

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

MAY, 2018



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region: Warm temperatures in the southern Arabian Sea caused two cyclones to develop during the second half of May that caused heavy rains, flooding, damage and loss of life. On 16 May Cyclone Sagar formed off the coast of the Horn of Africa and moved west across the entire Gulf of Aden, making landfall on the northwest Somalia coast near Lughaye on the 19th. Thereafter, Sagar weakened over eastern Ethiopia by the 21st. Heavy rains fell along the southern coast of Yemen from Aden to the Oman border, coastal and plateau areas of northern Somalia, and railway area and Harar highlands in eastern Ethiopia. A year's worth of rain fell in one day in Socotra Island (200mm) and Djibouti (110mm). On 22nd May, Cyclone Mekunu formed and moved north to Socotra on the 24th, making landfall at Salalah, Oman on the 25th and subsequently weakening as it moved inland over southern Oman and eastern Yemen where it dissipated by the 31st. Heavy rains extended along the coast from Al Ghaydah, eastern Yemen to Ash Shuwaymiyah, southern Oman. Three year's worth of rain fell in Salalah (348mm), heavy rains were reported in the Dhofar hills (291mm) and interior of Thumrait (73mm) and Marmul (86mm), and moderate showers fell in the Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia near the Yemen border at Al Kharkhir (1851N/5107E) and Umm Al Melh (1906N/5007E),

and near the Omani border at Thabhloten (1942N/5357E), causing lakes to appear. Elsewhere, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continued its seasonal movement north over Sudan towards the summer breeding areas of the interior, reaching El Fasher, Sodiri and Khartoum by the end of May. However, ecological conditions remained dry and unfavorable for breeding. (FAO DL bulletin No. 476)

1.1 Djibouti

Though the whole country remained hot and dry during May however, Cyclone "Sagar" has brought heavy rains in most parts of the country on 19th May. However, due to the continuous dry conditions which prevailed, vegetations remained dry during the month and temperatures ranged from 33°C during the night to around 38°C during the day.

1.2 Eritrea

Late report indicated that heavy rains which fell on 25th April on the eastern escarpments and the subsequent floods had caused heavy damages on agricultural infrastructure mainly on the central Red Sea coastal areas. It was reported that 3,500 ha of agricultural land has been affected in Sheib and other nearby locations.

In addition, during the second dekad of May, light rains fell in areas between Shieb and Massawa. However, except for some vegetation which were partially green, but most of them remained dry; giving unfavorable conditions for locust breeding. The short rain season has also continued on the highlands, and intermittent light to moderate amount of rains fell mainly on the southern and central highlands during May.

1.3 Ethiopia

On 19th May, heavy rains fell along the railway area and Harar highlands in eastern parts of the country due to the effect of the Cyclone Sagar. Light to medium amount of rains also fell during the month and 71.5 mm of rainfall was recorded in Diredawa during the month.

The annual (grasses and bushes) and perennial vegetations were green and the soil was mostly wet. The ecological conditions generally were favorable for Desert Locust activity during May.

1.4 Kenya

Most parts of the country have received moderate to heavy rains throughout May. However, the frequency and amount has slightly declined comparing with the previous month's rainfall. Some flooding was also reported mainly in the northeastern lowlands.

Annual and perennial vegetations were green across the country.

1.5 Somalia

On 16 May Cyclone Sagar formed off the coast of the Horn of Africa and moved west across the entire Gulf of Aden, making landfall on the northwest Somalia coast near Lughaye on the 19th. The heavy rains which fell on the northern parts of the country and the subsequent floods had caused heavy damages to infrastructure and lose of animals and humans were also reported.

A year's worth of rain also fell in one day in Socotra Island (200mm).

1.6 Sudan

No rains received in the summer breeding areas during May consequently, ecological conditions remained dry and unfavorable for breeding.

1.7 Tanzania

During May, Lake Victoria Basin, Western region and Southwestern highlands continued to receive moderate to high showers except in some few pockets which received light showers. Northern highlands also received moderate showers. The northern and southern coasts as well have received light showers but over few locations. Central areas and southern region remained mainly dry during the month.

Vegetation was greening, green and drying in different parts of the country depending on the time of the rainfall commencements.

