

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA) .....



**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**

**OCTOBER, 2018**



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

**In the Central Region:** The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was up to 250 kms further south than over the interior of Sudan during the first dekad of October. Thereafter, it moved north towards its usual position during the second dekad before continuing its seasonal retreat southwards out of the summer breeding area by the end of the month. As a result, no significant rain fell in Sudan and vegetation was drying out in North Kordofan but remained green in the Nile Valley, Wadi Muqaddam and in some places west of the Red Sea Hills. In the winter breeding areas, light to moderate rain fell in Wadi Diib in northeast Sudan and on the Red Sea coast from Suakin, Sudan to Massawa, Eritrea. Rains were heaviest on the northern coast of Eritrea and adjacent plains of Sudan. Good rains also fell on the Red Sea coast of Yemen, along parts of the coast in Saudi Arabia, and on the plateau and coast in northwest Somalia. Cyclone Luban formed in the Indian Ocean and made landfall on the eastern coast of Yemen near Al Ghaydah on 14 October and then moved inland towards the Empty Quarter where it dissipated. As a result, heavy rains and floods occurred mainly in coastal areas, but also extended to the interior of Yemen east of Thamud and adjacent areas of southern Oman. (FAO DL bulletin No. 481)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

The weather started to cool down due to the rains which fell during October. 2 days (18 and 19) of rains also fell in the capital, the surrounding areas and in the central region. Nevertheless, the effects of drought remained visible in all grazing areas of the country.

Temperature oscillated between 25°C during the night and around 31°C during the day.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

Heavy rains which fell on the eastern escarpments during the beginning of the third dekad of October have caused heavy floods, which had also inflicted damages to agricultural infrastructure and crops mainly around Sheib and Foro.

This situation and light to moderate rains which also fell during the month on some of the coastal plains had also created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding. Annual vegetations were green and greening in areas where rains fell.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During October, light to moderate rains fell mainly in the summer breeding areas of Dire Dawa and some traces in Aysha, Shinile and surroundings, in the eastern parts of the Country.

Annual vegetation were partially green while perennial vegetation were green and soil was wet in areas where rains fell. However, ecological conditions generally were not favorable for locust breeding.

#### Rainfall Data for October, 2018

Date	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)	Remarks
18	Trace	
21	11.0	
22	4.0	
23	8.0	
24	1.0	
25	3.0	
<b>Total</b>	27.0	

#### 1.4 Kenya

During October, sunny and warmer weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the Country. However, intermittent moderate to heavy rains also fell in some parts of the Rift Valley, central and western parts of the Country.

Generally, annual vegetations started greening in areas where rains fell while perennial vegetations remained green during the month.

#### 1.5 Somalia

Light to moderate rains may have fallen during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> dekads of the month mainly in the northwestern coastal plains, areas bordering eastern Ethiopia, on the escarpments and the plateau.

#### 1.6 Sudan

During October, moderate to heavy rains fell along the summer and winter Desert Locust breeding areas of the Red Sea State. Light rains also fell in North Kordofan, North and West Darfur States. Vegetation was green along the River Nile Banks and partially green patches existed in the summer Desert Locust breeding belts. However, the breeding habitats were rapidly changed towards drying as a result of the end of the summer rain season.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

During October, most parts of the Country remained dry, however, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month, seasonal rains have commenced in the South-western highlands. The Lake Victoria, Northern and Eastern zones have also received light to heavy rains.

In addition to irrigated crops, pastures and rangelands were also green mainly in areas where rains fell during the month.

#### 1.8 Uganda

During October, many parts of the Country continued to receive heavy showers associated with hailstorms. Consequently, crops and infrastructure damages were reported in many places of the country.

Severe landslides and floods also killed over 50 people, in addition to destruction of many other community livelihood items in Bududa area, on slopes of Mt. Elgon in Eastern parts.

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

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

#### 2.1 Djibouti

Incidences were not reported.

#### 2.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults were present on the Red Sea coast in Eritrea. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 481)

#### 2.3 Ethiopia

No survey was conducted and the locust situation remained calm.

