

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR **MAY, 2012**

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



Central Region: Early pre-season rains fell in parts of the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan during the last decade of May. Light rain fell in the Baiyuda Desert, in north Kordofan and the southern portion of North Darfur while heavier rains fell in West Darfur. Light rain fell in southwest Egypt. In the Horn of Africa, light rains fell at times during the first two decades of May on the plateau in northern Somalia and adjacent areas in eastern Ethiopia. In the Arabian Peninsula, light rain fell at the end of the month in some places along the Red Sea coast of Yemen. In northern Oman, light showers fell in the Sharqiya region where good rains fell in Mid-April. Consequently, ecological conditions may be favorable for breeding. *(FAO DL bulletin No. 404)*

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During May, no rainfall occurred on the highland and Western Lowlands. No rainfall report was received from the escarpment and

coastal areas of the eastern lowlands. In the highland, natural vegetation was greening from short rains that fell during the last two weeks of March. Coastal Wadis were partially drying out while the coastal plains were reported dry. Average high and low temperatures for Assab, Massawa and Tessenai were 36/22, 38/24 and 35/20 degree centigrade respectively.

1.3 Ethiopia

The weather conditions in the eastern parts of the country, which is the frontline region for Desert Locust breeding, had remained mostly warm and humid with light to heavy rains reported in several locations during May. The rainfall amount and distribution have steadily increased during the month throughout the country and extended to all of the eastern parts of the country, including along the Ethiopian-Djibouti-Somalia border. The vegetation status had continued greening with many areas already green as the result of the rains that fell during April. The annual vegetation in the eastern parts that had received rains since the end of

March had become green; the soils moistened and became favorable for locusts to breed. The warmer temperature and wet conditions had also created very favorable conditions for locust development and breeding in the region during May.

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

Date	Rainfall in mm
03/05/12	0.7
04/05/12	45.3
11/05/12	0.5
18/05/12	15.1
20/05/12	4.0
24/05/12	7.9
25/05/12	3.7
Total	77.2

1.4 Kenya

During May, medium to heavy downpour continued to occur in most parts of the country, mainly in the Rift Valley areas, which triggered cracking of lands. Consequently, destruction of roads and crops damage were reported in some localities and several families were remained homeless. Vegetation was greening and green in wider areas of the country due to the rains that fell since April.

1.5 Somalia

It was reported that during May, most parts of the country received light to moderate amount of rainfalls. This and the previous months rainfalls had triggered the vegetation to green and greening in some parts of the country that created favorable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding. Though, some parts of the region remained dry due to lack of rainfall. The Plateau and some coastal plains of Awdal region in the northern parts of the country had received light to moderate rains. Consequently, vegetation in the plateau of this region reported green and created favorable conditions for breeding.

Some of the rainfall data reported (mm)

Date	Boroma (0955/4310)	Erigavo (1036/4721)	Hargeisa (0934/4400)
03/05/12	8.0	3.3	-
04/05/12	-	-	19.0
08/05/12	4.8	36.1	-
09/05/12	-	-	13.5
11/05/12	-	5.3	-
14/05/12	6.0	15.3	-
15/05/12	9.0	-	-
19/05/12	26.5	-	-
Total	54.3	60.0	32.5

1.6 Sudan

During the month, light to medium rainfalls were reported mainly in almost all DL summer breeding zones of the country.

1.7 Tanzania

Heavy rains fell in Dar-Es-Salam, Tanga and Coastal Regions while moderate rains were experienced on the Lake Zone, Southern and Northern Highlands. The rest of the country remained dry. Vegetation was reported green in most parts of the country.

1.7.1 Uganda

Heavy showers and thunderstorms continued to be recorded across most parts of the country. More properties, crops and infrastructure were destroyed; for example, in Amuru district, two people were killed by floods, whereas in Kasese district, landslides killed six people. 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

Isolated mature solitarious adults were seen on the Red Sea coastal areas near Shelshela (1553N/3906E).

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during May.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during May.

2.5 Sudan

No locusts were reported during May.

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 404)

Central Region: No locusts were reported in the region during May except for hopper groups and scattered adults in central Oman as a result of local breeding during April and May. Small groups of immature adults may form and move to northeastern Oman and breed on a small scale during June in areas of recent rainfall. In Sudan small-scale breeding is expected to commence in the summer breeding areas of the interior during the forecast period but locust numbers will remain below threatening levels.

Western Region: Hopper bands began fledging and groups of immature adults formed in southwest Libya and southeast Algeria during the first week of May. By mid-month, several light-density immature swarms of up to 5 km² in size were reported. Since the beginning of the outbreak, more than 41,000 ha have been treated in Algeria and 21,000 ha in Libya. As vegetation began to dry out, a limited number of adult groups moved south during the last week of May to southern Algeria and one group arrived in northern Niger at the end of the month. More immature adult groups and

swarms are expected to form in June and move south to Niger and, to lesser extent, to Mali and Chad.

Eastern Region: No reports were received from the Region in May except for India where no locusts were seen during regular surveys. Low numbers of locusts may be present and breeding on a small scale in parts of the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan where good rains fell in May.

3.0 Forecast until mid-July, 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

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 appear in parts of the summer breeding areas in the interior and breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall and in those areas that receive rain 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 operation was reported as follows:-

In Dodoma Region:-

Six roosts with an estimated number of 7 million birds and roosting on 280 ha. of Acacia were controlled with 475 liters of Queletox. 90% of the birds, which were attacking Bullrush Millet and Sorghum crops were killed during the operation.

In Musoma Region

Five roosts and two colonies with an estimated number of 7 million birds on an estimated of 150 ha of Acacia trees and Typha grasses were controlled with 525 liters of Queletox. 95% of the birds which were attacking Rice and Finger Millet crops were killed during the operation.

In Manyara Region

Four Roosts with 5 million birds on 135 ha of Acacia trees were controlled with 250 liters of Queletox killing 85% of the bird population. Birds were feeding on Bullrush Millet and Wheat.

Hours utilized were as follows:-

Spray hours	19.25
Route hours	20.10

4.1.2 Kenya

Late report:

A DLCO-EA Aircraft had controlled 6 million Quelea birds on 18th, 22nd, 26th and 27th of April, which were roosting on Papyrus, Reeds and Blue Gum trees in Siaya at Dominion farm. An estimated area of 570 ha was sprayed with 220 liters of Queletox to control the infestation. Birds were threatening and attacking Rice seeds planted on an estimated area of 1,800 ha. Total spray hours was 1:50.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

No infestation was reported from the region.

Forecast during June

Due to none alarming situation that is existing in the primary breeding areas, it is less likely that migration of moths could occur during the forecast period. However, local infestation and some migration could develop to minor outbreak due to the current favorable situations in the region. Therefore, it is advisable that monitoring of moths continued in Kenya, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

4.3 Tsetse fly

No reports received.

CIFO

For Director,

05 June, 2012

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