

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

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**SITREP No. 06/2007-2008**

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT**

**FOR DECEMBER, 2007**



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, ecological conditions remained favorable during December in the winter breeding areas along the western side of the Red Sea, further north near Abu Ramad in southeastern Egypt. However, conditions were dry along the coastal plains and in adjacent interior areas between Tokar and Abu Ramad. Light to moderate rains fell on the Red Sea coast in Sudan near Tokar Delata. Vegetation was green and conditions were favorable for breeding along the coast from Tokar to Mahmimet on the northern coast in Eritrea. On the eastern side of the Red Sea, ecological conditions were generally dry along the coastal plains of Saudi Arabia and Yemen. In central Oman, moderate rains fell on 4 December along the coastal plains where vegetation was green and conditions were favorable for breeding. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 351)*

**1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

**1.2 Eritrea**

Wide spread rainfall occurred during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of December. The northern and sub-coastal areas of the Red Sea coast including the

north eastern escarpment received moderate amount of rainfall. The following rainfall data was received:

Ghinda (1526N 3910E) 38.6mm 26/12/2007  
Massawa (1450N 3849E) 35.0mm 26/12/2007  
Mahmimet (1740N 3832E) and Karora (1742N 3822E) received unrecorded amount of rainfall between 26/12 and 29/12/2007.

On the highlands, very cold spell of (windy air) weather conditions was experienced for about 3 weeks between early 2<sup>nd</sup> week and end of 4<sup>th</sup> week of December. No rainfall occurred in the western lowlands.

Average high and low temperatures for Massawa and Assab during the month was 35/25<sup>0</sup>C and 33/23<sup>0</sup>C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was southerly at a speed of 11m/sec.

Crops of various types already harvested in both the highland and Western lowland. Natural vegetation was drying out.

The escarpment was green due to occasional rainfalls and foggy morning and evenings. Coastal plains were dry while Wadis were green where, crops like Sorghum and Durrah (millet) had reached maturing stages.

### 1.3 Ethiopia

In the eastern parts of the country except for some very light rainfall received here and there no rainfall was recorded. Consequently, vegetation was drying out except in some irrigated areas along the river beds, which remained dense and green.

### 1.4 Kenya

A survey team assessed the weather and ecological conditions in Mandera area where Desert Locust control operation was going on. Surveyed areas were found very dry except of some green Acacia and other type of bush trees, which are covering wide area in the district. Irrigated areas along River Dawa were also found very green and dense.

### 1.5 Somalia

The winter rain season commonly known as Hais, which usually occurs on the northern coastal areas had started on 26/12/2007. Light to moderate rains fell on the northern coastal plain on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of December. The vegetation on the eastern side of Berbera was almost dry while on the western side it was green.

### 1.6 Sudan

Light to moderate rains fell on the Red Sea coast near Tokar Delta. Vegetation was green and conditions were favorable for breeding along the coast from Tokar to the Eritrean border. Conditions were dry along the coastal plains and in adjacent interior areas between Tokar to the north up to Abu Ramad.

### 1.7 Tanzania

Heavy to moderate rains were received in Mbeya, Iringa, Morogoro, Mtwara, Kigoma, Rukwa, regions together with the Coastal Belt & Lake zone basin while moderate to light rains were received in Central & Northern zones of the country.

### 1.8 Uganda

The rains receded in most parts of the Country. It was only in the South-Western parts of the country that light to heavy showers were reported. Vegetation was green across most parts of the country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

### 2.2 Eritrea

During December, only isolated solitary adult locusts were present in the extreme north Mahmimet (172710N/382802E) and Karura (174109N/382515E) areas, where as the summer breeding locations remained free of locust infestation.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

During the month, many swarms moved from the Somali Region to the southwest into the Oromiya Region. On the first week of the month, small mature swarms were seen in Borona Zone between Negele (0520N/3935E), Arero (0445N/3849E) and Teltele (0504N/3723E) in the Rift Valley. On 11-12<sup>th</sup>, other swarms were reported in Borena and most of them dispersed looking for suitable habitat for egg-laying. Hatching occurred in Borena and Liben Zones from the first week of December and by the last week, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> instar hopper bands were present and were controlled near the Kenyan border in Liben Zone of Somali region at Filtu and along the Dawa River.

