

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA (DLCO-EA)



**Headquarters (Addis Ababa)**  
Tel: 251-1-16461477/460287/460290  
Fax: 251-1-16460296

**Operations Office (Nairobi)**  
Tel: 254-020-6002305/6001488  
Fax: 254-020-6001575

**SITREP No. 09/2022 - 2023**

## **DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR MARCH, 2023**

***In the Central Region:** Moderate to heavy rains fell in eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti and northern Somalia during the second and third decades of March. Light to moderate rains also fell in Saudi Arabia and Yemen during the month. No rains were reported on the Red Sea coastal plains of Eritrea and Sudan except for few days of rainfalls occurred in the southern Red coast of Eritrea. Generally, except for a few green vegetation in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, soil and vegetation continued to dry out in the main winter breeding areas across the central region during the third week of March, creating unfavorable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding. However, it is likely that the few scattered adults to concentrate on the remaining green vegetation and breed in small numbers.*

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



#### **1.1 Djibouti**

Light to moderate rains fell during the second and third decades of March in most parts of the country.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

During March, even though no significant rains fell on the Red Sea coast however, during mid of the month, heavy rain and flooding were reported south of the Port City of Massawa in areas and around Ghelealo and further to south. Generally, vegetation were drying out and dry in most of the central and northern coastal areas,

creating unfavorable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

During the second and third decades of March, moderate to heavy rains fell in the main Desert Locust breeding areas in the southeastern, southern and eastern parts of the country. Consequently, soil became wet and both annual and perennial vegetation have started greening creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

## 1.4 Kenya

From mid-March onwards, moderate to heavy rains fell in most parts of the country. Consequently, annual vegetation started greening abundantly in areas where rains occurred. This has also indicated the end of the dry season in the country, which was affecting the farming community for long.

## 1.5 Somalia

Light to moderate rains fell in the northern, central and southern parts of the country mainly during the second and third decades of the month. This has created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding as soil became wet and vegetation started greening.

## 1.6 Sudan

During March, no rain was reported in the winter breeding areas across the Red Sea coastal plains. Consequently, soil was dry and vegetation continued to dry out in most of the coastal plains, creating unfavorable ecological condition for Desert Locust developments.

## 1.7 Tanzania

Even though the long rain has started late during the month however, moderate to heavy rainfalls were reported in most parts of Northeastern zone including Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara, and the southwestern Highlands, Western, Central, Eastern and Lake Victoria zones. Vegetation generally remained green in most parts of the country.

## 1.8 Uganda

For the bigger part of March, 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 AND FORECAST UNTIL MID-MAY, 2023

### 2.1 Djibouti

During March, no locusts were reported.

#### Forecast

*No significant developments are likely.*

### 2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust ground survey was conducted in the central coast and no locusts were detected.

#### Forecast

*No developments are expected as the weather and ecological conditions on the Red Sea coastal plains continue remaining unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding.*

### 2.3 Ethiopia

During March, ground survey was conducted by PPD staff and no locusts were seen or 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 March, limited control operations were carried out against mature/immature and hopper groups in Sigwatit (2058N/3553E), Dieat (2042N/3611E) and Egwatit (3607N/2147E) in north Tomala.

Scattered low density mature/immature locusts were also detected around Hoshery and Arbaat in central coast, and Tokar Delta.

Immature low density adults were also seen south of the Tokar Delta in the southern coast.

130 ha was treated using 65 liters of ULV during March.

## Forecast

*Some of the remaining scattered adults will likely migrate to the Nile valley as the vegetation continues to dry out in the winter breeding areas. However, no significant developments are likely.*

### 2.6 Kenya

No locusts reported during March.

## Forecast:

*Desert locust situation will remain calm.*

### 2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During March, no locusts were reported in the countries.

## Forecast:

*Desert Locust situation will remain calm.*

## 3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS

### 3.1 Central Region

From the beginning of March, small sizes and medium densities hatching and different stages of hopper bands were reported between Makkah and Lith in the southern and between Rabigh and Bader (2346N/3847E) in the northern Red Sea coast and in other nearby locations, Saudi Arabia. Small groups of copulating and egg-laying and scattered solitary and transient adults were also seen in nearby areas.

During the month, more than 2,155 hectares were treated. Low numbers of adults reported on the Red Sea coastal areas in Yemen.

Limited control operations were carried out against mature/immature adult and hopper groups in the Northern State and scattered low density mature/immature locusts were seen on the southern coast and Tokar Delta, Sudan.

### Western Region:

Low numbers of adults south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco (857 ha treated) while a few small mature groups in Western Sahara (741 ha treated), isolated adults in central Algeria and northwest Mauritania. (FAO DL bulletin No. 534).

