

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)  
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**SITREP No. 04/2017 - 2018**

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

**OCTOBER, 2017**



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

**In the Central Region**, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) had moved south of the summer breeding area in the interior of Sudan by the end of the first decade of October. Consequently, vegetation was drying out and ecological conditions were not favorable for breeding. In the winter breeding areas, light rains fell at mid-month on the central coast of the Red Sea in Eritrea and on the Tihama of Yemen where conditions were already favorable for breeding. At the end of the month, rains started to fall on the Sudanese coast near Suakin and Aiterba that should allow ecological conditions to improve for breeding. Vegetation was becoming green in the Tokar Delta of Sudan and on the Red Sea coastal plains of Saudi Arabia near Jizan and to a lesser extent near Lith and Qunfidah. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 466*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

During October, temperature decreased slightly and light rains fell in the interior, the southern and southwestern parts of the country. However, the vegetation remained dry and dry conditions dominated the whole country.

Temperatures range from 29°C during the night and around 34°C during the day.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

Some light to moderate rains fell during mid- and third decade of October mainly on the central and northern Red Sea coastal plains. Consequently, some greening of annual vegetation was observed and breeding conditions were improving.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During October, dry and hot weather conditions prevailed mainly in the Desert Locust breeding areas of the eastern parts of the country. However, some of the mid- and highlands in the east have received light to moderate amount of rains.

The annual vegetation was drying out, perennial vegetation was green and the soil was dry. It was also reported that the ecological conditions were generally not favorable for locust breeding during the reporting month.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
01	Trace	

11	0.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5</b>	

#### 1.4 Kenya

During October, most parts of the Country received moderate to heavy rains. Consequently, flush floods caused havoc and some infrastructure and property damage, and death of domestic animals was reported, mainly in the northwestern parts of the Country. Annual vegetation started greening in vast areas while perennial vegetation remained green.

#### 1.5 Somalia

Intermittent light rains may fell mainly during the second and third decade of October in some locations in the north.

#### 1.6 Sudan

Light rains fell during the third decade of October mainly in the Desert Locust winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast from the Eritrean border up to Suwakin.

Though, the whole winter breeding zone remained dry due to lack of soil moisture with exceptional of some green vegetation patches seen in the Toker Delta.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

During October, moderate to heavy rains fell over the Lake Victoria basin, western and southwestern highlands. From the second week of the month, the northeastern highlands and some parts in the Central zone also received moderate amount of rains. However, other parts of the country remained dry.

Consequently, annual and perennial vegetations started greening in most of the areas where rains fell during the previous months.

#### 1.8 Uganda

During October, the rains intensified and most parts of the Country continued to record heavy showers

and thunderstorms, with many properties like crops and roads were destroyed.

The vegetation remained green across most parts of the Country during the month.

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

#### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

#### 2.2 Eritrea

Low to medium density of solitary adults and hoppers were detected in Tiluk (1556N/3900E), Sheib Ketin (1550N/3902), Awhetay (1555N/3903E) and Shelshela (1555N/3908E) areas around Sheib during ground surveys, which were conducted by PPD staff during 03 – 06 October. Ground teams treated 2 ha during the month.

#### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

#### 2.4 Somalia

Report not received.

#### 2.5 Sudan

During October, ground survey on 4,400 ha was conducted by PPD staff in Alhasania Hills and along Atbara River in the River Nile State and no Desert Locust was found.

Generally, the Desert Locust situation remained calm during the month in the Country.

### Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 466)

**Central Region:** The locust situation remained calm in the region during October. Vegetation dried out and no locust were seen in the summer breeding areas, a second generation of breeding may be in progress in a relatively small area in the central coast of Eritrea where hoppers were starting to gregarize and ground teams treated 2 ha. Elsewhere, ecological

conditions were favorable for breeding on the Tihama coast of Yemen and were improving in Saudi Arabia and Sudan. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding is expected to occur along both sides of the Red Sea, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm during October. Small-scale breeding occurred in western Mauritania but locust numbers remained low. Limited breeding occurred on the Tamesna Plains in northern Niger and low numbers of adults were seen in southern Algeria near the border with Mali. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding will continue in western Mauritania and is likely to extend towards the northwest and into adjacent areas of the Western Sahara in southern Morocco, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

**Eastern Region:** The locust situation continued to remain calm in the region during October. Only a few locusts remained in the summer breeding areas of Pakistan near the border with India. No locusts were seen during regular surveys in India or on the coastal plains in southeast Iran.

