

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

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

1. WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



Apart from the rainfalls and ecological conditions reported in Member Countries, breeding conditions continued to be favorable along the coast in Saudi Arabia from Quifidah to Bab-El-Mandab in Yemen where rains fell for the third consecutive month. Rainfall declined in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen. Vegetation was drying out quickly on the plateau from Minwakh to the Oman border but remained green in the Shabwah and Marib Governorates where light rains fell at times. Mainly dry conditions prevailed in Oman. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 347)*

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Heavy rains continued to fall on the highlands, western lowlands throughout the month and some showers were reported on the Red Sea coast near the Sudanese border. Some damage to crops and infrastructures was also reported by floods, which occurred on the western lowland areas.

Generally, most rainfalls went unrecorded due to remoteness of some areas. Following are some rainfall records obtained from Meteorology Department during August:

Locality	Coordinated (N/E)	Rainfall (mm)	Date
Asmara	1520/3855	66	11/8/07
Areza	1450/3805	27	11/8/07
Mainanini	1448/3906	22	11/8/07
Barentu	1508/3737	26	15/8/07

Keren	1540/3825	21	19/8/07
Himbirti	1518/3837	34	21/8/07
Keren	Given	24	21/8/07

Vegetation on the entire western lowland and highland was green and dense, while on the eastern lowland it remained dry except in the northern areas from Mahमित up to Karura, which was green. Wadis on the coastal areas were also reported wet with green vegetation due to floods from the eastern escarpments.

Average high and low temperature for Assab 41.0 and 31⁰C. Prevailing wind direction was northerly with a speed of 10m /sec.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the month, considerable cloud cover with seasonal rains was dominating the country. In DireDawa and surrounding areas of Eastern Ethiopia light to medium rains fell and recorded as follows;

DATE	DIRE DAWA 09 35N/ 041 52E
	RAINFALL IN mm
1/8/07	9.2
3/8/07	25.5
8/8/07	2.8
9/8/07	3.2
11/8/07	11.3
12/8/07	1.4
15/8/07	1.6
16/8/07	2.2
17/8/07	7.6
20/8/07	9.8
22/8/07	1.9
23/8/07	0.6
Total	77.1

Vegetation was observed generally green.

1.4 Kenya

Interchangeable cool and warm weather condition was experienced during the month. Some areas had dry weather conditions while heavy rains that caused floods were also reported in the western parts of the country.

1.5 Somalia

Due to moderate to heavy rains that occurred during the month, vegetation in many regions and on the costal plains between Berber and Eilgal had been turned green.

The following rainfalls were recorded during the month at the rainfall station in the MoA compound:

DATE	Amount (mm)
1/8/2007	4.0
7/08/2007	41.0
9/08/2007	2.0
14/08/2007	22.0
17/08/2007	23.0
18/08/2007	5.0
23/08/2007	7.0
24/08/2007	6.5
25/08/2007	8.0
26/08/2007	47.0

1.6 Sudan

Heavy rains fell in all Desert Locust summer breeding areas and flooding had been reported in most lowland areas of the country. Prevailing wind direction in northern parts of the country was observed southerly to south easterly. Generally vegetation was found greening and green and soil in most areas was wet. Due to this, ecological conditions were favorable for Desert Locust breeding in all summer breeding locations.

1.7 Tanzania

Dry weather conditions prevailed during the month and apart from irrigated Rice in Kilimanjaro region, most cereals had been harvested by end of July.

1.8 Uganda

Moderate to heavy rains and thunderstorms were received across parts of the country. Eastern and Northern Uganda received heavy torrential rains that destroyed crops, homes, roads, farms and animals. In the Eastern region, over ten (10) districts were severely affected by the heavy rains, with floods displacing over 50,000 people. The floods were reported to be the heaviest in the last 35 years! In Northern Uganda, the Gulu-Adjumani road was heavily damaged and cut off from traffic. Weather experts reported that heavy rains are expected to fall across most parts of the country until late September 2007. Overall, the rains are exhibiting very abnormal patterns not recorded in many previous years.

Vegetation was green across most parts of the country.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust survey was carried out from 13-20th August in the western and eastern lowland areas of the country, which are the main summer and winter locust breeding areas. During the survey, the team found Desert Locust solitary adults and 2nd to 6th instars in three locations; Drfa, Hamte, Flg.

Drfa (160657N/372786E); the area under infestation was estimated about 100ha, which was covered with 15-20 solitary adults per 100m foot-transect and at an average density of 3-5 hoppers/m².

Hamte 160483N/374058E): stage and density of locusts were the same as Drfa but the area under infestation was estimated around 50ha.

Flg: is located 12 km north of Kerkebet (160651N/374272E): the area under infestation was estimated about 1,200ha and dense green shrubs (0.75-1m) were observed on the location. The team also found another locust infestation on the Eritrean-Sudanese border at Adibara (154084N/366360E). Locusts were seen about 250m from the Eritrean border inside the Sudanese territory. Travelers and farmers indicated that density of locusts and area of infestation was higher inside Sudan than the Eritrean border. Ground control operation had been initiated by PPD in Kerkebet area and one DLCO-EA vehicle is positioned in the area.

On the Red Sea coast, it was observed that number of scattered solitary immature and mature adults was increasing at several places between Mahmimet (1723N/3833E) and the Sudanese border, Gheleb-Sagla (1707N/3853E) and Mersa-Gulbud (1633N/3908E).

