

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

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SITREP No. 04/2008-2009

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT
FOR OCTOBER, 2008



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, apart from the ecological conditions reported in member countries, light rains fell at times on the eastern side of the Red Sea along parts of the coast between Quinfidah, Saudi Arabia and Mocha, Yemen. In Yemen, vegetation was green or becoming green on the central Red Sea coast and in some places on the Gulf of Aden coast west of Aden. On 21-22 October, unusually heavy rains associated with a tropical depression that formed in Indian Ocean fell in eastern Yemen, mainly in Wadi Hadramaut and along the coast from Mukalla to the central coast of Oman. The rains caused severe flooding and loss of property and life. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 361)*

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Shebah (1540N/3901E) and Ghedged (1542N/3903N) areas, which are located north of the Port city of Massawa received some showers during October. No rainfall was occurred in the southern Red Sea areas influenced by the tropical cyclone, which was

adversely affected some areas around the Gulf of Aden.

Average high and low temperature for Assab and Massawa were 36.5/25⁰C and 36.5/27⁰C respectively. Prevailing wind was North-easterlies at an average speed of 5 km/sec.

Vegetation in both the highlands and Western lowlands were drying out. The coastal plains were dry with the exception of large Wadis, which had wet soils and irrigated crops.

1.3 Ethiopia

During October, dry and sunny weather conditions prevailed in Dire-Dawa and surrounding areas. However, on 29/10/08 and 30/10/08, 1.5mm and 0.5mm of rainfalls were recorded respectively in Dire-Dawa rainfall station. During the last week of the month, there were reports of light to medium amount of rainfalls occurred in the eastern and southeastern parts of the country that created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.4 Kenya

Light to medium and some heavy rainfalls were occurred in most parts of the country during October. Some floods were reported in the northeastern parts of the country in places around Mandera, where Desert Locust had bred last year.

1.5 Somalia

Some heavy cloud covers were observed during the second and third decade of the month in the northern parts of the country. Light to moderate rains fell in the northern coast on 25th of October. Heavy rains were also fell in northeastern and Puntland areas on the 21st of October from the tropical depression that hit Yemen.

1.6 Sudan

Except for the rains that occurred by the third decade of September, no rainfall was received during October. In Toker Delta, vegetation was almost green and soil was wet while in the summer breeding belt, vegetation was drying out with the exception of green patches in some locations but soil was found dry.

1.7 Tanzania

Heavy down pours were received in Dar-es-Salaam, Morogoro and Lake Zone areas while the rest of the country remained dry and hot.

1.8 Uganda

Heavy showers and thunderstorms were reported across most parts of the Country and damage to crops, vegetation, houses and death of animals were reported in Kisoro and Rukugiri Districts (Western Uganda) due to hailstorms. Consequently, vegetation was reported very green across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Locusts were not found during ground surveys carried out on the eastern coastal areas between Massawa (1537N/3928E) and Karora (1745N/3820E) on 21-23 of October.

2.3 Ethiopia

Desert Locusts were not found and no reports were received during a ground survey operation conducted by MOARD staff and Somali Region agricultural experts. Survey was conducted from 15th to 31st of the month in areas between Dire-Dawa Djibouti and Jijiga Northern Somalia borders.

2.4 Kenya,

The country remained free from Locust infestation.

2.5 Somalia

Locust situation remained calm except for unconfirmed report of small hopper patches seen by a farmer in areas between Odweyne (0930N/4505E) and Hargeisa (0931N/4402E) on 18th of October.

2.6 Sudan

Ground survey operations continued in the Red Sea State particularly in Toker Delta and the summer belt during 27-31 of October. 6588 ha were surveyed and 3 ha were found infested in the summer breeding belt with mature solitarious scattered adults. Density was estimated 50 individuals/ha.

2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.8 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 361)*

Central Region: Locust numbers declined in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan during October and only scattered solitarious adults remained in few places between the Nile and the Red Sea Hills. Low numbers of locusts were present on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coast in Yemen, and small scale breeding occurred near Aden.

Western Region: Locust numbers increased in western Mauritania from local breeding during October and as adults arrived from summer breeding areas where vegetation had dried out. Solitarious adults were seen in northern areas that received heavy rains in September. Small-scale breeding will continue during the forecast period in western Mauritania and is expected to take place in Western Sahara. Isolated solitarious adults persisted in central and northeastern Chad.

Eastern Region: The locust situation remained calm in the region. Low numbers of solitarious adults persisted in the Cholistan Desert in Pakistan along the Indian border. No locusts were seen in Rajasthan, India.

3.0 Forecast until mid-December 2008

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 361)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults are likely to appear on the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and Karora. Small-scale breeding will occur in areas of rainfall or runoff.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Kenya

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Somalia

Scattered adults may be present on the plateau between Boroma and Hargeisa. Small-scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rainfall on the plateau and the nearby escarpment.

3.6 Sudan

Low numbers of locusts are expected to appear on the Red Sea coast from summer breeding areas. Small-scale breeding is expected to commence once rains fall.

3.7 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 Kenya

Quelea outbreaks were reported and controlled by air in Moya, Central Province. On 12th and 13th of October, 1.5 and 3.5 million birds were controlled using Queletox in Ahita and Kirie locations respectively. The birds were roosting on tall indigenous trees and threatening irrigated Rice. More control operations were followed in those areas but details of the report not received.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Late report

Four roosts were reported and controlled during September in Kilimanjaro Region using a

DLCO-EA aircraft. 400 liters of Queletox was sprayed on an estimated of 3.5 million birds, which were roosting on Sugar Cane plantation and feeding on Rice.

During October, some flocks of Quelea birds were observed feeding on irrigated rice in Kilimanjaro region, but their roosting sites were not located.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Late report

On 23rd and 28th of September, an estimated of 11 million birds were controlled by air in Adamitulu District (Kontola locality) in Oromiya Region, and Showa Robit district (Kewet locality) in Amhara region. Birds were roosting on 150 ha of trees and 300 litres of Queletox was sprayed.

During October, an estimated of 37.6 million Quelea birds were controlled by a DLCO-EA aircraft in Amhara and Oromiya regions in northern and eastern Shoa of the country. 2035 litres of Queletox was sprayed on 1023 ha of roosting areas and details of the operation were presented as follow:

On 1st October, 100 litres of Queletox was sprayed on 50 ha in the same location to control some birds, which were not sprayed during the first operation.

On 2nd, 4th and 5th of October, aerial control operation continued on an estimated of 4.5 million birds in Eastern Shoa, Oromiya region at Elen-1, Elen-2 and Gogeti localities. 300 liters of Queletox was sprayed on 150 ha of roosting sites.

On 8th, 10th-13th and 14th – 19th aerial control operation continued in north Shoa, Oromiya region and an estimated of 18.1 million birds were controlled by the operation. Districts affected were Efrata, Kewet, Jile Timuga, Dawa Chefa, and Antsokia.

On 24th of October, 2 million birds were reported and controlled by air in East Shoa at

Elen-3 in Bora District of Oromiya Region. Birds were roosting on 50 ha and 100 liters of Avicide was used.

On 30th of the month, aerial control operation continued in north Shoa at Jille District in Amhara Region where 2 million birds were sprayed using 100 liters of Avicide.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

The region remained free from infestation.

SIFO

For Director,

4th November, 2008