

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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SITREP No. 03/2012-2013

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

SEPTEMBER, 2012



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Central Region: Good rains continued to fall during September in the summer breeding areas of the interior in Sudan south of 15N. The rains extended to 18N over eastern Sudan and the western lowlands of Eritrea. Consequently, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding in Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan, River Nile, Northern and Kassala States in Sudan and western Eritrea. Vegetation was becoming green in Khartoum State. Light to moderate rains fell on the Red Sea coasts of Yemen as well as on eastern Ethiopia, extending to the plateau in northern Somalia. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 408*)

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.1 Eritrea

During September, moderate to high seasonal rains have continued to fall mostly in the southern, central and southwestern lowland parts of the country. Annual and perennial vegetations in most parts was reported abundant and green. No rainfall report was received from the coastal areas of the eastern lowland,

however Wadis and crop fields were receiving floods from the escarpment.

1.2 Ethiopia

Almost all parts of the country received moderate amount of rainfall during the month, including the Desert Locust summer breeding location in the eastern parts.

Consequently, both the annual and perennial vegetations were green and the soil except of some areas was reported wet.

1.3 Kenya

During September, day and night temperature had started to increase, and except for some light scattered showers received in the central and western parts, most of the country remained dry and windy. Consequently, annual and perennial vegetations had started to dry out in many regions of the country.

1.4 Somalia

During September, generally light to moderate rains fell in many parts of the northwestern regions, mainly on the plateau and the escarpment while localized rains were also reported fell in portions of northeastern, central and southern regions of the country.

Consequently, vegetation was observed green across many parts of the plateau and escarpment, while it remained dry to drying in the rest of the regions due to lack of rains and the prevailed poor precipitation.

Some of the rainfalls that had been occurred were recorded and are tabulated below;

Some of the rainfall data reported (mm)

Date	Erigavo 1036/4721	Aburin	Hargeisa 0934/4400	Boroma 0955/4310
02/09/2012	20.0	4.0	-	-
03/09/2012	-	7.3	-	-
05/09/2012	-	10.9	-	-
06/09/2012	-	20.8	-	0.4
08/09/2012	-	21.2	8.5	0.2
10/09/2012	-	19.0	-	-
11/09/2012	-	-	-	1.4
12/09/2012	0.8	16.0	6.7	0.2
13/09/2012	12.2	18.5	-	-
14/09/2012	-	6.0	-	0.2
15/09/2012	0.2	-	-	0.2
16/09/2012	1.2	-	-	-
17/09/2012	10.7	0.2	-	-
18/09/2012	7.9	4.8	-	-
20/09/2012	14.5	1.8	-	-
21/09/2012	0.2	-	7.1	-
22/09/2012	1.0	-	-	-
23/09/2012	-	-	-	-
24/09/2012	2.8	-	-	-
25/09/2012	0.2	-	-	-
26/09/2012	-	-	2.2	-
Total	71.7	130.5	24.5	2.6

1.5 Sudan

In North Kordofan, River Nile and Red Sea States, rains fell mainly during the 2nd and 3rd decade of September, while light to moderate rains fell in Northern State during August. Consequently, vegetation was reported green in areas that received rainfall, creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.6 Tanzania

Most parts of the country remained dry and hot. However, some showers were received in some of the coast areas eg. Dar-Es-Salam and Tanga.

Vegetation continued to dry out in larger parts of the country.

1.7 Uganda

The Ugandan Meteorological Department has predicted a **rainy September/December season**. The south Western Region has been recording steady rains. The central and northern regions recorded heavy showers and thunderstorms with some reports of property damages; in Kiruhura district (Western Region), hailstorms ravaged crops and property worth millions of shillings, with over **70 farmers** losing their banana plantations, cassava and beans. In Ntungamo district (also in western Uganda) a heavy downpour left **1,000** people homeless. In Gulu district (northern Uganda), **200** homes were destroyed by heavy down power.

Vegetation was very green across most parts of the Country during September.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No reports were received during August.

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were reported during August.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during August.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during August.

2.5 Sudan

During September, ground survey was conducted by PPD staff in the main summer Desert Locust breeding areas.

