

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

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**SITREP No. 05/2007-2008**

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



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, very little rain fell during November. In Yemen, vegetation was drying out along parts of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts where only a few light showers fell at times during the month. Light to moderate rain associated with a tropical disturbance fell in coastal and interior areas of southern and central Oman on 1-3 November and some showers fell in coastal areas of eastern Yemen and northeast Somalia. (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 350)

**1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

**1.2 Eritrea**

There was no significant rainfall both on the highlands and Western lowlands. Coastal areas, South of Massawa, the escarpment, Massawa and surrounding areas did not receive any rainfall. Moderate to heavy rainfall was reported in Karora 1741N/3825E and Mahmimet areas during the first and last week of the month.

Average high and low temperatures for Assab were recorded 33 and 23°C.

For Massawa average high and low temperatures were recorded 35 and 26.5°C.

Prevailing wind direction was South-Easterlies at a speed of 8 m / sec.

Vegetation was drying out on the highlands and Western lowlands. Northern coastal Wadis, North of 1700N were greening while Wadis South of Massawa remained dry.

**1.3 Ethiopia**

Although areas of Southeastern parts of the country benefited with relatively good rain, dry and sunny weather conditions prevailed in Eastern and central Ethiopia during the month. In the southeastern parts of the country, vegetation was green soil was moist due to recent rainfall. Conditions were observed favorable for locust breeding in those areas.

**1.4 Kenya**

A survey team assessed the weather and ecological conditions in Mandera area where Desert Locust swarms had been reported by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November:

Rain: surveyed areas had received moderate rainfall on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and soil was moist below 5cm of depth.

Vegetation: Vegetation cover was estimated 80-85% with green annual grasses and broad-leaves plants from germinating to seed setting stages. Dominant perennial plant was Acacia tree, few at flowering stage.

Cloud: during the survey, warm and very cloudy weather conditions were observed and there was a high probability of rainfall to occur.

## 1.5 Somalia

Vegetation was observed between greening and green due to light to moderate rains that had fallen in mid of November expect in some location where it was drying to dry. Soil was moist in Hiranle and Magab locations where a swarm and group of Desert Locust Adults were seen.

There was a probability that more rains could come during December and January as the winter rain season was approaching in northern Somalia.

## 1.6 Sudan

Ecological conditions remained favorable in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan in North Kordofan along Wadi Milk near Abu Uruq, in the Baiyuda Desert, along the Nile and Atbara Rivers and on the western side of the Red Sea Hills. On the coast, ecological conditions were not favorable for breeding except for a few places where light showers fell between Tokar Delta, Sudan and Mahmimet, Eritrea and near Abu Ramad in the southeastern Egypt.

## 1.7 Tanzania

The short rains finally came in most regions and were heaviest in Mtwara, Kigoma, Lake Zone, Rukwa and The Coastal Belt. The rest of the country had scattered to moderate rains.

## 1.8 Uganda

Rainfall: Heavy showers were recorded in parts of Central and South-Western Uganda. The Central region, including Kampala city experienced some floods.

Vegetation was green across most parts of the country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

### 2.2 Eritrea

One live desert locust was flushed and one dead desert locust was observed in Asmara city. Both were mature female Desert Locust. They were observed on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of the month respectively.

Isolated solitary adult locusts were present in the extreme north around Mahmimet (172710N/382802E) and Karura (174109N/382515E), whereas the summer breeding areas remained free of locust infestation.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

Desert Locust survey had been conducted and a total of 1000ha was surveyed by ground and 60,000ha by air in the Southeastern parts of the country during the month.

Matured flying swarms with medium density, which covered about 200ha was found at Gode (055451N/433224E) and high density of third and fourth instar hopper bands that covered

about 1200ha were found at localities Wal (065323N/461247E), Yemarlgle(064706N/460411E), Gondale (065558N/460411E) and Qolagan (0723 45N/455451E).

## Control

On 12/11/2007, a DLCO-EA aircraft sprayed 200ha of matured flying Desert Locust swarms at Gode and 1200ha of third and fourth instar hopper bands at Wal, Yemarlgle, Gondale and Qolagan using 620lts of Dursban 24% ULV.

Ground control operation was carried out using two vehicle mounted Micronair sprayers at Gundale (065450N/460659E), Isqois (065939N/460258E), Degachea(0707 45N/460084E), Gundale(06 55 06N/4607 45E), Injiro (072046N/460031E) and Keloal (072345N/455451E).

Hopper bands consisting of third and fourth instars were covering 225ha and had been treated using 119 liters of Fenitrothion 96% ULV.

## 2.4 Somalia

Ground survey was conducted between 21-27 November in northern Somalia in Awdal (Borama) Maroodi-Jeex (Hargeisa) regions. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, medium density mature gregarious swarm, which was covering an estimated of 600ha was found in Hiiranle (102633N/451014E) locality.

Low density gregarious mature adult groups covering 2ha were seen in Magab (102713N/451144E).

Mature solitary adults were also found in Bararis (101750N/440349E), Qabileh (101728N/440941E) fadhiyare (102304N/442244E) and Bulahar2 (101949n/442445E).

In the central and south, medium and high density groups of solitary and transiens late instar hoppers were seen during the

second week east of Garowe (0824N/4828E) and near Galkayo (0646N/4725E). A small low-density mature swarm was seen further south near the Ethiopian border at Belet Weyne (0444N/4512E). In the following week, there was unconfirmed report of locusts in the southern regions of Bay and Bakool, and a swarm was seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> moving from Qansahdere (0252N/4300E) west wards the Gedo region and the Kenyan border.

