

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



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SITREP No. 04/2021 - 2022

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



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

In the Central Region: In the Horn of Africa, light rains fell in the Afar and Tigray regions of northeast and northern Ethiopia and in some coastal and plateau areas of northern Somalia during the first decade of October but declined thereafter, and a very little rain fell during the rest of the month. Annual vegetation became green from these and earlier rains mainly on the plateau in northern Somalia between Burau, Erigavo, Gardo, Garowe and Las Anod, and to the south of this area in the eastern portion of Somali region in Ethiopia from north Kebri Dehar to the Somalia border. Soil moisture was sufficient for egg-laying in most of these areas. In central and southern Somalia, vegetation became green mainly between the Shebelle and Juba Rivers. Light rains fell in some of these areas during the second half of the month. No significant rain fell in southern Ethiopia. In Sudan, the Inter-Tropical-Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continued its seasonal retreat southwards and was at 150 kms further south than usual. After mid-month, it was located south of El Obeid and well outside of the summer breeding areas of Sudan and western Eritrea. Consequently, no significant rain fell in both countries, but vegetation remained green in most areas during the first half of the month. Thereafter, it began to dry out. In the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea, dry conditions prevailed along the coastal plains from Djibouti to Egypt; however, light rain fell at times early in the month between Assab and Mersa Fatma in Eritrea and towards the end of the month in the Tokar Delta of Sudan. More rains fell on the coast of Yemen and adjacent areas near Jizan, Saudi Arabia during the first decade of October. This should allow conditions to become favourable. Elsewhere in Yemen, heavy rains caused flooding on the southern coast at Mukalia on the firs and light rains fell at times in the interior during the first decade. Consequently, vegetation remained green, and conditions were favourable for breeding in the interior. In Oman, cyclone Shabeen with maximum winds of 150 km/h made landfall on the northern coast on 3 October, causing heavy rains and flooding with nearly 400 mm of rain falling in some areas. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 517*).

1.1 Djibouti

Light rains fell mainly during the first decade of October in some parts of the country but vegetation continued to dry out.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to moderate rains fell during the first decade along the southern Red Sea coast. Generally, annual vegetation including crops have continued to dry out as the main rain season comes to an end in the high and western lowlands.

1.3 Ethiopia

During October, sunny weather conditions and cold night temperatures prevailed in most parts of the country. Light to heavy rains also fell in some parts including Dire Dawa during the first decade and at the beginning of the second decade of the month. Both annual and perennial vegetation remained green but soil was dry, except in areas where rains fell. Generally, ecological conditions were favourable for breeding during the month.

RAINFALL. Data (mm)

Date	Dire Dawa (0936N/4150E)	Remark
02/10	12.0	
03	1.5	
07	Trace	
08	4.0	
09	50.0	
10	10.5	
12	64.0	
31	Trace	
Total	142.0	

1.4 Kenya

During October, cloudy weather condition was observed mainly in the central and western parts of the country with some light and moderate rains that fell in few places. Some greening was observed in areas where rains fell but was mostly dry in the eastern, northern and northeastern sectors of the country.

1.5 Somalia

During the first decade of October, some northern coastal, the plateau and the northwestern areas received light rains. Consequently, some annual vegetation continued greening on the plateau and in the northern coastal plains.

1.6 Sudan

During October, only light rains fell towards the end of the month mainly in the southern coastal plains around Tokar Delta. Consequently, vegetation continued to dry out in most of the summer breeding areas creating unfavourable conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

1.7 Tanzania

During October, light to moderate rains fell mainly in the northern, western, southern and northwestern parts of the country. Other parts remained partially dry.

Vegetation generally was mix of greening, green and dry across the country.

1.8 Uganda

During October, most parts of the Central region, Lake Victoria basin and parts of eastern region received light to heavy rains. Western and Southwestern parts of the country received scattered showers in some places. Rainfall started declining in several parts of north-eastern and northern regions with a few lights to heavy showers in few places.

Vegetation remained green in most parts of the country.

2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*SCHISTOCERCA GREGARIA*) SITUATION DURING OCTOBER AND FORECAST UNTIL MID-JANUARY, 2022

2.1 Djibouti

During October, a few scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were present in the south to the southwest of Ali Sabieh (1109N/4242E) near the Ethiopian border. A group of immature adults was seen near

Ali Sabieh on the 19th. No locusts were seen elsewhere in the east and on the Obock (1158N/4317E) coast in the north. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 517).

Forecast:

There may be limited cross border movements by a few small swarms from adjacent areas of Ethiopia and northwest Somalia in early November. While most of the swarms should transit through the country, a few could remain in any sandy areas that receive rainfall and breed.

