

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



**Headquarters (Addis Ababa)**

**Tel: 251-1-16461477/0287/0290**

**Fax: 251-1-16460296**

**Operations Office (Nairobi)**

**Tel: 254-020-6002305/6001488**

**Fax: 254-020-6001575**

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## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR AUGUST, 2011



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

**Central Region:** The month of August was characterized with cloudy and rainy weather conditions in the region. Low to very high amount of rainfall was reported almost in all member countries during the month where property damage and death of animals and people were reported in Kenya, Somalia and Uganda due to floods. Crop damage was also reported due to hailstones and heavy rains in Eritrea.

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

The month of August was characterized by heavy downpour of rains almost in all regions of the country including some parts on the Red Sea coast. These heavy rains and hailstones have brought floods where some crop and infrastructure damage was reported, mainly on the central highlands of the country. For example: on the evening and night of 29<sup>th</sup> of August, there was heavy rainfall reported on the central highland where above 100 mm of

rainfall was recorded in Asmara, the capital city.

Vegetation on the highlands and western lowlands were greening and green with crops and annual vegetation growing abundantly. The eastern lowlands, north of Massawa have received some floods from the escarpments and irrigated crops were green and greening.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

The weather condition in the eastern parts of the country remained cloudy and humid during August. Consequently, Dire Dawa and its surrounding areas received low to medium rains, and the mid- and highlands further in the east also received good amount of rains during the second decade of the month. This condition resulted in flooding and further greening of vegetation mainly in the lowland areas between Dire Dawa and the Djibouti border, which are suitable for breeding of locusts. The summer locust breeding lowland areas in the northwestern parts of the country also received good rainfall during the month.

**Rainfall Dire Dawa station**  
(0936N/4150E)

Date	(mm)
04/08/11	14.7
05/08/11	9.2
06/08/11	4.8
07/08/11	2.3
08/08/11	19.5
09/08/11	7.7
10/08/11	20.0
11/08/11	2.6
13/08/11	1.5
14/08/11	1.3
15/08/11	1.3
16/08/11	3.2
17/08/11	13.8
20/08/11	4.7
25/08/11	5.6
28/08/11	31.4
29/08/11	11.0
30/08/11	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>155.6</b>

#### 1.4 Kenya

The month of August was mostly cold and cloudy with medium to heavy rains fell in the coastal, Rift Valley Western and Northwestern parts of the country. In Turkana area, death of human beings and livestock, and property damage was reported due to heavy floods. Vegetation remained green and continued greening in wider areas of the country where rainfall was occurred.

#### 1.5 Somalia

The highlands and the escarpments up to the coastal plains, including Marodijeh region received low to heavy amount of rainfalls during the first decade of August. During half of the second decade, heavy rains associated with strong winds and thunderstorms fell in Hargeisa and surrounding areas. Consequently, two people had been swept away, damaged of houses and power lines were reported in the capital due to the floods. During the second decade, the sky was covered with heavy clouds

but except of some drizzles reported along the coast, no major rainfalls were reported.

**Rainfall (mm) at Hargeisa and Boroma rainfall stations**

Date	Hargeisa (0934N/4400E)	Boroma (0946N/4310E)
01/08	-	11
02/08	-	2.5
06/08	-	19
07/08	-	10
10/08	11	-
15/08	54	-
16/08	5	-
22/08	10	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>42.5</b>

Perennial and annual vegetation were reported green in the highlands and in the sub-coastal areas, creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding. Though some coastal areas received some rainfalls, however they were still remained dry by the end of the month.

#### 1.6 Sudan

Good rains were received the summer locust breeding areas in the interior of the country and the eastern parts bordering Eritrea. Vegetation was also reported greening and green in most of the summer breeding areas.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

Most parts of the country continued to have dry and windy conditions during August.

#### 1.8 Uganda

Heavy rains and thunderstorms were reported across most parts of the Country. Severe floods, land slides, lightening and hailstorms were reported in many parts of the country. In Mbale and Kapcorwa districts, over 40 people were reported to have died from effects of landslides, and in Kaabong District, landslides killed 7 people. Lots of crops and farm animals were reported to have been lost in many places, as well.

Due to the continuous rainfalls, the vegetation was very 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 reported during August.

### **2.3 Ethiopia**

No locusts were reported during August.

### **2.4 Somalia**

No locusts were reported during August.

