

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

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR FEBRUARY, 2008



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, no significant rains fell during February and consequently, vegetation was drying out in traditional winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 353)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Except for some heavy clouds reported around Massawa during mid February and trace of rainfall recorded in Assab (2mm on 20th), generally dry weather and ecological conditions were experienced in the entire eastern lowland areas. Hence, soil moisture remained dry and was not favorable for locust breeding. No rainfall was also reported in the highland and western lowland although the month was the beginning of the short rains.

Generally, vegetation was dry in the entire winter breeding areas during the month except in the extreme north in Karora area, in the Wadis and surroundings where low to medium green vegetation were observed.

Assab was 28/23⁰C while for Massawa it was 32/24⁰C respectively.

1.3 Ethiopia

Dry and sunny weather conditions were observed during the month in the eastern parts of the country. Vegetation remained dry.

1.4 Kenya

Most of the areas remained sunny and very dry.

1.5 Somalia

Vegetation in the north and northwestern parts was drying and dry due to lack of rains except in few places on the northern coast where it was observed greening.

Soil was dry, which couldn't favor locust breeding.

1.6 Sudan

Vegetation was drying out on the Red Sea locust breeding areas except of some localized green areas seen around Tokar Delta and in Wadi Diib.

1.7 Tanzania

Moderate to heavy rains continued in the Lake Zone, Mbeya, Iringa & Rukwa Regions while Kilimanjaro & Arusha regions received light to Moderate rains.

The rest of the country remained very warm and dry.

1.8 Uganda

The Northern and North-eastern parts of the country had been hot and dry. Moderate to heavy, but scattered showers and thunderstorms were reported in some parts of the Central and south-western parts of the country.

Vegetation was drying in the North and north-eastern parts of the country however, it was green in the rest parts of the country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were seen during a survey carried out on the coast between Djibouti and the Somali border on 18th February.

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on the Red Sea coastal areas from Tio(1441N/4057E) in the south coast to the Sudanese border in the north, during the first half of February.

2.3 Ethiopia

Immature swarms persisted in the southern zones, mainly between Mega (0403N/3819E) and Konso (0520N/3726E). A few swarms were seen along the eastern side of the Rift Valley and in the Harar Highlands about 250km southwest of Dire Dawa (0935N/4150E). The swarms were highly mobile and due to mountainous areas, only

47ha were treated by ground near Konso during the month.

2.4 Kenya,

Locust infestations were not reported during February.

2.5 Somalia

Ground survey was carried out by a DLCO-EA Care Taker and EMPRES link person from 23 – 28 of February on the northwest coastal plains, and between Hargeisa and the borders of Djibouti and Ethiopia. All surveyed areas were found free of infestations.

2.6 Sudan

During February, locusts declined on the Red Sea coast in the Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) and in Wadi Diib. Two fifth instar hopper bands at densities up to 33 hoppers/m² were reported during the first week in Tokar and groups of fledglings were seen at mid-month. Scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were present during most of the month in the delta and at one place on the southern coast near Adobana (1810N/3816E). In the northeast, a very small second to fifth instar hopper band with a density of 5 hoppers/m² and scattered mature solitarious adults were present during the first week in Wadi Diib northwest of Sufiya (2119N/3613E). Thereafter, no locusts were seen in the area. Ground teams treated 2,514ha in Tokar Delta during February. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 353*)

2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.8 Other Regions (*extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 353*)

Central Region: Apart from Locusts reported in DLCO-EA member countries, several small immature swarms formed in central and

southern Oman by mid February. Most of the swarms moved through UAE to southern Iran while a few swarms first moved to eastern Yemen and then crossed the Empty Quarter in eastern Saudi Arabia to the Persian Gulf. A few adults were present in southern Egypt.

Western Region: The situation continued to remain calm during February. Small-scale breeding continued for the fourth consecutive month in northwest Mauritania but locust numbers remained low and insignificant. Locusts increased slightly in central and southern Algeria where scattered adults were present in several areas. Low numbers of adults are likely to be present in parts of northern Mali and Niger but surveys could not be conducted in these areas due to insecurity. Scattered adults are expected to persist in these countries and small-scale breeding could occur if further rains fall. No significant developments are likely during the forecast period.

Eastern Region: Small-scale breeding occurred on the southeastern coast of Iran during February. On the 20th, a small swarm from the northeastern Arabian Peninsula arrived on the southern coast, dispersed and laid eggs. As only part of the swarm was treated, hatching and small hopper band formation will occur in March. Scattered adults are likely to be present in western Pakistan. Locust numbers are expected to increase in the spring breeding areas of Baluchistan in Iran and Pakistan from breeding that occurs during the forecast period.

3.0 Forecast until mid-April 2008

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 353)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Isolated adults may be present and could persist in areas of green vegetation between

Mahmimet and Karora. There is a low risk that a few swarms may appear on the southern coast from Ethiopia.

3.3 Ethiopia

Swarms are likely to remain in the Harar highlands and the Rift Valley where they could mature and lay eggs there or move towards the Ogaden and breed with the onset of the long rains in March and April. This is a low risk that a few swarms could move north along the railway or northwest towards the Danakil.

3.4 Kenya

The risk of swarms appearing from southern Ethiopia will decline during March as the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone moves further north. Consequently, the situation will become calm and no significant developments are likely.

3.5 Somalia

Isolated adults may be present in coastal areas between Berbera and Djibouti. No significant developments are likely. There is a low to moderate risk that a few swarms may appear from Ethiopia.

3.6 Sudan

Locusts will continue to decline in Wadi Diib, Tokar Delta and nearby coastal plains as vegetation dries out. Nevertheless, scattered adults may persist in some areas.

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

During February, Quelea infestations were reported in the western part of the country where irrigated Rice is growing.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Several Quelea outbreaks were reported in Central Dodoma and control preparations have been started.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During the month, armyworm infestations and moth trap catches were reported as follows:-

Period 1st February – 15th February, 2008.

Tanga: 25ha. of Maize seedlings and extensive areas of natural grasses were infested in Kivesa & Vibaoni villages.

Moth catches from 15 trap stations were as follows:-

Handeni (91), Arusha Seed Farm (49) Mbozi (4) Katesh (7) Lushoto (3), Dodoma (69) TPRI ARUSHA (20) Shinyanga (22) Mubadow (10)

Mgambo (2) Tengeru (20) Kyela (10) Tanga (2) Mbeya (6) Muheza (3)

Traps at Babati, Korogwe, KIA, HAI, Moshi, Nanyumbu and Mpwapwa reported NIL catch.

Period 16th February, 28th February, 2008.

Further Armyworm outbreaks continued in six villages in Handeni District where a total of 210ha. of maize and pastureland were destroyed.

Forecast to the end of March, 2008

There is a high probability that light outbreaks could occur in areas where high number of moth trap catches had been reported, and infestation could appear in Tanga & Arusha Regions.

Consequently, there is a slight risk that Armyworm outbreaks might occur in the southeastern parts Kenya, bordering Tanzania.

4.2.2 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

SIFO

For Director,
5th March, 2008

