

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

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SITREP No. 06/2006-2007

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT
FOR DECEMBER, 2006

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the **Central Region**, light to moderate showers fell during December in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. Most days were cloudy on the northern and central Red Sea coastal plains of Eritrea and light to moderate rain fell at times. Rain also fell on the eastern escarpments causing runoffs to occur in most of the Wadis on the coast. Consequently, much of the coastal plains contained large expanses of green vegetation, mainly near Shelshela, Shieb and Mehimet, and conditions were favourable for breeding. On the eastern side of the Red Sea, light to moderate rains fell at times along parts of the coast from Jizan, Saudi Arabia and to the Gulf of Aden in Yemen. Vegetation was becoming green or was already green along most of the Tihama coast in Yemen but it was drier along the Gulf of Aden. Good rains fell in northern Oman on 2-3 December, extending from the Wahiba Sands and Sharqiya to the Batinah coast. Good rains also fell at times over the Persian Gulf affecting mainly Qatar and UAE but these are not expected to have an impact on Desert Locust. In northern Somalia, breeding conditions improved along the northwestern coastal plains due to good rains in late November and early December. Light rain also fell on the coast of Djibouti during two days in December. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 339*)

1.1 Djibouti

The country received sporadic rains during the month. Vegetation was observed green in some parts of the country.

1.2 Eritrea

In general, the rainfall situation on the eastern lowlands was good during the month, where most of the areas had received moderate rainfall and relatively heavy floods from the escarpment. To the north and south of the Port City of Massawa, several heavy rainfalls occurred but went unrecorded due to remoteness of the areas.

Two major rainfalls were reported and recorded; 126mm in Ghinda during 1st to 3rd December and 40mm rainfall in Massawa on 6th December. Dense and green crops and other vegetation were reported on the coastal

Wadis

and plains to the North & South of Massawa

1.3 Ethiopia

Mostly, sunny and dry weather conditions prevailed in DireDawa and surrounding areas. However, during the second week of the month, light to moderate rain fell in several parts of the country.

Vegetation was generally drying out.

1.4 Somalia

Weather and ecological conditions were improving due to some good rains, which fell along the northwestern coastal plains.

1.5 Sudan

Weather & ecological conditions report not received.

1.6 Tanzania

The short rains continued heavily over Lake zone, Southern, Eastern, Coastal and the Northern regions, while moderate rains fell in the Central and Western regions.

1.7 Uganda

Weather & ecological conditions report not received.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Djibouti

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.2 Eritrea

During December, local Desert Locust outbreak has been reported and controlled by the MoA staff & farmers in the eastern lowlands and coastal plains of the country.

The infestation and distribution of the locusts included most of the winter breeding areas from Thio (south) up to Karura (north) bordering Sudan. The area, which was under infestation of solitary adults and transient

hoppers of all developmental stages where control operation undergone included, Shelshela 1548N 3912E, Shieb 1553N 3858E, Shebah 1540N 3901E and Meleet.

During 9th-27th of December, a total of 11,418ha was treated with 5718ltrs of Malathion 96%ULV, Chloropyrifos 240ULV, Fenitrothion 45%ULV and Fenpropratin 10%EC.

By the end of the month, locust density was observed low at 2-5locust/100m of foot transect and were found copulating and laying eggs.

2.3 Ethiopia

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.4 Somalia

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.5 Sudan

During the month, scattered immature and mature adults persisted on the Red Sea coastal plains in the Tokar Delta at densities of 50-200 adults/ha. Small-scale breeding occurred and isolated third and fourth instar hoppers were present in one area of Tokar in the first week of the month. Isolated solitarious mature adults were also seen at one place near Suakin (1908N/3717E) at mid-month. No locusts were seen during surveys carried on the northern coast or in Wadi Diib. Elsewhere, scattered maturing adults were seen west of the Red Sea Hills at two places along the Atbara River on 1 December near 1721N/3430E. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 339*)

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions (*extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 339*)

Central Region: Apart from the local outbreak that was reported in Eritrea, scattered adults were present along the Red Sea coastal plains in Sudan, southeast Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen as well as in northern Somalia.

Western Region: There was a steady decline in locust populations during December in previously infested areas in northwest Mauritania and Western Sahara. Ground control operations were conducted against small hopper bands, treating 20 ha in Mauritania and 770 ha in Western Sahara. Control teams also treated about 1,000 ha of locust concentrations in one area of northern Mali. In Niger, solitarious and *transiens* hoppers and adults formed small groups in Tamesna where ground control teams treated more than 1,800 ha. As vegetation is drying out and there was no significant rain during December, another generation of breeding is unlikely to occur and, instead, only low numbers of adults are expected to persist in the above-mentioned areas. Some of these adults could move north towards the Draa Valley in Morocco, to northern Mauritania and to southern Algeria during periods of warm southerly winds.

Eastern Region: Low numbers of solitarious adults persisted in a few places in Rajasthan, India during December. Good rains fell in the spring breeding areas of Baluchistan in southeast Iran and western Pakistan where small-scale breeding could start by the end of the forecast period.

3.0 Forecast until mid-February 2007 (*Forecast from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 339 is sighted*)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

A second generation of breeding will occur on the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and the Sudanese border, causing locusts to increase in number, gregarize and form small groups, bands and perhaps a few swarmlets. Small-scale breeding is also expected to occur on the southern coastal plains near Tio with hatching in January. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely and undertake the necessary control operations.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of locusts will persist along the northwest coast and perhaps on the escarpment. Small-scale breeding is expected to occur in areas of recent rainfall.

3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will increase slightly as small-scale breeding continues along the Red Sea coastal plains and in Wadi Oko/Diib. Fledgling should commence by the beginning of the forecast period.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestation.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Small outbreaks were reported in six villages in Dodoma central Part of the country but damage on crops had not been confirmed. Moth Trap catches continued to be high in Central and Southern regions i.e. Dodoma, Morogoro, Mbeya and Mtwara.

SIFO
For Director,
9th January, 2007