

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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**SITREP No. 05/2016 - 2017**

## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

NOVEMBER, 2016



### 1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

**In the Central Region**, only light showers fell at times in a few places of the Red Sea coast during November. Nevertheless, ecological conditions were improving during the month in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. Breeding conditions became favorable on the central coast in Eritrea, in the Tokar Delta and on the southern coastal plains near Aiterba of Sudan, on the coastal plains in southeast Egypt and probably in adjacent areas of northeast Sudan where good rains fell in late October. Conditions remained favorable on the Red Sea coast in Yemen but mainly dry on the central and northern coast of the Red Sea in Saudi Arabia. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 458*)

#### 1.1 Djibouti

During November, the capital city and other interior regions experienced cool weather conditions due to the onset of the winter rain season. Though, the Obock region remained hot, however temperature dropped to 25°C at night and around 30°C at day time.

Generally, dry weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the Country.

#### 1.2 Eritrea

During the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> dekads of November, very light rains fell on the northern corner and the central parts of the Red Sea coast. Some greening was observed in few areas where rains fell consequently, created favorable conditions for locust breeding, mainly along the northern Red Sea coast.

#### 1.3 Ethiopia

During November, dry and hot daytime and, chilly night and morning weather conditions prevailed throughout the country. Some locations in the northwest and southwest of the country received light to moderate amount of rainfall while, the eastern part received very light showers at the end of the third decade of the month.

The annual vegetation was drying out and the soil was dry, but the perennial vegetation remained green. Generally, ecological conditions were not favorable for Desert Locust breeding during the month in the eastern parts of the country.

**Rainfall (mm) during November, 2016**

Date	Dire Dawa 0936N/4150E	Remarks
01-25 & 28-30	0.0	
26	Trace	

27	2.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	

#### 1.4 Kenya

During the second half of November, medium to heavy rains fell mainly in the central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country. Consequently, annual vegetation started greening in areas where rainfalls occurred.

#### 1.5 Somalia

During November, light rains fell on the northwestern parts of the country bordering Ethiopia and the escarpments. Except for some green vegetation on the escarpments and few areas in sub-coastal locations, most parts of the country remained dry.

#### 1.6 Sudan

Few light showers fell during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> decades of November on the southern Red Sea coastal areas of the Country. Vegetation cover was drying out in most areas and green vegetation was observed only in the streams and along the Nile River basins.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

During the short rain season of November, most of the country continued to experience below normal rainfall performance. However, areas over Lake Victoria Basin and parts of Arusha region experienced normal to above normal rainfall. While, some pocket areas in Tanga, Lindi, southern Morogoro, Kigoma and Mtwara regions received above normal rainfall.

The Northern and Southern coast, Northeastern, Central, Western, Southwestern highlands and Southern parts of the country remained dry.

Vegetation was green in areas where rainfall was reported, especially in Lake Victoria basin and in some locations as reported above. While pastures and rangelands in other parts of the country remained dry.

#### 1.8 Uganda

During November, the rains continued to be unpredictable in many parts of the Country. Some parts of the Country, especially central and western have received some heavy showers and thunderstorms while, unexpected la Nina (extended dry spell) conditions experienced in some of the other parts of the Country.

The vegetation status remained mixture of green and greening in many parts of the Country.

### 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

#### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts reported.

#### 2.2 Eritrea

During November, survey and control operations intensified as the Desert Locust situation remained serious mainly in the northern Red sea coast of the country. 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> instars gregarious hoppers with medium densities and some immature adults were present in areas between Sheib (1550N/03911E) and Mersa Gulbub (1633N/3908E). The infested area was estimated about 7,000 ha

Ground control teams treated 950 ha of infestation during November.

#### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during November.

#### 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during the month.

#### 2.5 Sudan

During the first week of November, scattered mature solitary adults were seen in the Nile Valley near Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E), on the Red Sea coast in the Tokar Delta, on the southern coast near Aiterba (1753N/3819E), on the central coast near Eit (2009N/3706E) and in a few places along the western side of the Red Sea Hills. Isolated 3<sup>rd</sup> instar solitary hoppers were seen at one place in Tokar. Control teams treated 800 ha by air in north Kassala.

