



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

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***SITREP No. 10/2023 – 2024***

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

#### ***Summary***

##### **Desert Locust**

In April, the Desert Locust control campaign was concluded in Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan, where they had started in November 2023. In Ethiopia, a total of 32,400 ha was surveyed and no locust were found. In Sudan, limited survey on 7,100 ha was conducted in the winter breeding areas at the southern coast and Toker Delta with scattered, mature adult DL present in few locations.

***The situation in other member countries remained calm.***

##### **Quelea birds:**

***Tanzania:*** Large flocks of Quelea birds were reported threatening cereal crops of Rice, Sorghum, Bulrush and Finger millets in Manyara, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Morogoro, Kigoma, Mwanza, Mbeya and Iringa Regions.

Aerial control operations were successfully conducted in Dodoma, Mbeya, and Shinyanga Regions controlling a total of 22.7 million birds by using 525 lts of Bathion 64% ULV on an area of 995 hectares. Control operations are still ongoing in several regions of the country.

***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**

About 20-26 mm rain fell on the Northern Red Sea around Karora and Afabet areas late in the month. The vegetation status and soil moisture were dry especially in the breeding areas

### **1.3 Ethiopia**

In April, 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. Consequently, both annual and perennial vegetation were green and the soil was wet in areas that received rain. Generally, the ecology was favorable for Desert Locust activities

### **1.4 Kenya**

During April, moderate to heavy rains and flooding have continued in most parts of the country. It was reported that 12 Counties most of which are located in the northwestern, western and Rift Valley have been severely affected by heavy rains, floods and landslides. Some roads and cropping lands were washed away and numerous houses submerged/demolished as the result of the heavy downpours and flooding. In addition, thousands of people have been affected by flooding and mudslides, which also have left them homeless in some of the counties.

### **1.5 Somalia**

Widespread moderate to heavy rains fell during the second and third weeks of April in the southern, central and northern parts of the country. This will likely create favorable ecological conditions for further breeding and developments of Desert Locusts in the country.

### **1.6 South Sudan**

Report not received.

### **1.7 Sudan**

During April 2024 no rain was 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 also dry.

### **1.8 Tanzania**

During April, the country recorded full time moderate to heavy rainfall associated with thunderstorms and winds, distributed around most parts of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Disruptions due to flooding were recorded across many parts of Tanzania during the month with consequences of infrastructure destruction including roads, households, farms / landslides with many people left homeless. Water levels in both man made and natural water bodies were recorded highest while the Meteorological

agency forecasts continued rains during May.

## 1.9 Uganda

Uganda continued to record heavy to very heavy rainfall in most parts of the Country with increasing damage to properties and infrastructure in some areas. The forecast from UNMA for May 2024 shows the same trend of increasing rainfall.

Vegetation was green in most parts of the Country.

## 2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*Schistocerca gregaria*) SITUATION, APRIL, 2024

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locust reports were received in April.

**Forecast:** No significant developments are likely.

### 2.2 Eritrea

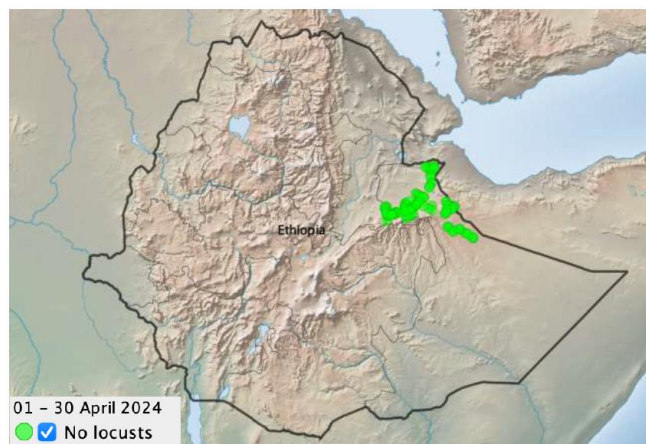
Desert locust survey was not conducted and no locust was reported in Eritrea. The vegetation status and the soil moisture were dry. There is no possibility of locust breeding in the winter breeding areas. Maintaining survey and follow-up is essential.

**Forecast:** No significant development.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

In April, 2024, survey operations were conducted in Somali region, Fafen and Siti zone (Erere, Aysha, Shinele, Adigala,

Dembele, Harshine, Kebri beyah, Harewa and Awbare), and Dire Dawa administration across Biyo awale and Asaliso clusters. A total of 32,400 ha was surveyed. From survey data from federal, regional, district experts and local scouts, no Desert locust were found in the surveyed areas. In general soil was wet and annual vegetation becomes green in most surveyed areas.



