

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

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SITREP No. 10/2006-2007

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR  
MAY, 2007

**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**



In the **Central Region**, light rain fell in the spring breeding areas in central Saudi Arabia during the first decade of May. Heavier showers fell along both sides of the border between Ethiopia and northern Somalia, extending from DireDawa to Erigavo. Showers also occurred in the Red Sea Hills in northern Sudan near the Egyptian and Eritrean borders, and in the highlands in Eritrea. Nevertheless, ecological conditions were favorable for breeding on the escarpment and plateau in northern Somalia as well as in the railway area and northern Ogaden in eastern Ethiopia. Conditions were also favorable for breeding within large portion of interior Yemen from Marib to northeast, extending to the Dhofar region in southern Oman. In the summer breeding areas, unusually heavy rains fell in the interior of Yemen on 25-30 May. Good rains also fell adjacent areas of southern Oman on 24-25 May. In Sudan, the ITCZ reached Geneina, Nyala, El Obeid and Gedaref by the end of the month but dry conditions prevailed except in cropping areas along the Nile. Good rains fell on the southern part of western lowlands in Eritrea at the end of May. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 344*)

**1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

**1.2 Eritrea**

The month of May remained dry and rainless, with the exception of a few showers on the highland.

Merhano 7 Kms South of Asmara and Asmara City received 21 and 07 mm of rainfall respectively on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2007. During the month, showers and drizzles of rainfall occurred on many parts of the highland and western lowlands.

Average high and low temperature in Assab was 39<sup>o</sup>C and 27<sup>o</sup>C and for massawa 40<sup>o</sup>C and 28<sup>o</sup>C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was North and South Easterlies at 09 meter per second.

Natural vegetation on the highland and western lowland remained dry due to very fewer short rains. Coastal plains dried out and Wadis remained semi-green. Vegetation in between the highlands and coastal areas that is the escarpment and its valleys were reported green with wet soil.

### **1.3 Ethiopia**

Acacia and Prosopis trees remained green in areas around Diredawa, in the eastern parts of the country. Also, *Panicum* grasses were drying in some areas. During the month, light rainfalls were reported and recorded as follows in Dire-Dawa Rainfall station (09 36N/041 50E);

|          | Rainfall in mm |
|----------|----------------|
| 07/05/07 | 1.8            |
| 10/05/07 | 1.0            |
| 15/05/07 | 2.3            |
| 19/05/07 | 7.6            |
| 28/05/07 | 7.7            |
| 31/05/07 | 0.6            |

### **1.4 Kenya**

The country had mixed weather conditions where some areas had reported heavy rainfalls and floods, and others were hot and dry.

### **1.5 Somalia**

Some areas bordering Ethiopia and southern Djibouti had received some rainfalls.

### **1.6 Sudan**

Some showers occurred in the Red Sea Hills in northern Sudan near the Egyptian and the Eritrean borders.

### **1.7 Tanzania**

Apart from the Central and Western regions, the rest of the country continued to receive moderate to heavy rains.

### **1.8 Uganda**

Moderate rains were recorded and vegetation was green across most parts of the country. The rains are reported to be declining steadily.

## **2.0 Desert Locust**

### **2.1 Djibouti**

No locusts were reported during the month.

## **2.2 Eritrea**

Locusts that escaped control during the 2007 winter/spring control operations were reported to have continued breeding in the green valleys in the eastern lowland. No confirmation was received from the PPD.

During the month, scattered Desert Locust adults were seen in Asmara City and other towns, probably brought by North Easterly winds.

A DLCO-EA staff caught two immature adults, one male the other female in Asmara. This could be an indication of large Desert Locust population present in the escarpment. Given good rainfall, they will emerge and probably continue breeding in the coastal Wadis, which is to be flooded soon during the summer rain season.

Preparation for survey/control operations will be necessary.

## **2.3 Ethiopia**

2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> instar hoppers were found on 3,079ha during surveys, which were conducted between 04 - 31 of May. On 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, 52 hopper bands of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> instars had been sprayed around DireDawa at locality Biyo-Kabre (1013N/0414E) by air.

By the end of the month, 1061 liters of Fenitrothion 96% ULV and Dursban 24% ULV was sprayed on 1491ha by an aircraft, three vehicle mounted Micronair and handheld sprayers.

