

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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SITREP No. 08/2022 - 2023

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2023

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHT



In the Central Region: No significant rains fell during February on the Red Sea coastal plains of Eritrea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen. Insignificant rains fell in limited locations in eastern Ethiopia but vegetation generally remained dry in the region. Consequently, ecological conditions slightly remained unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding.

1.1 Djibouti

No rains fell during February and most parts of the country remained dry.

1.2 Eritrea

No significant rains fell during February, however, vegetation remained green on the coastal areas due to the previous months' rainfalls where soil moisture was retained.

1.3 Ethiopia

During February, sunny, dry and moderately chilly (morning and night) weather conditions prevailed throughout the country. Light to moderate rains also fell in some parts of the country including DireDawa (30 mm) by the end of the third decade of the month. Annual vegetation dried out, perennial vegetation is drying out and the soil was dry. Generally, the

ecology was not favorable for Desert Locust activities in the eastern parts of the country.

1.4 Kenya

During February, except for some green vegetation seen in limited locations, the country generally experienced very dry and hot weather conditions.

1.5 Somalia

No rains fell during February and most parts of the country remained dry.

1.6 Sudan

During February, no significant rains fell on the Red Sea coast. Consequently, vegetation started to dry out in most of the coastal plains creating an unfavorable ecological condition for Desert Locust developments.

1.7 Tanzania

During February, light to moderately heavy rainfalls were reported in some of the Central, Eastern, Western and Lake Victoria zones, while Southern and North Eastern remained dry. The report indicated that the delay and the absence of rainfall has also affected the germination of crops and became a challenge to farmers.

Vegetation generally was green to drying in most parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

For the bigger part of February, most parts of the Country continued experiencing hot and dry weather conditions with scattered showers and some thunderstorms recorded in parts of Central and South western regions mainly during the last dekad of the month.

The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) reported of some sampled hot areas like Kasese that had highs of 35.5 degrees Celsius. Weather forecast also showed that normal first rains of 2023 are expected in March.

Vegetation was a mixture of green and drying in most parts of western, southwestern and central regions of the Country while it was drying in most parts of the north and northeastern.

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

2.1 Djibouti

During February, no locusts were reported.

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust ground survey was not conducted, but the Desert Locust situation remained calm.

Forecast: *Grouping of unseen scattered and solitary adults and minor breeding could occur*

mainly in some of the remaining green vegetation. It is also likely some scattered adults to migrate to the Tokar Delta, Sudan.

2.3 Ethiopia

During February, no locusts were reported.

Forecast: *Desert Locust situation will remain calm and no significant developments are likely.*

2.4 Somalia

Desert Locust situation remained calm.

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.5 Sudan

During the beginning of February, very low density adult and hopper grouping were mainly reported in some parts of the Northern and the Red Sea coastal plains. More breeding and hopper group developments were also reported by the third decade of February. Limited ground control operations were conducted on adult and hopper groups.

Forecast: *Although, some minor breeding and grouping of adults continue in the winter breeding areas across the Red Sea coast, it is likely that migration of scattered and group of adults to occur to the Nile Valley as the vegetation further dries out in the winter breeding areas.*

2.6 Kenya

No locusts were reported during February.

Forecast: *Desert Locust situation will remain calm*

2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During February, no locusts were reported in the countries.

Forecast: *Desert Locust situation will remain calm.*

7. Desert Locust situation in the central and other regions

Central Region:

Few mature solitary groups, copulating and egg laying adults were seen in some locations in Al Madinah and Makkah regions, and between Makkah and Badr cities as well as in Rabigh in Saudi Arabia. Control operations were conducted on hatching and small groups in some areas.

Low numbers of scattered solitary mature/immature adults and low density mature group of adults and hoppers in Sudan. The situation generally remained calm in the region during February.

Western Region:

Situation unknown.

Eastern Region: No locusts present.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Kenya

No incidences were reported during February.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During February, Quelea birds infestations were reported in Uyui District in Tabora Region, Bahi in Dodoma and Mwangi in Kilimajaro Region. Preparations for aerial control operations by DLCO-EA was underway.

1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea Birds infestations and aerial control operations by a DLCO-EA aircraft continued during February in Oromia and Afar administrative regions of the country.

The control operations were carried out from 2nd to 28th of February in three zones and 3 districts; where the birds were roosting in eleven sites covering 303.5 ha. During the operations, an

estimated population of 50.8 million Quelea birds were killed by using 608 liters of Bathion 64% ULV. The assessed kill was 86 to 98%.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Out of season.

4.1.5 Sudan

Out of season.

4.1.6 Uganda

No incidences were reported during February.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

No incidences were reported during February.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Infestations continued and were reported in irrigated and germinating rain-fed Maize crops.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm

No incidences were reported during February.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences not reported.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Out of season.

Fall Armyworm

Situation unknown.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

In February, the country experienced dry weather conditions in most counties consequently, there was limited fresh vegetation to support the survival of the African Armyworm, which was seen during the previous months'. However, it was reported that approximately 504 ha in 6 counties that included Narok, Bomet, Kericho, Busia, Bungoma and Trans Nzoia were affected by mid- to late instar larvae during the beginning of the month.

There was however no report of African Armyworm presence during the last two weeks of February

Fall Armyworm

Reported in irrigated Maize farms.

Forecast until end of March, 2023

African Armyworm:

Very minor and limited infestations on pasture and germinating crops and, migration of moths could occur within east African countries. Otherwise, no major outbreaks and infestations are expected during the forecast period. Countries are also advised to be vigilant for any unforeseen developments and continue with the early warning and monitoring systems for early detection of moth migrations and emerging larvae.

Fall Armyworm

It is likely that infestations to continue in irrigated Maize fields and also emerge in newly planted Maize and Sorghum crops.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

**For Director
Mehari Tesfayohannes**

CIFO, DLCO-EA

07 March, 2023

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

Rainfall and DL situation map

