

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

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR JULY,
2007



1. WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Apart from the rainfalls reported in Member Countries, good rains fell in coastal and sub-coastal areas between Egypt and Eritrea and for the second consecutive month from Qunfidah, Saudi Arabia to Bab-El-Mandab in Yemen. Rainfall was heaviest on the Yemen Tihama coast. Very little rain fell in the Yemen interior between Marib and the Oman border except for light showers on a few days during the second and third weeks of July. Consequently, soil conditions had become dry by the end of the month, except near Minwakh and Thamud, but vegetation remained green except near Zamakh. Light rains also fell in parts of the interior in northern Oman and vegetation was drying out in the south. (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 346*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During July, the country received unusual heavy rainfalls. Farms, crops and domestic animals carried away by floods and countryside houses were damaged in many parts of the country.

Good amount of rain and floods were observed during a survey, which was carried out between 3rd to 8th and 18th to 23rd of July by the PPD on the eastern lowland Red Sea coastal areas. The rain started on 28th June and continued through out the month of July.

During the period of the survey, it was observed that all areas north of Hirgigo (7kms south of Massawa) had received heavy to light amount of rains and had also received floods from the eastern escarpment. Vegetation on the surveyed areas was generally dry during the beginning of the month and started greening during the second week of the month.

A survey was also conducted between 12th and 16th of July on the western lowlands of the country and it was observed that good rain was generally practicing on the entire area. Most of the areas visited received light to moderate amount of rain.

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

No.	Locality	Co-ordinate N/E	Rainfall (mm)	Date
1	Agordat	1535/3752	103	5/7/07
2	Tesenei	1511/3642	108	10/7/07
3	Asmara	1520/3855	25	13/7/07
4	Halhale	1504/3849	25	13/7/07
5	Ghindae	1526/3910	40	15/7/07
6	Agordat	Given	32	15/7/07
7	Massawa	1540/3825	29	15/7/07
8	Mendefera	1500/3850	41	24/7/07
9	Asmara	Given	28	24/7/07
10	Senafe	1445/3830	21	24/7/07
11	Dibarewa	1506/3839	30	28/7/07

Both natural vegetation and freshly growing crops on the highlands and Western lowlands were very green and most coastal Wadis were flooded and natural vegetation like *Heliotropium and Dipterigyium* were greening.

Average high and low temperature for Massawa was 43 and 33⁰C, and for Assab 40.5 and 30⁰C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was northeasterly with a speed of 10m /sec.

1.3 Ethiopia

DireDawa and surrounding areas of Eastern Ethiopia were dominated by dry and hot weather conditions. Some light to medium rains fell in DireDawa and Harar during the month and were recorded as follows.

DATE	HARAR 09 36N/ 041 50E	DIRE DAWA 09 35N/ 041 52E
	RAINFALL IN mm	RAINFALL IN mm
1/7/07		40.7
2/7/07		3.0
8/7/07	3.0	1.2
10/7/07		1.6
7/7/06		1.5
11/7/07		4.4
12/7/07		7.8
13/7/07		5.1
14/7/07		0.7
19/7/07		0.3

20/7/07		11.6
21/7/07		0.6
23/7/06		19.6
26/7/07		7.4
25/7/07	5.0	1.3
28/7/07	7.0	3.5
28/7/07	11.5	6.7
Total	26.5	117.0

Vegetation was observed generally green.

1.4 Kenya

The weather started to cool down, some areas had dry weather conditions except the western parts and the Coastal strip, which had experienced some rainfall.

1.5 Somalia

Clouds were observed building up and light to moderate rains fell over the western regions such as: Marodi-Jeex (Hargeisa) and Awdel (Borama 954386N/431334E). Vegetation in both regions were green while in other regions Sool (Las-Anood 082749 N/472018E), Tog-dher (Borao093016N/453341) and Sanag (Erigavao103710N/4755 E) were dry and drying .

1.6 Sudan

ITCZ continued to move north reaching the Egyptian border and due to this, heavy rains fell in all Desert Locust summer breeding areas. Prevailing wind direction was southerly southwesterly. Generally vegetation was found greening and green during a survey in the River Nile State and soil was wet.

1.7 Tanzania

Scattered showers continued in Northern Highlands, the Coastal belt and the Southern parts of the country. The rest of the country remained dry.

1.8 Uganda

Moderate to heavy rains were received across some parts of the country. During the first week of July the Southern, Western, Central and Eastern parts of the country received unusual heavy rains. The Meteorology Department warned that the recorded rains in the listed regions were unusual as the month of July usually remains dry. Overall, the rains were declining steadily across the country.

Vegetation remained green across most parts of the country during the month.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.2 Eritrea

On the first week of the month, mature solitary adult locusts at an average density of 8-10 locusts/m² were found in four locations in Karura area. During the second and third week of the month, mature solitary adults were found in the same area and they were copulating and laying eggs. Mature adults were also seen near Mersa Gulbub (1633N/3908E) and in the foothills near Afabet town (1612N/3841E).

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.5 Sudan

During 19-25th July, ground survey was conducted in the River Nile State covering 3475ha. During the survey, scattered mature solitary adults were found on 21ha with a density ranging between 100-225 individuals per hectare between Atbara (1742N/3400E) and Merowe (1830N/3149E) south of Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E)..

