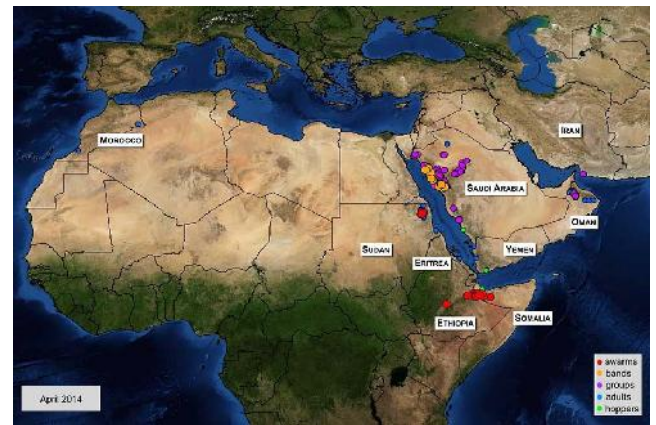
DESERT LOCUST:

April:

At least ten immature and mature swarms have been entered in eastern **Ethiopia** from adjacent areas of northwest **Somalia** on 5-10

April. The swarms were initially seen in Awbere District north of Jijiga and later spread to eight districts in the Somali region. The swarms varied in size from one to 20 sq. km. and are highly mobile.

In adjacent areas of northwest **Somalia**, there has been a decline in swarm reports compared to the last week of March. On 10 April, an immature swarm passed over Boroma and, two days later, a swarm was seen on the outskirts of the town.



May:

The Desert Locust situation improved along both sides of the Red Sea due to control operations and drying conditions in **Sudan**, **Eritrea**, **Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen**.

During April, adult groups moved into the interior of **Saudi Arabia**. in May. Several swarms moved from northwest **Somalia** into eastern **Ethiopia**.

Oman and southeast **Iran** caused small hopper groups to form. Pre-monsoon rains fell along both sides of the Indo-**Pakistan** border.

Unusually dry conditions prevailed in spring breeding areas of Northwest Africa. Consequently no significant developments are expected.

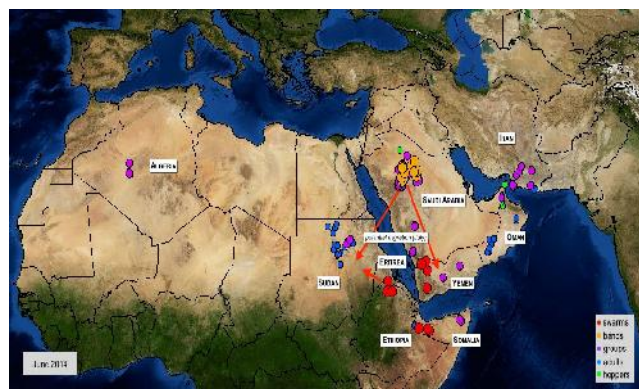
In May, there have been new reports of more hatching in northeast **Oman** near Ibri where hoppers are forming small groups.

Hopper infestations persist in a few places on the northwest coast in **Somalia**.



June:

Desert Locust infestations are present in the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. In **Oman**, local breeding came to an end in the northern interior where hopper groups and bands as well as groups of adults formed near the border f UAE. Some infestations appeared in farms along the border. Several immature and mature swarms were reported last month in eastern **Ethiopia** and in adjacent areas of the plateau in northern **Somalia**. Some of the swarms reached the central highlands north of Addis Ababa while other swarms moved east along the Somali plateau to northeast **Somalia**.



In northern **Sudan**, local breeding is in progress in irrigated cropping areas along the Nile Valley. Good rains fell in the eastern region that could lead to early summer breeding. There is a moderate risk of a few small swarms arriving from the interior of **Saudi Arabia** and perhaps from northern **Ethiopia** during June.

In South-West Asia, pre-monsoon rains fell in April and again in May along both sides of the **Indo-Pakistan** border that could allow breeding to occur earlier than normal.

In West Africa, early rains fell in parts of the summer breeding areas in the northern Sahel of **Mauritania**, **Mali** and **Niger**. Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly in these areas during the summer

Swarms in Yemen and Eritrea In the past few days, there have been new reports of a few swarms appearing in the highlands of **Yemen** and **Eritrea**.

In **Yemen**, immature swarms and adult groups were reported in and near Sana'a as well as in nearby districts. So far it has not been possible to carry out surveys to confirm the reports. The swarms probably escaped from spring breeding areas in the central interior of **Saudi Arabia** where aerial and ground control operations are in progress.

There is a moderate risk that a few more small swarms will move from **Saudi Arabia** to the summer breeding areas in the interior of **Yemen** and **Sudan** in July. Recently, there were reports of swarms or adult groups in the Asir Mountains near Taif, **Saudi Arabia**.

A few small swarms from eastern **Ethiopia** moved into the northern region of Tigray in June. At least one swarm crossed the border into the highlands of **Eritrea** south of Asmara at the end of the month, and it will probably continue to summer breeding areas in the western lowlands of **Eritrea** and adjacent areas of eastern **Sudan**. There is a moderate risk that a few more small swarms may arrive from northern **Ethiopia** where control operations are in progress. In northern **Sudan**, scattered adults and a few small groups of adults are present in cropping areas along the Nile Valley. Elsewhere, the situation remains calm. So far, very little rain has fallen in the summer breeding areas of the northern Sahel in West Africa and **Sudan**, and along both sides of the **Indo-Pakistan** border. Nevertheless, once rains fall in these areas, small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels during July.

Source: FAO DLIS

GRAIN EATING BIRDS (*Quelea quelea*):

During April - June, 2014 *Quelea* infestations were reported in Tanzania and Ethiopia.

