

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

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**SITREP No. 11/2007-2008**

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

**FOR MAY, 2008**



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, apart from those weather conditions reported in member countries, light to moderate rains fell at times in Yemen during the first decade and again at the end of the month in the summer breeding areas in the interior near Marib, Bayhan and Shabwah where breeding conditions are expected to become favorable in some places. Light rains also fell on the Red Sea coast but vegetation remained dry. In Saudi Arabia, unusually heavy rains fell in the southwestern interior near Najran on 1 May. In Oman, ecological conditions were not favorable for breeding even though light rains fell in some places in the northern regions of Dhahera, Dakhiliya and Shariqiya. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 356)*

**1.1 Djibouti**

The country remained sunny and dry during the month.

**1.2 Eritrea**

Short rains started late in May. During the first two weeks, drizzle rain and showers occurred throughout the highland areas.

Several moderate but unrecorded rainfalls were also occurred in Asmara and surroundings as well as to the South of the city. Crops were planted and the rainfalls and drizzles generated abundant growth of plants. On the highlands specifically, natural vegetation and grasses have started greening while the Western and Eastern lowlands remained dry due to lack of rainfall. The Average high and low temperatures for Assab were 35 and 26<sup>0</sup>C while Massawa recorded 39 and 27<sup>0</sup>C respectively.

Prevailing winds were the North Easterlies at a speed of 06 meters/second.

**1.3 Ethiopia**

Some seasonal rains were reported during the first decade of the month in the eastern parts of the country. By the end of the month, heavy rains, which caused floods and damage to properties and human lives, were reported in the Ogaden region around Jijiga. Consequently, ecological conditions had improved and were becoming favorable for locust breeding in the region.

**Rainfall data Dire Dawa station:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount (mm)</u>
02/05/2008	0.2
04/05/2008	45.2
07/05/2008	3.4
11/05/2008	1.6
31/05/2008	13.5

#### **1.4 Kenya**

Medium and heavy rainfalls were received in some parts of the country during the month.

#### **1.5 Somalia**

Except for some light rainfalls in the northern parts of the country, dry conditions prevailed during the month.

#### **1.6 Sudan**

Seasonal short rains were reported in some parts of the country. Light rains fell in western Darfur during the first decade of the month and near Kassala during the second decade. Heavy rains were also reported on the western side of the Red Sea Hills near Haiya.

#### **1.7 Tanzania**

Moderate rains continued in Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro and the Coastal belt while the Southern the Southern Zone and the Lake Belt received light rains. The rest of the country remained dry.

#### **1.8 Uganda**

The Lake Victoria Basin and surrounding districts had received heavy rains and thunder storms. The rest of the country had reported scattered to heavy rains. 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 seen during surveys carried out on the Red Sea coastal areas on 21-22 May. Ecological conditions were also observed unfavorable for locust breeding.

#### **2.3 Ethiopia**

Locusts were not found during surveys carried out on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of May near Harar (0919N/4206E), at mid-month in the highlands about 350kms southwest of Harar and on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> near Mega (0403N/3819E). During the third decade of the month, there was unconfirmed report of hoppers near the Kenyan border at Rama (0357N/4111E).

#### **2.4 Kenya,**

Locust infestations were not reported during May.

#### **2.5 Somalia**

There were unconfirmed reports of locusts seen during the last week of April on the northwestern coast of the country. Locusts were not reported during May.

#### **2.6 Sudan**

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during May. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 356*)

#### **2.7 Tanzania and Uganda**

Were not affected by the Desert Locust.

**2.8 Other Regions** (*extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 356*)

**Central Region:** Apart from Locust situation reported in DLCO-EA member countries, low

numbers of adults were seen on the Red Sea coast in Yemen.

**Western Region:** The situation continued to remain calm during May. Small-scale breeding continued in central Algeria where ground control operations treated 1,280ha of hopper groups and adults. Local breeding continued in northwest Mauritania where 9ha of hoppers and adults were controlled. Low numbers of adults are expected to move during June towards the summer breeding areas in southern Mauritania, northern Mali, northern Niger, southern Algeria and eastern Chad where they will mature and lay eggs.

