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

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

MAY, 2017

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, unusually good rains fell at times during the first two decades of May in some places on the Red Sea coast from Massawa, Eritrea to Halaib, Egypt and from the southern Tihama in Yemen to nearly Qunfidah, Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, vegetation was mainly dry in most areas. Good rains fell in the spring and summer breeding areas of the interior in Yemen along the edge of Ramlat Sabatyn between Marib and Araq, in Wadi Hadramaut and in some places along the plateau north east of Hadramaut. Some flooding occurred in Yemen. In Sudan, early rains fell in North Kordofan between Sodiri and the Nile Valley as well as east of the Nile to the Red Sea Hills. In the Horn of Africa, good rains fell on the escarpment and plateau in northern Somalia, extending to eastern Ethiopia. As a result of these rains, annual vegetation is likely to become green and breeding conditions will improve. *(FAO DL bulletin No. 464)*

1.1 Djibouti

During May, warmer weather condition was reported in the country. Even though light showers occurred in some locations of the country however, vegetation began to dry up in most parts of the country, except in some Wadis and mountainous areas in the northern districts.
Temperature oscillated between 29°C during the night and around 39°C during the day in May.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to moderate amount of rains continued to fall in some locations in the highlands and in the southwestern areas of the country during May. There was also good rainfall along the Red Sea coast mainly during the first and second decades of the month.
Most of the vegetation was dry but some greening was observed in the central highlands, western lowlands and in parts of the central area of the Red sea coast.

1.3 Ethiopia

During May, dry and hot weather condition prevailed in the spring Desert Locust breeding areas in the eastern parts of the country. However, during the second and third decades of the month, light to heavy rains fell in most parts of the country including DireDawa, surrounding districts and in the Somali Administrative Region (Aisha and Shinile). Annual vegetation (grasses and bushes) and perennial vegetations were green and the soil was

wet in locations where rains fell. Generally, ecological conditions have improved and were favorable for Desert Locust activity in the spring breeding areas in the east.

Rainfall (mm) during May, 2017

Date	DIRE DAWA(0936N/04150E)	Remark
01	1.0	
02	10.0	
04	3.0	
05	7.0	
10	1.0	
11	Trace	
12	0.5	
13	Trace	
14	43.0	
16	44.0	
20	9.0	
22	17.5	
23	5.5	
26	5.0	
27	8.5	
28	1.0	
31	1.5	
Total	**157.5**	

1.4 Kenya

During most days of May, light to heavy rains fell in many locations of the country. As the rainfalls were heavy in the coastal parts of the country, some infrastructure damages were also occurred. Crops and other annual vegetations were green in all areas where rains fell.

1.5 Somalia

Light to moderate amount of rains fell during the first and second decades of May in the northern parts of the country including in the plateau and the escarpments.

1.6 Sudan

Light to moderate amount of rains fell in wide areas of the Desert Locust summer breeding locations, mainly in North Kordofan, North and West Darfur States. As a result, annual vegetation started to emerge and greening was observed in some areas where rains fell.

1.7 Tanzania

Rainfall declined over some areas of Lake Victoria Basin while good amount of rains continued to fall in most parts of the Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions) and in the Northern coast (Dar-es-Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga regions and the Isles of Unguja and Pemba) during May. Low amount of showers were experienced in the Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions).

The other parts of the country remained dry but cloudy with temperatures falling down to 10^0 C in the Southern highlands especially in Mbeya region.

Vegetation, including pastures and rangelands remained very green in the northeastern highlands, northern coast and western parts of the country. Crops countrywide were in various stages of development depending on rainfall commencement time.

1.8 Uganda

During May, most parts of the Country recorded moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms, Due to the continuous rainfalls, the vegetation remained green across many locations of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

No survey was conducted and no locusts were reported.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

2.4 Somalia

No reports received.

2.5 Sudan

No survey was conducted however, Desert Locust situation remained calm.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 464)*

Central Region: The locust situation remained calm as no locusts were reported in the region during May. Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in Yemen and Sudan if ecological conditions continue to improve during the forecast period. There is also a low risk of scattered adults and limited breeding in northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia.

Western Region: The situation remained calm in the region during May**.** Small hopper groups were treated in the spring breeding areas south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco (443 ha) and Algeria (267 ha) as part of preventive control.

Eastern Region: Isolated adults persisted during May in southeast Iran where small-scale breeding was in progress in one area of the interior. Pre-monsoon rains fell along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border where small-scale breeding is likely to commence in July with the onset of the monsoon rains, causing a slight increase in locust numbers.