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 346)*

Central Region: The Desert Locust situation during July remained extremely serious in Yemen for a third consecutive month. Egg laying, hatching and hopper band formation occurred within a large portion of the interior. By the end of the month, immature swarms started to form and were moving into crops. AT the same time, breeding continued and new infestations were being found in areas that had not been surveyed previously. Ground control operations commenced in early July and treated nearly 19000ha. More swarms will form during August but most of these swarms are likely to remain in the interior. There is a slight risk that some swarms could move to the Red Sea coastal plains of Yemen and Saudi Arabia or to the Indo-Pakistan border via Oman. If more rainfall occurs in the interior of Yemen, another generation of egg-laying could start by the end of August with hatching and band formation in September.

Western Region: The situation remained calm during July. Isolated mature adults were reported in southern Mauritania and were probably present in Mali, Niger or Chad. No locusts were reported in Northwest Africa except for an isolated adult in northwest Libya.

Eastern Region: Some locusts appeared on the Gujarat coast in India in early July that may have come from infestations in western Pakistan or perhaps northern Somalia. Small-scale breeding commenced with the onset of the monsoon rains in Rajasthan, India and probably in adjacent areas of Pakistan.

3.0 Forecast until mid-September 2007 (*Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 346*)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in the western lowlands and on the northern Red Sea coast between Mahmimet and Karura, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

3.3 Ethiopia

Small residual adult populations may be present between Dire-Dawa and northern Somalia. If conditions remain favorable, small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall.

3.4 Somalia

Small residual adult populations may be present on the plateau between Boroma and Burao and perhaps on the coast near Berbera. If conditions remain favorable, small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall.

3.5 Sudan

Small populations will persist in the River Nile State where laying and hatching will occur in August. Low numbers of adults are almost certainly present in the summer breeding areas in west and North Darfur, North Kordofan, White Nile and Kassala States where small-scale breeding is likely to be in progress. Breeding will continue during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Surveys should be conducted in these areas on a regular basis.

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

On 11th, 13th and 15th of June, a ground control operation using AU-8000 was conducted in Murjanda (0428S/3507E), Mulbadan (0428N/3505E) and Setchet (0428S/3508E) localities in Manyara Region. 1.5, 1.0 and 0.5 million birds were controlled respectively and mortality of the birds was estimated between 90-97%.

Aerial control operation was also continued during June in Manyara, Musoma, Mwanza and Mbeya regions and was reported as follows:

Manyara Region:

Basuto district: 2 roosts of 5 million birds on 20ha of Acacia trees were sprayed with 110 liters of Avicide killing 90% of the population.

Kilu district: 5 roosts of 15 million birds on 55ha of Acacia trees were sprayed with 240 liters of Avicide killing 90% of the population.

Musoma Region:

2 roosts of 4 million birds on 35ha of Reeds were sprayed with 150 liters of Queletox killing 95% of the population.

Mwanza Region:

1 roost of 2 million birds on 10ha of Typha grass were sprayed with 90 liters of Avicide killing 90% of the population.

Mbeya Region:

Mbarali district: 8 roosts of 14 million birds on 165ha of Typha grass and Acacia trees were sprayed with 635 liters of Avicide killing 98% of the population.

During July, a DLCO-EA aircraft continued spraying of Quelea birds in Mbeya region at locations Madibira and Mbarali, in Morogoro region Kilosa and Mtibwa locations and was reported as follows;

<u>Locations</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Roost No.</u>	<u>No. of birds</u>	<u>Hectare</u>	<u>Avicide (ltr)</u>
Madibira (0812S/3445E)	9-12	3	7.5 mill.	255	300
Mbarali (0839S/3326E)	12-14	3	4.8 mill.	177	225
Kilosa (0651S/3700E)	16-17	2	2.5 mill	100	160
Mtibwa (0609S/3739E)	20	1	1.0 mill	30	42

4.1.2 Kenya

Late report

During June, a DLCO-EA aircraft sprayed Quelea birds outbreaks in the Rift valley and Nyanza provinces and reported as follows:

A. Rift Valley Province

Narok district: Aerial control operations were done throughout the month and approximately 10.3 million birds in 9 roosts had been controlled using 620liters of Avicide.

Nakuru district: Areas affected were Rongai, Bahati, Naivasha, Ndabibi, Longonot and Mai-Mahiu. Approximately 4.5 million birds in 6 roosts had been controlled using 200 liters of Avicide.

B. Nyanza Province

During June infestations and control operations continued in Siaya and Nyando districts. Approximately 12.3 million birds in 6 roosts had been controlled using 570 liters of Avicide.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

A DLCO-EA aircraft conducted Quelea control operation from 20 – 25th of the month in the Southern region of the country. A total of 3 roosts with bird population of 5.8 million were located in Afena(052559N/372800E), Kolta(054334N/372670E) and Bayde. The populations were established on Acacia trees and bushes. 300 liters of Queletox (Fenthion 60%ULV) was sprayed over 150ha of the target and the average kill was estimated 98%.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

Member countries remained free from any infestation

SIFO

For Director,

5th August 2007

For more information about the organization, please visit DLCO-EA's

Website: www.dlcoea.org.et