

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



**Headquarters (Addis Ababa)**

**Tel: 251-1-16461477/0287/0290**

**Fax: 251-1-16460296**

**Operations Office (Nairobi)**

**Tel: 254-020-6002305/6001488**

**Fax: 254-020-6001575**

**SITREP No. 04/2013-2014**

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

**OCTOBER, 2013**



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

**In the Central Region**, the ITCZ continued its seasonal southward movement over Sudan during October and was well south of the summer-breeding area. Nevertheless, light showers fell in West and North Kordofan, and near Kassala. Vegetation remained green north of Khartoum in Baiyuda Desert and between the Nile and Atbara Rivers. Vegetation dried out in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen. Good rains fell during the first decade along the Red Sea winter breeding coastal plains and in Asir Mountains near Mecca, Saudi Arabia to Bab-El-Mandeb in Yemen, extending to the western parts of the Gulf of Aden coast. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 421*)

#### **Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.1 Eritrea**

Medium amount of rainfalls occurred in the western lowland areas with some flooding that caused crop damages. Some eastern lowland areas also received

flooding from rains that occurred on the eastern escarpments. Consequently, the ecological conditions have been improved around Shieb and Afabet sub-regions, which are considered as the main locust breeding areas.

#### **1.2 Ethiopia**

The rainfall intensity has increased during October compared to the previous month, and light to heavy rainfall occurred throughout the country particularly during the first decade of the month. The summer locust breeding areas in the northwest parts have all received moderate to heavy rainfall. However, the rainfall amount decreased relatively in its distribution and intensity towards the end of the month in most parts of the country.

Soil was moist and has sustained the greening of vegetation including in those arid areas. As a result, annual and perennial vegetation conditions have improved and became suitable for breeding and development of migratory pests.

The following rainfall data is obtained from Dire Dawa meteorological station during October, 2013:

Date	Dire Dawa
	0936N/04150E
	Rainfall in mm
01	45.0
02	0.8
05	7.0
06	12.6
07	1.1
08	9.6
10	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>79.1</b>

### 1.3 Kenya

During October, although the southern and eastern parts of the country remained dry and sunny some sparsely distributed light to medium amount of rainfall occurred on the central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country.

Consequently, perennial vegetation remained green while annual vegetations were greening in areas where rains fell.

### 1.4 Somalia

The northwestern parts of the country has revived low to moderate rains mainly during the first decade of October, and significantly decreased during the second decade.

As a result, the vegetation status in the plateau and escarpment has been reported densely greening. The potential Desert Locust breeding habitats in the northern coast received little precipitation and remained dry. While the northeastern, central and southern parts received low to moderate rains.

**Rainfall record in some stations during October, 2013**

Date	Qulujeed	Xudun	Dila	Gabiley	Cadadley
01	3.0	-		-	12.0
02	-	-	2.0	-	-
03	-	-	17.0	-	-
05	-	-	2.0	-	-
06	22.0	-	2.0	-	-
07	29.0	9.0	-	3.0	1.0
08	8.0	12.0	3.0	2.0	70.0
09	-	-	8.0	5.0	3.0
10	-	-	-	2.0	10.0
11	-	25.0	-	-	-
13	-	-	2.0	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>98.0</b>

### 1.5 Sudan

During the first decade of October, light showers fell in West and North Kordofan and near Kassala. During the last decade of October, good rains fell in the northeastern parts and adjacent coastal and sub-coastal areas south of Egypt. Vegetation remained green north of Khartoum and between the Nile and Atbara Rivers. Consequently, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding on the eastern side of the Red Sea coastal plains.

### 1.6 Tanzania

The whole country remained dry, hot and windy. It is expected that the short rains to start in early November.

Vegetation continued drying up in all parts of the country.

### 1.7 Uganda

Most parts of the Country continued to record moderate to heavy showers, hailstorms and some thunderstorms. There were more press reports on destruction of crops and infrastructure.

Vegetation in most parts of the Country remained green.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

## 2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were reported during October.

## 2.3 Ethiopia

Although the overall situation was calm, some solitary and scattered groups of adult Desert Locusts were reported on 610 ha in Hare and Aysha areas in northeast of Dire Dawa towards the Djibouti border. Density was estimated between 50 to 100 adults per ha. Solitary 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> instar hoppers that emerged during September were also reported in Hare area in the Shinile Zone.

