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

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SITREP No. 09/2023 – 2024

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR MARCH, 2024

Summary

Desert Locust: In March, the Desert Locust outbreaks decreased in winter breeding areas along the Red Sea Coast in Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. Eritrea and Sudan had second-generation hoppers, groups, bands, and immature adult groups, but annual vegetation was drying up and control operations decreased.

During March, in Eritrea control was continued against hoppers and adults on the Red Sea Coast. A total of **1,445** ha area was treated successfully. And Sudan treated **1,695** ha using **640** L of ULV pesticides.

In April the locust populations are expected to decrease along the coasts of the Red Sea. Adult groups in Sudan will move west to the irrigated areas of the Nile River. Limited spring breeding in Northwest Somalia plateau and possibility of few locusts in Ethiopia (Somali region).

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

Quelea bird: The Quelea bird infestation was continued in **Ethiopia** during March in the irrigated wheat production areas of the Oromia region, East Showa zone and Amhara North Showa Zone and Afar regions.

An estimated population of **31 million** birds roosted on Acacia trees and Typha grass were controlled using **227 liters** of Bathion 64% ULV on **1134 ha.**

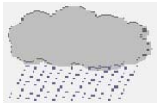
Plant Health and Pesticides Authority has reported the presence of many roosts and colonies in 5 Regions of **Tanzania** during March 2024. The birds were feeding on Sorghum, Finger and Burlush millets.

Aerial control operation conducted starting from 15, March, 2024 and controlled **14 milliom** birds using **1,125 litres** of Bathion 64% ULV on an area of **1,064 ha.**

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 light to moderate rainfall recorded in the country during the second week of the month. Vegetation was moderately green and drying around Mehimet and Foro and soil moisture was dry in all the surveyed areas.

1.3 Ethiopia

In March 2024, sunny and rainy weather conditions prevailed throughout the month. Light to heavy rains fell in most parts of the country including the DL spring breeding areas during the second and third weeks of the month. Consequently, both annual and perennial vegetation were started greening and the soil was wet. Generally, the ecology conditions are favorable for Desert Locust activities.

1.4 Kenya

Report not received.

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 March 2024 no rain received in the winter breeding areas of the Red Sea coast. Consequently, the vegetation cover become dry in most of surveyed areas and soil moisture was dry also.

1.8 Tanzania

Most parts of Tanzania continued to experience moderate to heavy rainfall and thunderstorms. Severe weather situation including heavy rainfall and thunderstorms, strong winds and lightning were reported across much of eastern and south-central, Lake Victoria and Northern Tanzania through at least March. The rainfall also impacted the bimodal regions of Dar es Salaam, Coast, Tanga, Morogoro, Unguja, Pemba, as well as the Lake Victoria Zone regions of Mwanza, Geita, Mara, Kagera, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Kigoma and South western highlands regions of Iringa, Mbeya and Njombe.

1.9 Uganda

The onset of the rains was recorded in various parts of the Country but with a disruption of the rains by a dry spell around the middle of March, then with resumption of the rains towards the end of the month, (www.unma.go.ug). The Country is generally expected to receive near normal to above normal rainfall during April and May as had been forecasted by The Uganda National Meteorological Authority in its MAM 2024 outlook attached (UNMA: [http://www.unma.go.ug)]. However, some parts of Northern Uganda remained hot and dry.

Vegetation: Vegetation was green in most parts of the Lake Victoria basin, South Western Uganda, parts of Eastern Uganda, then dry and yellow in several parts of Karamoja and west Nile Regions, as was in February 2024.

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 till mid-march. Control was carried out against 3rd-4th gregarious hopper groups around Foro early in the month and immature groups, crossed from Sudan, around Karora in the northern Red Sea coast up to the mid-month. The situation changed to be calm after wards.

Ground control team treated a total of 1,445 ha infested area successfully. (***Fig- 1***)

