

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

SITREP No. 11/2005-2006

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PEST SITUATION REPORTS FOR
MAY, 2006**

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the **Central Region**, mainly dry conditions prevailed during May except for some coastal areas of the Red Sea. The ITCZ began its seasonal movement northwards. Consequently, sporadic light showers occurred in Sudan, on the northern coast in Eritrea near Mehimet, on the southern coast near Jizan, Saudi Arabia, and in a few places on the Yemeni coast. Light rain also fell at times in parts of northwestern Somalia near Hargeisa, Upper Egypt near Lake Nasser and in parts of the Western Desert, and northern Oman. Seasonal rains commenced in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen and some rain may have fallen on the coast near the Yemen/Oman border at the end of May. Despite these showers, ecological conditions remained generally unfavourable for breeding except for perhaps a few places on the Red Sea coastal plains in northern Eritrea and Yemen. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 332)

1.1 Sudan

Sporadic light showers occurred in Sudan in the west near Nyala and Geneina, in the centre near El Obeid, in the north between Khartoum and Dongola, in the east between the Nile River and the Red Sea Hills. Along the Red Sea coastal plains, light rain fell near Suakin. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 332)

1.2 Eritrea

Short shower rains and drizzles continued on a widespread basis on the highlands throughout May. The following were recorded in some rainfall stations;

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Coordinates</u>	<u>Rainfall(mm)</u>	<u>Date</u>
Asmara	1520N 3855E	15	25-5-06
Teramni	1501N 3838E	17	29-5-06
Keren	1540N 3825E	16	29-5-06
Halhale	1504N 3849E	14	29-5-06
Mendefera	1542N 3914E	10	29-5-06
Asmara & Surrounding given		7	29-5-06

With the exception of large Wadis, coastal and sub-coastal areas remained rainless and dry. High and low temperatures for Massawa were 40°C and 29°C and for Assab 39°C and 27.5°C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was North-easterlies at an average wind speed of 9 Mt/sec.

Vegetation: The highland areas generally were observed greening and early crop planting already started.

1.3 Ethiopia

Dry and hot weather conditions prevailed through out the month in Diredawa and surrounding areas of eastern Ethiopia except on 7th and 22nd of the month where rainfall amount of 3mm and 12mm was recorded respectively in Diredawa (0935N 4152E). On 22nd of the month, 60mm of rainfall was recorded in Harar (0936N 4150E). Vegetation was reported green in all areas that had received rainfall during the previous month. Maize and Sorghum crops are above knee height.

1.4 Djibouti

During the month, no rain received and vegetation remained dry. Sunny and dry weather conditions dominated, where temperatures were varied from 38^oC to 41^oC.

1.5 Tanzania

The long rains continued in the Coastal belt, Northern highlands and the Lake Zone while the rest of the country remained dry. Most cereal crops in the Southern and Central regions of the country were either harvested or ripening.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Sudan

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during May.
(FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 332)

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were seen during a survey carried out on the Red Sea coastal plains from Massawa to Mahmimet from 5 to 15 May except for one solitary adult near Shelshela (1553N/3906E).

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during April.

2.4 Djibouti

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.5 Somalia

There was an unconfirmed report from travelers of locust adults on the northwestern coast west of Berbera near Geerisa (1022N/4434E) on 24 May. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 332*)

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

Central Region: Ecological conditions remained dry in the region and few locusts were reported during May. A solitary adult was seen on the Red Sea coastal plains in Eritrea and there was an unconfirmed report of locusts on the coast in northwest Somalia. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

Other regions; Small-scale breeding continued in eastern Algeria, giving rise to an increasing number of solitarious and *transiens* adults. Limited breeding occurred in central Algeria where solitarious hoppers and adults were present. Control operations were conducted mainly in eastern Algeria against the higher density infestations. Very little breeding is thought to have occurred this spring in other areas of Northwest Africa because of poor rainfall and dry conditions. Only a few isolated hoppers and adults were seen in Morocco near the Algerian border. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region although isolated adults may be present in a few places in Western Sahara, northern Mauritania, northern Mali, and the Air Mountains in Niger. In the Eastern Region, mainly dry conditions prevailed and no locusts were reported during May. (*FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 332*)

3.0 Forecast until mid-July 2005 (*Forecast from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 332 is sighted*)

3.1 Sudan

Isolated adults are expected to appear in a few places in the summer breeding areas and breed on a limited scale once seasonal rains commence.

