

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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SITREP No. 08/2018 - 2019

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

FEBRUARY, 2019



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region: rainfall declined during February in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. Light showers fell on the coast of Eritrea and adjacent southern coastal areas of Sudan and on the coast of Saudi Arabia near Qunfidah. Moderate rains fell on the northern coast in Saudi Arabia between Yenbo Umm Lajj. As a result, vegetation began drying out on the Red Sea coastal plains in Eritrea where it was mostly dry by the end of the month. Vegetation was also starting to dry out on the central Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia south of Jeddah and near Tokar Delta and Wadi Oko/Diib, in northeast Sudan. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 485*)

1.1 Djibouti

Scattered and insignificant rains fell during the month and vegetation started greening in some locations. Nevertheless, the effects of drought remained visible in all the pasturelands of the country.

Temperatures oscillated between 25°C during the night and around 32°C during the day.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to moderate rains fell on the eastern escarpments and south of Massawa by the second

and third dekads of February. No rainfall occurred on the northern Red Sea coastal plains even though cloudy weather conditions prevailed during the second dekad of the month. Consequently, soil moisture was mostly dry and the majority of annual vegetation, except of some grasses and crops in Wadis, were drying out. However, soil moisture was mostly wet and groups of annual and perennial vegetations were green in areas south of the Port City of Massawa, creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

During February, dry and hot weather condition during day time, and low temperature at night prevailed all over the country. Light rains and some traces (for two days) fell during the second dekad of February mainly in Ayisha town and in the Somaliland bordering villages and, during the third dekad in Diredawa (6.5mm).

The Somali Administrative Region (Jigjiga and other Desert Locust breeding locations) remained rainless and generally ecological conditions were not favorable for Desert Locust breeding.

1.4 Kenya

During February, hot and windy weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the Country. Generally, annual vegetations were drying out while perennial vegetations remained partially green during the month.

1.5 Somalia

No rainfall occurred during February and most vegetation dried out.

1.6 Sudan

During most days of February, skies remained cloudy and light rains fell in some of the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast. Vegetation was partially green and dense in the southern coast near the Eritrean border and Tokar Delta. Soil moisture was also wet in some locations where rains fell.

1.7 Tanzania

During February, most parts of the country including Lake Victoria Basin received moderate to heavy rainfall. Few areas in the Northeastern highlands and the Northern coast received light showers. Western regions and Southwestern highlands also received heavy rainfalls during the end of the month while Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) received moderate to heavy rains.

Groups of annual vegetations were greening to green in areas where rains fell, and were also at different vegetative growth in most parts of the Country.

1.8 Uganda

During February, the Lake Victoria Basin, the western parts and Mt. Elgon Region continued to receive some scattered showers and thunderstorms while some of the Northern parts remained very dry and hot.

As forecasted by the National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), signs of first rains were recorded towards the end of February and are expected to continue till May 2019.

The vegetation were generally green across most parts of the Country except of some parts on northern which were drying out.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Incidences were not reported.

2.2 Eritrea

During February, widespread and serious Desert locust infestations were reported across the Red Sea coastal plains of the Country between Erafaile (150442N/394359E); South of the Port City of Massawa, and Habil Ketin (175031N/3828E); in the north, bordering northeastern Red Sea coast of Sudan.

Survey and control operations continued during the month and infestations of hopper bands at 2nd to 5th stages, fledglings, immature and mature adult groups and small size immature swarms on 13,676 ha were controlled by ground teams.

The Ministry of Agriculture reported that by the end of February, due to a coordinated and continuous control efforts, and unfavorable ecological conditions for breeding, the infestation levels have sharply decreased.

2.3 Ethiopia

No survey was conducted and the locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

No reports were received.