3.0 Forecast until mid-June, 2017

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults may appear in areas of recent rainfall in both the western lowlands as well as on the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and Mehimet.

3.3 Ethiopia

Isolated adults may be present in areas of recent rainfall near DireDawa and Jigjiga where small-scale breeding could occur.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Low numbers of adults are likely to appear and breed on small-scale in areas of pre-seasonal rains in North Kordofan and east of the Nile Valley.

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 outbreaks with an estimated 3.5 million birds in one roost were reported in Timau area, Meru County**.** Preparation to conduct an aerial control operation was in progress**.**

4.1.2 Tanzania

Late report:

During **April**, aerial Quelea control operations by a DLCO-EA aircraft continued in Dodoma region

where 19.5 million birds in 7 roosts were controlled. Further, 13 million birds in 5 roosts and 3 colonies were controlled in Shinyanga region during the month.
Later, the crew shifted to Mwanza and Singida regions where 13 roosts and colonies with 12.7 million birds were also controlled.
Reports of bird flocks and re-invasions were also received from Mbeya in the Southern Highlands, and in Kilimanjaro and Dodoma regions respectively.

During May, Quelea outbreaks were reported in Dodoma, Singida and Mbeya regions consequently, aerial control operations by a DLCO-EA aircraft continued in Bahi and Kidaru districts, in Dodoma and Singida regions respectively. During the operation, it was reported that estimated of 12 million birds were killed.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Infestation was not reported.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

Infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm *(Spodoptera exempta)*

4.2.1 Tanzania

Late report:

During April, reports of outbreaks were received from Kiteto, Babati and Hanang districts in Manyara region, Monduli, Arusha and Meru districts in Arusha region and in Mwanga district in Kilimanjaro region. Moth catches were (196) in Mbeya, (265) in Arusha and (80) in Manyara regions.
During May, no outbreak was reported except of 118 moth catches reported in Mbeya, southern highlands.

During May, no outbreak was reported.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm: two districts in West Nile region, (Arua and Moyo) recorded some infestations during May. Consequently; the Ministry of Agriculture supplied farmers with some insecticides to control them. The worms were reported feeding heavily on maize and grasses.

Fall armyworm (**FAW**) infestations continued to spread in many more districts and it's confirmed in 78 districts (from 60 in April 2017). Some districts (e.g. Moyo, Kotido, Karamoja, etc) in the northeastern parts of the country, which have received delayed rainfall, were among areas which were attacked during May.
The Crop Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture procured more insecticides and supplied it to the farmers. Furthermore, motorized sprayers and knapsack sprayers were also supplied to district model farmers for control demonstrations.

4.2.3 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Infestation on 13,199 and 726 hectares of crops and pastureland was reported in 9 and 4 districts of Oromya and Southern Nations & Nationalities Peoples (SNNP) Administrative Regions respectively. Accordingly, control operations conducted on 1,925 hectares of crops in Oromya Administrative Region using 1,535 liters of insecticide. Similarly the pest was controlled on 481 hectares of crops by using 722 liters of insecticide in SNNPR.

Fall Armyworm

In May, the Fall Armyworm, (*Spodoptera frugiperda)* infestation spread throughout Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples (SNNPR), Oromya and Gambella Administrative Regions.
Till the last week of May, the pest was reported on 76,340 hectares of maize in 104 zones and 162 districts of the aforementioned administrative regions. Ground control operation continued over 53,659 hectares by cultural and chemical methods. So far 44,686 liters of pesticide has been sprayed.

4.2.4 Kenya

African Armyworm

No infestation reported.

Fall Armyworm

During May, it was reported that widespread infestation was spread out to 27 counties out of 47, where 200,000 ha of Maize plantation was under threat. Ground control operations continued in all infested areas by farmers with assistance and coordination of the MoA, Livestock and Fisheries. It was also noticed that the infestation was mostly concentrated in the western and Rift Valley parts of the country.

Forecast until end of June, 2017

African Armyworm it is likely that outbreaks to occur in some locations in the northern parts of Kenya, in the eastern and northern parts of Uganda and in the western, southeastern and Rift Valley regions of Ethiopia.

The Fall Armyworm infestations are likely to spread mostly to the northwestern and Rift Valley parts of Kenya, eastern and northern Uganda and, to the western and the central Rift Valley of Ethiopia during June.
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' appearances as late instars may be difficult to be controlled.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

Incidences not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

05 June, 2017

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