### **2.5 Sudan**

Scattered immature and mature solitary adults were present in a few places south of Sodiri (1423N/2906E) in North Kordofan and along the Atbara River (1742N/3400E). Density was estimated up to 150 adults/ ha. Egg-laying was also reported east of Khartoum (1535N/3235E) on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions**

*(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 395)*

**Central Region:** Low numbers of locusts are likely to be present and breeding on a small-scale in the interior of Yemen where good rains fell during August. During the forecast period, locust numbers are expected to increase in areas of recent rainfall in Yemen. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

**Western Region:** Low numbers of solitarious adults were present in parts of the summer breeding areas in the northern Sahel of Mauritania, northern Mali, and western and northern Niger during August. Low numbers of locusts are also likely to be present in

eastern Chad. Although small-scale breeding was only detected in southwest Mauritania and western Niger, it is almost certainly in progress in the other frontline countries and will continue during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to increase further. In northwest Africa, ground teams treated residual infestations of hopper and adult groups south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco (1,175 ha), and Algeria (40 ha).

**Eastern Region:** Low numbers of solitary adults were present along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border in Cholistan, Pakistan and Rajasthan, India.

## **3.0 Forecast until mid-October 2011**

### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

### **3.2 Eritrea**

Small-scale breeding is almost certainly in progress in areas of recent rainfall in the southern part of the western lowlands. This will cause locus numbers to increase along Khor Barka. Regular surveys should be carried out during the next few months.

### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

### **3.4 Somalia**

No significant developments are likely.

### **3.5 Sudan**

Small-scale breeding will occur and low numbers of hoppers and fledglings will be present in parts of North Darfur, North Kordofan, White Nile, River Nile, Northern, Kassala and Red Sea States. Consequently, locust numbers will increase in these areas.

### 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

During August, *Quelea quelea* outbreak was reported in Morogoro Region. Consequently, a DLCO-EA Aircraft sprayed 7 roosts having an estimated of 10.5 million birds, which were roosting on 168 ha of *Acacia* trees/*Typha* grasses. 500 liters of Queletox was sprayed achieving an average of 97% bird mortality. Control operation utilized 4:30 hours of spray time and crop saved from birds attack was Rice.

###### 4.1.2 Kenya

*Quelea* birds were reported causing problems to Wheat in Nyandarua and Nakuru districts and to Rice in Kisumu district.

###### 4.1.3 Ethiopia

*Quelea* bird control operation was conducted during August by a DLCO-EA Aircraft in the southwestern parts of the country, mainly in Konso District. The birds were roosting on *Acacia* trees and feeding on Sorghum, Wheat and Barley crops.

**1. Konso Pakasha** (052752N/372431E) On 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 600,000 birds roosting on 50 ha were controlled using 100 liters of Avicide. Spray hour was 0:40.

**2. Erote** (054540N/374749E) On 13<sup>th</sup> of August, 450,000 birds roosting on 50 ha were controlled using 50 liters of Avicide. Spray hour was 0:40.

**3. Colobol** (052420N/372633E) On 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 250,000 birds roosting on 25 ha were controlled using 100 liters of Avicide. Spray hour was 0:45.

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

#### 4.2.1 Tanzania

Infestation not reported.

#### 4.2.2. Kenya

Report not received.

#### 4.2.3 Ethiopia

Armyworm infestation continued to occur in northern Ethiopia during August although it had been subsided in other parts of the country. Control operations continued in Tigray and some parts of Amhara region during the month. However, details of the infestation level and control operation conducted were not received during the reporting period. It is expected that the infestation will come to an end in September and cease to cause problems in almost all areas of northern Ethiopia.

#### Forecast until mid-September, 2011

Minor Armyworm infestations are expected to continue occurring in the northern parts of Eritrea, likely up-to the second decade of the month. However, it is expected that the Armyworm season will come to cease in all member countries during the forecast period.

### 4.3 Tse-tse fly

#### 4.3.1. Uganda

The Entomology Department of the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries reported that at least 11 million Ugandans are at risk of catching Tsetse fly related diseases, and that over 2 million cattle could be lost annually to Nagana. However, there were no operations conducted against any of the migratory pests in the Country.

### CIFO

**For Director,**  
05 September, 2011

For more information about the organization,  
please visit DLCO-EA's Website:  
[www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)