DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA
(DLCO-EA)

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SITREP No. 03/2020-2021

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 2020

***In the Central Region**: At the beginning of September, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) began its seasonal movement southwards over the interior of Sudan but remained up to 150 kms further north than usual during the first deakd. Consequently, low to moderate rains fell in the summer breeding areas from Chad to Eritrea and the western side of the Red Sea Hills, and as far as the Baiyuda Desert Low to moderate rains continued in the interior of Yemen during the first dekad. Good rains fell during the first two dekads in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast of Eritrea, Yemen and in Saudi Arabia as far as Lith. In the Horn of Africa, heavy rains fell in northern Ethiopia while light to moderate rains fell at times in northeastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Heavier rains fell during the third dekad on the plateau near Las Anod in northern Somalia near the Ethiopia border. Consequently, ecological conditions were favorable for breeding in nearly all these areas except for the plateau in northern Somalia where conditions were limited to just a few places in the northeast and northwest. In northwest Kenya, relatively low temperatures and green vegetation prevailed. (FAO DL bulletin No. 504).*

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Djibouti

During September, very light and intermittent rains fell in some location but most parts of the country remained hot and dry. The vegetation also remained dry.

1.2 Eritrea

During September moderate to heavy rains fell in the country including in some parts of the Red Sea coastal plains and the eastern escarpments. Some infrastructure and crops damages were reported in few locations of the country due to heavy rains, strong winds and floods.

Generally, all types of vegetation remained green in the summer and in few locations in the winter Desert Locust breeding areas, creating favorable ecological conditions for breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

During September, sunny and rainy weather conditions prevailed in the country including in the Desert Locust breeding areas. The main rain season continued with light to heavy rains reported and, floods had affected five administrative regions in the country.

Both annual and perennial vegetation remained green and soil was wet in areas where rains fell and created favorable ecological conditions for further breeding of Desert Locust.

RAINFALL record during September

Date	Dire Dawa (0936N/4150E)	Remark
1	70	
7	17	
8	1	
9	Trace	
12	1	
14	5	
15	4	
17	5	
18	1.5	
19	8	
20	4	
21	5	
25	Trace	
26	Trace	
Total	121.5	

1.4 Kenya

During September, some light to moderate rains fell at times in the central. Rift Valley, in the north western and western parts of the country. Temperature have started to warm up and annual vegetation were drying out in the northern, northeastern and eastern parts of the country.

1.5 Somalia

Scattered light to moderate rains fell in the northern parts of the country and in areas bordering eastern Ethiopia and southern Djibouti during September. However, some green vegetation persisted mainly in the northern and northeastern sectors of the country creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.6 Sudan

During the beginning September, seasonal moderate to heavy rains continued to fall in some of the summer breeding areas, causing flooding mainly in Khartoum state. Vegetation also remained green and soil wet creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding in some of the summer breeding areas.

1.7 Tanzania

During September, most parts of the country experienced dry with cloudy weather conditions except for some isolated locations in Lake Victoria Basin, northern coast and northeastern highlands, which received light rainfalls.

While Maize and Beans harvesting continued in northeastern vegetation outlook generally was green in the highlands and in few parts in Lake Victoria Basin but remained dry in most parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

Western, southwestern and parts of the central regions received some scattered light to moderate rains early during September but by the end of the month, most places recorded heavy rainfalls with reports of severe property damages resulted from the storms. Eastern and northern parts of the country continued to record wet conditions with showers and thunderstorms up to the

end of the month. Vegetation were green across most parts of the country.

2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*Schistocerca gregaria*) SITUATION DURING AUGUST AND FORECAST UNTIL MID-NOVEMBER, 2020

2.1 Djibouti

Desert Locusts were seen in the northwest near As-sa-Eyla (1100N/4206E) on 23rd of September. Groups of immature and mature adults and immature swarm were seen along the coastal plains north of Obok (1157N/4317E) on the 30th.

Forecast:

A few groups and small swarms may appear at times from Yemen and transit through the country to Ethiopia and Somalia.

