

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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**SITREP No. 08/2013-2014**

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

**FEBRUARY, 2014**



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

**In the Central Region**, light rains fell at times in parts of the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea during February. In Yemen, light to moderate rain fell on the coastal plains of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden during the first two decades of February. Vegetation remained green on the northern Red Sea coastal plains but started to dry out in a few places at the end of the month. In Saudi Arabia, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding on the Red Sea coastal plains from Al Wajh to Jizan. Conditions were improving in the spring breeding areas of the interior near Gassim, and light to moderate showers fell between Hail and Al Jawf. (FAO DL bulletin No.425)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

Light to moderate rain fell mainly in the southern Red Sea Zone during the second decade of February while some drizzling has occurred in the northern coast during the first decade of February. Vegetation remained green in the central parts of the southern Red Sea coast and continues drying in the northern coastal plains.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

Light to moderate rain fell over areas covering from north-central to southwest of the country until the third decade of February. Light amount of rain fell in localized areas adjacent to the Ethiopian-Djibouti border areas during the first and the second decade of the month. Except in very few localized places, the rest of the country received no rainfall during the month and the normal dry season continued to prevail. Although cloudy weather conditions prevailed, there was no rainfall reported around Dire Dawa during the month.

Annual vegetation generally has been dry while annual and perennial vegetation remained green in most areas of the country, where enough rainfall have been received in the previous season. The vegetations in the locust habitats in the eastern parts were also dry with the exception of some that remained green mostly within localized Wadis.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

Light to medium rains fell during the first and the beginning of the second decade of February mainly in the central parts of the country.

greening in areas where rainfall occurred while perennial vegetation remained partially green.

## 1.5 Somalia

Insignificant rain fell in Sanaag, Bari and Lower Jubbah regions during the first decade of the month. Some sporadic showers also fell in Abdi-Geedi (1030N/4403E) and between Laan-cawaale (1051N/4344E) and Garaaca (1042N/4349E) that moistened the soil. Consequently, the vegetation was largely green across the potential breeding habitats at the coast, the plateau and the escarpments creating conducive conditions for locust breeding and development.

## 1.6 Sudan

During February, ecological condition in most of the winter breeding areas had declined and became unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding, particularly in the Northern and the central parts of the Red Sea coast. Though some patches of green vegetation existed that attracted Desert Locust groups and swarms. In Toker Delta, and southwards to Aiterba areas near to the Sudan and Eritrean border, vegetation was greening and green. Vegetation in irrigated areas along the Nile River and in few Wadi beds were found green.

## 1.7 Tanzania

Report not received.

## 1.8 Uganda

Wider parts of the Country have been very dry and hot, during most days of the month. During the last week of February, some parts of the Country started receiving some scattered rains, but with some areas recording thunderstorms causing destruction in some areas. The areas affected by the thunderstorms included Kasese and Ntungamo in the western and Luwero in central parts of the country. Generally, the first rains of 2014 are expected to commence in March.

Vegetation in most parts of the North and Northeast had been very dry and drying. The Central, Southern, and south Western parts of the Country

had been having patches of green vegetation in many places.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

In early February, scattered mature gregarious adults were reported in the south near As Ela (1100N/4206E) and the Ethiopian border, and groups were seen in the north on the coast between Tadjourah (1147N/4253E) and Obok (1157N/4317E) at Orobar (1154N/4308E). On 12<sup>th</sup>, scattered mature adults were seen on the eastern coast near the border of northern Somalia. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 425)

### 2.2 Eritrea

During February, ground control operation on hopper bands and fledglings using 2 vehicle mounted and handheld Knapsack sprayers continued in the Southern Red Sea Zone, mainly in Ghelealo (1511N/3955E) and Inghel (1528N/3953E) localities. It was also reported that immature adult groups have landed in Foro (1511N/3940E) and Zula areas, which are located south of the Port City of Massawa.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

A ground survey was conducted by the Zonal PPD staff on 270 ha in the eastern parts of the country. Scattered mature gregarious Desert Locust adults (15-71 adults/ha) were observed on 76 hectares in Ayesha District, mainly in Durdur N105449/ E422055, Adadlea N105026/E423744, Gerbale-1 N103756/E423709 and Gerbale-2 N103816/E423817, bordering Djibouti and Northwestern Somalia.

