



# DLCO-EA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY – MARCH, 2016

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## THE EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE DLCO-EA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD IN NAIVASHA, KENYA

The Extra-Ordinary meeting of the DLCO-EA Council of Ministers was held at Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort, Naivasha, Kenya from 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 under the Chairmanship of Hon. Willy Bett, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya. All Member Countries were represented except Djibouti, Somalia and Tanzania.



Members of Council of Ministers

Prior to the Council Session, the Executive Committee of the DLCO-EA held its' deliberations from 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at Lake Naivasha Panorama Park and Lodge, in Kenya, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Heruy Asgedom, Director General, Agricultural Extension Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Eritrea. All Member Countries were represented except Djibouti, Somalia and Tanzania.



Executive Committee Members

The Session discussed the reviewed draft documents namely; DLCO-EA Financial Regulations, Procurement and Property Handbook, Service Regulation and Personnel/Human Resource Policy, which were prepared by the Organization's Management.

The purpose of the review was to improve the Organizations' present and future activities in the Management System and operation activities.

By the end of the Session, the Council of Ministers approved the Financial Regulations, Procurement and Property Handbook and Personnel/Human Resource Policy. However,

the Council deferred the approval of the amendments made on the Service Regulation due to some technical matters, which needed more elaborations and had financial implications. Consequently, it was recommended that the issue be re-tabled for discussion during forth coming Session of the Council of Ministers.

### REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON MIGRANT PEST MANAGEMENT HELD IN PORT SUDAN, SUDAN

The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) organized a Regional Training Course on Migrant Pests Management in Port Sudan, Sudan from 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The participants' ranks in the irrespective countries ranged from expert to National Coordinators and Commissioner for Plant Protection, in fields including control of African Armyworm, Quelea birds and Desert Locusts.

Eighteen (18) representatives from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda participated in the training.

A breakdown of the participation was as follows:

Eritrea	-	3
Ethiopia	-	3
Kenya	-	2
Sudan	-	5
Tanzania	-	3
Uganda	-	2

More participants from Sudan attended the training course than the other countries since they were the hosts. Although, South Sudan was officially invited to send its' staff for this training; they did not show up.

The trainers were drawn from Senior Staff Members of DLCO-EA and the Base Manager from Khartoum DLCO-EA Base.

The main objective of the training course was to upgrade the capacity of the experts and the National Coordinators of the Member Countries in the management of African Armyworm, Quelea

birds and Locusts. This in turn would prevent the tremendous crop losses that could be caused by the migrant pests in the region. The training and all other logistics were fully financed by DLCO-EA.



The Regional training course participants



The State Minister H.E. Yegoub Mohamed Eltayeb Ibrahim opening the training

The training was officially opened by the State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Sudan H.E. Yegoub Mohamed Eltayeb Ibrahim. The Hon. Minister on behalf of his government indicated that Sudan was pleased to host the training. He welcomed all participants of the training to Port Sudan and has invited them to spend their leisure time to tour and appreciating the beauty of the city and its' rich historic culture.

During the training, participants were taken for a one day field trip to the Tokar Delta where Desert Locusts exists throughout the year. The aim of the field trip was to enhance the practical knowledge and understanding of participants that

were not familiar with the Desert Locusts and its habitat before. Therefore, during the field trip, participants were able to see solitary Desert Locusts in the field, and illustrations by experts on identification of Desert Locusts from other species, sex differentiations and the use of eLocust3 tool in transmitting field survey and control data.