3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Somalia

Isolated adults may be present in a few places on the northwest coast between Djibouti and Berbera.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestation.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Kenya

Report not received.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Late report:

During the month of April, Quelea control operation continued in Singida and Kondoia regions and it was reported as follows:

- a) Singida Region: 2 colonies with an estimated of 6 million birds covering an area of 55ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 100ltrs of Queletox. They were feeding on ripening Sorghum.
- b) Kondoia Region: 4 colonies covering an area of 85ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 200ltrs of Queletox resulting into an estimated kill of 95%. They were feeding on Sorghum and Bulrush Millet.

During May, a DLCO-EA Aircraft continued Quelea control operations in different Regions of the country and it was reported as follows;

- a) Morogoro Region: 2 roosts with an estimated of 3 million birds covering an area of 100ha of Sugarcane in Mtibwa area were controlled using 200ltrs of Queletox resulting into an estimated kill of 90%. Crop saved was Rice.
- b) Dodoma Region: 2 colonies with an estimated of 8 million birds covering an area of 150ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 300ltrs of Queletox resulting into an estimated kill of 95%. Crop saved was Sorghum.
- c) Shinyanga Region; 2 colonies with an estimated of 7 million birds covering an \ area of 125ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 250ltrs of Queletox resulting into an estimated kill of 90%. They were attacking ripening Sorghum and Rice.
- d) Kondoia Region; 1 colony with an estimated of 4 million birds covering an area of 60ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 100ltrs of Queletox resulting into an estimated kill of 90%. They were attacking Sorghum.

The control operation continues in Dodoma, Mwanza and Shinyanga Regions.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Kenya

Report not received.

4.2.2 Ethiopia

Armyworm infestation has been reported from mid-April on a total area 99,474ha of crops and 66,241ha of pastureland up to the end of the month in Southern, Southeastern and eastern parts of the country.

30,746ha of crops has been sprayed using 32,529 liters and 1,968Kgs of insecticides; and 4,302ha of pastureland using cultural practices.

4.2.3 Tanzania

Late Report:

During April, there were more Armyworm outbreaks reported in Manyara, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions of the country.

- a) Manyara Region
In Kiteto district, 1025ha of Maize were attacked.
- b) Arusha Region
The outbreaks were reported in Arusha, Monduli and Ari Meru district where a total of 4275ha of Maize were attacked by the worms. Also 275ha of pasture land were destroyed in Monduli district.
- c) Kilimanjaro Region
In Same district 1045ha of Maize were attacked
In Moshi district a total of 2250ha of Maize were attacked
In Rombo district 410ha of Finger Millet and Maize were wiped out
In Hai district 350ha of Maize were attacked.

The Armyworm breeding season in the country has ended and there were no outbreaks reported during the month of May.

Forecast until the end of June 2006

Armyworm moths are expected to migrate further north to the northern and northeastern parts of Ethiopia, to the southern parts of Eritrea and Eastern Uganda. Because of these, more outbreaks and wider infestation might occur in these countries. Therefore, monitoring systems for moths should be set and regular checkups are required for early detection and control interventions.

Re-infestations are also expected to occur in Kenya and Ethiopia in some places where outbreaks had been reported earlier.

4.3 Red Locust

A DLCO-EA Aircraft continued Red Locust control operations in Rukwa - Wembere plains in Tanzania till mid May. Since March 2006, a total of 51:25 spraying hours were used to control the infestation.

4.4 Tree Locust

Unconfirmed Tree Locusts infestation reports have been received from Afar and Somalia Regional States in Ethiopia.

SIFO

For Director,
6th June, 2006

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