### 2.4 Somalia

In early February, small late instar hopper groups and bands mixed with scattered immature and mature gregarious adults were present on the northwest coast between Lughaye (1041° 1058N/4226E). Hat

first instar hopper bands were forming. An adult group was seen laying eggs near Lughaye on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A few small hopper bands mixed with immature and mature gregarious adults were present on the escarpment north of Burao (0931N/4533E). Ground control teams treated 76 ha using bio-pesticides on 25-26 February.

## 2.5 Sudan

During February, Desert Locust survey and control operations continued in the winter breeding zones of the Red Sea, River Nile and the Northern States.

During the month, 3,731 ha of infestation, of which 2,100 by air have been treated using 2,621 liters of ULV and 200 liters of EC formulations.

### Red Sea State:

On 21<sup>st</sup> of February, an immature swarm covering 500 ha, groups of mature and immature gregarious and solitary adults were present and controlled in the northern coast in Tomala (2002N/3551E), Wadi Oko and Aldaiib areas. Early stages of gregarious hopper bands were also controlled in Arbaat (1946N/3710E) in the central Red Sea coastal plains. Late instar hopper bands were detected and controlled in the southern coastal plains in Mogban area.

Low densities of mature, immature and solitary adults were seen in the Northern State however control was not necessary.

### River Nile State:

Mature and immature scattered solitary and egg-laying adult groups were present and controlled by ground and aerial operations in irrigated Wheat schemes in Fedaa and El-Haweela near Abu Hamad (1932N/3320E).

### Situation in Other countries & Regions *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 425)*

**Central Region:** The situation remained critical during February as outbreaks continued and important infestations persisted in the winter breeding areas of Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and northern Somalia. Additional breeding caused more hopper bands to form in all countries. At least one swarm formed in northeast Sudan and a few swarms moved from the Red Sea coastal plains in Saudi Arabia and Yemen to the nearby mountains.

One swarm may have crossed the Red Sea from Eritrea to Yemen. Aerial and ground control operations were undertaken in Saudi Arabia and Sudan, including the Nile Valley, while ground operations were carried out in Yemen and Eritrea. Limited control operations were mounted in northwest Somalia using bio-pesticides. A limited number of groups and small swarms could form during the forecast period and move from the coastal plains to the interior of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and perhaps to the plateau in northern Somalia and adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia. Breeding will occur in these areas if rains fall.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm during February. Only scattered adults were present in parts of northern Mauritania and in the Air Mountains in Niger. No significant developments are expected.

**Eastern Region:** No locusts were reported and the situation remained calm during February.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-April, 2014

### 3.1 Djibouti

Small adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms may continue to appear from northwest Somalia and disperse throughout the country. Unless further rains fall, significant breeding is unlikely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers are expected to increase further on the Red Sea coast south of Massawa as hatching and hopper band formation continue. New adult groups and small swarms could form in March.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

Locust adults, including a few groups and perhaps a few small swarms may appear between Dire Dawa and the Djibouti and Somali borders and move into the Harar Highlands. Small scale breeding could occur in areas that

### 3.4 Somalia

Hopper and adult groups as well as small bands and perhaps a few small swarms are likely to form on the northwest coast in March. There is a risk that the adults may move to the plateau where they could disperse between Boroma and Burao, mature and lay eggs in areas that receive rainfall.

### 3.5 Sudan

Breeding will decline on the Red Sea coast except for some limited hatching in Wadi Oko/Diib where small hopper groups may form. Groups and a few small swarms may form in areas of previous breeding on the central and southern coastal plains and move toward the Nile Valley, perhaps supplemented by adult groups and a few swarms from Eritrea. Locust numbers are likely to increase in the Nile Valley where hatching will cause hoppers to form groups and perhaps a few small bands near irrigated areas.

### 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

During the end of February, Quelea outbreaks were reported in Makueni and Kitui Counties with an estimated bird population 11.1 million in 10 roosts. Control continued in Kitui County where 3.5 million birds have been sprayed. More birds were reported at Mwingi- Sub County of Kitui County. Apart from water pollution the birds are not causing any damage. Crops being under threat were Sorghum and Millets.

### 4.2 African Armyworm (Spodoptera exempta)

#### 4.2.1 Tanzania

Report not received.

### 4.3 Tsetse fly

Infestation not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

06 March, 2014

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

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

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