DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

…… ……(DLCO-EA)

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SITREP No. 10/2010-2011

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR APRIL, 2011

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the **Central Region**, very little rain fell during April in the winter breeding areas along both side of the Red Sea. Light to moderate rains may have fallen during the second decade on the Red Sea coastal plains near the Sudanese/Eritrean between Mahimet, Eritrea and Aiterba Sudan. Light rain may have also fallen at times on the central Red Sea coast of Eritrea. In the spring breeding areas, light to moderate rains fell in the interior of Saudi Arabia, and light rains fell on the northern coast of Oman between Sohar and the Musandam Peninsula, in the northern interior of Oman between Ibri and Sharqia, and on the escarpment in northern Somalia between Hargeisa and Berbera. During the last decade, light rains may have fallen in the summer breeding areas of the interior of Yemen between Marib and Thamud. Vegetation was drying out on the Red Sea coastal plains in Yemen and from Egypt to Eritrea except for the Tokar Delta in Sudan. Vegetation remained green along parts of the coast in Saudi Arabia. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 391*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During the 1st week of April, cool pleasant weather condition prevailed on the highlands and during the second week, days started to get warmer. In the 3rd week, heavy cumulus clouds were observed around Asmara and to the South. On 18th, heavy drizzle started in late afternoon, which continued to about mid-night in and to the East of Asmara. On 21st of the month, heavy rainfall associated with hail stones fell in the Eastern part of Asmara reaching Asmara Massawa road up to Arbe-robu (1533N 3904E) with a record of 22mm.
Average high and low temperatures of Assab and Massawa were recorded 32 – 22 and 36-25^{0}C respectively.
Prevailing wind was South Easterlies at wind speed of 06 mt./sec.
Vegetation on the highlands was fairly green. Coastal and sub-coastal plains were observed drying out but large coastal Wadis were green due to floods from the escarpments.

1.3 Ethiopia

In April, very warm and humid weather conditions prevailed in the eastern parts of the country. Although there were some showers of rains in many places, apart from valleys and Wadis, generally it was insufficient to support good vegetation growth and remained dry with little greening in the eastern part of the country. These locations are usually the spring breeding places for locusts and other migratory pests.

There were some amounts of rains received during the second and third week of April in Dire Dawa and its surroundings that encouraged some greening of vegetations. There were also good rainfalls in other parts of the country where the vegetation was observed progressively greening.

1.4 Kenya

Most days of April remained cloudy with some sporadic and torrential rainfalls that occurred in some parts of the country. Vegetation remained green and greening in those areas that had received rainfalls.

1.5 Somalia

Low to medium amount of rainfalls might have fallen on the escarpments during the second half of April.

1.6 Sudan

No significant rainfall had occurred during April, mainly in the winter locust breeding coastal areas south of Suakin up to the Eritrean border.

1.7 Tanzania

Heavy rains were received in Morogoro, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Dar-es-Salaam, Iringa, Tabora and Rukwa regions, while moderate rains were received in the Lake Zone & Southern Highlands. However, the Central Parts of the country remained dry.

1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the country had been recording heavy rains, thunder and hailstorms. The rains were generally very heavy in some parts of the Country resulting into destruction of crops and infrastructure; in Mukono district, in the central part of the country, some school buildings were raised down by heavy storms. In Kibale district, in the southwestern part heavy hailstorms destroyed a government building resulting in massive loss of vital documents. In the north, in Kumi and Bukedea districts, hailstorms destroyed property and crops.

The vegetation was very green across most parts of the country that started greening with the onset of the rains.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were reported during April.

2.3 Ethiopia

Ground survey was conducted by PPD staff by the end of the month and no locusts were seen.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported

2.5 Sudan

During the first decade of April, small hopper bands of all instars were seen during a ground survey that was conducted by PPD staff in Wadi Oko north of Tomala (2002N/3551E). Scattered solitarious hoppers and mature adults were also present from Port Sudan (1938N/3713E) to the south of Suakin (1906N/3719E). No locusts were seen during a ground survey that was carried out in the

second decade of the month on the southern coastal plains.

