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SITREP No. 10/2008-2009

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR APRIL, 2009



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, good rains fell over the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa during the first decade of April. In Yemen light to moderate rains fell in most parts of the highlands and interior extending to southern Oman. Similar rains fell throughout the spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia. In northern Somalia, rains fell on the coast, escarpment and plateau from the Djibouti border to Erigavo. In Ethiopia, good rains fell in the Harar highlands, reaching the western Ogaden. Consequently, ecological conditions improved and became favorable for breeding in all of these areas. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 367)*

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

With the exception of some extended short rain showers on the highlands, no significant rainfall occurred in the month of April. Natural vegetation and some crops persisted on the highland and were partially green. The rest including Western and Eastern lowlands remained dry.

Average high and low temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 33/24⁰C and 35/26⁰C respectively. Prevailing wind was North Easterly at wind speed of 05 meters/sec.

1.2 Ethiopia

During the month, dry and sunny weather conditions prevailed in the eastern parts of the country. However, some light rains fell at times in Dire Dawa and the surrounding areas and the Harar highlands. During ground and aerial surveys, green vegetation dominated by *Acacia* trees was observed, and some were greening due to the rains received during the month.

The following rainfall data was obtained from Diredawa rainfall station;

Date	DIRE DAWA (09 36N/041 50E)
03/04	0.9mm
05/04	3.5 “
08/04	0.1 “
11/04	7.2 “
12/04	12.0 “
15/04	3.2 “
25/04	12.0 “

1.4 Kenya

During April, medium to heavy rains fell in most parts of the country and vegetation were greening.

1.5 Somalia

Light rains fell during the first decade of the month on the coast, escarpment and plateau on the northern coastal areas. Vegetation in most of the areas, which had received rains and reported locust infestation were green. Wadis and soil in some locations were wet, which created favorable ecological conditions for locusts breeding.

1.6 Sudan

No rainfall was received in the winter breeding areas of the Red Sea coast during April. Vegetation was found drying to dry and soil was dry.

1.7 Tanzania

The long rains came late but were heaviest in the Southern and Northern highlands, Lake Zone, the Coastal belt and the Western regions, while the rest of the country had moderate rains.

1.8 Uganda

Showers and thunderstorms had been reported and vegetation was green across most parts of the country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Three Desert Locust immature adults were flushed within Asmara DLCO-EA Base

between 20th and 22nd April. The locusts could be part of displacement of swarms which were reported in Yemen on the first week of April as there was no any information of swarms developed within Eritrea. The presence of adults in Eritrea could only indicate of migration from neighbouring areas, possibly Yemen.

2.3 Ethiopia

Ministry of Agriculture staff from the Somali regional state and Harar plant clinic conducted ground survey at Aisha (1045N/4234E), Shinile, Dembel, Error and Awbere areas covering about 11,500 ha in the Somali Regional State from 25 April to 1st May 2009. Medium density mature and immature swarm covering 26sqkm was seen flying low at Harawa (1001N/4157E on the 26th. On 27th of April, 60 liters of Fenitrothion 95% ULV was sprayed using two vehicle mounted sprayers.

On the 30th, after receiving of a swarm report at locality 0957N/4219E, 5500sqkm was surveyed by a DLCO-EA aircraft covering Dure, Harmukale, Mille, Harawa and Dire Dawa areas and no locusts were found.

Latest report for 1st of May indicated that aerial survey and control operation was carried out southeast of Diredawa. Mixed immature and mature swarms covering about 100ha were found at 0955N/4227E and 100 liters of Malathion 96% was sprayed on 100ha. Vegetation was found green and dense dominated by *Acacia* trees in the above locations and soil was found wet.

2.4 Somalia

Desert Locust hopper bands, solitary adults, immature and mature copulating and egg-laying swarms were reported in the northern coast in the northwestern parts of the country. Ground and aerial survey and control operations were conducted from 3rd of the month.

During surveys, mature gregarious adults, small to large sized of hopper bands, fledglings and small to medium size of immature and mature swarms were found in the following locations:

Karure (1044N/4334E), 300 ha was surveyed and isolated fledglings were found on the 4th of the month. On the same date, another survey which covered 4000 ha was conducted at a location of 1051N/4325E using vehicle transect and fledglings and some late 5th instar hopper bands were found on 2700 ha. 40 ha of the infestation had been controlled with Dursban 24% ULV using hand held sprayers.