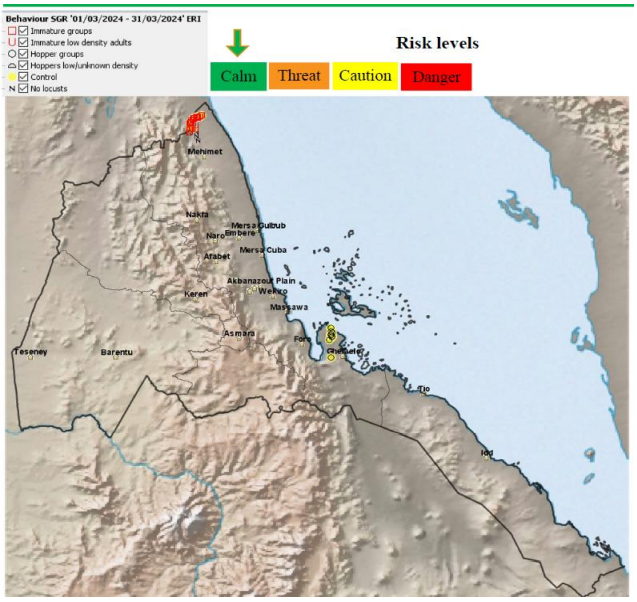


Fig-1 Desert Locust situation 01 -31 March, 2024 (Migratory pest and desert locust control unit Eritrea)

Forecast

The DL population has declined and changed to be calm later in the month due to unfavorable environment created and control operations taken. And the remnants from the winter season are expected to live as solitary unless unusual rainfall happens.

2.3 Ethiopia

In March, Desert Locust situation remains **calm** throughout Ethiopia. Communication with locust focal persons and scouts indicated the absence of locust activity in winter and spring breeding areas of Eastern Ethiopia. During the second and third week of the month Central, Northern and Eastern parts of the country were received low to moderate rainfall, including Somali and Afar regions where winter and spring breeding takes place, as a result annual vegetation start to grow and the soil becomes wet. Generally, this situation creates favorable habitat and condition for breeding, but the locust situation was still calm throughout the month.

Forecast

Some rain started in the end week of March and distribution covered the spring breeding areas of Ethiopia. Consequently, there will be a possibility of few locusts to appear in Somali region between Dire Dawa east to the Somalia border and possibly breed on small scale in April.

2.4 Somalia

During March, no locusts were seen during few surveys in the escarpment of south Berbera, the plateau northeast near Las Anod, north of Gardo in Puntland, and further south to the west of Galkayo near Ethiopian border. (*FAO DL March bulletin No. 546).*

Forecast

Some rain is likely in in the first week of April and perhaps other times during the month. As a result, there is possibility for one generation of limited breeding during the spring along the northwest plateau where laying, hatching, and hoppers would occur in April and early May.

2.5 Sudan

Desert Locust (DL) situation in the **calm level** in Sudan during March 2024, due to control operation and unfavorable condition. Comprehensive ground surveys conducted on **92,430** ha covered the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, northwest of the Red Sea hills include subcostal areas (Wadi Oko and Diib), Toker Delta, in additions to, River Nile and Northern States. (***Fig- 2).***

Group of Immature adults, hopper bands, (1st instar and fledgling) in Toker Delta, Southern Coast and Subcostal areas were found. Scattered mature/immature were seen in most of surveyed areas. Also, Immature groups and hopper bands reported in few locations. Vegetation cover and soil moisture was dried.

Ground control operation treated a total of **1,695** ha and using 640 L of ULV pesticide.

Forecast

Due to the unfavorable conditions, there is no significant development of DL is expected in winter breeding area. DL monitoring is recommended by the limited teams during the forecasting period.

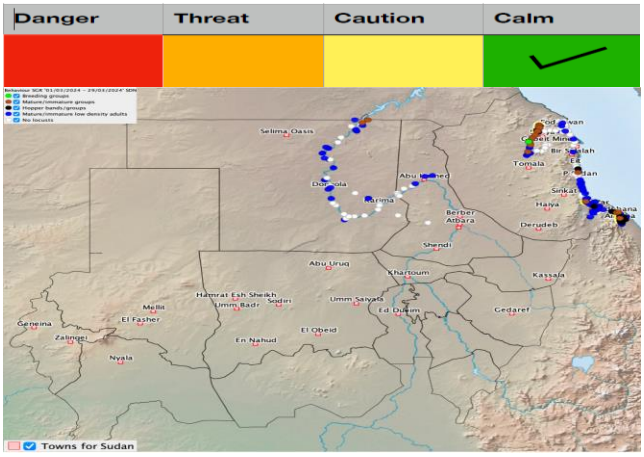


Fig-2 Desert Locust situation 01–31 March 2024 (Locust control Department, Sudan)

2.6 Kenya Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

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

Forecast

Desert Locust situation will remain calm in April 2024.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS

CENTRAL REGION: CAUTION

SITUATION. The second-generation hatching, hopper groups, and bands declined along the Red Sea coast of **Sudan** (1 695 ha treated) and **Eritrea** (1 445 ha) as well as **Saudi Arabia** (17 693 ha) although groups of immature adults increased slightly. Locust increased in **Egypt** (19 703 ha) where there we still some first-generation mature swarms. In **Yemen** (153 ha), a few hopper groups and bands were on the southeast coast. No locusts were seen in **Somalia** and **Oman**, and no surveys in **Ethiopia**.

