

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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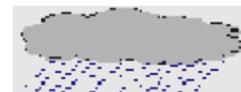
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SITREP No. 09/2012-2013

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

MARCH, 2013



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, good rains fell in the interior of Arabia and the Horn of Africa during the second half of March. In Saudi Arabia, low to moderate rains fell in the spring breeding areas that extended to the interior of Yemen and the Oman border. Good rains also fell in northeast Oman, in Eastern Ethiopia and throughout northern Somalia. No significant rain fell along both sides of the Red Sea and, consequently, vegetation was drying out on the coastal plains. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 414*)

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.1 Eritrea

Report not received.

1.2 Ethiopia

The short rainy season has started, and light to heavy rainfall occurred throughout the country, where almost all locust spring breeding areas in the eastern parts of the country has received significant amount of

rains. The report indicated that, the rainfall amount progressively increased in its distribution and intensity throughout the country towards the end of the month.

Annual vegetation in most places of the locust breeding areas in the eastern lowlands, the adjacent areas of northern Somalia and the Rift Valley have started greening and perennial vegetation remained green.

Vegetation in the lowland areas in the southeastern Afar region that borders Djibouti has also turned green and became very favorable for locust breeding and development.

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

Date	Dire Dawa (0936N/04150E) Rainfall in mm
11/03/13	3.8
13/03/13	9.9
18/08/13	3.2
19/03/13	3.8
23/03/13	47.2
24/03/13	3.1
26/03/13	0.3
27/03/13	4.7
28/03/13	

29/03/13	43.7
Total	126.2

1.3 Kenya

Cloudy, humid and intermittent rainy conditions prevailed mainly during the second half of March. As a result, medium to heavy rains fell in the Rift Valley, Central, coastal and in the Western parts of the country. Heavy rains that fell during the last two days of the month have caused destruction of infrastructure, crops, and deaths of people were also reported. Annual vegetations have started greening in wider areas due to the recent rains while perennial vegetation remained green.

1.4 Somalia

The weather and ecological conditions have improved as the first down pour of the main rainy season has started in different regions of the country mainly during the third dekad of March. Heavy cloud overcasts and sudden temperature increase was observed during most days of the month, and localized light to heavy torrential rains fell in many localities of the country.

The preliminary rains fell mostly in areas extending on the plateau and escarpment from Boroma (09, 45N/43,10E) to Burao (09, 30N/45,30E) and all the way up to the areas to the Golis mountainous range.

The overall vegetation status in the northwestern regions remained dry to drying except for some localized green patches on the plateau and escarpment.

Localized light to moderate rains also fell in parts of the Southern, Central and Northeastern regions of the country.

It was reported that in the pastoral areas around Burtinle district in Nugal region, 160 domestic animals have died following heavy torrential rains.

Rainfall record during March for some stations

Date	Dila	Boroma	Sheikh	Ga'an-Libah	Hargeisa
17/	-	-	-	18.5	-
19/	44.0	-	-	-	-
21/	-	-	-	15.0	-
22/	13.0	8.0	-	-	8.0
23/	-	5.0	23.0	-	-
24/	10.0	10.0	50.0	-	-
25/	-	-	-	-	2.5
Total	67.0	23.0	73.0	33.5	10.5

1.5 Sudan

Vegetation progressively dried out during March on the coastal areas in the east and sub-coastal areas of the northwest but ecological conditions remained favorable on the river beds.

1.6 Tanzania

The long rain period has started and the country received very heavy to moderate rains. Some of the regions that have received heavy rainfalls include DSM, Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro. As a result houses, bridges and roads washed away and several deaths have been reported in DSM, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions due to floods.

Vegetation was reported green in most parts of the country where rainfall occurred.

1.7 Uganda

Report not received.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

2.2 Eritrea

On afternoon 17th of March, a swarm having 3 kms of length seen flying over Asmara (152040N/385542E), the capital city of the country. The swarm flew

to the south and has been controlled by the plant protection unit using ground control sprayers. Another mature swarm was also seen on 10th of March at Afabet (161154N/385542E), in the north-central highland of the country. Further and detail reports are awaited.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during February.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during February.

