

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

.....DLCO-EA) .....



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**SITREP No. 05/2011-2012**

## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2011



### 1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

**Central Region:** In the region, the ITCZ remained south of 11N during November. Consequently, no significant rain fell in the summer breeding areas of Sudan and Eritrea where vegetation continued to dry out. In the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea, light rain fell in a few places on the coast of Sudan between Tokar Delta and Karora, on the southern coast of Eritrea between Tio and Iddi, on the coast near Quinfidah, Saudi Arabia and on the coast of Yemen between Zabid and Am Rija. (FAO DL bulletin No. 398)

#### **Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

The highland and western lowland remained rainless. Some light rains fell in the southern and in the northern parts around Qrora on the Red Sea coast. Perennial vegetation on the highland and Western Lowland areas were observed green. Vegetation in large coastal Wadis north of Massawa remained green.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

Generally, the rainfall intensity and distribution have significantly decreased during November throughout the country. The southeastern, southwestern and the western parts of the country had received medium to heavy rains during the first half of the month. While on 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 3 mm of rainfall was reported in and around Dire Dawa.

Due to the rainfalls that had occurred, ecological conditions had been improved in the southeastern and many other locations in the eastern parts of the country, which are favorable winter breeding habitats for Desert Locusts.

#### **1.4 Kenya**

Heavy clouds associated with abundant medium to heavy rainfalls were observed throughout November in larger parts of the country. Consequently, during the beginning of the month, hundreds of hectares of food crops were submerged, animals, bridges, roads had been washed out

and hundreds of people displaced due to flooding and landslides in the Northern Rift Valley area around Baringo and Elgeiyo Marakwet counties. Annual and perennial vegetation remained very green across most parts of the country.

## 1.5 Somalia

The southern parts of the country received medium to heavy rainfalls in most days of November. However, except for some light rains reported in the Northwestern parts of the country during the first decade of the month, most areas in the northern part remained rainless.

Vegetation in the north was reported drying and dry though some scattered green patches of annual and perennial trees were observed in some locations.

## 1.6 Sudan

No rainfall was reported in the summer breeding areas during the month. On 13<sup>th</sup> of November, some rainfalls were reported in Tokar Delta and vegetation was observed green in cropping areas and greening to dry in the others. Soil was also found wet in the same locations.

## 1.7 Tanzania

Light to moderate rains fell along the Coastal Belt, the Western & Northern Regions. The rest of the country remained dry. Vegetation remained green on the highlands and semi-green & drying-up in most parts of the country.

## 1.8 Uganda

The rains had been intensified across most parts of the country with many recorded heavy rains, thunderstorms and floods during November. The floods have displaced people, destroyed and cut off roads, as well as food crops and buildings. In Teso region, four people have been killed by floods and many more displaced. Roads

linking the western and northern districts had been cut off and Kampala city was also periodically but temporarily flooded whenever it rains heavily.

Vegetation condition was reported very 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 reported during November.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during November.

### 2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during November.

### 2.5 Sudan

Survey operations were carried out by PPD staff in the Red Sea Coast during 21- 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, covering 5,950 ha in the central and Tokar Delta areas. During the survey, 30 ha were detected infested with mature solitary adult mainly in Tokar Delta, density was estimated 25 individual/ha.

### 2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 398)

**Central Region:** Low numbers of solitarious adults moved from the summer breeding areas in the interior

of Sudan to the winter breeding areas on the Red Sea coast during the November. So far, only a few adults have been seen in the Tokar Delta. In Saudi Arabia, small-scale breeding occurred on the Red Sea coast near Quinfidah where low numbers of solitarious hoppers and adults were present. Locust numbers continued to remain low in the summer breeding areas of Sudan due to poor rainfall for a second consecutive month. Only scattered solitarious adults were seen in a few places.

**Western Region:** In Mauritania, low numbers of solitarious adults moved from the summer breeding areas in the southeast, south and centre of the country to the northwest. In Niger, small-scale breeding occurred on the Tamesna Plains where scattered solitarious adults were present and control teams treated 95ha. In Chad, low numbers of solitarious adults matured and persisted mainly in the east. In Algeria, isolated adults were present in parts of the Sahara. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

**Eastern Region:** No locusts were reported in the region during November. Due to good rains that fell in western Pakistan, ecological conditions are expected to improve and small-scale breeding may occur, especially if temperature remains warm.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-January 2012**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Small-scale breeding will occur on the Red Sea coastal plains in areas that receive rainfall, and casue locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.5 Sudan**

Small-scale breeding will occur in the Tokar Delta and, if additional rains fall, in adjacent parts of the Red Sea coastal plains between Suakin and the Eritrean border. Consequently, locust numbers will increase slightly but remain below threatening levels.

#### **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**

No Quelea infestation reported.

##### **4.1.2 Kenya**

Quelea outbreaks were reported in Kisumu and Siaya counties in the western, and Mwea in the Central parts of the country. Roosts survey and confirmation was ongoing.

##### **4.1.3 Ethiopia**

A DLCO-EA Aircraft was deployed to control Quelea infestations reported in

the country and details of the operations were received as follows:

- On 5<sup>th</sup> November, 700,000 Quelea birds roosting on 50 ha of trees were controlled using 100 liters of Queletox at Melkasa Research centre around Meki.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> of November, Quelea birds which were roosting on 150 ha were controlled using 300 liters of Queletox in eastern Hararghe region. Spray time was 2:45 hours.

#### **4.1.4 Uganda**

Quelea problem and infestation was reported increasing in Iganga District (esp. Kibimba area) in the east and therefore reached in a level where requiring an aerial spray.

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

The region remained free from Armyworm infestations during November. Though, mounting of traps and monitoring of moths had been initiated with the beginning of the infestation season. With the favorable ecological and weather conditions that had been created, there is a high probability that Armyworm infestation could commence during December in Tanzania and Kenya.

#### **4.3 Tsetse fly**

##### **4.3.1 Uganda**

The Tsetse fly problem in Uganda was reported intensifying and is estimated to cover 75% of the Country. There are reports that the Government of Uganda plans to hire commercial aerial sprayers to handle the problem.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

02 December, 2011

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