FORECAST. Locusts will decline along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts as adults and small groups will move to the interior of **Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen** while others may arrive in the irrigated areas of the Nile River in southern **Egypt** and northern **Sudan**. One generation of limited spring breeding will occur due to rain with laying, hatching, and hoppers during April and May. Rains may also occur in the plateau of northwest **Somalia** and eastern **Ethiopia** with perhaps a few limited breeding in the spring. May and June might see a rise in cyclone activity along the Gulf of Aden.

EASTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. Isolated mature adults in the northern areas of southwest **Pakistan**.

FORECAST. Above-normal rainfall is likely to occur in late April and early May in southeast **Iran** and southwest **Pakistan** followed by one generation of small-scale breeding. May and June might see a rise in cyclone activity along the Arabian Sea.

WESTERN REGION: CALM

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

FORECAST. No significant developments are likely.

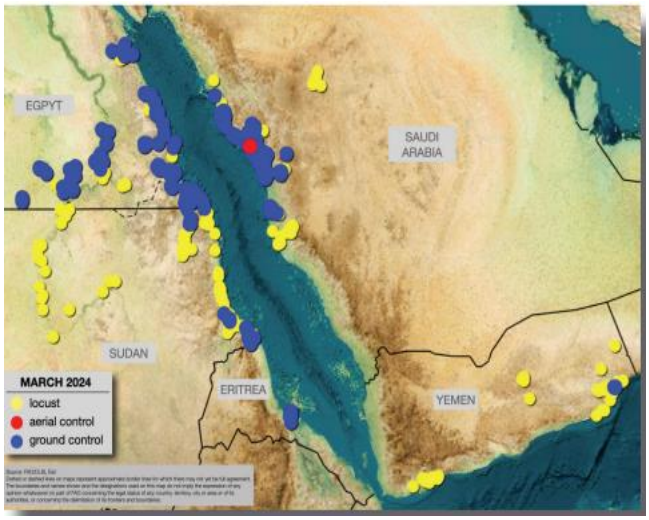


Fig-3 Desert locust situation March, 2024 (*FAO DL March bulletin No. 546* www.fao.org/ag/locusts).

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 region, East Showa zone and Amhara region, North Showa Zone and Afar region.

An estimated population of **31 million** birds roosted on Acacia trees and Typha grass were controlled using **227 liters** of Bathion 64% ULV on **1134 ha.**

Forecast

In April 2024, Quelea bird population will declines due to the harvest of the irrigated wheat and intensive control done in the past.

4.1.2 Tanzania

In Tanzania, Plant Health and Pesticides Authority has reported the presence of many roosts and colonies in 5 Regions (**Dodoma, Manyara, Kigoma, Shinyanga and Mwanza**) during March 2024. The birds were feeding on Sorghum, Finger and Burlush millets in Chamwino, Kondoa and Bahi districts.

Aerial control operation conducted starting from 15, March, 2024 and treated **14 milliom** birds using **1,125 litres** of Bathion 64% ULV in an area of **1,064** ha.

Forecast

In April, Quelea birds are continued to threaten crops which are at the 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, Tabora Region in Western, Mwanza and Geita in Lake Victoria zone. Therefore, it is very important to conduct survey and monitor the population.

4.1.3 Kenya

No quelea infestation report during March, 2024.

Forecast

No quelea infestation will be expected during April 2024.

4.1.3 South Sudan

No reports of Quelea birds in March 2024.

Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda

No quelea bird infestations were reported during March, 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 March, 2024. Some traps have been installed recently but no trap report and still waiting for the moth catch reports.

Forecast

The armyworm outbreak is unlikely during April, 2024 but need c*lose 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 April, African Armyworm infestations are not expected. But need for close monitoring at Makueni, Kericho, Kisumu

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

No report of Armyworm infestation.

Forecast

In April, the situation is expected to remain calm. The season of Armyworm outbreak in Ethiopia is on therefore, the traps should be are installed at strategic areas and need close monitoring.

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 March, 2024.

CIFO
for the Director, DLCO-EA
08, April 2024
www.dlco-ea.org