

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)

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**Headquarters (Addis Ababa)**

**Tel: 251-1-16461477/0287/0290**

**Fax: 251-1-16460296**

**Operations Office (Nairobi)**

**Tel: 254-020-6002305/6001488**

**Fax: 254-020-6001575**

**SITREP No. 09/2016 - 2017**

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

**MARCH, 2017**



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

**In the Central Region**, good rains fell in the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia and Yemen during March. In Yemen, widespread rains fell in the Ramlat Sabatyn between Marib and Wadi Hadramaout, extending north to the Saudi Arabia border and the edge of the Empty Quarter. In the winter breeding areas, vegetation dried out along the coastal plains on both sides of the Red Sea, except on the northern coast of Yemen and adjacent southern areas in Saudi Arabia. During the last decade, good rains fell on the southern Red Sea coast in Eritrea near Assab, in the railway area of eastern Ethiopia and on the Somali plateau between Jigjiga and the escarpment in northern Somalia. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 462*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

During March, temperature oscillated at 22°C during the night and around 33°C during the day. No rainfall was occurred and most of the vegetation remained dry in the entire country.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

Light to medium amount of rainfall occurred during the third decade of March in the Southern Red Sea Zone near Assab. Light to medium amount of rains were also reported during the second half of the month mainly on the central highlands.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During the first and second decades of March, drier weather condition prevailed in the Desert Locust prone areas in the eastern parts of the country. However, during the third decade of the month, most parts of the country received light to moderate amount of rainfall, with some heavy falls in some locations beginning from the second decade. Consequently, both the annual and perennial vegetations were greening and the soil was wet including Dire Dawa areas. Generally the ecological conditions became favorable for Desert Locust activity in the spring breeding areas.

#### **Rainfall (mm) during March, 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Dire Dawa (0936N/04150E)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1 - 21	0.0	

22	4.5	
23	2.0	
24	21.0	
25	0.0	
26	2.0	
27	Trace	
28	9.5	
29	23.5	
30-31	0.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.5</b>	

#### 1.4 Kenya

Few days scattered light to medium amount of rains fell in most parts of the country from the beginning of the third decade of March. Consequently, some greening of annual vegetation was observed in areas where rains fell.

#### 1.5 Somalia

Though ecological conditions generally remained very dry in the Country, however light rains fell during the third decade of March in the northwestern parts of the escarpments and on the plateau bordering Ethiopia and Djibouti.

#### 1.6 Sudan

No rainfall was occurred and vegetation remained dry in most of the Desert Locust breeding locations except in irrigated schemes where it was green.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

Long seasonal rains continued to fall in Lake Victoria Basins and in the northern coast. Dry spells have also dominated over some areas of north-eastern highlands of Kilimanjaro, Arusha although rains were expected to start over these

areas in the first to second week of March which was likely to be normal to below normal.

The Northern Coastal areas and its Hinterlands have received normal to below normal rains with some periods of dry spells. The same in Western areas of Tabora, Rukwa, Katavi and Kigoma regions and in Southwestern highlands except Songwe, Njombe and Southern Morogoro, which received above normal rains. The Southern coast and the Central regions also received normal to below normal rainfalls.

Consequently, crops were in various stages of development and other groups of vegetation including pasture and rangelands remained green.

#### 1.8 Uganda

During March, most parts of the Country received heavy showers and thunderstorms, with reports of property and infrastructure damages.

Consequently, the vegetation was greening and green in many parts of the Country where rains fell.

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

#### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

#### 2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were reported during March.

#### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during March.