On top of this, swarms of desert locust adults were flushed in around Asmara. In the first 10 days adults were immature solitary type. Meanwhile, during the last week of the month, the adults were observed as mature.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.5 Sudan

Breeding was in progress in River Nile and Khartoum States. First to fourth instar hopper bands were seen in the Baiyuda Desert west of Atbara (1742N/3400E) as well as mature gregarious adults, some of which were laying eggs. Further south, isolated hoppers and groups of mature adults were present west of Shendi (1641N/3322E). Groups of mature and immature gregarious adults were seen in the Red Sea Hills near Khor Baraka and the Eritrean border at 1726N/3742E and on the Red Sea coast in the Tokar Delta.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 347)*

Central Region: Breeding occurred in the interior of Sudan and in the western lowlands in Eritrea during August. Locust numbers increased on the Red Sea coastal plains in Sudan, Eritrea and Yemen where breeding is likely to start earlier than usual. At the end of the month, there were unconfirmed reports of locust on the Red Sea coast near Jizan, Saudi Arabia. These events combined with the deteriorating situation in the interior of Yemen, could lead to a significant increase in locusts in the region during the coming months, first in the summer breeding areas, then in the winter breeding areas on the on the Red Sea coast. A few swarms from eastern Yemen invaded southern Oman and adults moved to northeast Oman where local breeding was in progress.

Western Region: The situation continued to remain calm during August. Small-scale breeding has probably started in parts of northern Sahel in Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Chad where good rains fell and ecological conditions were favorable during the month. Local breeding may also take place in southern Algeria.

Eastern Region: Locust numbers increased slightly along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border because of small-scale breeding that occurred during August. Breeding is expected to continue during the forecast period between Tharparkar and Cholistan in Pakistan and Rajasthan, India. Limited control was carried out against adults that persisted and were breeding on the southeastern coast of Iran.

3.0 Forecast until mid-October 2007 *(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 347)*

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in the western lowlands and on the northern Red Sea coast between Massawa and Karora. There is a risk that a few swarms may arrive from Yemen.

3.3 Ethiopia

Scattered adults may be present between Dire-Dawa and northern Somalia and breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall.

3.4 Somalia

Scattered adults may be present and breeding on the plateau between Boroma and Burau in areas of recent rainfall. There is a risk that a few swarms could arrive on the coast or the escarpment from Yemen during periods of strong northerly winds. If so, the adults are likely to mature and lay eggs in favorable areas.

3.5 Sudan

Scattered hoppers and adults are almost certainly present in West and North Darfur, North Kordofan, White Nile and Kassala States. Small to moderate scale breeding will continue during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to increase further and perhaps gregarize. Locusts are also likely to be present on the Red Sea coastal plains south of Port Sudan where there is a risk that a few swarms may arrive from Yemen. Locust numbers will increase on the coast as breeding occurs in areas of recent rainfall and runoff.

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

During the month, aerial *Quelea quelea* control operation continued in Morogoro region and reported as follows:-

Kilosa District

8 Roosts of 12.5 million birds on an estimated 180 ha. of acacia trees were sprayed with 500 lts of chemical (Queletox) killing about 80% of the bird population.

Mtibwa District

11 Roosts of 7.6 million birds on 174 ha. of acacia trees were controlled with 625 lts of chemical with an estimated kill of 90%. Most roosts sprayed were small and scattered over large areas hence large amounts of chemical utilized in this operation

4.1.2 Kenya

Late report - July

Quelea Outbreaks were reported and aerial and ground control operation was conducted in Naork, Nakuru, Naivasha, Uasin-Gishu and Nyandarua districts in the Rift Valley region and Siaya, Bondo and Busia districts in Nyanza province.

Rift Valley

a) Narok

Control operations were done throughout the month and approximately 12.16million birds in 6 roosts were controlled.

b) Nakuru

Approximately 4.5million birds in 5 roosts were controlled.

c) Naivasha

Approximately 5.3 million birds in 13 roosts were controlled.

d) Uasin-Gishu

The infestation was not very severe and was controlled by the District Agricultural Office in collaboration with farmers.

Nyanza Province

Districts affected were Siaya, Bondo and Busia and approximately 7.6 million birds in 6 roosts were controlled.

The total amount of Avicide used during these operations was 1550liters.

During August, a DLCO-EA aircraft continued spraying Quelea birds outbreaks in the Rift valley and Nyanza provinces however, full report not received during the reporting period.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

A DLCO-EA aircraft conducted Quelea control operation from 6-10/08/2007 in Oromiya region at localities of Gebrerl and Abomsa. Two roosts on 150ha and with an estimated bird population of 3.5 million were controlled using 300liters of Queletox. Average mortality was estimated 98%.

4.1.4 Sudan

Some Quelea flocks were observed hovering over in the traditional breeding areas in Southern Kordofan State.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

Member countries remained free from any infestation

4.3 Tree Locusts

Late report

During July, Tree Locusts infestation was reported in Turkana and Tana River Districts. In Tana River District, the density was estimated about 40 locusts per shrub covering 1250ha of natural vegetation.

4.4 Red Locust

The International Red Locust Control Organization for central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (Tanzania) has been carrying out Red Locust control operations in some outbreak areas in Tanzania from 26th July, 2007.

Spray operations, in the Iku-Katavi plains, started on 30th July 2007. A total of 67 swarms and concentrations were located and controlled on a total area of 2200 ha using 1075 litres of Fenitrothion 96% technical.

A total of about 200ha was also sprayed in the South Rukwa plains using 1005 litres of Fenitrothion 96% Technical from 6th to 13th August 2007.

The team proceeded to the Malagarasi Basin on 13th August 2007 and spraying started on 14th August, 2007 where 200 litres of Fenitrothion 96% Technical were sprayed. Operations were in progress during the remainder days of the month.