

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

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**SITREP No. 07/2020-2021**

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION  
REPORT FOR JANUARY, 2021**

**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS**

***In the Central Region:*** Very little rain fell in Kenya and southern Ethiopia during January except for light showers in northwest Kenya on the first in Turkana county and scattered showers at times during the first week in Masabit county extending to adjacent areas of southwest Ethiopia. During the remainder of the month, light rain fell occasionally near Lake Turkana and in parts of the Rift Valley in southern Ethiopia. Ecological conditions were somewhat favorable for breeding in eastern Kenya (Wajir, Garissa) and parts of the north (Marsabit) while other areas were dry. In Ethiopia, vegetations was drying out in east (Somali), conditions were dry in the northeast (Afar), and some areas were green in the south (SNNP, southern Oromia). In Somalia, vegetation was drying out in central areas but remained green on the northwest coast and in the northeast. In the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea, only light to moderate showers fell on the southern coastal plains in Saudi Arabia between Lith and Jizan during the first two decades. Vegetation remained green along the coastal plains on both sides of the Sudan/Eritrea border and on the Saudi Arabian coast from Jizan to Al Wajh. Conditions were drying out on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains in Yemen and along Wadi Diib in northeast Sudan and adjacent coastal and sub-coastal areas of southeast Egypt. In the spring breeding areas, light rains fell during the first decade in the northern interior of Saudi Arabia near Gassim where low temperatures prevailed. Light showers fell at times on the eastern coast of Oman south of Hayma. Conditions were likely to be dry in the interior of Yemen. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 508*).

**1.1 Djibouti**

During January, no rainfall was occurred and the country remained dry.

**1.2 Eritrea**

Moderate rains fell mainly on the northern Red Sea coastal plains during the second decade of January. It was reported that vegetation was green and soil wet throughout the northern coastal plains though it was dry in the southern Red Sea coastal plains and in the Southern region.

### 1.3 Ethiopia

Most parts of the country remained dry throughout January though moderate rains fell in some areas in the southwestern and western highlands at times. Vegetation in the Somali region, in south and southeastern Oromia and in the southern parts remained green. Soil moisture was dry mainly in the Somali region where locust activities had been reported consequently, this has created unfavourable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

### 1.4 Kenya

During January, light rains fell at times in some parts of the country, mainly in the east, northwest, western and Rift Valley regions. However, annual vegetation continued to dry out in the northern, northeastern and eastern parts of the country where Desert Locust activities had been reported.

### 1.5 Somalia

During January, intermittent light rain fell at times in northwestern parts of the country. Vegetation was drying out in central areas but remained green on the northwest coast and in the northeast.

### 1.6 Sudan

Moderate to heavy rainfall recorded during January in the central coast and Toker Delta. Consequently, the ecological conditions remained favorable for DL breeding and development except at northern coast where the vegetation was drying out. Vegetation status in the summer breeding zones was dry, except along banks of the River Nile, Atbara seasonal River and irrigated Schemes where it remained green.

### 1.7 Tanzania

Moderate to heavy seasonal rains fell during January in most parts of the country where floods have caused some infrastructure damages and deaths. The heavy rains occurred in Morogoro, Katavi, Mbeya, Njombe, Ruvuma, Mtwara and Dar-es-Salaam regions. Light to moderate rains also fell in the other parts of the country.

The vegetation was green across the country as a result of the continuation of the seasonal rainfalls.

### 1.8 Uganda

During January, the eastern, central and southwestern parts of the country continued to receive light to moderate rainfall, and this is forecasted to go up to February, 2021 as per the National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) release remained hot and dry.

Vegetation was drying and dry in most parts in the north, while it was green in the central and southwestern parts of the country. Vegetation in the rest parts of the country was a mixture of green and drying.