2.2 Eritrea

During September, mature groups and swarms which have migrated from northern Ethiopia and Yemen during the second half of August, continued to be present east, north and Northwest of Asmara (1519N/3856E), Asmat (1615N/3803E), north of Keren and in the northern and southern Red Sea coastal plains. Hatching occurred on the Red Sea coast and hopper bands developed in Foro (1515N/3937E), Naro plains (1626N/3840E), Ghelealo (1507N/4040E), and hopper groups in central Denkalia and around Sheib (1515N/3903E). The swarms also further moved north and northwest of the country where a breeding swarm was seen near Kerkebet (1604N/3725E) and Mahmimet (1723N/3833E).

Ground control teams treated 5,013 ha during the month.

Forecast:

Additional hatching will cause more hopper groups and bands to form on the Red Sea coastal plains and, to a lesser extent, in the western lowlands and the central highlands. Immature groups and swarms are likely to form early in the forecast period onwards that could mature and be ready to lay at the end of the forecast period. This could be supplemented by swarms arriving from northeast Ethiopia.

2.3 Ethiopia

During September, the Desert Locust situation remained a threat in Afar, Somali, Dire Dawa, Amhara, Oromiya and Tigray Administrative regions. Small to large size locally developed immature adult groups and immature swarms which entered from Somalia (end of September) continued to move in many districts and villages of the aforementioned regions. Hatching took place during the first week of September in Chifra (1139N/3958E), Mille (1142N/4057E), Addar, Ewa (1148N/3957E), Gulina and Awura districts in the Afar region and fledging started during the third dekad of the month. Damages of Sorghum crops and pasturelands mainly by the hoppers were reported mainly in the Afar region.

During September, aerial and ground control teams treated 57,538 hectares.

Forecast:

A few widespread egg laying and hatching in northern highlands (Amhara, Tigray) and northern Rift Valley (Afar) is expected to cause a substantial increase in hopper bands that could give rise to new immature swarms from early October onwards. Swarms in the northern Somali region that do not mature are likely to spread supplemented by additional swarms from northwest Somalia and Yemen.

2.4 Somalia

During September, immature adult groups and swarms persisted on the northern plateau between Hargeisa (0931N/4402E) and Gardo (0930N/4905E) where some of them were maturing. At least one swarms was seen laying eggs near Erigavo (1040N/4720E). As the month progressed, there were increasing reports of immature swarms in the northeast between Iskushuban (1017N/5014E) and Erigavo. At the end of the month, swarms were reported in the northwest near Boroma (0956N/4313E) that may have come from southern Yemen and adjacent areas of northeast Ethiopia. In the central region of Galguduud, immature and mature solitarious adults persisted near Dusa Mareb (0532N/4623E). Control operations using bio-pesticides treated 17,477 ha of which 205 ha were by air *(FAO DL bulletin No. 504).*

***Forecast**:*

Any swarm that mature are likely to breed in areas of recent rainfall on the northern plateau in the northwest, northeast, and near the Ethiopian border south of Las Anod, giving rise to hopper groups and bands. Swarms that do not mature are likely to move southwards to central regions and adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia once the prevailing northerly winds become established. This is likely to be supplemented by additional swarms arriving from Yemen and Ethiopia.

2.5 Sudan

During September, it has been reported that the Desert Locust situation was developing rapidly in the summer and winter breeding areas; particularly in the Red Sea and Kassala states, as a result of invading swarms from neighboring countries.

Maturing and breeding groups were reported in the Red Sea and River Nile states. Scattered mature/immature solitarious adults and groups were seen in some locations in the Red Sea (between Haiya (1820N/3621E), to the south Derudeb 1731N/3607E) and Hamish Korib (1703N/3630E), Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E), River Nile (between Berber and Shendi 1641N/3322E), Northern (Dongola 1911N/3027E), Karma (1938N/3028E), Abu Hamed 1940N/3319E), North Kordofan, White Nile (northwest of Ed Deuim) and North Darfur states. Immature/mature groups, hopper bands and hopper groups were also detected south of Haiya in Goz, 1529N/3148E) and Rageb, (1607N/3534E) om Kassala state. Aerial control operations treated 9,900 ha.

