

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

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT
FOR JANUARY 2007

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the **Central Region**, breeding conditions remained unusually favorable during January along both sides of the Red Sea, between Suakin, Sudan and Obock, Djibouti and Yenbo, Saudi Arabia to Al Mukha, Yemen. Light rain fell in most of these coastal areas while heavier showers were reported along the Tihama coast Yemen. Light rain also fell along the coastal plains east of Aden in southern Yemen. In northwest Somalia, green vegetation was present along the coast between Bulhar and the Djibouti border, and breeding conditions were favorable due to rainfall in December and again in late January. Dry conditions prevailed on the southeastern coast in Egypt while green vegetation persisted along the Lake Nasser shore and in the Western Desert in agricultural areas at Sh. Oweinat. Light to moderate rain fell at times in the coastal and interior areas on northern Oman where vegetation was mostly dry. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 340*)

1.1 Djibouti

The country received sporadic rains during the month. Vegetation was observed green in some parts of the country.

1.2 Eritrea

Rain continued to fall during January on the eastern lowland where most of the coastal areas located south of the Port City of Massawa received good showers, while on the northern part it was observed decreasing. Moderate rainfalls were also received in the escarpment and foothills of the eastern lowland areas of the Northern and Southern Red Sea Zones. Rainfalls were not recorded in both zones, however Massawa 1540N 3825E and Assab 1302N 4245E recorded 10 and 08 mm of rainfall on the 15 and 16th of January respectively. Generally, soil was wet in the south and was dry to moist in the north. No rainfall was reported in the highlands and on the western lowlands.

Vegetation, except for some localities was green and medium to dense coverage on the entire eastern lowland. Crops like Pearl Millet were at early growth and at harvesting stages in all areas.

Average high and low temperature for Assab and Massawa was 29°C/23°C and 30^o/21.5^o Celsius respectively. Prevailing wind was North Easterlies with a speed of 9 meters per second.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the month, sunny and dry weather conditions prevailed in DireDawa and surrounding areas.

Vegetation remained dry.

1.4 Somalia

Vegetation in some areas was observed green and dense due to moderate to heavy rains occurred during the first two decades of the month. Clouds were observed building up due to the short rain season, which started during the month.

1.5 Sudan

Weather & ecological conditions report not received.

1.6 Tanzania

Moderate rains continued to fell in the Central and Western regions while the rest of the country continued to receive heavy showers.

1.7 Uganda

Moderate, scattered showers were received in some parts of the country. The indications were that the rainy season was slowly coming to an end. Vegetation was green across the country.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Djibouti

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust control campaign continued during the month in the eastern lowland areas. Between 10th and 20th of January, two teams surveyed areas south and north of Sheib1553N 3858E, in which gregarious Desert Locust

infestations were found north of Sheib in Gheleb-Sagla 1707N 3856E Gumgum 1655N 3806E and Derbabu 1651N 3859E areas. Particularly in Derbabu, an estimated of 100ha of Pearl Millet field was found infested with copulating and egg laying gregarious locusts and they were forming groups.

Scattered solitarious locusts were also found in Embre, Negae 1705N 3856E, Meleet/Shinati 1729N 3846E and they were copulating and laying eggs. No locusts were found during surveys in areas south of Massawa up to Gahro (south of the port city of Assab).

Since 28th of December, 11,418ha has been infested with desert locust groups and hopper bands. They were sprayed with vehicle mounted sprayers utilizing 5718 liters of chemicals, including Malathion 96% ULV, Fenitrothion 45% ULV and Chlorpyrifos 24% ULV. Some of the sprayed areas include;

Shelshela 1554/3907	1475ltrs	2950ha
Kezan 1625/3905	80	160
Marsa Kobae 1616/3910	230	460
Mietir 1643/3904	10	20
Gubet 1613/3904	70	140
Gadem-Halib 1705/3856	35	70
Derbabu 1605/3859	100	200

Recent reports from the Red Sea zone PPD indicated that fresh hopper band infestations appeared in Northern Red Sea Region, specifically areas between Maihimet 1732N 3849E and Wadi Dirbabu 1651N 3859E. Infested area was reported to be very wide (200Km by 30Km) and covered with early stages of hopper bands.

