DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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

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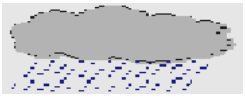
DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR AUGUST, 2012



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Central Region: The ITCZ reached as far north as Merowe, Sudan and good rains fell up to Dongola and east to the Eritrean highlands during August. Consequently, vegetation was green west of the Nile up to 200 km further north than usual. Ecological conditions were favorable for breeding over much larger area of the interior of Sudan and western Eritrea than last year at this time. Good rains fell in eastern Ethiopia and vegetation was becoming green near Dire Dawa. Good rains also fell on the Red Sea coast and in the Hadhramaut interior of Yemen but vegetation remained generally dry. *(FAO DL bulletin No. 407)*

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.1 Eritrea

During August, medium to high seasonal rains continued to fall in larger areas of the highland from south to the north and in the western lowland areas. Annual and perennial vegetation in both areas was reported abundant and green No rainfall report was received from the coastal areas of the eastern lowland, however Wadis and crop fields have received floods from the escarpment.

1.2 Ethiopia

Generally, warm and humid weather condition with good rainfall prevailed throughout the country during August, except the southeastern parts that remained rainless.

Light to moderate rains fell in several Desert Locust breeding locations in the east. However, the rainfall amount and distribution had decreased slightly compared to the previous month including in the adjacent areas of northern Somalia. Moderate to heavy rains also fell mainly in the northwestern parts, which are considered as the traditional summer breeding areas of locusts.

Annual and perennial vegetation had remained green in most of the eastern lowland Desert Locust breeding areas, creating very favorable situation for locust breeding and development.

The following rainfall was recorded in Dire Dawa (0936N/04150E) rainfall station

Date	(mm)
02/08/12	13.4
04/08/12	2.3
05/08/12	7.5
07/08/12	2.8
09/08/12	7.2
10/08/12	1.5
12/08/12	14.2
15/08/12	1.5
16/08/12	0.5
17/08/12	16.9
21/08/12	8.0
25/08/12	4.1
27/08/12	10.4
Total	**90.3**

1.3 Kenya

During August, cool and cloudy weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the country. Some coastal areas received light to medium amount of rains during the month. While the central, Rift Valley and western parts, received medium to heavy rains mainly during the last week of the month. Consequently, hundreds of families have been displaced by floods in Baringo district, in the middle Rift Valley area. The floods have destroyed schools, dispensaries, crops, while hundreds of houses have been submerged. Vegetation continued remaining green in the coastal, central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country during the month.

1.4 Somalia

Light to moderate scattered rains fell on parts of Marodijeh, Awdal and some localized portions in both Sahil and Sanaag regions, in the northern parts of the country. Though, the entire key Desert Locust breeding habitats were reported remaining dry during August.

Vegetation was green across many parts of the plateau and escarpment, particularly the surrounding districts around Marodijeh region, which are very favorable for locust breeding and development.

Some of the rainfalls that had been occurred were recorded and are tabulated below;

Some of the rainfall data reported (mm)

Date	Erigavo 1036/4721	Aubrin	Hargeisa 0934/4400
01/08/2012	1.6	-	-
03/08/2012	5.4	-	-
05/08/2012	6.1	-	-
13/08/2012	-	3.0	0.2
14/08/2012	-	0.6	0.2
15/08/2012	-	0.2	-
16/08/2012	-	8.5	-
21/08/2012	-	1.0	-
27/08/2012	-	-	4.8
28/08/2012	-	-	0.8
Total	13.1	13.3	6.0

1.5 Sudan

It was reported that during the month, light to moderate rains fell across all the summer locust breeding areas. Consequently, vegetation was greening and green in those locations, creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.6 Tanzania

Most parts of the country remained dry and cold. However, some showers were received in some parts of the northern and southern highlands and the Lake zone.

Vegetation was reported drying out in larger parts of the country.

1.7 Uganda

The Central Region, North and North-eastern parts of the Country continued to receive heavy showers accompanied with thunderstorms. The western and South-western parts of the country were generally dry during the first weeks of the month, but started recording some showers in most places towards end of month.

