

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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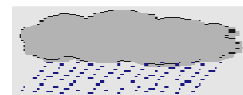
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**SITREP No. 05/2015 - 2016**

## **DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR**

**NOVEMBER, 2015**



### **1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

**In the Central Region**, heavy rains fell in coastal and interior areas of southern Yemen as well as parts of northeast Somalia, causing flooding. The rains were associated with two tropical cyclones, Chapala (28 October - 4 November) and Megh (4-10 November), that developed due to the warmest waters on record in the Arabian Sea. As a result, vegetation was becoming green in many Wadis in the interior of Shabwah and Hadramaut and along the Gulf of Aden coast where it may remain favorable for up to six months. In northern Somalia, heavy rains from Megh fell near Bosaso in the northeast. Vegetation was becoming green east of Bosaso, on the plateau between Erigavo and Hargeisa, and on the northwest coast. Heavier rains fell on the northern coast of Saudi Arabia. Ecological conditions were improving for breeding in these areas as well as in Sudan (Aiterba plains, Tokar, Wadi Oko/Diib) and parts of southeast Egypt. (*FAO DL bulletin No.446*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

During November, light to heavy rainfalls occurred along the Red Sea coast north and south of the Port City of Massawa. Consequently, torrential rains that fell on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of the month and, which lasted for several hours in and around Massawa has caused heavy infrastructures damage. 11 houses collapsed, tree seedlings have been swallowed and much of the city was heavily flooded. On the same dates, heavy rains that fell at Metkel Abiet, which is located in the northwest of the Port City of Massawa had also caused flooding where some domestic animals were washed away.

Most of the vegetation status along the Red Sea coast has been reported greening and green.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During November scattered light to moderate amount of rains fell in the southwestern, western and in some parts in the east.

Generally, vegetation remained green in some of the Desert Locust breeding areas during the month.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

During November, moderate to heavy rains fell across most parts of the country. It was reported that due to the heavy rains and floods, some

infrastructures damage, displacement and death of people were reported mainly in the western and the northwestern parts of the country.

By the end of the month, perennial vegetation remained green while greening of annual vegetation has been observed in vast areas of the country where rains fell.

### 1.5 Somalia

Generally, the weather and ecological conditions in the northwestern and northern parts of the country have slightly improved due to the effect of the Tropical Cyclone Megh, which hit the area during the beginning of the month. Additionally, during the first dekad of the month, moderate to localized heavy rains also fell across the northern coastal areas of the country. As a result, flash floods inflicted minor infrastructures and houses damage in some of the coastal districts of Lughaya and Bulahar.

The potential Desert Locust breeding habitats in the coastal plains and the adjacent localities on the plateau and the escarpments have received good rains during the month. Consequently, during the month, annual vegetation started greening and perennial regenerating, which created favorable environment for locust breeding and developments, mainly in areas where rains and floods occurred.

Rainfall record (mm) during November, 2015

Date	Hargeisa	Boroma	Burao	Berbera	Erigavo	C. Afeweyn
03	-	-	-	-	-	18.0
05	23.0	25.0	18.5	11.0	4.0	14.0
06	4.0	-	16.0	-	21.0	38.5
12	-	-	-	-	12.0	21.0
13	-	-	29.0	-	-	-
114	-	-	-	-	-	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>108.0</b>

### 1.6 Sudan

During the beginning of November, some rains fell mainly in the coastal plains, in Wadi OKO, Aldaiib in Tomala areas, in the Northwest of the Red sea Hills chains up to the border of Egypt, in the central coastal plains, in Toker Delta and to the south up to the Eritrean border. Due to the early rains that fell in October and during November, vegetation cover has started greening since the beginning of November consequently; favorable environmental conditions

are created for Desert Locust developments mainly in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast.

### 1.7 Tanzania

From mid-November, the whole country was receiving light to heavy rainfall, and some deaths were reported in Lake Victoria zone caused by floods.

Vegetation was moderately green in many parts of the country, while it was very green in some few locations in the southern highlands.

### 1.8 Uganda

The El-Nino rains episode continued to be recorded in most parts of the Country with continued damage to properties and infrastructures. Many lowlands and some roads were flooded and cut off during the month, resulting into some considerable economic losses. Vegetation in most parts of the Country remained very green during the month.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

During November, Desert Locust situation remained calm and no locusts were found during a ground survey that was conducted by the PPD staff along the Red Sea coast of the country between Qrora (N174426/E0382414) and Shieb (N153429/E0390742).

