

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

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SITREP No. 10/2007-2008

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR APRIL, 2008



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, no significant rainfall was reported in the Arabian Peninsula where dry conditions prevailed. Vegetation was dry or drying out in the spring breeding areas in northern Oman. It also remained dry in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 355)*

1.1 Djibouti

The country remained sunny and dry during the month.

1.2 Eritrea

During the month, late short rain showers and rainfalls occurred in the greater part of the highlands. Drizzle rains also took place in the Western Lowlands.

The following rainfall data were collected from Metrological office:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Date</u>
Asmara (1520/3858)	10mm	04/4/08
“	08 “	12/4/08
“	05 “	22/4/08
“	05 “	24/4/08
Arreza (1455/3835)	21 “	12/4/08

In coastal and sub-coastal areas as well the escarpment, no rainfall was recorded. Average high and low temperatures for Assab were 32 and 24 degree and for Massawa were 38 and 25 degree respectively. Prevailing wind directions were Easterlies at a speed of 05 mts/sec.

Natural vegetation and grasses were dry on the highlands. A few Wadis north of Massawa remained green. Generally, Western and Eastern lowland plains were observed dry.

1.3 Ethiopia

Dry and hot weather conditions prevailed throughout the month in Dire Dawa and surrounding areas in eastern parts of the country. Between 10 and 14 of the month, light to medium rainfall was recorded in Dire Dawa and vegetation was greening in areas where rainfall was received.

1.4 Kenya

Medium and heavy rainfalls were received in some parts of the country during the month.

1.5 Somalia

In the northern parts of the country, dry conditions prevailed during the month.

1.6 Sudan

Light rain fell in parts of the eastern region near Kassala and the southern areas of Kordofan. However, vegetation remained dry except in some irrigated places, which was green.

1.7 Tanzania

The long rains continued heavily in the Lake Zone, Northern Coast and Southern regions while moderate rains fell in the Central and Western parts of the country. The rains were so heavy in Kilimanjaro and Arusha, they caused floods and washed away several bridges.

1.8 Uganda

Report not received.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.3 Ethiopia

During the month, survey was conducted in the Somali region bordering northern Somalia and Djibouti and in the Southern Nations and Nationalities People region by PPD staff.

A few small immature swarms persisted in the southern Rift Valley near Konso (0520N/3726E). Some of the adults had become mature by mid-month. Isolated solitary immature adults were seen in the railway area between Dire Dawa (0935N/4150E) and the Djibouti border.

2.4 Kenya,

Locust infestations were not reported during April.

2.5 Somalia

Report not received.

2.6 Sudan

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the Red Sea coastal plains between the Tokar Delta and the Eritrean border in the first half of April. In the Nile Valley, small-scale breeding occurred in irrigated crops in one area between Dongola (1910N/3027E) and the Egyptian border where moderate numbers of solitary and transiens hoppers of all instars and immature adults formed small groups. Ground teams treated 44 ha during the last week of the month. (FAO DL bulletin No. 355)

2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.8 Other Regions (extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 355)

Central Region: Apart from Locust situation reported in DLCO-EA member countries, scattered adults were present in southwest Egypt and local breeding occurred in the interior of northern Oman near UAE.

Western Region: The situation continued to remain calm during April. Small-scale breeding caused locust numbers to increase in southern Algeria and ground teams treated 1,150 ha of hoppers and adults that were forming small groups. Local breeding continued in northwest Mauritania and small groups of hoppers were treated with a bio-pesticide.

Eastern Region: In western Pakistan, very little breeding occurred during the spring

because of poor rainfall. No locusts were present in India.

3.0 Forecast until mid-June 2008

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 355)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults could appear by the end of the forecast period in the western lowlands and breed once seasonal rains commence.

3.3 Ethiopia

Small swarms from the south are likely to appear in the Ogaden and lay eggs in areas of recent rainfall. Hatching is expected to occur in May and give rise to small hopper bands. There is a moderate risk that some adults could remain in the south and lay eggs near Konso that could cause small hopper bands to form in May.

3.4 Kenya

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Somalia

There is a low to moderate risk that a few swarms may appear from Ethiopia on the plateau and along the escarpment.

3.6 Sudan

Small-scale breeding and low to moderate numbers of locusts are likely to persist in crops in the Nile Valley in the north. Low numbers of adults could appear by the end of the forecast period in the summer breeding areas near Kassala and in the north Kordofan and breed on small-scale in areas that receive 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 Kenya

Late report

During March, 3.5 million birds in 6 roosts were reported in Dominion Farms Limited in Siaya/Bondo districts and, West and Awach Kano in Kisumu/Nyando districts.

Crops under threat was 240 ha and 850 ha of Rice in both areas respectively.

A control team including DLCO-EA Control aircraft was deployed on 20th March, 2008 to carry out the control exercise. In total 8.1 million birds in 6 roosts have been controlled using 440 litres of Queletox (fenthion 640g/l). The average kill was estimated 90% - 98%.

During April, more outbreak reports were received from Siaya district in the Western Province.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Aerial Quelea control operation continued during the month in Dodoma and Shinyanga regions. Two colonies with an estimated number of 5 million birds on 120 ha of *Acacia* trees were sprayed by a DLCO-EA Aircraft using 150 liters of Queletox. Killing was estimated 85%.

Three roosts with 7.5 million birds on a total of 65ha of *Acacia* trees were also controlled with 200 liters of Queletox. Mortality was estimated 95%.

Villages affected include: Gatani, Matalalo, Sangido, Bahi and Chilongwa and birds were feeding on Rice, Finger Millet and Bullrush Millet.

On 30th of the month, one roost of 2.5 million birds on 50 ha of Reeds was controlled with 60 liters of Queletox resulting into a very good kill.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During April, widespread Armyworm infestation continued to occur in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions. Infestations were reported in Siha, Rombo, Hai, Moshi, Same and Mwangi districts in Kilimanjaro region, and in Arumeru district in Arusha region. In both regions, the worms were feeding on Maize seedlings.

Trap stations in the northern regions of Kilimanjaro and Arusha continued to record high numbers of moth catches and was reported as follows;

Moth Catch by traps were reported as follows:-

Sanya Juu (1682), Shimbi Mashanki (1069), Arusha Seed Farm (810), TPRI (877), Tanga (10), Nduruma (767), Mabongini (286) Tengeru (55), KIA (123), Ekenya (36), Moshi (26), Tangai (10), Lema Lamango (8) Ekenywa (258), Moivaro (25), Ikiushin (33), Menwe Chini (210), Ikuyuni (8), Mahago (53), Bassotu (1).

The traps at Mbozi, Ifakara, Hider, Bassodesh and Dirma reported NIL catch.

4.2.2 Kenya

Outbreaks have been reported in Taveta, Kaloleni, Loitokitok, Garbatula and Lamu areas in the Coastal Province. No further reports were given.

Forecast to the end of May, 2008

Armyworm outbreaks will continue to occur in Hai, Siha, Rombo and Moshi districts in Kilimanjaro region, and Arumeru in Arusha region of Tanzania. There is a high risk that more Armyworm outbreaks to appear in the Coastal, Eastern and Central provinces of Kenya during the forecast period.

4.2.3 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

SIFO

For Director,
4th May, 2008