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

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Another generation of breeding is likely to occur on the central Red Sea coast, causing locust numbers to increase during the forecast period with the possibility of small groups forming. Low numbers of adults may spread north along the coast.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

Low numbers of adults may appear and breed on the northwest coast in any areas that receive rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.5 Sudan**

Low numbers of adults will appear in winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast and breed on a small-scale between Suakin and the Eritrean border.

#### **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**

Aerial Quelea control operation was conducted in Kirinyaga County where infestation was reported on irrigated Rice. During the operation, an estimated of 11.4 million birds were controlled. Another outbreak was also reported in Tana River County and 4 million birds, which were feeding on Sorghum, were controlled by air.

##### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

Large flocks of birds were reported feeding on Rice in Kilimanjaro region and control preparations were underway.

##### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

Aerial Quelea birds control operations were conducted by a DLCO-EA aircraft from 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of October in the southeastern parts of the Rift Valley.

The operations were conducted in 3 districts in the Oromya Administrative Region, where 10.5 million birds were killed in three roosting and in one breeding sites.

During the operations, 475 liters of Bathion 60% ULV was sprayed on 200 hectares, and mortality was estimated between 60 to 98%.

#### 4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

#### 4.1.5 Sudan

Aerial Quelea control operations were conducted by a DLCO-EA aircraft in different locations during the third decade of October.

Some details of the reports were presented as follows:

- On 25<sup>th</sup>, mixed roost/colony was sprayed at Dgarrab (N140023.6/E0340158.4) and (N140015.1/E0340157.6) utilizing 150 liters of Queletox.
- On 26<sup>th</sup>, 100 liters of Queletox was sprayed at Omdisa (N140901.3 E0345741.5)
- On 28<sup>th</sup>, 100 liters of Queletox was sprayed at Wadkeshin (N140022.4 E0340158.8).

#### 4.1.6 Uganda

Infestation was not reported.

## 4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

#### 4.2.1 Tanzania

**African Armyworm:** infestation not reported.

During October, **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** infestations on Maize were reported in Mwanza, Geita, Shinyanga and Mara regions. However, the types of interventions introduced to control the infestations were not indicted in the report.

#### 4.2.2 Uganda

**African Armyworm** infestation not reported.

**The fall armyworm (FAW)** infestation continued to affect some maize gardens across the Country. The Crop Protection Department of the

Ministry of Agriculture continued to give technical guidance on control operations via the media and field agents, and farmers were reported to be catching up with the control intervention well. (*Base Manager DLCO-EA Kampala CRB*)

#### 4.2.3 Eritrea

**African Armyworm**

Report not received.

#### 4.2.4 Ethiopia

**African Armyworm**

Infestation not reported.

**Fall Armyworm**

Infestation continued to occur on irrigated areas however detailed information was not received during the reporting period.

#### 4.2.5 Kenya

**African Armyworm**

Report not received.

**Fall Armyworm**

The pest continued to be problematic during October on irrigated maize across many areas.

### Forecast until end of November, 2017

**African Armyworm:** outbreaks will likely occur during the forecast period mainly in the primary outbreak areas in Tanzania and Kenya. Consequently, it is highly advisable to continue installation of pheromone traps and start monitoring of moth movements.

The **Fall Armyworm** infestation will also likely to continue affecting the farming community in the main Maize growing areas in eastern and Horn of Africa regions.

Generally, it is highly advisable to monitor its' developments in order to detect early infestations mainly in new Maize fields. 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 control.

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

#### **4.3.1 Uganda**

##### **4.3.1.1 Tsetse flies:**

High Tsetse fly populations are negatively affecting the Country's exports of animal products like beef and ghee as quoted by the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. The Hon, Minister also lamented the need for efficient and integrated control intervention of the pest by all stakeholders. (*Base Manager DLCO-EA Kampala CRB*)

### **4.4 Tree Locust/Grasshoppers**

#### **4.4.1 Sudan**

Un-scheduled Tree Locust and grasshoppers control operations were conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of the month at Abusaana (N142424.5/E0341218.6), (N142510.2/E0341212.1), (N142315.5/E0341134.2) and (N140613.6/E0342617.0) and at block/farm (N142339.2/E0341134.3), (N142342.9/E0341220.9.), (N142509.4/E0341212.6), (N142424.5/E0341219.1) and (N142419.1/E0341439.6) utilizing 400 and 200 liters of insecticide respectively.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

07 November, 2017

For more information about the  
Organization,

Please visit DLCO-EA's Website:

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