

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

## Headquarters

Tel: 251-1-16461477/0287/0290  
Fax: 251-1-16460296

Nairobi Office

Tel: 254-020-602305/601488  
Fax: 254-020-601575

## SITREP No. 09/2006-2007

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT**  
**FOR APRIL, 2007**



## 1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the **Central Region**, good rains fell during April on the coast in northwest Somalia as well as on the escarpment and plateau from Boroma to Erigavo extending to Djibouti, eastern Ethiopia and northern Ogaden. Good rains also fell in the Ethiopian highlands, in the interior of Yemen and the central and northern interior of Saudi Arabia. Showers may have also fallen in parts of eastern Sudan during the last decade of April. In the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea, very little rain fell except on the northern Red Sea coast in Yemen at mid-month. Consequently, vegetation was drying out and breeding conditions were becoming unfavorable. Vegetation was green in some of the wadis in the Red Sea Hills in southeastern Egypt and northeastern Sudan. In southern Oman, breeding conditions may be favorable in coastal and interior of Dhofar where good rains fell in late March. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 343*)

## 1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

## 1.2 Eritrea

During April short rains continued to fall on the highlands and the following rainfalls were recorded in some of the stations;

Locality	Co-ordinate (N/E)	Rainfall (mm)	Date
Afdeyu	1531 / 3851	7	4.4.07
Maiaini	1448 / 3906	15	10.4.07
Segheneiti	1503 / 3912	12	11.4.07
Afdeyu	GIVEN	6	18.4.07
Asmara	1520 / 3855	6	21.4.07

In the coastal plains and Western lowlands, no rainfall occurred during April 2007. In both areas, weather was becoming warmer and vegetation getting drier.

Average maximum and minimum temperature for both Assab and Massawa were 36/25' and 35/26'Celcius respectively. Prevailing wind direction during April was North Easterly at 10m/sec.

### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During the first and second weeks of the month, dry and sunny weather conditions prevailed in the eastern parts of the country. However, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month very heavy rains fell in Dire-Dawa and the surroundings areas.

Rainfall data for Dire-Dawa Rainfall station (09 36N/041 50E)

Rainfall in mm	
01/04/07	2.9
05/04/07	0.5
06/04/07	28.00
09/04/07	11.8
11/04/07	122.3
14/04/07	9.9
16/04/07	5.6

### **1.4 Kenya**

Most parts of the country had hot and dry weather conditions during the month of February. There was unusual rainfall in January, which extended into the month of February in some regions.

### **1.5 Somalia**

During the beginning of the month, temperature was hot and vegetation was found almost dry that created unfavorable conditions for locust breeding. However, during the second week of April good rains fell on the coast in the northwest as well as on the escarpment and plateau from Boroma to Ergavo, extending to the Djibouti and Ethiopian border.

### **1.6 Sudan**

Report not received.

### **1.7 Tanzania**

Very heavy rains continued to fall on the Coastal Belt, the Northern and the Southern Highlands, the Lake Zone while the Central and Western regions received moderate to light rains.

## **1.8 Uganda**

Overall, moderate to heavy rains were recorded across most parts of the country. However, the rains had not been as heavy as had been forecasted, but it's expected to increase during May.

Vegetation was green across most parts of the country.

## **2.0 Desert Locust**

### **2.1 Djibouti**

A late report indicated that a swarm from northwest Somalia appeared in the southeast interior near Ali Adde (1108N/4253E) on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and was moving towards the southwest. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, a swarm was reported further west on the Gobaad plains near Kouta Bouyya (1101N/4157E) and the Ethiopian border. Locust infestations were also seen near the Somali border between Ali Olou (1121N/4307E) and Holhol (1118N/4255E). During the first week of April, a few mature swarms crossed the border from northwest Somalia and moved rapidly into the southern interior near the Henle Plains between Yoboki (1130N/4206E) and the Ethiopian border. No locusts were reported during the remainder of the month.

### **2.2 Eritrea**

Desert locust control continued generally in the northern Red Sea coast, North of Massawa between Shieb 1552N 3904E and Shelshela 1548N 3912E up to Karora. Combined ground and aerial control operations were conducted against fledglings during April in areas specifically between Maihimet 1740N 3832E and Karora 1742N 3822E.

A DLCO aircraft 5Y-BCK sprayed and controlled fledglings and immature adults starting on 28<sup>th</sup> March and ending on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007, utilizing a total 2,610 lts of various types of chemicals. It controlled 2,510ha of infested area having mainly adult Desert Locusts. By the end of the month, Desert Locust populations declined as the result of successful ground and aerial control operations.

### **2.3 Ethiopia**

A DLCO-EA Aircraft has been deployed on 3/4/07 at Dire-Dawa for Desert Locust aerial survey and control operations in eastern and southeastern Ethiopia, Northern Somalia and Djibouti. After the deployment, aerial and ground survey operations were conducted in suspected locust breeding areas, which were reported during the previous month.

