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

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SITREP No. 07/2023 - 2024

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

JANUARY, 2024

Summary

Desert Locust: In January, 2024. Survey and control operations continued in winter breeding areas of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan

In **Eritrea** survey and control was conducted along the Northern and Central Red Sea coast. Control was carried out against first generation 4th-5th and second-generation 1st-3rd gregarious hopper groups, fledging, immature swarms, maturing, mature and breeding groups with low density adults in all the sub-regions. A total of **14,594** ha was successfully treated

In **Ethiopia** three (3) swarms of Desert locust migrated northwest Somalia to the Eastern parts of the country. A total of **44,966** ha was surveyed. **1,680** ha was found infested of which **340**ha were controlled (**60ha** by ground control and **280**ha by aerial control).

Sudan: During January 2024, Desert Locust situation was considered to be in danger risk level. Aerial and ground control operations were conducted against breeding, mature and immature swarms (**91 swarms**), as well as mature, immature groups and hopper bands/groups (from 1st instars to fledgling stage). **214,310 ha** were surveyed. The total treated area was **38,736** ha (18,650 by Air), using **21,261** liters of ULV pesticides

Somalia: Desert locusts remained a concern in January 2024. Second-generation were found in northwest Somalia. Control operations using biopesticides treated **1,832** ha.
Other member countries in the region are free from Desert Locust during the reporting period

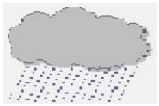
Quelea bird: The Quelea birds' infestation was reported in the irrigated wheat production areas in Oromia region, Ethiopia, since the first week of January 2024. The control operation was conducted on **100**ha of **8 r**oosts. A total of **26** million birds were controlled using 200 liters of Bathion 64 %, and 96 to 98% kill was recorded.

Other member countries in the region were free from quelea birds during the reporting period.

African Armyworm: African armyworm infestation was reported in Central, Eastern, Southwestern highlands affecting pastures and young maize in Tanzania.

No other member country reported AAW incidences.

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS



1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Slight rainfall was recorded in the country. The vegetation status was still green throughout the northern Red Sea coast, and soil moisture was wet, but it started to dry around Mehimet and to a lesser extent around Shieb and Afabet later in the month.

1.3 Ethiopia

The sunny day and the chilly morning and night weather conditions also continued in January. There was no rain recorded in any part of the country where DL winter breeding used to take place. Consequently, the annual vegetation was dry and the perennial vegetation remained green. The soil was dry.

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1.4 Kenya

Report not received.

1.5 Somalia

Light to medium rains have felt during this month vegetation is green and soil moisture was wet.

1.6 South Sudan

Report not received

1.7 Sudan

During January 2024 light rains received in southern and central coast of the Red Sea. Subsequently, the ecological condition remains favorable in winter breeding areas, the vegetation remained green and soil was wet in most of surveyed areas.