## **Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast** (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 458)

**Central Region:** local outbreak developed in early November on the Red Sea coast in Eritrea and Yemen. Hopper groups formed in both areas while bands also formed in Yemen. Control operations were undertaken in Eritrea but were limited in Yemen (40 ha) due to insecurity. Breeding will continue and more groups are expected to form in both countries as well as the possibility of a few small swarms in Yemen that could threaten adjacent areas in Saudi Arabia. The short-lived outbreak in interior of Sudan last month subsided and so far, only low numbers of adults have appeared in winter breeding areas on the Red Sea coast in Sudan and southeast Egypt. Breeding will occur along the coast and in sub-coastal areas, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Elsewhere the situation remained calm.

**Western Region:** An outbreak in western Mauritania continued during November as ground teams treated 10,100 ha of hopper bands and groups of hoppers and adults. Hatching occurred in some adjacent areas of Western Sahara in southern Morocco and limited control operations (75 ha) were undertaken against small hopper bands that formed. More groups, bands and perhaps a few small swarms are expected to form in the outbreak area. Adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms may move progressively northwards during periods of warm southerly winds and reach northern Mauritania and adjacent areas of the western Sahara where breeding will occur in areas that received heavy rains in October. Scattered adults persisted along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and in western Algeria. Small-scale breeding continued in the extreme south of Algeria near the Malian border and control was carried out on 422 ha. Elsewhere, local breeding occurred in Tamesna and the Air Mountains on northern Niger where teams treated 50 ha.

**Eastern Region:** The situation remained calm in the region during November. No significant developments are likely.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-January, 2017**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Groups of hoppers and adults perhaps a few small hopper bands will continue to form on the central Red Sea coast. A second generation of breeding could commence by the end of the year, causing a further increase in locust numbers.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

Small-scale breeding is likely to take place in areas that receive rainfall on the northwest coast, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

#### **3.5 Sudan**

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly on the Red Sea coastal plains. Locusts may be present and breeding in the northeast (Wadi Oko/Diib).

#### **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**

During November, *Quelea* outbreaks and infestations on irrigated Rice were reported in Siaya, in the western part of the Country. Consequently a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed until 15<sup>th</sup> of November and controlled some roosts.

#### 4.1.2 Tanzania

During November, it was reported that some flocks of birds were visible in Kilimanjaro around the irrigated Rice schemes of Lower Moshi and in the lower parts of Meru district in Arusha region.

#### 4.1.3 Ethiopia

During November, aerial *Quelea* bird control operations continued in three zones in the Amhara Administrative Region, where 650 ha of roosting sites were sprayed with 1,300 liters of Bathion 64%ULV.

During the operation, estimated of 21.45 million *Quelea* birds, which were roosting on twenty five sites in five Districts of the region, were controlled, achieving 96 to 99% of kill.

#### 4.1.4 Eritrea

Except for one colony site that was seen during an assessment mission, no other infestation was reported during November.

#### 4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

#### 4.1.6 Uganda

*Quelea* outbreak was reported at Kibimba Rice fields in the eastern parts of the Country. The birds were mainly heavily concentrated in Tilda Rice fields and the bird population was estimated over 600,000.

It was also reported that except for a scaring mechanism that was introduced to keep the birds off the Rice fields, no other control means was used.

Infestation not reported mainly in the main breeding locations of Kenya.

#### Forecast until end of December, 2016

Infestation could appear mainly in the primary breeding areas of Tanzania. Consequently, setting up of trap stations and routine monitoring of moth movements should be in place in order to detect early infestations.

#### 4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

It was likely that Tsetse flies infestation continued affecting wildlife in the parks and domestic animals mainly in the traditional breeding and infestation locations.

#### CIFO

For Director,

05 December, 2016

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

[www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)

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