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

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SITREP No. 03/2023 - 2024

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

Summary

Desert Locust: In Sudan, immature swarm, hopper bands/groups (1st - fledgling) and mature/immature groups in Haiya in the Red Sea state, east Seasonal Atbara River in River Nile state and northwest Kassala state were found. Ground control operations carried out and treated an area of **1,477** ha, using **721**L of ULV pesticides.

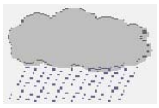
In Ethiopia, Survey was conducted in Afar region of zone 1 & 2, Somali region of Siti & Fafan zone, and Oromia region of East and West Harergi zone on about **37,891**ha. immature Desert locust swarm covering 286 ha (106 ha by ground and 180 ha aerial using DLCO-EA aircraft) were controlled in Oromia region of Chinaksen district and Somali region of Haroorayso district.

Other countries in the region are free from Desert Locust

Quelea bird: Quelea bird control operation continued in **Ethiopia** and **Tanzania** in the month of September. An estimated 31 million bird population were controlled by aerial spraying using DLCO-EA aircraft in Ethiopia and 8 million were controlled in Tanzania using Bathion 64% ULV. And an estimated 80 to 98% kill was reported.

African Armyworm: No reports were received during September

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS



1.1 Djibouti

Warmer and dry conditions continued to dominate over the entire Country during September, 2023.

1.2 Eritrea

During the second and third decades, light to moderate rains fell in parts of western lands and highlands as a result, vegetation was green and drying with wet soil moisture.

1.3 Ethiopia

In September, sunny and rainy weather prevailed throughout Ethiopia, and light to moderate rains fell in most parts of the country including Desert Locust summer breeding areas. Consequently, annual and perennial vegetation was green and the soil was wet, particularly in areas with good rains. Generally, the ecology was favorable for Desert Locust activities in the summer breeding areas.

1.4 Kenya

Report not received

1.5 Somalia

In September, light rains fell, at part of the plateau in northwest Somalia west of Bulhar, Jidi and Abdulkadir areas

1.6 South Sudan

Report not received

1.7 Sudan

During September 2023 the Inter- Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was allocated north Kassala, south Abu Hamed and north El Obeid. Therefore, low to moderate rains fell in the most of DL summer breeding areas in Sudan during the second decade of September. Vegetation cover was green in the summer breeding zone while the coastal areas dry.

1.8 Tanzania

Most parts of Tanzania recorded dry and cloudy weather conditions in September 2023 except some few parts mostly in high elevated highlands especially North eastern parts of Mt Kilimanjaro, Meru in Arusha and Northern parts of Morogoro (Uluguru Mountains) and some parts of Lake Victoria basin where light showers were reported.

1.9 Uganda

The month of September starts the second major rainfall for most parts of Uganda. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA: www.unma.go.ug) released the forecast for September to December showing a general forecast of above normal (enhanced) rainfall over most parts of the Country.

The evolution of El Nino conditions is still predictive. Indeed, most parts of the Country started receiving showers and thunderstorms with damage to infrastructure and property recorded in some places.

2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*Schistocerca gregaria*) SITUATION AUGUST, 2023

2.1 Djibouti

No Desert locust report received during September

Forecast

No significant developments are likely.

2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust situation was calm during September on the summer and winter breeding areas of the country. Survey was not

conducted and No locust reports were received in September.

Forecast

In the forecast period, breeding will be decline in the western lowlands of the country.

Good rains are expected to occur in winter seasons and breeding will start earlier in the Red Sea Coast in October.

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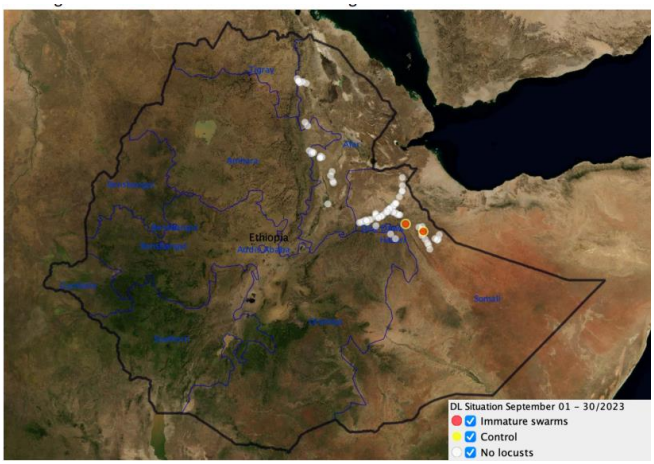
2.3 Ethiopia

In September, 2023, Survey operations were conducted in Afar region of zone 1 & 2, Somali region of Siti & Fafan zone, and Oromia region of East and West Harergi zone About 37,891ha were surveyed. immature Desert locust swarm covering 286 ha (106 ha by ground and 180 ha and aerial using DLCO-EA aircraft) were controlled. in Oromia region of Chinaksen district and Somali region of Haroorayso district.