**Map-1 Desert Locust situation 01 – 30 April, 2024 (MOA information office)**

**Forecast:** There is a slight possibility of a few locusts appearing along the plateau of the Somali region between east Dire Dawa to the Somalia border, where small-scale breeding could occur in May.

### 2.4 Somalia

During April, a few isolated immature and mature solitarious adults were present on the northwest coast and escarpment between Silil (1058N/4326E) and Berbera (1028N/4502E) by the end of the month. No locusts were seen on the plateau of Somaliland, Garowe (0824N/4829E) and east of Erigavo (1040N/4720E) in Puntland, and further south near Galkayo (0646N/4725E).

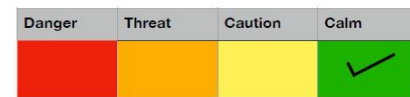
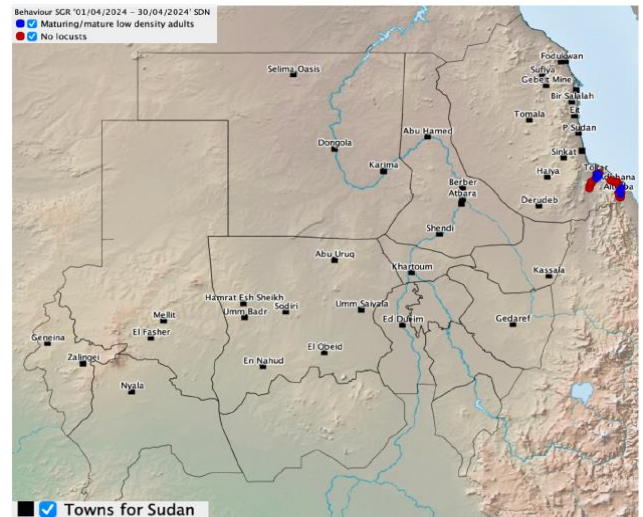
**Forecast:** There is a possibility for a generation of limited breeding during the spring along the northwest plateau, where scattered laying, hatching, and hoppers could occur in May. (FAO DL March bulletin No. 547).

## 2.5 Sudan

Desert Locust situation was in **calm** level in Sudan during April 2024, due to control operation and unfavorable condition. During the mid of April, the winter campaign was ended.

Limited surveys were conducted on **7,100** ha in the winter breeding areas at the southern coast and Toker Delta. Scattered mature adults were present in few locations in Toker Delta and southern coast. Vegetation cover and soil moisture was dry. (**Fig- 2**).

**Forecast:** Due to prevailing of unfavorable conditions, no significant developments of DL are expected in winter breeding areas. Scattered adult DL are expected to shift to summer breeding areas and irrigated Scheme. Therefore, close monitoring in the summer breeding areas area highly recommended during forecasting period.



**Fig-2 Desert Locust situation 01–30 April 2024 (Locust control Department, Sudan)**

## 2.6 Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During April, 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

**WESTERN REGION: CALM SITUATION.** No locusts are present.  
**FORECAST.** No significant developments are likely.



### CENTRAL REGION: CAUTION

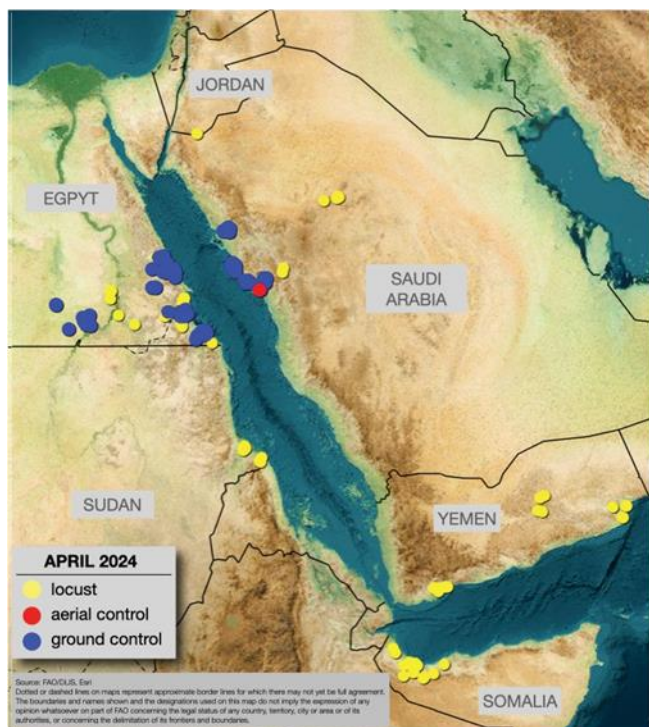
**SITUATION.** The second-generation hopper groups, bands, and adult groups decreased along the Red Sea coast of **Egypt** (15 441 ha treated) and **Saudi Arabia** (7 715 ha). Hatching and hopper groups occurred near the Nile Valley in southern Egypt. Scattered adults were present in a few places in the southern Red Sea coast of **Sudan**, Gulf of Aden in southern **Yemen**, northwestern **Somalia**, and the interior of Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and southern **Jordan**.

