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**SITREP No. 09/2020-2021**

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

**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS**

***In the Central Region:*** In east Africa, light to moderate rains fell at time during the second half of March in the northern counties of Marsabit and Turkana in Kenya and in southern SNNP and Oromia regions of Ethiopia including the Rift Valley, the Amhar Mountains and Harar Highlands. Annual vegetation became green along the eastern escarpment of these areas, leading to the eastern lowlands. Vegetation was drying out along both sides of the Red Sea. Nevertheless, breeding conditions remained favorable on the central and southern coast of the Red Sea in Sudan as well as near irrigated areas in the Nile Valley. In Eritrea, ecological conditions were favorable for breeding on the central coast early in the month but were drying out in the Northern coast. In Yemen, conditions were drying out along the coastal plains of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Although no significant rain fell in the interior of Saudi Arabia, breeding conditions remained favorable between Riyadh and Hail from previous rains. Daytime temperatures were much higher than normal, accompanied at times by strong southerly winds and blowing dust, especially on 23 - 25 March. (FAO DL bulletin No. 510).

**1.1 Djibouti**

Light rains fell at times in very few locations mainly in the eastern and western parts during the first and second decades of March.

**1.2 Eritrea**

Light rains fell on the Red Sea coastal plains during March. Vegetation was drying out in the northern Red Sea coastal plains while it was dry in the remaining locations of the coastal plains.

### 1.3 Ethiopia

Moderate rain fell in some parts of the country while most of the country experienced dry weather conditions throughout March. Vegetation in parts of Somali region, south and southeastern parts of Oromia and Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples region (SNNPR) was green. Generally, ecological conditions were unfavourable for Desert Locust breeding in the east while annual and perennial vegetations remained green in the south.

### 1.4 Kenya

During March, light rain fell at times in some of the western, northern and northwestern parts of the country. Annual vegetation continued to dry out mainly in eastern, southeastern and eastern parts of the country, creating unfavourable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

### 1.5 Somalia

During March, very light rain fell in the northern sector of the country but light to moderate rains fell in the southern parts of the country, mainly during the second decade of the month. Consequently, vegetation continued to dry out in most of the DL breeding locations creating unfavourable ecological conditions for breeding.

### 1.6 Sudan

During the beginning of March, light rains fell in the winter Desert Locust breeding areas along the central and southern Red Sea coast. Consequently, ecological conditions remained favourable for breeding mainly in wadis and lowland locations. Dry conditions prevailed in the northern coastal and sub-coastal areas.

In the summer Desert Locust breeding areas, the greenness mostly concentrated along the River Nile valley, Atbara seasonal River and

irrigated schemes. Other breeding locations remained dry.

### 1.7 Tanzania

Most parts of the country received moderate to heavy rainfall starting from the second week of March. The northeastern highlands, northern coast, the Isles of Zanzibar, Lake Victoria basin, Morogoro, Singida and Kagera regions reported heavy rains associated with strong winds. Farms were flooded, houses were demolished, roads and bridges were also damaged due to the result of flooding.

The vegetation was greening and green across most parts of the country.

### 1.8 Uganda

During March central, western and southwestern parts of the country have started recording heavy showers. However, the eastern and northern parts of the country remained dry, with a few places received scattered and very light showers.

Vegetation continued to dry out in most parts in the north, while it was greening and green in central and southwestern parts of the country.

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

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locust were reported during March.

#### Forecast

*There remains a low risk of a few swarms appearing in the south at times from adjacent areas of Ethiopia and northwest Somalia.*

## 2.2 Eritrea

During March, Desert Locust survey and control operations continued in the northern and southern Red Sea coastal plains of the country.

Control operations were conducted until mid-month against 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> instars gregarious hopper groups around Mehimet (1723N/3833E) in the Northern Red Sea coast, near Hasmet (1559N/3914E) and Wekiro on the central coast and in the southern Red Sea region near Iddi, central Denkalya sub-region. However, the situation declined later during the month and mature low density adults and scattered hoppers remained in the above indicated locations.

