

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

FEBRUARY, 2018



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, no significant rain fell during February along both sides of the Red Sea. Consequently, vegetation was dry or drying out on most places except for a very few spots along the northern and southern coastal plains in Saudi Arabia, and on the central coast of Sudan. In general very little rain fell this year in the winter breeding areas with the last significant rainfall occurring in November on the coast of Saudi Arabia. This has contributed to poor breeding conditions and hence only low and insignificant numbers of solitarious locusts present during this winter. In the spring breeding areas, light rain may have fallen in the interior of Saudi Arabia during the last week of the month. Elsewhere, light rains fell at times in parts of northern Oman where temperatures were unusually warm, causing most vegetation to remain dry. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 473*)

1.1 Djibouti

During February, no rains fell as a result, warmer and drier weather conditions existed in most parts of the country.

1.2 Eritrea

No rainfall was reported mainly on the winter breeding areas across the Red Sea coast during January. Except for little green vegetation observed in cropping areas and Wadis, most areas across the coast remained dry and were not favorable for Desert Locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

Dry and hot weather conditions prevailed during the first and second decades of February. However, by the end of the second decade, the short-rain-season has started in most parts of the country, including in the Desert Locust winter breeding areas. Dire Dawa and Dembel area (Ethiopian Somali District) have also received a one day light rain.

Though, the annual vegetation dried out and the soil was dry due to lack of moisture but most perennial vegetation remained green. Generally, ecological conditions were not favorable for Desert locust activity during the month.

Rainfall records (mm) during February

Date	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)	Remark
3	Trace	
13	Trace	
18	Trace	

20	20.5	
Total	20.5	

1.4 Kenya

Although one-two days of scattered light rains fell mainly in the western parts of the country, however the month was dominated by dry and hot weather conditions. Annual vegetation were dry while perennial vegetation remained partially green in some areas of the Country.

1.5 Somalia

No rains fell during February and ecological conditions remained very dry.

1.6 Sudan

No rains received in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast during February. Though, green vegetation were present at a few blocks of Tokar Delta, between Port Sudan and Swakin and to some extent in the southern coast between Aqiq and Agetai however, vegetation cover and soil moisture started to dry out gradually along the Red Seacoast.

1.7 Tanzania

During February, medium to heavy above normal rains continued to fall in some parts of the western and southern regions of Tabora, Rukwa, Ruvma and Mtwara.

Normal to above normal rains were also observed in some areas of Kagera, Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Arusha and Lushoto. Northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba also received normal rains. The remaining parts of the country received isolated showers.

Annual and perennial vegetations including Pastures and Rangelands were green in many parts of the country where rains fell during January. Crops countrywide were in various stages of developments depending on the rainfall commencement times.

1.8 Uganda

During February, some moderate isolated showers and thunderstorms were reported in parts of Western, south Western and around Lake Victoria,

which was intensified towards the end of the month, signifying an early onset of the March-May rain season.

Overall, there is an increased probability for near normal rainfall over much of the Country as predicted and reported by the National Meteorological Authority (NMA)

The vegetation was drying and dry in most parts of Northern and Eastern parts of the Country, but some areas started greening due to the start of the rains. The vegetation in the Central, South western and western parts of the Country were mixture of green and greening.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Incidences were not reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Incidences were not reported.

2.3 Ethiopia

Incidences were not reported.

2.4 Somalia

Report not received.

2.5 Sudan

During February, PPD staff conducted ground survey operations covering the central coast from Eit (1750N/3817E) to Ashad (1844N/3726E); south of Swakin, various blocks of Tokar Delta and the southern coast from Aqiq to Karora. 30,000 ha were covered during the survey and all areas were free of Desert Locusts except two locations in the southern blocks of Tokar Delta (Krimbit 1816N/3740E and Bahra 1815N/3739E) where low densities of mature solitarious adults were found.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 473)

Central Region: Isolated solitarious adults were present in a few places of Tokar Delta in Sudan. The situation is likely to remain calm.

Western Region: No locusts were reported. The situation is expected to remain calm.

Eastern Region: No locusts were reported. Low numbers of solitarious adults may appear in the spring breeding areas of southwest Pakistan and southeast of Iran.

3.0 Forecast until mid-April, 2018

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Isolated adults may be present in a few places on the central and northern Red Sea coastal plains but, unless further rains fall, breeding is not expected and no significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

Isolated adults may be present along the railway area where small-scale breeding could occur if rains fall.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of adults may be present on the northwest coast and could breed on a small scale in any areas that receive rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will occur on a limited basis along the Red Sea coast between Port Sudan and Karora as well as in sub-coastal areas of the northeast in Wadi Oko/Diib, causing locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels. Breeding is expected to finish by mid-March.

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

Monthly report not received.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During February, two big roosts were controlled by a DLCO-EA aircraft in Mwadiu and Igunga districts in Shinyanga region. 7,144 hectares of sorghum crops, which were under the birds attack, were saved due to the control operation.

Survey operation was also undergoing in Mombo area in Tanga region, where huge flocks of Quelea birds were reported threatening paddy farms during the month.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Incidences not reported.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Monthly report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Monthly report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW): Although details were not received during the compiling period of this report,

however, FAW were reported attacking Maize crops in several locations of the country.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm incidences not reported.

Fall armyworm (FAW) incidences not reported.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm

During February, Fall Armyworms continued affecting irrigated Maize crops in 6 Administrative Regions (Oromya, Amhara, Afar, Gambella, Benishangul and Tigray) of the country. The pest was reported infesting 17,448 hectares in 30 zones, 115 Districts and 451 villages in the above indicated administrative regions.

During the month, 4,689 hectares of infestations were sprayed with chemicals, while 913 ha were controlled using cultural methods. It is reported that since the beginning of the control operations, 6,916 liters of pesticide has been used.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

Fall Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

Forecast until end of March, 2018

African Armyworm: even though it is less likely outbreaks to occur during the forecast period, however, monitoring of the situation is advisable mainly in the coastal and eastern parts of Kenya. It is also probable that minor outbreaks to occur in the southwestern and southern parts of Ethiopia. Consequently, it is highly advisable to continue monitoring of moth movements.

Fall Armyworm

As the rain season and planting of Maize crops continues during March and April, it is highly predicted that the **Fall Armyworm** infestation to increase in numbers and spread to wider areas across the eastern and Horn of African countries.

Consequently, countries are advised to introduce effective monitoring mechanisms in order to detect early infestations mainly in newly planted Maize fields. It is also highly advisable to train and sensitize more field scouts, and introduce quick control measures on early stages of the Fall Armyworms as late instars may be difficult to control.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

4.3.1.1 Tsetse flies:

Incidences not reported

CIFO

For Director,

05 March, 2018

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

www.dlcoea.org.et

