



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. 7- 2025/2026

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS' SITUATION REPORT **FOR JANUARY, 2026**

Summary

Desert Locust

Throughout January 2026, the Desert Locust situation in Sudan remained **calm**. Survey operations were undertaken on 72,700 hectares across key winter breeding areas. The Survey teams traversed the Red Sea coastal belt from the Egyptian border to the Eritrean border, including the Tokar Delta and the northwest subcostal areas of Wadi Oko and Diib. While scattered solitarious adults in both mature and immature stages were identified at various sites, the populations remained low-density and non-threatening, indicating a calm period with no immediate signs of gregarization.

The Desert Locust situation in Eritrea and Ethiopia, Somalia and other member countries remained **calm** throughout January 2026, with no locust activity reported in either country. In Eritrea, no surveys were conducted during the month, and no locust sightings were reported from the field. In Ethiopia information from Desert Locust scouts confirming the total absence of locust activity within the winter breeding areas, despite no surveys being carried out.

Quelea Bird

During January 2026, intensive Quelea bird surveys and aerial control operations were maintained in **Ethiopia** across the Oromia and Afar Administrative Regions. In Oromia, surveyors identified approximately 12.5 million birds roosting across nine sites, while in Afar; an additional 1.74 million birds were confirmed at four sites.

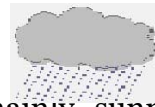
Aerial control treated a total of 389 hectares using 389 liters of Bathion 64% ULV, successfully neutralizing an estimated population of 11 million Quelea birds across both regions.

Quelea bird survey and control operations also continued across **Tanzania's** Kilimanjaro and Manyara Regions in January 2026. Surveillance teams identified a massive population of approximately 25 million birds, leading to targeted control measures on 222 hectares. By utilizing 730 liters of Bathion 60%, teams successfully controlled an estimated 19 million birds, achieving a 77% mortality rate.

There were reports of Quelea birds in Bura and Hola Irrigation Schemes **Kenya**, Tana River County and West Kano Irrigation Scheme during January, 2026. The Directorate in collaboration with DLCO-EA, private drone service providers and the affected county governments undertook control operation where approximately 36.5 million birds (28 million in Hola and Bura Irrigation Schemes and 8.5 million in West Kano Irrigation Scheme) were controlled

African Armyworm: No reports of African Armyworm received from Member Countries.

WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS



1. Djibouti

Djibouti experienced sunny and warm daytime conditions with an average temperature of 24°C and a humidity level of 39%. Winds were light, blowing from the southeast at 7 mph. and no rainfall was recorded in January 2026.

2. Eritrea

According to reports from experts and field scouts, no recent rainfall was recorded in the winter breeding areas. In addition, vegetation conditions were poor and soil moisture levels remained dry.

3. Ethiopia

Weather conditions were characterized by sunny days coupled with chilly mornings and nights, with no rainfall recorded across the traditional Desert Locust winter breeding areas. This lack of moisture caused annual vegetation to dry out and left the soil dry, though perennial vegetation managed to remain green. Overall, the ecological conditions are unfavorable for Desert Locust activity, despite the Ethiopian Meteorology report noting that pocket areas in the East Wellega, Sidama, and Gurage highland zones received localized rainfall ranging from 5 to 25 mm

4. Kenya

The country experienced sunny and dry weather conditions with warmer than average temperatures in most parts of the country. However, a few areas, including highlands west of rift valley, the Lake Victoria basin, the central and southern rift valley, the highlands east of rift valley, the southern lowlands and the central strip received occasional rainfall. The highlands west and east of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, and parts of the Central and South Rift Valley received occasional light to moderate rainfall. In contrast, the Northeastern and the coastal

regions experienced mainly sunny and dry conditions for most of the month.

5. Somalia

Somalia experienced the typical conditions of the dry season, characterized by predominantly warm, sunny, and arid weather. According to data for the month, the region maintained a warm average temperature of 27°C, with daily highs reaching approximately 30°C. in January 2026

6. South Sudan

In January 2026, South Sudan experienced predominantly sunny and dry conditions, typical of its winter season. The weather was characterized by high temperatures and extremely low moisture, which significantly limited the potential for Desert Locust breeding.

