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**SITREP No. 01/2009-2010**

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

**FOR JULY, 2009**



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, good seasonal rains fell in the interior of Sudan and western Eritrea as well as along the Red Sea coast in Yemen. During July, the rains moved progressively northwards in Sudan and by the end of the month they had reached north of Melit (Darfur), Hamrat Esh Sheikh and Abu Uruq (North Kordofan) and Atbara (Nile State). Good rains fell along the Gash Barka and throughout the western lowlands in Eritrea. Consequently, ecological conditions improved in both countries and were favorable for breeding by the end of July. Good rains also fell in the highlands in northern Ethiopia. Vegetation continued to dry out on the plateau between DireDawa and Hargeisa but was green in northern Somalia near Hargeisa and Boroma from light showers that fell at times. In Yemen, light to moderate showers fell along the Red Sea coast and to a lesser extent, in some places on the southern coast west of Aden. (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 370)

**1.1 Djibouti**

The country remained sunny and dry.

**1.2 Eritrea**

During the month of July, heavy rainfalls occurred in many parts of the country, notably the highlands and Western lowlands. The following rainfalls were recorded (mm) during the given dates:-

<u>Locality (N/E)</u>	<u>Rainfall amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Tessenei (1511/3642)	193	3- 18
Gelluj (1445/3645)	189	3 - 18
Barentu (1505/3724)	125	3 - 18
Omhajer (1443/3637)	101	3 -18
Asmara (1520/3855)	70	24-27
	32	29
Mendefera (1500/3850)	56	24-27
Emnihaili:		
(20km S of Mendefera)	58	24-27
Dekemhare (1505/3906)	55	24-27
Halhale (1504/3849)	46	24-27
Keren (1540/3825)	39	24-27
Mai Aini (1448/3906)	50	16

Vegetation on the highlands and western lowlands were greening. Areas located between Afabet (161139N/384127E) and Karuara (173853N/392513E) near the Sudanese border on the Red Sea coast received light to heavy amount of rainfall, which started on the 17<sup>th</sup> and continued till the end of July.

Soil was reported wet where rainfall and floods were occurred but most of the coastal and sub coastal plains remained dry.

Average high and low temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 42/28<sup>0</sup>C and 44/34<sup>0</sup>C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was North Easterlies at an average speed of 07 meters / sec.

## 1.2 Ethiopia

Dire Dawa and surrounding areas of Eastern Ethiopia were dominated by dry and hot weather conditions, however light rain fell and was recorded in Dire Dawa (0935N/ 4152E) as follows:

Date	Rainfall amount (mm)
04/07/09	5.0
06/07/09	8.8
10/07/09	5.5
17/07/09	9.6
19/07/09	5.9
22/07/09	13.7
24/07/09	17.00
28/07/09	6.50

## 1.4 Kenya

The month of July experienced cold and cloudy weather conditions in some of the highland areas. The rest of the country remained sunny and dry.

## 1.5 Somalia

Generally, vegetation on the northern coastal areas of the country was found dry, while some parts on the plateaus were green. There were some light rainfalls occurred and reported at times on the mountains during the month.

## 1.6 Sudan

In the summer rains benefiting areas vegetation was greening to green and soil was reported wet due to the light to moderate rains that received during the second half of July,

mainly in West Darfur, North kordofan, White Nile, Gedarif and Kassala States.

## 1.7 Tanzania

Apart from slight showers received on the Coastal belt, the rest of the country was dry during the month.

## 1.8 Uganda

Vegetation was reported green across most parts of the Country, but in some areas it was drying. Detail of the report not received.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were found during surveys which were carried out between 08 -12 in the western lowland parts of the country and between 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of July on the Red Sea coastal areas. However, due to the start of the summer rains ecological conditions were found favorable for locust breeding in all the surveyed locations.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

Some mature & maturing small swarms were reported by mid-of July in the northeast Rift Valley areas and southern Tigray, around Alamata area. These swarms were those which disappeared in the remote areas of the Rift Valley during the previous month that lies mainly in northwestern Afar bordering northeastern Amhara region. It was also reported that the swarms further break up into smaller groups.

1290 ha were surveyed in northern Wello area and a low density maturing swarm covering 540 ha was reported. Two mature swarms covering 250 and 540 ha with a very low density were also spotted in Tehuledere and

Ambassel areas in the southern parts of Wello, respectively on 21<sup>st</sup> July late afternoon. Ground control teams treated 64 ha of infestation using 64 liters of Dursban 240gm ULV in north Wello at Gudober. Control operation continued in Tigray and Amhara regions where some swarms were reported.

## 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during the month.

## 2.5 Sudan

Ground survey was conducted during the month in the summer Desert Locust breeding areas of the country and the following were reported;

- In River Nile State, 120 ha were reported infested with immature and mature solitarious scattered adults at densities between 100 – 300 individuals/ha.
- In North Kordofan and White Nile States, at locations 1356N/2932E and 1356N/2913E, 25 ha were reported infested with mature/immature solitarious isolated adults at densities 5 - 15 individuals/ha.
- In the Northern State at locations 2022N/3029E, 1828N/3149E, 1810N/3138E and 1802N/3134E, 60 ha were found infested with solitarious immature/mature scattered adults, densities 50–400 individuals/ha.

## 2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

## 2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 370)*

**Central Region:** Scattered solitarious adults were present in some summer breeding areas in Sudan. Small locust infestations persisted and matured in northern Ethiopia where two small swarms were reported north of Addis Ababa and scattered solitarious adults were

seen about 100km south of the Eritrean border. Scattered solitarious adults may be present on the Red Sea coast in Yemen where they could breed on a small scale during the forecast period in areas of recent rainfall.

**Western Region:** The locust situation remained calm during July. Ground teams treated 250 ha of fledglings and immature solitarious adults in Morocco near the Algerian border. Isolated mature solitarious adults were present in northwest and southern Algeria. Local breeding occurred at one place in northwest Mauritania where scattered solitarious adults were present in areas of previous rainfall.

**Eastern Region:** Scattered solitarious adults appeared in the summer breeding areas in Pakistan near the Indian border in July.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-September 2009

*(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 370)*

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely. .

### 3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding will occur in the western lowlands and along the Gash-Barka, causing locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

Scattered adults that originated from swarms in July may persist in the northern highlands and perhaps breed on a small scale.

### 3.4 Somalia

Scattered adults may be present and could persist in areas of recent rainfall on the plateau between Hargeisa and Boroma.

### 3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly in North Darfur, North Kordofan, Khartoum, Kassala, along the Nile River in Northern and River Nile States, and in the northern parts of West Darfur, west Kordofan and White Nile States. Nevertheless, locust numbers will remain below threatening levels.

### 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

Un confirmed reports were received from Mbeya & Morogoro Regions and surveys were carried out in the reported areas and Kilimanjaro. Several *Quelea quelea* flocks had been sited feeding on ripening irrigated Rice.

A DLCO-EA aircraft is already deployed in the country to control the infestations that are reported.

#### 4.1.2 Kenya

2 roosts with a bird population of 2.6 million and another 2 roosts with 3.5 million birds were controlled by a DLCO-EA aircraft in Siaya (Dominion farm ltd) and in Mbeere district in Eastern Province respectively.

By the end of July, 2.5 million birds have been reported damaging Rice in Anyiko irrigation scheme in Siaya area and 0.9 million birds damaging wheat in Bahati district in the Rift Valley Province.

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

The region remained free of Armyworm infestations

**SIFO**

**For Director,**  
4<sup>th</sup> August, 2009