## 2.5 Sudan

In the summer breeding areas, groups of immature and mature solitary, *transiens* and gregarious adults formed at densities up to 30,000 adults/ha in North Kordofan State between Sodiri (1423N/2906E), Wadi Milk and the Baiyuda Desert. Similar groups and a few dozen low-density swarms up to 5km<sup>2</sup> in size formed on the western side of the Red Sea Hills near Haiya (1820N/3621E) and to a lesser extent along the Atbara and Nile Rivers. Groups and bands of late instar hoppers and fledglings were present in a few places in the Baiyuda Desert south of Merowe (1830N/3149E), and mature adults were seen laying further north along the Nile near Dongola (1910N/3027E). During the third week of November, some of these swarms moved east to the Tokar Delta on the Red Sea coast where they were copulating, while other swarms moved northwest to the Egyptian border at Wadi Halfa (2147N/3122E) and northeast to Wadi Oko near Tomala (2002N/3551E).

In the winter breeding areas, numerous very small late instar hopper bands were present and fledging near the Egyptian border in Wadi Diib, giving rise to few small swarms by the third week. Groups of mature and adults were also present nearby, and adults were seen on the coast north of Port Sudan. Breeding continued in the Tokar Delta where groups of mature adults were present and hoppers formed small groups and bands. A low-density swarm was seen laying on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ground control teams treated 28,446ha up to 23 November. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 350*)

Note: *Metarhizium* used during October and which was reported in our Octobers report was incorrect.

### 2.5.1 Kenya,

A swarm, which was estimated large and dense, was seen flying over Mandera (0354N/4149E) on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of November. On 22<sup>nd</sup> a ground survey team assessed the following areas;

1. Neboi 0357N/4146E many dead locusts eaten by predators and few maturing adult locusts were found.
2. Fikow 0358N/4144E Swarm was seen flying over on 21<sup>st</sup> late afternoon heading north.
3. Bur-Abor 0358N/4142E swarm was also seen flying north on 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. Bella 0356N/4139E a large maturing swarm mixed with few copulating mature adults was observed settled on the ground. Area covered was estimated 4km X 2km = 8km<sup>2</sup>. The swarm was settled there on 21<sup>st</sup> late afternoon.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> morning, the team surveyed the same area and found that locusts had moved from the area near to Dawa River (0357N/4158E) but were found not far from the previous days' location. However, it was found that the large swarm had been dispersed into many small swarmlets indicating a search for laying sites.

Additional reports of swarms were received on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month on the following areas and a team from the local MoA had been sent to assess the situation.

1. Elwak 02 49N/4056E a dense swarm was seen north of the town heading to north, samples had been collected.
2. Another swarm was also reported 40kms west of Elwak but not well confirmed.

## 2.6 Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

### 2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 350)*

**Central Region:** Breeding occurred during November in eastern Ethiopia where numerous bands formed in Ogaden. Several swarms continued to lay eggs there while a few others moved south to southern Somalia and northeastern Kenya. Numerous adult groups and several swarms formed in the summer breeding area in the interior of Sudan and moved north and eastwards. An increasing number of adults were seen in the Western Desert in Egypt and some adults reached Cairo. Smaller scale breeding was in progress on the coast in southeastern Egypt, northern Eritrea, in Yemen including the Gulf of Aden coast, and probably in Saudi Arabia.

**Western Region:** The situation continued to remain calm during November. Locust numbers increased slightly from small-scale breeding that took place in central Mauritania, in northern Niger and probably in northeast Chad. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding is expected to occur in northwest Mauritania and locusts will increase further. Low numbers of adults will persist in parts of northern Mali and Niger, and in northeastern Chad. No locusts were reported in northwest Africa and no significant developments are expected.

**Eastern Region:** Locust numbers continued to decline in the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border during November. Two small swarms unexpectedly formed from local breeding in northern Baluchistan, Pakistan and were controlled in early November.

### 3.0 Forecast until mid-January 2008 *(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 350)*

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale hatching will take place and locust numbers will increase slightly on the Red Sea coast between Mahmimet and Karora. Breeding could also extend to other areas along the coast towards Massawa if rainfall occurs.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

By early December, hatching is expected to commence south of the Shebele River where hopper bands will form, giving rise to small swarms in early January. From mid-December onwards, small swarms are expected to form in the Ogaden north of the Shebele and gradually move south towards Kenya.

### 3.4 Somalia

Egg laying may occur on the northwest coast near Berbera that could give rise to a few small hopper groups and bands by the end of the forecast period. Some swarms may have laid eggs in parts of the center and south that could result in hatching and band formation during December.

### 3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will decline in the summer breeding areas of the interior as vegetation dries out and the remaining populations form small groups and swarms that will move in December towards the Red Sea coast. Consequently, locust numbers will increase on the coast, mainly in Tokar Delta, and in sub-coastal areas in the north (Wadi Oko/Diib). Breeding will form small groups, bands and perhaps a few swarms.

### 3.6 Kenya

Hatching will occur in the northeast during the second week of December and small bands will form, giving rise to small swarms by mid January. New swarms could appear from the north after mid-December.

### 3.7 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

Quelea control operations continued during November in Siaya and Kisumu in Nyanza province. However, detail of the report was not received during the reporting period.

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

#### 4.2.1 Tanzania

There were no army worm outbreaks received for the month of November but moth catches were reported as follows:-

Period 1/11 – 11/11/07:	Mbozi - 4
Period 12/11 – 18 <sup>th</sup> /11/07:	Mbeya - 11
	Sinyanga - 8
Period 19/11/ - 25/11/2007:	Same-97
	Mbeya – 11
	Mbozi - 9
	Handeni - 4
	Mgambo - 4
	Rombo - 4

Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

## SIFO

For Director,  
10<sup>th</sup> January 2008