



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. 08/2023 - 2024

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT **FOR FEBRUARY, 2024**

Summary

Desert Locust: During February 2024, second generation breeding continued along the Red Sea coast (Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan).

Eritrea: 1st-4th hopper groups were found from Karora to Gulf of Zula, near Foro and immature groups around Karora in the northern Red Sea coast starting from the mid-month till now. Ground control team treated a total of **5,075** ha

Sudan: Comprehensive ground surveys were conducted in winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, northwest of the Red Sea hills including subcostal areas (Wadi Oko and Diib), in additions to Toker Delta and Khor Baraka and River Nile State. Breeding, mature and immature swarms as well as mature, immature groups and hopper bands/groups (from 1st hopper instars to fledgling stage) were observed. Control treated (**15 swarms**), mature, immature groups and hopper bands/groups on **4,348** ha (**700 by Air**), using **3,315** L of ULV pesticides.

Ethiopia: No locust was found during survey in February in Afar, Somali, Oromia regions and Dire Dawa administration. A total of **41,920** ha was surveyed.

Somalia: A few small groups and bands of third to fifth instars and fledglings persist between Berbera to Zeylac near Lughaya, while some mature adult groups were seen near Berbera. No locusts were seen in Puntland and Galmudug regions. Control was conducted on 160 ha using biopesticides

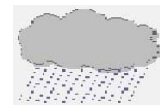
Other member countries in the region are free from Desert Locust during the reporting period

Quelea bird: The Quelea birds' infestation was reported in the irrigated wheat production areas in Oromia and Afar regions of Ethiopia. The control operation treated 125 ha. A total of **7 million** birds were controlled using 250 liters of Bathion 64 %. In Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority has reported the presence of large flocks of Quelea birds threatening Rice, Sorghum and millets in Central and South western Highlands zones (Dodoma and Mbeya).

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

African Armyworm: No outbreak has been reported in the region

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS



1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

There was no rainfall recorded in the country during the month of February. Soil moisture was dry around Mehemet and Shieb. The vegetation status was green during the 1st and 2nd weeks of the month. But started drying after the second week throughout the northern Red Sea coast. Soil is wet in central Red Sea coast around Foro.

1.3 Ethiopia

In February, sunny and dry weather conditions continued. In the second week of February (9th -12th February), Light rains were recorded in some parts of the country including the Eastern Region (Dire Dawa and Somali Administrative Regions).

The annual vegetation was drying out whereas the perennial vegetation remained green. The soil was dry. Generally, the ecology was not favorable for Desert Locust activities.

1.4 Kenya

The northern part the country is dry and the other parts of the country received light to medium rainfall after mid-month. Generally, the weather situation is conducive for migratory pest development (Desert locust and African armyworm)

1.5 Somalia

Light rainfall occurred along the coast of northwest Somalia, and the plateau. Vegetation is still green in the breeding areas.

1.6 South Sudan

Report not received

1.7 Sudan

During February, no rain was received in the winter breeding areas of the Red Sea coast. Subsequently, the vegetation cover has become drying to dry in most of surveyed areas and soil moisture is dry.

1.8 Tanzania

During February most parts of Tanzania continued to experience normal to above normal rainfall. A sequence of heavy rainfall with lightning and thunderstorms affected south-eastern Tanzania (in particular the Lindi Region), South western highlands including Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Katavi regions. Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) has given forecast for the continuation of normal to above normal rainfall on the forthcoming long rainy season during early March.

1.9 Uganda

The month of February 2024 continued to record some short lived off-seasonal rainfall in some regions. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority indicated that most parts of the Country remained dry and sunny with hazy conditions and some rains in selected parts of the Country. Some occasional light to heavy rains were recorded mainly in parts of Lake Victoria basin, south Western Uganda and extending to parts of Eastern Uganda.