7. Sudan

During January 2026 light to moderate Rainfall was recorded in parts of the southern and central coastal areas, as well as Toker Delta. The vegetation predominately green across most of the surveyed areas within the winter breeding zone

8. Tanzania

Tanzania experienced diverse rainfall patterns, with significant thunderstorm activity concentrated in the South Western and Western regions, including Katavi, Kigoma, Tabora, Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, and Njombe. These areas saw moderate to heavy rains totaling up to 200 mm, particularly during the first two weeks of the month. Similar conditions were observed across the Lake Victoria basin, where regions such as Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, and Simiyu received moderate to heavy thunderstorms. While the Central regions also experienced slightly heavy to moderate showers in the early half of the month, the rest of the country, including the North Eastern Highlands around

Kilimanjaro and Meru and the Northern Indian Ocean coast including Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba) saw only lighter showers.

9. Uganda

Some hot and dry conditions continued in several parts of the Country, with the Northern and Eastern regions distinctly dry and hot. Some areas around Lake Victoria, western and in the southwestern highlands of Uganda experienced some scattered showers and thunderstorms.

Vegetation: The Vegetation was green in several parts of central, western and South Western then drying up in parts of Northern and Eastern parts of the Country.

2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*Schistocerca gregaria*) SITUATION

2.1 Djibouti

No reports received.

Forecast

No Locust development will be expected in the forecast period.

2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust situation remains **calm** throughout Eritrea in January 2026. Survey was not conducted and no locust was report during the month.

Forecast

As winter is ending and ecological conditions are not favorable, the development of locusts is not expected during the forecast period.

2.3 Ethiopia

The Desert Locust situation remained **calm**. Reports from regional focal experts and scouts confirmed the **absence** of locusts in the winter breeding areas of eastern Ethiopia.

Forecast

Locust situation is expected to remain calm throughout February 2026.

2.4 Somalia

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm during January 2026. No surveys were carried out, however, reports provided by district DL focal persons, scouts, and regional extension officers confirmed the absence of Desert Locusts in the coastal, sub-coastal, and inland breeding areas of the northwest and northeast regions.

Forecast

As the coastal areas are becoming unfavorable for locust breeding. Therefore, it is advised to conduct survey for assessing the development in in spring breeding areas in February 2026

2.5 Sudan

The Desert Locust situation in Sudan remained **calm** throughout January 2026. Comprehensive surveys were conducted on a total area of 72,700 hectares across the winter breeding areas, extending from the Egyptian border in the north to the Eritrean border in the south. The surveys also covered areas west of the Red Sea Hills, including the sub coastal zones of Wadi Oko and Diib, as well as Toker Delta and Khor Baraka.

Scattered solitarious mature/immature adults were observed at several locations.

Forecast

Winter is ending and ecological conditions are not favorable for locust breeding in Winter breeding areas. Limited, small-scale breeding is likely to occur in the sub coastal areas where mature and immature adults are seen. Therefore, regular surveys and close monitoring is recommended during the forecasting period

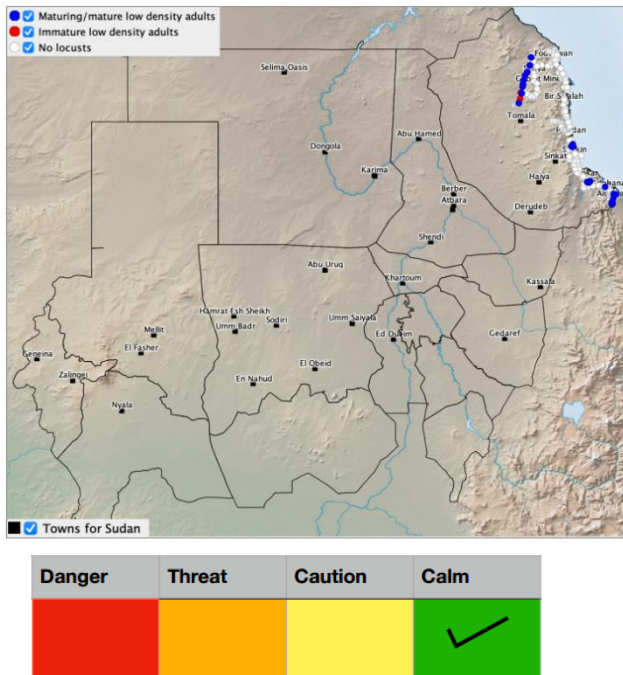


Fig-1 Desert Locust situation 01–31 January 2026 (Locust control Department, Sudan)

2.6 Djibouti, Kenya Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

The above member countries were free of Desert Locust in January 2026.

