

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR FEBRUARY, 2010



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, no significant rain fell along the western side of the Red Sea during February. Consequently, ecological conditions were not favorable for breeding along the coast of Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea. In Saudi Arabia, light rain fell in the interior near Buraydah and Riyadh in early February and on the Red Sea coast between Jeddah and Qunfidah at mid-month. Vegetation was green and ecological conditions were favorable for breeding. In Yemen, light rain fell during the second and fourth weeks in parts of the south in Lahij and in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Shabwah and Hadramaut. Vegetation was green in few places near Aden but was dry elsewhere, including along the Red Sea coast. In Oman, light to moderate rains fell at times in the north during early and late February. Consequently, ecological conditions became favorable for breeding in parts of the northern coast and interior regions. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 377*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

No rainfall occurred during February on the highlands and western lowlands. In the coastal

areas weather was rather cool and apart from heavy clouds and light showers received to the North of Massawa. Natural vegetation on the highlands was observed drying out, while on Western lowlands it was dry.

On the escarpment, natural vegetation was observed green and crops were seen maturing. On sub-coastal areas around Shieb (1553N/3904E) and Shelshela (1556N/3906E) most crops like Sorghum, Pearl Millet had been harvested and Ratoons are expected to sprout that could favor locust breeding.

Overall, coastal plains were observed semi green, while large Wadis were green with moist soil.

Mahmimet (1732N/3849E) and Karora (1742N/3822E) and surroundings areas were observed green with natural vegetation and crops due to abundant winter rains.

High and low temperature for Massawa and Assab were 31/23 and 28/22 degree centigrade respectively.

Prevailing wind was North-Easterlies at a speed of 0.8 meters per second.

1.3 Ethiopia

Since the first week of February there had been intermittent rain in most parts of the country including eastern Ethiopia. More than 30mm cumulative rainfall was received during

February in most locust breeding areas and soil was wet making favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

The perennial vegetation generally remained green in most parts of eastern lowlands where spring locust breeding occurs, while the annual vegetation became greener as the result of the rainfall that occurred in February.

There was cloud overcast in most parts of eastern Ethiopia and the prevailing temperature in most of the lowlands was milder than the previous months' (30 - 35 °C).

1.4 Kenya

Low to moderate shower rains were started to occur after mid-February in many parts of the country. Vegetation was observed and remained green in most parts of the country due to the continuous rainfalls.

1.5 Somalia

Since 26th of February build up of heavy clouds were observed and moderate to heavy rains fell over the entire regions including the vast coast that stretches between Djibouti and Somaliland.

1.6 Sudan

No significant rainfall was occurred and vegetation started to dry up.

1.7 Tanzania

Light rains fell in the western parts of the country while heavy rains continued in the Lake Zone, Northern highlands, some parts of the Coastal belt and the Southern highlands.

1.8 Uganda

The month of February commenced with fairly dry conditions and some moderate rains across parts of the country. Then heavy rains started from parts of Western Uganda and had moved to the Lake Victoria Basin. During the last week of the month, heavy rains fell in Central

Uganda and other parts of the Country that left some places flooded, resulting into infrastructure and property damages. The Meteorology Department indicated that the Country has been experiencing El-Nino conditions since last year and that the conditions are likely to continue up to May 2010.

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

Desert Locust survey was carried out by PPD staff in the winter locust breeding areas of eastern lowland from 21-24 February, 2010. No locusts were seen during the survey.

2.3 Ethiopia

Ground survey was not conducted and the locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

Isolated mature solitary adults were seen in a few places on the Red Sea coast near Karora (1745N/3820E) bordering Eritrea and at one place in Tokar Delta. Isolated mature solitary adults mixed with 3rd to 5th instar solitary hoppers were also persisted on the coast near Oseif (2146N/3651E) and Wadi Diib northwest of Sufia (2119N/3613E).

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions (Extracted from *FAO DL Bulletin No. 377*)

Central Region: The locust situation remained calm during February. Rainfall along both sides of the Red Sea has been unusually poor this winter and consequently, only limited breeding occurred in a few coastal areas of Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Western Region: The locust situation remained calm during February throughout the region. Scattered solitarious adults and few hoppers were present in northwest and northern Mauritania where low numbers of locust will persist in those areas that remain green during the forecast period. In Libya, some scattered adults were seen laying eggs in the southwest near the Algerian border. Low numbers of adults may also be present and will persist in parts of the Adrar des Iforas in northern Mali and the Air Mountains in Niger. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

Eastern Region: No locusts were reported in the region during February.

3.0 Forecast until mid-April 2010

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely. .

3.5 Sudan

Limited fledging will occur in the north during the first half of March. Thereafter, locust numbers will decline unless further rainfall 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 Tanzania

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.1.2 Kenya

Quelea infestation was not reported

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Apart from Armyworm outbreak reported in Zanzibar where 900ha of Paddy were destroyed, the rest of the country remained free from infestations.

The following moth trap report was received during February: Pangani – 1, Handeni – 8, Tengeru – 2, Mbeya – 14, Morogor- 25, Turiani – 20, Muheza – 4, Shinyanga – 137, Katesh – 575, Mkuu-Rombo – 6 and Kyela – 10. Other trap stations reported Nil.

4.2.2 Kenya

Report not received.

Forecast during March 2010

During March, minor infestation could still exist in some coastal parts of Tanzania and highlands of Kenya, while there is a high probability that infestation could start in the southern and the Rift Valley areas of Ethiopia.

Therefore, regular monitoring of traps and field crops is highly advised.

SIFO

For Director,
04 March, 2010

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