

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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**SITREP No. 10/2013-2014**

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

**APRIL, 2014**



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

**In the Central Region**, vegetation continued to dry out and temperatures increased in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea and the northwest coast of Somalia during April. In Eritrea, small areas of green vegetation persisted on the southern coast between Ghelealo and Tio. Good rains fell over parts of the plateau in northwest Somalia and eastern Ethiopia during the first decade of April, causing ecological conditions to become favorable for breeding primarily in Ethiopia between Ayisha and Jijiga and, to lesser extent, in parts of northwest Somalia. In Yemen, moderate rains fell early in the month in the interior spring breeding areas. In Saudi Arabia, light rains may have fallen at times in the interior spring breeding areas during the second half of the month. In Oman, good rains fell early in the month in parts of the northwest where ecological conditions were favorable for breeding. In eastern Sudan, heavy rains fell in summer breeding areas on the western side of the Red Sea Hills. (*FAO DL bulletin No.427*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

Seasonal light to moderate rains continued to fall during the month mainly in the central highland of the country. Consequently, news reports indicated that a heavy rainfall accompanied by storm and ice that fell on the beginning of the second dekad of the month caused property loss in Areza sub-zone, in the Southern Region. Accordingly, various households and social service facilities have been damaged, while more than 80 livestock died.

Vegetation was green and greening in the highland and in some parts in the western lowland, while continued drying on the Red Sea coastal plains except for some green patches around Foro, Ghlealo and Tio.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

Widespread moderate to heavy rain fell in almost all regions of the country during the first dekad of the month, while light to heavy rainfall occurred over much of the country during the second dekad including the arid areas in the eastern and southeastern parts. Good amount of rainfall has been reported along the Ethio-Djibouti and Ethio-Somaliland borders during April where much activity of Desert Locust

operations were progressing. The arid areas surrounding Dire Dawa have also received enough rainfall during the month, which consequently made them more suitable for Desert Locust breeding and development.

#### Rainfall record April, 2014

Date	Dire Dawa 0936N/04150E (mm)
04	11.2
05	5.3
06/	9.6
11	6.9
12	1.5
14	3.3
16	3.1
17	Trace
19	18.5
23	12.7
27	4.5
28	54.1
29	31.0
30	13.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>174.9</b>

Vegetation was generally green across most places of the country including the Desert Locust breeding arid areas in the east, and the soil was reported wet. Consequently, the areas had become very favorable for further breeding and development of the Desert Locust.

#### 1.3 Kenya

Except for some sparsely distributed rains that fell during the first and the second dekad of April mainly in the central and coastal areas, most parts of the country remained rainless and dry.

#### 1.4 Somalia

The weather and ecological conditions in the northwestern parts remained rainless and dry during most days of April.

Despite the rainless conditions in the northwestern parts, low to moderate showers occurred in parts of the plateau and escarpment.

Generally, the vegetation condition is drying to dry throughout the country except for some greening patches of vegetation on the plateau and the escarpment where recent rains have occurred.

#### Rainfall record (mm) during April, 2014

Date	Erigavo (1061N/ 4736E)	Dhubat o	Togoc halle	Hargei sa	Boroma
02	6.0	-	-	-	-
04	20.0	-	20.0	-	10.0
05	-	8.5	32.0	45.0	-
06	-	28.5	8.0	-	15.5
07	12.0	-	-	12.0	-
10	-	-	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	-	-
18	-	17.0	-	-	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>

#### 1.6 Sudan

During April, ecological condition started to become less favorable for Desert Locust breeding in the northern parts of the Red Sea coast winter breeding areas. Except for some green patches in Tokar Delta and southwards to the Eritrean border, vegetation cover has generally dried out. Beside, moderate rain fell during the second week of April in few places along Wadi Oko, and wadi Aldaiib.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

Report not received.

## 1.8 Uganda

During the month, most parts of the Country continued to receive heavy showers and thunderstorms, and the rains are predicted to continue up to the end of May.

Vegetation in most parts of the country was very green during the month.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

During April, ground survey was conducted on the Red sea coastal plains between Afabet (152026N/0390308E) and Tio (142852N/0410051E).

The report indicated that the Desert Locust situation continued to remain significant mainly in the southern part of the Red Sea coastal plains around Tio due to the recent rains and the favorable ecological conditions that have existed during the previous months.

Consequently, ground control operation carried out on mature gregarious adults and, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> instar gregarious hoppers in Aytos (146572N/0409861E), around Tio. 105 hectares of infestations were successfully treated by vehicle mounted and handheld sprayers using 40 liters of ULV and 25 liters EC insecticides.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

Aerial and ground control operations continued during April on several small and medium size immature swarms that have crossed from northwest Somalia into the country during March.

Consequently, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 15 swarms that covered 2,395 ha have been controlled in areas around Dire Dawa and Jijiga using 2,395 liters of Ethiolathion 95% ULV. Of the total area controlled, 2,235 hectares were carried out by a

DLCO-EA aircraft, which was deployed in the area since March, 2014.

The report indicated that, during the second half of the month, some swarms may have matured and started laying eggs in suitable habitats as maturing swarm was observed towards the end of the first week of April. Unconfirmed reports of hoppers also received from Aysha (1046N/4234E) by the end of the month, which could be an indication of the second generation of the locust breeding has started.

On 29<sup>th</sup> of April, a small size immature swarm has crossed from northwest Somalia to Ethiopia through Awbere District.

It was also reported that by the end of April, an immature swarm covering 13km<sup>2</sup> has been seen in the central part of the country around Wonji and Nazereth.

