

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

.....DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 2011



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Central Region: In the region, the ITCZ position over Sudan and Eritrea shifted southwards outside of the summer breeding areas during October. Similar to the Western Region, its means position was further south than the most years. Consequently, no significant rain fell in the summer breeding areas of both countries and annual vegetation was drying out. In the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea, light rain fell at times on the Tihama coast of Yemen and along parts of the coast in Saudi Arabia near Quinfidah and Jizan. Ecological conditions were favorable for breeding in Yemen and were expected to be improving in Saudi Arabia. No significant rain fell in northern Somalia or eastern Ethiopia where dry conditions prevailed. In northern Oman, light rain fell in some places of the interior between Ibra and Buraimi during the second week of October but breeding conditions remained unfavorable. (FAO DL bulletin No. 397)

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Apart from some showers and drizzles along the escarpment, no significant rainfall occurred on

the highland or Western lowlands. In the coastal and sub coastal areas, sky was mostly overcast and low to medium rainfall was reported in many localities North of Massawa (1540N 3825E).

Average maximum and minimum temperature of Assab, Massawa and Tessenei were 34/24, 35/26 and 28/17⁰C respectively. Prevailing wind was Northerlies.

Perennial vegetation on the highland and Western Lowland areas were observed green. In both areas harvest of summer crops were in progress. Large coastal Wadis north of Massawa were reportedly wet with natural vegetation and early crops greening. While the escarpment was partly green.

1.3 Ethiopia

Rainfall amount and distribution had significantly decreased in October throughout the country except in southeastern, southwestern and the western parts of the country. Heavy rains continued to fall in some localized areas in the Ogaden, southeastern parts; where winter breeding of locusts normally

occurs. The weather condition in the eastern part of the country became dry and warm without any rainfall during October. Consequently, the prevalence of dryness had caused the vegetation to dry-up in many areas of the above locations. During the 2nd dekad of the month, heavy rains fell in several places in the southwestern and western parts of the country though traditionally are less affected by locusts. The vegetation was reported greening and green in the areas that received rainfalls.

Late rainfall report for September, 2011

DATE	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)
	Rainfall in mm
02/09/11	8.7
04/09/11	0.3
07/09/11	2.1
08/09/11	2.1
11/09/11	10.2
14/09/11	34.9
15/09/11	5.1
17/09/11	0.5
18/09/11	6.5
20/09/11	5.2
23/09/11	0.4
24/09/11	1.7
25/09/11	1.6
26/09/11	4.0
Total	83.3

1.4 Kenya

During the second and third dekad of October, heavy clouds and humid weather conditions prevailed in larger parts, mainly Central, Rift Valley, Eastern, Northeastern and Western parts of the country. Consequently, light to heavy rains fell covering wider parts of the country. Vegetation remained very green in most parts of the country where rainfall was occurred.

1.5 Somalia

Except for some localized and scattered low to moderate rainfalls that occurred during the month, large areas in the northern parts of the country remained rainless and dry during most

days of the month. Mainly, the escarpments and highlands in the north, the central part and the Shebelle areas were reported received moderate rainfalls during the first and second dekad of the month. It was also reported that due to the prevailing dry conditions, displacement of nomadic herders was reported in some areas of the country.

The following rainfalls were recorded in the below indicated rainfall stations;

Rainfall (mm) October, 2011

Date	Sheikh	Ga'an-Libah	Dhubato 1007N/4448E
01/10/11	-	14.5	21.0
08/10/11	5.0	-	18.0
10/10/11	35.0	6.0	10.0
11/10/11	36.0	4.0	-
12/10/11	4.0	-	-
13/10/11	-	14.0	-
14/10/11	-	25.0	-
15/10/11	5.0	-	-
23/10/11	-	3.0	-
24/10/11	6.0	-	-
Total	91.0	66.5	49.0

Generally, except for some localized and scattered green patches of annual plants and perennial trees, most of the vegetation was reported drying and dry in the north.

1.6 Sudan

During the first half of October, vegetation and soil was reported drying to dry; except in some irrigated areas, in the summer locust breeding zone. The last rain received in those areas was during the last days of September. While, moderate rain fell on October 16th in North Kordofan.

