

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

SITREP No. 07/2005-2006

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

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the Central Region, very little rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea except in southeast Egypt where good rains fell during the first decade along the coast and in sub-coastal areas between Shalatyn and the Sudanese border. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 328*).

1.1 Sudan

Light rain fell on the 21st of the month in a few places on the coast. Ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding mainly in the Tokar Delta and in small areas south of Tokar to Mahmimet in northern Eritrea (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 328*).

1.2 Eritrea

During the month of January, no significant rainfall was recorded in the highlands and western lowlands. Some showers were reported in the northern Red Sea coast north of Massawa.

The following Rainfall was recorded and obtained from meteorological office;

Massawa (1540N 3825E)	15/01/2006	1.0mm
	29/01/2006	6.0mm

There were some reported rains north of 1700N up to Wadi Rehib, Mahmimet 1740N 3832E areas however, no record of such rains were given.

Average high and low temperatures for Assab were 28⁰C and 24⁰C, for Massawa high and low temperatures were 31⁰C and 22⁰C respectively.

Prevailing wind direction was south-easterly at 8.5meters/second.

1.3 Ethiopia

On 21st of the month, Diredawa and Harar received medium rainfall. During the month of January, the eastern part of the country remained and was dominated by sunny weather conditions except of 17.01.2006 where medium rainfall was reported in some areas.

Cloud cover was observed decreasing towards the end of the month. Vegetation in some areas was green but soil was dry.

1.4 Djibouti

During the 3rd decade of January, light to medium rain fell on the southern coast of the country bordering Somalia.

1.5 Somalia

On 20-21 of January, light rain fell on the plateau in northwest part of the country.

1.6 Tanzania

Most parts of the country particularly the Southern Highlands the Lake Zone, parts of the Coastal belt and the Northern Highlands received moderate to heavy rains while the Central Zone received light rains.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Sudan

Scattered solitarious fourth and fifth instar hoppers and immature adults at densities up to 750 adults/ha persisted at several places in the Tokar Delta on the Red Sea coast. Further north in the interior near the Egyptian border, isolated solitarious mature adults were seen at one place in the Nubian Desert about 75km west of Wadi Diib on the 25th. No locusts were seen elsewhere on the Red Sea coastal plains between Tokar and Port Sudan or along Wadi Diib. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 328*)

2.2 Eritrea

No Desert Locust infestation was reported. Scattered Desert Locust solitarious adults were flashed in Wadis north of Massawa including Wadi Wachiro (1546N 3914E) and Wadi Wadilo (1550N 3924E).

2.3 Ethiopia

Dire-Dawa Agriculture Office staff carried out Desert Locust surveys at Alitigre (094046N 412231E), Megala Adi (093516N 413352E), Hurso (093635N 413838E), Bila (093153N 412456E), Kenteras (093200N 412402E), Erer (093318N 412302E), Idora (095116N 412215E) and Asbuli (095844N 410959E).

Desert Locusts were not found during the surveys and no report was received from other regions.

2.4 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.5 **Somalia**

Locust report not received.

2.6 **Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda**

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 **Other Regions** (extracted from *FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 328*)

2.7.1 **Other Central Region countries**

No locusts were reported during January in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman and other central region countries.

2.7.2 **Western and Eastern regions**

Small-scale breeding continued during January in western and central **Mauritania** where low numbers of late instar hoppers and adults were present. Ground control operations treated less than 100ha. Only scattered adults were reported in northern Mauritania and similar populations are likely to be present in adjacent areas of Western Sahara where good rains fell at times during January. Limited breeding also occurred in Tamesna, Niger where low numbers of hoppers and adults were reported. A few adults may be present in parts of northern Mali. Small residual populations are likely to remain in these countries during the winter if ecological conditions remain favorable.

No locusts were reported during January in Eastern Region countries.

3. **Forecast until mid-March 2006** (extracted from *FAO DL Bulletin No. 328*)

3.1 **Sudan**

Small-scale breeding is likely to continue during February in the Tokar Delta and locust numbers may increase slightly. By the end of the forecast period, breeding should come to an end as vegetation dries out and temperature increases.

3.2 **Eritrea**

Scattered locusts may be present and breeding on a Small-scale continued on the Red Sea coastal plains near Mahmimet and Shelshela. If so, breeding could continue during February and locust numbers may increase slightly. By the end of the forecast period, breeding should come to an end as vegetation dries out and temperature increases.

3.3 **Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Djibouti

A few isolated adults could appear on the coastal plains between the capital and the Somali border.

3.5 Somalia

Isolated adults may be present on the northwest coast between Djibouti and Berbera and could breed on a limited scale if rainfall occurs.

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 Member countries remained free from Quelea infestation during January.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Late report

During January, very serious Armyworm infestations were reported in Iringa, Mbeya, Lindi and Mtwara regions in the southern parts of the country.

Iringa Region:

Armyworm infestations destroyed 25ha of Maize with an unspecified hectare of Maize and pastureland also attacked in Mufindi and Njombe Districts.

Mbeya Region:

905ha of Paddy and 250ha of Maize were completely eaten by the worms. In Rungwe and Mbarali districts, the worms destroyed 273ha and 200ha of Paddy respectively. They also attacked 98ha of Maize in Mbarali. There were confirmed outbreaks in Chunya and Mbozi districts.

Lindi Region:

200ha of Maize and Sorghum together with several hectares of pastureland were destroyed with the worms.

Mtwara Region:

Infestations were reported in Masasi, Tandahimba and Newala districts where more than 150ha of cropland were attacked.

First Armyworm outbreak reports were also received from Dodoma (central Tanzania) and Morogoro Regions where 44ha of Maize were wiped out by the worms in Kilombero district.

4.2.2 Other member countries remained free from Armyworm infestation.

Forecast during February

Secondary Armyworm outbreaks are expected in Mtwara, Lindi, Ruvuma Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro and Dodoma Regions during the month.

Some Armyworm moths from the current infestations in Tanzania are likely to migrate further north to the northern parts of Tanzania reaching the southern parts, central and coastal areas of Kenya. Consequently, Armyworm moth traps should be setup in Armyworm breeding areas and carefully assessed for early detection and control interventions.

4.3 Tree Locusts (*Anacridium spp.*)

4.3.1 Ethiopia

Copulating mature tree locusts at a density of 10 individuals/ bush, which were covering 30ha had been observed during a survey at Alitigre (094046N 412231E). Vegetation in the area was green.

SIFO

**For Director,
3rd February 2006**