Vegetation remained green across most parts of the Count

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No reports were received during August.

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were reported during August.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during August.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during August.

2.5 Sudan

During August, ground survey was conducted by PPD staff in the main summer locust breeding areas.

In Northern Kordofan, 15,950 ha were surveyed and 10 ha were found in northern Kordofan (1311N/3010E) infested with mature solitarious adults at densities ranging between 50 -250 individuals/ha.

In River Nile state, 6,400 ha were surveyed and mature solitarious adults were detected on 20 ha near Atbara (1742N/3400E, 1801N/3400E) with densities ranging between 50-250 individuals/ha.

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 407)

Central Region: Low numbers of solitarious adults were present in parts of the summer breeding areas in Sudan where ecological conditions are more favorable than usual. Small-scale breeding is almost certainly in progress and will continue during the forecast period in these areas and as well as in the western lowlands of Eritrea. Limited breeding could also occur in areas of recent rainfall on the Red Sea coast of Yemen and in the interior. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

Western Region: Breeding continued in the summer breeding areas of the northern Sahel, mainly in Niger within a large portion of the northern desert and in the central pasture zone, and to a lesser extent in Mauritania and Chad. The situation is less clear in northern Mali due to insecurity but there was an unconfirmed report in late August of hopper bands, suggesting that significant breeding may be in progress. During August, green vegetation extended over much larger areas of the northern Sahel compared to the same time last year. In some places, it was present 100 -150 km further North than usual. This suggests that conditions are favorable for a second generation of breeding in Mali and Niger which is likely to commence in about mid-September and cause locust numbers to increase, perhaps dramatically, in October. Once vegetation begins to dry out, locusts will concentrate and gregarize, forming small groups, bands and swarms from October onwards. Migration to northwest Mauritania and to southern Algeria and Libya will probably not occur until after October. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

Eastern Region: Low numbers of solitarious adults were present in one area along both sides of the border in Rajastan, India and Cholistan, Pakistan during August.

3.0 Forecast until mid-October, 2012

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding is expected to occur in the western lowlands, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding is almost certainly in progress and will continue during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to increase but remain below threatening levels in West and North Darfur, Northern Kordofan, River Nile, Northern and Kassala States.

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 August, Quelea quelea outbreaks and infestations on Rice crop were reported in Morogoro region.
A DLCO-EA Aircraft was deployed and controlled an estimated of 22 million birds.

4.1.2 Kenya

Late report

A DLCO-EA Aircraft had been deployed in Kisimu and Narok during July to control Quelea infestations that were reported damaging Rice and Wheat crops.

- In Narok and Suswa, 4.5 million birds, which were feeding on Wheat were controlled by air on 23rd and 24th of July. 100 liters of Queletox was used to control the birds, which were roosting on 10 ha of shrubs.
- In Dominion Rice irrigation scheme, 5 million birds, which were feeding on Rice were controlled by air between 26th and 30th of July. The birds were roosting on 45 ha of Reeds/Gum trees and 100 liters of Queletox was used to control them.

Control operation continued on 2nd and 3rd of **August** in Dominion Rice Irrigation scheme, where 1.7 million birds roosting on 40 ha of Reeds/Gum trees were controlled using 110 liters of Queletox.

It was also reported that an estimated of 1.5 million and 7.6 million Quelea birds were controlled by air in Naivasha and Narok respectively between 8th and 14th of August. Crop under threat in both locations was Wheat and 310 liters of Queletox was sprayed on 30 ha to control the infestation. (NB some areas were re-sprayed).

4.2 African Armyworm *(Spodoptera exempta)*

No infestation was reported from the region.

Forecast during September

It is less likely that Armyworm infestation could occur in northern Ethiopia and Eritrea due to non-occurrence of moth migration from the south during this season and the Armyworm season is coming to an end. Though, monitoring of moths and checking of crops should continue in northern Ethiopia and Eritrea as the rain season still commencing and due to the availability of early and green vegetation.

4.3 Tsetse fly

No reports received.

CIFO

For Director,

04 September, 2012

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