

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA) .....

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**SITREP No. 04/2009-2010**

## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR OCTOBER, 2009



### **1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, light rains were reported in the interior of Sudan, coastal areas of Eritrea, eastern Ethiopia and in northern Somalia. High to moderate rains were also reported in Saudi Arabia (Jazan, Makkah, Asir, Albaha, Madinah, Hail, Alqasim, Aljouf, Alhodood Alshamaliya and Tabuk) and some snow was reported in Hail. Meanwhile, vegetation and soil started to dry up in most of the summer breeding areas, which had a negative effect on locust developments. Some light to medium amount of rains were reported on both sides of the Red Sea coastal areas during October. This is expected to give favorable ecological conditions for locusts to increase during the winter breeding season.

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

The Red Sea coastal areas received good amount of rainfalls and floods from the eastern escarpments. Light to moderate amount of rainfall started on 12<sup>th</sup> of October and it covered areas located north of Erafaile (1503 54/395400E) up to Afabet (161139N/384127E).

Natural vegetation was drying out on the highlands and western lowlands, while crops were being harvested. Vegetation in the coastal areas was generally found mixed dry, greening and green.

Average high and low temperature for Massawa and Assab were 37/27°C and 35/25°C respectively. Prevailing wind was South Easterlies at 5.5 meters/sec.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During the month, dry and sunny weather conditions prevailed in Dire Dawa and surrounding areas. During October, the following rainfall data was recorded at Dire Dawa rainfall station:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount (mm)</u>
10/10/09	7.0
11/ “	10.6
12/ “	5.8
17/ “	0.8
18/ “	7.2

Vegetation was greening due to some rainfalls received. Maximum and minimum temperature for DireDawa was 37/18°C respectively.

## 1.4 Kenya

The month of October experienced wet weather conditions that were associated with El-Nino type of medium to heavy rainfalls. Most locations in the coastal and western parts of the country reported heavy rains, which caused floods, peoples' death and infrastructure damages. Vegetation in areas that had received rainfalls started greening from a long period of dryness.

## 1.5 Somalia

Widespread moderate to heavy rains fell over the entire coastal areas from the southern part of the Gulf of Aden to the Ethiopian border.

Vegetation was reported green and soil was wet in most of the areas that had received rainfalls. The following rainfall data was obtained during the month at Hargeisa rainfall station;

Date	Rainfall (mm)
7/10/09	2.50
8/10/09	2.50
9/10/09	12.00
11/10/09	26.50
12/10/09	7.00
14/10/09	0.5

## 1.6 Sudan

Vegetation and soil was reported dry in most parts of the summer locust breeding areas except for small green patches in cropland and irrigated places.

## 1.7 Tanzania

Light to moderate rains fell in the Northern Coastal Belt, Western regions i.e. Tabora, Rukwa, Kigoma & Shinyanga and some parts of Morogoro & Iringa regions.

Moderate to heavy rains fell in the Lake Zone area, the Northern Highlands and the Southern Coastal Belt.

The rest of the country remained dry.

Vegetation in most parts of the country remained green.

## 1.8 Uganda

The heavy showers and thunderstorms were intensified and being reported across most parts of the country. More reports indicated flooding, destruction of agricultural crops and buildings (including schools), in some parts of the country.

Vegetation was reported green across most parts of the Country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust survey was carried out in the eastern lowland winter locust breeding areas from 20 - 24 October, 2009 covering parts from Thio to Afabet. During the survey, only solitary adult locust was found in Shrberk area (16 0548N 390156E).

Vegetation in the surveyed areas was generally found dry, greening and green. Also good amount of rain fell in most of the areas during the period of the survey.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

Ground survey was conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October in north Wollo, in the northeastern parts of the country covering 97 ha. Minor control operation was conducted on 35 ha using Malathion 95% ULV at the rate of 1 lt/ha against a very scattered group of locusts. The area was observed largely green although some crops were in drying stage.

## 2.4 Somalia

Ground survey covering Maroodi-jeeh, Awdal, Silil, Sahil, Tog-dheer and Odweyne regions was carried out on 17- 22 of October.

During the survey, only one isolated solitary locust was found in Bullo-har area (181222N/442617E).

Unconfirmed reports from nomads, also indicated that scattered matured adults were seen in Salley-biyo Kulul, Faruur valley and their surrounding areas

## 2.5 Sudan

Ground survey was conducted in Northern Kordofan, Northern and River Nile States: 5200 ha was surveyed in northern Kordofan and no locusts were found.

In the Northern State, 900 ha was surveyed and 25 ha were found infested with isolated solitary mature DL at a density of 150 individuals/ha.

In the River Nile State, 2600 ha was surveyed and 10 ha was found infested with solitary isolated mature DL at a density of 50 individuals/ha.

## 2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

## 2.7 Other Regions

**Central Region:** Scattered solitarious adults were reported in the summer breeding areas in Sudan, the Red Sea coast of Eritrea and northern Somalia. Minor control operation was conducted on very small groups of adults in northeastern Ethiopia. The DL situation remains calm in Saudi Arabia, Oman and numbers of mature and immature solitary DL adults at a density of 6 adult/ha were seen in Tihama and in the Gulf of Aden, Yemen..

**Western Region:** A serious Desert Locust outbreak has developed in western Mauritania from breeding that occurred during summer. If the outbreak is not controlled and if unusually heavy and widespread rains were to fall in the next two months, then the situation will deteriorate further and there is an extremely high risk that it could lead to the early stages of an upsurge in the Region. (*Desert Locust warning ECLO/FAO*)

**Eastern Region:** Isolated solitarious adults might exist in the Cholistan Desert in Pakistan and in a few places in Rajasthan, India.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-December 2009

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults may persist and breed in the northern coastal areas with the onset of the winter rains and the start of greening of the vegetation.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

Scattered adults may persist and breed in the northern highlands and the Afar region in areas where locusts had been reported during October.

### 3.4 Somalia

Some hoppers might appear in areas of recent rainfalls and where mature adults had been reported.

### 3.5 Sudan

Solitary adults will exist and could develop in small scale in areas where green vegetation are available in the summer breeding areas and on the Red Sea coast. 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**

Several reports of Quelea birds, which are threatening irrigated Rice have been received by the PPD from Kilimanjaro Region and surveys were underway to confirm the roosts.

##### **4.1.2 Kenya**

Quelea infestation was not reported.

##### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

A DLCO-EA aircraft conducted Quelea control operation from 09/10/09 to 23/10/09 on 5 roosts, which were located in two regions (Oromia and Southern Nation and nationalities People (SNNP)). The total population was estimated about 9 million roosted on a total of 225 ha. 450 liters of Queleatox (Fenthion 60% ULV) was sprayed over the target with an average estimated kill of 99%.

On 9<sup>th</sup> of October, 3.5 million birds, which were feeding on Teff and Wheat crops were controlled at Abomsa (0802N/3844E).

On 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2.5, 1.0, 0.5 and 1.5 million birds were controlled at Chuche 1 (0742N/3820E), Chuche 2 (0742N/3820E), Elen and Tute areas respectively. Birds were feeding on Sorghum and Wheat crops.

##### **4.1.4 Eritrea**

Quelea roosts and colonies were reported in the western part of the country around Teseney

and Goluj areas. Birds were feeding on Sorghum and Pearl Millet crops.

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

The region remained free of Armyworm infestations

**SIFO**

**For Director,**  
05 November, 2009