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**SITREP No. 09/2008-2009**

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT**  
**FOR MARCH, 2009**



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS**

In the Central Region, vegetation remained unusually green on the northwest coast of Somalia near Silil during March. On the other hand, conditions were dry in adjacent coastal areas of Djibouti. Light rains occasionally fell during the second half of March on the nearby plateau between Dire Dawa and Jijiga, Ethiopia and Hargeisa, Somalia. In southern Yemen, vegetation dried out along the coast but good rains and flooding occurred at the end of the month in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Shabwah near Bayhan. In Oman, moderate to heavy showers fell along the northern coast on 25-29 March. In the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea, ecological conditions were dry because of a lack of rainfall in March. Consequently, breeding was limited to just a few coastal areas in Saudi Arabia between Lith and Jizan and the central Tihama coast in Yemen where light rains fell at times. In Eritrea annual vegetation dried out on the coast north of Massawa but remained green and dense on the Karora plains near the Sudanese border. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 366)*

**1.1 Djibouti**

Report not received.

**1.2 Eritrea**

Late medium to heavy short rains were experienced through the highlands and light ones in western lowlands. The following rainfall records were received from Meteorological Department:

01/03/2009	6.9mm
18/ “ “	2.9 “
26/ “ “	0.8 “

No rain occurred in eastern coastal and the escarpment areas.

Natural vegetation in both the coastal and western lowlands was dry. The highland was generally observed green.

Average high and low temperatures of Assab and Massawa were 32.0<sup>0</sup> – 26.0<sup>0</sup>C and 38.0<sup>0</sup> – 26.0<sup>0</sup>C respectively.

Prevailing wind was NE at a speed of 4.5 meters per second.

**1.3 Ethiopia**

Diredawa and surrounding areas in the eastern parts of the country received light amount of rainfalls. Vegetation was observed generally

green, giving favorable ecological conditions for locusts to breed.

The following rainfall data was obtained from Diredawa rainfall station;

18/03/2009	6.1 mm
19/ “ “	2.4 “
20/ “ “	2.3 “
27/ “ “	2.7 “
28/ “ “	2.6 “
30/ “ “	0.9 “

#### 1.4 Kenya

During March, dry to windy weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the country. However, during the last week of the month cloud build ups were observed and some scattered and very light rains fell in some localities.

#### 1.5 Somalia

Rainfall was not reported however vegetation on the northwest coast remained green, which created favorable ecological conditions for locusts to breed.

#### 1.6 Sudan

No rainfall was received in the winter breeding areas of the Red Sea coast during March. Vegetation was found drying to dry and soil was dry.

#### 1.7 Tanzania

Heavy rains were received in the Southern & Northern Highlands, the Lake Zone and some parts of the coastal belt while the rest of the country received light to moderate rains.

#### 1.8 Uganda

Scattered showers and thunderstorms had been recorded across parts of the country with more reports of property destruction. The Meteorology Department indicated that the rains would be delayed by at least three weeks

and that the country would get favourable rains apart from the Karamoja region. They further reported that the onset of steady rains is expected in April and erratic rains are likely to continue into June.

Vegetation was reported green across most parts of the Country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

### 2.2 Eritrea

Isolated mature solitarious adults; with a few copulating were found on the northern Red Sea coast between Mersa Gulbub (1633N/3908) and Mahmimet (1723N/3833E) during surveys carried out on 23-26 March by PPD staff.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

Locusts were not reported.

### 2.4 Somalia

Ground survey was conducted on 14 – 21 of March in the northwest part of the country near Silil (1058N/4326E). During the survey, mature gregarious adults, small to very large sized of hopper bands of all instars, fledglings and two small size of mature swarms and some scattered solitarious and gregarious hoppers and adults were found in the following locations; Karure (1047N/4333E), Baragir (1048N/4333E), Feedo-ad (1053N/4326E), Godabrine (1055N/4324E), Adadda (1048N/4325E), Berta-deer (1052N/4319E), Griyay (1048N/4326E), Ali binin (1050N/4328E), Kulank qalabo (1048N/4330E), Kulanka hunbo (1050N/4330E).

