

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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

**JULY, 2016**



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

**In the Central Region**, the Inter-Tropical Zone (ITCZ) was located further north than usual over Sudan during July, Consequently, good rains fell in West and North Darfur, North Kordofan, White Nile and Khartoum States and ecological conditions became favorable for breeding in many areas. Light rainfall extended to southern parts of the western lowlands in Eritrea. In Yemen, moderate to heavy rains fell during the last decade of July on the Red Sea coast, in the central highlands and the interior, causing flooding in many areas. Some of the rains extended to the southern coastal plains in Saudi Arabia near Jizan. As a result ecological conditions should remain favorable and will become favorable for breeding on the Red Sea coast. In Oman, light to moderate showers fell at times during the last two decades of the month in parts of the northern interior. Light rains fell in eastern Ethiopia that may be sufficient to allow limited breeding in a few places. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 454*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

The Country experienced high summer temperature during July, which ranged between 34°C at night and about 44°C during the day. No rainfall was reported and except for few patches of

green vegetation in the Wadis the country remained very dry.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

Since the beginning of July, medium to heavy rains fell across most parts of the country including in some parts of the Red Sea coastal areas. Consequently, torrential rains which fell between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of the month and on 24<sup>th</sup> of July, and the associated floods had caused heavy damages to infrastructure, crops and animals in Metkel Abiet and other locations in Ghindae sub-zone, Tio in the southern Red Sea coastal areas, Mendefera and Senafe in the highlands, and Tocombia and Tesseney in the western lowlands.

Vegetation in vast areas on the highlands and western lowlands started greening in abundance due to the continued rainfall in June and July. It was also reported that these conditions have created favorable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding mainly in the western parts of the Country.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

As a result of the main rainy season, temperature decreased slightly and cloudy weather condition prevailed across the Country during July. Most parts of the Country including the eastern parts where Desert Locust breeding takes place, received low to high amount of rains during the whole month. Consequently, soil was wet and mixed of annual vegetations were green and greening, which created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding mainly in the eastern parts of the country.

#### 1.4 Kenya

Cool night and day weather conditions prevailed during July in most parts of the Country. Except for intermittent rainfalls which occurred in the western parts of the country, no rains were reported during July.

Different species of annual plants started to dry out while perennial vegetation remained green during the month.

#### 1.5 Somalia

The weather conditions in the northwestern and northeastern regions of the Country remained largely dry during most days of the month. Nevertheless, light rains fell in localized areas in northwestern regions particularly in the plateau and escarpment during the first two dekads of the month.

Consequently, the vegetation status in the entire northwestern and northeastern regions remained dry and unfavorable for any locust breeding except of some localized areas in the plateau and escarpment which remained green.

#### Rainfall during July, 2016 in mm

Date	Harge isa	Gabile y	Dila	Mala wle	Botor	Togo challe
04	-	4.0	-	-	-	-
06	4.0	-	-	25.0	-	-
09	11.0	-	-	-	-	-
13	-	-	-	-	-	4.0
14	-	4.0	2.0	-	-	7.5
15	3.0	5.0	5.0	-	19.5	17.5
17	7.0	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>29.0</b>

#### 1.6 Sudan

Wide coverage seasonal and good rains fell in West and North Darfur, North Kordofan, White Nile, Khartoum States and areas bordering western Eritrea. Consequently, ecological conditions had improved and became favorable in the summer Desert Locust breeding areas of the Country.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

No rains reported during July, but vegetation remained green in most parts of the highlands, while pasture and cereal crops were drying out.

#### 1.8 Uganda

During July, the Northern Region continued to record occasional showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the Country experienced dry weather conditions with some light and intermittent rains. Dry spell was also reported in the east, in some central parts and in the southwest.

It is forecasted that dry conditions are expected to persist in the rest of the Country up to mid-August. Vegetation conditions were mixture of green and dry in several parts of the Country during the month.

### 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocercagregaria*)

#### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

#### 2.2 Eritrea

Ground survey was conducted by PPD staff during 26 - 29 July in the summer breeding areas between Kerkebet (1555N/03720E) and Goluj (1446N/03642E), in the western lowlands of the country, and no locusts were seen.

#### 2.3 Ethiopia

During the beginning of July, ground survey was conducted by the staff of the Plant Health Regulatory Directorate on 2,595 ha in the eastern parts and in the Afar region of the Country.