2.2 Eritrea

Small size mature Desert Locust swarm, covering 90 ha was reported at Buya; south of Massawa, Northern Red Sea region of the country during the last days of the month. It is reported that the swarm has likely crossed from northeastern Ethiopia where swarms were reported earlier.

Forecast:

There is a moderate to high risk that small immature swarms will appear in the high lands from norther Ethiopia during November and move to the Red Sea coast for maturation and egg laying.

2.3 Ethiopia

During October, movement of immature swarms and maturation of adults were taking place in Afar (1125N/4041E, 1121N/4051E and 1122N/4051E) and Somali administrative regions (0900N/4358E, 0658N/4412E and 0703N/4410E). By the end of the month, mature swarm was reported entering Warder district from Puntland, Somalia.

Aerial control operation treated 138 ha.

Forecast:

Low numbers of immature and mature swarms from Afar and northeast Somalia are likely to appear in the Somali region, mainly southeast of Jigjiga and north of the Shebelle River, where they will mature and lay eggs in areas of recent rainfall. A few swarms may continue south of the Shebelle River to southern areas near the Kenya border. Subsequent hatching and band formation are expected from about mid November onwards. Elsewhere, a limited number of swarms are likely to transit through the northern highlands of Amhara and Tigray to Eritrea.

2.4 Somalia

During October, a limited number of spring-bred immature swarms persisted on the plateau in north-east (Puntland) east of Gardo (0930N/4905E) during the first week. Mature swarms were present throughout the month in the Gardo area, and some were copulating to the northwest of Gardo on the 18th – 24th. Hatching was detected on the 28th with first instar hoppers were forming small but dense bands. A few maturing swarms were seen on the 18th further south in Nugaal region to the southeast of Garowe (0824N/4829E). In the northwest (Somaliland), no locusts were seen during extensive survey except for a mature swarm on the Ethiopian border east of Ayisha on the 20th and northwest Burao (0931N/4533E) on the 27th. No locusts were seen elsewhere on the plateau and coast.

Control operations treated 7,486 ha of which 3,447 ha were by air. At the end of the month, there were unconfirmed reports of mature locusts in the central regions of Bakool and Hiran near Belet Weyne (0444N/4512E) that may coincide with reports of mature swarms in adjacent areas of Ethiopia. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 517).

Forecast:

Small mature swarms are likely to appear in parts of the northern plateau and further south towards Galgadud, Hiran and Bakool. Breeding is expected to increase in areas of recent rainfall where hatching and an increasing number of small hopper bands will form during November. Fledging could commence in the first week of December, giving rise to new immature swarms from the second week onwards. Breeding will also occur on the northwest coast in areas of recent rainfall that could lead to hatching and band formation from late November onwards.

2.5 Sudan

During the first three weeks of October, scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were present in North Kordofan between Hamrat Esh Sheikh (1438N/2756E), Abu Uruq (1554N/3027E), and Umm Saiyala (1426N/3112E), in the Baiyuda Desert, and along the Nile Valley from Shendi (1641N/3322E) to Dongola (1910N/3027E). Solitarious hoppers and few groups of hoppers and solitarious adults persisted in the Baiyuda Desert and small-scale breeding continued in a few places by groups of adults during the first half of the month. An increasing number of mature solitarious adults was seen in the east from the Nile Valley to the Red Sea Hills between Kassala (1527N/3623E) and Sinkat (1855N/3648E), and limited laying occurred in the first week.

Ground control teams treated 346 ha. (FAO Bulletin 517).

Forecast:

A few more small groups of hoppers and adults are likely to form in Baiyuda Desert, but these will decline as vegetation dries out and adults move eastwards.

Consequently, an increasing number of adults will appear along the western side of the Red Sea Hills, in Wadi Oko/Diib in the northeast, and on the coastal plains between Port Sudan and Tokar Delta. Small scale breeding will occur on the coast in areas that receive rainfall. Limited breeding could also occur west of the Red Sea Hills. There remains a low risk that a few small immature swarms from northern Ethiopia may arrive on the Southern coastal plains.

2.6 Kenya

During October, no locusts were reported in the country. However, a mature swarm covering about 2000 ha has been reported in Rhamu, Mandera county on 1st of November. The swarm has likely migrated from northeast Somalia through southeast Ethiopia. Due to the prevailing strong wind, the swarm continued moving to west, likely to Marsabit county or southern Ethiopia.

