

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

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

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the **Central Region**, no significant rain fell in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea during March. Vegetation continued to dry out on the Eritrean coastal plains south of Mahmimet to Massawa. Vegetation started to dry out in the area between Mahmimet and the Tokar Delta, Sudan and remained green only in a few Wadis. Unusually heavy and widespread rains fell in northern Oman on 17-19 March. Consequently, breeding conditions will improve and should remain favorable during April and May. Good rains fell over most of the spring breeding areas in the central interior of Saudi Arabia on 26-27 March where vegetation is already green. Good rains also fell in mid-March and again at the end of the month in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen, mainly in Shabwah and Marib, where ecological conditions are expected to improve in the coming weeks. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 342*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

No rain had been recorded in the locust-infested areas since February 25th 2007, except for some drizzling that occurred in localized places on the Red Sea coast. Clouds were often observed in places north of Massawa, fogs and mists were covering high hills and mountains on the eastern escarpment. Soil was generally dry in the coast except in some Wadis, which were wet and moist. Vegetation and crops in Shelshela (1535N/3908E) up to Geleb-sagla (1705N/3856E) were dry and drying out, where as in Mahmimet, Karura and surrounding areas vegetation were generally green.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the first and second week of the month, dry and sunny weather condition prevailed in eastern part of the country. However, during the fourth week seasonal

rainfall started to fall in eastern and southern parts of the country. Due to this, low rainfall fell and recorded in Diredawa and Harar as follows;

Date	Rainfall (mm)	
	Harar (0935N/0452E)	Diredawa
20/03/2007	1.5	6.4
21 "	12.5	nil
22 "	nil	2.2
25 "	-	2.9
26 "	9.0	-
30 "	-	3.6
31 "	-	12.2

Vegetation was green

1.4 Kenya

Generally, most parts of the country had hot and dry weather conditions during the month of March.

1.5 Somalia

Report not received.

1.6 Sudan

Report not received.

1.7 Tanzania

Report not received.

1.8 Uganda

Sporadic showers and thunderstorms, accompanied by strong winds were reported in parts of East, West and South-Western Uganda and Lake Victoria basin. This has been attributed to the excessive heat recorded in the named areas. Overall, heavy rains recorded across most parts of the country, which was signifying the beginning of the March-May rain season.

Vegetation was green across most parts of the country.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust control campaign continued in the eastern lowland areas for the fourth month. Control operations were conducted by ground using vehicle-mounted sprayers and since 28th March a DLCO-EA Aircraft has started spraying in the northern part of Eritrea bordering the Sudan. The operation is conducted in a cross-border operation between the Eastern coast of Sudan and Northern part of Eritrea. Since the start of the control operations 26,471ha has been sprayed using 26,471 liters of Insecticide. Majority of the locust populations were at fledgling stage.

Table. Aerial operation 28th - 31st March, 2007

Insecticide	Amount sprayed (ltrs)	lt/ha	Dose a.i./ha	Area sprayed ha	Location	Av-Gas ltrs	Flying hours.
Malathion 96%ULV	1260	1	960gm	1160	Karura and surroundings	760	6 hours & 20 minutes
Polythrin 22%ULV	200	2		100			

2.3 Ethiopia

Starting from mid-March, Desert Locust survey was conducted in eastern Ethiopia in areas; Aysha (1045N/4234E), Biokobobe (1023N/4238E), Ebogurgur (1043N/4222E), Beadjog (0953N/4229E), Degego (1029N/4233E), Dure (1002N/4223E).

Swarms covering 50ha and 60ha were found at Degego and Biogurgur respectively. Scattered immature adults covering 10ha were also found at Biogurgur. Ground control operations were initiated on 10ha of settled and scattered adults at Biogurgur (1022N/4242E) and 7 liters of Fenitrothion 96% ULV was sprayed using handheld ULV sprayers. Survey was continuing with two field teams in suspected areas.

