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AFRICA
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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT
FOR OCTOBER, 2007



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, very little rain fell during October in the summer breeding areas while showers occurred in some areas along the Red Sea Coastal plains. Vegetation was becoming green and breeding conditions were favorable and improving in both sides of the Red Sea coast mainly in Tokar Delta, Sudan, the southern coast of Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 349)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Apart from northern coastal foothills, which resulted in floods on large and small Wadis no rainfall report was obtained from Massawa and surrounding areas nor to the south of Massawa up to Assab. Small showers occurred in and around Asmara and some parts of the highland. On 30th October

Asmara recorded brief but heavy rainfall (16 mm) combined with hailstorm. In the western lowlands no rainfall was recorded during the month.

Average high and low temperature for Assab was 36 and 27⁰C, for Massawa was 38 and 29⁰C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was north-easterlies at an average speed of 10 m/sec.

Natural vegetation on the highlands and western lowlands were partly green. Crops were being harvested in both areas. Coastal plains and Wadis were dry with the exception of northernmost coastal Wadis, which were wet and green from frequent rainfall and floods.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the month, dry and sunny weather condition prevailed in the Eastern parts of the country. Average maximum and minimum temperature in Dire Dawa was 34⁰C and 20⁰C respectively. On 02, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of October, 0.4, 0.2, 4.7, 21.8 and 3.8mm of rainfalls were respectively recorded in DireDawa rainfall station. Vegetation was green but soil was dry by the end of the month.

1.4 Kenya

During the month, humid and hot weather conditions were experienced in most parts of the

country. Some areas had dry weather conditions while some shower rains were reported here and there.

1.5 Somalia

Vegetation in the northern part of the country were drying out except in the coastal plains where it was reported dry. No rains had been reported in Marodi-Jeh (Hargeisa), Awdel (Borama) regions. Light to moderate rains were reported in some parts of the eastern regions in Sanag, Erigava, Sool (Las-anood) and Togdher (Buraq).

1.6 Sudan

Light to moderate rains fell in the Red Sea Hills from northeastern coast to the Eritrean border and in Tokar Delta. Vegetation was greening or became green in some of those areas. Very little rain fell in the summer breeding areas of the country.

1.7 Tanzania

The dry weather which normally end in mid October with the on set of the short rains continue in most regions with an exception of the Coastal and Lake zones which had scattered to moderate rains.

Towards the end of the month, however all conditions for the onset of the short rains (very warm and humid weather with clouded skies) were observed in Southern & Northern Highlands the Lake zone the Coastal belt and the Northern regions.

1.8 Uganda

Heavy showers were experienced in parts of Central, Eastern and South-Western Uganda, with some reports of crop damages. The heavy rains reported in the North and North-Eastern parts of the country during October started to ease and even the floods are now under control in that part of the country.

Vegetation is green across most parts of the country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

2.2 Eritrea

One immature adult solitary Desert Locust female was captured near the Asmara Base on 30th October 2007. It was likely that the adult was wind borne from some scattered populations somewhere in the northwestern lowlands, which escaped control operation, where ground control had taken place against Desert Locust hopper bands in Kerkebet area 1520N/3725E, during the first two weeks of September 2007.

Apart from scattered mature solitary populations near Shelshela (1553N/3906E), Naro (1626N/3840E) and Karora (1745N/3820E) in the coastal area, no locust breeding reports were received during the month. Small-scale breeding occurred near Naro where scattered second and third instar solitarious hoppers were seen at mid-month, and adults were copulating in the north near Mahmimet (1723N/3833E) during the last week of the month.

2.3 Ethiopia

During the first decade of October, isolated immature solitarious adults persisted between Dire Dawa (0935N/4150E) and the borders of Djibouti and northern Somalia where about three swarms were seen in late September. During the third week of October, mature swarms had been reported in Gode, Degahabur, Koraheha, Warder and by the end of the month few swarms had reached the Fik area (0808N/4218E), south of Kebri Dehar (0644N/4416E), near Kelafo (0524N/4410E) and the Shabele River.

In the Ogaden, egg laying occurred north of Warder (0658N/4520E), and on 27/10/2007 ground survey teams found small and medium

second instar hoppers covering less than one ha, which might have originated from low density mature adults. In the Afar region, ground control teams treated 35ha of hoppers that gregarized at Buldugum (1155N/4129E) in early October.

2.4 Somalia

The Desert Locust situation in the northern part of the country remained calm during the month, although there were unconfirmed reports received on 21/10/07 of hopper infestation in Ainabo (0856N/4625E) and its surrounding areas. In early October, groups of mature adults were seen in the northeast near Gardo (0930N/4905E).

Unconfirmed reports also indicated that some dense swarms were seen during the first week of the month in Caynabo (0910N/4620E) and the second week in Gaalkayo (0645N/4725E) areas.