Aerial survey covering about 50,000km<sup>2</sup> was conducted in Northeast, northwest and Eastern Dire-Dawa. Surveyed localities include; Harmukale, Mile, Dure, Dembel, Awbere, Arabi, Gogti, Biokobobe, Bioanano, Biogurgur, Asbuli, Aydora, Adigala, Aysha, Laserat and Jara.

Ground survey covering 985ha was also conducted in Harawa (09 56 12.5N/041 59 10 E), Elbahey (09 45 08.5N/041 52 19.2 E), Gaad(09 49 40.7N/041 52 53.8E), Endeys (09 53 44 N/041/57/02E), Bigle (0952 00.4N/041 58 05.4E) and Dereass(10 14 37.5N/041 52 34.3E).

Three mature, copulating, and egg-laying Desert Locust swarms at a density of 4-6/m<sup>2</sup>, which were covering 2km<sup>2</sup>, 2.5 km<sup>2</sup> and 4 Km<sup>2</sup> were found at Harawa, Endeys and Dereass respectively.

Egg fields covering 200ha, 50ha and 400ha has been found at Harawa (09 56 12.5N/041 59 10 E), Elbahey (09 45 08.5N/041 52 19.2 E) and Dereass(10 14 37.5N/041 52 34.3E) respectively and close monitoring was in progress for early control intervention.

### **Control**

Ground control was carried out on 21/04/07 and 27/04/07 on scattered Desert Locust swarms, which were settled on 85ha at Harawa (09 56 12.5N/041 59 10 E) and Dereass (10 14 37.5N/041 52 34.3E). 62 liters of Dursban 24% ULV was sprayed using handheld ULV and vehicle mounted Micronair sprayers.

On 25/4/07, 200 ha was sprayed by air at Endeys (09 53 44 N/041/57/02E) using 140 liters of Fenitrothion 96% ULV.

Survey was continuing with the participation of two ground teams.

## **2.4 Somalia**

Ground survey was conducted between Hargeisa and Berbera and east of Berbera between 31/03 - 04/04/2007. During the survey, a very low density of mature swarm was observed in Wadka(103745N452110E) covering 2km<sup>2</sup>. In addition, mature gregarious groups and immature scattered adults were seen in other locations. During the second half of the month, there were reports of small amture swarms on the escarpment and plateau from Boroma (0956N/4313E) to east of Hargeisa (0931N/4402E). Some of the swarms were copulating and crop damage was reported in a few places.

Aerial control was carried out in the north at Backi (10 01N/043 23E) on scattered mature locusts using 80 liters of Dursban 24%ULV

## **2.5 Sudan**

In early April, a third generation of breeding commenced on the Red Sea coast where a swarm was seen laying eggs in the Tokar Delta on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Hatching started on the 11<sup>th</sup> and ground control operations treated small bands at densities of up to 200hoppers/m<sup>2</sup>. Further south, aerial and ground control operations continued against a few remaining hopper bands and small maturing swarms on the plains between Agetai (1802N/3823E) and the Eritrean border. During the second week, immature and mature adults and a few swarms moved north along the plains to Tokar.

During the second half of April, control operations declined near the Eritrean border but continued in the Tokar Delta against first instar hopper bands. A few solitarious mature adults moved along the coast north of Port Sudan and reached Arbaat(1958N/3710E) area by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Similar populations were also seen near the Egyptian border west of Wadi Diib on the 27<sup>th</sup>, probably from local breeding near Halaib. In the Nile valley, solitarious and transiens immature and mature adults, including an immature group, were seen in crops between Berber (1801N/3400E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E) from the 21<sup>st</sup> onwards. Most of these locusts probably originated from infestations on the coast near the Eritrean border. Aerial and ground control operations treated 7,996ha on the Red Sea coast in April. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 343*)

## 2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

## 2.7 Other Regions (*extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 343*)

**Central Region:** Apart from the Desert Locust infestation reported in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti and Northern Somalia, local breeding continued and control operations continued on the central Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia. Most of the remaining swarms migrated east to the spring breeding areas in the interior where they laid eggs that should hatch in early May. Small-scale breeding continued on the Red Sea coast in southeast Egypt, and was reported on the southern coast in Yemen.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm in the region during April. Limited breeding continued in one area of northwest Mauritania and in southwest Algeria. Scattered adults were present in parts of western Algeria and western Libya. There is a slight risk that a few small swarms could move from the Central Region across the Sahel towards Niger, Mali and Mauritania.

**Eastern Region:** Small-scale breeding occurred in the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan and southeastern Iran in April, and a swarm was treated on the coast of Pakistan. Control operations were also undertaken near the Pakistan border in Rajasthan, India where local breeding was in progress because of pre-monsoon rainfall. Breeding will decline in the spring areas but will continue along the Indo-Pakistan border where higher than normal populations are expected to be present at the beginning of the summer.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-June 2007 (*Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 343*)

### 3.1 Djibouti

There is a slight risk that some of the swarms may have laid eggs on the Henle and Gobaad plains. If so, hatching and band formation will take

place during May and, if uncontrolled, a few small swarms could form in June. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely.