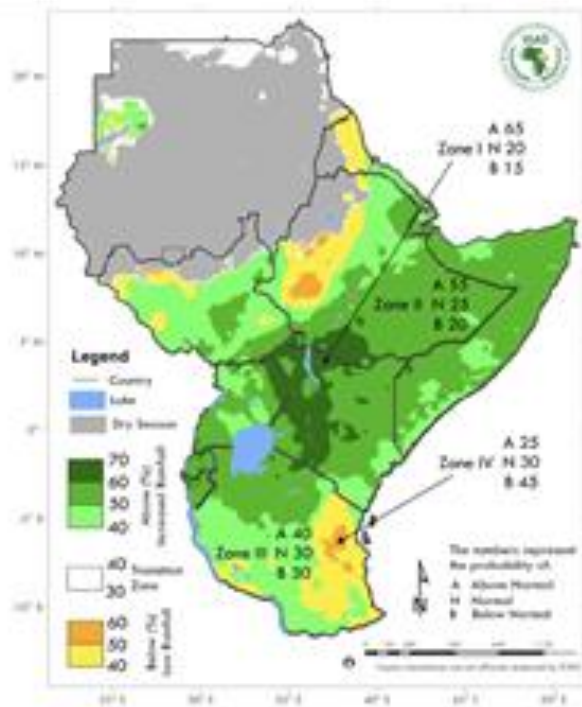
Vegetation was green around the Lake Victoria basin, Western and South-western and Eastern Uganda.

Seasonal forecast

On 21st February 2024 the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) released the **March to May** 2024 seasonal forecast which indicates a higher probability of **wetter** than normal conditions across most parts of the Greater Horn of Africa

Notably, the areas expected to experience wetter conditions include **Kenya, Somalia, Southern Ethiopia, South Sudan Uganda Burundi, Rwanda and north-western Tanzania.** (Fig-1)

Fig- 1 Rainfall Forecast for March - May 2024

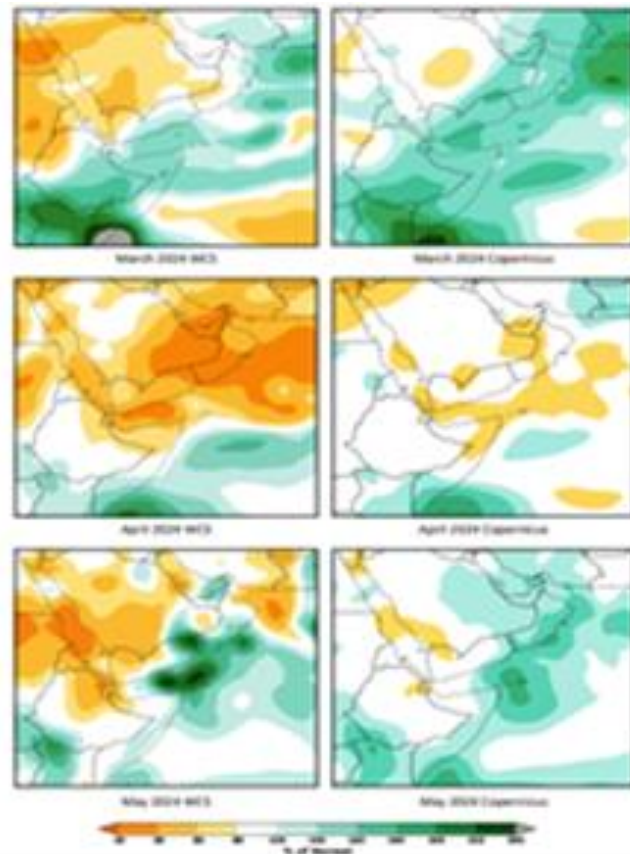


FAO (DLIS) also shared the seasonal precipitation predictions in the Desert Locust winter/spring/summer breeding areas (March–August 2024) for the next six months on February 14, 2024

According to FAO from the latest models, dry conditions are expected to persist along the Red Sea coast and in the interior throughout winter and spring. The forecast for **March** models has changed, predicting above-normal rains from the Gulf of Aden and eastern Ethiopia plateau to southeast Iran and southwest Pakistan. The presence of warmer waters and a positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) in **May** and **June** could lead to more **cyclone** activity in the western Indian Ocean, potentially resembling the cyclones **Sagar** and **Mekunu** in **2018**

and the seasonal precipitation prediction in **March 2020.**

Fig-2 Seasonal forecast multi-model precipitation –WCS vs. Copernicus maps (three months)



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

2.1 Djibouti

No reports received.

