

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

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR JANUARY, 2007



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, vegetation remained mostly dry in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea where only light showers fell near Jeddah and Jizan in Saudi Arabia and near Hodeidah in Yemen. During the last week of January, heavy rains fell in the Western Desert of Egypt and light to moderate rains fell on the southeastern coast of the Red Sea. In Oman, light rain fell near the central eastern coast, which may be sufficient for limited breeding. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 352)*

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During the month of January, the Eastern Lowlands i.e. the coastal and sub-coastal areas including the escarpment received some rainfall showers.

Massawa 1540N/3825E and its environs received 2mm; 4mm; and 8mm of rainfall on 23rd, 26th and 28th of the month respectively. In the northern Red Sea coast, north of 1700N, sky was overcast and heavy thunderstorms with heavy rainfall was reported to the lee side of the coast between 20th and 30th of the

month. On the highlands, Halhale 1504N/3849E received 34mm of rainfall on the 26th.

Prevailing wind direction during the month was South Easterlies at a speed of 09 meters per sec. Average high and low temperature for Assab was 29/22^oC while for Massawa it was 30/24^oC respectively.

Vegetation on the highlands and Western lowlands remained dry. However, the escarpment, the coastal Wadis and sub-coastal areas were covered with abundant green crops and natural vegetation.

1.3 Ethiopia

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

1.4 Kenya

An aerial survey was conducted on 24th of the month covering some areas in the Eastern Province; Wajir to Moyale to assess the weather, ecological conditions and Desert Locust situation. Surveyed areas were found free of infestation and were found very dry except of some green Acacia trees and other type of bushes. Some rainfalls were reported by mid January in Wajir District.

1.5 Somalia

Vegetation in the northwestern was mostly green and greening due to the rains received on 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th of January. Areas around Biyo-Gure 102533N/450810E Hiranle 102641N/451028E Bar 95935N/444607E Lowya-Ado 112708N/4316E and Ceel-gaal 105911N/432627E were found dry. Soil was moist and wet in areas of recent rainfalls.

1.6 Sudan

Breeding conditions were favorable due to some light rainfalls received along the coast up to the Eritrean border.

1.7 Tanzania

The Southern Zone i.e. Mbeya, Iringa, Ruvuma and the Lake Zone and the Coastal belt received very heavy rains while the Northern zone regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara received light to moderate rains.

The rest of the country remained dry.

1.8 Uganda

The first two weeks of January were hot and dry, across most parts of the Country. From mid month, rains were experienced in the Lake Victoria basin which includes Kampala, Entebbe, and some parts of Central and western region. In Eastern Uganda, only Tororo experienced some rain. The Meteorology Department indicated that the rains would not persist for long and that the dry season was still persistent and rains would continue being suppressed until March 2008. Vegetation was drying in North and North-Eastern parts of the country, while in most areas of the rest of the country, it was green.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

2.2 Eritrea

During January, only mature isolated solitary adult locusts were present in the extreme north around Karura (174109N/382515E). Adults were also seen copulating and laying eggs on the first day of January 2008 near Karura. The summer locust breeding areas remained free of infestations.

2.3 Ethiopia

During the first week of the month, 5th instar hopper bands and fledglings had formed immature swarms along the Shebele River near Gode 0557N/4333E. Aerial and ground control operations treated 800ha and 600ha of infestations respectively. Similar infestation were reported near Kebridehar 0644N/4416E and during the second week, swarms were seen flying towards Harar and DireDawa highlands where a 20ha swarm was reported near Abu Beker 0722N/4013E on the 12th and another swarm south of DireDawa 0935N/4150E.

On 22/01/2008, one settled immature dense swarm covering 500ha was controlled by air using 250 liters of Fenithrothion 96% in the southwestern part of the country at Turmi 0458N/3628E. A second settled swarm covering 100ha was also found 9km SE of Turmi and was controlled.

