

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



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SITREP No. 05/2022 - 2023

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR
NOVEMBER, 2022

**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL
CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS**



- *In the Central Region*, the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continued its' seasonal movement southwards over the region as the main rain season ended in the Horn of Africa region. However, during November, light and scattered rains fell at times in some of the winter breeding areas across the Red Sea coast of Sudan and Eritrea. Same conditions also existed in the summer breeding areas in eastern Ethiopia. Generally, ecological conditions have slightly improved in some of the main winter Desert Locust breeding areas in Sudan and Eritrea, which could favour for the few scattered locusts to group and breed.
During December drier than normal conditions expected over Kenya, southern Uganda, and Tanzania. Near average to wetter than usual conditions expected over isolated areas in north-eastern Somalia, south-western Uganda, and western Tanzania. Somalia, Ethiopia, northern Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea are generally dry in December.

1.1 Djibouti

Very light rains may have fallen during the first decade of November around Djibouti City and areas bordering the northwest parts of Somalia. Generally, dry conditions prevailed all over the country during most days of November.

1.2 Eritrea

During the second half of November, moderate rains fell in some locations mainly in the north-central Red Sea coastal plain. Vegetation was greening and green with wet

soil in most of the Red Sea coastal plain, creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

During November, sunny and chilly (morning and night) weather conditions prevailed throughout the country. Light rains also fell in some parts of the country including Dire Dawa (27 mm) by the end of the first and the beginning of the second decades of the month.

Annual vegetation were drying-out while perennial remained green. Generally, soil was dry and the overall ecological conditions

were un-favorable for Desert Locust breeding except in some pocket places where rains fell

1.4 Kenya

From the second decade of November, enhanced rainfall was observed in the country and moderate to heavy rains fell mainly in the southern Rift Valley, the central, southeastern, southwestern and southern parts of the country while light to moderate rains occurred in the northern, northeastern, northwestern parts. Annual and perennial vegetation were green and greening in areas where rains fell but partially remained dry in the northern, northeastern and northwestern parts of the country.

1.5 Somalia

Intermittent and light rains may have been fallen at times on the escarpments and northwestern parts of the country during the end of the first and beginning of the second decade of November. However, vegetation remained dry all over the country except for few pocket areas in the riverine, which were partially green.

1.6 Sudan

During November, light to moderate rains fell in the winter breeding areas across the Red Sea coastal plains. Consequently, vegetation has started greening, creating favorable ecological condition particularly in Toker Delta and the southern coast for Desert Locust breeding. However, the vegetation and soil were dry in the summer breeding places mainly in the River Nile state.

1.7 Tanzania

During November, light rains fell in some parts of the country including Lake Victoria basin, in some highland locations in North Eastern, Northern parts of Indian Ocean and in Eastern. The rest of the country

experienced long periods of sunny and dry weather conditions.

Vegetation remained very dry in most parts of the country except in Lake Victoria Basin and in some parts in the highlands.

1.8 Uganda

During November, significant rainfall was recorded across most parts of the Country as per reports from the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA). Areas in South Western (Kigezi and Ankole sub-regions), Mount Rwenzori areas, Lake Kyoga basin, West Nile and Acholi sub-region and Central parts received increased rains in form of heavy showers and thunder storms resulting in floods and landslides in several places. However, reductions in the rains were reported from North Eastern covering the Karamoja Sub-Region and the districts bordering it.

Vegetation was green in most parts of the Country

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) situation during November and forecast until mid-January 2023

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported during November.

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.2 Eritrea

During mid-November, ground survey was conducted between Sheib and Massawa in the north-central Red Sea coast by PPD staff. Isolated immature solitarious adults were present in a few areas from Abudebas (161539N/391051) to Ede-Eqed area (155149N/395031E).

No locusts were reported in the other locations in the coast.

Forecast: *Low numbers and scattered isolated solitary adults could group, mature and breed mainly in the above indicated places. Consequently, continuous monitoring is necessary however, no significant developments are likely.*

2.3 Ethiopia

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

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were seen during ground surveys which were conducted by PPD staff in the north and northwest.

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.5 Sudan

During November, ground surveys were conducted by PPD staff in the winter breeding areas of the Red Sea, River Nile and Khartoum states.

During the surveys, low density mature/immature solitary adults were seen in Sarobyia (1806 N/3609E), south Haiya, Khor Barka (1809N/3734E) and Garora (1745 N/3820E) near the Eritrean border, in the Red Sea state.