Forecast

No Locust development will be in the forecast period

2.2 Eritrea

Survey and control operation was conducted along the Northern and Central Red Sea coast of Eritrea. Control was carried out against second generation 1st-4th gregarious

hopper groups and low-density hoppers extended from Karora to Gulf of Zula, near Foro. Immature groups, crossed from Sudanese border, were also controlled around Karora in the northern Red Sea coast starting from the mid-month till now. Ground control team treated a total of **5,075** ha (Fig- 3)

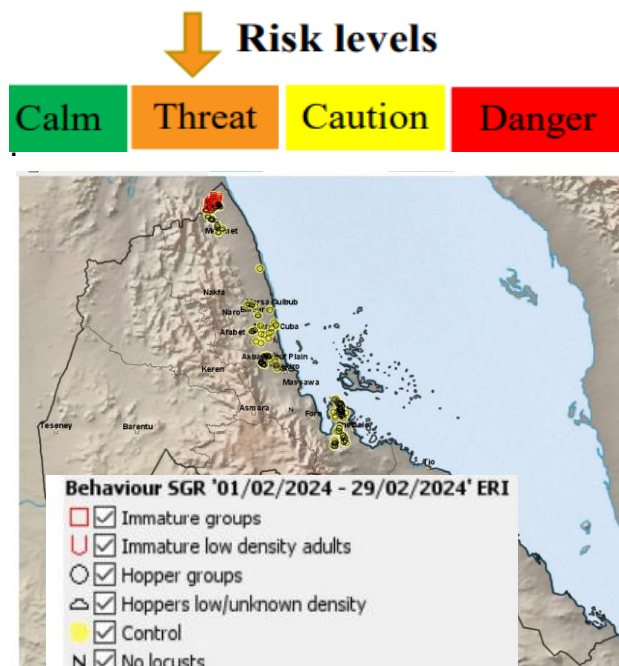


Fig-3 Desert Locust situation 01 -29-February, 2024 (Migratory pest and desert locust control unit Eritrea)

Forecast

In the forecast period, locusts will decrease due to unfavorable environment created and control operation under taken. Some immature adults will move to the Red Sea cost of Sudan. Further South, the second-generation fledgling and immature adults and groups will occur by mid-month near Zula Gulf.

2.3 Ethiopia

In February, 2024 Desert locust survey was conducted by Federal experts, locust scouts, regional and district experts in Afar region (zone 3), Somali region (Fafen, Siti, Jarar

zone), Oromia region (East Harergi zone), and Dire Dawa administration. A total of 41,920 ha was covered. During this survey **no locusts** were found. In general soil was dry and annual vegetation is dry in most surveyed areas. (Fig-4)

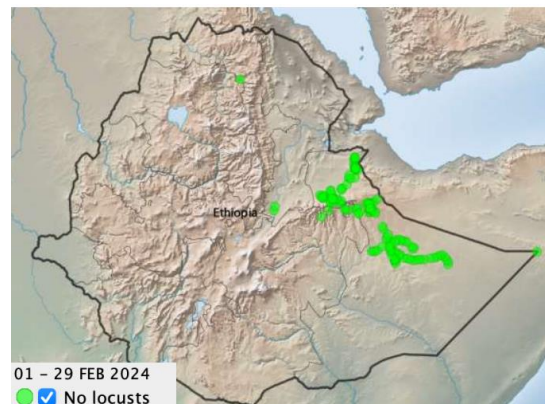


Fig-4 Desert Locust situation 01 – 29 February, 2024 (MOA information office)

Forecast

In March, 2024 some adults may arrive in Somali region between Aysha and Jigjiga where they receive rain at the end of February and may also adult locust may move to south east of Jigjiga at the end of 2nd week of March, 2024

2.4 Somalia

In February, 2024, Second generation locusts continued on the northwest coast from Berbera to Zeylac. A few small groups and bands of 3rd to 5th instars and fledglings persisted near Lughaya, while some mature adult groups were seen near Berbera. Elsewhere, only isolated and scattered immature and mature adults were present. No locusts were seen in Puntland and Galmudug regions.

