

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

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**SITREP No. 02/2008-2009**

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT**  
**FOR AUGUST, 2008**



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, apart from the seasonal rains, which fell and reported in member countries, light rains fell in parts of the interior of Yemen during the first decade of the month. It occurred mainly along the Saudi Arabia/Yemen border north of Hazar, in Wadi Hadhramaut and in southern Shabwah, which may be sufficient for limited breeding. Good rains also fell at the beginning and end of the month on the northern Tihama coastal plains of the Red Sea where ecological conditions are likely favorable for breeding. Moderate rains may have fallen on the 9<sup>th</sup> in the eastern Empty Quarter near the border of Saudi Arabia and Oman. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 359)*

**1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

**1.2 Eritrea**

During August summer rainfall was neither heavy nor adequate for crops. Area that received heavy rainfall was limited in frequency and coverage. By the end of August, most areas in the western lowland received good amount of rainfall. Meanwhile, subject to

the summer rain season those areas did not receive adequate and sustainable rainfall. The following rainfall records were obtained from Met stations;

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Date</u>
Asmara (1520/3855)	35	08/08/08
	01	26/08/08
	01	27/08/08
Halhale (1504/3849)	12	20/08/08
Afabet (1614/3847)	14	08/08/08
Himbirti (1518/3837)	12	08/08/08
Merhano (5kms south of Asmara)	55	08/08/08

Natural vegetation on the highlands was observed partially green. The Western and Eastern lowlands were dry. Coastal and sub-coastal plains including the escarpment remained dry due to hot and rainless weather. Average maximum and minimum temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 39/28°C and 43/33°C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was Northerlies at a speed of 0.6 meters/sec.

### 1.3 Ethiopia

During the month considerable cloud covers and seasonal rainfalls were dominating the country. In Dire Dawa and surrounding areas in the eastern parts of the country, light to medium rainfalls were received and recorded as follows;

#### Rainfall data Dire Dawa station:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount (mm)</u>
06/08/08	32.5
07/08/08	1.0
08/08/08	3.2
09/08/08	19.8
11/08/08	14.6
13/08/08	4.6
14/08/08	5.4
16/08/08	1.4
19/08/08	4.7
21/08/08	1.0
22/08/08	10.0
23/08/08	16.7
24/08/08	0.5
25/08/08	6.5
30/08/08	4.4

Vegetation was generally reported green in areas where rainfall had occurred and was also suitable for Desert Locust breeding.

### 1.4 Kenya

The month of August was dry except for very few areas that received some precipitation.

### 1.5 Somalia

Areas in the northwestern parts of the country such as Awdel (Borama), Morodi-Jehe (Hargeisa) and part of Sahil (Barbera) had received good rains during August. Consequently, vegetation in the above localities had turned green and soil was wet, which created favorable conditions for locust breeding.

The following rainfalls were recorded at Hargeisa Met station;

Date	Rainfall (mm)
9/08/08	9.0
18/08/08	7.0
24/08/08	1.0
25/08/08	2.5
26/08/08	10.0
27/08/08	55.0

### 1.6 Sudan

Most of the summer Desert Locust breeding areas, received low to medium amount of rainfalls during the month. The ITCZ was progressed to the north Atbara, south Karima and north of the western States. The prevailing winds were north to northeasterly and south to south westerly at the north and south of the ITCZ.

Vegetation was greening to green in North Kordofan and White Nile and dry to greening in River Nile, Red Sea summer belt and Kassala States.

### 1.7 Tanzania

Moderate and scattered showers were received in the Southern and Northern Highlands and the coastal belt.

### 1.8 Uganda

Moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms were recorded across parts of the Country. Further forecasts for months of September and October warn of severe showers and thunderstorms, with destructive winds particularly in the Central and Western parts of the Country.

Vegetation remained green across most parts of the Country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

## 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

## 2.2 Eritrea

By the end of August, ground survey was carried out in the western part of the country and locusts were not found.

## 2.3 Ethiopia

Locusts were not reported.

## 2.4 Kenya,

The country remained free from Locust infestation.

## 2.5 Somalia

Locusts were not reported.

## 2.6 Sudan

During August, Desert Locust situation was calm. The PPD staff conducted ground survey that covered 21,100 ha in North Kordofan, White Nile, River Nile, summer belt of Red Sea and Kassala States. During the survey, mature solitary and isolated adults were seen at mid-month in Shendi (1641N/3322E) and isolated immature solitary adults at densities up to 150 adults/ha between Sodiri (1423N/2906E) and Umm Saiyala (1426N/3112E) from the first week of the month. Total areas of infestation were estimated 84 ha.

## 2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

**2.8 Other Regions** *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 359)*

**Central Region:** Apart from the Locust situation reported in Sudan, the region

remained calm during August. Small populations may be present on the Red Sea coast in Yemen and the interior where small-scale breeding could occur in September.

**Western Region:** Hatching occurred from mid-July onwards and, by August low numbers of solitary hoppers were seen in southern Mauritania. A similar situation is likely in northern Mali and Niger. Although ecological conditions were favorable for breeding in Chad, no locusts were seen during surveys in the northeast. In northwest Africa, ground teams treated 4,000 ha of solitary hoppers in central Libya that developed from local breeding after rainfall in May. In Algeria, 15ha of hopper groups were treated in the central Sahara. .

**Eastern Region:** Small-scale breeding was reported for the second consecutive month along the border in Pakistan and low numbers of solitary hoppers and adults were present in the Cholistan Desert. No locusts were seen during intensive surveys in adjacent areas in India.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-October 2008

*(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 359)*

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small-scale in parts of the western lowlands. Small-scale breeding is expected to continue during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

Low numbers of locusts may be present in the Ogaden but breeding will be limited unless further rains fall.

### **3.4 Kenya**

No significant developments are likely.

### **3.5 Somalia**

Scattered adults may be present on the plateau between Boroma and Hargeisa and breed on a small-scale if rainfall occurs.

### **3.6 Sudan**

Small-scale breeding is likely to be in progress and continue during the forecast period in West and North Darfur, West and North Kordofan, White Nile, Khartoum, Nile and Kassala States, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

### **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 quelea outbreaks occurred in Dominion farms in Nyanza province where the birds were damaging Rice crops. Aerial control operations were conducted using a DLCO-EA aircraft and 2.5 million birds were controlled. Infestations were also reported in the Rift Valley province in Nakuru, Laikipia, Nyahururu and Meru districts. 5 roosts with 1.2 million birds were controlled by ground sprayer. Control operations continued in those areas using vehicle mounted sprayers, Aircraft and explosives.

#### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

Quelea outbreaks were not reported during August and the spray aircraft is back to Nairobi.

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

The region remained free from infestation and no further developments are expected.

SIFO

**For Director,**

4<sup>th</sup> September, 2008