

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



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SITREP No. 06/2022 - 2023

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

**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL
CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS**



- ***In the Central Region***, as the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continued its' seasonal movement further south over the region during December, drier conditions existed in the summer Desert Locust breeding areas across the central region. However, moderate to heavy rains fell at times in the winter breeding areas across the Red Sea coast of Sudan. Very light rains occurred in eastern Ethiopia and, light to moderate rains fell in northern and northeastern Somalia, Yemen and western Saudi Arabia mainly during the third decade of December. Generally, weather and ecological conditions remained less favorable for Desert Locust breeding in the region. During the first decade of January dry conditions expected over most parts of Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, northern Uganda, northern and eastern Kenya, and parts of central Somalia.

1.1 Djibouti

Very light rains may have fallen during the third decade of December in areas bordering the northwest parts of Somalia. Generally, dry conditions prevailed all over the country during most days of December.

1.2 Eritrea

No rainfall was reported mainly on the Red Sea coastal plains during December, Consequently, vegetation continued to dry out creating unfavorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the first decade of December, light rains fell in the Somale region (Elkere and Bookh districts) of the country. In addition, sunny but chilly weather conditions observed throughout the country during the month.

Annual vegetation dried out and perennial were partially green in the main DL breeding areas in the eastern parts of the country. Generally, soil was dry and the overall ecological conditions were un-favorable for Desert Locust breeding.

1.4 Kenya

In December, enhanced precipitation was observed in most parts of the country. As a result, annual vegetation continued greening in most parts of the country and perennials remained green.

1.5 Somalia

Light to moderate rains fell mainly in northern and eastern coastal areas of Puntland during the third decade of December. Some light rains also fell in the northern coastal and northwestern parts of Somaliland during the same period. However, except for few greening of vegetation observed in areas where rains fell, vegetation in the northern parts of the country generally remained dry.

1.6 Sudan

During December, moderate to heavy rains fell on the Red Sea coastal plains consequently, annual and perennial vegetation started greening abundantly, and soil was wet in most of the winter breeding areas. All these have created favorable ecological condition for Desert Locust breeding mainly in the winter breeding zone across the Red Sea coast.

1.7 Tanzania

During December, moderate to heavy but late rainfalls occurred over most parts of the country. All 7 Agricultural zones including Lake Victoria, South western highlands, Western, South, Central, Eastern and North eastern highlands received different ranges of rainfalls. Vegetation continued greening in most parts of the country as the rains progressed.

1.8 Uganda

During December, significant rainfall continued to be recorded across most parts of the Country as had been forecasted by the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) in November. Vegetation remained green in most parts of the Country.

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

2.1 Djibouti

Desert Locust situation remained calm.

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.2 Eritrea

No survey was conducted and no locusts were reported during December.

Forecast: *Low numbers and scattered isolated solitary adults are likely to appear in areas bordering the southern Red Sea coast of Sudan. Consequently, continuous monitoring is necessary even though no significant developments are expected.*

2.3 Ethiopia

During December, 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 Somaliland region during mid of December.

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.5 Sudan

During December, ground surveys were conducted by PPD staff mainly in the winter breeding areas from the southern Egyptian Red Sea coast down to the Eritrean border.

During the surveys, low density hoppers and mature solitary adults were seen in Shanaap (2114N/3655E) in the northern coast and sub-coastal areas bordering southern Egypt.

Low density first, third and fifth stages of solitary hoppers and mature solitairious adults were detected in Teblinay (1818N/3741E) in the central coast and Tokar Delta. While low density mature copulating and egg laying adults were seen in Teblinay (1818/N3741E) and Tokamy (1949N/3710N). In addition, mature solitarious adult were seen in numerous locations during the surveys.

In the southern coast, low density solitarious hoppers and mature solitarious adults were reported in Shapry (1745N/3820E), south Tokar near to the Eritrean border,

Forecast: *Grouping, breeding and egg-laying is expected to continue in most of the winter breeding locations across the Red Sea coastal plains as the rain season continues. Consequently, there will be a slight increase in maturity of adults, grouping and egg-laying, development of hopper groups and fledging.*

2.6 Kenya

Desert Locust situation remained calm.

Forecast: *No development is expected.*

2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

The countries remained calm from DL infestation.

Forecast: *No developments are expected.*

7. Desert Locust situation in the central and other regions

Central Region: Few scattered maturing and mature solitary adults and hoppers were reported in several locations across the Red Sea coastal plain and Tokar Delta in Sudan.

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 December, Quelea quelea birds incidences were reported in West Kano, Ahero, Gem Rae, Awach Kano and Nyatini in Kisumu County

4.1.2 Tanzania

During early December, flocks of Quelea birds were reported in Ruvu irrigated rice scheme in Kibaha District of Coast Region, Simanjiro District in Manyara Region, in Lower Moshi irrigated rice scheme in Moshi, Kivulini in Mwangi District; both in Kilimanjaro region and Arumeru District, Arusha Region.

The Ministry of Agriculture initiated some ground control operations using back-pack motorized sprayers in 7 easily accessible sites during early December and, it was reported that an estimated of 8.4 million birds were killed during the operations.

Aerial Control operations by a DLCO-EA aircraft started by mid- December and continued in 8 locations (6 in Moshi and 2 in Mwangi Districts), Kilimanjaro region killing an estimated of 11.5 million birds. Aerial control operations were continuing by the end of December in Simanjiro District in Manyara Region.

1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea birds outbreak report was received by the end of December from Oromia Administrative Region where irrigated Wheat crops were under threat. Survey report from PPD-MoA showed that an estimated bird population of 5.6 million confirmed at three roosting sites. Consequently, request of spray aircraft deployment was submitted to DLCO-EA.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Quelea situation was unknown. However, it was out-off the breeding season.

4.1.5 Sudan

Quelea situation unknown. However, it was out-off the breeding season.

4.1.6 Uganda

During December, Quelea birds incidences were not reported.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

During December, heavy Armyworms attack were reported on early crops and pasturelands in Central, Eastern, North Eastern highlands and Lake Victoria zones.

Chemical control operations by farmers through the PPD support were conducted in Central, Lake Victoria and North eastern highlands zones.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences were reported in all of the off seasonal Maize production areas, mostly from irrigated schemes.

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 December, it was reported that approximately 25,300 ha of crops and pasturelands in 17 counties (Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Kitui, Kwale, Kilifi, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Garissa, Makueni, Machakos, Kajiado, Narok, Kiambu, Murang'a, Kirinyaga and Nyeri) has been affected by African Armyworm infestations. Moth migrations from one location to others were also reported during the month.

Control has been successful in 9 of the affected counties and, by the end of the month, only 8 counties were remained under infestation.

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.

Forecast until end of January, 2023

African Armyworm:

As the threat of infestation increases, pupating is expected to occur by the first two weeks of January in Kenya. Second generation of moths will appear and infest more locations by the beginning of the third decade of January mainly in the primary breeding locations in Kenya and Tanzania. It is also likely that some moths to appear in eastern and southern Uganda by mid- or the beginning of the third decade January.

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

DLCO-EA has provided 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 December, incidences were not reported.

For Director

05 January, 2023

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

Areas to monitor and assess routinely for better early management of locust developments.