1.7 Tanzania

Light to moderate rains fell along the Coastal Belt and the Western Regions i.e Tabora, Kigoma, Shinyanga regions while

moderate to heavy rains fell in the Northern & Southern Highlands. The rest of the country remained dry. Vegetation remained green on the highlands and semi-green & drying-up in most parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the country continued to record heavy rains and thunderstorms. The rains were intense in October as earlier predicted by the Meteorological Department, resulting in more destruction of various properties. In Bushenyi District (Western), over 300 families are facing famine after heavy hailstorms destroyed their gardens. In Kasese District (Western), a family of five (5) was killed due heavy rains that pulled down their house. Several roads have been made impassable in North and northeastern parts of the Country due to floods from the heavy rains. Vegetation condition was reported very green across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Solitary and scattered Desert Locust adults were flushed in Shieb (1553N/3904E) and Shelshela (1548N/3912E) areas.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during October.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during October.

2.5 Sudan

Ground survey operations were carried out during 10-15th October 2011, covering the summer breeding areas. Approximately 25,100 ha were surveyed and 10 ha in River Nile State (1742N/3400E, 1932n/3320E) were found infested

with mature, solitary, scattered adults. Density ranged from 100 – 150 individuals/ha. Survey operations continued on 16-23rd of the month covering about 36,100 ha in N. Kordofan, White Nile, Khartoum, River Nile, the summer belt in Red Sea and Kassala States. It was reported that 35 ha were found infested with solitary, mature, scattered adults in River Nile and Kassala States (1527N/3623E, 1731N/3607E).

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 397)

Central Region: Locust numbers continued to remain low in the summer breeding areas of Sudan due to poor rainfall for a second consecutive month. Only scattered solitarious adults were seen in a few places.

Western Region: Low numbers of solitarious adults were present in parts of Mauritania, northern Mali, Niger and Chad. Small-scale breeding occurred in western Mauritania. Ground teams treated 1,200 ha of adults in southern Mauritania.

Eastern Region: Locust numbers decline in the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border in Cholistan, Pakistan and Rajasthan, India as no further monsoon rains fell and vegetation was drying out in October. Small-scale breeding occurred on the coast west of Karachi but locust numbers remained low. No locusts were reported in Iran. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

3.0 Forecast until mid-December 2011

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers will decline in the summer breeding area as adults move towards the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast. This movement will be limited and consist of scattered solitarious adults. Small-scale breeding will occur on the Red Sea coastal plains once seasonal rains commence.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will decline in the summer breeding area as adults move towards the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast. This movement will be limited and consist of scattered solitarious adults. Small-scale breeding will occur on the Red Sea coastal plains once seasonal rains commence.

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 October, a DLCO-EA spray Aircraft conducted Quelea control operation in Kilimanjaro region. 4 roosting sites on 70 ha of Sugarcane and having an estimated number of 11 million birds were successfully controlled during the operation. The birds were destroying irrigated Rice in Moshi District. 400 liters of

Bathion (Fenthion) 60% ULV was sprayed achieving a 98% kill of the bird population.

The operation utilized 3:00 hrs of spray time.

4.1.2 Kenya

During October, a DLCO-EA Aircraft was deployed in Nyanza region to control Quelea infestations reported at Siaya and Kisumu. However, details of the operation conducted were not received during the reporting period.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Low to high levels of Quelea outbreaks were reported in the Southern Peoples, Oromiya, Amhara, part of Somali and Harari Regional States in the Rift Valley parts of the country. The crops under threat were at vulnerable stage, although some Sorghum fields were nearing maturity.

Consequently, a DLCO-EA Aircraft was deployed to control the infestations and details of the operations were received as follows:

- On 15th and 16th of October, 5.5 million Quelea birds, which were roosting on 125 ha of Taifa grasses were controlled at Adamitulu (075819N/384331E, 080150N/384424E, 080823N/384817E) using 450 liters of Queletox. On 17th, a re-spray was done in one location of 50 ha roosting site using 100 liters of Queletox. The birds were attacking Sorghum and mortality was estimated at 90% - 95%. Spray time was 2:40 hours.
- On 19th and 22nd of October, 6.5 million Quelea birds, which were roosting on 225 ha of Taifa grasses at Liben (Tute 1&2) (082623N/385820E, 0756N/3852E), were controlled using 250 liters of Queletox. The birds were attacking Teff & Wheat crops and

mortality was estimated 85 - 99%. Spray time was 2:05 hours.

- On 27th of October, 2.0 million Quelea birds, which were roosting on 50 ha of Taifa grasses at Dawa Chefe, in Kombolcha area were controlled using 100 liters of Queletox. Mortality was estimated 99%.
The operation utilized 3:45 hrs of spray time.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

The region remained free from Armyworm infestations.

CIFO

For Director,
04 November, 2011

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please visit DLCO-EA's Website:
www.dlcoea.org.et