

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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**SITREP No. 03/2015 - 2016**

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

**SEPTEMBER, 2015**



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

**In the Central Region,** the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained south of its climatological normal mean position during the first decade of September but was nearly normal during the second decade. This allowed the continuation of good rains in Darfur, north Kordofan south of Abu Uruq, and near Kassala while heavier showers occurred between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea Hills as far north as Tomala. The ITCZ retreated some 200 km further south than the normal during the third decade, reaching El Obeid. This caused the good rains to end in most areas. In Eritrea, good rains fell in the western lowlands. In the winter breeding areas, early rainfall and runoff occurred on the Red Sea coast near Sheib while heavier rains fell along the southern coastal plains. Good rains also fell on parts of the Red Sea coast from Quinfidah, Saudi Arabia to Bab-El-Mendeb, Yemen, on the coast west of Aden, and in the northern interior of Oman near Ibri. Vegetation was mainly dry in all of these areas. In northern Somalia, the short (Deyr) rains commenced on the plateau and escarpment in the northwest where above-average rains may occur this year as a result of El Nino. (FAO DL bulletin No.444)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

During September, light to moderate amount of rains fell at times over parts of the western lowlands and the highlands. Consequently, groups of annual and perennial vegetation remained green in most parts of the high and western lowlands of the country. Light rains and floods from the escarpment were also reported in the winter breeding areas along the Red sea coast. As a result, greening of vegetation mainly in Wadis and irrigated cropping areas has started. Heavier rains were also fell north and south of the Port city of Assab, in the southern Red Sea coastal areas.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

Cold temperature prevailed during September and light to moderate amount of showers fell in most parts of the country. Consequently, groups of vegetation turned green in vast areas including in the summer Desert Locust breeding areas.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

During the first half of the month, dry and sunny weather conditions prevailed across most parts of the country. However, during the second half, cloud buildups and cooler conditions were observed, and towards the end of the month, medium to heavy showers occurred in the mid-Rift Valley region and the western parts of the country. Consequently, it was reported that due to heavy showers and floods, 16 children have been killed and property damage was reported in Elgoye Markwet and other locations, in the western parts of the country.

During the month, perennial vegetation remained green while groups of annual vegetation have dried out. Some greening has also been observed in areas where rains fell.

### 1.5 Somalia

It was reported that the weather conditions in the north and northwestern parts of the country has gradually improved and light rains fell during the first two weeks of September.

Apart from localized green pockets of vegetation in Wadis, across the plateau/escarpment and inter-riverines in the northwest, the diverse vegetation conditions remained dry to drying and continued to be unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding.

Rainfall record (mm) during September, 2015

Date	Hargeisa	Boroma	Dila	Aburiin	Qulujah	Garowe
01	-	-	-	-	-	1.0
03	-	0.4	-	-	-	-
04	-	13.7	-	3.8	-	-
05	13.0	-	18.0	-	21.0	-
06	-	-	-	12.0	-	-
07	0.5	-	15.0	-	-	-
08	-	23.6	4.0	0.6	35.0	-
09	-	-	1.0	-	-	-
10	-	0.2	-	4.8	-	50.0
12	-	14.7	-	5.2	-	-
13	-	3.6	-	5.2	-	60.0
14	-	0.2	-	-	-	-
17	-	4.2	-	-	-	-
18	-	2.8	-	6.8	-	9.9
20	5.0	-	-	-	-	0.4
21	0.5	-	-	0.4	-	-
23	-	-	-	2.8	-	-
24	-	6.0	-	6.1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>

### 1.6 Sudan

Good rains fell in Darfur, north Kordofan south of Abu Uruq, and near Kassala while heavier showers occurred between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea Hills during the first decade of September.

Vegetation conditions have improved slightly due to the rainfalls occurred and became favorable for DL breeding mainly during the first half of the month.

### 1.7 Tanzania

Most parts of the country remained cool and dry during September. Annual vegetation dried out while perennial vegetation remained green in wider areas of the country.

### 1.8 Uganda

Though rains have declined in most parts of the Country however, cloud build up and some rainfalls occurred mainly in the central and eastern parts of the country.

Vegetation was green in the central and in parts of the north and the east while it has dried out in some locations across the western parts.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocercagregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

Ground survey was conducted by the PPD staff in the winter breeding areas covering locations between Sheib and Qrora, and no locusts were seen in the areas.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

### 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

## 2.5 Sudan

During the first half of September, scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were present near cropping areas along the Nile River north of Dongola (1910N/3027E) and along the Atbara River near Ed Damer (1734N/3358E). Isolated adults were seen in the extreme north near Selima Oasis (2122N/2119E). No locusts were reported elsewhere in North Kordofan, Northern, and River Nile States as well as on the western side of the Red Sea Hills. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 444)

### Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 444)

**Central Region:** The situation remained calm during September. Although very few locusts were seen during surveys, ecological conditions remained favorable and some undetected breeding may have occurred in Sudan. Consequently, there is a risk that locust numbers may increase in October and groups could form as vegetation dries out. The adults are expected to move to areas of recent rainfall west of the Red Sea Hills and eventually reach the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm during September. Only low numbers of locusts were seen during surveys in Southern Mauritania, northern Niger, and central and eastern Chad. There were un confirmed reports of locusts in northern Mali.

**Eastern Region:** The situation remained calm during September. Only scattered adults were detected in the Cholistan Desert of Pakistan near the border with India.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-November, 2015

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding could cause locust numbers to increase slightly in the western lowlands during October. By the end of the

forecast period, scattered adults are likely to appear in areas of recent rainfall on the Red Sea coastal plains.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.4 Somalia

Scattered adults are likely to appear on the northwest coastal plains in November and breed on a small scale in areas that receive rainfall.

### 3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase between West Darfur and the Red Sea Hills as well as in cropping areas along the Nile and Atbara Rivers. There is a moderate risk that a few small groups will form in these areas once vegetation begins to dry out and move east towards the Red Sea coast.

### 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

Outbreaks were reported in Busia, Siaya and Nyahururu counties. Control operations are being organized to be done within the course of the month. 5 roosts were also located at Dominion, Bunyala, and Anyiko where birds were feeding on irrigated Rice.

#### 4.1.2 Tanzania

No infestation reported.

#### 4.1.2 Ethiopia

Quelea birds infestations were reported in the southwest, eastern and northeastern parts of the country and preparation to control them was in progress.

#### **4.1.3 Eritrea**

Report not received.

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

No infestation was reported in the region during September. It is advisable to initiate pheromone trap installation in Tanzania and Kenya to monitor early moth developments and migrations.

#### **4.3 Tsetse fly**

##### **4.3.1 Uganda**

Report not received.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

05 October, 2015

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