

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Central Region: good rains fell in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan and western Eritrea during June. The rains were earlier than in most years due to the unusually northern position of the ITCZ. The rainfall will cause ecological conditions to become favorable for breeding in July. On the Red Sea coast, light rain fell near Quinfidah, Saudi Arabia and in few places on the southern Tihama region in Yemen. Light to moderate rain fell in parts of Dakhliya and Shariqiya regions in northern Oman. (FAO DL bulletin No. 405)

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During June, seasonal rains had started in the highlands and the summer Desert Locust breeding areas in the western lowland and along the Sudan border. Consequently, the ecological conditions are expected to improve and favor locust development. No rainfall report was received from the escarpment and coastal areas of the eastern lowland.

1.3 Ethiopia

The weather condition in the eastern parts of the country, mainly in the Desert Locust breeding areas, had remained mostly warm and humid with light rains reported in some locations during June. The rainfall amount and distribution had decreased comparing with the previous month while moderate to heavy rains fell in several mid- and highland areas of the country. Dire Dawa and surrounding localities had also received light to moderate amount of rainfall during the 3rd decade of the month. The annual vegetation started to dry out in the region except in some Wadis, which remained green. Perennial vegetation had also remained green due to the previous months rainfalls that had occurred in the areas though, it has no much impact on Desert Locust breeding.

The following rainfall was recorded in Dire Dawa (0936N/04150E) rainfall station

Date	Rainfall in mm
20/06/12	2.0
21/06/12	40.6
22/06/12	1.5
23/06/12	0.8

26/06/12	13.9
27/06/12	2.1
28/06/12	4.1
Total	65.0

1.4 Kenya

During June, cool and cloudy weather conditions prevailed in the central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country. Medium to heavy rains were also occurred, mainly in the western parts and light precipitation in some of the central and Rift Valley areas. Vegetation remained green in wider areas of the country during June.

1.5 Somalia

It was reported that during June, some localized areas mainly, in the northwest and the plateau received light to moderate amount of rains while most Desert Locust breeding areas in the northern parts remained dry. Some of the rainfalls that had been occurred were recorded and are tabulated below;

Some of the rainfall data reported (mm)

Date	Galka'yo	Aubrin	Erigavo 1036/4721	Hargeisa 0934/4400
02/06/12	0.2		0.2	-
03/06/12	0.2	6.9	2.6	-
04/06/12	-		0.6	-
06/06/12	-	8.5	-	-
10/06/12	-	11.5	0.2	-
11/06/12	-		0.6	-
13/06/12	0.4			
14/06/12	-	8.3	-	0.4
15/06/12	-	0.4	9.6	-
16/06/12	0.2		0.4	-
18/06/12	0.2		-	-
19/06/12	0.2		-	-
20/06/12	0.2	15.8	-	-
21/06/12	-	-	-	0.2
23/06/12	-	20.5	-	5.4
Total	1.6	71.9	14.2	6.0

1.6 Sudan

During the month, light to moderate rain fell in the western, eastern and northern parts of the country in Geneina, El Fasher, Elobeid, Umm Saiyala, and Kassala States. Ecological conditions are expected to improve for locust breeding with the start of the rain season in the summer breeding areas of the country.

1.7 Tanzania

Apart from scattered showers received on the Southern & Northern Highlands i.e. Mbeya and Kilimanjaro regions, the rest of the country remained dry and cold. Vegetation was reported drying out in most parts of the country.

1.7.1 Uganda

Medium to heavy showers continued to fall across most parts of the country. More properties, crops and infrastructure were destroyed and more than 100 people were reported killed due to a landslide that had occurred in the eastern part of the country. 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 June.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during June.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during June.

2.5 Sudan

No locusts were reported during June.

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 405)

Central Region: No locusts were reported in the region during June except for small hopper and adult infestations in northeastern Oman, where light damage was reported on crops and date palms. Small-scale breeding will occur during the forecast period in the interior of Sudan and western Eritrea, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

Western Region: As vegetation dried out along both sides of the Algeria-Libyan border, adults formed small groups and swarms in inaccessible areas and moved south to northern Niger and northern Mali during the first half of June. Some adults were mature and ready to lay eggs. Most of the groups and swarms remained in the north but a few groups reached pasture areas in central Niger and started to lay eggs. Although there were no reports of locusts in Chad, there is a possibility that a few groups may have reached northern areas of the country. A few adults were reported in southeast Mauritania. Control teams in Niger treated 960 ha. Control operations ended in Algeria treating 42,140 ha since January of which 987 ha were in June. No locusts were reported after mid-June in Libya where 21,400 ha were treated from February to the end of May. During the forecast period, hatching will occur in Mali and Niger, causing hopper groups and bands to form and giving rise to adult groups and swarms in August. Small-scale breeding is expected to take place in Mauritania and Chad.

Eastern Region: Locust numbers declined in the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan as conditions dried out during June. Only a few adults persisted in parts of the interior and coastal areas in Baluchistan. Low numbers of solitarious adults appeared in the summer breeding areas in Cholistan, Pakistan near the Indian border.

3.0 Forecast until mid-August, 2012

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding is expected to occur in the western lowlands, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Isolated adults may appear on the plateau in areas of recent rainfall and breed on a small-scale. No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present in parts of the summer breeding areas in the interior and breed on a small-scale where rain has already fallen or will fall during the forecast period. Consequently, locust numbers will 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

A DLCO-EA spray Aircraft continued Quelea control operation in the country since its deployment on 13th April, 2012. The spray operations, which were conducted during June, are reported as follows:-

In Manyara Region:-

Two roosts with an estimated number of 4 million birds on 65 ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 200 liters of Queletox. Birds were destroying Wheat and Bullrush Millet.

In Mbeya Region:-

In both Mbarali and Madibira areas, a total of 5 roosts on 220 ha of Acacia/Typha grasses and with an estimated bird population of 13 million were sprayed with 450 liters of Queletox. 90% of the birds, which were feeding on irrigated Rice were controlled during the operation.

In Morogoro Region:-

In both Morogoro & Mtibwa districts, a total of 7 roosts on 235 ha of Acacia trees and with an estimated 15 million birds were controlled using 480 liters of Queletox. 95% of the bird population, which were feeding on Rice, Sorghum & Bullrush Millet had been controlled during the operation.

Hours utilized were as follows:-

Spray hours	9:45
Route hours	11:50

4.1.2 Kenya

A DLCO-EA Aircraft had been deployed in Kisumu during June to control Quelea infestations that were reported damaging Rice crops in the Rice growing areas of the region. However, due to continuous rainfall that was occurring, it was not able to conduct the control operation as needed.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

No infestation was reported from the region.

Forecast during July

Though migration of Armyworm moths from Kenya is not to happen due to the absence of breeding in the country, local developments and infestations could occur in the main breeding areas of Ethiopia. Consequently, it is likely that moths could further migrate to Eritrea due to the current favorable weather and ecological conditions in the region. Therefore, it is advisable that monitoring of moths and checking of crops for early infestation of the worms continue in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

4.3 Tsetse fly

No reports received.

CIFO

For Director,

05 July, 2012

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website: www.dlcoea.org.et