DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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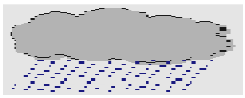
DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORTFOR

MARCH, 2015



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, good rains fell at times during the last two decades of March in the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Consequently, ecological conditions were becoming favorable for breeding. No significant rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea, and vegetation continued to dry out in most areas except in a few places on the northern coast of the Red Sea in Eritrea, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. *(FAO DL bulletin No.438)*

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Light rains fell during the last dekad of March mainly in the northern parts of the Red Sea coast. Though most of the vegetation was drying out during the month however, some vegetation has remained green and created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

There has been cloud overcast in most part of the country and the prevailing temperature conditions became cooler during the month. Consequently, widespread rainfall has occurred in most parts of the country during the second dekad of March. Generally, vegetation was reported dry in the spring Desert Locust breeding areas and ecological conditions were not favorable for locust breeding.

1.4 Kenya

Except for few days of rainfall that occurred in the Central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country during the 4th week of March, the weather remained hot and dry during the other weeks of the month. Germination and greening of annual vegetation has been observed in areas where rains fell, though most areas have remained dry.

1.5 Somalia

Rainfall considerably declined during the first two dekads of March and gradually improved mainly in the northwestern parts of the country during the third dekad. Consequently, low to moderate rains fell in the northeastern and northwestern regions and it was considered as the first downpour of the spring rains in the region.

Rainfall record (mm) during March, 2015

Date	Hargeisa	Burao	Galkayo	Aburiin	Garowe
10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00
11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00
18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20
20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00
21	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
22	0.00	14.60	4.20	7.80	1.40
23	8.50	6.00	50.20	0.00	0.00
24	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00
25	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	**23.5**	**20.60**	**54.80**	**10.40**	**1.60**

1.6 Sudan

The central parts received moderate rains, while the southern parts recorded light precipitation during the second dekad of March.
Vegetation cover started to dry out in the winter Desert Locust breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, although availability of green areas were observed in Toker delta, the southern parts and in Khor Baraka Extension.

1.7 Tanzania

Medium to heavy rains fell during March covering most parts of the country. Consequently, annual and perennial vegetation were green in wider areas of the country.

1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the Country have started receiving intermittent rains during March. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) released information indicating that the Country will receive good rains from March to mid-June 2015, with the peak at mid-April for the Lake Victoria basin and some parts in the east.
Most parts of the Country have recovered from the dry-spell and were greening and green during the month.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocercagregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

During the first decade of March, hopper bands and gregarious immature and mature adults persisted on the northern coast between Mehmimet (1723N/3833E) and Qrora (1745N/3820E), and on the central coast near Embere (1628N/3856E). Some of the adults were copulating. Immature adults were reported on the eastern escarpment near Naro (1626N/3840E). On 13 March, a swarm was seen in the western lowlands along Khor Barka near Kerkebet (1618N/3724E). Ground teams treated 1,414 ha on the Red Sea coast. (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 438)*

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

Red Sea State:

During March groups of mature and immature gregarious locust were treated in some areas in the Toker Delta Basins (Dambail, Hamariat and Tifait), Khor Baraka extension (Adowan) and in the southern parts in areas of Halibay, Gadimbower, Shabri and Maharba.
During the month, 6,385 ha and 6,241 ha were sprayed by air and by ground respectively. A DLCO-EA Aircraft, which was positioned in the area has done most of the aerial operation.

Situation in Other Regions and Forecast
(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 438)

Central Region: the situation improved in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea due to control operations and drying conditions in March. In Sudan, ground and aerial control operations declined, treating mainly locally bred adult groups and swarms on the southern coast. A few adult groups and swarms moved into this area from Eritrea where control

was in progress against similar infestations. Locust numbers declined on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia where limited control operations were conducted in the north. Low numbers of adults persisted on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coats in Yemen.

Western Region: The situation remained calm in March and no locusts were reported in the region.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm during March. Isolated solitarious adults were present in the interior of southern Iran.

3.0 Forecast until mid-May, 2015

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Locust infestation will decline on the Red Sea coast where groups and small swarms are likely to form that could 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

A few small groups or swarms may form on the southern coats, supplemented by similar populations from adjacent areas of Eritrea, and move inland towards the Nile Valley in River Nile and Northern States where they will mature and lay eggs near irrigated cropping areas.

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 (*Queleaquelea sp.*)

4.1.1 Kenya

Quelea birds outbreak was reported in Kisumu County where they were attacking irrigated Rice

4.1.2 Tanzania

Quelea outbreaks were reported in Shinyanga and Mwanza Regions 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 (*Spodopteraexempta*)

No infestation reported in the region during March.

Forecast for April, 2015

It is less likely that outbreak to occur in the member countries. However, monitoring of moths and assessment of early outbreaks should continue in the suspected traditional breeding and migration areas of eastern, coastal and central Kenya, and southern and southeastern parts of Ethiopia.

4.3 Tsetse fly

4.3.1 Uganda

Infestation not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

8th April, 2015

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