### **3.2 Eritrea**

Locust infestations will continue to decline on the Red Sea coast as vegetation dries out and the remaining adult groups and swarms move north to adjacent coastal areas in Sudan or west into the highlands towards the western lowlands. Consequently, a few small groups and swarms are likely to appear in the highlands where they could stay for several weeks or continue to the western lowlands, mainly to irrigated agriculture in Gash-Barka. These locusts may be supplemented by similar populations arriving from northern Ethiopia. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation carefully in the above-mentioned areas.

### **3.3 Ethiopia**

A few more small swarms could appear early in the forecast period from neighbouring areas in northern Somalia and lay eggs between Jijiga and Dire-Dawa. Hatching and band formation will start in early May and continue throughout the month in Dire-Dawa area. If the bands are not controlled, new swarms could form by mid-June. These swarms may persist and eventually lay eggs if breeding conditions remain favorable.

### **3.4 Somalia**

Hatching and band formation will start in early May and continue throughout the month on the plateau between Boroma and Burao. Breeding could also occur in areas of recent rainfall on the coast, further east to Erigavo and south Burao. If the resulting bands are not controlled, new swarms could form in mid-June and remain to breed or move towards the east.

### **3.5 Sudan**

Locust will decline on the Red Sea coast although small hopper bands will continue to form in Tokar Delta. Fledgling is expected to occur during the second half of May and a few small swarms could form and move to the summer breeding areas between Kassala and Darfur. Adults and small swarms may also arrive in the interior during June from breeding areas in southeast Egypt and in Saudi Arabia, and egg laying will commence with the onset of the summer rains. In the Nile Valley, small-scale breeding is likely to occur in crops north of Khartoum in May that could give rise to small hopper groups and bands.

### **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 Tanzania**

##### **Late Report**

During 26/03 - 28/03/2007 an estimated of 6.5 million Quelea birds covering 240ha had been controlled in Kondoa using 400ltrs of Avicide. Crops under attack were Sorghum and Millet.

During April, the outbreaks in Central Tanzania were so widespread and serious that a second A/craft was requested and has been deployed on 26 April. Aerial Quelea control continued in Mwanza, Shinyanga, Itigi, Singida, Dodoma and Kongwa. A total of 14 Roosts/Colonies on Acacia/Typha grass were controlled and details of the report are as follows;

Date	Place	Population (million)	Area (ha)	Avicide (ltrs)	Crops attacked
04-05/04/07	Mwanza	4.5	70	300	Sorgh/Mill.
17-20/04/07	Mwanza	7.0	250	650	Rice
07/04/07	Shinyanga	1.5	110	150	Rice
08/04/07	Itigi	4.0	40	350	Sorgh/Rice
09/04/07	Singida	0.5	150	50	Sorgh/Mill.
24-25/04/07	Singida	3.0	75	250	" / "
12/04/07	Dodoam	2.0	26	600	" / "
14-15/04/07	Kongwa	4.0	125	400	" / "

In all controlled areas, average mortality rate was estimated 75%. Aerial survey also conducted at Manyoni and in some sites at Singida, and all sites were found with no birds to spray.

#### **4.1.2 Kenya**

An outbreak of 2.2 million birds had been reported in Narok district and arrangements for control are being planned.

#### **4.1.3 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.**

### **4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)**

#### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

The country remained free of Armyworm outbreaks, however some trap stations reported the following catches during the month; Mbeya 20, Kyela 6, Dodoma 6, Mgambo 6, Lengo 2, Setchet 1, and Mbozi 3.

#### **4.2.2 Kenya**

Armyworms were reported attacking Maize, Sorghum, Millet and natural pasture in Nandi District in the Rift Valley Province. The total hectares that was affected estimated at 125ha.

Isiolo district in the Eastern Province has reported 15 moth catches in one night, which was the highest so far. The range of moth catches reported during the month was 0-3 moth/night for most stations.

### **4.3 Tree Locust (Anacridium spp.)**

#### **4.3.1 Kenya**

Between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, a DLCO-EA Aircraft sprayed Tree Locusts infested areas in Turkana District in the northwestern part of the country. The areas sprayed were Kaaleng, Lapur and Lokitaung divisions and this was a continuation of the spray operation that had been done during March. An estimated of 3000ha was sprayed using 2416liters of insecticide.

### **4.4 Tsetse fly**

#### **4.4.1. Uganda**

During April, there were more reports of tsetse flies being a big problem to the resettlement program in Northern Uganda as the flies have infested the resettlement homes.

**SIFO  
For Director,  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2007**