

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

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SITREP No. 09/2007-2008

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR MARCH, 2008



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, no significant rains fell during March and consequently, vegetation was dry or drying out on the coastal plains along both sides of the Red Sea except for crops in the Tokar Delta. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 354)*

1.1 Djibouti

The country remained sunny and dry during the month.

1.2 Eritrea

During the month, there was no rainfall received neither on the highlands nor on the coastal plains.

Average high & low temperatures record in Assab was 30 and 22⁰C. Prevailing wind direction was South Easterlies with an average wind speed of 5 meters per sec.

Vegetation remained dry both on the highlands and western lowlands. Crops were harvested and ratoons have started to grow in Wadis on the coastal plains, while other vegetation were reported dry.

1.3 Ethiopia

Dry and sunny weather conditions were observed during the month in the eastern parts of the country and vegetation remained dry. Rains had started to fall in the southern parts of the country during the second decade of the month.

1.4 Kenya

By the end of the month, some heavy rainfalls followed by floods were received in most parts of the country.

1.5 Somalia

Hot day and cold night temperatures were experienced through out the month. Vegetation and soil remained dry due to lack of the spring rainfalls.

1.6 Sudan

Generally, vegetation remained dry except in some irrigated places, which was green.

1.7 Tanzania

The heavy rains continued in all parts of the country. The heaviest rainfall being experienced in the Northern, Southern and Lake Zone, while moderate rains fell in the Central and Northern Zone of the country.

1.8 Uganda

The heavy rainy season started in the Lake Victoria Basin and surrounding districts, and is anticipated to last up to early June. There were reports of roads, crops and other property damaged in some parts of the country due to heavy floods.

Vegetation was green across most parts of the country during March.

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

Unconfirmed reports were received from western and eastern Hararghe zone that an immature swarm was seen around Bedeno area (0906N/4138E) during March.

Desert Locust swarms were also reported and controlled by a DLCO-EA Aircraft in Habena (0537N/3730E) and near by locality in Beraile area on 19th and 25th of the month respectively. 265 ha of infestation was sprayed by air and 85 ha by ground using Endosulfan.

2.4 Kenya,

Locust infestations were not reported during March.

2.5 Somalia

Survey was conducted in the northwestern part of the country between 23 and 28 of March. Desert Locust situation remained calm, except of very few mature solitarious adults, which were seen in Hiranle area (102648N/451043E).

2.6 Sudan

A late report indicated that gregarious hoppers and solitarious adults were seen at a few places in Wadi Diib northwest of Sufiya (2119N/3613E) by a joint Egyptian/Sudanese survey from 30 January to 7 February. During March, no locusts were seen in the Tokar Delta on the Red Sea coast. (FAO DL bulletin No. 354)

2.7 Tanzania and Uganda

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

2.8 Other Regions (extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 354)

Central Region: Apart from Locust situation reported in DLCO-EA member countries, more than 6,000 ha were treated during the first half of March on irrigated farms along the edge of the Empty Quarter in eastern Saudi Arabia. Hatching may occur in some places and hoppers could form small bands in April. Also, only isolated adults were present on the coast of the country.

Western Region: The situation continued to remain calm during March. Small-scale breeding continued for the fifth consecutive month in northwest Mauritania and scattered adults were present in parts of the Sahara in Algeria and in southeast Libya. Limited ground control operations were undertaken in Mauritania and Algeria.

Eastern Region: Hatching started on the Strait of Hormuz coast in Iran in mid-March and egg-laying continued in some coastal and interior areas in the southeast. More hatching will occur in April, which could cause hopper

bands to form. Breeding is less likely to occur in Pakistan unless more rains fall. No locusts were present in India.

3.0 Forecast until mid-May 2008

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 354)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

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 April. If breeding occurs in the Ogaden, hopper bands are likely to form in April and May. There is a low risk that a few swarms could move north along the railway or northwest towards the Danakil.

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

No significant developments are likely.

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 March, Quelea infestations continued and aerial control operation was conducted in Siaya, in the western part of the country where irrigated Rice is growing. Details of the control operation not received.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Six colonies and one roost with an estimated number of 15 million birds on 272 ha of *Acacia* trees were sprayed by a DLCO-EA Aircraft using 590 lts. of Queletox. Killing was estimated 95%.

Quelea control operation continued in Dodoma Singida and Kondoia regions.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During March, Armyworm infestation reports were received from Mwanza District where 45 ha. of Maize seedlings were infested. Also 25 ha of Maize seedlings at Jipe Division were destroyed by the worms.

At Arusha Seed Farm and Korogwe district, 24 and 30 ha of Maize seedlings were attacked respectively. In Kisarawe District some Paddy farms were also attacked by the worms.

Moth Catch by traps were reported as follows:-

Rombo (71) Arusha Seed Farm (71) TPRI (42) Tanga (11) Mbeya (5) Katesh (4)

Forecast to the end of April, 2008

As the Armyworm infestation had appeared in the northern part of Tanzania during March and as the ITCZ is moving to north, there is a

high probability that moths could fly further to north.

Consequently, there is a high risk that Armyworm outbreaks could appear in the southeastern parts Kenya, bordering Tanzania and the coastal regions during the forecast period.

4.2.2 Other member countries remained free from any infestation.

4.3 **Tsetse fly**

4.3.1 **Uganda**

There were media reports of tsetse flies and the associated diseases spreading and infecting more humans and animals in some parts of the country.

SIFO

For Director,
4th April, 2008

