

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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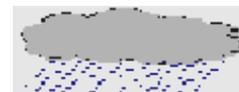
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**SITREP No. 08/2012-2013**

## **DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR**

**FEBRUARY, 2013**



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

**In the Central Region**, light rain fell at times during February in some areas on both sides of the Red Sea. In Egypt, vegetation started to dry out on the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea south of Shalatyn from the second week of February onwards but remained green near Berenice and Abraq. In Saudi Arabia, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding along the northern Red Sea coastal plains between Rabigh and Umm Lajj, and on the central coast between Lith and Quinfidah. In Yemen, light rain fell at times in a few places on the Red Sea coastal plains but mainly dry conditions persisted there as well as on the Gulf of Aden coastal plains. Light to moderate rain fell in northern Oman in early February but vegetation remained generally dry. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 413*)

#### **Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.1 Eritrea**

No rainfall occurred in the northern Red Sea coast during the month. The weather and

ecological conditions were dry around Gulub in the north-central Red Sea coastal areas. However, the vegetation between Karura and the Sudan border was green creating favorable conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

#### **1.2 Ethiopia**

Light to moderate rainfall was reported in the southwestern and northwestern parts of the country and no rainfall occurred in the locust breeding areas during February. The weather and ecological conditions remained dry in the lowlands in the east, except in much localized areas near the Djibouti border that was green. Annual and perennial vegetation was also reported dry and became unfavorable for Locust breeding in almost all areas along the Rift Valley and in the eastern lowlands of the country.

#### **1.3 Kenya**

Windy and hot weather conditions prevailed and no major rainfall was reported during the month, though medium to heavy rains fell in the northern Rift Valley and in the Western parts of the country during the fir

Annual vegetation was drying out while perennial vegetation continued remaining green in wider areas of the country.

#### 1.4 Somalia

The weather and ecological conditions in the northwestern regions remained dry during most days of the month and no rains occurred. Very light drizzles were reported in Erigavo (1061N/4736E), Boroma (0945N/4310E) and Hargeisa (0934N/4400E) while the remaining localities in the northwestern plateau and escarpment remained dry. Consequently, the vegetation in the entire northwestern regions except of some localized Wadis has remained dry and unfavorable for locust breeding.

#### Rainfall record during February for some stations

Date	Boroma 0945N/4310E	Erigavo 1061N/ 4736E	Hargeisa 0934N/44 00E
01/2/13	0.2	-	-
02/2/13	-	1.6	-
09/2/13	0.2	-	-
14/2/13	0.2	-	-
17/2/13	-	-	0.2
24/2/13	0.2	-	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>

#### 1.5 Sudan

Vegetation progressively dried out during the month in coastal and sub-coastal areas of the northwest but ecological conditions remained favorable on the southern coast between Tokar and the Eritrean border. Conditions were also favorable in adjacent areas of Eritrea on the northern coast.

#### 1.6 Tanzania

Heavy rains fell along the coastal belt in Dar-es-Salam and Pwani regions while moderate rains fell in the Lake Zone. The rest of the country remained hot and dry. Vegetation was reported drying out in most parts of the country.

#### 1.7 Uganda

Erratic showers and thunderstorms were reported in some parts of the Country. The storms have been very destructive. Otherwise, it has been generally dry and hot in most parts of the Country.

Vegetation in the northern and Northeastern parts of the country was reported drying and dry. While in the central, south, and southwest it was partially green.

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

##### 2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

##### 2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust survey was carried out between 01 - 21 February in the Northeastern Red Sea coast covering areas from Krora to Gulbub. Hopper bands and small swarms were detected infesting 2,300 ha of cropland and 1080 ha of pasturelands around Krora at location “Habel Ketin” and its soundings. A successful ground control operation had been organized and all infested areas are controlled using four vehicle mounted ULV sprayers.

##### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during February.

