



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

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SITREP No. 11/2023 – 2024

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PEST SITUATION REPORT FOR MAY, 2024

Summary

Desert Locust: In May 2024, the Desert Locust (DL) situation in Sudan appeared relatively calm, with limited control operations focused on soliterious immature groups in the Northern State. A total of 190 hectares were treated with 380 liters of EC pesticides, while a broader area of 2,300 hectares was surveyed.

No Desert locust reported or found during survey in Eritrea and across eastern parts of Ethiopia, including the Somali region.

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

Quelea Bird: During May 2024, extensive Quelea bird control operations were carried out across six regions in Tanzania, namely Morogoro, Mbeya, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, and Mara.

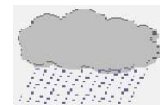
DLCO-EA Aircraft 5Y-BCJ and DLF spearheaded these efforts, resulting in the control of 47 million birds and the rescue of 472.9 tons of cereal crops valued at Tsh 945.8 million (\$366,000 USD). The application of 1,365 liters of Avicide covered an area of 1,029 hectares, effectively protecting crops such as rice, sorghum, and millets. Operations are currently ongoing in the Morogoro and Mara regions, indicating a concerted effort to mitigate the impact of Quelea birds on agricultural productivity in these areas.

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

Weather Forecast: According to FAO DLIS bulletin No. 548, the forecast indicates that there is a continued risk of cyclone activity in June along the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Peninsula. Weather models continue to predict above-average rainfall will occur by the end of June in the northern Sahel region of southern Mauritania, northern Mali and Niger, central and northeast Chad, West Darfur of Sudan, and the western lowlands of Eritrea as well as the interior of Yemen. This will follow with one generation of small-scale breeding in the central region and limited breeding in the western region during the summer. In India and Pakistan, pre-monsoon rain may occur in June, followed by monsoon where one generation of limited breeding will occur between July and September.

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS



1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to moderate rainfall occurred in the highlands and western lowlands of the country, especially during the second week. No rainfall was recorded along the Red Sea coast. Vegetation status and soil moisture were reported as dry, particularly in the breeding areas.

1.3 Ethiopia

In May 2024, Ethiopia experienced widespread rainfall, extending into the eastern part of the country, including the Somali region Siti and the Dire Dawa Administration around Dire Dawa, where locust migration and breeding are common. This continuous rainfall led to the rejuvenation of annual vegetation in many surveyed areas, particularly in the spring breeding zones of the Somali region, covering locations such as Erere, Aysha, Adigala, Dembele, as well as within the Dire Dawa administration.

Kenya

Report not received

1.4 Somalia

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

1.5 South Sudan

Report not received.

1.7 Sudan

In May 2024, light rainfall was documented in selected areas of the Desert Locust summer breeding belt, notably in Kassala State and sections of the River Nile State. Despite this, the overall vegetation cover remained dry, with exceptions observed along the River Nile and in irrigated schemes. Additionally, soil moisture was reported to be dry across the affected regions.

1.8 Tanzania

In many parts of the country, including regions in the Lake Victoria zone such as Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, and Shinyang, moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced. This rainfall is typical during the long rainy season in Tanzania.

However, in the western parts of the country, including Katavi, Rukwa, Tabora, and Kigoma regions, the rainfall was more intense, leading to river flooding.

In the northeastern highlands, lighter to moderate showers occurred, particularly during the third and fourth weeks of the month.

A significant event during early May was the Indian Ocean cyclone named **Hidaya**, which brought heavy rainfall and high-speed winds to the southern coast of Tanzania, particularly affecting Kilwa District and Mafia Island. This cyclone caused severe damage to households and infrastructure, leaving many people homeless. Tragically, there were recorded fatalities, and a considerable amount of farmland was inundated by floods, further impacting livelihoods in the region.

These events underscore the importance of preparedness and resilience in the face of extreme weather events, as well as the need for effective disaster management strategies to mitigate their impacts on communities and infrastructure.