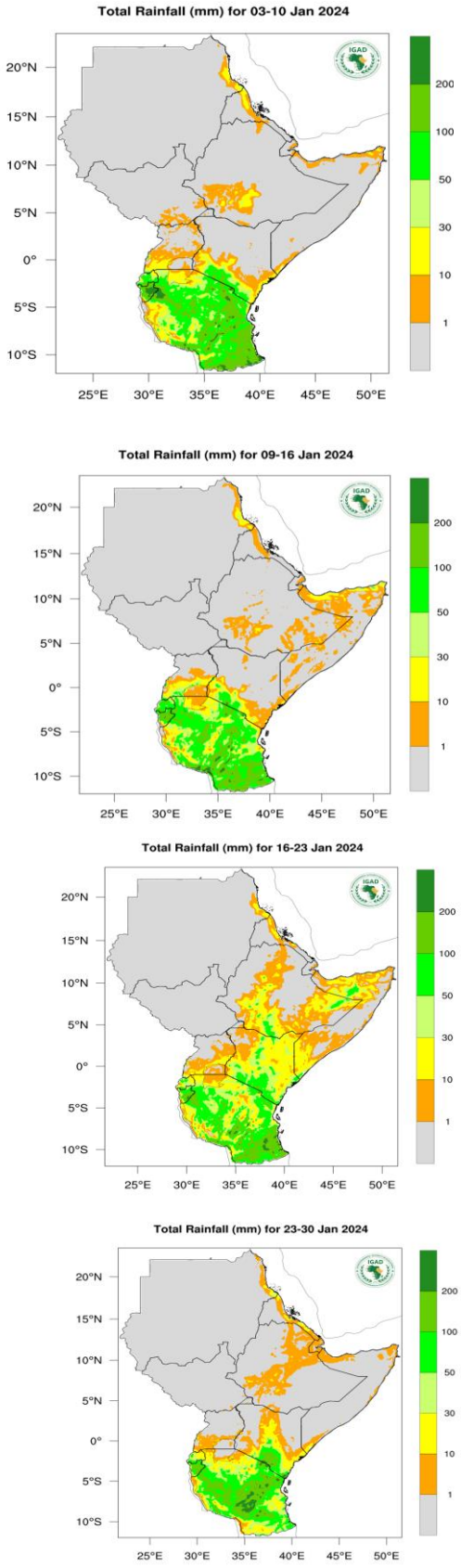
1.8 Tanzania

In January 2024, above normal and heavy rainfall continued affecting most parts of Tanzania, particularly the central-eastern, Southern, Western, Lake Victoria basin and northern parts, causing flash floods, damaging farms, triggering landslides, and resulting in causalities and several damages.

1.9 Uganda

The month of January, 2024 is normally dry in most places of Uganda, the month recorded some light to heavy showers especially in parts of Lake Victoria basin, Eastern and South-western Uganda.

Vegetation was green around the Lake Victoria basin, Western and South-western and Eastern Uganda.



Rainfall 03 - 30 January 2024 (ICPAC)

2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*Schistocerca gregaria*) SITUATION, JANUARY, 2024

2.1 Djibouti

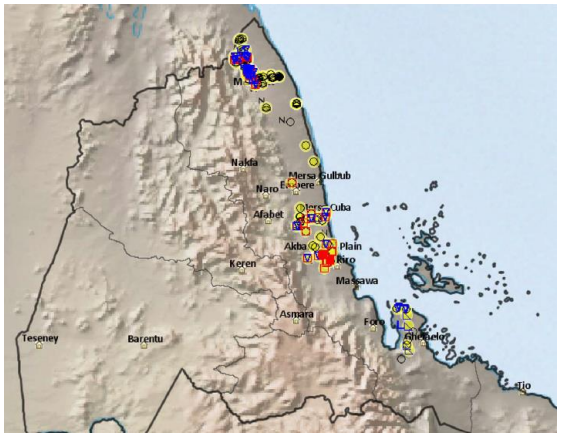
No reports received.

Forecast

Locust swarm movement from Somalia are likely.

2.2 Eritrea

Survey and control operation was conducted along the Northern and Central Red Sea coast of Eritrea (***Map-1***). Control was carried out against first generation 4th-5th gregarious hopper groups, fledging extended from Karora to Foro, immature swarms around Shieb in the mid-month, immature, maturing, mature and breeding groups with low density adults in all the sub-regions. Besides, second generation 1st-3rd gregarious hopper groups and low-density hoppers extended from Karura to Foro, 1st-2nd hopper bands around Mehemet were also controlled. Ground control team treated a total of **14,594** ha infested area successfully during the month and the operation is in progress.