On the same date, another very dense flying immature swarm, which was covering 800ha was located at Albina 052307N/373720E and due to lack of insecticide on the site, only 400ha of the swarm was controlled using Dursban 240ULV.

On 23/01/08, immature settled swarm on 1200ha, which was mixed with some maturing adults, was reported at Shakneh (052007N/372914E). Control operation had been undertaken on 200ha with 215 liters of Dursban 240 ULV. All swarms reported were controlled later after the arrival of additional insecticides.

The swarms were settled on mountainous area, valleys and gorges, which made the control operation difficult.

From the 14th of the month, high density immature Desert Locust swarms covering about 4100ha were reported in Oromiya region, east and west of Hararghe zone on the eastern part of the country. The swarms were located and reported at Grawa 0906N/4149E, Bedeno 0906N/4138E, Melkabelo, Dedar 0916N/4123E, Metu and Kersa areas.

On 21st, immature Desert Locust swarm covering 1km² was seen at Awale around DireDawa 0937N/4151E and on 23rd, it moved to Alemaya 0916N/4206E and Gursum 0921N/424E areas.

On 24th of the month, partially settled immature swarm was located at Mete 051751N/373727E over 5km² area. 450ha of the infestation was treated with 450 liters of Dursban 240ULV. Two swarms in an area of 30km² were also found and controlled at Turmi 045844N/362855E (200km southwest of Konso 0513N/3726E).

On 29/01/2008, low density immature Desert Locust flying swarm with an estimated size of 120ha was controlled by air using 115 liters of Fenitrothion 90%ULV in Oromiya Region of Ethiopia at Umerkule (094414N/420440E)

On 30th of January low density immature flying Desert Locust swarm with an estimated size of 80ha was controlled by air using 80 liters of Fenitrothion 90%ULV in Oromiya region of Ethiopia at Basidimo.

On 31st of January, low density immature scattered Desert Locust swarm with an estimated size of 20ha was controlled using 20 liters of Dursban 240ULV by vehicle mounted sprayer in Oromiya region at Gera-bereha (091253N/422139E).

2.4 Kenya,

Locust infestations were not reported during the month.

2.5 Somalia

Ground survey was carried out by a DLCO-EA Care Taker and EMPRES link person from 22-28/1/2008 in the winter breeding areas in the coastal plains, extending from Lowya-Ado (112708N/4316E) border between northern Somalia and Djibouti up to Magab (102730N/401256E) east of Berbera, including some other suspected Desert Locust breeding places in the plateau between Sahil (Berbera) and Maroodi Jeeh (Hargeisa Region).

All surveyed areas were found free of major infestations except for mature solitary adults found in Agaber (095703N/435428E) Bulhar (101911N/442458) and Dhubato (94422N/442808E).

2.6 Sudan

During January, numerous small hopper bands were present in the Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) at densities up to 300 hoppers/m². By the end of the month, many of the hoppers had reached the fifth instar stage. Scattered immature and mature solitarious and gregarious adults were also present at densities up to 500adults/ha. Small hopper bands of all instars were also present on the coast south of Tokar near Adobana (1810N/3816E). Ground control teams treated 790ha during the month. In the northeast, 1st to 4th instar hopper bands at densities of up to 300 hoppers/m² were present during the first week on 30 ha in Wadi Diib northwest of Sufiya (2119N/3613E). Scattered immature and mature solitarious and gregarious adults were also present. Adults were seen laying eggs on the 3rd. (FAO DL bulletin No. 352)

2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.8 Other Regions (extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 352)

Central Region: immature swarms formed in eastern Ethiopia in early January and moved

west into the Rift Valley and Harar highlands where aerial and ground control operations treated more than 3,000ha. Ecological conditions were less favorable than usual in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. Most of the locusts were concentrated in the Tokar Delta in Sudan, while only scattered adults were present on the coast in Eritrea, Yemen and Saudi Arabia as well as in northwest Somalia and the interior of southeast Egypt. In central Oman, ground teams treated nearly 6,000ha of hopper bands and groups of immature adults.

