

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA) .....



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## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

JANUARY, 2015



### 1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

**In the Central Region**, very little rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea during January. In Sudan, breeding conditions remained favorable but vegetation started to dry out by the end of the month in the absence of rainfall. In Eritrea, showers may have fallen over parts of the coast early in the month. Although breeding conditions remained favorable, satellite imagery indicated that vegetation was starting to dry out. In Saudi Arabia, favorable conditions persisted along the Red Sea coast. In Yemen, light showers fell at times on the Tihama and Gulf of Aden coastal plains. Vegetation was drying out on the Red Sea coastal plains but remained green in a few areas northwest of Aden. (*FAO DL bulletin No.436*)

#### 1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

#### 1.2 Eritrea

Although, very light rains fell during January in some locations mainly in the northern Red Sea coast, the vegetation remained green that created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

#### 1.3 Ethiopia

Except for light to moderate rainfalls that occurred in some districts in the Amhara and Somali regions during the second and third dekads of January, no significant rain fell in the country. Both Perennial and annual vegetation were dry mainly in the Desert Locust breeding areas in the east.

#### 1.4 Kenya

Except for few days of rainfall that occurred during mid of January 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

Generally, all parts of the country remained rainless during January. Consequently, all types of vegetation were reported dry across the entire regions of the country.

Rainfall record (mm) during January, 2015

Date	Hargeisa	Burao	Boroma	Aburiin
12	0.00	0.00	1.2	-
14	0.00	0.00	0.2	-
18	0.00	0.00	-	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>

#### 1.6 Sudan

Very light and scattered rains fell during the beginning of the month on the coastal areas. As a result, vegetation in the locust breeding areas has started to dry out

## 1.7 Tanzania

Torrential rains fell mainly during the second dekad of January in all parts of the country. Consequently, annual and perennial vegetation started greening in areas where continuous and significant rains fell.

## 1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the country experienced hot and dry weather conditions, but few places in western and central parts of the country received some scattered showers towards end of the month.

Vegetation in the northern and northeastern parts of the country was drying while in the central and western parts, it was mixture of green and drying.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

During January, the Desert Locust situation remained very serious mainly on the Red sea coastal areas between Karura (1750N/03828E) and Shieb (1550N/03911E) due to a second generation breeding. Consequently, ground control operations continued in the infested areas and were reported as follow:

#### Afabet

500 ha of gregarious hopper groups of all stages, bands of early instars and gregarious immature adults were controlled at Derbabu (1652N/03859E), Abuamer (1606N/03902E) and its surrounding areas.

#### Shieb

50 ha of 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> instars bands, fledglings, immature and copulating gregarious adults were controlled at Shebereq (1605N/3901E), Hasmet (1600N/3914E) and its environs.

#### Karura

970 ha gregarious hoppers of all stages, fledglings and immature adults were treated in Habel Ketin (1750N/03827E), Gheleb Sagla (1706N/03854E) and its environs.

#### Emberemi

Emberemi (1528N/3923E) new emerging scattered hoppers were detected but not controlled.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

### 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

### 2.5 Sudan

During the beginning of January, Desert Locust situation was serious in the winter breeding areas along the central Red Sea coast of the country. However, due to lack of rainfall and drying conditions, the situation became less serious towards the end of the month.

Ground and aerial control operations conducted on immature and mature adult groups, newly hatched and hopper bands of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> instars in the central Red Sea coast between Arbaat (1938N/3713E), north Port Sudan, and the Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) during January. Mature swarms and 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> instars were also seen flying and marching in the southern Red Sea coast crossing the Eritrean border.

During the operation, 13,520 ha by air and 7,850 ha by ground were sprayed using 19,861 liters of ULV insecticide.

During the operation, one DLCO-EA spray aircraft has been deployed to the above locations and participated in the survey and control activities.

### **Situation in Other Regions and Forecast**

*(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 436)*

**Central Region:** A second generation of breeding in Sudan and Eritrea caused locust numbers to increase along the Red Sea coast where numerous hopper bands formed. Control operations continued in both countries. By the end of the

month, there were signs that the situation was improving as vegetation dried out and many of the infestations had been treated. Locust numbers also increased in Saudi Arabia where hatching and band formation occurred on the Red Sea coast. Aerial and ground control operations were underway in all areas. Scattered adults were present on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts in Yemen. During the forecast period, small groups and a few swarms could form on the Red Sea coast of Eritrea, Sudan and Saudi Arabia. Once vegetation dries out, they could move into the Eritrean highlands, the Nile Valley in northern Sudan, and the spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm in January. No locusts were reported in the region except for a few isolated solitarious adults south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. During the forecast period, low numbers of adults are likely to start to appear in the spring breeding areas south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria, and in southwest Libya. Small-scale breeding is expected to occur once temperatures warm up and if rains fall.

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

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-March, 2015**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Hopper groups and bands will fledge throughout February, causing an increasing number of adult groups and probably a few small swarms to form. Most of the fledging should finish by the end of February. Locusts are likely to remain on the coast until vegetation starts to dry out when they could move into the highlands or perhaps north along the coast to Sudan once vegetation dries out.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

Unless further rainfall occurs, no significant developments are likely.

#### **3.5 Sudan**

Any adults that are not detected or controlled may form a few small groups or swarms, especially as vegetation dries out on the Red Sea coast. This may be supplemented by immature groups and a few small swarms from Eritrea. There is a moderate risk that these populations will move inland to the Nile Valley in River Nile and Northern States, mature and eventually lay eggs.

#### **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**

A DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed in Siaya during the last dekad of January and controlled 1.25 million birds, which were roosting on 5.5 hectares of Reeds and Papyrus.

##### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

No infestation reported.

##### **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 February, 2015**

It is less likely that outbreak to occur and appear in the member countries due to the spell of dry weather conditions in the region. However, monitoring of the moths movement should continue in the suspected traditional breeding and migration areas of the member countries.

### **4.3 Tsetse fly**

#### **4.3.1 Uganda**

Ugandan newspaper “New Vision” has wrote in its column the alarming situation of the building up and infestation of Tsetse flies in Kalanga Islands in Lake Victoria. It has also indicated that the Tse-tse flies are threatening the inhabitants and cattle herds of the area. (Source: Kampala CRB, Base Manager).

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

04 February, 2015

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