

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

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**Headquarters**

**Tel: 251-1-16461477/0287/0290**

**Fax: 251-1-16460296**

**Nairobi Office**

**Tel: 254-020-602305/601488**

**Fax: 254-020-601575**

**SITREP No. 01/2008-2009**

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT**

**FOR JULY, 2008**



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, apart from the seasonal rains, which fell and reported in member countries, light to moderate rains fell at times on the Red Sea coast near Jizan in Saudi Arabia, and on the Tihama in Yemen. Moderate rains were reported on the southern coast of Yemen near Zinjibar. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 358)*

**1.1 Djibouti**

Except for some cloud covers, the country remained sunny and dry during the month.

**1.2 Eritrea**

July is the mid-month of the long summer rain however, apart from some areas on the highlands, no significant rainfall occurred in the Western lowlands.

The following rainfall records were obtained from Met stations;

| <u>Locality</u>     | <u>Rainfall</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Asmara (1520/3955)  | 07              | 08/07/08    |
|                     | 18              | 12/07/08    |
|                     | 13              | 21/07/08    |
| Halhale (1504/3849) | 40              | 12/07/08    |
|                     | 07              | 19/07/08    |

|                       |    |          |
|-----------------------|----|----------|
| Keren (1540/3826)     | 33 | 12/07/08 |
| Tzorona (1451/3906)   | 17 | 12/07/08 |
| Segeneiti (1503/3912) | 18 | 01/07/08 |
| Adi Quala (1437/3850) | 21 | 21/07/08 |

Generally, natural vegetation had started greening on the highland. The Western and Eastern lowlands including the escarpment remained dry.

Average maximum and minimum temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 39/27°C and 44/32°C respectively.

Prevailing wind direction was North Easterlies at a speed of 6.5 meter/sec. Cloud was generally overcast during the month over the highlands.

**1.3 Ethiopia**

Dry and hot weather conditions prevailed in Dire Dawa and surrounding areas throughout the month. However, light rainfall were reported and recorded as follows:

## Rainfall data Dire Dawa station:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Amount (mm)</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 08/07/2008  | 3.9                |
| 10/07/2008  | 15.5               |
| 11/07/2008  | 10.7               |
| 14/07/2008  | 6.7                |
| 18/07/2008  | 0.6                |
| 20/07/2008  | 6.6                |
| 24/07/2008  | 2.9                |
| 26/07/2008  | 17.7               |
| 28/07/2008  | 5.6                |
| 29/07/2008  | 7.6                |
| 30/07/2008  | 1.2                |

Vegetation was generally reported green around Dire Dawa and areas between Jijiga and the northern Somalia border. These areas were found to be suitable for Desert Locust breeding.

### 1.4 Kenya

The weather was generally cool and very few areas received very light showers during the month.

### 1.5 Somalia

Report not received.

### 1.6 Sudan

Seasonal rains fell sporadically during the month in the summer breeding areas. At mid-month, light to moderate rains fell as far north as Abu Uruq in north Kordofan but rainfall remained mostly south of 15N.

### 1.7 Tanzania

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

The rest of the country remained dry and cold.

## 1.8 Uganda

Moderate to heavy showers were experienced in the Central, western and southwestern parts of the Country. Also, some parts of Northern and North-eastern started recording some rains, signifying the beginning of the much anticipated rains in the region.

Vegetation was green across most parts of the country.

## 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

Locusts were not found during surveys carried out by MoA staff from 12-21 July between Jijiga (0922N/4250E) and the border of northwest Somalia, and from Dire Dawa (0935N/4150E) to the Djibouti border (Shinile Zone). The area surveyed was estimated 5761 ha and no locust report was received from the region.

### 2.4 Kenya,

The country remained free from Locust infestation.

### 2.5 Somalia

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, a swarm was seen at Hargeisa (0931N/4402E) coming from Ethiopia and flying from the southeast to northeast. There were no further details or subsequent reports. A few solitarious immature adults were seen in the Ruqi Valley (0958N/4325E) during surveys carried out on 5-11 July.

## 2.6 Sudan

Locusts were not reported and no activities were carried out during July.

## 2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

## 2.8 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 358)*

**Central Region:** Apart from the Locust situation reported in DLCO-EA member countries, the region remained calm during July. A few adults were seen on the Red Sea coast in Yemen. No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Egypt, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

**Western Region:** The locust situation continued to be calm during July. Low numbers of adults were reported or are thought to be present in southern Mauritania, the Adrar des Iforas in northern Mali, the Tamesna Plains in Mali and Niger, the southern Air Mountains and Tenere Desert in Niger and in northeast Chad. Solitarious adults persisted along the edges of irrigated areas in the central Sahara in Algeria where small-scale breeding may occur and low numbers of locusts could move towards the border of Niger and Mali.

**Eastern Region:** Small-scale breeding was in progress in Pakistan and low numbers of adults were present in India. Breeding is expected to continue during the forecast period, causing a slight increase in locust numbers.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-September 2008

*(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 358)*

### 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 the northern part 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 are likely to persist on the plateau between Boroma and Hargeisa and breed on a small-scale if rainfall occurs.

### 3.6 Sudan

Low numbers of locusts are likely to be present and breeding on a small-scale in crops in the Nile Valley in the north. Scattered adults are likely to be present in Darfur, Kordofan, White Nile and Kassala states where small scale breeding will occur in areas of recent rainfall, 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

Outbreaks were reported in Naivasha District in the Rift Valley region and aerial control

operation was conducted. However, details of the operation were not received during the reporting period.

#### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

Quelea outbreaks were reported and controlled by Air in Musoma and Morogoro regions as follows:-

**Musoma region:** Two Roosts with an estimated 3.2 million birds were successfully controlled with 150 lts. of Queletox. The birds were feeding on Rice and finger millet.

**Morogoro region:** (Mtibwa district)

4 Roosts with 6 million birds roosting in a total of 40 ha. of Acacia trees were sprayed with 200 lts. of avicide and a 90% kill was achieved. The birds were feeding on Rice and Bullrush Millet.

Aerial control operation has moved and will continue in the northern parts of the country i.e. Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.

#### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

Quelea infestation was reported and aerial control operation was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> of the month at Yirgachefe and Fuchicha localities in the Southern region.

Birds were estimated 4 million and were feeding on Sorghum and Teff seeds. 200 liters of Queletox was sprayed on 75 ha of two roosts and mortality was estimated 95-99%.

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

#### **4.2.1 Ethiopia**

Armyworm infestation and control operation continued in the northern and northwestern parts of the country during the month. 124,535 ha of crops and 19,011 ha of pastureland were reported infested by the worms and 37,932 liters of Insecticide was sprayed by ground on 91,291 ha.

### **Forecast to the end of August, 2008**

Minor Armyworm infestation will continue to occur in the northern parts of Ethiopia and there is a high risk that outbreaks will appear in most parts of the highlands of Eritrea. Field surveys and assessments are highly advised in order to detect early emergence of the worms.

SIFO

**For Director,**

6<sup>th</sup> August, 2008