Latest survey report for 3/04/2009 indicated that, high density 5<sup>th</sup> instars and fledglings grouped into 4 bands and each covering 10 – 15ha were found at locality 104926N/433028E. Ground control operations started using Chlorpyrifos 24% ULV.

## 2.5 Sudan

No locusts were seen on the northern coast bordering Egypt. By the end of March, 3,400 ha were surveyed in the southern parts of the Red Sea coast mainly in the coastal areas and near the Eritrean border. 15 ha were reported infested with mature solitary scattered adults at densities ranged from 50 to 200 individuals/ha.

## 2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

## 2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 366)*

**Central Region:** An outbreak developed in March on the southern coast of Yemen where more than 200 small hopper bands formed within a limited area of about 1,000km<sup>2</sup>. Ground teams treated nearly 5,000ha and two small swarms were seen flying on the coast at the end of the month. A small outbreak also developed on the northwest coast of Somalia within an area of about 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> where nearly two dozen small hopper bands and two small swarms were reported. Locusts declined in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea as vegetation dried out in March. Consequently, only small-scale breeding occurred in a few places on the coast in Saudi Arabia, scattered adults remained on the coast in Sudan and a few adults were copulating on the northern coast in Eritrea.

**Western Region:** Locust numbers remained low during March in northwest and northern Mauritania except for one place where hopper and adult densities increased but did not require control. Solitary adults were present in Morocco on the southern side of the Atlas Mountains along the Algerian border where 1 ha was treated. Isolated adults were seen in parts of the Western Sahara and near irrigated areas in central Algeria.

**Eastern Region:** Scattered adults appeared along the coast in the spring breeding areas of

western Pakistan during the second half of February and in the interior during the first half of March. Small-scale breeding is expected to occur during the forecast period in coastal and interior areas of southeast Iran and, if more rains fall, in Baluchistan, Pakistan.

## 3.0 Forecast until mid-May 2009

*(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 366)*

### 3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

### 3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers will decline along the central and northern coast of the Red Sea and no significant developments are likely.

### 3.3 Ethiopia

There is a moderate risk that groups of adults and perhaps a few small swarms could appear from northwest Somalia on the escarpment near Dire Dawa, the railway and Jijiga. Regular surveys should be carried out to monitor the situation closely.

### 3.4 Somalia

Locust populations are expected to remain on the northwest coast as long as vegetation stays green. Limited hatching may occur during April from March egg laying, more hopper bands could form and fledging is likely to commence by the end of April. Once vegetation dries out, adult groups and a few small swarms could move up the escarpment towards Ethiopia or east along the escarpment towards Erigavo. There is a lower risk of adults crossing the Gulf of Aden to southern Yemen.

### 3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will continue to decline along the southern coast of the Red Sea coast and no significant developments are likely.

### 3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries 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

Report not received.

#### 4.1.2 Tanzania

##### Late Report

By the end of February, *Quelea quelea* outbreaks were reported in Kilimanjaro (*Lower Moshi Rice farms*) and Mbeya regions (*Mbarali Rice Schemes*). Surveys were conducted and several roosts were confirmed.

In mid-March a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed and carried out control operations in Dodoma, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions.

During the operations, an estimated of 9 million birds in 8 roosts and 4 colonies were controlled using 1150 liters of Queletox. Birds were covering an area of 525 ha; mostly with *Acacia* trees and 95% of the populations were estimated killed.

Crops saved include Sorghum, Rice, Finger Millet and Bullrush millet.

Operation continues in Singida region where several roosts had been reported and confirmed.

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

4.2.1. Except for few moth catches reported in Tanzania, the region remained free from infestations.

### 4.3 Tsetse Fly

#### 4.3.1 Uganda

There were fresh reports of increasing Tsetse Flies and sleeping sickness killing more people especially in Dokoro District, in the Northern parts of the country according to local news papers.

SIFO

For Director,  
3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009