

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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

**JULY, 2013**



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

**In the Central Region**, the position of the ITCZ was further south than normal over Sudan during July. Consequently, rainfall remained south of 1430N (Hamrat Esh Sheikh and Umm Saiyala, North Kordofan), interrupting seasonal rains in the summer breeding areas after an early start in June, and slowing down the development of green vegetation. Light rains fell at times in parts of the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen, which should allow ecological conditions to continue to be favorable for breeding. Good rains also fell on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in early June. Mainly dry conditions prevailed elsewhere in the region. (FAO DL bulletin No. 418)

#### **Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.1 Eritrea**

The summer rains continued to fall mainly in the western lowlands and the central highlands. Consequently, annual and perennial vegetation continued greening, creating favorable ecological conditions for

locusts to breed in the summer breeding areas.

#### **1.2 Ethiopia**

With the progress of the rain season, the rainfall amount increased in its distribution and intensity during July in most parts of the country.

Consequently, very heavy rainfall occurred in the western parts of the country during the first and the second dekads of the month. Except of the southern margin and southeastern parts, the rest of the country including the Rift Valley areas and the eastern lowlands have received light to heavy rainfall. The summer locust breeding areas in the northwest have also received moderate to heavy rainfall.

The soil remained moist, annual and perennial vegetation turned green across all areas of the country, creating favorable ecological conditions for breeding of locusts.

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

Date	Dire Dawa (0936N/04150E) Rainfall in mm
04/07/2013	Trace
08/07/2013	1.3
09/07/2013	Trace
10/07/2013	0.9
11/07/2013	Trace
12/07/2013	45.3
17/07/2013	6.3
21/07/2013	5.2
22/07/2013	1.3
26/07/2013	14.2
28/07/2013	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.3</b>

### 1.3 Kenya

During July, most parts of the country experienced cloudy and cold weather conditions with some sparsely distributed drizzling.

Perennial and annual vegetations remained green across most parts of the country during the month.

### 1.4 Somalia

Generally, the weather and ecological conditions in the Northwestern regions of the country remained dry and rainless during July.

However, low to moderate rains occurred in Marodijeh and Awdal regions, particularly in some localized areas in the plateau and the

escarpment during the first and the second dekad of July.

Potential Desert Locust breeding locations in the coast and Haud areas along the Ethio-North Somalia borders also remained dry.

Vegetation in the northern parts remained dry except of some localized pockets in the plateau and the escarpment that remained green.

In Puntland, the central and the southern parts of the country, the rainfall pattern and vegetation greatly worsened during the month.

#### Rainfall record during July, 2013 for some stations

Date	Harg eisa	Gabi le	Dila	Walawle	Aburii n	Qulunj eed	Togoc halle
01/06	-	-	-	-	-	15.0	-
03/06	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-
05/06	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
06/06	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
07/06	-	-	-	-	2.4	--	-
08/06	3.0	3.0	28.0	3.0	0.2	3.0	-
13/06	-	16.5	-	-	-	-	-
15/06	7.0	-	4.0	-	2.6	-	25
16/06	13.0	3.0	3.0	39.0	-	-	-
17/06	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	24
18/06	3.0	-	5.0	-	28.0	3.5	-
19/06	-	-	-	-	-	5.5	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>49.0</b>

### 1.5 Sudan

During July, vegetation was green in the cultivated cropping farms along the River Nile stretching from Khartoum up to the Northern States. Light to moderate amount of rains fell in some of the summer breeding areas, consequently, vegetation has started greening and soil was moist, which created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

### 1.6 Tanzania

During July, the northern and southern regions remained dry and cold, and also the rest of the country was dry and windy.

Vegetation was reported drying up in most parts of the country.

### 1.7 Uganda

The northern parts of the Country started receiving heavy showers and thun

2013. The central and western parts remained dry, with a few records of scattered showers. Vegetation in the northern parts was observed greening while in the northeastern, central and western parts were generally 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 July

### **2.4 Somalia**

In July, the Desert Locust situation remained calm throughout the northern parts of the country.

Nonetheless, an unconfirmed information of hopper outbreak in Oodweyne district (09 23N/4503E) was reported by local farmers and the regional coordinator.

### **2.5 Sudan**

#### **1. Khartoum State**

2,700 ha were surveyed by ground and 9 ha were found infested with mature solitarious and scattered adults. Density was estimated 25 – 100 adults/ha.

#### **2. River Nile state**

10,000 ha were surveyed and 170 ha along the two banks of the Atbara River, irrigated schemes of the River Nile near Berber, Eldamer and the cultivated areas north of Abu Hamed have been found infested with scattered, mature solitary adults. Densities varied from 200–500 adults/ ha.

### **3. The Northern State**

9,400 ha were surveyed and 35 ha have been found infested with low densities of mature solitary adults in cultivated farms near Eddeba and south of Wadi Halfa. Few scattered solitary hoppers of 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> instars were also detected in Homiya and in northwest Dongola.