Forecast:

November, there is a low to moderate risk that a few small mature swarms from south east Ethiopia could appear at time of strong northerly winds in the far north along the Ethiopian border between Mandera and Lake Turkana, and eventually breed. Otherwise, immature swarms that form from upcoming breeding in eastern Somalia and northern Somalia are not expected to appear in Mandera, Wajir and Marsabit until end of December.

2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During September, no locusts were reported in the countries.

Forecast:

During October, no locusts were reported in the countries.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS (EXTRACTED FROM FAO DL BULLETIN NO. 517)

Central Region:

Swarms mature in northern Somalia and laying, hatching and early instar bands form in the northeast; control operations continue (7,486 ha treated); unconfirmed locusts in central Somalia. Immature swarms in northeast (Afar) and northern (Tigray, unconfirmed), Ethiopia (138 ha treated) and one moved south towards Kenya. A few small adult groups in Djibouti. Few hopper bands and swarms form in Yemen interior but operations limited by insecurity. Scattered adults in Sudan interior (346 ha) with a few groups of hoppers and adults. Isolated adults in Egypt.

Western Region:

Scattered hoppers and adults from local breeding in Niger; scattered adults in Chad and Morocco.

Eastern Region:

No locusts present.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Kenya

Incidences were not reported.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Report not received

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea birds' infestations were reported in 2 zones and 4 districts in the Oromia administrative region, where an estimated of 40.5 million birds were affecting Teff and Wheat crops. Consequently, a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed and conducted control operations between 21st - 29th October on 325 ha using 700 liters of Bathion 64% ULV. As the birds' population was very dense a respray was done in some locations.

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 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

Report were not received.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Report not received.

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 (FAW)

Monthly report not received.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences were not reported.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Report not received.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Report not received.

Forecast until end of November, 2021

African Armyworm

Some minor outbreaks could occur in the primary breeding locations in Tanzania.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Minor infestation will likely to continue mainly on irrigated Maize crops as the main cropping season is over in many of the Member Countries.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

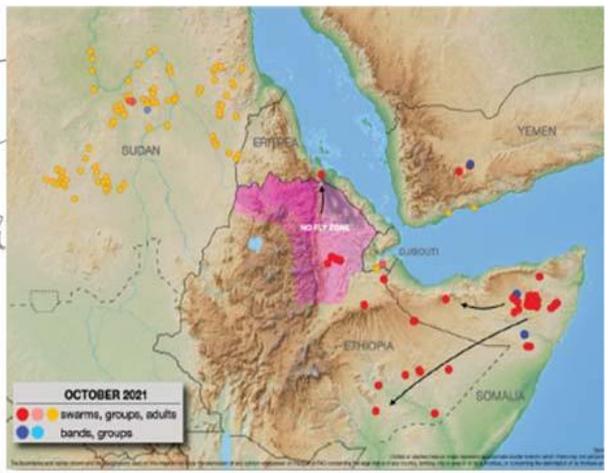
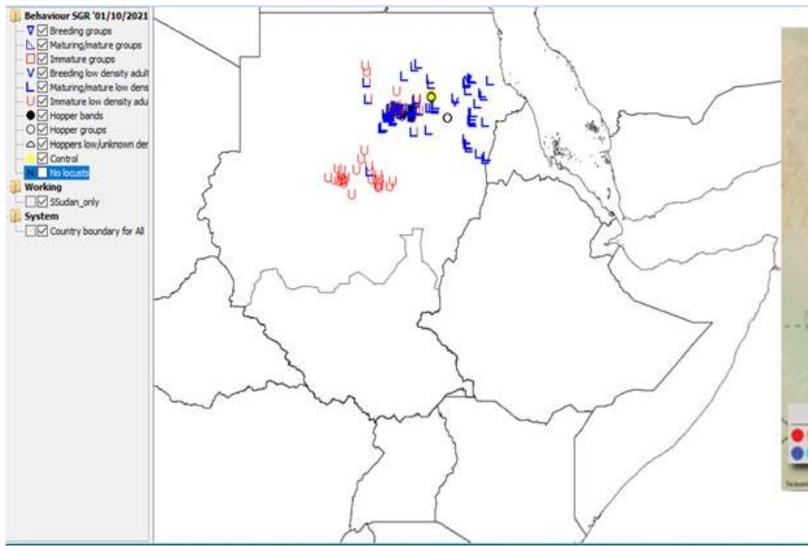
4.3.1.1 Tsetse Flies

Incidences were not reported.

**For Director
Mehari Tesfayohannes
CIFO, DLCO-EA
4th November, 2021**

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

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION



(FAO Bulletin 517)

RAINFALL October, 2021