Forecast

No Locust development will be expected in the forecast period.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS (FAO DL bulletin February 5, 2025 No. 568 www.fao.org/ag/locusts).

In January, the serious outbreak in Mauritania and Western Sahara split into two areas. The southern infestation zone spanning northern Senegal and southern Mauritania continued to observe immature adult groups and small swarms, which declined during the last dekad. The other infestation zone extended from northern Mauritania to southern Morocco where hopper groups and bands decreased, while immature adult groups increased and a few mature adult groups resumed breeding during the last dekad. In the Central Region, isolated and scattered adults were reported in Sudan, while only isolated adults were found

in Yemen, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. No locusts were reported in the Eastern Region.

During the forecast period, small swarms and adult groups may mature and continue to migrate northward from northern Mauritania to Morocco with some eventually reaching Algeria. Breeding may resume in these areas and new hopper groups and bands could appear in February. Last instar hoppers will complete moulting into immature adult groups in Western Sahara that should migrate northward as well. In the Central Region, small-scale winter breeding may conclude in Yemen and Egypt, while it may still occur along the Red Sea coasts of Saudi Arabia and Sudan. No significant developments are expected in the Eastern Region

WESTERN REGION: THREAT

SITUATION. Immature adult groups and small swarms declined in **Mauritania**, with some moving into **Senegal**. Immature adult groups increased in Western Sahara, where hopper groups were still present. Some adult groups reached near Tan-Tan in **Morocco**. Mauritania treated 7 161 ha, Morocco 39 042 ha, and Senegal 1 155 ha.

FORECAST. Small swarms and adult groups may continue to migrate northward from **Mauritania** to **Morocco**. Some may reach **Algeria**. Adult groups and small swarms may increase in Western Sahara where breeding may resume. Survey and control operations must continue.

CENTRAL REGION: CALM

SITUATION. Adults were observed along the Red Sea coasts of **Egypt**, **Sudan** and **Saudi Arabia**, as well as in **Yemen**. **FORECAST.** Small-scale breeding may occur along the northern Red Sea coast of **Saudi Arabia** and the southern Red Sea coast of **Sudan**, where rains are expected. Small-scale winter breeding may conclude in **Yemen** and along the Red Sea coast in **Egypt**.

EASTERN REGION: CALM

SITUATION. No locusts were detected in **India** and in spring breeding areas in **Iran**. **FORECAST.** No significant developments are anticipated.

month. The directorate in collaboration with DLCO-EA, private drone service providers and the affected county governments undertook control operation where approximately 36.5 million birds (28 million in Hola and Bura Irrigation Schemes and 8.5 million in West Kano Irrigation Scheme) were controlled.

Forecast

Due to the maturation of irrigated crops and the impact of control operation, the quelea populations will decrease significantly. Therefore, It is unlikely to have quelea infestation in the country during February 2026

4.1.5 South Sudan

No reports of Quelea bird infestations in January 2026,

Forecast

The situation will be calm in the coming month

4.1.6 Uganda

There were no reports of Quelea bird in the country during January 2026

Forecast

No significant development is expected

4.1.7 Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan

No *Quelea* bird infestations were reported during January 2026.

Forecast

The situation remains calm in the coming month.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

In January 2026, the African armyworm situation remains **calm** in all member countries.

Forecast

During February, Armyworms are expected at the areas where early crops and pasturelands are green in North Eastern highlands and Lake Victoria zones. In Tanzania and Makueni and Taita Taveta counties in Kenya

Close monitoring using pheromone traps is recommended.

4.3 Fall Armyworm (FAW) (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)

Member Countries reported the presence of Fall Armyworm in all irrigated maize and sorghum growing areas during January 2026. However, there are no detailed reports.

4.3 Tsetse Fly (*Glossina spp.*)

No reports received about Tsetse flies and the associated diseases during January 2026

CIFO

For the Director

DLCO-EA

February 6, 2026

www.dlco-ea.org