### **4. Red Sea and Kassala States**

9,500 ha surveyed and 35 ha found infested with scattered, mature, solitary locust adults with densities varied from 50 to 250 individuals/ha.

### **5. White Nile & North Kordofan States**

A ground survey was also conducted in White Nile & North Kordofan States and no locusts were found.

### **2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions**

*(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 418)*

**Central Region:** The situation remained calm in the region during July except in Yemen where one reached Wadi Hadhramaut area in the interior. Breeding during June and July caused locust numbers to increase in Yemen, and solitarious and transiens hoppers and adults were present. Control operations were not possible due to insecurity. Locust infestations declined in the spring breeding areas of Saudi Arabia where only a few adult groups were reported. Scattered adults persisted in the Nile Valley in northern Sudan and low numbers of solitarious adults appeared in parts of the summer breeding area but vegetation was slow to become green due to intermittent rains. In northern Somalia there was an unconfirmed report of hoppers. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

**Western Region:** The locust situation remained calm in the region during July. Locust numbers declined in the spring breeding areas of Morocco and Algeria due to hot, dry conditions and earlier control operations. Solitarious adults appeared in the summer breeding areas of northern Shale in Mauritania, Chad and probably in Mali and Niger as well but this could be

of surveys. Local breeding continued in the southeastern Air Mountains in northern Niger.

**Eastern Region:** Low numbers of solitary adults appeared in the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border during July.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-August, 2013**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in the western lowlands.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

Scattered hoppers and adults may be present in parts of the plateau between Hargeisa and Burao where breeding may have occurred in areas of previous rainfall.

#### **3.5 Sudan**

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in Darfur, Northern Kordofan, White Nile, Khartoum and Kassala States.

#### **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**

Some flocks of Quelea birds have been reported in Mtibwa, Morogoro Region but not controlled.

##### **4.1.2 Kenya**

A DLCO-EA Aircraft have been deployed in Narok County, in the Rift Valley area and Kisumu in the western parts to control Quelea infestations during June. However, details of the operations conducted were not received during this reporting period.

##### **4.1.3 Eritrea**

Report not received.

##### **4.1.4 Ethiopia**

Quelea outbreaks have been reported in the southwest in Borena zone, Teltele Woreda (district) in Oromiya and, Konso Liyu Woreda in the Southern Peoples Nation and Nationalities Regions of the country. A DLCO-EA aircraft has been deployed and control operation started on 26<sup>th</sup> July and is reported as follows;

- On 26<sup>th</sup> July, an estimated of 2.5 million birds, which were roosting on Typha grasses has been controlled at Konso (Yitafa) locality using 100 liters of Fenthion.
- On 27<sup>th</sup> of July, an estimated of 1.5 million birds, which were roosting on Typha grasses has also been controlled at Konso (Afena) locality using 100 liters of Fenthion.

##### **4.1.5 Uganda**

There have been reports of heavy invasion of Quelea birds into the northeastern parts of the Country. In Kween district, over 1,000 acres of Sorghum were totally destroyed by the birds. The birds had shifted to Kibimba Rice fields where crop destructions of 30-50% were being recorded. It was estimated that over 1.5 tons of Rice crop were being lost to the t

Crop Protection Dept of the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with DLCO-EA conducted an aerial spray of the birds in Kibimba on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2013. A *Quelea* roost covering 40 hectares was sprayed with 160 liters of Queletox (Fenthion ULV) and over 1.9 million birds were killed, representing a 95% kill. The Kibimba rice schemes are now calm with very few *Quelea* birds remaining.

## **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 outbreak was reported on an estimated of 2000 ha in the southern parts of the country during July. The worms were at 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> stages and have been controlled successfully by farmers and MoA staff.

### **4.2.4 Ethiopia**

The Armyworm migration & outbreaks progressed to Wellega, in the Oromiya region in the western and to Tigray and Amhara regions in the northern parts of the country. The first generation outbreak occurred in Amhara region on 89,506 ha, of which about 88% was on crop-field and was controlled successfully from 17<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013 by using 33,243 liters of pesticide and some cultural means. The control operation has been carried out by staff of Bureaus of Agriculture in collaboration with local communities in south Gondar and north Wello Zones and crop damage was reported insignificant.

### **Forecast during August, 2013**

There is a likely situation that medium to heavy infestations to continue occurring and covering wider areas in the northern and northwestern parts of Ethiopia, in the southern and Gash-Barka regions, and the central highlands of Eritrea. Therefore, it is advisable to continue monitoring and organizing survey operations in order to detect and control early outbreaks mainly in suspected and traditional breeding locations.

## **4.3 Tsetse fly**

No infestation reports received.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

05 August, 2013

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

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