Control operation treated 160 ha using biopesticides (Fig-5)

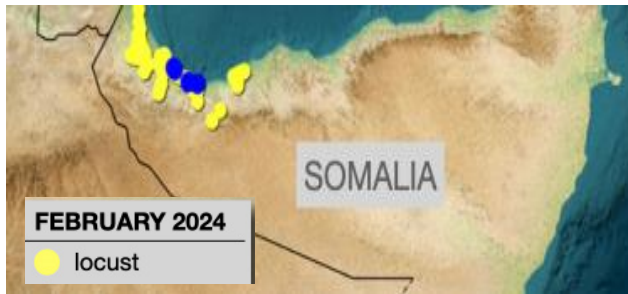


Fig-5 Desert Locust situation February, 2024 (FAO-DLIS)

Forecast

The second -generation hopper and fledgling will finish in early March. Some of the immature and mature adults and few small groups will stay a long the northwest coast while others are likely to move in to the northwest Plateau. There is small possibility that some rainfall may occur at the end of March

2.5 Sudan

In February, 2024 comprehensive ground surveys conducted at the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, northwest of the Red Sea hills including subcostal areas (Wadi Oko and Diib) in addition to Toker Delta and Khor Baraka and River Nile State. Mature and immature swarms as well as hopper bands/groups from 1st hopper instars to fledgling stage were seen in many locations. A total of **185,930ha** were surveyed.

Aerial and ground control operations continued against breeding, mature and immature swarms (15 swarms), as well as mature, immature groups and hopper bands/groups (from 1st hopper instars to fledgling stage). Total treated area was **4,348 ha** (700 by Air), using 3,315 L of ULV pesticides. (Fig- 6).

Forecast

During February no rain was received in the winter breeding areas of the Red Sea coast, and accordingly the vegetation cover went from

drying to dry in most of surveyed areas. Therefore, DL is expected to be concentrated in green patches and likely to migrate to Nile Valley, and fledgling might continue during the first decade of March. Therefore, regular surveys and close monitoring in winter breeding areas are highly recommended

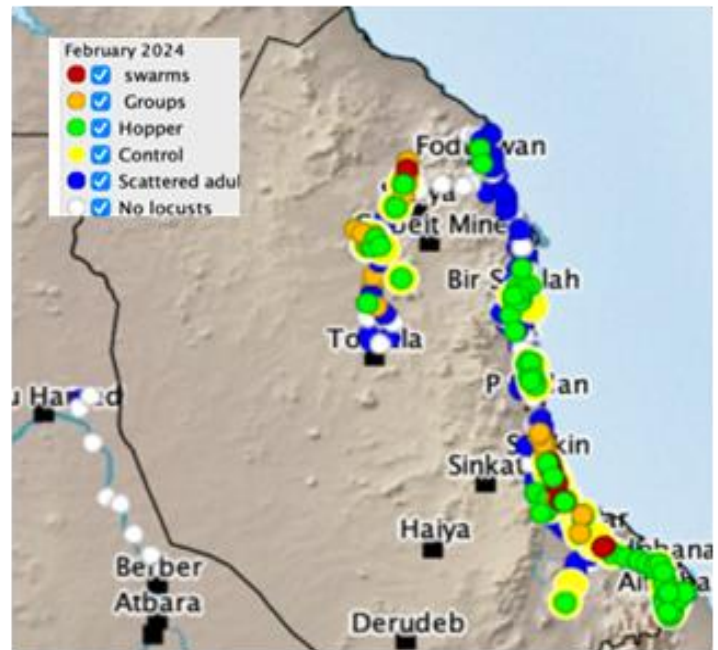


Fig-6 Desert Locust situation 01–29 February 2024 (Locust control Department, Sudan)

2.6 Kenya Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During February, 2024, no locusts were reported in these countries.

Forecast

Desert Locust situation will remain calm in March 2024.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS

CENTRAL REGION: CAUTION

SITUATION. The second generation continued on the Red Sea coast with hatching, hopper groups, bands, and new immature adult groups in **Sudan** (4 316 ha treated), **Eritrea** (4 975 ha), **Saudi Arabia** (15 239 ha), and **Somalia** (160 ha). Some first-generation swarms moved from the southeast coast of **Egypt** (12 518 ha) to the Nile Valley while a few second-generation hatching and first-instar hopper groups occurred on the coast. In **Yemen** (4 ha), mature adults and groups of hatching on the southeast coast.

