

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

Headquarters (Addis Ababa)
Tel: 251-1-16461477/0287/0290
Fax: 251-1-16460296

Operations Office (Nairobi)
Tel: 254-020-602305/601488
Fax: 254-020-601575

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



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, apart from the ecological conditions reported in member countries, good rains fell on the eastern side of the Red Sea along a large portion of the coast and adjacent hills between Bader, Saudi Arabia and Mocha, Yemen. Ecological conditions are expected to be favourable for small-scale breeding on the Yemeni coast and will improve in Saudi Arabia. (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 360)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During September, apart from showers received on the highlands, some heavy and wide spread rainfalls occurred in the Western lowlands. On 4th of September, rains fell almost in all areas located north of Sheib Ghedged (1546/3903) including Marsa Gulbub (1625/3910), the northeastern escarpment, the foothills and the Red Sea coast. Wadis on the above areas were flooded and were having stagnant water.

The following rainfall records were obtained from Met stations during the month;

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Date</u>
Asmara (1520/3855)	12	06/09/08
Keren (1540/3826)	27	03/09/08
Afabet (1614/3847)	30	04/09/08
Afdeyu (1531/3851)	47	06/09/08
Akordat (1538/3752)	11	03/09/08
	75	06/09/08
Barentu (1508/3737)	05	06/09/08
	21	17/09/08
Mahmimet (1721/3835)	34	04/09/08
Sheib (1550/3903)	39.5	04/09/08

Generally, condition of vegetation was improving on the high and western lowlands due to abundant rains received from mid-August to September. However, it remained dry on the eastern coastal areas but soil was wet in areas where rains fell.

Average maximum and minimum temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 39.5/29°C and 41/32°C respectively.

Prevailing wind direction was Northerlies at a speed of 5 meters/sec.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the month medium to heavy cloud covers and seasonal rainfalls were reported in the country. In Dire Dawa and surrounding areas on the eastern parts of the country, light rainfalls were received and recorded as follows;

Rainfall data Dire Dawa station:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount (mm)</u>
01/09/08	9.8
04/09/08	6.2
07/09/08	15.2
08/09/08	0.1
14/09/08	2.8
17/09/08	3.5
20/09/08	1.9
22/09/08	1.2
23/09/08	1.6

Vegetation was generally reported green in areas where rainfall had occurred and was also suitable for Desert Locust breeding.

1.4 Kenya

The month of September was dry except for very few areas that received some precipitation.

1.5 Somalia

Vegetation on the entire northern coastal area was dry except between Hargeisa-Borama, and Hargeisa-Berbera where it was green due to moderate rains that had fallen over the areas during the month.

1.6 Sudan

During September 2008, wide summer Desert Locust breeding areas received low to medium rainfalls. The ITCZ was reported oscillating north of Atbara and north of the western states. The prevailing winds were north to northeasterly in the Northern and River Nile states and the Red sea summer belt; south to

southwesterly in North Kordofan, White Nile and the Western States.

Vegetation was green in North Kordofan and White Nile, and dry to greening in River Nile, Red sea summer belt and Kassala States.

1.7 Tanzania

Report not received.

1.8 Uganda

Report not received.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Locusts were not seen during ground surveys carried out on the eastern lowland areas between Massawa (1537N/3928E) and Karora (1745N/3820E) on 05-08 of September.

2.3 Ethiopia

Locusts were not reported.

2.4 Kenya,

The country remained free from Locust infestation.

2.5 Somalia

Ground survey was carried out on 15-20 September between Hargeisa (0931N/4402E) and Boroma (0956N/4313E) and on the northwest coast between Silili (1058N/4326E) and Berbera (1028N/4502E). All surveyed areas found free from locust infestations.

2.6 Sudan

No locusts were found during surveys carried out on 18-20 of September by PPD staff in Northern and River Nile States but some scattered immature solitarious adults were seen at densities up to 100 adults/ha in North Kordofan near Sodiri (1423N/2906E) and Umm Saiyala (1426N/3112E).

2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.8 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 360)*

Central Region: Generally, the region remained calm. Scattered solitarious adults persisted in the interior of Sudan west of the Nile and a few isolated adults were seen on a farm in the interior of Saudi Arabia.

Western Region: Locust numbers continued to remain low in the northern Sahel even though breeding occurred during September in Mauritania. A similar situation is likely occurred in northern Mali and Niger where surveys were not possible due to continued insecurity. Isolated adults were seen in northeast Chad but breeding was not detected.

Eastern Region: Although locusts were not seen in the summer breeding areas in Rajasthan, India low numbers of hoppers and adults were probably present in adjacent areas of Pakistan.

3.0 Forecast until mid-November 2008

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 360)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults may appear on the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and Karora where they are likely to breed on a small-scale

in areas that received rainfall or runoff in early September.

3.3 Ethiopia

Scattered adults may be present between Harar and northern Somalia where they could breed on a small-scale in areas of recent rainfall.

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

Small-scale breeding is likely to be in progress and continue in early October in North Darfur, North Kordofan, Nile and Kassala States, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Thereafter, vegetation is expected to dry out and adults will move towards the Red Sea coast, appearing along the western side of the Red Sea Hills and on the coastal plains where they will eventually lay eggs.

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 in western Kenya and the Rift Valley areas. Control operation was conducted around Kisumu but detail of the report not received.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Quelea outbreaks were reported during September around Arusha but details of the report not received.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestations were reported in Shoa Robit in northeastern and Zeway in the Rift Valley areas of the country. Details of the operation were not received, however 250 liters of Avicide was sprayed by air in Shoa Robit on the 25th of the month.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

The region remained free from infestation and further developments are not expected.

SIFO

For Director,