2.3 Ethiopia

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.4 Somalia

A DLCO-EA and EMPRES/CRC staff carried out ground survey on coastal and sub-coastal areas of Northern Somalia during 22-23 January. Surveyed areas were Eilgal, Deelka, Bararis, Lawga-as, Abdi-geedi (1031N/4402E), Abdi-ged 2, Abdi-3, Dhuray, Abar-hun, Awrgalad, Eil – gal, Shirdon, Geerisa, Gab, Garbo, Mirir and Mirir 2.

During the survey, mature and immature scattered solitary adults and groups of gregarious adults were found in different locations. One solitary hopper was found in Abdi–geed 2 and another solitary hopper in Dhurey.

2.5 Sudan

During the month, locust numbers increased on the Red Sea coastal plains south of Tokar Delta near Karora (1745N/3820E) and the Eritrean border. By the end of the month, solitary, transiens and gregarious hopper of all instars, fledglings and immature and mature adults were gregarizing and forming small groups at one location. Adults were also seen laying eggs on 29 January, indicating that a second generation of breeding has commenced. No locust were seen in Tokar Delta.x (FAO DL Bulletin No. 340)

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions (extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 340)

Central Region: Apart from the infestations reported in Eritrea and Sudan, small-scale breeding also occurred in Saudi Arabia.

Western Region: Desert Locust infestations continued to decline in previously infested areas in northwest Mauritania, Western Sahara and Niger where only small residual populations remained during January. Although low numbers of adults could move north towards the Draa Valley in Morocco, to northern Mauritania and to southern Algeria during periods of warm southerly winds, the situation is expected to remain calm during the forecast period.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm during January. Limited egg laying and hatching are likely in the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan and southeast Iran by the end of the forecast period. No significant developments are expected.

3.0 Forecast until mid-March 2007 (Forecast from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 340 is sighted)

3.1 Djibouti

There is a slight risk of low numbers of adults appearing on the northern coastal plains between Obock and the Eritrean border. .

3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers will increase on the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and the Sudanese border as second-generation eggs hatch. As vegetation dries out, locusts will concentrate, gregarize and form small groups, bands and perhaps a few swarmlets. Adults could move north or south along the coast. Locust numbers will also increase on the southern coast as hatching is expected early in the forecast period. If more rain falls during February and March, conditions could remain favorable for a third generation in April and May during which locust numbers would rapidly

increase and hopper bands and swarms would form and threaten the Region. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely and undertake the necessary control operations.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Small-scale breeding will occur on the northwest coast, causing locust numbers to increase and perhaps a few small groups or bands will form between Berbera and the Djibouti border.

3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will increase on the Red Sea coastal plains between Tokar Delta and the Eritrean border as second generation eggs hatch. As vegetation dries out, locusts will concentrate, gregarize and form small groups, bands and perhaps a few swarmlets. Adults could move north or south along the coast. If more rain falls during February and March, conditions could remain favorable for a third generation in April and May during which locust numbers would rapidly increase and hopper bands and swarms would form and threaten the Region. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely and undertake the necessary control operations.

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 Uganda

Quelea birds situation was reported at resurgence level.

4.1.2 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Moth Trap catches reported in some areas and recorded as follows:

Bihawana	121	Mtwara	14
Dodoma	48	Mbeya	4
Mazombe	39	Mbozi, Bagamayo	2
Tengeru	17		

Traps with nil catches were at Moshi, TPRI Arusha and Babati
There is a low probability for Armyworm outbreaks to occur in Dodoma region for the month of February 2007.

4.3 Tse-tse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

Tsetse flies were reported that they were found at resurgence level and were becoming worrying to the farming community.

SIFO
For Director,
12th February, 2007