##### 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during February.

##### 2.5 Sudan

2.6 The situation worsened in February as breeding continued in coastal and sub-coastal areas of the northeast and on the southern coastal plains near the Eritrean border where hopper groups, bands adult groups and swarms formed. Mature adult groups and swarms were seen from the 10<sup>th</sup> onwards. The infesta were concentrated in

coast between Mohamed Qol (2054N/3709E) and the Egyptian border, those in the south were between Adobana (1810N/3816E) and Krora (1745N/3820E) where more egg-laying occurred late in the month. A number of immature swarms moved from the northeast to crops along the Nile River, reaching Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E) on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Dongola (1910N/3027E) by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Some of the swarms were maturing and laying eggs. Damage occurred to seasonal crops and date palms. One swarm was seen as far as Ed Damer (1734N/3358E). Control teams treated 60979 ha, including 39,570 ha by air in February. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 413)

## 2.7 Situation in Other countries & Regions (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 413)

**Central Region:** Locust numbers continued to increase significantly during February from breeding along the Red Sea coastal plains in southeast Egypt, Sudan, northeast Eritrea, and Saudi Arabia where hopper bands and swarms formed. Immature groups and swarms moved from northeast Sudan to the Nile Valley in northern Sudan, laying eggs, and causing damage to crops and date palms. Immature groups and a few small swarms moved north along the Red Sea coast of Egypt, nearly reaching Suez. Infestations declined in the second half of February due to control operations and migration. Elsewhere, only isolated adults were seen on the Red Sea coast in Yemen. There is a moderate risk that a few small groups and swarmlets may reach cropping areas in the Nile Valley and Delta of Egypt. A smaller second generation of breeding will occur in southeast Egypt, along the Sudan/Eritrea border and on the northern Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia. Breeding will continue along the Nile in northern Sudan where a few more swarms may appear from the northeast. Scattered adults and small groups are likely

to appear in the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia, and breed in places that receive rainfall.

**Western Region:** The locust situation remained generally calm in the region during February. Adult groups and a few small swarms formed in the southern part of Western Sahara. Some of these moved into adjacent areas of northwest Mauritania. Limited control operations were carried out in Morocco and Mauritania. Scattered mature adults were present in central Algeria and northeast Morocco.

**Eastern Region:** No locusts were reported in the region during February. Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in parts of Baluchistan in western Pakistan and southeast Iran, and breed on a small scale in areas that receive rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-April, 2013

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Small groups and swarms will form on the northern coastal plains of the Red Sea, supplemented by similar populations from adjacent areas of Sudan. A second generation of breeding will occur near the border, giving rise to hopper groups and bands. All efforts are required to monitor and control the infestations.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.5 Sudan

Small groups and swarms are likely to move from the northeast towards the Nile River and the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea. Breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in both areas with hatching and the formation of hopper groups and bands in March. All efforts are required to monitor and control the infestations.

### **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**

Quelea infestation not reported.

#### **4.1.2 Kenya**

Report not received.

#### **4.1.3 Eritrea**

Quelea infestation not reported.

#### **4.1.4 Ethiopia**

Quelea infestation not reported.

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

#### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

On 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of February, Armyworm outbreaks were reported in Meatu district in Shinyanga region (western), Singida Rural and Kondoa districts in the Central Zone and Mbulu districts in the northern parts.

Traps that reported moth catches during the first dekad of the moth were: Shinyanga 17, Arusha seed farm 366, Rombo 60, Newala 60, Karatu 8, Tengeru 11 and Handen 13.

### **4.2.2 Kenya**

Report not received.

### **Forecast during April 2013**

Minor infestations will likely to continue in the northern and the northeastern coastal belt in Tanzania. There is probability that moths could migrate from south and minor outbreaks to occur in the eastern, the southern Rift Valley and central parts of Kenya with the onset of early rainfalls. Therefore, it is advisable to continue monitoring and organize survey operations in order to detect early outbreaks in suspected locations.

### **4.3 Tsetse fly**

No infestation reports received.

## **CIFO**

**For Director,**

06 March, 2013

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

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