## **2.4 Somalia**

During the month, control operations were carried out against numerous small hopper bands on the plateau between Boroma (0956N/4313E) and Hargeisa (0931N/4402E). At the end of the month, hatching was still in progress and hoppers had reached the fifth instar. Ground control operations treated 176ha during May.

## **2.5 Sudan**

In early May, scattered immature and mature solitarious and gregarious adults, at densities up to 900 adults/ha, and a few groups persisted on the Red Sea coast in Tokar Delta and on the plains near the Eritrean border. By mid-month, most of these adults had moved to crops along the Nile Valley between Ed-Damer (1734N/3358E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E) where mainly scattered solitarious and gregarious populations and a few groups at densities up to 15,000 adults/ha were present. Some adults were copulating. Adults were also present in Baiyuda Desert west of Ed-Damer to Merowe (1830N/3149E). Ground control teams treated 70ha during the first half of May. (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 344*)

## 2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

## 2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 344)*

**Central Region:** Aerial and ground control operations continued against hopper bands on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia where infestations had declined by mid-May. Hatching and band formation occurred in the interior of Saudi Arabia and control operations were in progress throughout the month. Widespread breeding occurred in the interior of Yemen causing numerous hopper bands to form within a large remote area. New swarms will form and another generation of breeding will occur in July that threaten crops and pastures. Scattered adults were present in southern Egypt and in northern Oman.

**Western Region:** The situation remained calm in the region during May. Limited breeding continued in central Algeria where ground control operations were carried out against small hopper bands in irrigated cropping areas. Isolated solitarious adults were reported in northern Mali and southeast Niger. Small-scale breeding will commence with the onset of the seasonal rains in southern Mauritania, northern Mali and Niger, and in eastern Chad in July, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

**Eastern Region:** Small hopper bands formed on the coast of southern Iran and western Pakistan during May from breeding that occurred in the spring. Local breeding occurred in Rajasthan, India near the border with Pakistan. Ground control operations were carried out in all three countries. Higher than normal populations are expected to be present at the beginning of the summer along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border where breeding will start with the onset of the monsoon rains.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-July 2007 *(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 344)*

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults and perhaps a few small groups may be present in the highlands. These populations are expected to move to the western lowlands and breed on small scale once the seasonal rains commence.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

The remaining hopper bands will fledge early in the forecast period and there is a possibility that a few small groups and swarms of immature adults could form.

The adults are likely to remain in the area between Dire Dawa and Jijiga where they will mature and lay eggs if rainfall occurs. If so, hatching and band formation are likely to occur in about mid-July.

### **3.4 Somalia**

The remaining hopper bands will fledge early in the forecast period and there is a possibility that a few small groups and swarms of immature adults could form. The adults are likely to remain in the area between Boroma and Burao where they will mature and lay eggs if rainfall occurs. If so, hatching and band formation are likely to occur in about mid-July.

### **3.5 Sudan**

Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in crops in the Nile Valley between Khartoum and Dongola that could give rise to small hopper groups and bands. From mid-June onwards, immature adults and small swarms may arrive in Kassala, Nile, Northern, White Nile, North Kordofan and North Darfur States from breeding areas in Saudi Arabia, mature and lay eggs with the onset of the summer rains

### **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 Tanzania**

Between 27<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007, a DLCO-EA aircraft sprayed 4.3 million Quelea birds in Singida and Itigi regions. Birds were roosting on 100ha and were threatening Millet and Sorghum crops. Mortality of birds was estimated 80-90%.

During May, MoA has further reported several and severe Quelea outbreaks in Mbeya, Shinyanga, Arusha, Manyara and Morogoro regions and requested a second Aircraft for deployment.

#### **4.1.2 Kenya**

A DLCO-EA aircraft sprayed 5.7 million Quelea birds in Ololulunga, Olkiriaine, Katakala and Nkareta locations in Narok district between 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of the month. It was estimated that USD 13,000.00 worth of crops had been saved by the control intervention.

Aerial control operation continued during the rest of the month but details of the operation is not received.

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

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

**4.2.1** Member countries remained free of any infestation.

**SIFO**

**For Director,**

12<sup>th</sup> June 2007

*For more information about the organization, please visit DLCO-EA's  
Website: [www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)*