

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

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT
FOR November, 2006

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



In the **Central Region**, rain fell sporadically during the November in winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coastal plains. Good rains and flooding occurred on the coast of southeastern Egypt between Abu Ramad and the Sudanese border on 1-4 November. Rains also fell along parts of coast of Sudan (between Suakin and Mohamed Qol), Eritrea between Karora and Mahimet (76mm on 22-23 November), and near Sheib), Saudi Arabia (near Jizan) and Yemen. Vegetation was already green from October rainfall in parts of central and northern coast of Eritrea and on the central Tihama coast in Yemen but was drier near the Yemen/Sudai Arabia border. Vegetation started to become green along the central coast of Sudan and in some places to the west of Red Sea Hills near Wadi Diib, and on the Gulf of Aden coastal plains in southern Yemen during November.
(FAO DL Bulletin No. 338)

1.1 Djibouti

The country received good rains during the second week of the month that have continued until the end of the month. Vegetation was observed green in some parts of the country.

1.2 Eritrea

With the exception of some sporadic rains, no significant rainfall was recorded neither on the escarpment nor on the coastal area, which are both subject to the winter season. On 22-23 November 76mm of rainfall was recorded in Mahmimet area.

Vegetation on the highlands was green while it was drying out on the western lowlands. With the exception of some Wadis to the north of Massawa including Shieb 1552N3904E Emberemi 1540N3923E Wadi Wachiro 1546N3914E and Wadi Adilo 1550N3924E, most coastal plains were dry due to inadequate rainfall. The above coastal Wadis constitute coastal forms where mature sorghum was thriving well due to abundant

floods received in the past months. The soil moisture was wet in Shelshela, Marsa-Kobae and Karura especially in Shelshela some Wadi sites were observed with flooded water, which never happened before. Average high and low temperature for Assab was 34 and 25°C and for Massawa was 35 and 26°C. Prevailing winds were Northeasterly at 08m/sec.

1.3 Ethiopia

Sunny and dry weather conditions prevailed in eastern and southern parts of the country. The average maximum and minimum temperature recorded in Dire-Dawa was 30°C and 18°C respectively. Vegetation was observed green while soil was dry during the month.

1.4 Somalia

Weather and ecological conditions were improving and moderate to heavy rains have started falling from 28/11/06 on the Desert locust breeding areas on the coastal plains from Lawyaddo to Maid, east of Berbera. The rains also covered other regions of Somaliland and by the end of the month, heavy clouds were observed building up and covering the sky. More rains are expected to fall during December in many parts of the region. The vegetation was green and soil was wet.

1.5 Sudan

During November some rains fell along parts of the Red Sea coast between Suakin and Mohamed Qol. Vegetation started to become green along the central coast of Sudan and in some places to the west of Red Sea Hills near Wadi Diib

1.6 Tanzania

Most parts of the country received heavy to moderate rains during the month. These rains were heaviest in the southern and coastal regions of the country.

1.7 Uganda

Heavy showers and thunderstorms were reported across most parts of the country. There were also some reports of flooding, with the rains reported to be the heaviest in many years' records. The forecasted "Mild Elnino" was being realized! Vegetation was reported green across the entire country.

2.0 Desert Locust

2.1 Djibouti

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.2 Eritrea

PPD staff carried out locust survey from 06-12 November in the winter locust breeding areas of the Red Sea coast and solitary isolated Desert Locust adults were found in three key breeding sites; Sheshela 1593439N/3913083E, Marsa-Kobae 1627883N/3919236E and Karura 1757457N/3845871E and were at copulating and egg laying stages. One mature adult Desert Locust damaged by running vehicles was also seen on the main street of Asmara.

2.3 Ethiopia

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.4 Somalia

Locusts were not reported during the month.

2.5 Sudan

During the first week of November, isolated mature solitarious adults were seen at four places on the Red Sea coast between Port Sudan (1938N/3707E) and south of Suakin (1908N/3717E). Small-scale laying and hatching is thought to have occurred in some places including the Tokar Delta. At the end of the month, similar populations were seen in crops at one place near Tomala (2002N/3551E) along Wadi Oko in the northeast. Some of the adults were reported to be copulating. No locusts were seen during surveys on the coast between Suakin and the Eritrean border. Surveys were also carried out in the summer breeding areas north of Khartoum, but no locusts were seen in the Baiyuda Desert or east of Shendi (1641N/3322E) along Wadi El Hawad. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 338*)

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions (*extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 338*)

Central Region: Isolated solitarious adults were present and laying eggs in a few places on the Red Sea coastal plains in Sudan and Eritrea. Solitarious adults were also reported on the Red Sea coast in Yemen.

Western Region: Ground control operations treated nearly 900ha of hopper bands and groups in northwest Mauritania and 600ha in Western Sahara during November. In Mali, small groups of hoppers and adults formed further west near Tombouctou as well as further east on the Tamesna Plains in Niger. Ground teams treated 1,700ha in Niger.

Eastern Region: Low numbers of solitarious adults persisted in a few places in Rajasthan, India during November. Limited breeding occurred in one area that was flooded in August.

3.0 Forecast until mid-January 2007 (*Forecast from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 338 is sighted*)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding will continue in areas of recent rainfall on the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and the Sudanese border. Hatching will take place early in the forecast period and the resulting hoppers are expected start fledging by late December or early January. Consequently, locust numbers will increase, and all efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will increase slightly as small-scale breeding continues along the Red Sea coastal plains and in Wadi Oko/Diib. Hatching is likely to continue during December, and fledging could start by the end of the year.

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

Aerial Quelea birds control operation was conducted between 14th and 18th of the month in the Western part of the country.

The spray was conducted around Kisumu, Siaya and Dominion localities. The birds were threatening irrigated Rice and an estimated of 90ha of Quelea roosts were sprayed using 360liters of Queletox with a spray time of 1:00 hour.

4.1.2 Ethiopia

During the month, aerial control operation was conducted at five localities in the northeastern part of the country and a total of 2.4million birds were killed. Queletox (Fenthion 60ULV) was sprayed over target and estimated kill was 97%.

4.1.3 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

With the short seasonal rains falling in most parts of the country, the Ministry of Agriculture has warned of an impending Armyworm infestation. As a result, the MoA have purchased and distributed insecticides to the Regional Offices.

4.2.2 Meanwhile, all member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.3 Tree Locust

Tree Locust infestation on Citrus trees were reported from the Somali region in Ethiopia at locality 093744N/412329E.

4.4 Edible Grasshoppers (*Homorocoryphus nitudulus vicinus*)

There were reports of Edible Grasshoppers outbreaks in Central, western and some other parts of Uganda. However, no crop damage was reported, as most of the swarms were concentrated on streetlights in urban areas, grasses and bushes.

SIFO
For Director,
5th December, 2006