2.5 Sudan

During March, locust infestations declined in coastal and sub-coastal areas of the northeast due to control operations, migration and drying vegetation. A few immature swarms were seen on the coast near the Egyptian border during the first week while a few fledglings and immature adults were seen in Wadi Diib during the last week. Hopper groups, bands, adult groups and swarms continued to form on the southern coastal plains near the Eritrean border in early March. An immature and mature swarm moved to Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) at mid-month where solitarious immature and mature adults were present. The situation deteriorated in the northern and River Nile States where swarms matured and laid eggs near crops along a 1,000 km stretch of the Nile between Wadi Halfa (2147N/3122E) and Ed Damer (1734N/3358E) and along about a 50 km stretch of the Atbara River. Hatching began during the second week and small, dense hopper bands formed in many areas, reaching third instar by the end of March. A few mature gregarious adults moved west of the Nile and were seen between Dongola (1910N/3027E) and Jebel Uweinat (2154N/2458E). Control teams treated 44,948 ha, including 36,152 ha by air in March. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 414)

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 414)

Central Region: As vegetation dried out along both sides of the Red Sea during March, adult groups and swarms formed, some of which moved north along the Red Sea in Egypt, reaching Cairo and continuing to Sinai Peninsula, Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. Egg laying was reported in Israel and Palestine. Swarms that reached the Nile Valley in northern Sudan in February and early March, matured and laid eggs that hatched, causing numerous small but dense hopper bands to form near crops. More hopper bands will form during April and swarms could form in May that would threaten crops and probably remain along the Nile to mature and lay eggs. Groups and swarms that moved north along the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia also laid eggs that hatched, causing hopper bands to form. Good rains in the interior of Saudi Arabia and Yemen may allow a generation of breeding to occur during the spring that could lead to swarms forming by June. Control operations were carried out in all affected countries.

Western Region: The locust situation remained generally calm in the region during March. A few small swarms formed in Western Sahara where breeding had nearly ended. An increasing number of adults, including a few small groups and a swarmlet appeared in the spring breeding areas south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria, and started to lay eggs in the central Sahara of Algeria. Isolated adults were present in northwest Mauritania and southwest Libya. Limited control operations were undertaken in Morocco and Algeria. Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase further in Morocco and Algeria during the forecast period.

Eastern Region: No locusts were reported in the region during March. Low numbers of adults are probably present in parts of Baluchistan in western Pakistan and southeast Iran, and will breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

3.0 Forecast until mid-May, 2013

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers will decline on the northern coastal plains of the Red Sea as vegetation dries out.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will decline on the southern coast of the Red Sea. Hatching will continue along the Nile in Northern and River Nile States during the first half of April, and hopper bands will form. Fledging is expected to commence after mid-month and new swarms could form by early May. It is likely that these swarms will remain in cropping areas, mature and be ready to lay eggs by late May. 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 quelea outbreaks have been reported in Singida, Shinyanga and Mbeya regions.

However, details of the infestation report not received.

4.1.2 Kenya

Report not received.

4.1.3 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.4 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (Spodoptera exempta)

4.2.1 Tanzania

There were no reports of outbreaks but traps that reported Moth catch were from the northern part of the country and presented as follow;

Arusha Seed Farm (22), Tengeru (10), Karatu (12) Masaera village (Moshi rural) (270) and Rombo (24)

Most of the other part of the country reported NIL catch

4.2.2 Kenya

Report not received.

Forecast during April 2013

Minor infestations will likely to occur in the northern and the northeastern parts of Tanzania and eastern parts of Uganda. Though infestation reports were not received from PPSB of Kenya, there may have been some outbreaks that have occurred in the country. Therefore, there is a high possibility that more infestations to occur in many locations of the country with the current good trend of rainfall across the region. Therefore, it is advisable to continue monitoring and organizing survey operations in order to detect early outbreaks in suspected and traditional breeding locations.

4.3 Tsetse fly

No infestation reports received.

CIFO

For Director,

05 April, 2013

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Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's
Website: www.dlcoea.org.et