On 5th of April, ground survey covering 1000ha was conducted in areas around Karure and 12 high density of late 5th instar hopper bands and fledglings were found covering 150 ha. Average band size was 13ha. The surveyed area was plain with medium density dry vegetation and dry soil.

On 6th and 7th of the month, 10,000 ha was surveyed by ground at location 1047N/4330E and 5 medium density bands having 5th instar hoppers and fledglings covering 45 ha were found. Solitary and isolated immature adults at a density of 3/300m² were also found. 45 ha of 5th hopper bands were treated with 40 liters of Dursban 24% ULV using hand held sprayers. Vegetation and soil was found dry in the surveyed areas.

It was also reported that on 6th of April, one large immature swarm was seen passing from north to south over Bildalar towards Hargeisa area 933N/4403E and another large swarm was reported flew from northeast to southwest over Jidh and Abdirqadir 1036N/4240E next to the Ethiopian border.

On 8th and 9th of the month, 2,100 ha was surveyed at Qalabo 1048N/4331E, 1047N/4331E and Qolqol 1034N/4357E. 12 3rd to 5th instars medium density hopper bands with a size of 0.5 – 2 ha covering 15 ha were found at Qalabo. Medium density mature

gregarious copulating adults covering 300 ha were found at Qolqol and scattered immature adults were seen flying over Elahale 1015N/4405E and 1018N/4404E. 15 ha of hopper bands were treated at Qalabo valley with 16 liters of Dursban 24% ULV using hand held sprayers.

On 8th of April, swarms which flew from NW Somalia reached in areas between Berbera 1026N/4500E and Hargeisa 1003N/4258E.

On 11th and 12th of the month, after receiving of Desert Locust swarm report at Lasgel 0946N/4426E, ground survey was conducted on 400 ha and no locust was found. The area surveyed was Wadi and plain with medium density green vegetation and wet soil. A swarm covering 15sqkm, which arrived on the previous days was reported flew to Burao 0930N/4532E east of Lasgel. At Lafaruq 0959N/4445E and Lasanod 1008N/4452E, survey covering 1000 ha was conducted on the 11th and 12th and mature copulating swarm covering about 60 ha and isolated mature Desert Locust adults were found respectively. The surveyed area was plain with green vegetation and wet soil.

37 liters of Dursban 24% ULV was sprayed over 37 ha using handheld sprayer at Lafaruq. One medium density swarm was seen moving east via Lasado.

On 20th, 21st and 22nd of April, ground survey was conducted at Godhere 1017N/4334E, Turgoble 1020N/4341E and Gubad 1031N/4341E. Medium density mature swarms were found covering 150ha, 200ha and 140ha at Godhere, Turgoble and Gubad respectively.

Another ground survey was conducted between 20th and 23rd of the month at Abdaal 0955N/4440E, Mandheera 0952N/4442E, Lafa-ruug 0959N/4445E, Beeyo-dhaadher 0942N/4524E and 1025N/4526E, Biyo-guure 1025N/4506E, Kabadhaadhere 1005N/4510E, Laaleys 0927N/4525E, Ceel-Bilicle 0923N/4514E, Odweyne 0927N/4457E and Hidh-hidh 0935N/4441E.

The survey covered 1140 ha and scattered mature locust were found in some of the locations. Vegetation was found green and soil was wet in most of the above indicated places.

On 24th and 26th of April, 28kgs of *Metarhizium (Green muscle)* mixed with 522 liters of diesel was sprayed on 550 ha by air on matured adults. An aerial survey was also conducted covering 200sqkm west of Hargeisa at localities (1003/4258) and no swarms were detected. The area was reported covered with green *Acacia* vegetation, soil was wet and Wadis had water.