2.6 Other Regions *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 391)*

Central Region: Another generation of hatching occurred on the central Red Sea coastal plains in Saudi Arabia, causing locust numbers to increase during April. Aerial and ground control operations treated more than 13,000 ha of hopper bands and groups of hoppers and adults. Locust infestations continued to decline on the Red Sea coast in Sudan and Egypt. Ground teams treated 2,150 ha in Egypt. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region. During the forecast period, more hopper bands and adult groups will form on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia.

Western Region: Groups of hoppers and adults formed in northwest Mauritania and adjacent areas of southern Western Sahara in Morocco during April. Ground teams treated more than 8,000 ha in Mauritania and 300 ha in Morocco. Low numbers of adults persisted along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. In Algeria, hatching near irrigated crops in the central Sahara caused locusts to increase and form small groups of hoppers and adults that were treated (440 ha). NO locusts were reported in the northern Sahel of West Africa where dry conditions prevailed.

Eastern Region: Small-scale breeding occurred in the spring breeding areas of Balluchistan in Pakistan and, to a lesser extent, in Iran during April. Locust numbers will increase slightly in May but then decline during June as low numbers of adults move towards the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border.

3.0 Forecast until mid-June 2011

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Isolated adults may be present in a few places along the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and Karora but numbers will decline as vegetation dries out. No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Isolated adults may appear in areas of recent rainfalls on the escarpment between Hargeisa and Berbera. No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will decline on the Red Sea coast and no significant developments are expected. Scattered adults and perhaps a few small groups are likely to appear in a few areas along the Nile and Atbara Rivers between Khartoum and Dongola. This could be supplemented by a few groups or swarmlets from the eastern side of the Red Sea in June.

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

During April, Quelea quelea outbreak was reported in central parts of the country.
A DLCO-EA Aircraft sprayed 10 roosts/colonies with an estimated of 33.3 million birds on 499 ha of *Acacia* trees/*Typha*

grasses **in Kondoa District**. 1325 liters of Queletox was used during the operation and killing was estimated 85%.

Two colonies of 12 million Quelea birds on 210 ha of *Acacia* trees were sprayed **in Dodoma District.** 400 liters of Queletox was used with an estimated kill of 90%.
Crops saved included Finger millet, Sorghum, Rice and Bullrush millet.

4.1.2 Kenya

During April, Quelea birds infestation on Paddy was reported in Siaya and Bunyala districts in the Western Province. Control was undertaken by a DLCO-EA Aircraft on 7 roosts that contained 4 million birds using 200 liters of Queletox.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm *(Spodoptera exempta)*

4.2.1 Tanzania

Week 21-3-2011 - 27-3-2011

During the above indicated week, there was a report of Amyworm outbreak reported in Marangu Moshi Districts in Kilimanjaro Region.
Ten (10) trap stations reported moth catches as follows: Mawanjeni (76), Bwawani (30), Rundugai (14), Kyela (14), Mulbadaw (10), Mbeya (8), Rombo (7), Masasi(5), Mbozi (3) and Newala (3). Other traps in the area reported **NIL** catch.

Week 28- 03- 2011 - 03- 04- 2011

During the above indicated week, there were Amyworm outbreaks reported in Korogwe District in Tanga Region and Oljoro Village in Arusha District.
In those areas, only Thirteen (13) trap stations reported moth catches as follows: Muheza (658), Korogwe (126), Tanga (26), Mbeya (18), Handeni (8), Mbozi (8), TPRI-Arusha (6), Mulbadaw (4), Mombo (4) Rundugai (4), Newala (1), Tengeru (1) and Rombo (1). Other traps reported **NIL** catch.

4.2.2. Kenya

Armyworms outbreak was reported in Kwale, Kinango, Malindi, Taweta, Mwatate, Rabai, Kaloleni, Kilifi, Magarani,Tana Delta and Lamu west districts in the Coast Province. 2^{nd} - 3^{rd} instars at densities of 30 - 50 larvae/m^2 were reported attacking Maize and pasture. Control was done using 400 liters of Decis ULV by affected farmers in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Forecast during May 2011

During May, minor Armyworm infestations will continue to occur in the Northern and northeastern parts of Tanzania and there is an increasing risk that infestation will spread to the Central, Southern Rift Valley and Eastern parts of Kenya, where sporadic rainfall and greening of vegetation was observed. Therefore, regular monitoring of moth traps, pasture and field crops is highly advised.

CIFO

For Director,
04 May, 2011

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