2.5 Sudan

During the first week of October, a few small swarms laid eggs and hatched occurred in the northern Baiyuda Desert near Merowe (1830N/3149E). Throughout the month, hopper bands formed and groups of immature and mature adults were present in the Baiyuda between Merowe and Shendi (1641N/3322E), along the Atbara River, northwest of Kassala (1527N/3623E), and on the western side of the Red Sea Hills near Haiya (1820N/3621E) and in Wadi Oko near Tomala (2002N/3551E). The bands were mainly small and consisted of all instars at densities up to 50 hoppers/m². By the end of the month, most of the bands were fledging. From the 18th onwards, small immature and mature swarms were seen in the Baiyuda and near Kassala and Haiya. Some of these swarms near Kassala laid eggs.

In the winter breeding areas, groups of immature and mature solitary and gregarious adults were present on the Red

Sea coast in Tokar Delta at densities up to 2,000 adults/ha, and in the northern sub-coastal areas along Wadi Diib at densities up to 650 adults/ha. In the Tokar Delta, egg laying occurred throughout the month. Solitary, *transiens* and gregarious hoppers formed small groups at densities up to 12 hoppers/m² and, by the last week of the month, a few small late instar hopper bands had formed.

Ground control teams treated 11,212 ha during October of which 418 ha were in the Tokar Delta and 112 ha were with *Metarhizium*. Some aerial control was carried out near Kassala. (FAO DL bulletin No. 349)

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.7 Other Regions (extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 349)

Central Region: Although the outbreak ended in the interior of Yemen, breeding on the Red Sea coast gave rise to a few hopper bands, and more breeding is expected during the forecast period. Limited breeding will take place along the coast in southeast Egypt, northern Eritrea and on the coast of Saudi Arabia where a few locusts were present in October.

Western Region: The situation continued to remain calm during October. Small-scale breeding occurred in parts of western and central Mauritania, northern Niger and northeast Chad where locust numbers increased slightly. A similar situation is expected in northern Mali but surveys could not be carried out due to insecurity. During the forecast period, locust could concentrate, increase in number and form a few small groups as vegetation dries out in western Mauritania in the Tamesna Plains in Niger and in northeast Chad. No locust were reported in northwest Africa and no significant developments are expected.

Eastern Region: Locust numbers declined in the summer breeding areas along both sides of

the Indo-Pakistan border during October, and a few adults persisted on the coast in southeastern Iran. No significant developments are expected in the Region during the forecast period.

3.0 Forecast until mid-December 2007

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 349)

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 Massawa and Karora if rainfall occurs during the forecast period. There is a slight risk of adult groups arriving in the north from adjacent coastal areas in Sudan.

3.3 Ethiopia

Small to moderate scale breeding is expected to occur in areas of recent rainfall on the Ogaden, giving rise to hopper groups and bands that may form small adult groups and swarms by the end of the forecast period.

3.4 Somalia

Unless further rainfall occurs, only scattered adults are likely to remain in some areas on the plateau between Boroma and Gardo, and the northwest coastal plains.

3.5 Sudan

Small adult groups and swarms are likely to form in the Baiyuda Desert, along the Atbara River and West of the Red Sea Hills. These locusts are expected to move to the Red Sea coastal plains where they will rapidly mature and lay eggs, primarily in the Tokar Delta and surrounding coastal plains but some could also reach Wadi Diib in the

north. Hatching and the formation of groups and perhaps small bands are expected to take place in Tokar and could occur near Kassala where swarms were seen laying eggs in October.

3.6 Kenya

There is a very low risk that a few small adult groups or swarms could reach the northern part of the North Eastern Province from adjacent areas of southeastern Ethiopia and eventually lay eggs in areas of recent rainfall.

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 Ethiopia

A DLCO-EA aircraft (5Y-KRD) conducted Quelea birds survey and control operation on 30-31/10/07 in Bora and Liben-Zikula districts at Elen & Kute localities in the Oromia Regional State. 200 liters of Queletox 60%ULV was sprayed on an estimated bird population of 2.2 million, which were roosting on 100ha of *Typha* grass.

4.1.2 Kenya

Quelea control operations continued in Naivasha district in the Rift Valley region, Siaya and Kisumu in Nyanza province and Mwea in Kirinyaga district in the central Province. Full report of the operation was not received during the reporting period.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

Member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.3 African Migratory Locust (*Locusta migratoria spp.*)

A DLCO-EA aircraft conducted control of African Migratory Locusts infestations between 17th and 22nd of the month in the northwestern part of Ethiopia. 965 liters of Dursban 24% ULV was sprayed on 965ha of the target.

SIFO

For Director,
6th November 2007