Ground control teams treated 100 ha during the month.

### Forecast

*Fledging is expected to occur during the first half of April along the Red Sea coast where a few small groups of immature adults could form as vegetation dries out.*

## 2.3 Ethiopia

During March, the Desert Locust situation declined in Eastern, southern and southeastern parts of the country. However, immature swarms persisted in eastern Hararghe, Arsi and Bale zones in Oromya region throughout the month. Few small size swarms were also reported in south Omo zone of the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Republic (SNNPR) and Borona zone in the Oromia regions.

Control teams treated 14,083 ha of which 13,294 ha were by air.

### Forecast

*Swarms additional rainfall is needed to allow current swarms to mature and lay eggs in eastern and southern Oromia and southern*

*SNNP. This may occur during the first half of April; otherwise, only a few small immature swarms are likely to persist, and locust infestations should continue to decline.*

## 2.4 Somalia

During March, a few hopper bands persisted on the northwest coastal plains in the first week while greater numbers of bands were seen in the northeast between Erigavo (1040N/4720E) and Iskushuban (1017N/5014E) until mid-month. As the bands fledged, immature swarms formed in both areas. Swarms that formed on the northwest coast moved inland up the escarpment to the plateau towards Boroma (0956N/4313E) where some continued into Ethiopia while the swarms in the northeast generally remain on the escarpment, drifting slightly westwards. There is a risk of a few additional swarms in the inaccessible Cal Miskad mountain northwest of Iskushuban. Apart from a few swarms that were maturing, the majority of the swarms remained immature during the remainder of the month.

Control operations treated 12,396 ha of which 6234 ha were by air in the north. (FAO DL bulletin No. 510).

### Forecast

*Immature swarms likely to persist on the northern plateau where they are likely to disperse between Garowe, Iskushuban, Las Anod, Ergabo, Burao and Boroma. Any rainfall that occurs would allow the swarms to mature and lay eggs that could give rise to hopper bands in April and May.*

## 2.5 Sudan

In the Red Sea state, aerial and ground control operations continued against invading breeding and maturing swarms, mature and immature groups in the central

coastal areas and in areas from south Swakin (1908N/3726E) southwards to Tokar Delta (Airm 1846N/3726E, Ashad 1844N/3726E, Sitrab 1837N/3726E, Gaboul and Totamab 1826N/3726E). First to third instars hopper bands/groups have also been treated in the central and southern coast and in Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E).

Scattered solitarious and gregarious adults were present in several locations in the central and southern Red Sea coastal plains as well as in some locations in Wadi Oko/Diib between Tomala (2002N/3551E) and Sufiya.

In the River Nile state, low density scattered mature/immature solitrous adults were reported in the River Nile Banks, Atbara seasonal River and in a few locations in the irrigated schemes.

In the Northern state, isolated mature adults were reported in two locations at Wadi Ulmoudam.

Control operations treated 7,437 ha of which 7,000 ha by air, using 6,814 litres of insecticide during March.

### **Forecast**

*A few more hopper groups and bands are likely to form in early April from late egg-laying near Tokar Delta. Fledging will commence about mid-April, giving rise to groups of immature adults and perhaps a few small swarms. As vegetation dries out, they are expected to move inland to Atbara River and Nile Valley.*

### **2.6 Kenya**

During March, swarms remained immature due to lack of rainfall and dryness of breeding habitats. Most of the remaining few swarms were moving and concentrating mostly between the counties of Baringo, Nakuru, Samburu and Marsabit, along the central Rift Valley. However, the number of swarms reported in the country during the month was declining from

time to time due to ground and aerial control operations which were conducted. Control operations treated 1,184 ha of which 671 ha were by air.