Map-1 Desert Locust situation 01 -31-January, 2024 (Migratory pest and desert locust control unit Eritrea)

Forecast

In the February, period, formation of hoppers may continue, but the DL

population will decrease compared to the 1st generation due to the environmental factors and control operations unless the areas receive enough rainfall

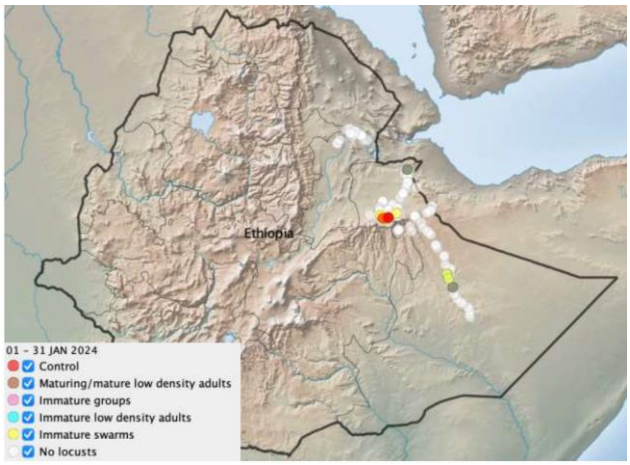
Maintain regular survey and follow-up.

2.3 Ethiopia

Ethiopia which shares a boarder with Somalia received at least **three swarm** and swarms able to reach some district of eastern Harergi and Biyo awale cluster of Oromia region and Dire Dawa administration respectively. Other swarms that were reported in Jarar and Denbel areas returned to Somalia. (***Map-2)***

Survey operations in Afar region (zone -1), Somali region (Fafen, Siti, Jarar zone), Oromia region (east Harergi zone), and Dire Dawa administration, Biyo Awale cluster. A total of **44,966 ha** was surveyed and 1,680ha was found infested

Ground control operations were conducted on 60 hectares, while two aerial control operations targeted swarms covering 280 hectares (totally**380 ha** treated)



Map-2 Desert Locust situation 01 – 31January, 2024 (MOA information office)

Forecast

In February, 2024 Desert locust migration is expected and low breeding might occur from the previous swarms that entered in the country if these areas receive rainfall.

Survey should be continued in the eastern parts of the country.

2.4 Somalia

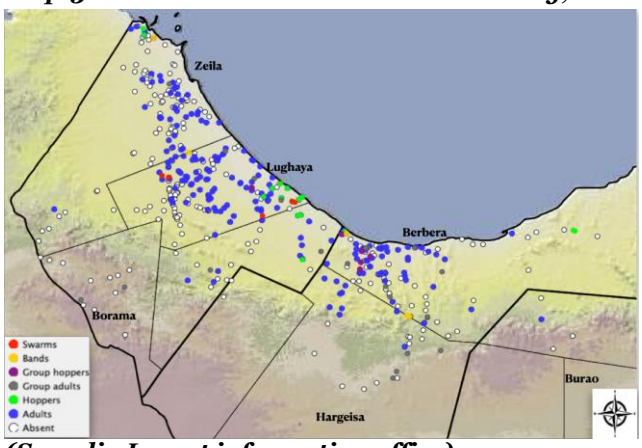
The Desert Locust situation continued to persist during January 2024. The second generation began in January. Hopper bands 1st and 2nd instars were reported in the south of Lughaya district, between **(10°16N/44°18E)** and **(10°21N/44°19E)**.

Control operations were carried out against groups of hoppers, adults and swarms in the coastal, sub-coastal, and inland areas of the desert locust breeding in the northwest regions (Somaliland).

The treated area from January 1st to 29th, 2024, was **1,832**ha, using Diflubenzuron (IGR) and Metarhizium (Biopesticide).