1.9 Uganda

There had been quite a variation in rainfall patterns across Uganda in May, 2024. The heavy rains in the first week of May were followed by a decline towards the end of the month, indicating the conclusion of the first rains of the March to May (MAM) season, particularly in Central, Western, South Western, and parts of Eastern Uganda. However, Northern and North Western regions continued to experience normal to above-normal rainfall.

Looking ahead, the forecast from the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) for June to August 2024 (JJA) suggests a further decline in rainfall, except for parts of the North Western and North Eastern regions, which are expected to continue receiving above-normal rainfall. This forecast could have significant implications for agriculture, water resources, and other sectors reliant on rainfall.

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

2.1 Djibouti

No reports received.

Forecast

No Locust development will be in the forecast period

2.2 Eritrea

Desert locust survey was not conducted and no locust was reported during the month.

Forecast

No significant developments are likely during the forecast period in June.

2.3 Ethiopia

During May, there was no reported activity of Desert Locusts in Ethiopia. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, along with regional staff, conducted a ground survey covering 9,650 hectares in the Eastern parts of the country, specifically in the Somali Administrative Region. The survey, which included areas such as Siti zone (Erer), Ayisha, Adigala, and Dembel districts, confirmed the absence of Desert Locusts in these regions. This absence of activity signifies a positive development in the ongoing efforts to monitor and manage the Desert Locust threat in Ethiopia.

Forecast

No significant development during the forecast period.

2.4 Somalia

During May, a few scattered mature solitarious adults were present on the northwest coast close to Silil (1058N/4326E), near the escarpment south of Berbera (1028N/4502E), and in the plateau near Burao (0931N/4533E). At the end of the month, isolated mid-instar solitarious hoppers were seen west of Burao, which means that laying occurred at the end of April. In the northeast, no locusts were seen near Las Anod (0828N/4721E) and east of Erigavo (1040N/4720E) in Puntland as well as further south near Dusa Mareb (0532N/4623E).

Forecast

The one generation of very limited spring breeding in the interior will continue during June where fledgling will occur after the second half of June. Locusts will decline and no significant developments are likely. (FAO bulletin 548).

2.5 Sudan

In May 2024, the Desert Locust situation appeared relatively **calm** in Sudan, with limited control operations focused on solitarius immature groups in the Northern State. A total of 190 hectares were treated with 380 liters of EC pesticides, while a broader area of 2,300 hectares was surveyed. Looking ahead, plans were established to intensify survey operations in the upcoming months, particularly in the summer breeding areas spanning the River Nile, Northern, and Kassala states, as well as the summer breeding belt in the Red Sea State. Vegetation cover and soil moisture were reported to be drying up, potentially impacting locust breeding conditions.

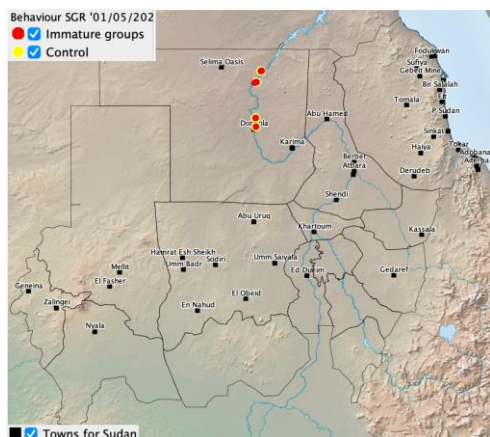


Fig-1 Desert Locust situation 01-31 May 2024
(Locust control Department, Sudan)

Forecast

Due to the unfavorable conditions, there is no significant development of is expected in winter breeding area. Desert Locust

monitoring is recommended by the limited teams during the forecasting period.

2.6 Kenya Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During May, 2024, no Desert Locusts were reported.

Forecast

Desert Locust situation will remain calm in June, 2024.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS

WESTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. A few adults in central Sahara in **Algeria**. **FORECAST.** The onset of summer rains could start by the end of June in the northern Sahel, followed by low numbers of adults and eventually limited small-scale breeding in southern **Mauritania**, northern **Mali** and **Niger**, and in central and northeast **Chad**.