Numerous dense hopper bands were also present throughout the month near Kebri Dehar (0644N/4416E), Gode (0557N/4333E), Kelafo (0537N/4408E). Damage was reported on crops and pastures by the hoppers. By the last week of December, most of the infestations were 5<sup>th</sup> instar bands and fledglings. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, a 3km<sup>2</sup> immature swarm was seen south of Gode,

indicating that new swarms were forming north and south of the Shebele River.

Four medium size and very dense immature swarms were seen crossing the Dawa River at Suftu (0358N/4152E) to the Kenyan border on 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of December.

Aerial and ground control operations on hopper bands were undertaken mainly near Suftu along the Dawa River. On 21<sup>st</sup> of the month, a cross-border aerial operation treated 160ha of mainly 3<sup>rd</sup> instar hopper bands using 80 liters of Fipronil 12.5 grams a.i. and ground control teams treated about 350ha of infestations by the end of the month using 170 liters of Decis 5gm/litre ULV.

## 2.4 Somalia

Ground survey was conducted on 23-29 December. Scattered mature and immature solitary adults were found in Hiiranle (102700N/451113E) Bulhaar (101911N/442458E) and Abdal (95721N/444229E).

## 2.5 Sudan

During the first week of December, scattered solitarious and gregarious mature adults and a few groups persisted in the summer breeding areas along the Atbara and Nile rivers between Atbara (1742N/3400E) and Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E) and west of the Red Sea Hills near Haiya (1820N/3621E). A one hectare low-density immature swarm was seen flying towards the northeast on the 1<sup>st</sup> at Dongola (1910N/3027E) and another immature swarm of 1km<sup>2</sup> was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> east of Haiya.

In the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, small low-density immature and mature groups and swarms appeared in the Tokar Delta during the last week of November. Egg-laying took place during the first three weeks in December mainly in Tokar Delta and to a lesser extent at two places on the coastal plains between Tokar (1827N/3741E) and Aiterba (1753N/3819E). Hatching started on about 23<sup>rd</sup> and first instar hoppers formed numerous very small bands at densities up to 300 hoppers/m<sup>2</sup>. No locusts were seen during surveys along the coast between Port Sudan and the Egyptian border. Control teams treated 9,833ha during December of which 9,200 were sprayed by air in the Tokar Delta. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 351*)

### 2.5.1 Kenya,

On 1<sup>st</sup> December, a mature low-density swarm was reported in the northeast along the Ethiopian border near Moyale (0331N/3903E). By the first decade of the month, medium to very high density hopper bands consisting of hatchings and first instars were found infesting large areas west of Mandera at Neboi (0357N/4146E), Maikorobi (035647N/414603E), Karow (035644N/414536E), Jirma (035809N/414617E), Gingo (035624/413711E) and Fikow (035847N/414420E).

By the end of the month, control operation on hopper bands was came to an end and continued up to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008, on some previously undetected scattered 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> instar patches and small groups.

Four high density immature swarms, which crossed the Ethiopian border, were seen flying west of Mandera town at Neboi, Karow and Fikow on 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of December and were heading towards west and southwest. Average size of the swarms was estimated 6km<sup>2</sup>, and two of the swarms, which were seen on 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> were controlled by air on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of the month early in the morning. Aerial survey that was done on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of the month to detect the other two swarms was not successful.

Control operation on hopper bands was started on 6<sup>th</sup> of December and a total of 1200ha was sprayed by air and about 60ha by ground. 40 liters and 200 liters of Decis 5gm/litre and 10 liters and 400 liters of Fipronil 12.5gm/litre were used by ground and by air respectively.

## 2.6 Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

## 2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 351)*

**Central Region:** In early December, remaining mature swarms in eastern Ethiopia moved south the Oromiya region and to northeast Kenya. Hopper bands continued to develop in Ogaden and several swarms started forming shortly after mid-December and moved south to Kenya. Locusts continued to increase in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in Sudan but were limited to the Tokar Delta. In Egypt, locust numbers declined on the Red Sea coast and small adult groups were present on the coast of Saudi Arabia and scattered adults may be present on the coast in Yemen. In Oman, ground control teams treated groups of gregarious adults that were laying eggs on the central coast. In northwest Somalia, isolated adults were reported on the coast.

**Western Region:** The situation continued to remain calm during December. Ground control operations were carried out against scattered adults in central and southern Algeria and, to a lesser extent in central Mauritania. Limited breeding occurred in Mauritania and along the Malian border in southern Algeria. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall in southern Algeria and Western Sahara.

