

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

SEPTEMBER, 2014



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was at its most northerly position over Sudan during the first decade of September, having reached Abu Uruq and Atbara. Thereafter, it retreated steadily southwards, reaching El Obeid by the end of the month. Consequently, good rains fell south of the ITCZ in the summer breeding areas from North Darfur to the western lowlands of Eritrea in early September but declined after mid-month. Good rains also fell along the western side of the Red Sea Hills in Sudan as well as in the highlands of Eritrea that may runoff onto the Red Sea coast. Heavier showers fell in the northern highlands of Ethiopia. Good rains fell along the Red Sea coastal plains from Lith, Saudi Arabia to Mocca, Yemen that should cause vegetation to become green in winter breeding areas. Light showers fell in the interior of Yemen in Wadi Hadhramaut and Shabwah. In the Horn of Africa, good rains fell in eastern Ethiopia and in adjacent areas of the plateau and escarpment in northwest Somalia. As a result, breeding conditions are likely to be favorable in Ethiopia and should improve in northern Somalia. (FAO DL bulletin No.432)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

The summer rains continued to fall through most days of September. Consequently, medium to heavy amount of rains fell across the highlands and western lowlands that also extended to some parts in the northern and southern Red Sea coastal areas. Floods from the eastern escarpments also reached the coastal plains.

Annual and perennial vegetations grew abundantly and turned green across most parts of the country, including in some locations on the coast.

1.3 Ethiopia

During September moderate to heavy rains fell across most parts of the country including in the summer Desert Locust breeding areas. Consequently, annual and perennial vegetations were reported green except for some, which remained dry in some areas in the northeast and eastern parts of the country.

1.4 Kenya

Except for some light rains that fell in few locations in the west, no rains were reported in the other locations of the country.

1.5 Somalia

Short (Deyr) rains have commenced in many parts across the northwestern regions of the country during the month.

Consequently, light to moderate showers occurred in larger parts across the plateau and escarpment and vegetation started greening and becoming conducive for Desert Locust breeding and development.

The northeastern, central and southern regions of the country remained rainless and dry except the Bari region in Puntland that received light precipitation during the month.

Generally, both annual and perennial vegetation remained dry throughout the country.

Rainfall record (mm) during September, 2014

| Date | Hargeisa | Gabiley | Burao | Borama | Erigavo | Sheikh |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 01 | 1.0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 02 | 37.0 | 9.0 | - | 18.0 | - | 55.0 |
| 03 | 27.0 | 5.0 | 33.0 | 5.5 | - | - |
| 04 | - | - | - | 8.5 | - | 4.0 |
| 05 | - | 9.5 | - | - | - | 17.0 |
| 07 | 2.0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 08 | - | 11.5 | - | - | - | 7.0 |
| 09 | 4.0 | 3.0 | - | - | - | - |
| 10 | 11.0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 11 | - | 20.0 | - | - | 28.5 | 26.0 |
| 12 | - | 3.0 | - | 21.0 | - | - |
| 13 | - | 8.0 | - | - | - | - |
| 14 | - | 17.0 | - | 23.0 | - | - |
| 16 | 3.0 | 1.0 | - | - | - | - |
| 17 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18 | - | - | 9.0 | 2.0 | - | - |
| 19 | 5.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 | - | 8.5 | - |
| 20 | - | 11.5 | 2.0 | - | 31.0 | - |
| Total | 90.0 | 99.5 | 46.0 | 78.0 | 68.0 | 109 |

1.6 Sudan

Good rains fell in the summer breeding areas from North Darfur to the eastern areas bordering Eritrea in early September but declined after mid-month. Good rains also fell along the western side of the Red Sea Hills, creating favorable conditions for breeding.

1.7 Tanzania

The Lake Zone and the Coastal belt received moderate rains towards the end of the month while the rest of the country remained dry. However, vegetation continued drying up in all parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the country received showers and some thunderstorms during the first three weeks of the month. There were reports of floods in some parts in the North. However, during the last week of the month, the rains declined tremendously in the central and western parts of the country.

