

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

SITREP No. 09/2005-2006

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

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the Central Region, good rains fell in parts of the Arabian Peninsula at the end of March. Heavy rain was reported in the spring breeding areas in central Saudi Arabia at Gassim, Hail and Riyadh, moderate to heavy rains fell in the Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwah regions in interior Yemen, and light rain fell on the edge of the Empty Quarter near Sharurah, Saudi Arabia. Lighter rain fell at mid-March along parts of the Red Sea coast in Yemen and perhaps in Eritrea between Massawa and Tio. Ecological conditions were improving in the interior of Saudi Arabia but vegetation was drying out on the coastal plains on both sides of the Red Sea. In Djibouti, vegetation was becoming green along the coast between Tadjourah and Obock, and in northern Oman along the Batinah coast. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 330*)

1.1 Sudan

Reports not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During the month of March, short rains started to fall on the highlands in a form of showers and drizzles. On 12-3-06, the following locations had recorded rainfall data:

Halhale (1504N 3849E)	20 mm
Segheneiti (1503N 3812E)	14 mm
Asmara (1520 N 3855E)	10 mm

On 13-3-06 Massawa (1540 N 3825E) recorded 10 mm of rainfall. On 18-3-06, heavy rain with hailstorms fell over a large area around Serejeka (1522 N 3857E). High and lows temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 34⁰C and 25⁰C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was Northeasterly at 07 meter/sec.

Vegetation on the highlands and Western lowlands was reported dry. The escarpment was partly green while coastal area was dry.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the first and second week of the month, dry and sunny weather condition prevailed in the eastern parts of the country. However, during

the third week, moderate seasonal rains started to fall on the eastern and southeastern parts of the country. Some rainfall data was recorded in DireDawa (0935N/4152E) and Harar (0936N/4150E) but details are not submitted.

Vegetation is greening.

1.4 Djibouti

During the month, there was no rain received and vegetation in many areas was drying out. Based on satellite images, vegetation was becoming green along the coast between Tadjourah and Obock

1.5 Somalia

Report not received.

1.6 Tanzania

The long rains continued heavily in the coastal belt and the Northern regions of the country while the southern and central regions received moderate rains. The Lake Zone received light to moderate showers.

1.7 Kenya

Different parts of the country received some shower rainfalls.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Sudan

Solitarious adults persisted and continued to mature in the Tokar Delta but locust numbers were much lower than February. By the end of the month, only isolated adults remained in a few places in Tokar and no further adults were seen elsewhere along the Red Sea coastal plains. No locusts were seen further north along the Egyptian border or in Wadi Diib during a joint survey with Egypt. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 330*)

2.2 Eritrea

One immature female with gregarious pigmentation was caught in Asmara. This might indicate a presence of swarm-lets with transient gregarious phase and brought up by prevailing winds. Meanwhile, no surveys were carried out and no other locust reports had been received.

2.3 Ethiopia

Desert Locusts were not reported during the month and seen during surveys, which was carried out on 16-17 March in the Somali region.

2.4 Djibouti

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.5 Somalia

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions (extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 330)

2.7.1 Other Central Region countries

No locusts were reported during March in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman and Egypt and no significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

2.7.2 Western and Eastern regions

Scattered adults were maturing in northwest and northern Mauritania during March, and small-scale breeding could occur in April and extend to the north if ecological conditions remain favorable but locust numbers are expected to remain low. Isolated adults were present in southern Western Sahara and in southwest Morocco where breeding may take place in the coming weeks. Ground control teams treated 30ha of copulating adults in eastern Algeria and 150ha of solitarious and transiens adults that were forming a few small groups and laying eggs in southwest Libya. Limited breeding could continue in a few places of both countries during the forecast period. Isolated adults may be present in few places in northern Mali and Niger.

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

3. Forecast until mid-May 2006 (extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 330)

3.1 Sudan

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Isolated locusts may be present in a 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 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.*)

4.1.1 Kenya

Outbreaks of Quelea birds were reported in Kirinyaga, Kisumu and Nyando districts.

Kirinyaga:

Three roosts were located. One with a bird population of 6.5 million was controlled using DLCO-EA Aircraft and mortality was estimated 97%. The two roosts were suitable for vehicle mounted ground spray due to their proximity to human dwelling. The estimated population was about 700,000 birds.

Kisumu and Nyando

Four roosts with estimated bird population of 3.5 million were controlled using DLCO-EA Aircraft and mortality was estimated 90%.

4.1.2 Tanzania

The *Quelea quelea* season started in March with outbreaks reported in central regions (Dodoma and Singida).

A DLCO-EA Aircraft was deployed for the control in Dodoma on 30 of March

and has sprayed 2 roosts of 3.5 million birds on 10ha of Acacia trees.
 Chemical used was 100ltrs of Queletox.
 The Aircraft has moved to Singida where there are six (6) reported outbreaks with three (3) confirmed.

4.1.3 Other member countries remained free from Quelea birds infestation.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

The outbreaks have moved in March into Manyara, Arusha and Kilimanjaro in the Northern Zone.

Arusha:

A total of 625ha of Maize and pasture were destroyed in Arumeru district.

Manyara

Crops in 10 villages were attacked, with a total of 451ha of Maize completely wiped out.

Kilimanjaro:

In Same district a total of 1041ha of Maize and pasture were attacked.

4.2.2 Kenya

During the third decade of the month, Armyworm outbreaks have been reported in different provinces/districts of the country and were submitted as follows;

<u>Location</u>	<u>ha infested</u>	<u>crop/pasture</u>	<u>density/m2</u>	<u>control</u>
<u>Kwale</u>	80	pasture	30	24 ltrs
<u>Decis</u>				
<u>Taita-Taveta</u>				
Mwatate	400	Maize	100	90ltrs
	1500	Pasture		
Wundanyi	70	Maize	100	40ltrs
	30	pasture		
	20	others		
Taveta	350	Maize	100	54ltrs
	480	pasture		

Areas in Suba and Migori districts were also infested by the worms and detailed report was not submitted during the reporting period..

4.2.3 Other member countries remained free from Armyworm infestation.

Forecast until end of April

Tanzania

Armyworm season ends, but some heavy outbreaks are expected to continue 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 outbreaks occurring on the coastal, central highlands and eastern midlands. Monitoring, early detection and control intervention could minimize further breeding and migrations.

Breeding and migration depends on the current control intervention of the infested area.

4.3 Red Locust

4.3.1 Tanzania

Between 24th of March and 2nd of April, a DLCO-EA Aircraft 5Y-BCK sprayed Red Locust infestations in Mpanda area. It controlled 2200ha of infestation using 1000ltrs of Fenitrothion with a spraying time of 10 hours and 20minutes.

SIFO

**For Director,
7th April, 2006**