

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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

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**SITREP No. 03/2009-2010**

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

**FOR SEPTEMBER, 2009**



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

In the Central Region, good seasonal rains continued to fall in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan during the first half of September but declined thereafter, especially in the last decade of the month. Rainfall was heaviest in North Kordofan while much less rain fell in Darfur and in the eastern part of the country. In Eritrea, good rains fell in the western lowlands during the first decade of September. Despite the declining rainfall, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding in most areas of both countries. Light rains fell at times on the Plateau in northern Somalia between Erigavo and Hargeisa, extending to the Harar Highlands in eastern Ethiopia. In Yemen, good rains fell along the Red Sea coast where ecological conditions were expected to be improving from heavy rains that occurred in late August. Similarly, ecological conditions were also expected to be improving on the coast of Eritrea and northern Djibouti. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 372)*

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

During the month of September intensity of rainfall was decreased and light to medium

rainfall occurred in some parts of the country, notably the highlands and Western lowlands. During the beginning of the month, some eastern lowland areas got floods from the escarpment.

Natural vegetation and crops were observed very green on the highlands and Western lowlands. Coastal areas with the exception of some wadis generally remained dry.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

The long summer rain came to decline in all parts of the country. In Diredawa (0935N/4152E) light rain fell and was recorded as follows:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Rainfall amount (mm)</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 01/09/09    | 2.4                         |
| 03/09/09    | 5.7                         |
| 05/09/09    | 1.5                         |
| 06/09/09    | 2.2                         |
| 08/09/09    | 3.5                         |
| 10/09/09    | 6.5                         |
| 25/09/09    | 3.3                         |

Due to the seasonal rainfall vegetation was green and soil was wet in most parts of the country.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

The month of September experienced hot and dry weather condition in most locations of the country except in the western parts, in which some areas were heavily flooded.

#### **1.5 Somalia**

Low to medium amount of rainfall was reported in most parts of the country except the coastal belt during September. Consequently, vegetation started greening in areas where rainfall had fallen.

The following rainfall was recorded in Hargeisa MoA compound;

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 2/09/09  | 2.5 mm |
| 7/09/09  | 7.0 mm |
| 25/09/09 | 1.0 mm |

#### **1.6 Sudan**

Due to the sufficient amount of rainfalls received by the end of August 2009, vegetation remained green and most areas were favorable for DL breeding during September.

#### **1.7 Tanzania**

Some scattered showers were received in the Lake Zone and the Coastal belt, while the rest of the country remained dry & hot.

#### **1.8 Uganda**

The bigger part of the Country started receiving heavy rains and thunderstorms, with reported flooding, destruction of agricultural crops and other infrastructure. The rains are expected to

intensify across most parts of the Country in the month of October.

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**

No locusts were found during ground survey which was carried out by MoA staff from 31<sup>st</sup> August – to 04<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 in the eastern lowland areas.

Vegetation and soil was found dry in most of the surveyed areas where ecological conditions were not favorable for locust breeding. Vegetation on the highlands and western lowlands remained green due to the summer rains.

### **2.3 Ethiopia**

The destination of some swarms, which disappeared during July 2009 in the remote and inaccessible areas of northwestern Afar region was not clear. However, monitoring was continuing and other infestation reports were not received during September.

### **2.4 Somalia**

No locusts were reported during the month.

### **2.5 Sudan**

Desert Locust situation remained calm and no survey was carried out during the month.

## **2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda**

Desert Locusts were not reported.

## **2.7 Other Regions** *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 372)*

**Central Region:** No locusts were reported in the whole region during September.

**Western Region:** Small-scale breeding continued during September in the summer breeding areas of central and southern Mauritania, causing locust numbers to increase east of Nouakchott and limited control operations were undertaken. As vegetation dries out in October, adults were expected to move from the south and southeast and appear in areas of recent rainfalls in the northwest. Breeding was likely to commence in the northwest and continue east of Nouakchott, giving rise to more locust that could concentrate and form small groups. Isolated adults were present in Chad and low numbers of adults were probably present in northern Mali and Niger.

**Eastern Region:** Isolated solitary adults were seen in the Cholistan Desert in Pakistan and no locust were seen in the Cholistan Desert in Pakistan.

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

*(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 372)*

### **3.1 Djibouti**

Low numbers of adults could appear in areas of recent rainfall on the northern coast between Obok and the Eritrean border. Surveys should be undertaken to monitor the situation.

## **3.2 Eritrea**

Scattered adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small scale along the Gash Barka in northern part of the western lowlands between Teseney and the Sudanese border (1705N). Unless further rains fall, breeding will end and low numbers of adults are expected to move gradually towards the winter breeding areas on the Red Sea coast where they could appear in areas of recent rain and breed on a small scale.

### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

### **3.4 Somalia**

Low numbers of adults could appear in areas of recent rainfall on the plateau between Hargeisa and Erigavo.

### **3.5 Sudan**

Scattered adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small scale in north Kordofan and parts of Darfur, Khartoum, Kassala and along the Nile River in Northern and River Nile States. Unless further rains fall, breeding will end and low numbers of adults are expected to move gradually towards the winter breeding areas on 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**

Quelea infestation was not reported.

#### **4.1.2 Kenya**

Quelea infestation was not reported.

#### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

Quelea survey was conducted around Lake Zeway, in the Rift Valley and one roost with estimated population of 3 million was located.

Preparation to control the roost and to conduct more surveys was continuing.

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

The region remained free of Armyworm infestations

**SIFO**

**For Director,**  
04 November, 2009