

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

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

JANUARY, 2014



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, only limited rains occurred at times along both sides of the Red Sea coastal plains in Saudi Arabia between Jeddah and Jizan, in parts of the Tihama coast in Yemen, and along the southern coast in Sudan. Light to moderate showers fell at mid-month along parts of the Gulf of Aden coastal plains in Yemen. Ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding in these areas as well as along the coast of Eritrea but were drying out in northeast Sudan and remained dry in southeast Egypt. In the Horn of Africa, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding along the coast in northwest Somalia between Bulhar and Sili but were dry in Djibouti and eastern Ethiopia. Good rains fell in eastern of the spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia where adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms could appear in March. (*FAO DL bulletin No.424*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

On 18th of January, light to medium rainfall occurred mainly in areas located between Emberemi and Mersa Gulbub, north of the Port City of Massawa.

Generally, crops and some annual vegetation were found green in most of the northern coastal areas while it was very green and dense in the mid-southern coast up-to Ghelealo. Soil was also found moist in the cropping areas creating conducive ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

There has been light rainfall in a few localized areas of the country and only a small amount of rain fell in the Ethiopian-Djibouti border area both during the first and the second decades of January. No rainfall was reported around Dire Dawa during the month. Consequently, annual vegetation were generally dry in most places while perennial vegetation remained green in almost all areas of the country, which had received enough rainfall. The vegetation in the locust habitats of the eastern parts were reported dry with the exception of the perennial ones.

1.4 Kenya

The month of January remained dry and sunny. Annual vegetation was drying out while perennial vegetation remained partially green.

1.5 Somalia

No rainfall was reported during January. However, the vegetation in the potential breeding habitats on the coast, plateau and the escarpment remained green and largely favorable for breeding.

1.6 Sudan

No rainfall was reported during January however some crops and vegetation remained green in river banks and Wadis.

1.7 Tanzania

The whole country remained dry, hot and windy during the month.

Vegetation continued drying out in all parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

During January, most parts of the Country have been dry and hot, with a few scattered showers reported in a few places within the Central region. The first rains are expected to fall from March.

Vegetation in the North and Northeast were dry while in some places in the Central, South, and southwest were green.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

On 26 January, at least one mature swarm reportedly arrived in the southeast from adjacent areas in northwest Somalia near Ali Sabieh (1109N/4242E) in W. Beyadde. On the 28th, a swarm was seen west of the capital near Arta (1132N/4251E). On the 30th, there were reports in the south in W. Harrou (1105N/4223E) near Dikhil (1106N/4222E) and the Gobab Valley near the Ethiopian border as well as from the Day Mountains and the Tadjourah (1147N/4253E) area in the north. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 424)

2.2 Eritrea

During January, infestation and ground control operation continued in the northern and the southern Red Sea coastal plains of the country. During 16th and 25th of January, a ground survey team composed of DLCO-EA and the MoA staff has conducted a thorough assessment of the locust situation on the coastal plains of the country.

During the assessment, 1st instar to fledglings, immature and mature copulating and egg-laying adults have been found in all the areas surveyed. In the north, more than 11 very large bands composed of dense hatchlings and 1st instar hoppers were found at Meleit (172959N/384450E) and Habil Ketin (175057N/382812E). Copulating and egg-laying gregarious adults and 3rd to 4th instar hopper bands were also found at Beaylay (161723N/391021E), and egg-laying adults at Mbere (163600N/397118E).

In the southern coastal plains, all stages of hopper groups and bands, mature copulating and immature adults were found at Foro (151148N/394000E), while dense mature copulating adults on 2 ha were found at Hirgigo (153155N/392623E).

50 dense 5th instar hopper bands and fledglings, and scattered gregarious adults were also found on 500 ha of Savana land at Bardoli (151120N/395505E), in Ghelealo sub-region. Density of hoppers was estimated 500/m². Same situation was also reported in Menkaelele, Suluh and Engel districts, which are located in the same sub-region

During January, 7,275 liters of ULV and 1,995 liters of EC insecticides sprayed on 16,545 ha of infestations.

2.3 Ethiopia

A ground survey was conducted by the Zonal PPD staff on 412 ha in the eastern parts of the country. Scattered and mature gregarious (dominant) and solitary (few) adult desert locust were found over 2 ha (143/2ha) at a location 105026N/423744E.