### **Forecast**

*Additional rainfall is needed to allow any residual swarms to mature and lay eggs in northern areas (Marsabit, Turkana and Samburu). This may occur during the first half of April, giving rise to small hoppers by early May; otherwise, only a few small immature swarms are likely to persist, and locust infestations should continue to decline.*

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

#### **Uganda:**

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

#### **Forecast**

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

#### **Tanzania**

Aerial and ground control operations were conducted on maturing, mature and egg laying swarms, and early stages of hopper bands in Simanjiro, Longido (0244S/3642E), Siha and Engaruka ward in Mondul districts,

Arusha region (0322N/3642E). a DLCO-EA aircraft which was deployed in the affected locations sprayed 1,200 ha from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March, using 1,200 litres of Fenitrothion 96% ULV.

### Forecast

*Undetected breeding may have occurred on a limited scale from west of Arusha to Mt. Kilimanjaro where small hopper bands may form. Fledging is likely to take place during the third week of April that could give rise to groups of immature adults and perhaps a few small swarms, which are likely to move northwards.*

### **3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 510)**

#### **Central Region**

Swarm remain immature and decline due to control in Ethiopia (13,366 ha treated) and Kenya (1,184 ha); more swarms form in NE and NW Somalia (12,396 ha); mature swarms remnants, hatching and small bands form in northeast Tanzania (236 ha). On the Red Sea coast, hatching and hopper groups form in Eritrea (100 ha), and a swarm laying, hatching and band form in Sudan (7,437 ha). Adult groups laying, hatching and bands form in Saudi Arabi (50,120 ha) interior; few mature swarms invade Kuwait; scattered adults in Egypt and Yemen.

#### **Western Region**

Low numbers of solitarious adults in Morocco and Algeria.

#### **Eastern Region**

Few mature swarms invade southern Iran (1,521 ha treated) from Arabia.

### **4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS**

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

##### **4.1.1 Kenya**

During March, *Quelea* incidences were not reported.

##### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

During March, flocks of *Quelea* birds were reported threatening irrigated Rice and Sorghum crops in 4 districts in Lake Victoria, and 2 districts in central zones. Consequently, a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed in the affected areas and, 4.2 million birds were killed in Chamwino district in Dodoma region. Control operation was also continued in other locations by the end of March.

##### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

Incidences were reported and aerial control operations have been conducted in the southern Rift Valley however, the operations details are not received during compiling of this situation report.

##### **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 infestations continued to all Maize growing areas of the country during March.

### **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.

### **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 April, 2021**

### **African Armyworm**

It is less likely that infestation to appear in region.

### **Fall Armyworm**

Fall Armyworm infestations are likely to continue widely during April 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**

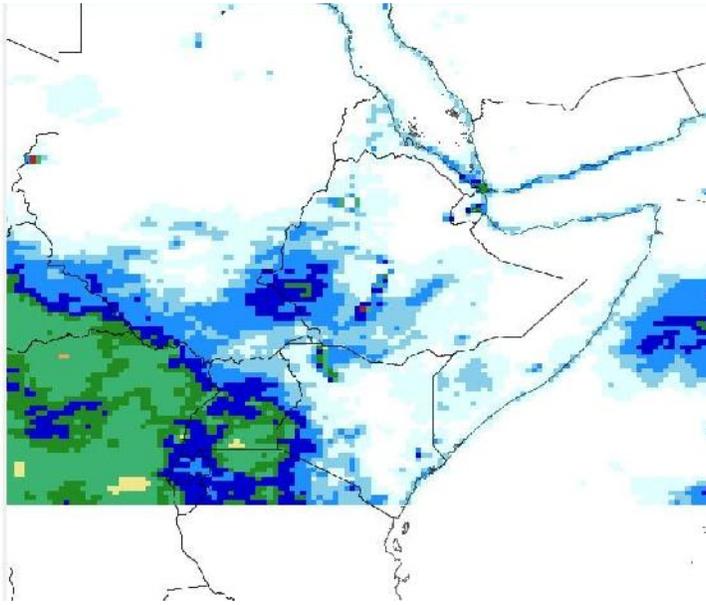
#### **4.3.1.1 Tsetse Flies**

Incidences were not reported.