**FORECAST.** As a result of good rains in March and April in the Arabian Peninsula, one limited generation of spring breeding should occur in the interior and Red Sea of **Saudi Arabia**, the interior of **Yemen** and **Oman**, and perhaps parts of northern **Sudan** and the northwestern plateau of **Somalia**. There is a risk of cyclone activity along the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea in May and June.

### EASTERN REGION: CALM

**SITUATION.** No locusts are present.

**FORECAST.** A generation of small-scale spring breeding is likely in southeast Iran and southwest Pakistan with scattered laying, hatching and hoppers. There is a risk of cyclone activity along the Arabian Sea in May and June.



**Fig-3 Desert locust situation April, 2024**(FAO DL April bulletin No. 547 [www.fao.org/ag/locusts](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts)).

### OUTBREAKS DECREASED

In April, the Desert Locust outbreaks concluded in Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan, where they had started in November, while those in Egypt and Saudi Arabia diminished due to control measures. Consequently, there was a decrease in second generation hoppers, groups, bands, and immature adult groups along the Red Sea coast, and the vegetation dried out. Despite this, the Nile Valley in southern Egypt saw hatching, and a few adults moved to the interior of Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Strong winds and heavy rains occurred at mid-month in Oman, UAE, and the eastern Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia. During the forecast, one generation of limited spring breeding is expected in the interior of Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman as well as parts of northern Sudan, northwest Somalia, southeast Iran, and southwest Pakistan.

Cyclone activity poses a risk along the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Peninsula in May and June. Weather models predict above-average rainfall in the summer, bringing favourable breeding conditions from Sudan to Indo-Pakistan border.

The monsoon in India is likely to be normal this year starting in June. It is anticipated that above-average rainfall in the Western Region will be postponed until around August in the northern Sahel area from Mauritania to Chad  
DL April bulletin No. 547 [www.fao.org/ag/locusts](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts).

## 4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

#### 4.1.1 Tanzania

Large flocks of Quelea birds were reported threatening cereal crops of Rice, Sorghum, Bulrush and Finger millet in Manyara, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Morogoro, Kigoma Mwanza, Mbeya and Iringa Regions.

Aerial control operations were successfully conducted by DLCO-EA aircrafts in Dodoma, Mbeya, and Shinyanga Regions controlling a total of 22.7 million birds by using 525 lts of Bathion 64% ULV on an area of 995 hectares. Control operations are still on-going in several regions of the country.

**Forecast:** *In May, Quelea birds will continue to threaten crops 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) Regions in the Central Zone, Tabora Region in Western, Mwanza and Geita in Lake Victoria zone. It is therefore very important to conduct survey and monitor the population.*

#### 4.1.2 Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda

No quelea infestation was reported during April, 2024.

**Forecast:** *No quelea infestation will be expected during May 2024.*

### 4.2 African armyworms (*Spodoptera exempta*)

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

No report of African armyworm was received in April, 2024.

**Forecast:** *The African armyworm outbreak is unlikely during May, 2024 but close monitoring using pheromone traps is recommended.*

### 4.3 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. During April, in Ethiopia, 7252 ha was infested and cultural and chemical control was carried out on 3918 and 503ha respectively by using 502.55 liters of pesticides.

#### 4.4 Tsetse Fly (*Glossina* spp.)

No reports received about Tsetse flies and the associated diseases during April, 2024.

CIFO  
for the Director, DLCO-EA

06, May 2024

[www.dlco-ea.org](http://www.dlco-ea.org)