2.4 Somalia

During January, unconfirmed infestation of mature and immature gregarious adults and hopper bands of late instars at Lughaya (1040N/4356E), Geriza (1036N/4325E), Garaaca (0902N/4324E), Kalawle (0925N/4348E), Osoli, X.Hussein, Turgoble and parts of Geriyad plains were received from local sources.

2.5 Sudan

Groups of mature and immature adults and late instar hoppers were reported in the winter breeding areas in Tokar Delta. Egg-laying and hatching were also occurred during the second decade of the month near to the Eritrean border south of Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E). A number of small patches of 1st and 2nd instar gregarious hoppers were found near Aqiq (1813N/3811E) and Aiterba (1753N/3819E). Scattered mature solitarious adults were present north of Tokar Delta (1938N/3713E) and a 4 km² swarm laid eggs between Port Sudan and Eit (2009N/3706E). A few small immature swarms formed during the third week. From 1st to 25th January, 5,370 ha were sprayed by ground and 3,305 by air.

Ground teams also treated 800 ha of immature adults in the Nile Valley near Shendi (1641N/3322E) and Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E).

Situation in Other countries & Regions (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 424*)

Central Region: Locust infestations continued to increase in January for the third consecutive month along both sides of the Red Sea. The situation was most serious in Eritrea and Yemen where another generation of breeding occurred, causing more hopper bands to form as swarms in Eritrea. Both countries were facing pesticide shortages. Aerial and ground control operations continued against hopper bands and swarms in Saudi Arabia and Sudan. Some of the swarms were laying eggs. During the forecast period, more hopper bands and swarms could form, mainly in Eritrea and Yemen but also in parts of Saudi Arabia and Sudan. Adult groups and few small swarms could move into the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia. In the Horn of Africa, small adult groups and swarms from adjacent areas of northwest Somalia invaded Djibouti and

dispersed throughout the country. There is a risk that groups and a few small swarms could move to eastern Ethiopia.

Western Region: The situation remained calm during January. Limited control operations were carried out in northwest Mauritania against an immature swarm and an immature adult group early in the month, and against adult groups in the Tenere Desert in Niger. In northwest Africa, a group of mature adults was treated in irrigated crops in the central Sahara in Algeria.

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

3.0 Forecast until mid-March, 2014

3.1 Djibouti

Small adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms may continue to appear from northwest Somalia early in the forecast period 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 as hatching and hopper band formation continue. New adult groups and small swarms could start to form by the end of February and during 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 early in the forecast period and move into the Harar Highlands. Small-scale breeding could in areas that receive rainfall.

3.4 Somalia

Hoppers and adults are likely to be present in some coastal, escarpment and plateau areas as far as Las Koreh. If so, small

groups, bands and few small swarms could form as vegetation dries out. Unless further rains fall, significant breeding is unlikely.

3.5 Sudan

Further hatching on the southern coast will cause locust numbers to increase. Hoppers will form small bands that will fledge from mid-February onwards, and new adults will form groups and perhaps a few small swarms. Small-scale breeding may occur north of Port Sudan. Unless more rains fall, further breeding is not expected in Tokar Delta or Wadi Oko/Diib. There is a moderate risk that adult groups and a few swarms may appear on the southern coastal plains from Eritrea.

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

Quelea outbreaks were reported in Makueni County with an estimated bird population of 6.1 million birds in 10 roosts. 4.8 million Birds have been controlled using a DLCO-EA aircraft and the control operations are on-going. Crop being damaged was Sorghum.

4.2 African Armyworm (Spodoptera exempta)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Situation during 06 – 26 January:

Armyworms outbreak on an estimated of 180 ha has been reported in Rufiji District in the Coast Region. In Mbozi District, in the southern highlands 189 ha of infestation were also reported. Reports of infestation were also received from Kilosa district in

Morogoro region. Farmers have managed to control the reported infestations.

A number of moths were also reported trapped in many trap sites, which indicates the continuation of the Armyworm infestation during February.

4.3 Tsetse fly

Infestation not reported.

5.0 Tree Locusts

During January, a DLCO-EA aircraft continued Tree Locust control operation in Turkana County. The area under infestation was estimated 94,000 ha with a density of 20-450 locusts/tree. During the operation, 6,000 ha were sprayed using 2,400 liters of Sumithion 96% at a rate of 0.4 liters/ha.

CIFO

For Director,

05 February, 2014

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

www.dlcoea.org.et