During second and third weeks of the month, survey data from Federal experts, Desert locust scouts, regional and district expert report confirmed the absence of Desert Locust in all surveyed areas.



Forecast

The Desert locust situation will be expected to be calm in October, 2023.

2.4 Somalia

During September, isolated mature solitarious adults were present in Somaliland northwest on the plateau near Borema (0956N/4313E), in the escarpment, and near the coast near Silil (1058N/4326E) as well as further east as isolated immature solitarious adults near Bulhar (1023N/4425E) and the escarpment. In the northeast in Puntland, no locusts were seen except for isolated immature solitarious adults in one place south of Gardo (0930N/4905E)

Forecast: *Low numbers of solitarious adults will persist in parts of the northwest where small-scale winter breeding will start early this year in the coastal areas about the end of October*

(FAO bulletin 540)

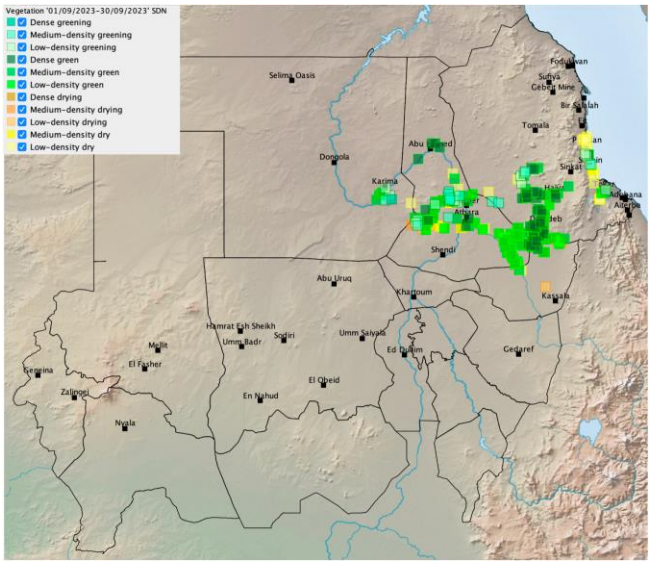
2.5 Sudan

Desert Locust situation in Sudan was developed remarkably to reach caution level during September 2023. Survey operations conducted on **84,220** ha in the Northern, River Nile, Kassala and summer breeding areas in the Red Sea states.

Immature swarm, hopper bands/groups (1st - fledgling) and mature/immature groups in areas confined among Haiya in the Red Sea state, east Seasonal Atbara River in River Nile state and northwest Kassala state were found.

Ground control operations carried out and treated an area of **1,477** ha, using **721 lit** of ULV pesticides.

Scattered hoppers of the 1st and 2nd instars were detected in Baiyuda Desert in the River Nile state, as well congregant mature groups were seen at Toker Delta of the Red Sea state. Moreover, scattered mature/immature adults were reported in many locations of the surveyed areas.



Forecast

Fledgling and formation of immature groups and small swarms will continue during forecasting period. While some of swarms may remain in summer breeding areas due to prevailing of favorable ecological conditions, the other could be moved to Toker Delta and coastal DL breeding areas where are likely receive rains during upcoming weeks. Moreover, some groups and small swarms are probably aggregated in summer breeding area in interior and western of Sudan and will migrate due to dry conditions to irrigated Schemes in River Nile and Northern states.

Therefore, vigilance, close monitoring and early intervention in summer breeding areas are highly recommended during the forecasting period.

2.6 Kenya Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During Septembert,2023, no locusts were reported in these countries.