## 2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*Schistocerca gregaria*) SITUATION DURING JANUARY AND FORECAST UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY, 2021

### 2.1 Djibouti

During January, immature swarms were reported in the south near Ali Sabieh (1109N/4242E) on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and on the coast near Tadjourah (1147N/4253E) on the 8<sup>th</sup>. During the last week, immature swarms were reported to the south and north of Lake Ghoubbet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> respectively. These swarms are likely to have originated from adjacent areas of Ethiopia and

northwest Somalia. No locusts were seen during surveys in the south along the Ethiopia border from Diksa (1100N/4206E) to Guisti (1101N/4258E) (FAO DL bulletin No. 508).

## Forecast

*There remains a risk of a few swarms appearing from adjacent areas of Ethiopia and northwest Somalia.*

### 2.2 Eritrea

During January, Desert Locusts were reported and ground control operations continued in the Northern and Southern Red Sea, and in the Southern regions of the country.

1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> instars gregarious hopper groups, 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> instars hopper bands mixed with low density hoppers around Qarura, Mehimet (1723N/3833E) and Foro (1515N/3937E); and immature swarms near Demas (1529N/3912E) and Gahtelay (1535N/3918E) in the central Red Sea coast, have been controlled successfully. The swarms have been reported migrated from northern and northeastern parts of Ethiopia during the month.

Immature swarms and adult groups, which have also migrated from northern Ethiopia were reported and controlled in Tsorona (1437N/3911E), Mai-Ayni (1442N/3857E) and Segheneyti ((1456N/3913E) sub-regions in the Southern Region, and low density immature adults near Afambo (1333N/4130E) in central Denkalya in the Southern Red Sea coast.

Maturing, mature swarms and low density adult groups were also controlled around the Port City of Massawa and Foro in the central coastal plains.

Ground control teams treated 2,116 ha during the month and bio-pesticides were sprayed on 30 ha near Mehimet as a trial.

## Forecast

*More Immature adult groups and perhaps a few very small swarms are likely to form near Mehimet and the Sudan border as hoppers fledge from early February onwards.*

### 2.3 Ethiopia

During January, the Desert Locust situation remained very serious in eastern, southern and southeastern parts of the country as immature swarms were reported in the Somali, Oromia and the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Republic (SNNPR) regions of the country.

The swarms were reported in the Districts of Korahe and Shebele zones in the Somali region, Bale, east Bale, Borena and Guji zones in the Oromia region and in southern Omo zone in the SNNPR region.

Immature swarms have also migrated from Somalia through Harshin, Awbere and Warder in the Somali region and from northern Kenya to Borena and Bale zones in Oromia and south Omo zone in SNNPR regions. Immature swarms migrations and movements were also reported in eastern Somali, eastern and western Hararghe in Oromia, Dire Dawa that further moved north to Afar and Amhara regions of the country.

During January, aerial and ground control teams treated 166,158 ha of which 153,517 ha were by air.

## Forecast

*Swarms are expected to concentrate mostly in central and southern Oromia and eastern SNNPR adjacent to the Rift Valley. A few swarms may remain in the Harar highlands. The swarms are likely to slowly mature and could start to lay eggs, mainly in the south, from about mid February onwards that*

*would hatch and cause an increasing number of hopper bands to form during March. Some immature swarms from northern Somalia may appear in Somali and Oromia regions.*

## **2.4 Somalia**

Mature swarms were present mainly in the northwest during the first three weeks of January. Breeding continued in areas that received good rains from Cyclone Gati in November on the northwest coast where swarms laid eggs in the first week and in the northeast where at least one swarm was still laying eggs after mid-month between Iskushuban (1017N/5014E) and Bosaso (1118N/4910E). Consequently, an increasing number of hopper groups and bands formed in these areas. By the end of the month, some bands had reached the fifth instar while hatching was still underway in some places. In central areas, immature groups from earlier breeding were maturing in Mudug and Galguduud regions while late instar hopper bands were present along the Shabelle River in Hiran and Middle Shabelle regions early in the month. More immature swarms formed in central areas and continued to move south of Shabelle River where they were seen in the southern regions of Bakool, Bay, Gedo and Middle Lower Juba flying south to Kenya. Control operations treated 53,665 ha of which 11,746 ha were by air. (FAO DL bulletin No. 508).

