

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

AUGUST, 2013



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, the ITCZ advanced significantly northward over northern Sudan in the first decade of August, and nearly reached Wadi Halfa. It was 2.5 degrees above its climatological mean position and was the highest in the last five years. Consequently, southerly winds persisted throughout the entire decade and heavy rain fell across central Sudan, causing widespread flooding and destruction in many areas. Good rains also continued to fall in the summer breeding areas of Sudan and western Eritrea. Vegetation was becoming green throughout the summer breeding areas in both countries. In Yemen, good rains fell in the summer breeding areas of the interior, extending to southern Oman. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 419*)

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.1 Eritrea

Good summer rains continued to fall in wider parts of the country including the winter Desert Locust breeding areas. Flooding due

to heavy rain had caused crop and property damage in Haichota, in the Gash-Barka region while heavy rain accompanied with hailstorms caused crop and horticulture damage in Hamelmalo, in the central parts of the Anseba region.

The ecological and weather conditions have improved and remained favorable for locust developments.

1.2 Ethiopia

The rainfall amount increased in its distribution and intensity during August in most parts of the country. Consequently, very heavy rains occurred in the central and the mid-northern parts of the country during the first and the second decade of August. Damage of properties and loss of life have been reported due to floods in the northwest during the second decade of the month. The southern margin and southeastern parts remained rainless. While the rest of the country including the Rift Valley areas and the eastern lowlands have received light to heavy rainfall during the month. The summer locust breeding areas in the northwest have also received moderate to heavy rains.

Soil was wet and vegetation became green in almost all areas of the country, which received enough summer rainfall. The perennial and other

vegetations in the locust prone areas in the eastern parts and the Rift Valley areas remained green.

It is reported that the continuation of the rainfall has created very favorable ecological conditions for breeding of migratory pests, mainly in the traditional breeding areas.

The following rainfall data is obtained from Dire Dawa meteorological station:

Date	Dire Dawa 0936N/04150E Rainfall in mm
02/08/2013	6.3
03/08/2013	5.4
04/08/2013	Trace
11/08/2013	8.3
12/08/2013	26.0
15/08/2013	3.4
16/08/2013	23.8
18/08/2013	0.8
21/08/2013	20.3
24/08/2013	13.6
25/08/2013	19.3
26/08/2013	10.2
28/08/2013	3.5
30/08/2013	5.2
Total	146.1

1.3 Kenya

During August, most parts of the country have continued experiencing cloudy and cold weather conditions, with some sparsely distributed light to medium amount of rainfall and drizzling.

Perennial vegetation remained green while annual vegetations started to dry across most parts of the country due to the prevailing cold weather conditions.

1.4 Somalia

The precipitation in the northern parts enhanced comparing to the previous month as low to moderate rains occurred mainly in the plateau and escarpment, and some parts in the traditional breeding habitats in the coast.

Except for some flash floods that have been reported in the riverine around Shabelleh River, the northeastern, central and southern regions of the country remained rainless and dry.

Consequently, vegetation was greening and green in wider parts along the plateau and escarpment in the north and the riverines in the central & southern parts.

Rainfall record during August, 2013 for some stations

Date	Hargeisa	Boroma	Dila	Qulun jeed	Togoc halle
01	-	-	-	1.0	-
03	-	43.0	3.0	-	-
04	-	-	-	1.5	-
06	-	-	-	1.8	-
08	-	7.0	9.0	-	15.0
09	-	10.0	13.0	4.5	11.0
11	-	-	-	9.0	-
12	-	23.5	4.0	24.0	-
13	-	9.0	4.0	-	-
14	-	-	-	26.5	-
15	-	-	5.0	-	-
16	-	9.5	-	11.5	-
17	-	-	7.0	-	1.0
18	-	22.5	-	34.5	-
19	-	1.5	11.0	15.0	-
20	-	-	-	12.0	-
21	-	7.5	14.0	1.0	-
22	6.0	7.5	1.0	-	18.0
23	12.0	-	-	1.5	-
24	-	53.0	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	13.0
26	1.0	7.0	2.0	-	5.0
27	-	-	2.0	-	-
29	20.0	-	-	-	3.0
30	3.0	3.5	-	-	5.5
31	-	-	5.0	-	-
Total	42.0	204.5	80.0	143.8	71.5

1.5 Sudan

During August, heavy rain that fell in the central parts of the country caused widespread flooding, destruction of properties and displacement of people. Light rain also fell in Abu Hamed and Wadi Diib areas in the north. Vegetation was reported becoming green throughout the summer Desert Locust breeding areas.

1.6 Tanzania

During August, the Northern and Southern regions remained dry and cold while the rest of the country was dry and windy.

