DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA (DLCO-EA)

SITREP No. 10/2005-2006

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PEST SITUATION REPORTS FOR APRIL, 2006

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, light to moderate rains fell during the first decade of April over the Arabian Peninsula from the Red Sea coast of Yemen to the central interior of Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Rainfall was heaviest on the northern Tihama coast in Yemen and some flooding was reported between Al-Zuhra and the Saudi Arabian border. Light to moderate rain also fell at times during the first half of April in northern Oman, mainly along the Batinah coast and in the interior near UAE. *(FAO DL Bulletin No. 331)*

1.1 Sudan

Reports not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Weather

Several showers and persistent drizzles were reported in many parts of the highlands during the first two weeks of the month. In Hahale (1504N 3849 E) 15 mm of rain was recorded on 23/4/06. Coastal and sub coastal areas did not receive any rain. Prevailing wind direction was North-Easterlies at 7mt/sec.

Average High and low temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 35 and 26^{o}C, 35 and 26.5^{o}C respectively.

Vegetation

Due to short rains, which had started in early March, natural vegetation was greening on the highlands.

1.3 Ethiopia

Many parts of eastern Ethiopia received widespread rainfall during the month. The following rainfalls were recorded in DireDawa (0935N/4152E) and Harar (0936N/4150E) rainfall stations.

Date	DireDawa	Harar
01/04/2006	8.2mm	35.5mm
02/04/2006	48.9mm	38.5mm
03/04/2006	15.0	15.0
04/04/2006	0.4	22.5
05/04/2006	5.8	2.2
06/04/2006	31.5	6.0

07/04/2006	3.1	6.0
08/04/2006	9.5	53.0
09/04/2006	12.8	Nil
10/04/2006	5.4	Nil
18/04/2006	0.5	Nil
19/04/2006	10.7	Nil
29/04/2006	8.1	Nil
30/04/2006	3.6	Nil
TOTAL	**163.5**mm	**178.7** mm

Vegetation was reported green in all areas that had received rainfall.

1.4 Djibouti

During the first and the second decade of the month, there was unrecorded rainfall received on all parts of the country, particularly the western part bordering Ethiopia. Some places experienced sunny weather conditions and estimated minimum and maximum temperature were 32^0C and 38^0C respectively.
Vegetation in some places was reported green while along the coast it was dry.

1.5 Somalia

The western part and the northeastern coast had received light to medium rainfalls during the month.

1.6 Tanzania

Report not received.

1.7 Kenya

Different parts of the country received medium to heavy shower rainfalls.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Sudan

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the Red Sea coast in Tokar Delta in April *(FAO DL Bulletin No. 331)*

2.2 Eritrea

No desert locust infestation was reported. Meanwhile, in many Wadis to the north of Massawa, scattered Desert Locust adults were observed and flushed out.

2.3 Ethiopia

No Desert Locusts were reported.

2.4 Djibouti

Unconfirmed reports indicated that solitary Desert Locusts were seen in some parts of the country, but the report didn't specify exact location of the observation.

2.5 Somalia

No Desert Locusts were reported.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 331)*

2.7.1 Other Central Region countries

No locusts were reported during April in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman and Egypt but there is a possibility of low numbers of solitarious adults on the Red Sea coastal plains in Yemen. As good rains fell on the southwestern Arabian Peninsula, small-scale breeding could occur on the coast near the Yemen/Saudi Arabia border.

2.7.2 Western and Eastern regions

Isolated solitarious adults were maturing in northern Mauritania during April, and small-scale breeding continued in small area in the northwest. The situation may be similar in adjacent areas of Western Sahara. Small-scale breeding was progressing in a limited area along the Algerian border in Morocco where hatching is likely in early May, giving rise to low numbers of solitarious hoppers that should fledge and become adults by mid-June. Local breeding also occurred in the eastern Sahara in Algeria where ground teams treated 20ha of hoppers. A few isolated individual solitarious adults were reported on the Tamesna Plains in northeast Mali. Similar populations could be present in the Air Mountains in Niger.
No locusts were reported during April in the Eastern Region countries.

3. Forecast until mid-June 2006 (extracted from *FAO DL Bulletin No. 331*)

3.1 Sudan

Isolated adults may start to appear in few places in the summer breeding areas at the end of the forecast period.

3.2 Eritrea

Isolated locusts may be present and breeding in a few places on the central coast near Massawa where rain fell in April.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Somalia

Isolated adults may be present in a few places on the northwest coast between Djibouti and Berbera.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestation.

4 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds *(Quelea quelea sp.)*

4.1.2 Tanzania

A DLCO-EA Aircraft had started Quelea control operation in Dodoma Region. Meanwhile, detail of the report is not received.

4.1.3 Other member countries remained free from Quelea birds infestation.

4.2 African Armyworm *(Spodoptera exempta)*

4.2.1 Tanzania

Outbreak and control operations had continued during the month. Meanwhile, details of the report is not received.

4.2.2 Kenya

Armyworm outbreak with solitarious character was reported in Malindi district in the Coast Region on 20/04/2006. 25ha of Maize crop and 5ha of pasture was infested with 2nd and 3rd instars. Ground control operation using Knapsack sprayers had been initiated and 6liters of Pesthion was sprayed.

More regions had serious outbreaks and infestation during April, meanwhile detail of the report was not received during the reporting period.

4.2.3 Other member countries did not report Armyworm infestation.

Forecast until end of May

Tanzania
Armyworm season ends, but some light outbreaks might occur in the northern regions affecting crops and pasture during the forecasted month.

Kenya
Weather and ecological conditions are favorable for more Armyworm outbreaks during the month. There is high probability of 2nd generation outbreaks to occur on the coastal, northern, central highlands and eastern midlands of Kenya.

Ethiopia
There is a high probability of moth migration and outbreak to occur in the southern and the Rift Valley zones of the country. Monitoring, early detection and control intervention could minimize further breeding and migrations.

4.3 Red Locust *(Nomadacris septemfasciata)*

4.3.1 Tanzania

Control operation continued during April, but report not received.

SIFO

For Director,
5th May, 2006