

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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

MARCH, 2018



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, poor rains and dry conditions persisted during March throughout most of the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea except for light showers that may have fallen on the northern coast of the Red Sea of Yemen during the first decade. Consequently, ecological conditions continued to remain unfavorable for breeding. In northern Somalia, light rainfall may have occurred during the first decade on the plateau and escarpment north of Boroma that could have runoff onto parts of the northwest coastal plains. In the spring breeding areas, light rains fell in the central interior of Saudi Arabia near Gassim and heavier rains fell in the Empty Quarter from Wadi Dawasir to western UAE. Traces of rain fell in the northern coast of Oman and parts of the interior. (FAO DL bulletin No. 474)

1.1 Djibouti

Even though, warmer and drier weather conditions existed in most parts of the country, however, light to moderate rains probably fell during the first and second decades of March in the northern and western parts.

1.2 Eritrea

Generally, very light rains may have fallen mainly on the eastern escarpments during March. Light to medium scattered short rains have also started falling in some of the highland areas during the month.

1.3 Ethiopia

During March, humid weather condition was prevailed throughout the country. As a result of the commencement of the short rain season, some parts of the country including DireDawa and surroundings have received light to moderate rains.

The annual vegetation and soil remained dry while perennial vegetation was green. Consequently, ecological conditions generally were not favorable for Desert Locust activities during the month.

Rainfall records (mm) during March

Date	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)	Remark
1	Trace	
2	25	
3	3.5	
14	1.5	
15	1.5	
16	Trace	
19	1.5	
Total	33	

1.4 Kenya

The northeastern and eastern parts of the country received light to moderate rains while moderate to heavy rains fell in most parts of the country throughout March. Consequently, groups of annual and perennial vegetations turned green across the Country.

1.5 Somalia

Some scattered light to moderate rains probably fell during the first and second decades of March in the northwestern coastal plains and the escarpments. Greening of vegetation was also observed on the plateau and in areas bordering eastern Ethiopia.

1.6 Sudan

No rains received in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast during March..

1.7 Tanzania

During March, rains continued to fall over the northeastern highlands, the northern coast, the Lake Victoria Basin and the northern parts of Kigoma and Morogoro regions. Moderate to heavy rains were experienced over most areas of Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara, Manyara, Pwani, Tanga, northern Morogoro and in the extreme northern Kigoma (Kibondo district). Moderate, with some pockets of light rains also fell in the other parts of Central, Southern and Western zones.

During the month, vegetation including field crops were greening in areas where rains continued to fall while in most of the other parts of the country, which had early rains, vegetation including pastures were green and some have started drying.

1.8 Uganda

During March, the rainy season started across most parts of the Country as predicted by the National Meteorological Authority (NMA). Consequently, heavy rains fell and recorded in many places, and property and infrastructure damages were reported due to floods. In Kamuli district, over 300 people

were left without shelter, and in Kibale district many acres of crops were destroyed and some animals killed by a devastating hailstorm.

The vegetation was green and greening across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Incidences were not reported.

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were seen during a survey carried out on the Akbanazuf Plain (1555N/3910E) along the central Red Sea coast northwest of Massawa (1537N/3928E) on 2 March.

2.3 Ethiopia

Incidences were not reported.

2.4 Somalia

Report not received.

2.5 Sudan

During March, situation remained calm and no locusts were reported across the coast.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 474)

Central Region: No locusts reported except for isolated solitarious adults in one place on the southern coast of Yemen. During the forecasting period, small scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rain in the interior of Saudi Arabia. No significant developments are likely.

Western Region: No locusts reported except for isolated adults in one place in central Algeria.

Eastern Region: No locusts reported.

3.0 Forecast until mid-May, 2018

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

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 or escarpment where they could breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall or runoff. No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

No significant developments are likely.

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 birds were reported causing damage to irrigated rice in Busia County.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During March, flocks of Quelea birds were reported threatening Rice and Sorghum crops in 7 Districts in the Lake Victoria zone, 5 in the Central zone and 2 in the Northern zone. Consequently, aerial control operation by a DLCO-EA aircraft was conducted between 21st March and 2nd April on 9 sites mainly in the Lake Zone.

During the operation, 22 million birds roosting on 547.4 ha of Acacia trees, Reeds and Papyrus were sprayed with 900 liters of Queletox.

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

African Armyworm

During March, no infestation was reported but 9, 3 and 8 moth catches were reported in Mbeya, Tanga and Dodoma respectively.

Fall Armyworm (FAW): information received from the PPD indicated that Maize attacks by the FAW were reported in North eastern, Southwestern highlands, Eastern and Lake Victoria zones. Consequently, a national ToT program was held and farmers are advised on the pest management options, including IPM methods.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm incidences not reported.

Fall armyworm (FAW); there were reports of the beginning and early infestations of the worms on Maize crops in Rubanda and Amudati Districts, plus in some parts of Central Uganda. The report indicated that in most places the Maize crops were infested at germination and at knee height (early whorl) stages.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm

During March, Fall Armyworm infestation continued to occur in the irrigated areas across 7 Administrative Regions (Oromya, Amhara, Afar, Gambella, Benishangul, Tigray and Gambella). The pest was reported in 31 zones and 151 Districts infesting 29,164 ha of Maize plantation in 779 villages of the above indicated administrative regions. Chemical and cultural control operations were used on 8,164 and 3,715 hectares respectively. During the operations, 10,087 liters of pesticide was sprayed to control the pest.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported

Fall Armyworm

During March, infestations were reported on early planted Maize in several counties (Kericho, Nyeri, Embu, Nakuru and Meru). Control by the affected farmers was in progress during the month.

Forecast until end of April, 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 April, it is highly predicted that the **Fall Armyworm** infestation to increase in numbers and spread to more regions across the eastern and Horn of African countries.

Consequently, countries are advised to continue monitoring of moth movements with the newly delivered pheromone traps in order to detect early infestations mainly in newly planted Maize fields. It is also highly advisable to continue training and sensitizing more field scouts and farmers for better control outcomes.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

4.3.1.1 Tsetse flies:

Incidences not reported

CIFO

For Director,

05 April, 2018

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

www.dlcoea.org.et