In the River Nile state, mature solitary adults were seen in Atbara River, in some irrigated schemes and in some wadis in the Baiyuda Desert.

No locusts were reported in Khartoum state.

Forecast: *Grouping, breeding and egg-laying could occur from the few isolated and*

matured solitary adults in the winter breeding areas. Consequently, low density and few hopper solitary groups could appear mainly in the southern coast and Tokar Delta in the Red Sea state, and in some locations in River Nile State.

2.6 Kenya

Remained calm.

Forecast: *No development is expected.*

2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

The countries remained calm.

Forecast: *No developments are expected.*

7. Desert Locust situation in the central and other regions

Central Region: Few scattered maturing and mature solitary adults were seen in Eritrea, Sudan and Yemen.

Western Region: situation unknown.

Eastern Region: Remained calm.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Kenya

During the beginning of November, there were reports of *Quelea quelea* bird infestation from Kirinyaga County affecting Rice in Mwea irrigation scheme.

By the end of the month, there were also reports of infestation in Migori and Narok Counties affecting irrigated Rice in Lower Kuja Irrigation Schemes and Wheat in Mau Narok respectively.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During November, flocks of Quelea birds were reported in irrigated Rice scheme in Kibaha District of Coast region, Simanjiro District in Manyara region. Plans were under way for aerial control operation by DLCO-EA.

1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea quelea birds outbreaks and aerial control operations by a DLCO-EA aircraft continued in the northern Rift Valley of the Amhara Administrative region during November. Control operations were conducted throughout the month where an estimated of 50.9 million birds, which were roosting on 35 sites covering 475 ha were killed using 950 liters of Bathion 64% ULV. The control outcome was estimated at 94 to 99% and the control operation was finalized successfully on 30th November.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Quelea situation was unknown. However, it was almost the end of the breeding season.

4.1.5 Sudan

Quelea situation unknown. However, it was almost the end of the breeding season.

4.1.6 Uganda

During November, there were more reports about Quelea birds crops attack from several locations of the country.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

By the end of November, 3rd and 4th larval stages of the worms were reported in Lushoto

and Handeni Districts in Tanga Region bordering southeastern parts of Kenya.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences were reported in all parts of the country mainly in off season Maize growing areas.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences were not reported.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Out of season.

Fall Armyworm

Situation unknown.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Out of season.

Fall Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

During the 3rd decade of November, AAW outbreaks were reported in 7 counties of Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Kitui, Taita Taveta Kilifi, Kwale and Makueni Counties.

The predominant stages of larvae reported were 3rd to 5th instar with a density of 50-100/m² on crops and 250-300/m² on pastures. Approximate area reported under infestation was 8,320 ha (1200 in Tharaka Nithi, 1120 in Meru and 6,000 in Kitui).

The directorate (PP&FSD) has put in place program to assist the affected counties in containing the pest through provision of pesticides, spray equipment, personal protective equipment and technical support in terms of ground spraying using VMS to the affected counties.

Fall Armyworm

There were few reports of infestation in some counties mainly in short rain maize growing zones of central and upper eastern regions. Sensitization is being carried out by the county teams on the options available for the management of the pest and management activities being carried out by the farmers with backstopping being done by the county teams.

Forecast until end of December, 2022

African Armyworm:

As the threat of infestation increases, pupating is expected to occur by the first week of December and, moths to appear by end of the second decade of December mainly in the primary breeding locations in Kenya and Tanzania. Some minor local outbreaks probably will appear in the southern parts of Uganda. It is also highly likely that migration of moths to occur and more areas will be under infestation in Kenya and Tanzania.

Consequently, installation of monitoring traps is very crucial in all susceptible locations in order to detect moth migrations in time.

DLCO-EA will provide technical support to the PPD through joint surveillance, assessments and distribution of IEC materials on AAW to the affected member states.

Fall Armyworm

As this pest became a sedentary pest in the region, it is likely that infestations to continue in irrigated Maize crops across the region.

4.3 Tse-tse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

During November, reports continue to come in about the increasing populations of Tsetse flies and the associated diseases of Nagana and sleeping sickness in several places of the Country. The Entomology Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is proposing coordinated projects with the DLCO-EA and other stakeholders in the management of the problem.

For Director

05 December, 2022

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

