

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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

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**SITREP No. 01/2012-2013**

## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR JULY, 2012



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

In the Central Region, good rain fell as far as north as 16N in summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan and western Eritrea during July. Consequently, ecological conditions became favorable for breeding in West and North Darfur (north of Mellit). North Kordufan (to Abu Uruq), Khartoum and Kassala states in Sudan, and in western lowlands in Eritrea. Vegetation remained dry on northern Red Sea coast in Eritrea and northern Somalia. Light rain fell in eastern Ethiopia between Dire Dawa and Jijiga. In Yemen, light to moderate rain fell along parts of the Red Sea coast and in the interior near Hadramaut and Ataq. Consequently, ecological conditions should become favorable for small scall breeding in both countries. Conditions were dry or drying in northern Oman. (FAO DL bulletin No. 406)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

During July, good and widespread rainfall occurred mainly on the highlands and Western lowlands. Consequently ecological conditions become favorable for breeding in the western lowlands. Vegetation remained dry on the northern Red Sea coast.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

In July, there has been much rainfall throughout the country except southeastern Ethiopia, i.e. mainly southeastern Somali region of Ethiopia where the rains begin after September as they are often known to be winter locust breeding areas. The weather conditions in the lowlands of eastern Ethiopia, which is the frontline areas for locust outbreaks, have remained mostly warm and humid with good rains in several locations, receiving a monthly total rainfall of more than 40mm. The rainfall amount and distribution in the eastern lowlands and the adjacent areas of northern Somalia has improved significantly in July compared to the previous month with moderate to heavy rains in several mid and highland areas of the country, especially during and after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad of July.

The annual vegetations status has flushed green in most of the eastern lowlands while there has been further growth of the vegetation in Wadis and low-lying areas that already remained green during the previous months as well. The perennial vegetation in the locust prone areas of eastern Ethiopia including the rift valley areas continued to remain green since the beginning of the spring season creating very favorable situation for the

population build up of tree locusts with little or no positive impact for Desert Locust breeding and development. In general warm- humid temperature conditions with more rains appeared to have prevailed in July in locust prone areas of eastern Ethiopia.

As a result of widespread rainfall that occurred during July, many parts of the country remained green. Also, much of the locust breeding locations in the eastern parts of the country remained green and were favorable for locust breeding and developments.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

Some rains fell over the Coastal, Eastern Western, Nyanza and the northern parts of the Rift Valley region of the country. The month also remained cold and cloudy in most days of the month. Vegetation was semi-green in many regions of the country and some drying.

#### **1.5 Somalia**

Light rains fell at times and vegetation was green in some areas located in the northwestern parts of the country.

#### **1.6 Sudan**

During the second decade, heavy showers occurred over the northern parts of Darfur, Kordofan, Khartoum and Kassala states, while good rains fell as far north as the Baiyuda Desert and parts of the northwest.

#### **1.7 Tanzania**

Light to moderate showers received the coastal belt and the northern highlands, while the rest of the country remained dry and cold.

Vegetation was drying in most parts of the country.

#### **1.8 Uganda**

The Central Region, North and North-eastern parts of the Country continued to receive heavy showers and thunderstorms in most parts, again destroying crops and infrastructure; in Koboko District, hailstorms devastated crops, affecting over 200 households. In Zombo district, 2,000 acres of coffee, Irish potatoes, maize, beans and

bananas were reportedly damaged by the heavy rains. The western and South-western parts of the country are generally dry with records of scattered and irregular shows in a few places.

Vegetation is green across most parts of the Country.

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

### **2.1 Djibouti**

No locusts were reported.

### **2.2 Eritrea**

During July no locusts were seen in the winter breeding areas along the northern Red Sea coast.

### **2.3 Ethiopia**

In July the Desert Locust situation continued to remain calm throughout its potential summer breeding habitats in eastern and northwestern lowlands of Ethiopia as field reports indicated the absence of any locust activity in both regions.

### **2.4 Somalia**

During July, no ground survey was conducted but communication with regional bureaus confirmed that the Desert Locust situation in the country continued to remain calm.

### **2.5 Sudan**

During July, no surveys were carried out in the July. However, there was report from North Darfur of immature group of adults northwest of Mellit (14 07N/25 43E).