#### 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during March.

#### 2.5 Sudan

Isolated mature solitarious adults were present during March in the Tokar Delta on the Red Sea coast and a few mature solitarious adults near Karora (1745N/3820E)

## **Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast** (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 462)

**Central Region:** The locust situation improved in Saudi Arabia as a result of previous control operations, and no locusts were seen in March during intensive surveys. Similarly, locust numbers declined in Sudan and Yemen where only scattered adults remained in a few places along the Red Sea coast, and scattered adults were present in southeast Egypt. Ecological conditions are expected to improve in the interior of Saudi Arabia and Yemen where widespread, good rains fell after mid-March. Consequently, one generation of breeding could occur, causing locust numbers to increase slightly in both countries. Smaller-scale breeding may also occur in coastal and interior areas of northern Oman.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm in the region during March. Limited control operations (20 ha) were carried out against high densities of adults, some of which were copulating, in the northern portion of the Western Sahara in southern Morocco. Low numbers of adults continued to mature in the central Western Sahara, and in northwest and northern Mauritania. Isolated adults were present near irrigated farms in the central Sahara of Algeria. If more rains fall, limited breeding may occur in the aforementioned areas as well as along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria. A few small groups could form in northern Western Sahara as vegetation dries out. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

**Eastern Region:** No locusts were reported and the situation remained calm in the region during March. No significant developments are likely.

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

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

Low numbers of adults may appear along the railway area between Dire Dawa and Ayisha, and in the Somali region near Jigjiga and breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **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**

##### **Late report:**

During February outbreaks of *Quelea quelea* birds were reported in Kitui County. Consequently, a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed and controlled an estimated of 8.4 million birds, which were threatening 5,000 ha of Millet and Sorghum crops. The control operation was conducted on 188 ha of roosting sites using 360 liters of Fenthion 60% ULV.

##### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

During March, outbreaks were reported in Kilimanjaro, Mbeya and Singida regions. Control operations by a DLCO-EA aircraft had started in Kilimanjaro region as from 7<sup>th</sup> March where estimated of 2.1 million birds were killed in two big roosts in Ndungu and Kiurio irrigated Rice schemes in Same District.

### 4.1.3 Ethiopia

Infestation was not reported during March.

### 4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

### 4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

### 4.1.6 Uganda

Kibimba Rice fields (in Eastern Uganda) continued to report a buildup of Quelea birds population in their fields.

## 4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

### 4.2.1 Tanzania

During March, outbreaks occurred in Morogoro Urban, Kilosa, Kilombero, Mvomero Districts in Morogoro Region; Handeni, Lushoto, Muheza and Korogwe Districts in Tanga Region; Siha, Same, Moshi and Hai Districts in Kilimanjaro Region and Chalinze District in Coast Region. Moth catches were also reported during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month in Arusha (2,512), in Mbeya (47), in Manyara Region (2) and in Moshi (6).

#### Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)

During March, new and suspected Fall Armyworm species infested Maize crops in three districts; Nkasi, Kalambo and Mpanda in South Western regions of Rukwa and Katavi, bordering Zambia and Malawi. Consequently, initiatives by NPPO for identification and confirmation are underway.

### 4.2.2 Uganda

During March, the outbreaks of African Armyworm and Fall Armyworm were confirmed in twenty (20) districts across the Country and were reported spreading to many more districts.

The Ministry of Agriculture extension staff and affected farmers were trying to manage the infestations by spraying with insecticides. The Ministry of Agriculture estimated that the Country could annually loose at least 450,000 metric tonnes of maize produce worth US\$ 192 million if the outbreak is not well managed and controlled.

### 4.2.3 Ethiopia

Armyworm moth catches (up to 40 moths) were reported in two districts, Konso and Benatsemay in the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Administrative Region (SNNPR) during the second decade of March.

## Forecast until end of April, 2017

The Fall Armyworm infestations are likely to spread to more regions in Tanzania and Uganda, and probably appear in Kenya and Ethiopia during the forecast period. 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 appearance as late instars may be difficult to control them.

African Armyworm outbreaks are also expected to spread to the northern and coastal parts of Tanzania, coastal, southern and western parts of Kenya and continue to occur in different regions of Uganda. It is also recommended to continue monitoring of moth movements and detection of early infestations.

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

Incidences not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

05 April, 2017

For more information about the Organization,

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