#### 2.4 Somalia

Limited control operations were carried out in northwest Somalia. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 481)

#### 2.5 Sudan

During October, isolated mature solitarious adults were seen in North Kordofan State and few solitary individual hoppers in the summer breeding areas of the Red Sea State during ground survey operations

conducted by PPD staff. Elsewhere, situation remained calm.

### **Desert Locust situation in Central and other Regions** (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 481)

**Central Region:** scattered adults were present and breeding in Sudan and Oman. Scattered adults were also present on the Red Sea coast in Eritrea. Limited control operations were carried out in northwest Somalia.

**Western Region:** small-scale breeding occurred in Mauritania, Niger and Chad. There were unconfirmed reports of locusts and groups in northern Mali. Limited control operations were carried out in central Algeria.

**Eastern Region:** Isolated adults were present in Pakistan.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid - December, 2018**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Small-scale breeding will occur on the central and northern coastal plains in areas of recent rainfall and runoff, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

Low numbers of adults may be present in the railway area of Dire Dawa and perhaps on the plateau near Jigjiga. .

#### **3.4 Somalia**

Low numbers of hoppers and adults and perhaps a few small groups are likely to persist on the northwest coastal plains. Small-scale breeding will continue if additional rains fall.

### **3.5 Sudan**

As vegetation dries out, locusts may concentrate and form a few small groups in Wadi Muqaddam and west of the Red Sea Hills prior to moving to the Red Sea coast and sub-coastal areas where small-scale breeding will commence in areas that receive rainfall.

### **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**

During October, Quelea bird outbreaks were reported in Kirinyaga, Kisumu and Tana River Counties. The birds were reported attacking irrigated Rice in Kirinyaga and Kisumu Counties, and Sorghum in Tana River County.

#### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

Reports of large flocks of Quelea birds were received from Lower Moshi irrigated Rice scheme in Kilimanjaro region. Preparations for control operation by DLCO-EA aircraft in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture were underway.

### **1.3 Ethiopia**

Aerial Quelea birds control operations continued during October in Oromiya Administrative Region in five localities; in Dugda, Liben Zikuwala and Adamitulu Districts, and in Amhara Administrative Region at Efratana Gidim and Kewet Districts (Edonegeso and Wacho localities).

Control operations were conducted between 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of the month, and an estimated of 19.73 million birds which were a threat to cereal crops were controlled in seven roosting sites. 889 liters of Bathion 64% ULV was used on 347 hectares and mortality was estimated 95-99%.

#### 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

Incidences not reported.

##### Fall Armyworm (FAW)

During October, moth catches were reported in Nyamahana, Nzihi and Sadan villages in Iringa region.

#### 4.2.2 Uganda

##### African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

##### Fall armyworm (FAW):

During October, Dokoro District in the north and Mukono in the central parts reported about **20 to 40%** FAW incidences and damages. Press and farmers reported that total damages to Maize fields have occurred in Kasese District, in the western parts of the Country.

Overall, the average National FAW incidence was estimated to be below **20%** but predicted to rise as more Maize crop grows, and the seasonal rains continue to progress.

#### 4.2.3 Eritrea

##### African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

##### Fall Armyworm

Though FAW reports were not received during October however, low density populations were likely to be present in many areas of the Country affecting rain-fed and irrigated Maize crops.

#### 4.2.4 Ethiopia

##### African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

##### Fall Armyworm

Though FAW reports were not received during October however, low density populations were likely to be present in many areas of the Country affecting rain-fed and irrigated Maize crops.

#### 4.2.5 Kenya

##### African Armyworm

Incidences not reported

##### Fall Armyworm

Though FAW reports were not received during October however, low density populations were likely to be present in many areas of the Country affecting rain-fed and irrigated Maize crops.

#### Forecast until end of November, 2018

##### African Armyworm:

Small-scale breeding and infestations are likely to start mainly in the primary breeding locations in Kenya and Tanzania. Therefore, setup of pheromone traps and monitoring of situations is highly advisable.

##### Fall Armyworm

Infestations are likely to continue during November and affect mainly irrigated Maize crops. Consequently, member countries are highly advised

to continue monitoring of moth movements for early detections of the worms.

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

#### **4.3.1 Uganda**

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

Incidences not reported.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

05 November, 2018

For more information about the  
Organization,  
Please visit DLCO-EA's Website:  
[www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)