2.4 Somalia

During the March, small third to fifth instar hopper bands, and immature and mature swarms were reported on the northwest coast near Djibouti in a relatively small and concentrated area near Silil (1058N/4326E). At the end of the month, scattered immature adults were seen further east along the coast near Lughaye (1041N/4356E) and about 50km east of Berbera (1028N/4502E). There was also an unconfirmed report of a swarm near Boroma (0956N/4313E). (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 342*)

2.5 Sudan

During March, locust infestations persisted on the Red Sea coastal plains between the Tokar Delta and the Eritrea border. Groups of immature and mature solitary and gregarious adults mixed with numerous small early instar hopper bands at densities of up to 2,000 hoppers/m² were initially concentrated in a relatively small area of about 7x15km between Agetai (1802N/3823E) and the border. Hoppers continued to form bands and by mid-month, fledgling had commenced. Thereafter, several small immature and mature swarms formed in the same area, some of which laid eggs. During the last week of March, there were nine reports of small immature swarms arriving from adjacent coastal areas in Eritrea and most of the hopper bands had fledged except near Agetai where many large fifth instar bands were reported. Ground and aerial control operations treated 11,174ha during March.

In Tokar Delta, only scattered solitary immature and mature adults were present during the month. Although there was no indication that swarms had reached the delta, one mature swarm was reported to be laying eggs on the 25th about 10km from its southern edge. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 342*)

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions (*extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 342*)

Central Region: Apart from the Desert Locust infestation reported in Eritrea, Sudan and Northern Somalia, local breeding continued on the central Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia. At the end of the month, a few small swarms formed and some of the adults started to move towards the spring breeding areas in the interior.

Western Region: The situation remained calm in the region during March. Limited breeding occurred in one area of northwest Mauritania. Scattered adults were present in parts of western Algeria and western Libya.

Eastern Region: Small-scale breeding was in progress on the coast in western Pakistan and limited control operations were carried out. Nevertheless, more breeding is likely to occur during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. There is also a low risk that a few swarms could reach these areas from current infestations along the Red Sea coast and in northern Somalia.

3.0 Forecast until mid-May 2007 (*Forecast from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 342 is sighted*)

3.1 Djibouti

There is a slight risk of a few small swarms arriving early in the forecast period from adjacent areas of northwest Somalia. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small immature swarms will form early in the forecast period and are expected to emigrate as vegetation continued to dry out. Some of the swarms are likely to move further north along the coast to Sudan while others could move west into the highlands. Once in the highlands, the swarms may stay there for several weeks or they could move to irrigated agriculture in the western lowlands (Gash-Barka). There is a risk that a few small swarms could also appear in these areas from current infestations in northwest Somalia.

3.3 Ethiopia

A few more small swarms are likely to appear between Jijiga and DireDawa from neighboring areas in northern Somalia. If so, these swarms could continue north into the highlands of Amhara and Tigray regions.

3.4 Somalia

A few more small swarms could form on the northwest coast and move east along the coast or towards the plateau and the Ethiopian border, or remain on the northwest coast, mature and lay eggs in areas of recent rainfall. If laying occurs, hatching is expected by the end of April and fledging by the end of May. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely.

3.5 Sudan

Hopper bands and swarms will continue to form on the Red Sea coastal plains between Agetai and the Eritrean border. Small-scale hatching will occur by mid-April and the resulting hoppers are likely to form a few small band and fledge by mid-May. More swarms are expected to arrive from adjacent coastal areas in Eritrea in April. As vegetation continues to dry out, the swarms are likely to move north along the coast towards the Tokar Delta and Port Sudan as well as inland towards the Red Sea Hills and the Nile Valley. Some swarms could cross the Red Sea to the Saudi Arabian coast. 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 Tanzania

Aerial Quelea birds control operations started and continued in some of the outbreak areas in Dodoma Region. During the beginning of the month,

960ha of infestation is sprayed using 1530liters of Avicide. Meanwhile, full and detail report of the infestation and operation not received.

4.1.2 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Report not received.

4.3 Tree Locust (*Anacridium spp.*)

4.3.1 Kenya

Between 2nd and 15th of the month, a DLCO-EA Aircraft sprayed Tree Locusts infested areas in Turkana District in the northwestern part of the country. The area under infestation was estimated 200,000ha and 1290 liters of insecticide had been sprayed in some selected sites.

4.4 Tsetse fly

4.4.1. Uganda

There were press reports of the Tsetse flies and the associated diseases spreading fast in the countryside.

SIFO
For Director,
5th April 2007

*For more information about the organization, please visit DLCO-EA's
Website: www.dlcoea.org.et*