DLCO-EA spray aircraft was deployed to Tanzania in mid-April for *Quelea* control operation which continued up to end week of June, 2014. About 150 million *Quelea* birds roosting on 1,503 ha of Acacia trees and sugarcane were controlled using 3,945 litres of Avicides. The birds were feeding on sorghum, rice and millet, in Bahi, Mvomero, Kongwa, Igunga, Ikungi, Singida, Mpwapwa,

Chamwino, Kishapu, Shinyanga, Nzega and Moshi Districts.

In Ethiopia, DLCO-EA Aircraft was deployed in Konso, Southern People Nation Nationalities Region to control *Quelea* infestations during June 2014. In total 25 million birds roosting on 1140ha of acacia and typha grass were controlled using 955 liters of Avicide

ARMYWORM (*Spodoptera exempta*):

The Armyworm situation in the Member Countries remained generally calm during reporting period. However, some trap stations in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions in Tanzania reported few moth catches during the last decade of April.

In Ethiopia moth catches in Pheromone traps were reported in different locations in the country in May. They resulted in small and localized armyworm outbreaks in Oromia Regional State which were controlled before they caused any damage to crops.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN DESERT LOCUST SURVEY AND CONTROL

1.0 Desert Locust Scouts and Village Elders Workshop:

Objectives:

The objective of this workshop was to establish the Community-based Desert Locust monitoring and reporting system in Ethiopia to facilitate early detection of gregarious desert Locust population.

Brief on the Workshop:

The Ministry of Agriculture Directorate of Plant Protection, in consultation with regional agricultural Bureaus selected 30 participants for the workshop. These were

locust scouts, village Elders and chief who they will work with in Desert Locust Monitoring and Reporting system. Their distribution was 6 from Oromia, 2 from Dire Dawa and 22 from Somali to attend the workshop. The workshop was held in Dire Dawa on April 1, 2014 and April 3, 2014 in Jijiga.

Some of the participants were not able to read and write, so the workshop was conducted using visual aids, flipcharts and discussions in order to enhance information exchange. The workshop was conducted in local language.

Workshop evaluation indicated that participants capacity to detect early stages of Desert Locust populations and report them has been enhanced



Group photo of Dire Dawa meeting of Elders and Chiefs



Group photo of Jijiga meeting of Elders and Chiefs

2.0 Training Course on Desert Locust biology, behavior, survey and Control

Objectives:

The objective of this training course was to increase the understanding of the participants the principles and practice of locust survey and control, so that they are able to plan and organize survey and control operations.

Brief on the Training:

The training course on Desert Locust biology, behavior, survey and control operations was organized by DLCO-EA and was funded by FAO/CRC. It was held in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia from 4th - 6th June, 2014, and was attended by 20 Plant Protection Experts from four Regional States of Somali, Oromia, Harari and Dire Dawa.

The course was conducted by making presentations, classroom discussions and field exercise on biology, behavior, survey and control of Desert Locust.

The participants showed a great improvement in their results. The improvement recorded ranges from 8-36% both in Survey and Control.

3.0 Regional workshops attended:

CRC/SWAC Inter Regional Workshop on the use and improvement eLocust3:

The FAO's Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) Western Region (CLCPRO), South West Asia (SWAC) and the Desert Locust Information Service (FAO-DLIS) organized an inter-regional Desert Locust Information Officer workshop for one nationally designated Locust Information Officers from each

frontline country during the period 19th - 23rd May, 2014, held in Agadir, Morocco.

The workshop objective was to strengthening the national early warning and reporting systems through informal discussions on the use and improvement of the various tools used by the National locust information officers in their daily work. The workshop also will be an ideal opportunity to review the functionality and operationally of the new version RAMSESV4 and elocust3.

The workshop was attended by DLCO-EA Chief Information and Forecasting Officer, Mr. Mehari Tesfayohannes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

59th Regular Sessions of DLCO-EA Council and Executive Committee:

Venue : Arusha, Tanzania

Date : 22nd - 26th September, 2014

DLCO-EA AIRCRAFT SITREP AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2014

| 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 | 15/04/2015 | 07/09/2014 | 20/11/2014 | IN PROGRESS | 19/02/2015 | IN PROGRESS | 24/11/2014 | 19/06/2015 |
| CHECK III | 05/04/2017 | 10/06/2015 | 21/08/2014 | IN PROGRESS | N/A | IN PROGRESS | 15/07/2014 | 02/03/2017 |
| PROP. 5 YR OVERHAUL | 28/07/2016 | 29/07/2016 | 10/02/2018 | IN PROGRESS | 28/05/2018 | IN PROGRESS | PORT:28/9/2014 STBD:28/9/2014 | 21/07/2017 |
| A/F HOURS | 64:25 | 433:10 | 396:40 | 154:35 | 2870:40 | 499:15 | 37:40 | 9:15 |
| ENGINE (S) HRS | 219:55 | 25:20 | 857:15 | 154:35 | 2708:00 | PORT: 00:00 STBD: 00:00 | PORT: 1556:10 STBD: 1556:10 | 341:20 |
| PROP. HRS | 64:25 | 147:35 | 276:05 | 503:25 | 609:30 | PORT: 1346:25 STBD: 1278:05 | PORT:216:00 STBD:216:00 | 124:45 |
| LOCATION | QUELEA TANZANIA | TREE LOCUST KENYA | TREE LOCUST KENYA | UNDER ACCIDENT REPAIR | MWANZA UNHCR | NAIROBI MAINTENANCE | STANDBY NAIROBI | LOCUST ETHIOPIA |

NB



IMMEDIATE ATTENTION



TO BE NOTED

Checked by:- CHIEF ENGINEER

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