Mature solitary adults were present in North Kordofan between Umm Badr (14 3N/2758E) and the Nile River, in the southern Baiyuda Desert, and in north near Dongola. Egg laying was in progress in the east between Kassala and Derudeb. Groups of immature adults were reportedly present in west and north Darfur.

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

Desert Locusts were not reported.

## 2.7 Other Regions (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 406)

**Central Region:** Small-scale breeding commenced in Eastern Sudan during July while scattered mature solitarious adults were present elsewhere in summer breeding areas in the interior. Similar populations are likely to be present in western Eritrea. Groups of immature adults were reportedly present in western and Northern Darfur where continued insecurity limits survey operations. Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly during the forecast period in Sudan and Eritrea. Locust numbers declined in Oman where only low numbers of immature adults persisted in a few places in northeast. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

**Western Region:** Breeding commenced during July in summer breeding areas of northern Sahel in southwest Mauritania, northern Mali and central and northern Niger,. Groups of adults were reported in parts of northern Mali and Niger, and near the Sudanese border in eastern Chad. By the end of the month, more adult groups were found on the Tamesna Plains in northeast Mali near the border of Niger where they were laying eggs. Scattered solitarious adults were present in southern Mauritania, southern Algeria and eastern Chad. So far, only low numbers of hoppers have hatched but additional hatching will occur during August, mainly in Niger Mali and to a lesser extent in Mauritania, Chad and southern Algeria. Hoppers may form groups and bands in Mali and Niger where fledgling is expected to commence in about mid-August and adults could form small groups and swarms.

**Eastern Region:** Low numbers of solitarious adults were present during July along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border in Rajasthan, India and Cholistan, Pakistan. The seasonal monsoon arrived in the areas by mid-month but rain has been poor so far. Consequently, ecological conditions were only slowly becoming favorable for breeding that

should occur during the forecast period. No significant developments are likely.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-September 2012

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults are almost certainly present in the summer breeding areas of the western lowlands. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly in areas of recent rainfall.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

Though the ecological conditions will continue to remain favorable, the threat of locust invasion from neighboring countries recession habitats is virtually nonexistent and unlikely

### 3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of solitarious adults may be present in parts of the plateau between Boroma and Burao where small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall.

### 3.5 Sudan

Small scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase but remain below threatening levels in North Kordufan, River Nile, Northern and Kassala states. Breeding is also expected to occur in West and North Darfur where hoppers and adults could form small groups.

### 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 July, a DLCO-EA Aircraft continued Quelea control operation. As the operation moved to the Northern Zone, two big roosts

were located in Arusha Region and control operation was undertaken as follows:-

#### **Losingai village(03 35.95 S/036 45.18 E)**

An estimated bird population of 4 million roosting on 30 ha of Acacia trees was controlled with 100 liters of Balthion and achieving a 99% kill.

Birds were feeding on Sorghum.

#### **Majengo Village (03 27.63 S/037 00 E)**

A roost with 6 million birds on 40 ha of acacia trees was sprayed with 100 liters of chemical resulting 95% kill.

Birds were feeding on sorghum and finger millet.

Hours input utilized was:

Route	1.30
Spray	1.25

#### **4.1.2 Kenya**

Report not received.

#### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

There was unconfirmed report of bird problem in southern Ethiopia in July but the population was known to be too low to launch an aerial spraying.

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

#### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

No outbreak reported.

#### **4.2.2 Kenya**

No outbreak reported.

#### **4.2.3 Eritrea**

No outbreak reported.

#### **4.2.4 Uganda**

Infestation not reported.

### **Forecast during August 2012**

The region will remain free from further infestations.

### **4.3 Tse-tse flies**

#### **4.3.1 Uganda**

There were several reports in the press about the need for aerial spraying of tsetse flies. On Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, The New Vision ran a story titled” *Aerial spraying could offer lasting solution to sleeping sickness*”. In this article, it was reported that over 10 districts are infested with the flies; .The report acknowledges that the aerial spraying done in the late 1980s (by DLCO-EA) had reduced the number of flies and cases of sleeping sickness.

### **SIFO**

**For Director,**

06 August, 2012

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

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