Vegetation continued drying up in all parts of the country.

1.7 Uganda

The Northern and North Eastern parts of the Country recorded heavy showers and thunderstorms resulting into severe floods and landslides in some places. In Lango sub-region, several bridges have been washed away and roads destroyed by the current heavy rains in the region. Some human deaths were reported around Mount Elgon in the Bududa area. The Central and Western parts remained dry, with a few records of scattered showers. Normal rains across whole Country are expected from Sept 2013.

Vegetation in the northern and north eastern parts was green, while in the central and western parts has started greening. However, in the other locations the vegetation was dry.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

2.2 Eritrea

No surveys were conducted and no locusts were reported during the month.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during August.

2.4 Somalia

Ground survey operation was conducted during the first week of August in some of the breeding areas in the north and no locusts were found.

2.5 Sudan

During August, the situation remained calm and only scattered mature solitarious adults were present in the eastern part of the summer breeding area between Kassala (1527N/3623E) and Sinkat (1855N/3648E). A few immature and mature solitarious adults persisted in the Nile Valley near Ed Damer (1734N/3358E), Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E), Merowe (1830N/3149E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E). Small-scale breeding continued near Egypt to the southeast of Selima Oasis (2122N/2119E).

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 419)

Central Region: The situation remained generally calm in the region during August. Only low numbers of solitarious adults were reported in the northern and eastern parts of the summer breeding areas in Sudan. Unusually good rains that fell during August will allow small-scale breeding to occur in September. Consequently, locust numbers are expected to increase and once vegetation starts to dry out, locusts could concentrate and form small groups in October. In Yemen, hopper and adult groups and at least one small swarm were reported in the interior as a result of local breeding. The situation is worrisome because breeding is continuing and small hopper bands and swarms are expected to form.

Western Region: The locust situation remained calm in the region during August. Locust numbers remained low in the summer breeding areas of Mauritania, Niger and Chad except in the Air Mountains of Niger where control operations were carried out against groups of hoppers and adults from earlier breeding.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm during August. Low numbers of solitarious adults were present in a few places of the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border.

During the forecast period, small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly in India and Pakistan.

3.0 Forecast uni 2013

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding is likely to be in progress and will continue causing locust numbers to increase in the western lowlands north of Tesseney.

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 North Darfur, Northern Kordofan, White Nile, Khartoum and Kassala States. By the end of the forecast period, locust could concentrate and form small groups as vegetation dries out.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestations.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds (Quelea quelea sp.)

4.1.1 Tanzania

Small flocks of Quelea birds were reported in Kiliimanjaro region but no control operation was done as birds were not damaging any crops.

4.1.2 Kenya

A DLCO-EA Aircraft have been deployed during the month to control Quelea birds, which are reported attacking wheat in Rongai area in Nakuru County and Rice in Kisumu County. However, details of the operations conducted were not received during this reporting period.

4.1.3 Eritrea

Infestation not reported.

4.1.4 Ethiopia

The Quelea control operation in the southwest has been completed by the end of the first week of August and since then the situation remained calm. The control operation was reported as follow;

- On 29th July, a re-spray was done at Konso (Arogae-Fuchicha) locality using 100 liters of Fenthion as the outcome of the previous spray was only 50%.
- On 30th of July, an estimated of 2.5 million birds, which were roosting on Typha grasses have been controlled at Amaro (Chamo Chaka) locality using 100 liters of Bathion.
- On 31st of July, an estimated of 0.6 million birds, which were roosting on Typha grasses & Sorghum crops have been controlled at Konso (Dalbena) locality using 100 liters of Bathion.
- On 1st August, an estimated of 1.0 million birds, which were roosting on Acacia trees have been controlled at Konso (Afena 2) locality using 100 liters of Fenthion.
- On 5th of August, an estimated of 2.5 million birds, which were roosting on Acacia trees have been controlled at Teltele (Blue Korma) locality using 100 liters of Fenthion.
- On 6th of August, an estimated of 0.75 million birds, which were roosting on Eucalyptus trees have been controlled at Konso (Arogae Fuchicha) locality using 50 liters of Bathion.

4.2 African Armyworm (Spodoptera exempta)

4.2.1 Tanzania

No outbreaks were reported.

4.2.2 Kenya

Report not received.

4.2.3 Eritrea

Armyworm infestation not reported.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

The Armyworm outbreaks in northern and western parts of the country have been successfully controlled before it caused any significant damage on crops.

Forecast during September, 2013

The Armyworm season will come to an end in the region however, minor infestation is likely to continue in Eritrea. Therefore, it is advisable to continue monitoring.

4.3 Tsetse fly

No infestation reports received.

CIFO

For Director,

04 September, 2013

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