

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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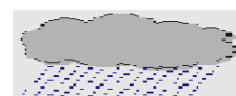
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**SITREP No. 06/2012-2013**

## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

DECEMBER, 2012



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

**In the Central Region**, very little rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea during December except for moderate showers between Quinfidah and Mecca in Saudi Arabia at mid-month and light rains on the coast in Sudan. Nevertheless, ecological conditions were favorable for breeding on the Red Sea coast in southeast Egypt, in coastal and sub-coastal areas of northeast Sudan, and on the coast between Rabigh and Umm Lajj in Saudi Arabia from rainfall during November. Breeding conditions were also favorable in Tokar Delta, Sudan. Elsewhere, dry conditions prevailed in the region. (FAO DL bulletin No. 411)

#### **Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.1 Eritrea**

It was reported that very heavy and torrential rain fell for the whole night on 25<sup>th</sup> of December, mainly on the central and the northeastern escarpment, including the Red Sea coastal areas. Consequently, seasonal river beds filled and burst causing destruction of roads and farming infrastructure, besides death of human and

animals were also reported. Annual vegetation and crops on the coastal areas where rains fell were greening. The rest of the country remained rainless except for some cloud buildups that were observed during the month.

#### **1.2 Ethiopia**

There has been good rainfall reported in the southwestern, western, and very limited amount in the winter locust breeding areas in the southeastern parts of the country during December. Unlike the previous months, the rainfall amount decreased in the southeastern Somali region of the country and there was no locust report received. The lowlands in the eastern parts, which are the frontline for locust outbreaks mainly during the spring season, had remained mostly dry with some rain in much localized areas near the Ethio-Djibouti border. The dry season continued and most places in the eastern lowlands and the adjacent areas of northern Somalia has remained dry in December. There was trace amount of rainfall reported around Dire Dawa during the month.

Vegetation was completely dry in almost all areas along the Rift Valley including in the eastern lowlands where there has not been any rainfall except in much localized areas as reported above. The perennial vegetation in the locust prone areas was also reported drying out.

### **1.3 Kenya**

During December, cloudy and humid weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the country. By the third dekad of the month, heavy rains fell in the central, Rift Valley and Western parts of the country. Annual and perennial vegetation continued remaining green in wider areas of the country.

### **1.4 Somalia**

Areas in the northwestern regions remained rainless during the first two dekads of December. However, the satellite rainfall estimates indicated that localized light rains fell in parts of Togdheer, Sool plateau and Golis mountains in Sanag region during the second dekad.

The overall vegetation status of the plateau, the escarpment and Haud areas remained largely green though the potential breeding habitats in the coast (Guban) remained dry.

Localized light rains were also reported in some parts of Bari and Nugal regions in the northeastern parts of Puntland regional state. 0.4 mm and 10 mm of rainfall were recorded in Garowe and Hasbahale respectively during the month.

The Southern and Central regions received light to moderate rains during the month.

Both Elder district in Galgudud region and Haradhere in Mudug region recorded 34 mm each during the first dekad of the month and 41 mm and 7 mm of rainfall during the first dekad in Qoryoley in Lower Shabelle and in Qansahdhere in Bay region respectively.

### **1.5 Sudan**

The weather was generally cold all over the country and the prevailing wind direction was northerly to northeasterly during December.

Favourable conditions for locust breeding was prevailed in the northern coastal parts in Wadi Diib, Toker Delta and the southern coastal parts, where light to moderate rains received at times during the third dekad of December.

### **1.6 Tanzania**

Moderate rainfall was received in most parts of the country during the first few weeks of December while the Southern zone experienced moderate to heavy rainfall towards the end of the month. Vegetation was reported green in most parts of the country.

### **1.7 Uganda**

Report not received.

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

### **2.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

### **2.2 Eritrea**

Report not received.

### **2.3 Ethiopia**

No locusts were reported during December.

### **2.4 Somalia**

No locusts were reported during December.

### **2.5 Sudan**

#### **Red Sea State**

**In the northern coastal parts, 7** copulating swarms of various sizes and gregarious groups were reported and treated during December. Hopper bands of early instars as well as medium

densities of solitary hopper groups of late instars were also observed in some locations. Consequently, an estimated of 4,073 ha were found infested and 3,540 ha had been treated using 1,770 liters of insecticide.

**In Wadi Diib**, hatchlings up to 4<sup>th</sup> instar bands, gregarious and solitary breeding groups of various densities were found at many places and two copulating swarms were also detected and treated immediately. 2,032 ha were reported infested and 1,920 ha treated with 960 liters of insecticide.

**In Wadi Oku**, 257 ha were reported infested with hopper bands of early instars and with low densities of mature gregarious groups. Scattered solitary hoppers and adults were also observed in some locations. 105 ha were treated during the beginning of the month using 105 liters of insecticide.

