



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. 06/2023 - 2024

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

Summary

Desert Locust: Winter breeding continued at the Red Sea Coast in **Eritrea** the Northern Red Sea coast of Eritrea, **Somalia** Northwest from the border of South Djibouti to Berbera and **Sudan**, from Egyptian borders in the North up to Eritrean borders in the South.

Survey and control operations also continued in winter breeding areas **26,500** ha, **113,500** ha was surveyed in Eritrea and Sudan respectively. Hopper bands/groups of the (1st - 5th instars) scattered mature/immature adults swarms of medium size and scattered breeding was seen at subcostal areas. Moreover, the movement of swarms were reported in Djibouti (Al-Sabeh) and Ethiopia (Aysha) bordering to Northwest Somalia.

During this month control operation treated **24,136** ha in Eritrea, **4053** ha in Somalia **22,677** ha in Sudan.

Other Member Countries in the region are free from Desert Locust during the reporting period

Quelea bird: During December quelea bird infestation reported in **Chita Relini** and **JKT in Kilombero** District of Morogoro Region, Tanzania, where 2 roosts containing 0.4 million birds were controlled by ground using **15** lts of Bathion 64% ULV.

No reports from other Member Countries.

African Armyworm: African Armyworm infestation reported in maize farms in South western Highlands, Central, and Lake zones in Tanzania.

No reports from other Member Countries.

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Almost no rainfall was recorded in the country. The vegetation status was green with wet soil moisture throughout the northern Red Sea coast.

1.3 Ethiopia

The sunny day and the chilly morning and night weather conditions also continued in December. There was no significant rain recorded in any part of the country. Consequently, the annual vegetation was drying and the perennial vegetation remained green. The soil was dry. Generally, the ecology was not favorable for Desert Locust activities.

1.4 Kenya

Except in the second week when light rains (less than 50mm) fall in most parts of Kenya. The rest of the month was dominated by dry conditions.

1.5 Somalia

During December, 2023 moderate and light rains fell in North-west (around Awdal region) and North-east (Nugal, Mudug as well as Sanaag regions) which was favorable for Desert locust breeding. Vegetation green and soil is moist because of rainy season (Deyr) season particularly Northwest part of the country.

1.6 South Sudan

Report not received

1.7 Sudan

During December 2023 light rains received in different areas in winter breeding zone of the Red Sea coast. Subsequently, the ecological condition favorable in winter breeding areas, the vegetation cover was green in most of surveyed areas and soil was wet.

1.8 Tanzania

Weather situation during December 2023 showed that most parts of Tanzania have been dominated by heavy and above normal rainfalls as a result of El Nino conditions especially in the first three weeks of the month. In the North eastern zone which includes Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tanga Regions reported above normal rainfalls with floods and landslides.

1.9 Uganda

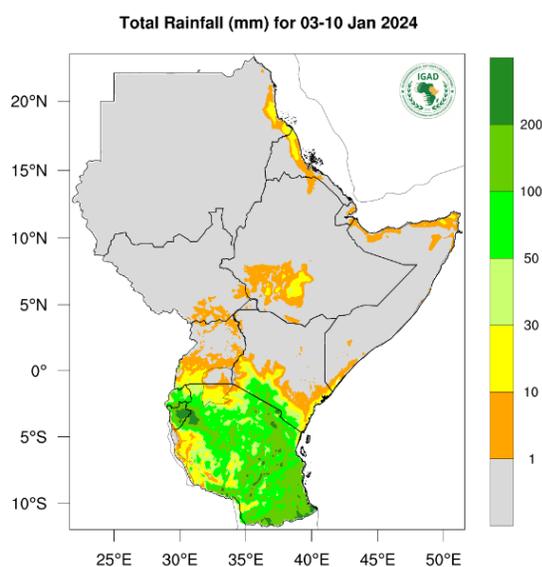
The Lake Victoria basin, Western and South Western parts of the Country continued to record some showers and thunderstorms. Northern, North Eastern recorded decline in rains with a few places recording scattered showers. Most parts of Karamoja region started becoming dry and hot.

Vegetation was green around the Lake Victoria basin, Western and South Western and Eastern Uganda. Some parts of northern Uganda started browning with Karamoja region most hit.



Forecast

- Moderate rainfall (50-200mm) expected over most parts central to eastern Tanzania.
- Light rainfall (less than 50 mm) expected over southern Uganda, south-western Tanzania, south-western Ethiopia and coastal regions of Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan.
- Dry conditions expected over most parts of Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, northern and eastern Kenya, and central to northern Uganda.



Rainfall Forecast 3rd - 10th January, 2024
(ICPAC)

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

2.1 Djibouti

Desert locust swarms migrated from Northwest Somalia have been reported in Al-Sabeh on 30th December 2023. This Locust was moved to Ethiopia and back to Somalia.

