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**SITREP No. 08/2008-2009**

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT**

**FOR FEBRUARY, 2009**



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, very little rain fell for the third consecutive month during February. Nevertheless, green vegetation increased along the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea in Sudan between Aqiq and Aiterba. Vegetation remained green on both sides of the Sudanese/Eritrean border. In Saudi Arabia, green vegetation persisted in a few places on the Red Sea coast between Lith and Jizan. In Yemen, vegetation was green on the central Red Sea coast but was drying out further north. Vegetation was also grebe on the Gulf of Aden coastal plains between Ahwar and Mukalia as well as in the interior between Shabwah and Al Hazm. Although light rains fell in a few places on the Batinah coast in northern Oman in early February and heavier rains fell in the nearby mountains, vegetation remained dry along the coast and ecological conditions were not favorable for breeding. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 365)*

**1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

**1.2 Eritrea**

Light amount of rainfall was recorded in Karura area during the third decade of the month. No rainfall was reported in the other

coastal areas, the highlands and western lowlands.

Natural vegetation in both the highlands and western lowlands was drying out. The escarpment was generally observed green. Sorghum and Pearl Millet crops and other vegetation, especially in the Wadis were green. Average high and low temperatures of Assab and Massawa were 26.5<sup>0</sup> - 19.5<sup>0</sup>C and 33<sup>0</sup> - 25<sup>0</sup>C respectively. Prevailing wind was Easterlies at a speed of 05 meters per second.

**1.3 Ethiopia**

Dry and sunny weather conditions prevailed in the eastern parts of the country. Vegetation was observed dry in the Ogaden region but was greener near Diredawa.

**1.4 Kenya**

During February, dry to windy weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the country. However, during the month scattered and very light rain fell in some areas.

**1.5 Somalia**

Report not received.

## 1.6 Sudan

Some light rainfalls were received during the first decade of the month along the winter locust breeding areas on the Red Sea coast. However, by the end of the month, except for some green patches generally vegetation and soil started drying out.

## 1.7 Tanzania

Report not received.

## 1.8 Uganda

Scattered showers and thunderstorms were observed across most parts of the country. In some of the central parts of the country (e.g. Kayunga and Mukno Districts), the storms were severe that led to destruction of crops and houses.

Vegetation had been green across most parts of the Country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

Ground survey was conducted during the 23-27 February on the Red Sea coastal plains by PPD staff. Solitary mature adult locusts were found in Embere (1716N/ 3841E) and north of Karura bordering Sudan (1746N/3826E). Locusts were in copulating stage and were feeding on natural vegetation and Pearl Millet crops.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

A total of 981ha was surveyed from 11 - 25/02/09 in woredas of Aysha, Shinile, Dembel, Errer, Awbere, Jijiga, Harshin and Kebrebeyah in the Somali Regional State.

No Desert locust was found during the survey.

## 2.4 Kenya,

The country remained free from Locust infestation.

## 2.5 Somalia

No reports were received during the month.

## 2.6 Sudan

During February, ground surveys were carried out in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast. Low densities of solitarious adults were reported in the southern and central parts of the coast while locusts were not found in Toker Delta. 235 ha were reported infested with mature solitary scattered adults at densities ranged from 50 to 350 individuals/ha and copulation was observed in some locations in the southern Red Sea coast bordering Eritrea.

During the First week of February, 1600 ha were surveyed in the central Red Sea coast mainly between Suakin and Toker (1827N/3741E) and by the end of the first decade in the coastal plains between Suakin and Arbaat (North of Portsudan). 110 ha were found infested with immature and mature solitarious scattered adults at densities of 200 to 250 individuals/ha.

No locusts were seen during a joint survey between Sudan and Egypt borders by the end of February.

## 2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

## 2.8 Other Regions (extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 365)

**Central Region:** Small population of solitarious adults persisted on the Red Sea coast in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and near the border of Sudan and Eritrea during February.

**Western Region:** isolated solitarious adults were present in northwest and northern Mauritania during February. Small-scale breeding occurred near Zouerate but locust numbers remained low. A few adults were seen near irrigated areas in central Algeria. Low numbers of adults may also be present in parts of northern Mali and Niger. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

**Eastern Region:** The locust situation remained calm in the region during February as generally dry conditions prevailed and no locusts were reported.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-April 2009**

*(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 365)*

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Limited hatching will occur by mid-March near Embere but, unless further rains fall, locust numbers will decline along the Red Sea coast during the forecast period.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Kenya**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.5 Somalia**

Low numbers of adults may be present on the northwest coastal plains between Berbera and the Djibouti border. Unless further rains fall, breeding is unlikely to occur and locust numbers will decline during the forecast period.

### **3.6 Sudan**

Limited hatching will occur on the coast near Aiterba in early March and hoppers will fledge by mid-April. Unless further rains fall, breeding will end and locust numbers are expected to decline along the coast.

### **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 bird outbreaks and aerial and ground control operation continued in Nyanza province (Ahero, Siaya-Dominion farm), in Eastern Province (Imenti North and Meru Central). 3 Roosts were controlled at Meru Central/Imenti North with a total bird population of 7.5 million, 7 roosts were controlled in Kirinyaga District with 8.1 million, 2 roosts were controlled at Siaya and 1 roost so far controlled at Ahero. Control operations are still on-going in Ahero, Kisumu East and West. 6 roosts are yet to be controlled.

#### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

Report not received. However, Quelea infestations usually starts during February consequently, minor infestation might be already started and reported in Dodoma and Shinyanga regios.

#### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

Quelea infestation not reported.

## **4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)**

### **4.2.1. Tanzania**

Report not received.

**SIFO**

**For Director,**  
5<sup>th</sup> March, 2009