

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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**SITREP No. 11/2014-2015**

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

**MAY, 2015**



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

**In the Central Region**, no significant rains fell during April. Consequently, ecological conditions continued to dry out in coastal areas along both sides of the Red Sea. Breeding conditions improved in the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia from good rains in late March. Light rains fell over parts of the northern Somali plateau at times during the second half of April. (*FAO DL bulletin No.440*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

Light rains fell during May mainly in the southern highlands of the country. Vegetation on the coastal areas has dried out during the month except for some which remained green in earlier flooded areas.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

There has been cloud overcast in most parts of the country and temperature has decreased slightly during the month. It was reported that light to moderate amount of rains fell in most parts of the country during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> decades of the month. Consequently, vegetation have turned green in areas

where rains fell including in the Desert Locust spring breeding areas in the east.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

During May, moderate to heavy rains continued to fall across all regions of the country. Consequently, destruction of properties and flooding of agricultural areas was reported following the heavy downpours.

Annual and perennial vegetation remained green across most parts of the country.

#### **1.5 Somalia**

Light to moderate rains fell on the plateau and the escarpments during the first and the third decades of May. However, the potential breeding habitats on the coastal areas have remained largely rainless and dry except for insignificant rains that occurred during the first decade of the month.

In addition, despite the variation of rain frequencies and distributions, light to moderate, and localized heavy rains occurred in many parts in the central and southern regions and in Puntland Regional State during the month.

Generally, vegetation in the northwestern region remained mostly dry except for some green to greening conditions that were observed in some

parts along the plateau and escarpment. Annual and perennial vegetation were also greening to green across most parts in the central and the southern regions of the country.

#### Rainfall record (mm) during May, 2015

Date	Erigavo	Gabiley	Xudun	Qulujeed	Garowe
01	-	-	-	-	0.4
02	28.0	-	-	-	4.8
03	14.0	-	-	-	23.0
04	-	63.0	-	-	-
05	-	-	-	38.5	-
06	21.0	18.0	37.5	-	-
07	-	4.0	13.0	11.5	0.2
08	-	-	-	1.0	-
10	28.5	13.0	25.0	1.0	-
11	-	-	-	9.5	-
12	-	-	-	3.5	-
14	-	-	-	-	10.1
16	-	-	-	-	0.6
21	-	-	-	-	11.5
22	-	-	-	-	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>59.9</b>

### 1.6 Sudan

No significant rains fell and vegetation dried out in most of the winter Desert Locust breeding areas along the Red Sea coast.

### 1.7 Tanzania

Medium to heavy rains fell during May covering most parts of the country. Consequently, annual and perennial vegetation were green in wider areas of the country.

### 1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the Country have been receiving showers and thunderstorms, and as a result vegetation remained green.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

Control operation that was going on since November, 2014 on the Red Sea coastal areas came to an end during May. However, some isolated locusts remained in the northern Red Sea coast mainly in irrigated farms.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

### 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

### 2.5 Sudan

#### Red Sea State:

Low densities of immature and mature solitarious adults remained in the central and southern Red Sea coast mainly between Suakin and Tokar. Scattered mature and immature solitarious adults were also seen in cropping areas along the Atbara River. A DLCO-EA aircraft continued to be positioned in the country but no control operation was conducted.

#### Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 440)

**Central Region:** low numbers of solitarious adults remained in a few places along the coast in Sudan and Saudi Arabia and no further control operations were required. A similar situation is likely on the northern and central Red Sea coast of Eritrea. Scattered adults were seen along the Atbara River in the interior of northern Sudan that probably arrived from the Red Sea coastal winter breeding areas. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding may occur in northern Sudan and in the interior of Saudi Arabia. the situation improved in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea due to control operations and drying conditions in March. In Sudan, ground and aerial control operations declined, treating mainly locally bred adult groups and swarms on the southern coast. A few adult groups and swarms moved into this area from Eritrea where control was in progress against

similar infestations. Locust numbers declined on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia where limited control operations were conducted in the north. Low numbers of adults persisted on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts in Yemen.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm in May. Only a few isolated solitarious locusts were present north of the Hoggar Mountains in the central Sahara of Algeria.

**Eastern Region:** The situation remained calm during May. Scattered solitarious adults were observed in a few places on the coast and in the interior of southeast Iran.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-July, 2015**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Low to moderate numbers of adults may be present in parts of the highlands.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.5 Sudan**

Scattered adults are likely to persist in and near cropping areas along the Nile and the Atbara Rivers in River Nile and Northern States where small-scale breeding may occur.

#### **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 outbreak was reported in Kisumu County where they were attacking irrigated Rice

##### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

Quelea birds outbreaks were reported in the country and a DLCO-EA aircraft has been deployed to control the infestations. Details of the infestation and operations have not been received during the reporting period.

##### **4.1.2 Ethiopia**

No infestation reported.

##### **4.1.3 Eritrea**

Report not received.

##### **4.1.4 Uganda**

There were press reports that Quelea birds were damaging Rice fields in Kibimba Rice Schemes. Consequently, staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and DLCO-EA have visited the sites but found that the population was low and no control operation was needed.

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

No infestation reported in the region during April.

#### **Forecast for June, 2015**

It is likely that early infestation and outbreak to occur mainly in the southern and southeastern parts of Ethiopia that could extend to the Rift Valley and eastern areas. Therefore, it is highly recommended that monitoring of moths and assessment of early outbreaks to continue in the suspected traditional breeding and migration locations.

### **4.3 Tsetse fly**

#### **4.3.1 Uganda**

Infestation not reported.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

5<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

For more information about the Organization, please  
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