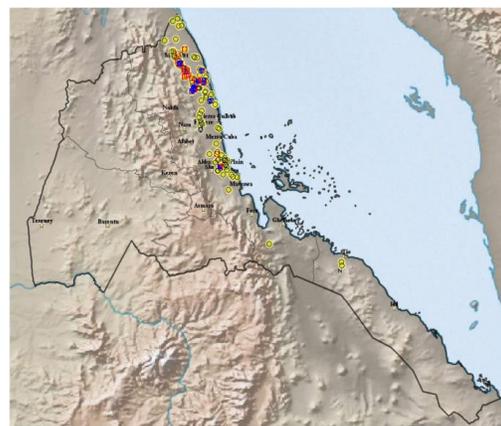
Forecast

Locust swarms movement from Somalia are likely.

2.2 Eritrea

Desert locust survey and control operation was conducted in the winter breeding areas of Eritrea.

More than 25,000 ha surveyed and found all stages of hopper groups extended from Karora up to Tio in the Southern Red Sea region, Fledging, and immature with breeding groups were found between Mehimet and Marsa Gulbub. In addition, immature, maturing and mature swarms, migrated from Sudan and Yemen, (Map-1). Ground Control operation treated a total of 24,136 ha.



Map-1 Desert Locust situation 1st - 30th December, 2023 (Migratory pest and desert locust control unit Eritrea)

Forecast

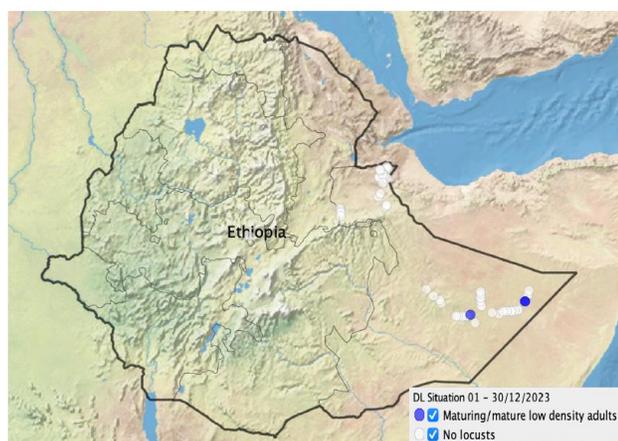
In January, breeding will continue along the Red Sea Coastal areas, movements of swarms from Sudan may continue and the swarms and local breeding of second generation is expected to continue as the vegetation status was green with wet soil moisture.

Maintaining regular survey and follow-up is essential.

2.3 Ethiopia

The Desert Locust situation was calm during December. Survey was conducted by ground team on 24,540 ha. Scattered solitary Desert Locust were found in two areas in Dollo zone (07° 11' 57"N/46° 32' 36"E & 06° 49'23'N/45° 00' 55"E) of Somali Administrative Region. No Desert Locust were found in other surveyed areas. **(Map-2).**

There were reports of Swarm migration from NW Somalia through AL-Sabeh, Djibouti to Aysha of Ethiopia on 30th December, 2023.



Map-2 Desert Locust situation 1st -31st December, 2023 (MOA information office)

Forecast

Desert Locust swarms from Northwest Somalia may cross to eastern Ethiopia and if rain falls, they will mature and breed there.

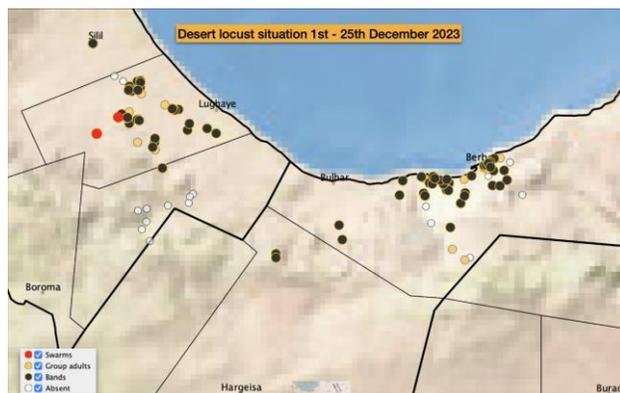
Close monitoring is important.

2.4 Somalia

Survey and control operations continued in December, 2023 in the coastal, sub-coastal and inland areas of winter breeding areas in North-west part of the country. **(Map-3).**

Hoppers of 5th instar were seen in Lughaye district and presence of immature and mature copulating adult were reported around Berbera and Bulhar.

Ground control operation treated 4053 using Diflubenzuron (IGR) & Metarhizium (Biopesticide).