### Eastern Region:

No locusts present.

## **4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS**

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

#### **4.1.1 Kenya**

Incidences were not reported during March.

#### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

During March, widespread Quelea bird's outbreaks were reported in various parts of the country including Dodoma (Bahi and Dodoma urban Districts), Singida (Manyoni, Singida Rural, Itigi and Ikungi districts) and Morogoro (Kilosa and Mvomero Districts) Regions in the Central Zone.

In Mbeya (Mbarali District) and Iringa (Iringa Rural districts) Regions in the Southwestern Highlands. Tabora Region (Uyui and Igunga districts) in Western zone. In Mwanza (Sengerma District) and Geita (Geita District) Regions in Lake Victoria Zone, and in Manyara Region (Simanjiro District) in Northeastern zone. Consequently, ground control operations were initiated using Motorized backpack sprayers since mid-March and an estimated of 2.6 million birds, which were roosting in 6 sites have been successfully controlled in the above indicated regions.

In addition, 1.7 million birds roosting on 2 sites in Babati District, and 4.3 million birds in Manyara were also controlled through ground control operations. The birds were also reported feeding on Wheat crops in Basutho in Hanang' Districts, Same region.

Aerial control operation by a DLCO-EA aircraft was also initiated on 30<sup>th</sup> of March in Dodoma region.

#### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

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

The birds were infesting Wheat farms and the control operations were carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> and from 24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of March in three districts and four roosting sites in eastern Shewa zone. During the operations, an estimated population of 20 million Quelea birds which were roosting on 88 ha were killed by using 178 liters of Bathion 64% ULV. The assessed kill was 98%.

Consequently, it is estimated that through this operations, more than a hundred thousand USD worth of crop loss, which could have been occurred in a day by the birds' attack was saved.

#### **4.1.4 Eritrea**

Out of season.

#### **4.1.5 Sudan**

Out of season.

#### **4.1.6 Uganda**

No incidences were reported during March.

### **4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)**

#### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

##### **African Armyworm**

No incidences were reported during March.

##### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Infestations on seasonal Maize crops were widely reported in North Eastern Zone. It was also observed that heavy infestations are mainly occurring on the early germinated

Maize crops. Farmers with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture were spraying their crops in order to minimize damages which are occurring due to the worms attack.

#### **4.2.2 Uganda**

##### **African Armyworm**

There were reports of AAW outbreaks in two districts of Nakaseke (in two sub-counties) in central and Manafwa in eastern parts of the country. Farmers were controlling the worms with support from the Crop Protection Department (CPD) of the Ministry of agriculture. The DLCO-EA is to boost the control of the pest in the Country by availing surveillance pheromone traps and technical backups.

##### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Incidences not reported.

#### **4.2.3 Eritrea**

##### **African Armyworm**

Out of season.

##### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Situation unknown.

#### **4.2.4 Ethiopia**

##### **African Armyworm**

Incidences were not reported.

##### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Incidences were not reported.

#### **4.2.5 Kenya**

##### **African Armyworm**

In March, approximately 3,948 ha were affected by African armyworm in 4 counties that included Makueni, Kericho, Kisumu and Bungoma. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development continued supporting the affected counties with pesticides, spray equipment and protective gear.

##### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Reported in irrigated Maize farms.

##### **Forecast until end of April, 2023**

##### **African Armyworm**

The long rain season in East Africa and the short rains in the Horn of Africa regions had commenced since mid-March, where fresh crops and other annual vegetation germinated abundantly and creating favorable conditions for the development and migration of the African Armyworm. All these will likely support the early to late-instar larvae that are present currently in Kenya to pupate from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April and migration of moths is expected from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April 2023 within Kenya, eastern and southern Uganda, southern and southwestern Ethiopia and South Sudan. Additional breeding and outbreaks are also likely to occur in different parts of Uganda. Countries are therefore advised to monitor moth movements as a precautionary measure, and for early detection of worms and interventions.

##### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

It is likely that infestations to appear on early rain-fed Maize and Sorghum crops and continue on irrigated Maize fields

### 4.3 Tsetse Fly (*Glossina spp.*)

#### 4.3.1 Uganda

The Tsetse flies remain a big problem across some parts of the Country affecting tourism, domestic animals and human beings. Plans under way to manage the problem through joint project activities among the stakeholders concerned.

**For Director  
Mehari Tesfayohannes  
CIFO, DLCO-EA  
05 April, 2023**

For more information about the Organization, please visit incidences Website: [www.dlco-ea.org](http://www.dlco-ea.org)

### Desert Locust and Rainfall Situation March, 2023