During the survey, solitary Desert Locust adults at a density of 3-5/ha were seen at Aysha (1047N/4232E) in the Somali region, and at a density of 200-300/ha at Teru in the Afar region.

## 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

## 2.5 Sudan

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of July, scattered mature solitarious adults were present near Kassala (1527N/3623E) and the Eritrean border, and in the Nile Valley between Shendi (1641N/3322E) and the Egyptian border at Wadi Halfa (2147N/3122E).

### **Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast** *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 454)*

**Central Region:** The locust situation was extremely worrying in Yemen during July. An unknown amount of breeding continued in the interior where swarms formed. At least one swarm moved to the central highlands while adult groups moved to the southern coast, and scattered adults appeared on the Red Sea coastal plains. During the forecast period, swarms are likely to remain in the country and lay eggs in areas of recent rainfall on the Red Sea coast and in the interior where hatching and band formation are expected. There is a low risk that a few small swarms could appear in adjacent areas of Saudi Arabia and Oman or move to northern Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

**Western Region:** Low numbers of solitarious adults appeared in the summer breeding areas of the northern Sahel in southern Mauritania, Niger and perhaps Mali during July. Small-scale breeding commenced in Mauritania in about mid-July and hatching began at the end of the month.

**Eastern Region:** The locust situation remained calm during July. Low numbers of adults began to appear in the summer breeding along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. Small-scale breeding is

expected to occur in both countries during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-September, 2016

### 3.1 Djibouti

There is a low risk that adult groups and perhaps a small swarm could appear from Yemen.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in the western lowlands and breed on a small-scale in areas that receive summer rains. There is a low risk that adult groups and perhaps small swarm could appear on the southern coastal plains from Yemen.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

Low numbers of adults may persist in Aysha and Teru areas and could breed on a limited scale in areas of recent rainfall. There is a low risk that adult groups and perhaps a small swarm could appear from Yemen.

### 3.4 Somalia

There is a low risk that adult groups and perhaps a small swarm could appear from Yemen.

### 3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will commence in West and North Darfur, West and North Kordofan and White Nile States as well as near Kassala, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Small-scale breeding may also occur near cropping areas in the Nile Valley.

### 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

###### Late report:

From 27 – 30 June, 360 liters of Varnish (Fenthion) was sprayed on 5 Quelea roost sites in Kisumu County. The birds were reported feeding on Rice plantation.

**During July**, aerial Quelea birds control operations conducted in Kisumu and Narok Counties.

Estimated of 11.5 million birds in seven roosts and, which were causing threat to Wheat crops in Narok County (TM Oleri 010604S/354906E, Nkareta 010136S/354806E, Masantare 010121S/353435E) were successfully controlled by air from 10 – 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

###### 4.1.2 Tanzania

No Quelea infestation reported.

###### 4.1.3 Ethiopia

###### Late report:

**During June**, estimated of seven million *Quelea quelea* birds were reported attacking Sorghum crops in Konso District in the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR).

Consequently, a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed during July to contain the infestation.

**During July**, control operation commenced in Konso District and consequently, from 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> of July, estimated of 13 million birds roosting on 125 hectares were killed using 250 liters of Avicide.

###### 4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

##### 4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

##### 4.1.6 Uganda

Infestation not reported.

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

##### 4.2.1 Ethiopia

###### Late report:

**During June**, Armyworm control operation was conducted in the Oromya Region of the Country, where 28,547 hectares of crops and pasturelands were infested and 14,423 hectares were treated using 6,245 liters of EC/ULV insecticides. Similarly, 611 hectares of infestation on millet crops was reported in 8 Districts in Tigray and Amhara Regions.

**During July**, control operations continued in 9 Districts in Tigray Administrative Region, where 784 hectares of infestations were sprayed using 864 liters of insecticides. In addition, 2,011 hectares of infestations on pastureland were controlled using cultural means.

###### **Forecast during August, 2016**

Armyworm infestation will continue to occur and spread to the northern and northwestern parts of Ethiopia, and the southern and central parts of Eritrea. Therefore, it is highly advisable that **Armyworm Forecasters** and **farmers** to continue monitoring of moth migrations and organize survey operations to detect early infestations of the worms mainly in the above indicated locations.

#### 4.3 Tsetse fly

##### 4.3.1 Uganda

There were press reports of heavy infestations of the Tsetse-flies in Kalangala District (Lake Victoria).

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

04 August, 2016

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Please visit DLCO-EA's Website: [www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)