### **Forecast**

*Hopper bands will continue to develop and fledge in the northwest and northeast, giving rise to an increasing number of immature swarms from the first week of February onwards. Swarms on the northwest coast are likely to move to the plateau and adjacent areas of Ethiopia while swarms in the northeast will probably slowly shift westwards along the plateau where another generation of breeding could start in about mid-March. A few swarms may move southwards through central regions to the south and Kenya.*

## **2.5 Sudan**

In the Northern State, aerial and ground control operations were conducted against maturing swarm, mature/immature groups, different stages of hopper bands/groups in Wadi Oko/Diib. In the southern coast, hopper bands of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> instars were treated in Gadaif (175019N/382248E), Gadem power and Mrammer in addition, breeding group detected and treated in Gadem power. Scattered solitarious adults were also reported in several locations in the central and southern coast. 6,670 ha was treated (4,100 Aerial, 2,570 Ground) by using 3,440 liters of ULV pesticides.

No locusts were seen in the northern coast.

In the summer breeding areas of the River Nile state, ground control operations were conducted against hopper bands/groups, mature/immature groups and breeding groups mainly in east Atbara River and Gashdai and in the borders between River Nile and Kassala states. 452 ha treated with 262 liters of ULV insecticide

### **Forecast**

*Locust infestations are likely to decline in the northeast as conditions become dry but may persist along parts of the southern coastal plains in areas that remain green. There is a moderate risk that adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms could appear near the Eritrea border and breed, especially if additional rainfall occurs.*

## **2.6 Kenya**

During January, immature swarms continued to arrive from Somalia and southeastern Ethiopia to Wajir, Mandera, and Garissa counties. Some of the swarms further spread to 15 counties in northern, central, southeastern and midwestern parts of the

country. Towards the end of the month, some swarms started maturing and on 31<sup>st</sup> laying was reported in Tana River. Hopper bands were reported along the coast of Lamu (0216S/4054E) and Malindi (0313S/4007E) and fledging had occurred in Taita Taveta county, where a few and small size immature swarms formed. Control operations treated 39,036 ha of which 31,955 ha by air.

### **Forecast**

*More Current swarms will continue to disperse within northern and central counties; however, the arrival of further swarms from the north should cease by mid February. If rains fall, the swarms will quickly mature and lay eggs; otherwise, they will continue to slowly mature, awaiting the arrival of the long rains in March for maturation and egg laying. In either case, hatching will lead to the formation of hopper bands in March and April.*

## **2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania**

### **Uganda:**

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

### **Forecast**

*There remains a low to moderate risk that a few small swarms from adjacent areas of Kenya could reach Karamoja in the east.*

### **South Sudan**

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

### **Forecast**

*There remains a low to moderate risk that a few small swarms from adjacent areas of Kenya and southwest Ethiopia could reach Eastern Equatoria.*

## **Tanzania**

On 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of January, a DLCO-EA aircraft conducted control operations on a small and a medium size swarms mixed of maturing and mature adults. The swarms were migrated from southeastern Kenya during the end of the first decade of the month. The control operations were conducted in Olichoronyori (0347S/3718E) and Landani (0410S/3707E) locations in Simanjiro District, Manyara region. 450 ha treated with 450 litres of Fenitrothion 96% ULV.

### **Forecast**

*There remains a low risk that a few small swarms from adjacent areas of Kenya could appear in border areas of the northeastern regions of Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tanga but this will progressively the seasonal winds reverse and come from south.*

## **3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 508)**

### **Central Region**

More swarms formed in eastern Ethiopia (166,158 ha treated) and central Somalia that migrated to northeastern Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya (39036 ha) and Tanzania (450 ha); mature swarms, hatching and bands in northern Somalia (53,665 ha); swarms moved from Yemen to Saudi Arabia (47,070 ha) with hatching and bands on the Red Sea coast; hopper bands and adult groups on coast of Sudan (7,122 ha), Eritrea (2,116 ha), and Egypt (755 ha); scattered adults on Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts in Yemen.