Most parts of the country were reported very green.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Ground survey was conducted between 13th and 15th of September by the PPD staff in the western lowlands of the country. During the assessment mature, isolated and scattered solitary desert locust adults and few 4th instar hoppers were seen around Kerkebet (1619N/3724E).

2.3 Ethiopia

During a ground survey that was conducted in Mile and Chifra districts in the Afar administrative region, hoppers and fledgling adults were found on 493 ha.

Around 121 second instar hopper bands (size 1,000-5,000 m²), fledglings (25-70 m²) and one immature adult group on 50 ha were seen on 27th September at a location N112656E/402723. 121 hopper bands on 133.5 ha have been successfully controlled by ground means using 68 lts of Malathion 95%ULV.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

During September, scattered mature and immature solitary adults were present at densities of less than 500 adults/ha in North Kordofan and White Nile States between Sodiri (1423N/2906E), Abu Uruq (1554N/3027E) and Nile Valley, in W. Muqaddam of the Baiyuda Desert northwest of Khartoum, in the Nile Valley north of Dongola (1910N/3027E) and near Shendi (1641N/3322E), along the Atbara River, and near Kassala (1527N/3623E). Small-scale breeding was detected near Kassala where scattered solitary hoppers of all instars were present. Immature and mature adults formed groups at densities up to 1,500 adults/ha in both areas, and laying was reported. At the end of the month, a mature swarm was seen and an increasing number of adult groups were forming. Control operations treated 2,430 ha of which 1,000 ha were by air. (*FAO bulletin No. 432*)

Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 432*)

Central Region: During September, scattered adults were present and breeding in the interior of Sudan and western Eritrea. At the end of the month, an increasing number of adult groups and at least one swarm formed and were treated in eastern Sudan. More groups and small swarms are expected during October, mainly west of the Red Sea Hills, and some of these will move towards the winter breeding areas on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and southeast Egypt. No locusts were seen in Saudi Arabia and the situation remained unclear in Yemen with reports of breeding on the coast and a swarm in the highlands. Local breeding continued in northeast Ethiopia where numerous small hopper bands formed and were treated. A few small swarms could form and move towards northern Somalia.

Western Region: The situation remained calm in September. Low numbers of adults and a few hoppers were detected in Mauritania and Chad while only adults were seen in Niger. There were reports of hoppers in northwest Mali and adults in the northeast but neither could be confirmed by survey due to insecurity. In Northwest Africa, a few adult

groups were breeding in irrigated areas of the Central Sahara in Algeria that were treated, and isolated adults were seen in northeast Morocco.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm in September with only scattered adults present in a few places along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border.

3.0 Forecast until mid-November, 2014

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding may continue in parts of the western lowlands during October but should decline by the end of the forecast period.

3.3 Ethiopia

As vegetation dries out, breeding should end in the northern Awash Valley. Any hoppers that escape control operations may form small adult groups or swarmlets that could spread into adjacent highland areas or move southeast towards Dire Dawa.

3.4 Somalia

There is a low risk that a few small groups and swarmlets from northeast Ethiopia could appear in areas of recent rainfall on the plateau and escarpment where isolated adults may already be present.

3.5 Sudan

There is a moderate risk that the situation will deteriorate as vegetation dries out in the summer breeding areas and an increasing number of groups, bands and swarms may form, mainly in the Baiyuda Desert and between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea Hills. By

period, adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms are likely to appear in Wadi Diib and on the Red Sea coast.

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website:
www.dlcoea.org.et

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 birds were reported feeding on Wheat in Nakuru and Nyandarua Counties while in Busia and Siaya Counties, they were reported attacking Rice. Control by blasting (firebomb) was in progress in Nyandarua.

4.1.2 Tanzania

No infestation reported.

4.1.2 Ethiopia

No infestation reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

No infestation reported in the region.

Forecast for October, 2014

No major outbreaks are expected, however early developments are likely to start in the primary breeding and outbreak areas.

4.3 Tsetse fly

Infestation not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

06 October, 2014