Forecast:

Hatching and band formation are likely to occur in the east between Kassala and Haiya until about mid-October with fledging and the formation of immature swarms commencing from early November onwards. In the summer breeding areas, a few small groups may form west of the Nile Valley as vegetation dries out. In the winter breeding areas, breeding is expected to start on the Red Sea coast from October onwards, which may be supplemented by groups and small swarms from adjacent areas of Eritrea.

2.6 Kenya

During September, very few small size immature and maturing swarms persisted and controlled mainly in Samburu and Laikipia counties. Generally, the locust situation was becoming calm in the previously affected Counties. Aerial control operations treated an estimated of 2,100 ha.

Forecast:

Residual swarms in the northwest are expected to slowly mature and breed in any favorable areas from late October onwards. During November, there will be an

increasing threat of low to moderate numbers of swarms arriving in the northeast from Ethiopia and Somalia.

2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

Uganda:

Very scattered and small size Desert Locust swarms continued to enter the northeastern parts of the country from western Kenya from 8th to 10th September. The swarms were mainly more of immature stages but no crop damages were reported as the locusts were roosting in mountainous and forest areas of Kaabang District, Karamoja Region.

Consequently, aerial control operations organized and commenced on 8th and 9th in Kaabang District at Lootim (0339N/3411E), and Lodwar (0336N/3410E), 0336/3410E) by a DLCO-EA aircraft. On 10th, due to in accuracy of coordinate readings, a respray was done in some of the above locations. During the control operations, 1,200 ha were sprayed with 600 litres of Malathion 96% ULV.

Forecast:

There remains a low risk that a swarm or two from adjacent areas of Kenya could stray into Karamoja where it is likely to disperse without breeding.

South Sudan:

During September, no locusts were reported and situation remained calm.

Forecast:

There remains a low risk that a swarm or two from adjacent areas of Kenya could stray into Eastern Equatoria where it is likely to disperse without breeding.

Tanzania:

No locusts were reported.

Forecast:

No significant developments are likely.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 504)*

Central Region:

Widespread hatching, band and swarm formation in northeast Ethiopia (57,457 ha treated) and Yemen (5,828 ha); swarms arrive in southwest Saudi Arabia (13,745 ha) and lay on the Red Sea coast where hopper bands form; swarms, groups and breeding in Eritrea (5,013 ha); swarms arrive and lay in eastern Sudan (9,900 ha) and hopper bands begin to form; immature swarms prevail in northern Somalia (17,477 ha) and, to a lesser extent, in northwest Kenya (2,100 ha); a swarm seen in southern Oman.

Western Region:

Isolated adults and small-scale breeding in Chad.

Eastern Region:

Limited control operations against small second-generation breeding in Pakistan (3,645 ha). No locust in India.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds (Quelea quelea sp.)

4.1.1 Kenya

During September, incidences not reported.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During September, incidences not reported.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

During September, small size bird populations were reported in the east (Babile, Harer) and in Meki, central Rift Valley.

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)

Incidences not reported.

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.

Fall Armyworm

Monthly report not received and the situation is unknown.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Report not received.

Fall Armyworm

Report not received.

Forecast until end of October, 2020

African Armyworm

It is unlikely that infestations to appear in the breeding areas during September.

Fall Armyworm

Fall Armyworm infestations are likely to continue widely during October on irrigated and seasonal Maize and Sorghum growing areas in the region. Consequently, Member Countries are highly advised to continue monitoring of moth movements and early infestations.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.)*

