

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

SITREP No. 08/2005-2006

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

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the Central Region, dry weather prevailed during the first three weeks of February in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea except for light rains in Tokar Delta, Sudan. During the last week of February, good rains fell in coastal areas of Yemen (the Red Sea Tihama and near Aden), in the spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia and in northern Oman. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 329*)

1.1 Sudan

Light rain fell in Tokar Delta. Vegetation was drying out in the northern interior along Wadi Diib but remained green in Tokar Delta and in few places along the central coast. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 329*)

1.2 Eritrea

There was no significant rainfall recorded in the highlands and western lowlands. The eastern escarpment received some drizzle here and there along the Asmara-Massawa road during the third week of the month. On 27th of February, Massawa and surroundings, specifically the northern areas received sporadic showers, but no record had been given by Meteorology or Plant Protection Departments.

Average high and low temperatures for Assab were 29⁰C and 23⁰C, for Massawa high and low temperatures were 32⁰C and 24⁰C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was south-easterly at 10meters/second.

Vegetation in the high and western lowlands remained dry. In the east, large flood fed Wadis were green and smaller Wadis and coastal plains remained dry.

1.3 Ethiopia

Dry and sunny weather condition prevailed in the eastern parts of the country. However, DireDawa (0935N/4152E) and Harar (0936N/4150E) received light rainfall during the second half of the month. Vegetation was dry.

1.4 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.5 Somalia

Vegetation on the northern coastal plains was green due to some recent rainfalls. Soil in some locations was wet but generally, the escarpment was dry.

1.6 Tanzania

Most parts of the country received moderate to heavy rainfalls from the seasonal long rains.

1.7 Kenya

The month of February remained dry with extremes of high temperatures. The country experienced some rainfalls as from 26 February, which may mark the beginning of the long rain season.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Sudan

Scattered adults up to 800 adults/ha persisted in the Tokar Delta where they continue to mature. Low numbers of adults were also present in few places along the coast between Tokar (1827N/3741E) and Suakin (1908N/3717E). No locusts were seen further north in the interior along Wadi Diib up to 12 February. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 329*)

2.2 Eritrea

The Plant Protection unit of the MoA carried out desert Locust survey from 29/01/06-09/02/06. The survey covered locust breeding places along the Red Sea coast from Karura, north of Massawa (1740'25"N, 3822'27"E) up-to Tio, South of Massawa (1441'08"N, 4057'36"E). The Desert Locust situation in the surveyed areas remained calm and no locust has been observed. Vegetation on the surveyed areas were dry and drying-out except in Drbabu (1655N3857E), Embremi (1643N3904E), Marsa Ebrahim (1636N3904E) where medium vegetation cover occurred, in Wadi areas and croplands where crops were observed greening and Green,

2.3 Ethiopia

Desert Locusts were not reported and survey was not conducted.

2.4 Djibouti

Report not received.

2.5 Somalia

During the period 16 – 22 /02/2006 survey of desert locust breeding areas was conducted on the coastal plains and on the escarpment of Awdel region (Borama), and Marodi jeh (Hargeisa). Solitary adults were seen in Adawadir (110842N432848E), Banawl (103752N435626E), Asiado (111045N432431E), Warabod (111332N431833E) and Eilacheley (101540N440513E).

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions (extracted from *FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 329*)

2.7.1 Other Central Region countries

No locusts were reported during February in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman but, smaller populations were present near Lake Nasser in Egypt.

2.7.2 Western and Eastern regions

There was a slight increase in solitarious locust adults in northwest and northern Mauritania during February, and localized breeding was reported at one location near Nouadhibou (2054N/1701E). Scattered adults were present at one location in southwest Libya.

No locusts were reported during February in the Eastern Region countries.

3. Forecast until mid-April 2006 (extracted from *FAO DL Bulletin No. 329*)

3.1 Sudan

Unless further rainfall occurs, breeding should come to an end along the Red Sea coastal plains and only low numbers of solitarious adults are expected to remain in the Tokar Delta.

3.2 Eritrea

Scattered locusts may be present and could breed on a limited basis in few

places that remain green on the Red Sea coastal plains north of Massawa.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Somalia

Isolated adults will persist on the northwest coast between Djibouti and Berbera and could breed on a limited scale in areas of recent rainfall.

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.*)

4.1.1 Kenya

Outbreaks of Quelea birds were reported in the Rift-Valley Province in Laikipia District, where the birds were damaging Wheat and Sorghum. 4.8 million birds were controlled in the area. One roost had been controlled by aerial spray using private Aircraft, two roosts by ground spray and one by blasting.

4.1.2 Other member countries remained free from Quelea birds infestation

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

There were very heavy and widespread armyworm outbreaks in almost all Southern, Central and some of the Northern region districts of the country. The invasion has been termed as very heavy and the MoA has estimated that the worms have invaded more than 100,000ha of crop and the infestation is set to worsen as the rains continue to fall in some parts of the country. Control of the infestation continued and the farmers undertook most of the operation.

The following are the regions and districts, which were affected by the worms.

Southern Zone

In Mtwara, Lindi, Mbeya, and Ruvuma regions, the worms destroyed a total of 75,000ha of cereal crops. Districts heavily affected included Masasi, Newala, Mtwara, Mbeya, Lindi, Iringa and Tandalimba.

Central Zone

Dodoma and Singida regions were mostly affected by the heavy invasions. The worms destroyed a total of 25,000ha of Sorghum and Maize crops. In Morogoro region Kilosa district, the worms invaded 4270ha of Rice and Sorghum.

Northern Zone

In Manyara region, the worms wiped out a total of 3341ha of Rice, Millet Sorghum and Wheat crops. District affected included; Babati, Mondul and Manyara.

4.2.2 Other member countries remained free from Armyworm infestation.

Forecast until the end of March

Tanzania

Armyworm outbreaks are expected to continue in many regions, appear further north affecting crops and pasture during the forecasted month.

Kenya

Due to the onset of the main rain season, there is a high probability of some Armyworm moths from the current infestations in Tanzania to migrate further north reaching the southern parts, central and coastal areas of Kenya. Consequently, mechanisms for early detection and control interventions have to be set.

Breeding and migration depends on the current control intervention in Tanzania.

SIFO
For Director,
3rd March, 2006