## **Western Region**

Control operations against adult groups in Mauritania (40 ha treated), and Algeria (2 ha); isolated adults in Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Morocco.

## **Eastern Region**

No locusts reported.

### **4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS**

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

##### **4.1.1 Kenya**

During January, *Quelea* incidences were reported in Athi, Mutha, Ikutha and Mutomo wards in Kitui county. Consequently, an estimated of 53 million birds roosting on 96 ha were successfully controlled by a DLCO-EA aircraft. The birds were mainly feeding on Millet and Sorghum crops.

##### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

During January, aerial *Quelea* control operations by a DLCO-EA aircraft continued in Moshi and Mwanga districts, Kilimanjaro region and Simanjiro district in Manyara region. The birds were roosting mainly on Typha grasses and Sugar Cane, and infesting irrigated Rice farms in several locations of the districts. During the operations, an estimated of 19 million birds were killed.

##### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

Incidences were not reported.

##### **4.1.4 Eritrea**

Monthly report not received.

##### **4.1.5 Sudan**

Monthly report not received.

##### **4.1.6 Uganda**

Incidences were not reported.

#### **4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)**

##### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

###### **African Armyworm**

Incidences were not reported.

###### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Fall Armyworms had likely continued to appear on seasonal Maize crops in many regions of the country.

##### **4.2.2 Uganda**

###### **African Armyworm**

Incidences were not reported.

###### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Incidences were 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 February, 2021**

##### **African Armyworm**

It is less likely that infestation to appear in region.

#### **Fall Armyworm**

Fall Armyworm infestations are likely to continue widely during February in 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 Tsets fly (*Glossina spp.*)**

##### **4.3.1 Uganda**

##### **4.3.1.1 Tsetse Flies**

Incidences were not reported.