Most of the vegetation status in the above locations was also reported green during the survey.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

### 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

## 2.5 Sudan

Ground survey operations were conducted by the PPD staff in the winter Desert Locust breeding areas along the Red sea coast and in some of the summer breeding locations in the Red Sea and Northern States during 12- 24th November. During the survey, low density mature Desert Locust individuals (50–100/ha) were seen near Haya (1820N/3621E), and in Krimbit in the Toker Delta (1823N/3743E).

### Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

*(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 446)*

**Central Region:** The situation remained calm during October. So far, only scattered solitary adults have been detected in a few places of the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

**Western Region:** An outbreak developed in western Mauritania as a result of unusually good rains during September and October. Egg-laying commenced in mid-September, and hoppers formed groups in late October and started fledging in early November, giving rise to groups of immature adults, some of which had matured by the end of the month. A second generation of breeding is likely to cause locust numbers to escalate further with hatching from mid-December onwards, followed by the formation of hopper groups and bands. Ground control operation treated nearly 3,000 ha. During November scattered adults appeared in the Western Sahara and northern Mauritania where breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in areas that received good rains in October. Scattered adults were seen in northeast Morocco and small scale breeding occurred in the Air Mountains of Niger and scattered adults were reported in northern Mali.

**Eastern Region:** The situation remained calm during November.

### 3.0 Forecast until mid-January, 2015

#### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

#### 3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults are likely to appear on the Red Sea coastal plains and breed on small scale, causing locust numbers to increase slightly between Sheib and Qrora.

#### 3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

#### 3.4 Somalia

Scattered adults are likely to appear on the northwest coastal plains and breed on a small scale, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Low numbers may also appear in parts of the northeast that received rains from cyclone Megh.

#### 3.5 Sudan

Small scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly along the Red Sea coastal plains and in Wadi Oko/Diib.

#### 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

During November, Quelea outbreaks continued to occur in Busia, Siaya, Kisumu and Kirinyaga counties, where the birds were attacking irrigated Rice and a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed to control the infestation during the 3<sup>rd</sup> dekad of the month.

Although, full reports of the operations were not received during compiling of this Sitrep however, in Busia and Siaya counties 6.5 million birds were controlled.

#### 4.1.2 Tanzania

No infestation reported.

### 4.1.3 Ethiopia

#### **Late report:**

Between 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed in the Oromia region of the country to control Quelea birds infestations in Liben (0826.40N/3858.13E), Zeway Dugda (0826.40N/3858.13E) and Dugda (08 0755N/3854.99E) districts in the mid-Rift Valley zone.

An estimated of 21 million birds, which were roosting on 405 ha of mostly Typha grasses were reported feeding on Sorghum and Millet crops.

In Total, 710 liters of Bathion 60% ULV was used to control the birds infestation and the operation was reported successful.

**During November**, the aerial control operation has shifted to the Amhara region in the northeastern parts of the country.

An estimated of 9.8 million birds have been reported roosting on 409 ha of Typha grasses, Acacia bushes, Sorghum and other types of plantations and were feeding on Sorghum, Wheat, Teff and Millet crops.

Consequently, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November, aerial control operations were conducted in Showa Robit (0959.92N/3953.21E), Jiletimuga (1015.66N/3956.04E) Dewachefe (1044.78N/394793E), Kalu (1054.20N/3946.15E), Ansokia (1043.80N/3948.69E), Kemisse (1042.18N/3949.63E), Jile (1016.37N/3956.48E) and Kewet (1006.10N/3955.36E) districts.

In total, 856 liters of Bathion 60% ULV was used to control the birds infestations and the operation was reported successful.

### 4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

### 4.1.5 Sudan

During November, a DLCO-EA aircraft continued Quelea control operations mainly around El-Obeid (131352N/301220E), in Northern Kordofan State. However, details of this operation were not received during compiling of this report.

Additionally, survey and control operations were ongoing in 5 States of the country since 23<sup>rd</sup> October, where the potential control operation was taking place the White Nile State.

Consequently, between 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 15 Quelea roosting sites covering 2,025 ha were sprayed using 2,025 liters of Fenthion in El-Gazira, Elgadarif, Kassala and White Nile States, and in Alduwaim. Total aircraft spray time was 17:55 hours.

### 4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

No infestation was reported in the region during November. However, with the onset of the short rains and the El-Niño episode, it is very likely that early outbreaks could appear mainly in the primary breeding locations in Tanzania and Kenya. Therefore, it is highly advisable to continue monitoring of early armyworm appearances and migrations of moths mainly in the primarily breeding areas of the countries.

### 4.3 Tsetse fly

#### 4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

#### CIFO

#### For Director,

04 December, 2015

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website:

[www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)