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SITREP No. 07/2006-2007

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT**  
**FOR FEBRUARY 2007**

**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**



In the **Central Region**, light rain fell at times during February in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. On the western side of the Red Sea, rain occasionally fell on the coastal plains between Tokar, Sudan and Mahmimet, Eritrea causing vegetation to become greener and ecological conditions to remain favorable for breeding. Vegetation started to dry out slightly south of Mahmimet to Massawa but remained green further south near Tio. Although light showers were reported near the Sudanese-Egyptian border, unusually dry conditions prevailed between Suakin, Sudan and Shalatyn, Egypt except in parts of Wadi Diib and on the coast near Halaib. On the eastern side of the Red Sea, light rains fell at times mainly along the central and southern coast in Saudi Arabia. Ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding along the coast from Jeddah to the northern coast in Yemen as well as along parts of the Gulf of Aden coast. Conditions were less favorable along the Yemeni central coast where vegetation was starting to dry out. In northern Somalia, green vegetation persisted along the coast between Berbera and the Djibouti border. In Oman, scattered showers fell in parts of the northern interior and on the coast. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 341)

**1.1 Djibouti**

The country remained dry during the month. Vegetation was drying out in most parts of the country.

**1.2 Eritrea**

Coastal areas, especially the southern parts received some rains. Natural Vegetation and crops in the northern coastal areas were partially green and in some southern coastal areas were green.

**1.3 Ethiopia**

Throughout the month, dry and hot weather conditions prevailed in DireDawa and surrounding areas.

Vegetation was drying out in the region.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

Most parts of the country had hot and dry weather conditions during the month of February. There was unusual rainfall in January, which extended into the month of February in some regions.

#### **1.5 Somalia**

In northern Somalia, some rainfalls were observed and green vegetation persisted along the coast between Berbera and the Djibouti border

#### **1.6 Sudan**

Rain occasionally fell on the coastal plains between Tokar and the Eritrean border causing vegetation to become greener and ecological conditions to remain favorable for Locust breeding.

#### **1.7 Tanzania**

Heavy to moderate rains were received in the Lake Zone, Arusha, Kilimanjaro regions and some parts of the coastal belt while the rest of the country remained dry.

#### **1.8 Uganda**

Thunderstorms and hailstorms were experienced in some parts of Western and Northern Uganda resulting into destruction of crops and several other properties. The rest of the Country received moderate to light scattered showers.

Vegetation was beginning to show signs of drying in some parts of the country.

## **2.0 Desert Locust**

### **2.1 Djibouti**

Locusts were not reported during the month.

### **2.2 Eritrea**

Desert Locust control campaign continued in the eastern lowland areas and the following detailed report was obtained from PPD by the end of February;

Ground control operation against Desert Locust hoppers started on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in Shieb/Shelshela 1553N 3907E where control against hoppers/fledglings continued for three weeks. On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2007, mature

gregarious infestation were detected in Gubet 1612N 3936E and on 18<sup>th</sup> January newly hatched hoppers and egg laying mature gregarious adults were observed at Derbabo 1653N 3859E, Geleb-sagla 1705N 3856E, Gungum 1656N 3855E, Embre 1643N 3904E and Aderhima 1608N 3912E and limited control was undertaken on the above areas due to landmines. Because of difficulty to get to these areas, locusts were able to lay eggs, move and infest other areas.

Between 12<sup>th</sup> December and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 42,952 ha hoppers/fledglings infested area was controlled utilizing 21,705 liters of insecticides and using 11 vehicle mounted and knapsack sprayers. Insecticides used were Malathion 95% ULV, Fenitrothion 45% ULV, Chlorpyrifos 24% ULV and Fenvalarate 20% EC.

An estimated 72,100ha in inaccessible areas has remained infested and vegetation were green and soil was moist in those areas. The report concluded that situation was very bleak and that due to technical reasons, it was very difficult to overcome the prevailing outbreak.

### **2.3 Ethiopia**

Locusts were not reported during the month.

### **2.4 Somalia**

There were several unconfirmed reports suggesting that locust numbers increased on the northwest coast near Bulhar (1041N/4356E) and the Djibouti border where locals reported small hopper bands, adult groups and swarms.