2.5 Sudan

During 20th - 22nd of April 2009, 5800 ha was surveyed between Suakin and the Sudanese Eritrean border. During the survey, 10 ha at Wad Wenees (1811N/3715E) was found infested with immature solitary scattered adults at a density of 200 locusts/ha.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 367)*

Central Region: The situation remained serious in Yemen and Somalia during April as a result of an outbreak that developed in each country in March. Several swarms formed on the coast in northwest Somalia and moved up the escarpment to the plateau. Although nearly 800 ha were treated in northern Somalia, a few swarms escaped and reached northeast Ethiopia. In Yemen, swarms formed on the coast and moved to the interior desert where good rains fell and egg laying was seen. At least one swarm reached the central highlands. Hatching and hopper band formation will occur during May in the three countries that if not controlled, could lead to the formation of small swarms by mid-June, some of which could eventually move northwest towards Eritrea and Sudan or northeast towards the Indo-Pakistan border. In Saudi Arabia, locusts

increased in one area on the Red Sea coast from breeding that occurred in December and January. Ground teams treated more than 200 ha of hopper groups and bands. The situation remained calm elsewhere in the region.

Western Region: Scattered solitarious adults were present south of the Atlas mountains in Morocco and Algeria during April. Small-scale breeding expected to occur in some areas but locust numbers will remain low.

Eastern Region: Scattered adults were present during April in the spring breeding areas of southeast Iran and western Pakistan. Limited control was undertaken against hoppers in the interior of Pakistan. Small-scale breeding may take place in May in both countries but locust numbers will remain low.

3.0 Forecast until mid-June 2009

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 367)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

There may be a low risk of a few swarms appearing in summer breeding areas at the end of the forecast period from the Horn of Africa.

3.3 Ethiopia

There is a moderate risk that a few more groups of adults and small swarms could appear in the Harar Highlands, on the escarpment near Dire-Dawa and Jijiga, and in the Ogaden in early May. The adults will probably disperse in these areas and breed on a small to moderate scale with hatching and possible hopper band formation during May.

3.4 Somalia

Hatching is expected to occur in early May on the escarpment and plateau between Boroma and Erigavo, and to a lesser extent on the

northwest coast near Lughaye. Hoppers may form small groups and bands, and fledge from early June onwards, causing small groups and perhaps a few small swarms to form by mid-month.

3.5 Sudan

There may be a low risk of a few swarms appearing in summer breeding areas at the end of the forecast period from the Horn of Africa, or adults from the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries 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

A DLCO-EA aircraft continued Quelea birds control operations during April in different regions of the country and were reported as follows:-

Shinyanga Region

4 colonies and 1 roost with an estimated of 19 million birds on a total of 150 ha of Acacia trees/reeds were controlled using 500 liters of chemical killing 95% of the birds. Crops saved include Rice and Finger Millet.

Mwanza Region

2 roosts and 3 colonies with an estimated of 15 million birds on a total of 295 ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 525 liters of chemical with a kill of 95%. Crops saved include Rice, Finger Millet and Bullrush Millet.

Dodoma Region:

• Kondoa District

One roost with an estimated of 4 million birds on 50 ha of Acacia trees was controlled with 100 liters of chemical.

Manyara Region

3 colonies with an estimated of 6 million birds on 37 ha of *Acacia* trees were sprayed with 200 liters of chemical with estimated mortality rate of 85%. Crop saved was Wheat. Operation continues in Dodoma region.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1. Tanzania

There were no reports of Armyworm outbreaks. Only the following moth trap catches were reported during April:- Tengeru (3), KATC (1), Shimbi Mashariki (2), Mkuu Rombo (3), Nganjoni (10), Mbozi (6), Mabungo (2), Ilkurot (4), Tanga (8) and Olkakokola (11)

4.2.2 Kenya

During the end of April and beginning of May, Armyworm infestations were reported in the Coast and Rift Valley provinces.

a) Coast province

On 23rd April, 4 ha of Maize and pastureland were found infested in Bamba Division, Kilifi District.

On 29th April, 320 ha of pastureland was found infested with 1st- 3rd instars in Malindi District. Average density of lava was estimated 250/m² On 30th 1.6 ha of Kenya prisons farm was found infested in the same district.

b) Rift Valley District

Latest report for 4th of May indicated that 100 ha of Wheat farm and pastureland were found

infested at Siapei location in Narok North District. Larvae were at 1st instar stage with an estimated density of 100/m².

All the above reported infestations were controlled by ground means.

Forecast during May, 2009

With the continuation of the current rainfall, more outbreaks and wider infestation are likely to occur in the Coast, Rift Valley, Eastern and Central provinces of Kenya. Therefore, more surveillance and monitoring have to be conducted in the key breeding locations.

SIFO

For Director,
6th May, 2009