

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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

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**SITREP No. 10/2009-2010**

## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR APRIL, 2010



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

In the Central Region, good rains fell in the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia during April. Most of the rain was concentrated in central areas between the northwestern edge of the Empty Quarter and Hail. Some showers also fell in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen between Al Hazm and Hadramaut. On the Red Sea coast, light rains fell along parts of Eritrean plains from Assab in the south to Karora in the north. Light showers may have also fallen in adjacent coastal areas of Aiterba in Sudan as well as further north on the coast along the Egyptian-Sudanese border. A few showers fell on the Red Sea coast of Yemen south of Hodeidah. In eastern Ethiopia, light rains fell from Dire Dawa to the Somali border, extending into the Ogaden in Ethiopia and the Somali plateau in northwestern Somalia. Consequently, ecological conditions could improve sufficiently in some of these areas to allow limited breeding during May. Dry conditions prevailed elsewhere in the region. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 379*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

The second and third week of April, were characterized by drizzles, showers and cool weather conditions on the highlands in continuation of the short rains that received during March. However, during the last week of the month, days were hot and sunny. Western lowlands remained dry while coastal areas were cool and light rainfalls may fall in some locations.

Vegetation cover on the highland was semi-green while western lowlands and coastal plains remained dry.

Highest and lowest mean Temperature for Assab and Massawa were 33/24<sup>0</sup>C and 36/26<sup>0</sup>C respectively. Prevailing wind was North/Easterlies at a speed of 06 meters per second.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

There had been continued rain in most parts of the country since February including the eastern parts where heavy and widespread rainfalls occurred in most of the spring locust breeding areas. Perennial and annual vegetations generally remained green and some greening making favorable situations for locust breeding. There was an observation of cloud overcast in most parts during the day and the prevailing temperature condition in

most of the locust breeding areas was relatively moderate.

During April, the following rainfall data was obtained at Dire Dawa rainfall station:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall amount (mm)</u>
02/04	8.1
03/04	5.5
10/04	3.2
11/04	7.8
12/04	3.0
14/04	2.4
15/04	39.5
18/04	9.2
20/04	36.2
23/04	1.8
26/04	2.3
27/04	2.3
28/04	0.5

#### **1.4 Kenya**

Light to heavy shower rains fell in most days of April in all provinces of the country. Consequently, just by the end of the month, a landslide had occurred in Marakwet area and death of people and property damage was reported. Vegetation was observed and remained green in most parts of the country due to the continued rainfalls.

#### **1.5 Somalia**

Medium to heavy rainfalls were reported in many regions in the northern parts of the country during April. Consequently, death of people, animals and property damage was reported due to flooding in Hargeisa and other areas. Vegetation was green in many locations and soil was wet creating favorable conditions for locust breeding.

#### **1.6 Sudan**

No significant rainfall was occurred and vegetation continued to dry up.

#### **1.7 Tanzania**

Heavy rains continued in the Southern and Northern highlands, the Lake zone and the Coastal belt while the rest of the country had moderate to light rains.

Vegetation was reported to be green in all parts of the country.

#### **1.8 Uganda**

Report not received.

### **2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)**

#### **2.1 Djibouti**

No locusts were reported.

#### **2.2 Eritrea**

No reports were received during April.

#### **2.3 Ethiopia**

Staff from PPD conducted ground Desert Locust survey on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April in the spring breeding areas around Jijiga and Shinile zones, in the eastern parts of the country. The survey covered 1020 ha and no locusts were found.

#### **2.4 Somalia**

No locusts were reported.

#### **2.5 Sudan**

No reports were received during April.

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

Desert Locusts were not reported.