**In the central parts, Toker Delta and Khor Baraka**; 165 ha mainly in Toker Delta were found infested with immature/mature solitary scattered adults at densities of 50 – 250 adults/ha.

**In the southern coastal parts**, 70 ha at two locations; Wad Wanas (181100N/381601E) and Mukban (181239N/381011E), were found infested with mature solitary copulating and laying groups. Scattered adults densities of 250 – 450 per ha were also observed in the far southern parts near the Eritrean border.

### **River Nile State**

170 ha were reported infested with medium to high density of gregarious adult groups. 100 ha were treated using 100 liters of insecticide. Scattered adults were also observed in other sites.

### **Khartoum State**

198 ha were found infested with few scattered gregarious and solitary adults.

## **2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions** *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 411)*

**Central Region:** Infestation declined during December in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan as adult groups and swarms appeared on the Red Sea coast in southeast Egypt

and northeast Sudan and laid eggs that hatched, causing small hopper bands to form. Breeding also took place in Saudi Arabia where hopper groups and bands formed on the Red Sea coast north of Jeddah. Although control operations were undertaken in the three countries, more breeding is expected during the forecast period that could give rise to hopper bands and swarms. Isolated adults were present on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains in Yemen. If rains fall, small-scale breeding will occur on the Red Sea coast in Eritrea and Yemen.

**Western Region:** Small groups of hoppers and adults continued to form in early December in Niger and northwest Mauritania but infestations declined during the remainder of the month as a result of control operations and drying vegetation. There was no indication of large-scale migration from West Africa to northwest Africa. Instead, a few small groups appeared in southern Algeria and laid eggs, groups of immature and mature adults were present in Western Sahara where small-scale breeding was in progress, and solitary adults were scattered along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Control operations were undertaken in Algeria and Morocco.

**Eastern Region:** No locusts were reported in the region during December. Low numbers of adults may appear at the end of the forecast period in a few areas on the coast of Baluchistan in western Pakistan and southeastern Iran. No significant developments are likely.

## **3.0 Forecast until mid-February, 2013**

### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults are likely to appear along the Red Sea coast between the Sudanese border and Massawa, and breed on a small scale in areas that receive rainfall or runoff during the forecast period.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.4 Somalia

Isolated adults may appear in areas of recent rainfall on the northwest coast and breed on a small-scale if more rains occur.

### 3.5 Sudan

Moderate-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase on the northern Red Sea coast and in sub-coastal areas where hopper bands and small swarms will form. Breeding will also occur along the central and southern coastal plains where small groups could form.

### 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 during December.

#### 4.1.2 Kenya

Report not received.

#### 4.1.3 Eritrea

Report not received.

### 4.1.4 Ethiopia

Quelea infestations were not reported.

### 4.2 African Armyworm (Spodoptera exempta)

#### 4.2.1 Tanzania

#### Situation during the week 19-11-2012 to 02-12-2012.

Outbreaks were reported during the above indicated weeks in the Southern Highlands in Mbeya Urban, Mbeya Rural, Chunya and Mpanda districts. Few number of moth catches were reported in the Southern highland Districts, Southern, Northern and Central parts. Most of the traps in the Country reported very few or NIL catch.

#### Situation during the week 03-12-2012-09-12-2012

Outbreaks were reported during the above indicated weeks in the Southern Highlands in Kyela and Mvomero districts in Morogoro Region. High number of moths catches were reported in the Southern highland districts, and in the Central part. Most of the traps in the country reported few or NIL catch.

#### Situation during the week 10-12-2012 to 23-12-2012

Outbreaks were reported during these weeks in the Southern Highlands in Mbeya region in Mbozi district, in the Central part in Morogoro Urban district (Bigwa and Mzinga areas). In the Western part in Uyui, Sikonge and Urambo (Tabora), Misungwi and Kwimba (Mwanza) and Shinyanga rural. Plant Health Services supplied insecticide to all outbreak areas through zonal offices to control the infestations.

Traps that reported Moth catch during the week 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.2012 were as follows:- Mbeya (61), Mbozi (32), Rombo ( 3), Newala (2), Tengeru (9), Morogoro (1), Handeni (20) and Shinyanga (193).

Most of the traps in the country reported very few to **NIL** catch.

Nevertheless, no infestations were reported from other member countries.

### **Forecast during February 2013**

Breeding and outbreak will continue in the Central and Northern parts of Tanzania with a likely situation where migration to occur to the northeastern and northern parts of the country. There is also a likely situation where outbreak could appear in the eastern, central and coastal areas in Kenya. Therefore, it is advisable to continue monitoring and organize survey operations in order to detect early outbreaks in suspected locations.

### **4.3 Tsetse fly**

No reports received.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

08 January, 2013

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please visit DLCO-EA's Website:

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