

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

FEBRUARY, 2015



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, no significant rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea in February. Consequently, vegetation was drying out in most areas except on the Eritrean coast north of Mersa Gulbub and on the southern coastal plains of Sudan near the Eritrean border. Elsewhere in the region, no rain fell and dry conditions persisted. (*FAO DL bulletin No.437*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to medium rains fell during mid-February mainly in some locations in the northern Red Sea coast. Consequently, some vegetation has remained green and created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

No rainfall was fallen during February mainly in the winter Desert locust breeding areas. Consequently, vegetation was drying to dry in the above indicated areas.

1.4 Kenya

Except for few days of rainfall that occurred during mid February in very few locations, the weather remained hot and dry. As a result, vegetation started to dry out in most parts of the country.

1.5 Somalia

Except for very little precipitation that occurred in Aburiin village in the plateau and escarpment the Northwestern, northern and northeastern regions of the country remained rainless during February. The overall vegetation status in the above indicated regions including the plateau and escarpment, and the potential breeding habitats on the coast continued to dry out and remained unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding and development.

Rainfall record (mm) during February, 2015

Date	Hargeisa	Burao	Boroma	Aburiin
05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.2
11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.2
12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.2
13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.4
14	0.00			
15	0.00			



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16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.2
18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.2
20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.2
22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.2
23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.2
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.4

1.6 Sudan

Very light and scattered rains fell during the beginning of the month on the southern Red Sea coastal areas. However, vegetation in the locust breeding areas continued to dry out

1.7 Tanzania

Light to heavy rains fell mainly during the first and the second dekad of February in the southern, western and central parts of the country. Consequently, annual and perennial vegetation were green and greening in areas where continuous and significant rains fell.

1.8 Uganda

Some parts of the Country received light to heavy rainfalls especially towards the end of the month. The parts that received the rains include Western, Southwestern and lake Victoria Basin.

Vegetation was drying in the North and Northeastern parts of the Country but slightly was recovering from the drought. Lake Victoria basin, western and southwestern parts of the Country have mixtures of green and dry patches of vegetation.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

During February, the Desert Locust situation remained very serious mainly on the Red sea coastal areas between Mahmimet (1750N/03828E) and Krorra (1550N/03911E). Immature adults formed numerous groups on the northern coastal areas and on the central coast to the north and south of Embere (1629N/3856E). Some of the groups were maturing and numerous

small immature swarms formed on the central coast and a few moved towards Naro (1626N/3840E) and Nakfa (1640N/3828E). Ground control operation teams treated 3,870 ha during the month.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

During the first half of February, immature and mature adults formed numerous groups between Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) and Port Sudan (1938N/3713E) and on the southern coast between Aqiq (1813N/3811E) and the Eritrean border. Late instar hopper bands were also present north of Port Sudan and northwest of Eit (2009N/3706E). At the end of the month, more immature, mature groups and several swarms have been formed.

During the month, 27,075 and 41,018 ha were sprayed by air and by ground respectively.

Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 437)

Central Region: numerous hopper bands and adult groups formed during February as a result of winter breeding on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and Eritrea. Aerial and ground control operations increased in Sudan while ground operations were in progress in Eritrea where immature swarms formed on the central coast. As vegetation dries out on the coast, more adult groups and small swarms are likely to form that are expected to move inland to the Eritrean Highlands and the Nile Valley in northern Sudan. Limited ground and aerial operations continued on the central Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia against hopper bands and adult groups. As vegetation dries out, small groups of adults are likely to form and move to the interior where small-scale breeding will occur if rains fall. Isolated

in a few places along the Red sea and Gulf of Aden coast in Yemen.

Western Region: The situation remained calm in February as no locusts were reported in the region. During the forecast period, low numbers of adults are likely to appear in the spring breeding areas south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria, and perhaps in the northern Western Sahara, northern Mauritania and southwest Libya. Small-scale breeding is expected to occur as temperatures warm up and if rains fall.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm and no locusts were reported during February.

3.0 Forecast until mid-April, 2015

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Adult groups and small swarms will continue form on the northern and central coast in March. Once vegetation dries out, they are likely to move into the highlands and north along the coast into Sudan.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Adults that are not detected or controlled will form small groups and swarms that could move inland towards the Nile Valley in River Nile and Northern States where they will mature and eventually lay eggs. Adult groups and a few small swarms may arrive on the coast from adjacent area in Eritrea.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestations.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Kenya

Red billed Quelea birds were reported causing damage to Sorghum in Kitui County. Aerial control operation was carried out by the Desert Locust Control Organization in collaboration with the Plant Protection Services Division of the Ministry of Agriculture. A total of 4 roosts with an estimated 10 million birds were controlled using 370 liters of Fenthion 60%.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Quelea outbreaks were reported in Shinyanga Region however, details of the infestation not received.

4.1.2 Ethiopia

No infestation reported.

4.1.3 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

No infestation reported in the region.

Forecast for March, 2015

It is less likely outbreaks to occur and appear in Kenya and northern Tanzania due to the existing dry spell in the region. However, monitoring of moths should continue in the suspected traditional breeding and migration areas of the member countries.

4.3 Tsetse fly

4.3.1 Uganda

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Tsetse infestation not reported during February. However, it is most likely that the infestation has existed in the country as it was reported of its seriousness during January.

CIFO

For Director,

09 March, 2015

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

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