#### **2.7 Other Regions** (Extracted from *FAO DL Bulletin No. 379*)

**Central Region:** Local breeding occurred in one area on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia during April, giving rise to numerous small hopper groups and bands. Although ground teams treated nearly 700ha, there is a risk adults will form small groups that will move

into spring breeding areas of the interior and breed where good rains recently fell. Small-scale breeding occurred on the southern coast of Yemen. During the forecast period, low numbers of locusts could appear in the interior of Yemen where good rains fell during April. Elsewhere in the region, no locusts were reported and no significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

**Western Region:** The locust situation remained calm during April. Isolated solitarious adults were found at an increasing number of places in Morocco south of the Atlas Mountains and along the Algerian border. Local breeding is expected to occur in some areas during May but locust numbers will remain below threatening levels and no significant developments are expected. In Niger, an isolated solitarious adult was seen near Agadez. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

**Eastern Region:** No locusts were reported in the spring breeding areas of western Pakistan and southeastern Iran due to dry conditions.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-June 2010**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

By the end of the forecast period, low numbers of solitarious adults may start to appear in the summer breeding areas in the interior. .

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

No significant developments are likely. .

#### **3.5 Sudan**

No significant developments are likely.

### **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 infestations were reported in many regions of the country, consequently a DLCO-EA spray Aircraft was deployed and started control operation, which was reported as follows;

##### **In Mwanza region:-**

On 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of April, two roosts with 9 million birds on 105 ha of shrub-land were controlled. 225 ltrs. of Queletox was used killing 95% of the birds, which were destroying Rice crops.

##### **In Shinyanga region.**

Between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of April, two colonies and one roost with a total of 5.8 million birds on an estimated area of 90 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled. 275 lts. of chemical was sprayed resulting into a 96% mortality. Birds were feeding on irrigated Rice.

##### **In Singida region.**

Two roosts and one colony with 5.5 million birds on an estimated area of 120 ha *Acacia* trees were controlled on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Birds were feeding on Bulrush Millet and 310 liters of chemical was used during the operation.

Operation continues in Dodoma & Iringa regions.

#### **4.1.2 Kenya**

Quelea infestation was not reported

#### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

Quelea infestation was not reported.

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

### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

Due to the continuous rainfalls and favorable weather and ecological conditions, Armyworm outbreaks are continuing to appear for successive months. Consequently, Armyworm infestations were reported during April as follows:-

#### **Situation during the week 29-3-2010 - 04-4-2010**

During this week, outbreak reports were received from Monduli district (Arusha Region) and Mwangi district (Kilimanjaro Region).

The traps which reported moth catches were those at Karatu (73), KATC- Moshi(31), TPRI –Arusha(12), Mbeya (10), and Tengeru(2) while other traps in that area shows NIL catches.

#### **Situation during the week 05—04-2010 to 11-04-2010**

During this week there were no outbreak reports received from any part of the country. However, the following trap reports were available: Mbeya (10), Karatu (73), KATC - Moshi (20) and Tengeru(2).

Other traps showed NIL catch.

#### **Situation during the week 12- 4- 2010 – 18-4-2010.**

During this week, outbreak reports were received from Tarime district- Mara region.

The traps which reported moth catches were those at Hai (1), Arusha- Seed Farm (10), Tengeru (4) and KATC-Moshi (25).

Other traps reported NIL catch.

### **4.2.2 Kenya**

Late report indicated that Armyworm infestation continued to occur for the past 6 months in many locations of the country. First outbreak was reported in November, which continued until January in all provinces of the country. The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of the outbreak has started by the end of March and continued in

April. Crops attacked by the worms were Sorghum, Maize and Millet covering 9,316 ha and pasturelands covering 53,954 ha. Control operation by farmers in collaboration and with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture staff continued.

### **4.2.3 Uganda**

Report not received.

#### **Forecast during May 2010**

During May, residual infestation could exist in some of the Eastern, Northeastern, Rift Valley and Central parts of Kenya, and the northern regions of Tanzania. There is a high probability that infestation could start and continues in the southern, central Rift Valley and southeastern parts of Ethiopia. Therefore, regular monitoring of traps and field crops is highly advised.

## **4.3 Red Locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*)**

### **4.3.1 Tanzania**

On 16<sup>th</sup> of April, a DLCO-EA spray A/Craft was deployed and sprayed 2150 hectares of Red Locust swarms at Mpanda- Rukwa plains. 1600 lts. of *Fenitrothion* ULV was sprayed during the operation. By the end of the month, another Aircraft continued the spray operation however details were not received during the reporting period.

#### **SIFO**

**For Director,**

05 May, 2010

For more information about the organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website:

[www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)