Western Region: The situation continued to remain calm during January. Local breeding continued in northwest Mauritania but locust numbers remained low and insignificant. Scattered adults were present in the Sahara in Algeria and in northeast Mali. Low numbers of locusts are expected to persist in these countries and small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall.

Eastern Region: Scattered adults were present on the coast in southeastern Iran during January. Similar populations may be present in western Pakistan.

3.0 Forecast until mid-March 2008

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 352)

3.1 Djibouti

There is a low to moderate risk that a few swarms may appear from Ethiopia and continue to the coast.

3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults are likely to be present in some areas along the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and Karora. If more rains fall, small-scale breeding could occur during the forecast period. 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 Hara highlands and the Rift Valley where they could mature and eventually lay eggs there or move towards the Ogaden and breed with the onset of the long rains, north along the railway or northwest towards the Danakil. There is a low to moderate risk that some swarms could move southwest along the highlands and the Rift Valley to northwest Kenya.

3.4 Kenya

There is a low to moderate risk that a few swarms may appear in the Turkana District from adjacent areas in southwest Ethiopia during February. If so, the adults could mature and lay eggs; otherwise, the situation will become calm and no significant developments are likely.

3.5 Somalia

Small-scale breeding is likely to occur on the northwest coastal plains between Berbera and Djibouti. There is a low to moderate risk a few swarms may appear on the plateau from Ethiopia and continue down the escarpment to the coast.

3.6 Sudan

Small adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms could form during February in Tokar Delta and on the southern coast. In the northeast, small groups of adults may form in Wadi Diib and limited hatching could give rise to small groups of hoppers. Unless further rains fell, breeding will end on the coast by March.

3.7 Uganda

There is a low risk that a few immature swarms may appear in the northeast from Kenya and Ethiopia.

3.8 Tanzania

Is 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 infestations were reported in Siaya western part of the country where irrigated Rice is growing. However, control was not initiated for the second month due to unforeseen situations.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Infestation was not reported during the month.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

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

1st -14th January, 2008

- a) **Morogoro region:** In Kilosa district Maize and paddy were infested in 4 villages ie. Magole, Gairo, Kwiba and Manase. Also there were some infestations at Msimba Seed Farm.
- b) **Dodoma region:** the outbreaks were reported in Mvumi village where Maize and Sorghum crops were infested and in Mpwapwa District Maize, Sorghum crops and pasture were infested in 5 Villages i.e Kimagai, Chungu, Kibakwe, Ruhundwa and Mlandizi.

Moth catch during the 1ST week:-

Mbeya (219), Mbozi (6) Kilosa (38) Ismani (3) Tengeru(7)

During the 2nd week.

Shinyanga (111) Mbeya(70) Kyela(31) Mozombe(8) Tengeru (6) Kalenga (4) Mbozi (2) Korogwe(2) Ismani (1)

Traps at Pangani, Moshi, Tanga, Hai, KIA. Lushoto, Muheza, Dodoma, Mpwapwa and Nambi reported NIL catch.

15th - 26th of January , 2008.

Armyworm outbreaks were not reported from any part of the country. Only eight traps reported moth catch.

Shinyanga(28) Mbeya (17) Kyela (17) Tengeru (10) Lushoto (6) Tanga (2) Muheza (2) and Mbozi (1).

The traps at Handeni, Pangani, Babati, Kilosa, KIA , Hai, TPRI Arusha, Arusha Seed Farm and Moshi reported NIL catch.

Forecast to the end of February, 2008

There is a high probability that light outbreaks could occur in areas where moth traps has been reported. There is also a risk that more infestations could occur on the central highlands towards the northern parts of the country.

- 4.2.2 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

SIFO

For Director,
5th February 2008

For more information about the organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website:
www.dlcoea.org.et