1.8 Uganda

During May, most parts of the country continued to receive moderate to heavy showers, but the rains showed gradual decline towards the end of the month, signifying early end of the first rains. Overall, the greater parts of the country has been recoding above normal rainfall as predicted and reported by the National Meteorological Authority (NMA).

The vegetation remained green across most parts of the country due to the continuous rainfalls.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Incidences were not reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Ground Desert Locust survey was carried out by PPD staff during 04 - 10 May mainly in the central Red sea coast between Sheib (1589N/03912E) and Karura (N1749/E03824), in the north east to the border of northeastern Sudan. During the operation, 78 locations, covering 13,500 ha were surveyed and no locusts were detected.

2.3 Ethiopia

Incidences were not reported.

2.4 Somalia

During May, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the northwest plateau, escarpment and coast between Hargeisa (0931N/4402E) and Silil (1058N/4326E), and on the plateau in the northeast near Garowe (0824N/4829E).

2.5 Sudan

No reports were received in May.

Desert Locust situation in Central and other Regions, and Forecast (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 476*)

Central Region: A few scattered adults were reported at one place on the southern coast of Yemen.

Western Region: small scale breeding occurred in central Algeria.

Eastern Region: Isolated adults were reported at one place on the southeast coast of Iran.

3.0 Forecast until mid-July, 2018

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults may start to appear in the western lowlands where small-scale breeding is likely to commence with the onset of the summer rains.

3.3 Ethiopia

There is a moderate risk that small-scale breeding could occur in areas that received rains from Cyclone Sagar in the railway areas of Dire Dawa and on the plateau near Jigjiga.

3.4 Somalia

There is a moderate risk that small-scale breeding could occur in areas that received heavy rains associated with Cyclone Sagar.

3.5 Sudan

Low numbers of adults may start to appear in Darfur and Kordofan where small-scale breeding is likely to commence with the onset of the summer rains.

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

Incidences were not reported during May.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During May, Quelea birds control operations continued in Dodoma region where 450 ha of five roosting/colony sites were sprayed by a DLCO-EA aircraft. During the operations, an estimated of 11.5 million quelea birds, which were feeding on Sorghum and Millet were successfully controlled using 500 liters of Bathion 60%.

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 May, incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestations continued spreading in all parts of the country, where damages on Maize crops, which were sown in the Northern Zone during March, were clearly visible.

Village meetings and selection of community focal persons were also done for better management of the FAW problem.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm incidences not reported.

Fall armyworm (FAW): Reports of sporadic outbreaks continued to be received by the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as reported in the press. Moderate FAW infestations were reported in Busoga and Karamoja regions affecting Maize crops which were planted late. It is assessed that the crop losses in the Region are expected to be less than 10% for the season. The infestations in the Western parts were reported insignificant. Overall, the infestations of this first season of 2018 are much less than that of the second season of 2017 and this has been attributed to the heavy rains received so far during this year. The Ministry of Agriculture plans to intensify the FAW campaigns by conducting more demonstrations and dissemination of information in forms of posters and flyers. Overall, it is reported that the FAW is largely under control in the country.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

Fall Armyworm

National media outlets reported that FAW infestations have continued to occur during May in many regions of the country, but in very limited locations.

Farmers have also continued to chop and burn infested Maize crops in order to minimize further infestations.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm

During May, even though monthly report of the situation was not received during compiling of this Sitrep, however, it is highly likely that the infestation continued in several regions of the country.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported

Fall Armyworm

During May, infestations continued occurring in several counties. Consequently training, distribution of pesticides and control operations by the affected farmers were in progress during the month.

Forecast until end of June, 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 southwestern and southern parts of Ethiopia.

Fall Armyworm

As more planting of Maize crops continues during June mainly in Ethiopia and Eritrea, it is highly predicted that the **Fall Armyworm** infestations to

increase and spread to more regions across the countries. In addition, it is likely that new generations and infestations to continue in the rest of the member countries, consequently, they are advised to continue monitoring of moth movements for early detections of the worms, mainly in newly planted Maize fields. It is also highly advisable to continue with field scouts and farmers training and sensitization programs for better understanding of the pest and successful 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 June, 2018

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