CENTRAL REGION: CALM

SITUATION. The second-generation winter breeding declined on the Red Sea coast of **Saudi Arabia** (3,252 ha treated) and **Egypt** (8,255 ha), while one generation of limited spring breeding occurred in both countries in the interior where there were some hoppers, groups and bands. A few adult groups were seen along the northern Nile Valley of **Sudan** (190 ha). Scattered adults were present in northwest **Somalia** and eastern **Yemen**.

FORECAST. Locusts will decline as spring breeding will finish in June in **Saudi Arabia**, **Egypt** and northern **Somalia** but there is still a risk of cyclone activity along the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea. During the summer, above-normal rain should start after mid-June from West Darfur of **Sudan** to the western lowlands of **Eritrea** as well as the interior of **Yemen**, followed by the first generation of small-scale breeding.

EASTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. A few isolated adults in southeast Iran. **FORECAST.** There is a risk of cyclone activity along the Arabian Sea in June. During summer, above-normal rains are expected along the **Indo-Pakistan** monsoon where low numbers of adults should appear and one generation of small-scale breeding could start in July.

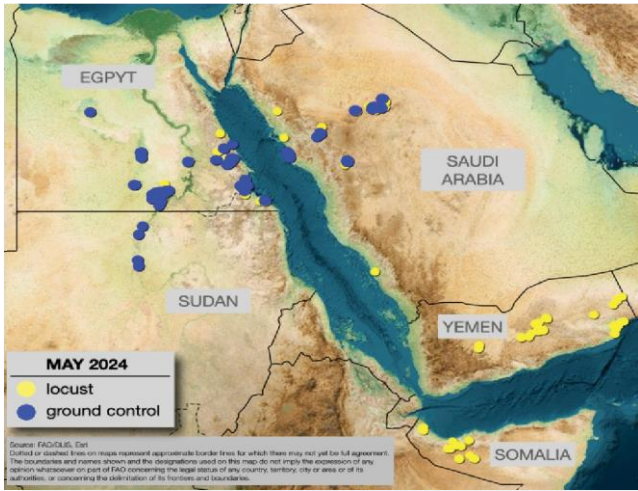


Fig-3 Desert locust situation May, 2024(FAO DL March bulletin No. 548) www.fao.org/ag/locusts.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Ethiopia

No Quelea bird infestation was reported.

Forecast:

Last week of June 2024, Quelea bird population might reach in southern region need monitoring.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During May 2024, efforts to control Quelea bird populations continued by DLCO-EA aircraft 5Y-BCJ and DLF in six regions of

Tanzania. These regions included Morogoro (Kilosa and Mvomero Districts), Mbeya (Mbarali District), Singida (Singida rural, Iramba districts), Tabora (Igunga District), Shinyanga (Shinyanga rural, Kishapu Districts), and Mara (Bunda and Musoma Districts).

A significant number of birds, totaling 47 million, were controlled during these operations. Based on the report from the Arusha base the control rescued 473 tons of cereal crops valued at Tsh 946 million (approximately \$366,000 USD). The control measures involved the application of 1,365 liters of Avicide across an area of 1,029 hectares. The crops rescued included rice, sorghum, and millets.

Ongoing operations are focused in the Eastern zone (Morogoro) and the Lake Victoria zone (Mara). These efforts are crucial for mitigating the impact of Quelea birds on agricultural productivity and safeguarding livelihoods in these regions.

Forecast

In June, Quelea birds are continued to threaten crops which are at the in various parts of the country in Morogoro, Singida, Central zone and Mbeya in South western Highlands.

4.1.3 Kenya

No quelea infestation report during May, 2024.

Forecast

No quelea infestation will be expected during June 2024.

4.1.3 South Sudan

No reports of Quelea birds in May, 2024.

Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda

No quelea bird infestations were reported during May, 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 May, 2024.

Forecast

The Armyworm outbreak is unlikely during June, 2024.

4.2.2 Kenya

No outbreak of African Armyworm.

Forecast

In Kenya June is not the season for African Armyworm infestations and are not expected.

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

No report of Armyworm infestation.

Forecast

In June, 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 reported everywhere in seasonal and irrigated maize and sorghum 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 May, 2024.

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