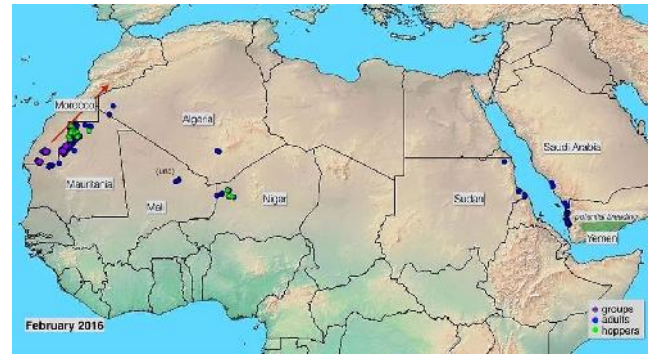
Field Visit at Tokar Delta in DL Habitat

Furthermore the participants and trainers discussed and share do pinions about the reasons as to why the current Desert Locust population is very low in the winter breeding areas despite the likely outbreak forecasts.

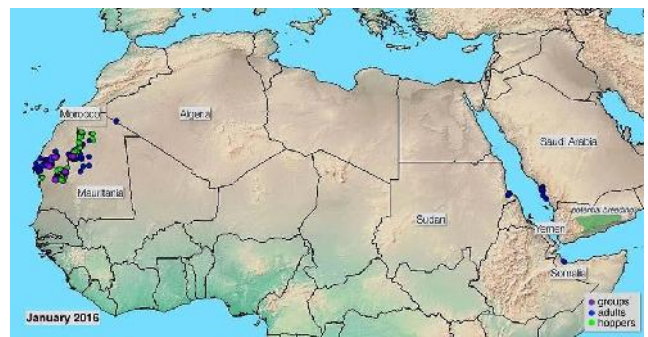
## MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION JANUARY– MARCH, 2016

### DESERT LOCUST

Except for low numbers of solitary adults which persisted in a few places in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea coast in Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the situation remained calm during January to March. Isolated adults were reported in the northwest coast in northern Somalia during February.



Areas showing some locust activities in January 2016, FAO-DLIS 2/2/2016



Areas showing some Locust activities in February 2016, FAO-DLIS 3/3/2016

During the third decade of March FAO, DLIS has indicated that a potentially dangerous situation may be developing in southern Yemen where low numbers of immature and mature Desert Locust adults were initially seen on the coast by national survey teams on 10 March. During subsequent surveys, teams found that a few adults were lay in eggs. But more importantly, numerous small hopper bands and groups of all instars were present on the southern coast between Arkha and Bir Ali (southwest of Mukalla) from egg-laying and hatching during February. A previous generation of breeding may have also occurred shortly after the cyclones Chapala and Megh but was not detected.



Late instar hopper group near Bir Ali, Yemen  
(21/3/16, DLMCC) FAO-DLIS 25/3/2016

### GRAIN EATING BIRDS (*Quelea quelea* spp)

During January, 2016 no serious *Quelea* outbreaks were reported in the region. However, large flocks of *Quelea* birds continued to appear around Lake Victoria, central and Northern zones of Tanzania by the end of February.

During March, heavy and serious outbreaks and crop damages were reported in Dodoma, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Geita, Mwanza, Tabora, and Singida in Tanzania. It has also been reported that such level of infestation has not been seen for the last 20 years.

Consequently, DLCO-EA has deployed two spray aircraft; one in mid-March and the second towards the end of the March, to control the infestations.

*Quelea* birds were also reported causing damage to irrigated Rice in Kisumu County in the western parts of Kenya.

### AFRICAN ARMYWORM (*Spodoptera exempta*)

Except for minor outbreaks and some moth catches that were reported in February in different regions of Tanzania, no major infestations were reported during January to March, 2016 period in the region.

### DR. STEPHEN W. NJOKA MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY AS DLCO-EA DIRECTOR

Dr. Stephen W. Njoka, OGW, the current Director of DLCO-EA, marked exactly one year in January, 2016 since his appointment to the position. The Entire staff wishes to congratulate him on his anniversary and for the many achievements he has made during this period.

Under his tenure, he has been able to organize two council meetings; the 60<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda in September, 2015 and the Extra-Ordinary Council of Ministers meeting held in Naivasha, Kenya in January, 2016.

All major outbreaks of mandated pests especially Desert Locusts and *Quelea* birds within the Member Countries have been sufficiently managed and controlled. Armyworms and tsetse flies have also been kept under surveillance.