## 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during October.

## 2.5 Sudan

During October, solitarious adults continued to mature in the summer breeding areas in North Kordofan, the Baiyuda Desert northwest of Khartoum, the Nile Valley near Merowe and north of Dongola (1910N/3027E), and east of the Nile between Khartoum, Atbara (1742N/3400E), Kassala (1527N/3623E) and the Red Sea Hills. As vegetation dried out, a few second to fourth instar hopper bands formed along the Atbara River and near Derudeb (1731N/3607E), hopper groups formed near Kassala and adult groups formed northeast of Khartoum. Control teams treated 215 ha. Locust numbers were declining as adults moved to the winter breeding areas in the northeast and on the Red Sea coast.

In the winter breeding areas, adult groups laid eggs in Wadi Oko/Diib in the northeast and in the Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) on the coast. Scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were also present in both areas. Late instar hoppers from September laying formed a few small groups in Wadi Oko near Tomala (2002N/3551E) where control

teams treated 25 ha. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 421)

## 2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 421)

**Central Region:** Locust populations shifted from the summer to the winter breeding areas during October. The situation deteriorated further in Yemen as swarms formed in the interior and moved to the coastal plains of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and laid eggs in areas where hopper groups and bands had already formed from September breeding. In Saudi Arabia, hopper and adult groups were treated in the interior along the Yemen border, and small-scale breeding occurred on the central Red Sea coast. In late October, adult groups arrived on the southern coastal plains near Jizan from Yemen. In Sudan, there may be early signs that an outbreak is developing in the summer breeding areas on the interior where hopper and adult groups and a few hopper bands formed. Adult groups moved to the northeast where breeding was already in progress and to the Red Sea coast.

**Western Region:** An outbreak developed within an area of about 120,000 km<sup>2</sup> in west and northwest Mauritania where adults arrived from summer breeding areas in the south, concentrated, matured, and formed groups. Hatching occurred during October and hopper formed small groups and bands. Ground teams treated nearly 3,000 ha. In Niger, small-scale breeding continued on the Tamesna Plains and, by the end of October, adults were concentrating and becoming transiens as vegetation started to dry out. In Chad small-scale breeding caused an increase in adult numbers and a few small groups could form as vegetation dries out in November.

**Eastern Region:** The situation remained calm during October. Low numbers continued to decline as vegetation dried out in the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-December, 2013

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of solitarious adults are expected to appear on the Red Sea coast between Massawa and Krora. Small-scale breeding in areas of runoff and rainfall will cause locust numbers to increase, especially near Sheib and Mahmimet..

### 3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of adults may appear on the northwest coastal plains and breed on a small-scale in areas of recent rainfall. There is low risk that a few small groups or swarmlets may arrive from Yemen in November..

### 3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will continue to decline in the summer breeding areas in the interior where a few adult groups and perhaps small swarmlets may form and move into cropping areas along the Nile or continue to the Red Sea coast. In the winter breeding areas, small-scale breeding will cause locusts to increase in the northeast and along the Red Sea coast. Hatching in Wadi Oko/Diib and Tokar will commence in early November and small hopper groups may form that will start to fledge in early December.

### 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

No outbreak reported.

#### 4.1.2 Kenya

A DLCO-EA spray aircraft continued controlling of infestations of Quelea birds around Kisumu and Dominion areas during end of September and October, and details are presented below;

##### 1) Kisumu

On 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 4.5 million birds which were roosting on 120 ha of Sugar Cane and Reeds grasses controlled with 130 liters of Queletox. Birds were feeding on Rice crops.

##### 2) Dominion farm

On 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October, 10 million birds which were roosting on 340 ha of Acacia and Eucalyptus trees, and Papyrus and Reeds grasses controlled with 335 liters of Queletox. Birds were feeding on Rice crops and the area under threat was estimated 2,600 ha.

#### 4.1.3 Eritrea

Infestation not reported.

#### 4.1.4 Ethiopia

During October, Quelea infestations have been reported in Zeway/Meki areas in East Shewa and Arsi Zone, in Fedis and Babile in Oromiya, and in Amhara regions.

Aerial control operation using a DLCO-EA aircraft has started on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October and it is reported as follows;

Between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and, on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October, an estimated of 14.5 million birds in roosts and colonies, which were spread on 350 ha of Typha grasses have been controlled with 700 liters of Bathion 60% ULV.

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

Infestation not reported in th

### **4.3 Tsetse fly**

Infestation not reported.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

05 November, 2013

For more information about the  
Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's  
Website: [www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)