For Director

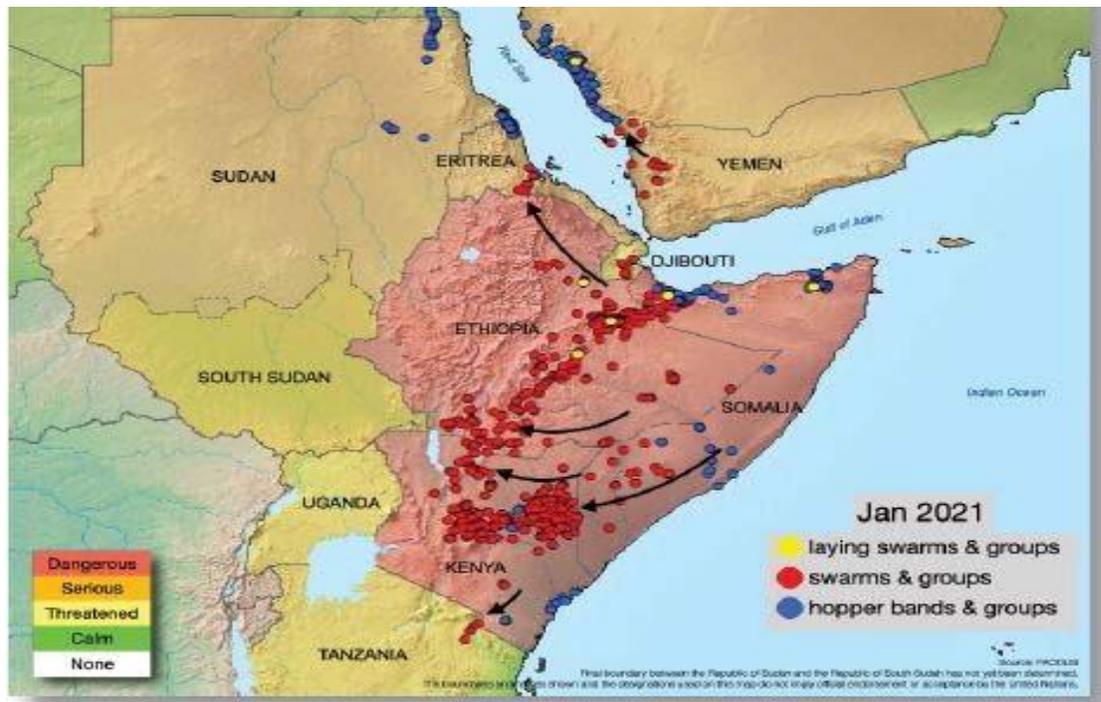
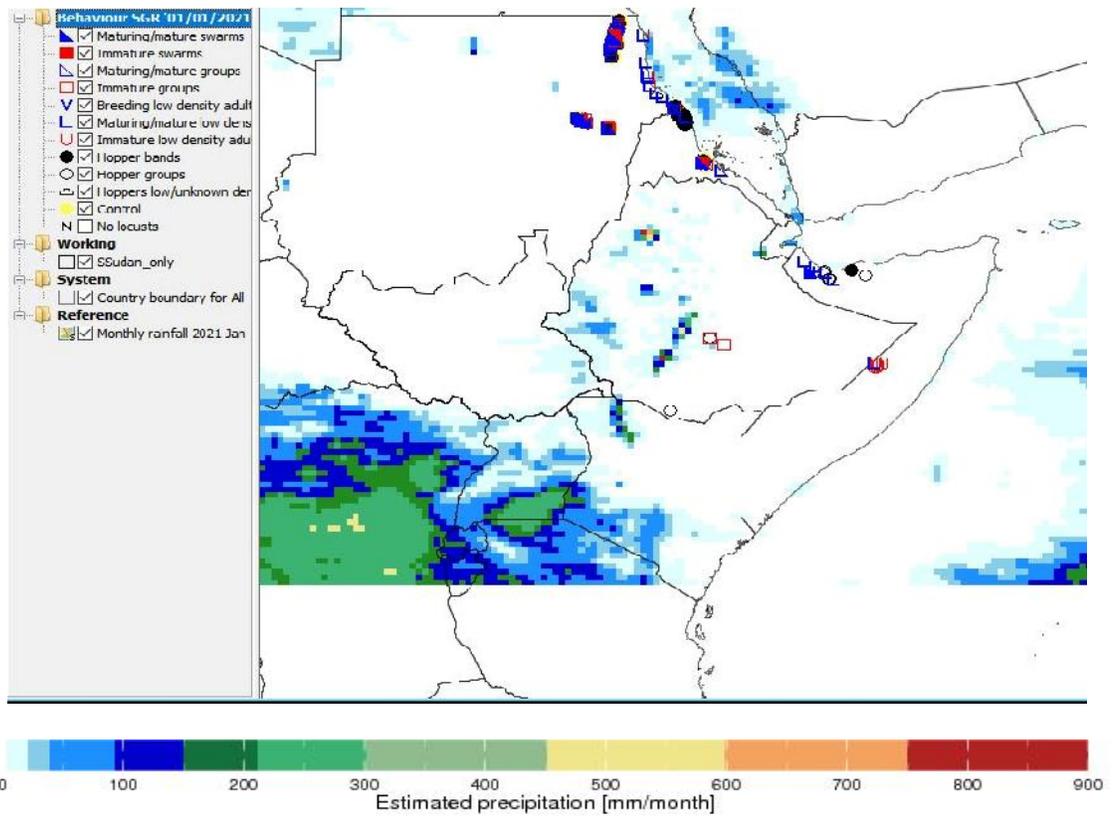
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5<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

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

## Rain fall and Desert Locust Situation January, 2021



(FAO Desert Locust Bulletin No.508)