

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

FEBRUARY, 2017



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, very light rains fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea during February. Consequently, vegetation began drying out especially on the coast of Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea. In Saudi Arabia, breeding conditions remained favorable on the coast between Lith and Jizan, and light rains may have fallen at times during the second decade. Good rains fell in the spring breeding areas of the interior between Hail and Tabuk. In Yemen, breeding conditions were probably still favorable in some areas where vegetation remained green, and light rain fell at times during the second decade on the northern coast. In Oman, good rains fell in northern coastal and interior areas during the second and third decades of February that should allow breeding conditions to improve in some areas. In the Horn of Africa, very little rains fell except in parts of the Rift Valley in Ethiopia where good rains fell in Afar region. (FAO DL bulletin No. 461)

1.1 Djibouti

During February, temperatures oscillated at 22°C during the night and around 29°C during the day.

No rainfall was occurred and most of the vegetation was dry and dry conditions dominated the entire territory of the Country.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to medium amount of rainfall occurred mainly during the second and third decade of February on the escarpments and between Massawa and Qorora. Though most of the annual vegetations were drying out, but it remained green in some parts of the coastal areas in Habl Ketin, Mahimet, Marsa Teklay and in the central Red sea coast at Shelshela.

1.3 Ethiopia

During February, drier weather conditions prevailed in most of the Desert Locust breeding locations while the mid- and highland parts of the country received moderate to high amount of rainfalls. Few areas at Ayisha including the traditional Desert Locust breeding locations and Dire Dawa area received light rains during the second decade of the month. Consequently, the vegetation in places where rains fell was greening and green. Generally, soil was dry and conditions were not favorable for desert locust activity during the month.

Rainfall (mm) during February, 2017

Date	Dire Dawa (0936N/04150E)	Remarks
12	Trace	
13	5.0	
14	5.5	
15	Trace	
17	1.5	
18	5.0	
28	Trace	
Total	17.0	

1.4 Kenya

Few days and scattered light to medium amount of rains fell mainly in the coastal, central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country by the end of the second and during the third decades of February. Other parts of the country mainly the eastern, northeastern and northwestern experienced sunny and very dry conditions. Groups of annual vegetations continued to dry out while perennial plants remained partially green.

1.5 Somalia

Except for very light and scattered rain that fell for one to two days during the month in the northern coastal plains, ecological conditions generally remained very dry.

1.6 Sudan

In the Northern State, vegetation in irrigated schemes were green but as ecological condition was declining other vegetation types started to dry out and soil moisture became dry. Light rains also fell during mid- of the month in the southern coastal plains and Tokar Delta.

1.7 Tanzania

During February, most parts of the country continued to receive below normal rainfalls except places over Southern regions, Southern highlands, some parts of Central zone, Western regions and Lake Victoria Basin, which received normal rainfall. Isolated few rain showers and thunderstorms were also experienced the Eastern regions of Morogoro and Coast while the rest parts experienced dry spell. Vegetation dominantly remained green in many regions of the Country while pastures and rangelands in some locations were dry.

1.8 Uganda

The Country started recording heavy rains and thunderstorms in many places, towards end of February. However, the vegetation remained a mixture of dry and greening in many parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Ground survey was conducted by PPD staff during 02 - 09 February in the winter breeding areas along the Red sea coast between Shelshela (1553N/03902E) and Hable Ketin (1756N/3829E). During the survey, no locusts were seen.

2.3 Ethiopia

Desert locust ground survey was conducted by PPD staff at Ayisha and Shinile Districts in the Somali Administrative Region. During the survey, very few (1-2/300m foot transect) mature solitary Desert Locusts adults were observed at Aderi (104416.2N/423435.9E) and Werambo (104020.2N/422832.4E) in Ayisha District.

2.4 Somalia

A late report indicated that a few small late instar hopper groups and bands were present on the

northwest coast between Bulhar (1023N/4425E) and Lughaye (1041N/4356E) during January. Fledging occurred at one location and at least one immature adult group formed. Ground teams treated 85 ha using Green Muscle. In February, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Puntland between Gardo (0930N/4905E) and Garowe (0824N/4829E) (*FAO DL bulletin No. 461*).