Forecast

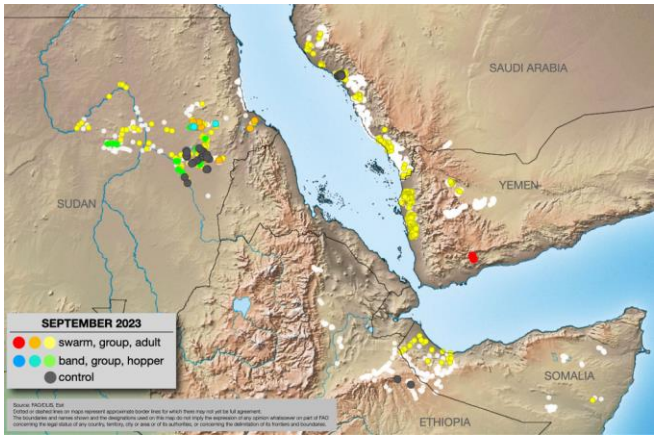
Desert Locust situation will remain calm.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS

3.1 Central Region: CALM

Situation: Some hopper groups, small bands and groups and swarms in the interior of eastern **Sudan** (1,477 ha treated). A small immature swarm in eastern **Ethiopia** (286 ha). In **Yemen**, immature adults, and swarms in the interior while more locusts appeared in Red Sea coast. A few groups of hoppers and adults in Red Sea coast of **Saudi Arabia** (105 ha) and the eastern coast of **Oman** (60 ha). Isolated adults in northwest **Somalia** and the southeastern Red Sea coast **Egypt**.

Forecast: Locusts from the interior of **Sudan** and **Yemen** will continue to move to the Red Sea coast in October and November where above–normal rains are expected there as well as in **Saudi Arabia**. Small scale breeding could also occur in parts of the Red Sea coast in southeastern **Egypt** and **Eritrea** as well as the Gulf of Aden in southern **Yemen**



(*FAO DL bulletin No. 540* www.fao.org/ag/locusts).

3.2 Western Region: CALM

SITUATION: Mainly isolated mature solitarious adults in the northern Sahel of Mauritania, especially in the west and northwest, Niger and Chad as well as northeast Morocco. Some hoppers in Mauritania and Chad.

FORECAST: Above-normal rainfall is expected in October and parts of November. Consequently, locusts should increase with small-scale breeding in northwest **Mauritania,** northeast **Mali** and **Niger.** Locusts will decline in **Chad** once vegetation dries out in November. Low numbers of adults may appear in southern **Western Sahara** and perhaps breed. Some locusts may be in southern Sahara of **Algeria**

(*FAO DL bulletin No. 540* www.fao.org/ag/locusts).

3.3 Eastern Region: CALM

SITUATION: Low numbers of adults in Cholistan desert of Pakistan

FORECAST: No significant developments are likely

(*FAO DL bulletin No. 540* www.fao.org/ag/locusts).

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Ethiopia

Quelea bird outbreak was reported during the first week of September in Babile District of Oromia Administrative Region (East Harerge zone) where 5 million estimated bird population was roosted in two sites on Acacia and mango trees. Aerial spraying using DLCO-EA aircraft was carried out on 8th and 9th September 2023 on 50ha using 100lts of Bathion 640 ULV and an estimated 80 to 98% kill was reported.

The control operation was continued in the Oromia Administrative Region's central rift valley areas and Southern Region locality from 26th to 30th September 2023. Estimated population of 25.5 million Quelea birds roosted on 198ha were treated by spraying 396lts of Bathion ULV 64%. 92% estimated kill was reported.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During September 2023 Quelea control operations by DLCO-EA – aircraft continued in Coast Region (Ruvu irrigated rice schemes) at Kibaha District and in Mayara Region (Kisangaji, Gichameda, Manyati and Peru estates) in Babati District where 7.9 million birds were controlled on 102 hectares using 500 liters of Queleatox ULV 64%. The crops under threat were Rice.

4.1.3 Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda

No quelea bird infestations were reported during September 2023.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania

African armyworm presence was not reported during the month of September, 2023, in the region.

Forecast

The Armyworm outbreak is not expected In October, But Kenya and Tanzania should be vigilant as the season starts from November

Fall Armyworm (FAW) ***(Spodoptera frugiperda)***

In all DLCO-EA member countries FAW is reported in most maize and sorghum growing areas both in irrigated and rain feed farm lands. As the report this pest became resident. Therefore, it is advised to monitor the field regularly

4.3 Tsetse Fly (*Glossina spp.)*

No reports received about Tsetse flies and the associated diseases during August, 2023

SIFO

For the Director, DLCO-EA

06, October 2023

For more information about the Organization visit DLCO-EA website
www.dlco-ea.org