FORECAST. The second generation will continue with hopper groups, bands and more immature adults and groups that can become mature about mid-March along the Red Sea and the southern Gulf of Aden coasts. Locusts are expected to decrease because of control operations, diminished rainfall, and drying vegetation. As a result, only small groups will remain that could move to the interior along the Nile River in **Egypt** and **Sudan**, the coast and interior of **Saudi Arabia**, and the plateau of northwest **Somalia**, where limited spring breeding is likely to occur as well as in parts of the Gulf of Aden coast in **Yemen**.

WESTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. Isolated adults in central and southern **Algeria**; no locusts were seen in **Morocco**.

FORECAST. Light rainfall may allow spring breeding to start on a small scale south of the Atlas Mountains in **Algeria** and **Morocco**. No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. No locusts present.

FORECAST. As temperature increase, rainfall is expected to start in the spring areas where small-scale breeding is likely to occur in parts of the coast and interior areas of southeast **Iran** and southwest **Pakistan**.

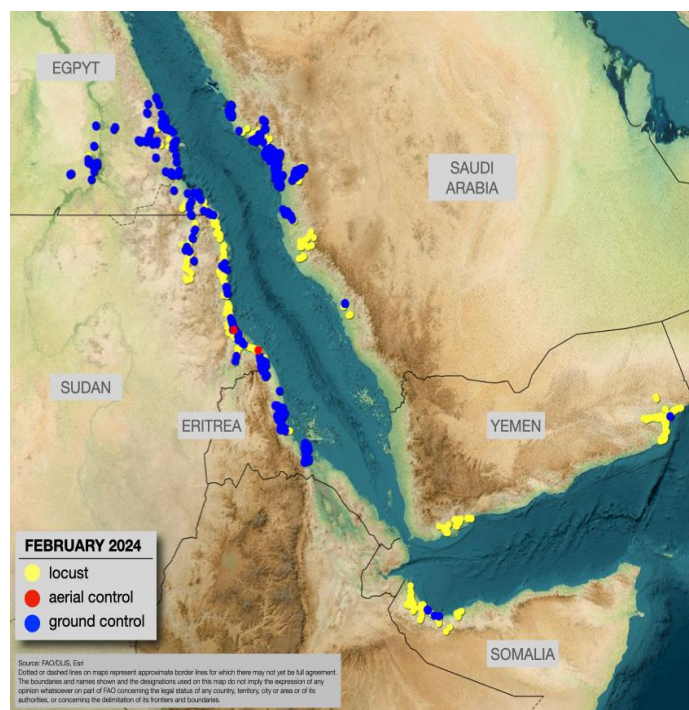


Fig-7/ desert locust situation February, 2024

(FAO DL February bulletin No. 545
www.fao.org/ag/locusts).

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Ethiopia

The Quelea bird infestation was reported in the irrigated wheat production areas of the Oromia (east Hararghe, East Showa) and Afar Administrative Regions (Zone-3). An estimated population of 20 million birds roosted on Acacia, Bamboo trees and Typha grass.

Control operation conducted in Afar Administrative Region on 125 ha using 150 liters of Bathion 64% ULV.

Forecast:

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

4.1.2 Tanzania

Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority has reported the presence of large flocks of Quelea birds threatening Rice, Sorghum and millets in Central and South western Highlands zones (Dodoma and Mbeya). Surveillance is ongoing to get the pest extent before DLCO-EA can arrange for deployment of aircraft for aerial control.

Forecast

In March, Quelea birds are expected 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.

4.1.3 Kenya

No quelea infestation report during February 2024.

Forecast

No quelea infestation will be expected during March 2024

4.1.3 South Sudan

No reports of Quelea birds in February 2024.

Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda

No quelea bird infestations were reported during February 2024.

Forecast

The situation remains calm in the coming month.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

No reports of African armyworm in February. Some traps have been installed recently waiting for the moth catch up reports.

Forecast

The armyworm outbreak is unlikely during March, 2024 but need *close monitoring using pheromone traps is recommended.*

4.2.2 Kenya

No outbreak of African armyworm reports received from any of the counties in the country

Forecast

During March, African Armyworm infestations are not expected. But need for close monitoring at Makeni, Kericho, Kisumu

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

No report of armyworm infestation

Forecast

In March, the situation is expected to remain 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 reported, 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 February, 2024

CIFO

for the Director, DLCO-EA

05, March 2024

www.dlco-ea.org