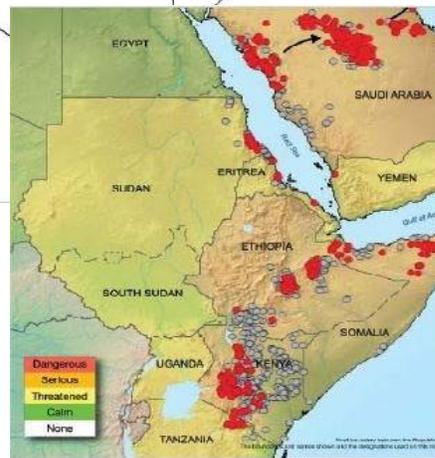
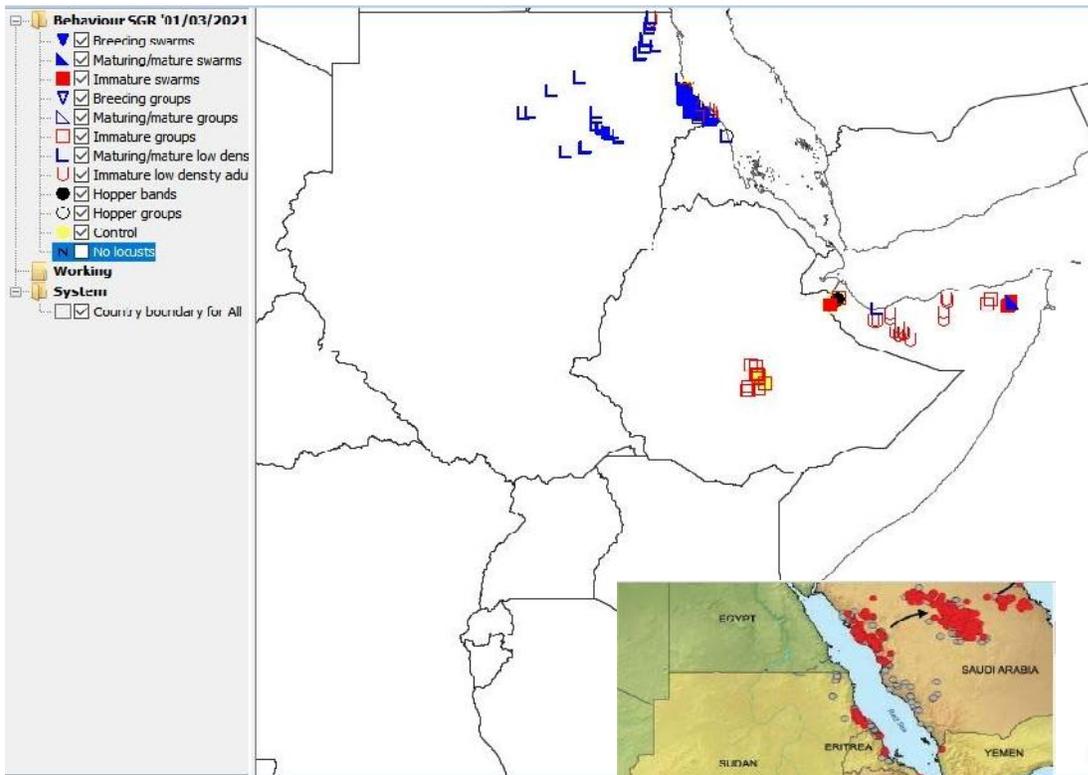
For Director  
**Mehari Tesfayohannes**  
**CIFO, DLCO-EA**  
6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

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

**RAINFALL March, 2021**



**Desert Locust situation Map March, 2021**



**FAO Bulletin No.510**