

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

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

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the **Central Region**, vegetation continued to dry out in the summer breeding areas and the ITCZ retreated southwards. In the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, good rains fell at times along the coast between Massawa, Eritrea and Abu Ramad, Egypt. The rainfall was extended across the Red Sea to the central and southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia (Yanbu, 45mm). Rainfall was primarily concentrated near the Sudan/Eritrea border and on the coast between Port Sudan and the Egyptian border. Locust breeding conditions are expected to improve on both sides of the Red coast during the forecast period. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 337*)

1.1 Djibouti

During the last days of the month, good rains had fallen all over the country. However, vegetation was dry.

1.2 Eritrea

Light rainfalls were recorded on the highlands and some heavy showers and drizzles were received along the Asmara/Massawa road, where heavy rain occurred from Ghinda(1526N/3910E) to Massawa along 48Km stretch with heavy flood poured down into Wadi Emberemi(1540N/3929E) and Wadi Wachiro(1546N 3914E). On the 28th-29th, widespread rains fell in Sheib, 57mm and good rainfalls were observed occasionally between Massawa and Karora to the north.

The following rainfall record was obtained from Meteorological Office.

Locality	Rainfall (mm)	Date of rain
Keren (1540/3826)	2	2/10/06
Arreza (1455/3835)	2	2/10/06
Mendefera (1500/3850)	13	29/10/06

Asmara (1520/3858)	08	29/10/06
Massawa (1540/3825)	05	29/10/06

Vegetation on the highlands and western lowlands were green with mature crops near harvest, with about 40% already harvested. Natural vegetation was green. Vegetation on the eastern escarpment was green due to floods from the highland that occurred during September. Coastal and sub-coastal Wadis were observed green and wet with sorghum crops growing and tufts of natural vegetation growing along the sides of the Wadis. Prevailing wind direction was Southeasterly at 10mts/sec

1.3 Ethiopia

During most days of the month, sunny and dry weather conditions prevailed in eastern and southeastern parts of the country. However, during the 3rd decade of the month, heavy rainfall that caused flooding and damage to human, animals and properties was reported along the Wabi-Shebele River and its tributaries in the southeastern parts of the country. The average maximum and minimum temperature recorded in Dire-Dawa was 34⁰C and 18⁰c respectively. In Dire Dawa(0935/0412) on 12th, 23rd and 28th of October 1.3mm, 3.0mm and 9.0mm of rainfall was recorded respectively.

Vegetation was observed green while soil was dry during the month.

1.4 Somalia

During the third decade of the month, light rain fell along the coast and the escarpment in northwest and heavy floods were reported in the southern parts of the country.

1.5 Sudan

Widespread rainfalls were reported on the coast between Port-Sudan and the Egyptian border. By the end of the month, 24mm of rainfall was recorded in Port-Sudan. Rains also fell on the western side of the Red Sea Hills. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 337*).

Vegetation continued to dry out in the summer breeding areas and ecological conditions were improving in winter breeding areas.

1.6 Tanzania

The short rains started over most parts of the country towards the end of the month. Moderate to heavy rains fell in the Southern Zone, light and

scattered showers were experienced in the Central, Western and Eastern regions of the country. Heavy rains fell in the Coastal parts of the country i.e. Dar es Salaam and Coast Regions.

1.7 Uganda

Rainfall showers and thunderstorms had been experienced across most parts of the country.

Vegetation remained green across most parts of the country.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Djibouti

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.2 Eritrea

One Immature female solitary desert locust was caught inside the Base Office in Asmara on 24th October. No other desert locust information was received.

2.3 Ethiopia

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.4 Somalia

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.5 Sudan

Isolated mature adults were seen on 20th of October at two places in the northeast along the Atbara River southeast of Ed Damer (1734N/3358E).
(*FAO DL Bulletin No. 337*)

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions (*extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 337*)

Central Region: Isolated solitarious adults were present in a few places in northern Sudan and on the Red Sea coast in Yemen.

Western Region: As a result of widespread summer breeding over a relatively large area of southern and central Mauritania during the past few months, a local outbreak developed in the Inchiri region of northwest Mauritania in early October. Although control operations were immediately mounted against mature adults and a swarm, laying occurred and small hopper groups and bands formed by mid-month. Only scattered adults were found in adjacent areas of Western Sahara and northern Mauritania, suggesting that the outbreak is limited to Inchiri. Isolated adults were present near Tombouctou, Mali and may also be present and breeding in the northeast.

Eastern Region: Low numbers of solitarious adults were present in a few places along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border during October.

3.0 Forecast until mid-December 2006 (*Forecast from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 337 is sighted*)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults are likely to appear on the Red Sea coast between Tio and the Sudanese border during the forecast period and breed in areas of recent rainfall or runoff.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Scattered adults may be present in Wadi Oko/Diib and the Red Sea Hills and are likely to appear on the coastal plains. Small-scale breeding will occur in those areas that receive rainfall.

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 Kenya

Aerial Quelea birds control operation was conducted in Western and Central parts of the country.

Central

At Mwaea locality Kirinyaga District, three sites were sprayed by air from 28th October to 2nd November and an estimated of 2.55million birds, which were threatening Rice crops had been controlled. 160liters of Queletox was sprayed on 35 hectares of roosting areas with a spray time of 2:10hours.

Western

At Yala Kisumu Region, a DLCO-EA Aircraft sprayed an estimated of 210ha of Quelea roosts between 18th and 31st October. The birds number was estimated 10.5million and were roosting on Papyrus and Typha plants, threatening irrigated Rice and Sorghum crops. A total of 620liters of Queletox was sprayed with a 1:45hours spray time. The Quelea spray was observed by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Kenya, Hon. Kipruto Arap Kirwa (MP).

4.1.2 Ethiopia

Aerial control operation was conducted from 11th to 29th October in the southern Rift Valley and north eastern parts of the country at Abonsa, Netele, Welid and Jewaha localities. The birds were roosting on Typha grasses and estimated populations of 4.05 million were killed during the operation. 212ha using 425liters of Queletox was sprayed and estimated kill was 98%.

4.1.3 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.3 Tree Locust

4.3.1 Ethiopia

Infestations of Tree Locusts were reported in Afar, Somali and Oromia Regional States. However, details of infestation were not submitted during the reporting period.

SIFO
For Director,
7th November, 2006