Further, under the leadership of the new Director, the new DLCO-EA convention has been accented to more Member Countries including Sudan, Uganda and South Sudan among others.



Dr. Njoka witnessing signing of Revised DLCO-EA Convention By Hon. Tress Bucyanyandi, Minister of Agriculture, in Kampala, Uganda, in March, 2015

The capacities of various DLCO-EA and Member Countries Plant Protection staffs on Migrant Pests Management have been greatly built and improved through tailor made trainings.

Furthermore, the Director was also able to organize a retreat for DLCO-EA regional staff in Machakos, Kenya to re-focus and chart away forward for the organization in accordance to emerging challenges in food security sector within the Region.

Finally, under his new management, most of the DLCO-EA retired staff has been paid their benefits, and thus significantly reducing on the debt burden of the Organization.

The DLCOEA staff is grateful to all noble efforts the new Director is spearheading to ensure that the Organization achieves its mandate of assuring food security to Member Countries through the efficient management and control of the mandated migratory pests.

WHAT A DESERVING CONTRIBUTION TO  
DLCO-EA! ENGINEER ABDULLAHI ELMI  
AINAN RETIRES FROM SERVICE OF THE  
ORGANIZATION

Engineer Abdullahi Elmi Ainan has retired from the service of DLCO-EA having served the Organization in the formative years of its inception in the 1960s.

Eng. Ainan joined the Organization on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1965 as a Trainee Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. He then went on to be trained as an Aeronautical Engineer from 1966 to 1969 at The Air-work Services Training, institute Perth, Scotland. Eng. Elmi Ainan was among the pioneer African Aeronautical Engineers to join DLCO-EA at its founding.

Eng. Ainan was served the Organization under extension of his contract until his final retirement day by end of December, 2015.

The Organization owes him a lot to the flourishing of DLCO-EA whilst almost all other African founded Regional Organizations could not see the light of a decade of existence.

Eng. Ainan, the Organization and staff miss you especially for the unwavering service and friendly jokes. We know you are retired but not tired and very often shall consult you for your wisdom.

We wish Ainan all the best rewards that life can offer him in retirement.



Eng. Ainan at the Operations Coordination Centre, Nairobi in 2015

DLCO-EA AIRCRAFT SITREP AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016

A/CREG.	5Y-BCJ Beaver	5Y-BCK Beaver	5Y-BCL Beaver	5Y-KRD Beaver	5Y-DLA Caravan	5Y-DLO Baron	5Y-BBB Islander	5Y-DLD Turbo Beaver
COFADUE DATE	23/4/2016 IN PROGRESS	21/01/2017	24/9/2016	IN PROGRESS	19/02/2017	1ST TESTFLIGHT	DUE	13/8/2016
CHECKIII	05/4/2017	16/12/2018	01/7/2018	IN PROGRESS	N/A	01/07/2018	DUE	02/03/2017
PROP.5 YR OVERHAUL	28/7/2016	29/7/2016	10/2/2018	IN PROGRESS	28/5/2018	01/07/2020	DUE	21/07/2017
A/FHOURS	277:40	625:10	69:10	00:00	3854.28	01:00	00:00	78:50
ENGINE(S) HRS	432:35	228:40	953:10	00:00	1439.68	PORT: 01:00 STBD: 01:00	PORT: 1556:10 STBD:1556:10	414:25
PROP.HRS	277:15	345:05	369:50	00:00	1520.48	PORT: 1347:25 STBD: 1279:05	PORT:216:00 STBD:216:00	297:15
LOCATION	STAND BY NAIROBI	QUELEA TANZANIA	QUELEA TANZANIA	UNDER ACCIDENT REPAIR	MWANZA UNHCR	MAINTENANCE NAIROBI	MAINTENANCE NAIROBI	STANDBY NAIROBI

NB

 IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

 TO BE NOTED

Checked by:- ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER

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