2.5 Sudan

During 1st to 22nd February, ground survey was conducted by PPD staff in the winter breeding areas and scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were present on 4,300 ha in the Red Sea coast in Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) and the southern areas bordering Eritrea. Ground teams treated 85 ha including an immature adult group near Aiterba. In the northeast, scattered immature solitarious adults were present at one place northwest of Tomala (2002N/3551E). By the end of the month, mature solitarious adults of 250 insects/ha density reported at one location in Al Hapia scheme south west of Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E), in the River Nile State.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 461*)

Central Region: ground and aerial control operations (4,243 ha) continued in Saudi Arabia against hopper groups, bands and a few adult groups on the central and southern Red Sea coast. By the end of the month, locust infestations had declined on the Red Sea coast in Sudan where limited control (85 ha) was undertaken against groups of adults. The situation remained unclear in Yemen where surveys were not possible in winter breeding areas. During the forecast period, any remaining adults that escaped detection and control on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia may form a few adult groups or perhaps a small swarm or two that are likely to move inland and breed during the spring in areas of recent rainfall. Limited breeding may occur near crops in the Nile Valley of northern Sudan. In the Horn of Africa, a few adult groups from January breeding may form on the northwest coast of Somalia and move into adjacent

areas of eastern Ethiopia. Elsewhere, no locusts were reported in the region.

Western Region: The situation generally remained calm in the region during February. Limited control operations (227 ha) were carried out against a few remaining adult groups in northwest Mauritania while scattered adults persisted in the north. Small-scale breeding took place in parts of the Western Sahara in southern Morocco but locust numbers remained low. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding is likely to occur in northern Mauritania and along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. In the northern Sahel, isolated solitarious adults were seen in southeast Niger.

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

3.0 Forecast until mid-April, 2017

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

Low number of adults and perhaps a few small groups may appear along the railway area between Dire Dawa and Ayisha, and in the Somali region near Jigjiga.

3.4 Somalia

As vegetation dries out, a few adult groups may form on the northwest coast and move into the escarpment and towards the plateau.

3.5 Sudan

Scattered adults may appear in the Nile Valley between Atbara and Dongola where small-scale breeding could occur near cropping areas.

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 of *Quelea quelea* birds occurred in Kisumu, Siaya, Busia, Kitui, Makueni and Embu Counties. The birds were causing damage to Rice in Kisumu, Busia and Siaya counties while in Kitui and Makueni counties the birds were reported feeding on Millet and Sorghum. Aerial control of 6 roosts with an estimated 8 million birds was carried out in Kisumu County using 300 liters of Avicide.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Large numbers of Quelea flocks were reported threatening 600 hectares of Rice in Ndungu irrigation scheme in Same District of Kilimanjaro region. Control programs have been initiated by the end of the month.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Infestation was not reported during February.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

Buildup of Quelea birds population continued in Kibimba Rice fields in Eastern parts of the Country.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During February, minor **African Armyworm** outbreaks were reported in Simanjiro district in Manyara region, Rufiji and Lindi districts in Coast region. There was also 14 moth catches reported in Mbeya region.

Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) invasions were reported in Southern regions of Ruvuma, Southern highlands of Mbeya, the regions bordering Zambia and other Southern countries.

4.2.2 Uganda

During February, there were press reports on the looming of outbreaks of both the African and Fall Armyworms, which could likely happen in twenty Districts across the Country.

4.2.3

Other member countries remained free from infestations.

Forecast until end of March, 2017

It is highly likely that the Fall Armyworm infestations to spread to the central, western and south eastern regions of Tanzania, and probably extend to the southern and southwestern parts of Uganda. Consequently, it is highly recommended to continue monitoring of moth movements in order to detect early infestations. It is also highly advisable to control any outbreak of the Fall Armyworm at early stage of the worms as late instars are susceptible to any insecticide.

African Armyworm outbreaks are also likely to occur in the northern and coastal parts of Tanzania, coastal areas of Kenya and probably in the eastern, Western and Southern parts of Uganda.

It is also recommended to continue with monitoring of moth movements and detection of early infestation.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

Incidences not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

07 March, 2017

For more information about the
Organization,
Please visit DLCO-EA's Website:
www.dlcoea.org.et