No locusts were seen in Puntland and Galmudug regions. **(*Map-3)***

Map-3 Desert Locust situation January, 2024



(Somalia Locust information office)

Forecast:

The breeding of second generation will continue and forming hopper groups and bands. Adults will mature and move to the escarpments and inland

2.5 Sudan

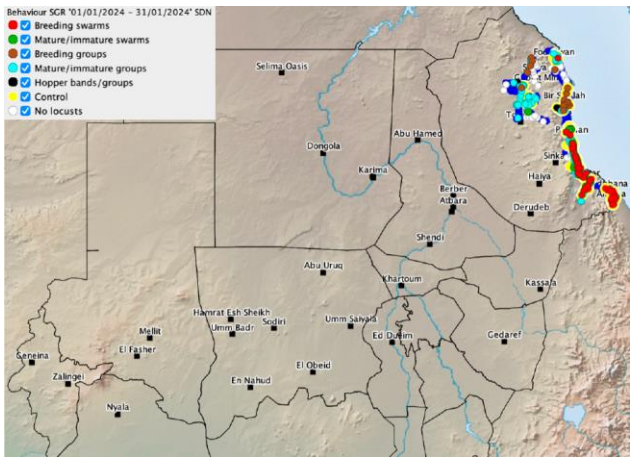
During January 2024 Desert Locust situation in Sudan was considered to be **in danger risk** level.

Comprehensive surveys were conducted and covered the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, and extended to the far northwest of the Red Sea hills to include subcostal areas (Wadi Oko and Diib), in additions to Toker Delta and Khor Baraka.

Aerial and ground control operations were conducted against breeding, mature and immature swarms (**91 swarms**), as well as mature, immature groups and hopper bands/groups (from 1st instar hoppers to fledgling stage).

The total **38,736** ha (18,650 by Air), was treated using **21,261** liters of ULV pesticides.

Elsewhere, hopper bands/groups (from 1st to 5th instars), as well as mature and immature adult groups in different locations found during survey in January 2024. Furthermore, scattered mature/ immature adults were observed in many surveyed areas. the total surveyed area was **214,310** ha. (***Map- 4).***



Map-4 Desert Locust situation 01–31 January 2024 (Locust control Department, Sudan)

Forecast

The new generation which started during the first decade of January will continue to February, the adult groups and swarms are expected to form and are likely migrate to Nile Valley and threaten the winter season crops.

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 January,2024, no locusts were reported in these countries.

Forecast

Desert Locust situation will remain calm in February 2024.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS

EASTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. No locusts are present.

FORECAST. No significant developments are likely.

WESTERN REGION: CALM

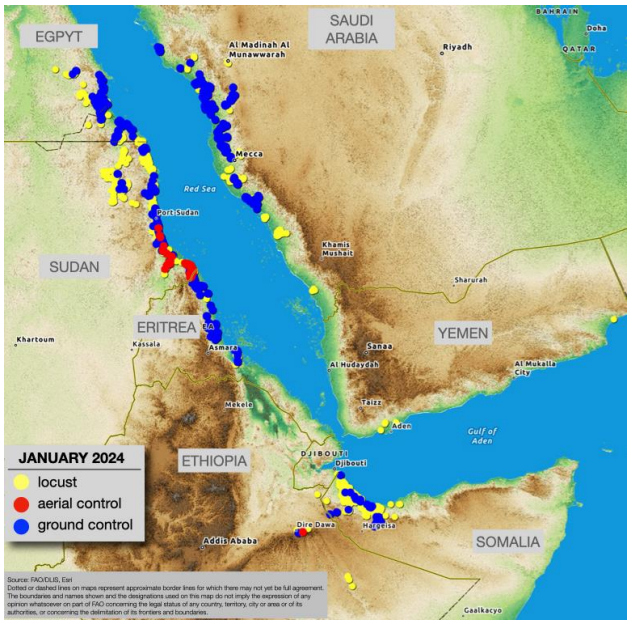
SITUATION. Isolated adults in **Algeria** and in **Morocco**.

FORECAST. Light rainfall may allow spring breeding to start on a small scale in **Algeria** and **Morocco**.

