

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)  
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## **DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR**

**JANUARY, 2017**



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

**In the Central Region**, light rains fell in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea in Sudan and Saudi Arabia at times during January. Consequently, breeding conditions remained favorable between Port Sudan and Karora, extending to Mehimet in Eritrea and, in Saudi Arabia, between Lith and Qunfidah as well as further south towards Jizan and on the northern coast near Umm Lajj. Breeding conditions were less favorable on the Red Sea coast of Yemen, Egypt and the Akbanazuf Plain in Eritrea where vegetation was drying out. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 460*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

During January, temperatures oscillated at 21°C during the night and around 29°C during the day. Though some vegetation were green and greening in the capital and in the coastal districts of the country due to the low amount of rains that fell during December, however, it remained dry in most parts of the country.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

The vegetation remained green in the Northern Red Sea coastal areas while it started to dry out in

the central Red Sea coast of the country during the reporting period. There was light rain fall between Massawa and Qrora during the last decade of the month

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During January, drier but chilly night and morning weather conditions prevailed over the country. The annual vegetation and soil remained dry and the perennial vegetation were partially green. Consequently, the ecological conditions were not favorable for Desert Locust development mainly in the winter breeding areas in the eastern parts of the country.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

Few days and scattered light rains fell mainly in the northern parts of the central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country during the third decade of January. Other parts of the country mainly the eastern, northeastern and northwestern experienced sunny and very dry conditions. Groups of annual vegetations were dry while perennial plants remained green.

#### **1.5 Somalia**

Except for very light and scattered rains that fell at times during the second and third decade of January in the northern coastal plains, generally ecological conditions remained very dry.

## 1.6 Sudan

During the month, light rains fell mainly along the southern Red Sea coastal areas of the country. Consequently, soil was wet and vegetation cover was almost green creating favorable conditions for DL to continue developing.

## 1.7 Tanzania

During January, most parts of the country received below normal rainfall except few places over western, southwestern highlands, southern region and southern coast, and localized areas over the northern coast that received normal to above normal rainfall.

Prolonged below normal rainfall performance and long dry spell durations caused widespread Maize crop failure over the bimodal areas and poor seed germination in some places of the unimodal areas except in western region, southwestern highlands and southern region where crops and other annual vegetation have established well.

## 1.8 Uganda

Though most parts of the country experienced hot and dry weather conditions during January, however, some scattered showers and thunderstorms were reported mainly in the central and western parts by the end of the month.

The Vegetation remained mixture of green and drying in many parts of the Country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust outbreak declined during January on the Red Sea coast mainly between Shelshela

(1553N/03902E) and Hable Ketin (1756N/3829E). Mature copulating adults, hopper bands and gregarious hopper groups on 276 ha were controlled around Hable Ketin during January.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during January.

### 2.4 Somalia

On 10 January, there was an unconfirmed report from locals of hopper infestations on the northwest coast between Bulhar (1023N/4425E) and Abdigeed (1031N/4403E). (*FAO DL bulletin No. 460*).

### 2.5 Sudan

During January, small-scale breeding continued on the Red Sea coast where solitary hoppers of mixed instars, fledglings and adults were present in a few places of Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) and on the southern plains near Aiterba (1753N/3819E). On 12 January, a very small second instar hopper band was reported northeast of Karora (1745N/3820E) near the border with Eritrea that started fledge by the end of the month when ground control teams treated 100 ha. Immature solitary adults were seen at one place west of Wadi Diib to the northwest of Tomala (2002N/3551E). In the Nile valley, adult groups were copulating at a few places southwest of Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E). (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 460*)

## Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 460*)

**Central Region:** an outbreak developed on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia by early January as a result of good rains from last July to mid-September that allowed two generations of breeding to occur. A third generation of breeding is likely in February on the coast between Lith and Jizan where ground and aerial control operations treated 4,200 ha of hopper groups and bands in January. By the end of the month, immature adults were forming groups and there is a possibility that small swarms could form and move north along the coast or eventually to spring breeding areas in the interior. Hopper groups

and at least one band formed from local breeding on the northern coast of Eritrea and control operations were carried out. The breeding extended to adjacent coastal areas in Sudan where a hopper band was treated. Immature adult groups are likely to form along the border from late February onwards. The situation remains unknown in Yemen where surveys could not be carried out.

**Western Region:** Locust activity appeared to decline in Mauritania during January perhaps due to low temperatures. Nevertheless, breeding continued in the northwest where a few small hopper groups formed. As vegetation dried out in adjacent areas of Western Sahara in southern Morocco, a few adult groups formed and were seen moving south at the end of the month. Limited control operations were carried out in both countries. As temperatures warm up, adults and groups were likely to move to the spring breeding areas along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and lay eggs.

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

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

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Hopper groups and bands will continue to form on the northern coast near the Sudanese border with fledging starting by mid-February, leading to the formation of small immature groups.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

Low number of adults may appear along the railway area between Dire Dawa and Ayisha.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

Locust numbers are expected to increase slightly on the northwest coast from small-scale breeding that may be in progress and will continue during the forecast period. As vegetation dries out, there is a low possibility of a few hopper and adult groups.

### **3.5 Sudan**

If conditions remain favorable, another generation of small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly on the Red Sea coastal plains, mainly between Suakin and Karora. There is a high risk that a few small groups may appear from Eritrea from late February onwards. Small-scale hatching is likely to occur during February in the Nile Valley between Abu Hamed and Merowe.

### **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 January, a DLCO-EA aircraft has been deployed in Kisumu County to control Quelea birds, which were reported attacking irrigated Rice. However, details of the operations were not received during compiling of this Sitrep.

#### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

No crop infestation has been reported anywhere during January although big flocks of birds were visible in Kilimanjaro and in Central parts of the country.

#### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

**Late report:**

During the first week of December, an aerial operation was conducted at 2 roosting sites in the Amhara region to control half million *Quelea* bird populations. During the operation, 300 liters of Bathion 64% ULV was used on 150 ha and the percent kill was estimated 94 to 97%.

Infestation was not reported during January.

#### **4.1.4 Eritrea**

Report not received.

#### **4.1.5 Sudan**

Report not received.

#### **4.1.6 Uganda**

Even though, *Quelea* birds were reported attacking irrigated Rice at Kibimba Rice fields (in Eastern parts), a survey team found that most of the Rice has been harvested, and subsequently majority of the *Quelea* flocks had left the reported sites.

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

#### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

During January, two traps reported moth catches as follow: Mbeya district (58) and Lindi district (15). According to A/W Centre under Ministry of Agriculture, there is a probability of Armyworm outbreaks in Mbeya and Lindi districts.

Other member countries remained free from infestations.

#### **Forecast until end of February, 2017**

It is highly likely that Armyworms outbreak to emerge and spread to the southern, southern coastal areas and in the Central Highlands of Tanzania. Consequently, it is highly recommended to continue monitoring of moth movements in order to detect early infestations.

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

Incidences not reported.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

03 February, 2017

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

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