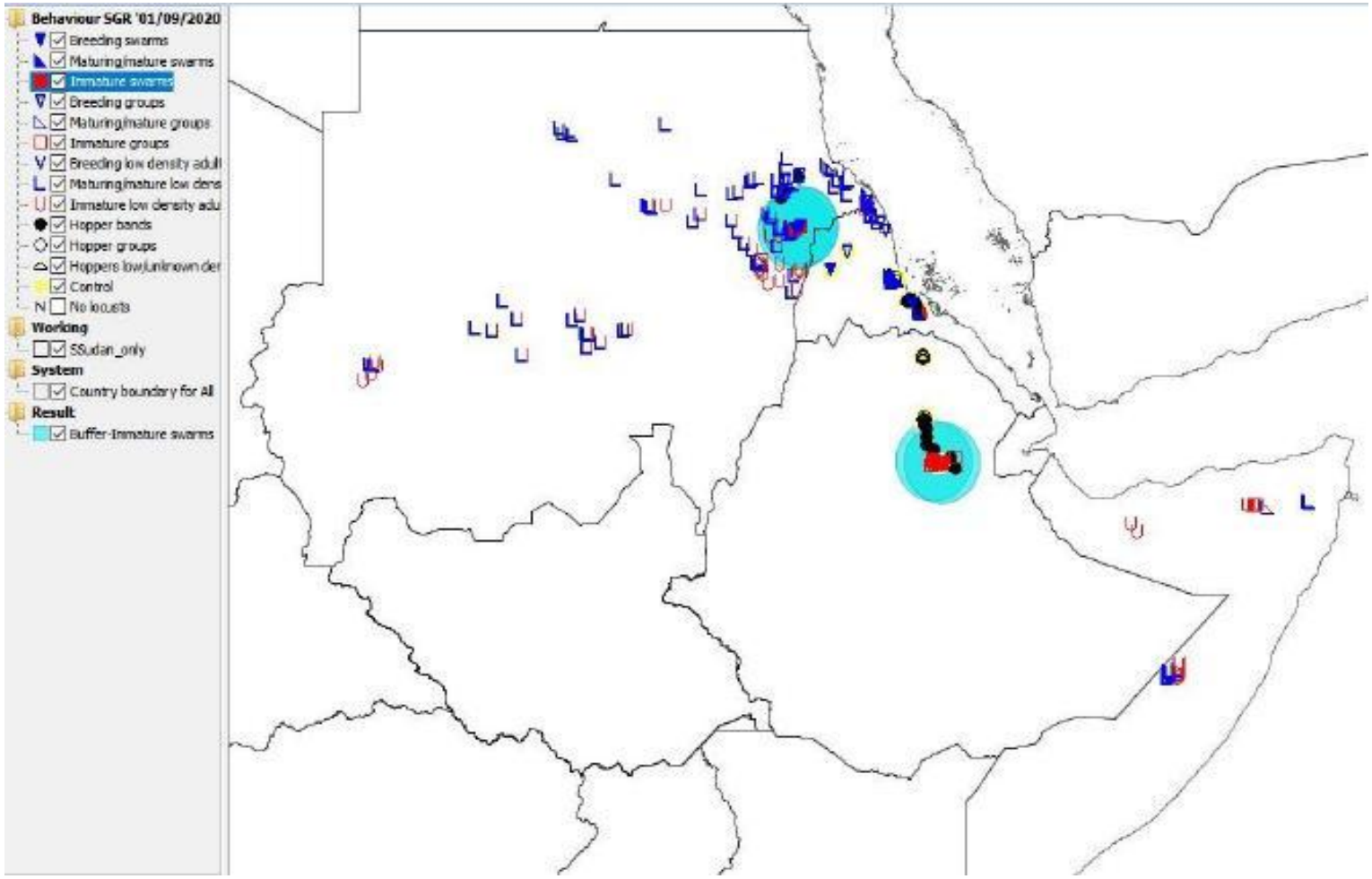
4.3.1 Uganda

4.3.1.1 Tsetse Flies:

Incidences not reported.

For Director
Mehari Tesfayohannes
CIFO
5th October, 2020

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's **Website: www.dlco-ea.org**


Behaviour SGR '01/09/2020
Breeding swarms
Maturing/mature swarms
Immature swarms
Breeding groups
Maturing/mature groups
Immature groups
Breeding low density adult
Maturing/mature low dens
Immature low density adu
Hopper bands
Hopper groups
Hoppers low/unknown der
Control
No locusts
Working
SSudan_only
System
Country boundary for All
Result
Buffer-Immature swarms