

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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

**September, 2016**



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

**In the Central Region**, the Inter-Tropical Zone (ITCZ) continued its southward retreat over the interior of Sudan and by the end of the month it was nearly south of the summer breeding areas. At mid-month, the ITCZ was some 150 km further south than usual. Nevertheless good rains fell throughout most of the summer breeding areas in Sudan and western Eritrea. As a result, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding. Heavy rains fell along both sides of the southern Red Sea in Yemen and Eritrea, extending to Djibouti and Jizan area of Saudi Arabia. Good rains fell elsewhere on the coastal plains of Saudi Arabia as far as Lith and in the Eritrean highlands that could runoff onto the coastal plains north of Massawa. Ecological conditions were favorable for breeding on the eastern side of the Red Sea from Qunfidah to Bab El Mandab and were likely to improve on the western side. Good rains also fell in Ethiopia from Afar region to Jigjiga and adjacent areas of northwest Somalia where conditions were favorable for breeding. Conditions also remained favorable in the interior of Yemen. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 456*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Day and night temperatures were reported 40<sup>0</sup>C and 30<sup>0</sup>C respectively during September and no significant rainfall was reported. Consequently, ecological and weather conditions remained unfavorable for DL breeding.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

Light to heavy summer rains continued to fall in most parts of the highlands, western lowlands and in few places on the Southern Red Sea coastal areas during September. Infrastructure and crops damages were reported in some locations on the highlands and western lowlands due to torrential rainfall which was associated with strong winds and floods. Annual and perennial vegetations in vast areas on the highlands and western lowlands remained green due to the continued rainfall.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During September, light to heavy rains fell in the country including in the main summer breeding areas around Dire-Dawa and Ayisha, in the Somali Administrative Region.

Both perennial and annual vegetations remained green and the soil was wet in places where rains fell.

Consequently, ecological conditions were favorable for desert locust breeding.

#### Rainfall (mm) during September 2016, Dire Dawa

Date	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)	Remarks
01	1.0	
03	4.5	
04	1.0	
07	4.0	
15	2.5	
17	10.0	
19	2.0	
26	3.5	
27	Trace	
29	13.0	
30	15.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.5</b>	

#### 1.4 Kenya

Temperature has increased slightly and dry conditions prevailed during September. No significant rainfall was reported and mainly annual vegetation dried out while perennial vegetation remained green during the month.

#### 1.5 Somalia

During September, except for very light rains that fell in the far end of the northwestern parts of the Country bordering Djibouti and Ethiopia the weather and ecological conditions remained very dry.

#### 1.6 Sudan

Good rains fell during September mainly in the summer breeding areas of Kordofan, Khartoum, Blue Nile and Eastern States. Seasonal crops and perennial vegetations remained green mainly in the above indicated locations.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

During September, rainfall was reported over Lake Victoria Basin, northern coast, western areas, and some parts of northeastern highlands. The highest rainfall amount recorded was between 200-250 mm over some parts of Morogoro and Mara regions. Areas over southwestern, central and southern regions experienced dry spell.

Vegetation ranged from green to partially green in most of the highlands and Northeastern parts, covering Kilimanjaro, Meru and Usambara mountains. Annual vegetation in Lake Victoria Basin, Eastern and Southern highlands zones started greening as they received early short seasonal rainfalls during the first decade of September.

#### 1.8 Uganda

By the end of September, most parts of the western, central, eastern and northern regions received heavy rains, which were associated with thunderstorms.

The Vegetation was reported greening and green in many parts of the Country due to the continuous rainfalls.

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

#### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts reported.

#### 2.2 Eritrea

During September, ground survey was conducted by the PPD staff mainly on the southern Red Sea coastal areas between Massawa (1537N/3928E) and Assab (1301N/4247E), and no locusts were seen.

#### 2.3 Ethiopia

During September, PPD staff surveyed areas of 3,150 ha in Ayisha and surrounding locations and found 217 ha infested with hopper bands. Band sizes were estimated between 2,500 - 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> and ground teams controlled 36 hopper bands on 217 ha using 110 liters of insecticide. The teams also indicated that due to the rugged terrains, there could be more unchecked hopper bands at Ayisha.

