

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2012



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Central Region: In the region, no significant rain fell during February. Consequently, dry conditions persisted in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea except for the central Tihama coast of Yemen where vegetation remained green. In central Oman, green vegetation was present between Hayma and the Arabian Sea at Duqum. (FAO DL bulletin No. 401)

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Warm and sunny weather conditions prevailed from mid-February onwards and no rainfall was reported on the highlands. In the Western lowlands, hot weather condition was much more marked from the beginning of the month. In Tessenei (1511N/3642E), the average high and low temperatures were 31/12 degree centigrade. In the coastal areas, medium showers were reported north of 1700 Degree, mainly in Mai-Himet (1740N/3832E) and Karora (1742N/3822E) areas. Average high and low temperatures for Assab and Massawa were

29/22 and 33/24 Degree Centigrade respectively. Coastal prevailing wind was North-easterlies at 06m/sec.

Vegetation in the western lowland areas were reported drying out and it was green in the highland. The eastern escarpment, eastern lowland plains and Wadis were reported green and wet.

1.3 Ethiopia

Some localized areas on the southern parts of the country received low to moderate amount of rainfall during the second half of February, while the rest of the country remained rainless, sunny and dry.

Perennial vegetation was drying out while the annual vegetation became largely dry in most parts of the country, including on the eastern and southeastern parts where Desert Locust breeding usually occurs.

1.4 Kenya

The month of February was dry, dusty and windy. However, light showers fell on limited locations by the end of the month.

Vegetation was drying out in wider areas of the country due to lack of moisture.

1.5 Somalia

During February, warm day and cold evening and early morning weather conditions prevailed throughout the Northwestern regions of the country. Weather and ecological conditions were also reported unfavorable for locust breeding across the coastal areas.

During half of the second decade, very little shower fell in areas bordering Djibouti, including Zeila (1121N/4328E) and Lowya-addo (1127N/4315E) in Awdal region.

1.2 mm, 0.4 mm and 0.2 mm of rainfall was recorded in Boroma on 1st, 9th and 11th of February respectively.

On 3rd of February, 0.2 mm of rainfall was also recorded in Dacar-budhuq district of Marodijeh region. During the last days of the month, very light shower was reported fell on the sub-coastal areas on the eastern side of Golis Mountainous range in Sanaag region.

Consequently, localized green patches of vegetation were observed in the areas that had received recent rains.

1.6 Sudan

Vegetation cover in the northern part of the Red Sea coast was dry, but in Toker Delta and southern parts of the Red Sea coast, it was green during the first and the second decade of February due to the light to moderate rains that fell during the second decade of January. However, due to lack of further moisture it started to dry out during the end of February.

1.7 Tanzania

Most parts of the country remained dry and hot through out the month apart from the Northern Zone and the Coastal belt, which received some heavy rains associated with thunderstorms towards the end of the month.

Vegetation continued to dry up in most parts of the country due to lack of moisture.

1.8 Uganda

During the first two weeks of February, very hot and dry weather conditions prevailed across most parts of the Country. However, during the second half of the month, sudden weather changes were observed with moderate to heavy intermittent rains recorded in most parts of the Country. The Capital city witnessed some flash floods, leading to destruction of some houses, blockage of roads and it was also reported that a family of four people perished in a damaged house due to the heavy running waters. The rains are expected to stabilize during mid-March 2012.

Vegetation condition was observed greening 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 February

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during February.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during February.

2.5 Sudan

Ground surveys were conducted on 25,600 ha by PPD in the northern and northeastern Desert Locust breeding areas of the country during February.

During the survey, 200 ha were found infested with mature solitary and isolated locust adults. Densities were estimated between 50 – 150 locust individuals/ha.

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 401)

Central Region: Scattered adults were present and laying eggs on the southern coast in Sudan and on the central Red Sea coast in Yemen. Isolated adults were also present in northern Oman. No locusts were seen during surveys in Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Western Region: An outbreak developed in early February in southwest Libya near the Algerian border as a result of good rains in October 2011 and undetected breeding at the end of the year. Hoppers and adults concentrated, gregarized and formed small groups and a few small bands and swarms. Some of the adults moved into adjacent areas of southeastern Algeria where local breeding was already underway near Djanet. National ground teams treated 2,365 ha in Libya and 230 ha in Algeria during February.

Eastern Region: Breeding conditions slowly improved in parts of the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan due to light to moderate rains that fell during February. Only isolated mature adults were present at a few places on the coast.

3.0 Forecast until mid-April 2012

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Limited hatching is expected to occur on the southern coastal plains in March that will cause locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels.

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 infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

The region remained free from Armyworm infestations during February. Though, monitoring of moths continued in Kenya and Tanzania. Consequently, very few traps (Mbeya and Rombo) in Tanzania reported very few moth catches during the first and second decade of the month.

4.3 Tsetse fly

No reports received.

CIFO

For Director,

05 March, 2012

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

www.dlcoea.org.et