**Eastern Region:** Small-scale breeding occurred on the southeast coast of Iran during December and scattered hoppers and adults were present. No locusts were reported along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. Low numbers of locusts are likely to appear in the

spring breeding areas of Baluchistan in western Pakistan during the forecast period.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-February 2008

*(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 351)*

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding is almost certainly in progress along the Red Sea coastal plains between Mahmimet and Karora and to a lesser extent further south towards Massawa. Breeding will continue and cause locust numbers to increase during the forecast period.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

Swarms are expected to form in the Ogaden during the first half of January and thereafter, additional swarms are likely to form further south in Oromiya and along the Kenyan border. Most of the swarms are likely to move towards the south and southwest while some swarms could move west towards the Rift Valley and SNNPR Region.

### 3.4 Somalia

Small-scale breeding is likely to occur on the northwest coast in areas of recent rains near Berbera. Consequently, hatching is expected and low numbers of hoppers will be present during the forecast period. In the south, small swarms could form from previously undetected breeding and move towards Kenya in January.

### 3.5 Sudan

Small hopper bands will continue to form in the Tokar Delta that, if uncontrolled, could lead to the formation of small immature groups and swarms starting in early February. Hatching and band formation is likely to occur during January on the coastal plains south of Tokar Delta.

### 3.6 Kenya

There is a slight risk that some hopper infestations may not have been detected in the north. If so, these hoppers could form immature swarms in early January. These swarms will be supplemented by immature swarms that form in southeastern Ethiopia and cross the border. The new swarms are likely to be highly mobile and are expected to move towards the south and west where they could mature and lay eggs.

### 3.7 Uganda

There is a moderate risk that a few immature swarms may appear in the east from Kenya and Ethiopia.

### 3.8 Tanzania

Is 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

Quelea control operations continued during the first week of December in Siaya where irrigated Rice is growing. However, detail of the report was not received during the reporting period.

#### 4.1.2 Tanzania

There were four Quelea roosts reported and conformed during December. A total of 4 million birds roosting on 150ha of Acacia trees were controlled by a DLCO-EA aircraft using 200 lbs. of Queletox and achieved 90% kill. The birds were feeding on ripening irrigated Rice.

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

#### 4.2.1 Tanzania

During the last week of November and December, Armyworm infestations were reported as follows;

**26/11/ – 2/12/07**

Tabora 4ha of pasture grasses were destroyed.

#### **Moth catches:**

Same (187) Mbeya (160) Kyela (106) Mbozi (34) Rombo (2) Tengeru (2). Traps with NIL catches were those at Pangani, Babati, Shinyanga, Handeni, Muheza, Lushoto, & Mkinga.

**3-9/12/07**

Mbeya Region: grasslands and early planted Maize were attacked in 6 villages in Mbozi & Kyela districts.

Kilimanjaro Region: 50 ha. of Maize crops were infested in Makanya village in Same district.

#### **Moth Catches-**

Tengeru (1), Nzega (186), Shinyanga (8), Lushoto (10), Mgambo(7), Babati(2) Handeni (42), Rombo(19).

The rest of the traps reported NIL catch.

**10-16/12/07**

Armyworm outbreaks continued to be reported from Mbozi and Kyela districts in Mbeya region and for the first time it is reported in Kilombero district where paddy was destroyed.

#### **Moth catches:**

Shinyanga (27), Tengeru (61), Babati (1), Rombo (23), Mbozi (6) and Mgambo (1).

The Traps at KIA, Tanga, Lushoto, Moshi, Handeni, Muheza and Hai reported NIL catch.

**17-27/12/07**

Armyworms were reported infesting 30ha of Maize crops in Mufindi and Iringa districts in Iringa Region.

Outbreaks were also reported in Kilombero district in Morogoro Region where 2 ha. of Maize and 7ha. of pasture was infested.

**Moth catches**

Mbeya (153), Kyela (21), Lushoto (1) Rombo (5),Tengeru (3) , Dodoma (3) and Pangani (1).

The traps at Mbozi, Hai, Kilosa, Tanga, Mgambo, KIA, Nanyumbu and Mpwapwa reported NIL catch.

**Forecast:** More Armyworm outbreaks are expected to occur during January in some parts of Mbeya, Central and Northern zones where heavy rainfalls were reported.

**4.2.2** Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

**SIFO**

**For Director**