**Eastern Region:** Locusts declined in the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan and southeast Iran. Nevertheless, small infestations remained on the southeast coast in Iran. Scattered adults are likely to appear in the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border in June and breed on a small-scale once the monsoon rains arrive.

### 3.0 Forecast until mid-July 2008

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 356)

#### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

#### 3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults could appear in the western lowlands and breed once seasonal rains commence.

#### 3.3 Ethiopia

Breeding may be in progress in parts of the Ogaden that could cause small hopper groups and bands to form. All efforts are required to monitor the situation carefully and undertake control operations as necessary.

#### 3.4 Kenya

No significant developments are likely.

#### 3.5 Somalia

Scattered adults may be present on the plateau between Boroma and Burao where small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfalls.

#### 3.6 Sudan

Small-scale breeding and low to moderate numbers of locusts are likely to persist in crops in the Nile Valley in the north. Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in the summer breeding areas near Kassala and in north Kordofan and breed on small-scale in areas that received rainfall.

#### 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 the last week of May, Quelea outbreak reports were received from the Western Province and were controlled by a DLCO-EA Aircraft. However, details of the report were not received during the reporting period.

##### 4.1.2 Tanzania

Aerial Quelea control operation continued during May and was reported as follows:-

##### **Shinyanga region:-**

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May: A total of 4 roosts with an estimated 11 million birds on 130 ha of reeds and *Acacia* trees were sprayed with 295 lts. of Queletox killing 85% of the birds.

##### **Geita Kahama:-**

9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May: Two roosts with 3 million birds on *Acacia* trees were sprayed with 150 lts. of chemical achieving a bird mortality of 95%.

#### **Morogoro Region:-**

In Kilosa district, two roosts with 45 million birds were controlled using 200 lts. of Queletox resulting into a 90% kill.

#### **Dodoma Region:-**

16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May: Two roosts with 5 million birds were successfully controlled with 110 lts. of Queletox.

20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May: In Higi area, one roost of 3.0 million birds on 15 ha. of scattered *Acacia* trees were killed with 70 lts. of chemical.

#### **Manyara Region –**

18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May: In Basuto district, two roosts having 4.8 million birds on 12 ha. of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 60 lts. of chemical. 98% of the bird population were killed.

#### **Mbeya Region-**

24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May: In Kapunga & Mbarali Rice Schemes, a total of 8 roosts with an estimated bird population of 18 million were successfully controlled with 60 lts. of Queletox. The Birds were feeding on ripening irrigated rice.

By the end of the month, more Quelea outbreaks were reported in Shinyanga, Morogoro and Arusha regions. Due to the extent of the outbreaks, a second DLCO-EA spray A/Craft was requested and was deployed on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

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

### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

Armyworm infestation ceased and was not reported during May.

### **4.2.2 Kenya**

Outbreaks continued to occur in the Eastern, Central and Rift Valley provinces in Meru, Muranga south, Nairobi and Kajiado districts. It

was reported that the worms have destroyed 10,000ha of food crops and 40,000ha of grass since they were reported in April 30. Ground control operations had been initiated and most of the infestation was controlled.

### **4.2.3 Ethiopia**

Armyworm outbreaks were reported in the southern and southeastern parts of the country. The worms infested 145,000 ha of crops and 134,480 ha of pasture in 93 districts of six regions.

Control operation was initiated and 25,577 ha of cropland and 488 ha of pasture was sprayed using 22,656 liters of insecticide.

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

There is a risk that infestations of Armyworms will continue to occur in the central and northern parts of Kenya, the eastern, northern and northeastern parts of Ethiopia, and there is a probability that outbreaks will appear in the southern and middle central highlands of Eritrea. Therefore, it is highly advised that countries use traps in suspected breeding areas to detect early immigration of the moths

**SIFO**

**For Director,  
5<sup>th</sup> June, 2008**