### **2.5 Sudan**

During the first week of February, scattered immature and mature adults were present at densities of 50-300adults/ha at three places on the Red Sea coast between Suakin (1906N/3719E) and Tokar (1827N/3741E) and at another three places in Tokar Delta. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, five swarms were reported on the coast near the Eritrean border. During the remainder of the month, there were 11 reports of immature and mature adult groups and swarms at densities of 4-12 adults/m<sup>2</sup> and varying in size from 1 to 6km<sup>2</sup>. The infestations were concentrated within a small area of about 7x15km near Aiterba (1753N/3819E) between Khor Balatat and the Eritrean border. Egg laying was first reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> and, by the last decade of the month, hatchings were forming high-density hopper bands in one place. Aerial and ground control operations treated 2,710ha on 15-26 February. Nearby, groups of solitary adults were copulating near Adobana(1811N/3816E). The situation remained calm in Tokar Delta and no locusts were seen in Khor Baraka. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 341)

## 2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

## 2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 341)*

**Central Region:** Local breeding occurred on the coast in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and barrier treatments were undertaken on nearly 2000ha in one area in Saudi Arabia.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm in the region during February. Limited breeding occurred in northwest Mauritania and in central Algeria where low numbers of solitarious locusts were present. Isolated adults were also present in parts of the spring breeding area along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and western Algeria. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding is likely to take place in both countries causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Elsewhere, isolated adults may be present in parts of northern Mali and Niger. No significant locust developments are expected in the region.

**Eastern Region:** The situation remained calm during February. Limited egg laying and hatching are likely in the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan where isolated adults were present in February and in southeast Iran. No significant developments are expected.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-April 2007 *(Forecast from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 341 is sighted)*

### 3.1 Djibouti

Gregarizing locust infestations may be present on the coast between Djibouti town and the Somali border. There is also a risk of low numbers of adults appearing on the northern coastal plains between Obock and the Eritrean border.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers will increase on the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and the Sudanese border as second-generation eggs hatch. As vegetation dries out, locusts will concentrate, gregarize and form small groups, bands swarms. Adults could move north or south along the coast. Locust numbers will also increase on the southern coast as hatching is expected early in the forecast period. If more rain falls during March, conditions could remain favorable for a third generation in April and May during which locust numbers would rapidly increase and hopper bands and swarms would form and threaten the Region. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely and undertake the necessary control operations.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

### **3.4 Somalia**

Small-scale breeding is likely to continue on the northwest coast, causing locust numbers to increase further and perhaps a few small groups, bands or swarms will form between Berbera and the Djibouti border. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely

### **3.5 Sudan**

Locust numbers will increase on the Red Sea coastal plains between Tokar Delta and the Eritrean border as second generation eggs hatch. As vegetation dries out, locusts will concentrate, gregarize and form small groups, bands and swarms. Adults could move north or south along the coast. If more rain falls during March, conditions could remain favorable for a third generation in April and May during which locust numbers would rapidly increase and hopper bands and swarms would form and threaten the Region. All efforts should be made to monitor the situation closely and undertake the necessary control operations.

### **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**

There were reports of *Quelea quelea* birds sighted in Nyando and Kisumu Districts in Nyanza Province, in the western parts of the country. Monitoring and assessment of extent of infestation is going on for any control interventions.

#### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

Seasonal *Quelea* outbreaks were reported in Central Tanzania where 4 roosts have been confirmed and await aerial control operation.

**4.1.3** Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

### **4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)**

#### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

There were no Armyworm outbreaks reported from the country, however some moth trap catches were reported in following stations:

Dodoma	12	Babati	2
Mbozi	2	Mnyambe	1
Lengo	1		

### 4.3 Tree Locust (*Anacridium spp.*)

#### 4.3.1 Kenya

Tree Locust outbreak was reported in Turkana District in the northwestern part of the country. Divisions affected were Lokitaung, Kaaleng and Lapur. Locusts were large in numbers and found along riverbeds at 50-400 adults/tree, and covered approximately 4200ha of natural vegetation.

Preparations for ground and aerial control operations were at place and were expected to take two weeks.

**SIFO**

**For Director,**  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2007