Map-3 Desert Locust situation December, 2023 (Elhadj Bocar Lemine Sakho Locust Information Specialist)

Forecast

With the new rains started, maturation and breeding of second generation will continue during the forecast month. Some swarms start to move to inlands.

Efforts should be focused on breaking the locust population dynamics, particularly the groups of adults around Karure and Lughaye, and on combing the groups around Berbera.

2.5 Sudan

Desert Locust (DL) situation was at **Threat** level in Sudan during December 2023.

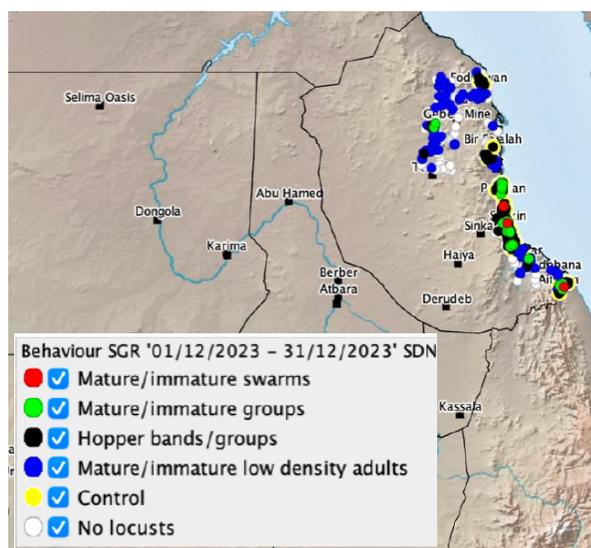
Comprehensive surveys were conducted to cover the winter breeding areas from Egyptian borders in the North up to Eritrean borders in the South, and extended far northwest of the Red Sea hills to include subcostal areas Wadi Oko, Diib, Toker Delta

and Khor Baraka. The total area surveyed was **113,500** ha.

Hopper bands/groups of the (1st to 5th instars) were found in different areas, as well scattered breeding was seen at subcostal areas. Moreover, scattered mature/immature adults were reported in many locations of the surveyed areas.

Aerial and ground control operations carried out against mature/immature swarms (3), hopper bands/groups (1st to fledgling), breeding group, mature/immature groups.

The total treated area was **22,677** ha (3,550 Aerial), and **6,805** L of ULV pesticides was used. (*Map- 4*).



Map-4 Desert Locust Situation 1st - 30th November 2023 (Locust control Department, Sudan)

Forecast

Fledgling will continue and formation of few swarms in the Central Coast, small-scale breeding is expected to start in subcostal areas. More swarms are expected to invade the southern coast and Toker Delta from neighboring countries during this forecasting period.

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

2.6 Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

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

Forecast

Desert Locust situation will remain calm in January, 2024.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS

Report not received.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Ethiopia

No Quelea bird infestation is reported in December, 2023.

Forecast

At the end week of January, Quelea birds will start to concentrate on the irrigated wheat farms in Oromia and Afar administrative regions.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Ground control operation conducted in two locations of Chita Relini and JKT in Kilombero District of Morogoro Region where 2 roosts containing 0.4 million birds were controlled by ground using 15 Lts of Bathion 64% ULV.

Forecast

In January Quelea birds are expected in irrigated Rice scheme in Kibaha District of Coast region, Simanjiro District in Manyara region.

4.1.3 Kenya

No Quelea birds reported received from counties.

In January, quelea quelea bird infestation may be observed at Kirinyaga County where there is Rice in Mwea irrigation scheme, and also Migori and Narok Counties and Lower Kuja Irrigation Schemes and Wheat in Mau Narok will get quelea infestation.

4.1.3 South Sudan

During the reporting period Quelea control operation using aircraft was conducted upper Nile State, Ruweng County. Detail report is not received.

Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda

No quelea bird infestations were reported during December, 2023. The situation remains calm in the coming month.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm infestation reported in maize farms in South western Highlands, Central, and Lake zones.

Forecast

During *January*, Armyworms are expected at the areas where early crops and pasturelands are green in Central, Eastern, North Eastern highlands and Lake Victoria zones.

Close monitoring using pheromone traps is recommended.

4.2.2 Kenya

No reports received from counties.

Forecast

During January, Armyworm infestations are expected on crops and pasturelands in Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Kitui, Kwale, Kilifi, Taita Taveta, Counties. Moth migrations from one location to others will be expected during the month.

Close monitoring using pheromone traps is recommended.

4.2.3 Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda

No report of Armyworm infestation.

Forecast

In January the situation remains calm.

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 December, 2023.

CIFO
for the Director, DLCO-EA
05, January 2024
www.dlco-ea.org