2.5 Sudan

During February, second-generation breeding continued along the Red Sea coastal plains from Port Sudan (1938N/3713E) to Aiterba (1753N/3819E), the Eritrean border where groups of first generation mature adults and at east two swarms continued to lay, hatching was in progress, hoppers formed groups and small bands, and fledglings formed small immature adult groups. One immature swarm was

reported on the Eritrean border on the 22nd. Control operations treated 38,207 ha of which 23,715 ha were by air. In the northeast, scattered immature and mature solitarious adults and a few immature and mature groups were present in Wadi Oko.Diib. In the Nile Valley, scattered mature adults were seen laying on the 25th at one place north of Dongola (1910N/3027E). (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 485*)

Desert Locust situation in Central and other Regions (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 485*)

Central Region: The Desert Locust situation remained serious during most of February along both sides of the Red Sea as second generation breeding continued in Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Saudi Arabia, causing the formation of additional groups of hopper and adults, bands and swarms. Control operations continued in all countries treating 80,000 ha. By the end of the month, there were indications that the situation was improving as infestations declined in some areas mainly in Eritrea, due to the intensive control operations and drying ecological conditions. This will continue during the forecast period as vegetation dries out further along both sides of the Red Sea coast where a few adult groups and perhaps small swarms are likely to form from residual populations that were not detected or could be treated. These populations are expected to migrate to spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia and, to a lesser extent, the Nile Valley in northern Sudan. One generation of breeding is expected to occur in these areas between March and June, and intensive monitoring and control efforts will be required by the affected countries. Breeding continued in eastern Yemen on the edge of the Empty Quarter in areas that received good rain from cyclones Mekunu and Luban in May and October respectively. From there, adults and at least one swarm moved to cropping areas in Wadi Hadramaut. In Iran, control operations were mounted against adult groups and a few small swarms that were laying eggs along the southern coast.

Western Region: Local breeding commenced south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. There were reports of small-scale breeding in northern Mali.

Eastern Region: control operations were mounted against adult groups and a few small swarms on the southern coast of Iran where laying took place.

3.0 Forecast until mid - April, 2019

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

The situation is expected to improve further on the Red Sea coastal plains as a result of control operations, drying conditions and the possible emigration of any immature groups and perhaps a few small swarms that were not detected or could not be treated. Consequently, residual populations of hoppers and adults may still concentrate and form a few small groups in those areas that remain green early in the forecast period.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of adults may be present on the northwest coastal plains; however, breeding is not expected unless additional rains fall.

3.5 Sudan

Second-generation hatching should end by mid-March on the Red Sea coast. Hoppers and adults that are not detected are expected to form groups, small bands and perhaps a few swarms. This could be supplemented by adult groups and a few small swarms arriving on the southern coast from further south. As vegetation dries out, adult groups may move to the Nile valley and perhaps the Gash valley near Kassala. Any swarms that escape detection and control are likely to emigrate east across the Red Sea. The

situation is expected to improve on the Red Sea coast by the end of the forecast period due to control operations, drying vegetation and emigration.

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 outbreak was reported on Rice irrigation schemes in Kirinyaga County during the beginning of the month. Consequently, a DLCO-EA spray aircraft was deployed and, on 6th February, an estimated of 6 million birds were controlled at Kimbimbi roost site (00^o38'55''S/37^o22'43''E).

4.1.2 Tanzania

During February heavy birds infestations on irrigated Rice scheme was reported in Misenyi District in Kagera Region, and it was reported that the location of infestation is very new in the history of Tanzania.

A DLCO-EA aircraft has been deployed during the fourth week of the month, and 2 roosts with an estimated of 4.2 million birds were controlled and the operation was in progress.

1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea Birds breeding and infestations on irrigated Wheat crops were reported in 3 Districts, 3 villages and 3 roosting sites in the Afar Administrative Region of the Country. Consequently, an aerial control operation by a DLCO-EA aircraft was conducted on 125 hectares of infested areas from 20th to 25th of February. The bird populations were estimated 7.5 million and were successfully controlled using 350 liters of Bathion 64%ULV.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Monthly report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Incidences not reported.

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 February, FAW infestations were reported in all Maize growing areas of the Country mainly in Tanga region, South Western, Western, Central and Lake Zone.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall armyworm (FAW):

There were no significant reports about FAW during the month.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

Fall Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm

Fall Armyworm infestations continued to occur mainly in irrigated areas of 8 Districts and 76 villages in the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Administrative Region of the Country. The pest infested 1,306 ha of Maize and Sorghum fields. Chemical and cultural (hand picking) control was conducted on all infested areas. More pheromone traps were also installed in different Administrative Regions in order to monitor moth movements.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported

Fall Armyworm

Report not received.

Forecast until end of March, 2019

African Armyworm:

It is less likely infestations to appear in the secondary breeding locations.

Fall Armyworm

Infestations are likely to continue during March and affect mainly irrigated and newly planted 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 March, 2019

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

www.dlcoea.org.et