

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR DECEMBER, 2009



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, light showers fell at times in a few places in the winter breeding areas along the western side of the Red Sea, causing ecological conditions to improve slightly for breeding. In Saudi Arabia, vegetation was becoming green on the Red Sea coast between Jeddah and Masturah from good rains in November. Vegetation was also green near Quinfidah and Jizan but remained generally dry elsewhere along the coast. No significant rainfall occurred along the Red Sea coast in Yemen and consequently, ecological conditions were not very favorable for breeding. (FAO DL bulletin No. 375)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Spell of very cold air in the morning and evening were reported in the highlands. Light to moderate amount of rain fell on 8th, 10th, 13th and 14th of December in areas north and south of the Port city of Massawa. Natural vegetation and crops in the above areas were found dry, green and greening. Soil was generally wet in the coastal area which gives favorable condition for locusts to breed.

Average high and low temperatures for Massawa were 32^oC and 23^oC while for Assab were 28^oC and 20^oC. Prevailing wind was North-Easterlies at a speed of 4.5 meters/second.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the month, dry and cloudy weather condition with light amount of rainfall was reported in Dire Dawa and surrounding areas in eastern Ethiopia. Vegetation was reported green due to the rainfalls.

1.4 Kenya

The month of December experienced wet weather conditions where medium to heavy rainfalls were occurred during the first two decades. The rainfalls intensified during the third decade of the month covering wider areas of the country. Consequently, torrential rainfalls brought heavy floods which inflicted property destructions and death of human beings and animals mainly in the Rift Valley, in the Western parts of the country and the capital Nairobi. Vegetation was observed and remained green in most parts of the country due to the continuous rainfall during the past three months.

1.5 Somalia

During December, vegetation remained generally dry except for small green patches in Lughaye and Silil areas.

1.6 Sudan

Light to moderate rains received during the last decade of December in the coastal areas from Suakin up to Osaif in the north and south of Tokar Delta up to the Eritrean border. Vegetation cover was generally observed greening and green with low to medium densities and soil was almost wet in the coastal areas. This may contribute in changing the ecological conditions in some parts of the coast to be favorable for DL breeding. The prevailing wind was northerly to northeasterly in the northern parts of Sudan that included the coastal areas.

1.7 Tanzania

Heavy to moderate rains continued to fall in most parts of the country. Vegetation was reported to be green in all parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

Heavy showers continued to occur and vegetation was observed green across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

PPD staff conducted ground locust survey in the winter locust breeding areas in the eastern lowland from 15-20 December, 2009. During the survey, isolated solitary adult and hoppers of 3rd instars were found in Sheib (Shelshela 1555 39N/390754E). The locusts were at

copulating stage and were feeding on natural vegetation.

2.3 Ethiopia

Ground survey was not conducted and the locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

Isolated mature solitarious adults were reported on the northwest coast near Silil (1058N/4326E) and the Djibouti border during the first week of December. .

2.5 Sudan

During December, 15,300 ha were surveyed in Tokar, Central, Northern and Southern parts of the Red Sea coast and only 90 ha were reported infested with low densities of solitarious adults.

In Tokar Delta, 2,800 ha were surveyed and 70 ha were reported infested with scattered solitarious mature adults at densities of 100 to 200 individuals/ha.

8,300 ha of locust breeding areas were surveyed in the **Northern parts** west of the Red Sea Hills and along Wadi El Diib and only 20 ha were found infested with low densities of mature solitarious adults.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 375)

Central Region: Local breeding commenced during December in the winter breeding areas along the western side of the Red Sea on the coast of Egypt and Eritrea. Low numbers of mature adults were reported on the coastal plains in Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Isolated adults were also present on the coast in northwest Somalia.

Western Region: Locust infestations continued to decline during December in Mauritania due to control operations and little rainfall. A few adults moved north into southern parts of Morocco, Western Sahara and western Algeria. Ground teams treated 15 ha in the central Sahara of Algeria where local breeding occurred. In Niger, ground teams treated 1,600 ha of late instar hoppers and immature adults that were forming small groups in vegetation that was drying out in Tamesna.

Eastern Region: No locusts were reported in the region during December.

3.0 Forecast until mid-February 2010

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers will increase slightly as hatching occurs during January on the Red Sea coastal plains near Shelshela and perhaps in other nearby areas that receive rainfall or runoff.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Small-scale breeding could occur on the northwest coast if rainfall occurs.

3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will take place in the Tokar Delta, nearby coastal plains and perhaps in Wadi Oko/Diib. Consequently, locust numbers will increase gradually but remain below threatening levels on the coast and sub-coastal areas.

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

During December, Quelea infestation was not reported. However, small-scale breeding is likely commencing in the traditional breeding areas.

4.1.2 Kenya

During December, a DLCO-EA aircraft conducted Quelea control operation in Siaya and Nyando districts of Nyanza Province where 9 roosts containing 8.7 million birds were identified. Five of the roosts were aerially sprayed using Fenthion 60% ULV while two of the roosts were controlled using firebombs.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During December, Armyworm outbreaks continued to occur in Same, Mwanga, Morogoro, Kilwa, Rombo and Arusha districts. The pest was reported attacking Maize, Rice and pasture. Control was carried out by farmers in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture staff.

Forecast during January 2010

During January, there is a high probability that worm infestation will increase in most locations of northeastern and northern parts of

Tanzania and the Coastal, Eastern, Central and probably the Rift Valley regions of Kenya. Therefore, regular monitoring of traps and field crops is highly advised.

SIFO

For Director,
06 January, 2010