In Northern Kordofan, 51,900 ha were surveyed and 358 ha were found infested with immature and mature solitary and scattered adults between Hamrat-Esh-Sheikh (1438N/2756E) and Umm Siayla (1426N/3112E). Density was estimated 50–250 individuals/ha, but it was estimated 500 locust individuals/ha at location (N151714/E284317).

In the River Nile State, 12,900 ha were surveyed and 32 ha were found in Atbara (1742N/3400E) infested with mature, solitary, isolated and scattered adults at an estimated density of 100–250 individuals/ha.

In Khartoum State 13,189 ha were surveyed and 725 ha were found infested with mature solitary and scattered adults, a swarm, hoppers, copulating and egg laying groups. Density was ranged between 150 – 250 individuals/ha for the adults and up to 1000 individual/ha for the hoppers. Ground control operation was conducted on 41 ha at Wadi Alberara on mixed hoppers and solitary copulating groups. 41 liters of Mafric ULV was used, at 1 l/ha. The infested habitat was crop and dune areas.

In the Red Sea State, 3,150 ha was surveyed and 20 ha were found on the western side of the Red Sea Hills near Derudeb (1731N/3607E) and Haiya (1820N/3621E) infested with mature, solitary and scattered adults at an estimated density of 250 individuals/ha. Low densities of solitary hopper were also seen in the same location.

In the Northern State, 2,000 ha were surveyed where 10 ha were found near Merowe (1830N/3149E), Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E) infested with mature, solitary, isolated and scattered adults at a lower density.

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 408)

Central Region: Small-scale breeding during September caused locust numbers to increase in the summer breeding areas of the interior of Sudan where they were scattered over a large

area between Darfur and the Red Sea Hills. By the end of the month, small groups and one small swarm formed to the northwest of Khartoum, and control teams treated 41 ha. As vegetation dries out during the forecast period, locusts will continue to concentrate and are likely to form additional groups. Therefore intensive surveys should be maintained in all areas. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region except for a few adults on farm in the interior of Saudi Arabia.

Western Region: A second generation of breeding commenced in early September in northern Mali, Niger and Chad. Hoppers and adults formed small groups in northeast Mali, groups of adults were present in central Niger, and small hopper bands formed in northeast Chad. Control teams treated 626 ha in Chad. Small-scale breeding occurred in southeast Mauritania and started in the west. Relatively large numbers of locusts are thought to be scattered throughout a large portion of the northern Sahel. During the forecast period, locust numbers will increase further as breeding continues. As vegetation dries out, the scattered locust will concentrate, hoppers will form small groups and bands while adults will form groups and small swarms that are likely to migrate from late October onwards towards southwest and central Libya, southern and central Algeria and northwest Mauritania. Some locust could reach areas of recent rainfall in the Western Sahara and western Algeria while others could move into cropping areas in Mali and Niger.

Eastern Region: Low numbers of solitarious adults persisted in few places along both sides of the border in Rajasthan, India and in adjacent areas in Pakistan during September where small-scale breeding occurred. As the monsoon rains ended in mid-Sep

will decline as vegetation dries out. No significant developments are likely. .

3.0 Forecast until mid-November, 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. Surveys should be carried out to monitor the situation.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in parts of West and North Darfur, Northern Kordofan, River Nile, Northern and Kassala States. Fledging will occur from mid-October onwards. As vegetation dries out, hoppers and adults are likely to 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 September, Quelea flocks were reported in Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions but surveys

were not carried out to assess the situation as the flocks were not destroying any crops.

4.1.2 Kenya

Quelea infestation was not reported during September.

4.1.3 Eritrea

Quelea infestation was reported in the western parts of the country in Zoba Gash-Barka from the 3rd of September. Two breeding sites; one at Geluj and the other at Tessenei, and one roosting site at Gerset were located.

Control operation had been started on 24th of the month, however details of the operation were not received during compilation of this report.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

No infestation was reported from the region.

Forecast during October

No major developments are likely.

4.3 Tsetse fly

No reports received.

CIFO

For Director,

04 October, 2012

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