Unconfirmed reports of swarms were also received on 26<sup>th</sup> of the month however, survey teams found few numbers of immature and solitary adults close to Ayisha at Biyokobebe locality (102047N/422357E) and another team reported 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> instar hopper bands (dominantly 3<sup>rd</sup> instar) and few mixed populations of solitary and immature adults in the Afar Region.

## 2.4 Somalia

On 6<sup>th</sup> September, an immature swarm was seen on the northwest escarpments near the Ethiopian border. A few 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> instar hopper bands were present in the Jidhi (1037N/4304E) area where breeding occurred in August. On the plateau, adult groups were seen copulating near the Ethiopian border west of Boroma (0956N/4313E). Ground teams treated 53 ha with Green Muscle.

## 2.5 Sudan

Low numbers of solitary adults were present in the summer breeding areas in North Kordofan near Sodiri (1423N/2906E), and in a few places of the Nile Valley near Shendi (1641N/3322E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E) during September. At the end of the month, mature adult groups were laying eggs in the Baiyuda Desert and groups of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> instar solitary and transiens hoppers were present.

### Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 456)*

**Central Region:** The situation continued to remain serious in Yemen during September where hopper and adult groups formed in the interior and hopper bands formed on the southern coast. An increasing number of adults arrived on the Red Sea coast and at least one adult group was seen in the highlands moving towards the coast. Only limited survey and control operations could be undertaken due to insecurity. Good rains fell in all areas that will allow more groups, bands and perhaps a few small swarms to form. Most of these are likely to move to the Red Sea coast of Yemen and Saudi

Arabia while some could stay in the Yemeni interior and others could migrate to the Horn of Africa. Limited control operations were carried out against hopper groups and bands in eastern Ethiopia and northwest Somalia. Hopper groups, bands and adult groups formed on the southern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia, and ground and aerial control operations treated 3,000 ha. In Sudan, hoppers and adults were forming groups at a few places in the Baiyuda Desert north of Khartoum.

**Western Region:** Scattered locusts were distributed widely throughout the summer breeding areas in the northern Sahel of West Africa because of good rains and green vegetation in September. Adult groups formed in Mauritania, western Mali and Chad. Control operations were undertaken in Mali (810 ha) and Mauritania (263 ha). An outbreak is expected to develop by mid-October in northwest Mauritania where an increasing number of adults and groups appeared during September and laid eggs. There was a report of a very small swarm on the 30<sup>th</sup> near Nouakchot. In Niger small-scale breeding occurred on the Tamesna Plains. In northwest Africa, isolated adults were present in southern Algeria.

**Eastern Region:** The situation remained calm in the region during September. Only low numbers of solitary adults were present in Cholistan, Pakistan near the border of India. No significant developments are likely.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-November, 2016

### 3.1 Djibouti

There is a low to moderate risk that adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms could appear from Yemen in coastal or interior areas.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small-scale in the western lowlands but will decline as conditions dry out. There is a low risk that adult groups and perhaps a small swarm could appear on the southern

coastal plains from Yemen. Small-scale breeding will commence on the Red Sea coast in areas of recent rainfall.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

Breeding will cause locust numbers to increase along the railway where small groups, bands and perhaps swarmlets could form. There is a low to moderate risk that adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms could appear from Yemen.

### 3.4 Somalia

A few groups and perhaps a small swarm could form on the escarpment near the Ethiopian border. There is a low to moderate risk that a few adult groups and perhaps a small swarm could appear from Yemen.

### 3.5 Sudan

As vegetation begins to dry out in the summer breeding areas, locusts could concentrate between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea Hills towards the end of the forecast period and perhaps a few small groups could form. Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in the winter breeding areas along 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

Quelea birds were reported causing damage to irrigated Rice in Busia country where 8 roosts with an estimated 7.5 million birds

had been identified. Preparation for control operations was progressing.

#### 4.1.2 Tanzania

Heavy Quelea infestations and damages were reported in irrigated Rice Schemes in Morogoro (Eastern zone) and Kilimanjaro (Northern zone) regions. However, details of the level of infestations and bird populations were not received during the reporting period.

#### 4.1.3 Ethiopia

Infestation not reported.

#### 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*)

Infestation not reported.

### Forecast during October, 2016

It is unlikely that Armyworm infestation to occur.

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

Infestation not reported.

## CIFO

For Director,

04 October, 2016

For more information about the Organization,  
Please visit DLCO-EA's Website: [www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)