CENTRAL REGION: CAUTION

SITUATION. The first winter generation continued on the Red Sea coast with hopper groups, bands, adult groups, and small swarms in **Sudan** (38 736 ha treated), **Eritrea** (14 594 ha), **Saudi Arabia** (13 703 ha), **Egypt** (8 657 ha), as well as the Gulf of Aden in northwest **Somalia** (2 087 ha). A few small swarms appeared in **Ethiopia** (340 ha). Adult groups copulated in southeast **Yemen**. The second generation occurred during the first half of the month in Eritrea and Sudan and the second half in Saudi Arabia and Somalia.

FORECAST. The second generation will continue with hopper groups and bands along the Red Sea and the southern Gulf of Aden coasts. Fledgling will start during the second half of February, followed by new immature adults and groups that can become mature after mid-March in **Egypt**, **Eritrea**, **Saudi Arabia**, **Somalia**, and **Sudan**. Locusts are then likely to decrease because of control operations, diminished rainfall, and drying vegetation, and small groups will remain. Some locusts are likely to migrate from Somalia to **Ethiopia**. In **Yemen**, some groups and bands on the southeast coast and scattered locusts or groups on the Red Sea coast.



(*FAO DL bulletin No. 544*

www.fao.org/ag/locusts).

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Ethiopia

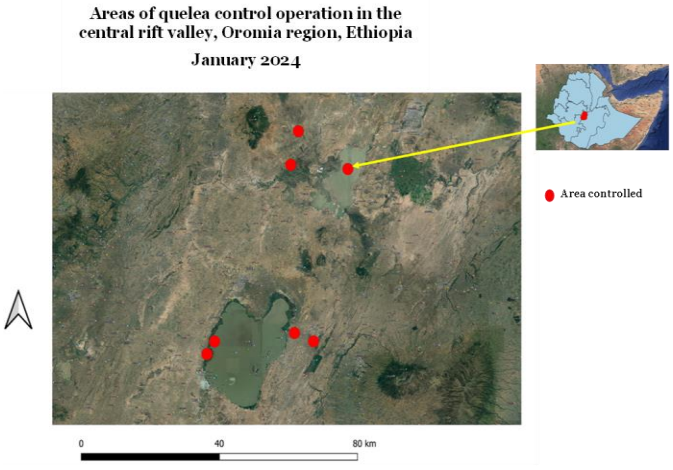
In the first week of January 2024, Quelea birds' infestation was reported at the irrigated wheat production areas in Oromia Administrative Region. A survey team from Federal PPD conducted a confirmation survey on 13th January 2024. The survey team found quelea birds infested 100 ha in 4 Districts of the East Shewa zone.

The aerial control operation by DLCO-EA aircraft was conducted from 15th to 19th January. An estimated population of 26 million Quelea Birds were controlled on 8 roosting sites using 200 liters of Bathion 64 %on sprayed on 100 ha.

The mortality assessed indicate 96 to 98% and was successful.

Forecast:

In February, 2024, Quelea birds will start to concentrate on the irrigated wheat farms in Oromia, SNNP and Afar administrative regions.



4.1.2 Tanzania

No Quelea bird infestation in the reported month.

Forecast

In February Quelea birds are expected in irrigated Rice scheme in Uyui District, Tabora Region, *Kibaha District of Coast region, Simanjiro District in Manyara region.*

4.1.3 Kenya

Report not received.

4.1.3 South Sudan

No reports of Quelea birds in January, 2024.

Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda

No quelea bird infestations were reported during January 2024.

The situation will remain calm in the coming month.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African armyworm infestation was reported in Central, Eastern Southwestern Highlands affecting pasture and young maize

Forecast

During February, Armyworms are expected at the areas where early crops and pasturelands are green in 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 February, African Armyworm infestations are expected in Makueni and Taita Taveta counties in the southeast parts of the country.

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 February 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. Therefore, it is advised to monitor for the pest fields regularly, since it has become resident.

4.3 Tsetse Fly (*Glossina spp.)*

No reports were received about Tsetse flies and the associated diseases during January, 2024

CIFO
for the Director, DLCO-EA

06, February 2024
www.dlco-ea.org