### 2.4 Somalia

During the first two weeks of April, small size immature Desert Locust swarms have been seen flying from the northwest coast to the plateau and escarpment Boroma (0956N/4313E) and Hargeisa(0931N/4402E) and west of Burao (0931N/4533E). On 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of the month, medium size immature swarm was seen near Ghabiley (0942N/4338E). The swarms were also seen moving and heading to the eastern and southeastern parts of Ethiopia.

A ground survey team composed of two groups was organized during the last decade of the month to assess the overall locust, ecological situation and the possible developments in northern Somalia.

Consequently, except for low densities 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> instar gregarious hoppers found on 5 ha near Lughaye (1041N/4356E), all the surveyed areas found free from any infestation and remained unfavorable for locust developments.

### 2.5 Sudan

During the first half of April, mature and immature swarm and mixed locust groups were detected in Wadi ok areas along wadi A

hectares of infestation have been controlled by ground means using 2,230 liters of insecticide. Few locust individuals of low densities have also been detected in Toker Delta, and no locusts were detected in the southern parts of the Red Sea coast.

**Situation in Other countries & Regions** (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 427)

**Central Region:** Locust infestations continued to decline in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea due to control operations and drying conditions. Aerial and ground control operations were carried out in Saudi Arabia, and adult groups moved into the spring breeding areas of the interior where they laid eggs. In northern Sudan, adults formed groups and a few small swarms that were treated by ground teams. Control operations finished in Yemen and Eritrea. In Yemen, small-scale breeding may occur in the interior, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Numerous swarms moved from northwest Somalia to eastern Ethiopia where aerial and ground control operations were undertaken, and hatching and the formation of hopper groups and bands are expected in May. Small-scale breeding is in progress and is likely to continue in northern Oman where small hopper groups formed. As vegetation dries out, locusts may form more small groups.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm during April. Isolated solitarious adults were seen in northeast Morocco. No significant developments are expected.

**Eastern Region:** The situation remained calm during April. Small-scale breeding was in progress in coastal and interior areas of southern Iran and limited control operations were undertaken. During the forecast period, hatching will cause locust numbers to increase slightly. As vegetation dries out, small groups may form. Although locusts were not seen in adjacent areas of western Pakistan, small-scale breeding may occur in May.

### 3.0 Forecast until mid-June, 2014

#### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

#### 3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

#### 3.3 Ethiopia

There is low possibility that a few more swarms may appear from northwest Somalia early in the forecast period between Jijiga, Dire Dawa and Ayisha, perhaps reaching the Harar Highlands and the Rift Valley. Breeding is likely to occur in these areas with hatching in May. Hoppers are likely to form groups and small hopper bands.

#### 3.4 Somalia

There is a low possibility that a few more swarms may be reported on the plateau early in the forecast period moving towards eastern Ethiopia. Although small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall, the situation is expected to remain calm.

#### 3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will decline in the northeast but are likely to increase in the Nile Valley between Abu Hamed and Dongola as adults and small groups appear from the northeast and breed near irrigated schemes. Hatching is expected and hopper groups and small bands may form.

#### 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 Kenya

Report not received.

## 4.1.2 Tanzania

### Late report:

**During March**, an aerial *Quelea* control operation was conducted in Dodoma region and it was reported as follows:

- ❖ Between 29 and 31 March, 11 million birds in colony on 224 ha of *Acacia* trees have been controlled using 300 liters of *Queletox* in Mpwapwa (062258S/361557E) district.
- ❖ On 26<sup>th</sup>, an estimated of 8 million birds in colony on *Acacia* trees were controlled using 100 liters of *Queletox* in Mzakwe (055637S/354546E) district.

**During April**, aerial *Quelea* birds control operations continued in Igunga, Tabora and Shinyanga regions of the country and were reported as follow;

- ❖ On 2<sup>nd</sup> April, an estimated of 6 million birds in colony on 90 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 100 liters of *Queletox* in Mpwapwa district.
- ❖ On 3<sup>rd</sup> April, an estimated of 4 million birds in colony on *Acacia* trees were controlled using 150 liters of *Queletox* in Chamwino (065351S/355529E) district.
- ❖ On 4<sup>th</sup> April, an estimated of 3.5 million birds in colony on 80 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 100 liters of *Queletox* in Igunga district.
- ❖ On 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April, an estimated of 6.8 million birds in colony on 130 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 250 liters of *Queletox* in Kishapu district.
- ❖ On 7<sup>th</sup> April, an estimated of 6.2 million birds in colony on 125 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 250 liters of *Queletox* in Shinyanga district.
- ❖ On 9<sup>th</sup> April, an estimated of 2.5 million birds in colony on 75 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 150 liters of *Queletox* in Nzega district.
- ❖ On 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April, an estimated of 23 million birds in colony on 130 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 450 liters of *Queletox* in Chamwino district.
- ❖ On 20<sup>th</sup> April, an estimated of 5 million birds in colony on 50 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 150 liters of *Queletox* in Mpwapwa district.

## 4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

### 4.2.1 Tanzania

During April, no Armyworm outbreaks were reported. However, some trap stations in Moshi, Tengeru, Kilimanjaro regions reported few moth catches during the last decade of the month.

### 4.2.2 Kenya

Report not received.

### Forecast for May, 2014

Minor infestations and outbreaks are expected to occur in the northern regions of Tanzania, Central and Rift Valley of Kenya. Primary Armyworm outbreaks are also likely to appear in the southern, the lower Rift Valley and the southeastern parts of Ethiopia.

Therefore, it is highly recommended to monitor moth migrations and organize survey in the early and secondary outbreak locations of the respective countries.

## 4.3 Tsetse fly

Infestation not reported.

### CIFO

**For Director,**

07 May, 2014

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

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

