

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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



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**SITREP No. 06/2013-2014**

## DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

DECEMBER, 2013



### **1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

**In the Central Region**, good rains fell along parts of the coastal plains on both sides of the Red Sea in December that will allow ecological conditions to remain favorable for breeding. In Yemen, light to moderate rain fell on the northern coast of the Red Sea near Abs and on the Gulf of Aden coastal plains at mid-month. Moderate rains fell again in the last week of the month on the Gulf of Aden coast. In Saudi Arabia, moderate rains fell in most of the breeding areas on the central and southern coastal plains of the Red Sea. Consequently, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding from Lith, Saudi Arabia to Al Zuhran, Yemen but were starting to dry out on the central Tihama of Yemen. (FAO DL bulletin No. 423)

#### **Djibouti**

Report not received.

#### **1.1 Eritrea**

It has been reported that during December, there was rainfall on the Red Sea coastal areas and runoffs from the escarpments.

Consequently, soil was moist crops and other vegetation were green creating conducive ecological conditions for locust breeding.

#### **1.2 Ethiopia**

There has been very light rainfall in few localized areas of the country and only a small amount of rain fell on both sides of the Ethiopian-Djibouti border during the first and the second decades of the month. Except in very few places in the southwestern & western half of the country, there has been no rainfall in the country during the month and the normal dry season has prevailed.

Generally, cultivated crops and other annual and perennial vegetation were drying out in most of the locust prone areas, creating unfavorable conditions for locust breeding.

#### **1.3 Kenya**

During December, although there were some localized light to heavy rainfalls during the beginning of the month, mostly sunny weather conditions have prevailed. Perennial vegetation continued to remain green and annual vegetations were also green in areas where rains fell.

#### **1.4 Somalia**

No rainfall was reported during December however, vegetation remained green and favorable for locust breeding in most parts of the country where heavy rains fell during November from the Tropical cyclone that hit the horn region.

## 1.5 Sudan

During the second half of December, moderate rains fell along the Red Sea coast from Tokar to the Eritrean border creating favorable conditions for breeding.

## 1.6 Tanzania

During the beginning of December, most parts of the country received medium to low rainfall. The Coastal, Western parts, the Southern highlands, the Northern highlands and the Central parts of the country received most of the rains.

However, due to lack of moisture during the last decade of the month, vegetation has started to dry out mostly in the northern parts of the country.

## 1.7 1.7 Uganda

Most parts of the Country continued to record medium to heavy showers. Vegetation in most parts of the Country remained very green.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

### 2.2 Eritrea

During December, the Desert locust outbreak on the Red Sea coastal areas of the country remained serious.

Control operation continued against mixed populations of the locust in areas to the south and to the north of the Port City of Massawa.

Since the beginning of the operation during November, **52,400 ha** of infestation have been treated and **28,130** liters of insecticide is sprayed by ground and aerial operations. The infested areas include; the sub-Zones of Sheib (1553N/3906E),

Wochiro (1548N/3918E) Emberemi (1541N/3925E), Massawa, Afabet, Krora on the northern Red Sea coastal areas and in the sub-Zones of Ghelealo and Foro on the southern coast.

## 2.3 Ethiopia

A ground survey was conducted by the Zonal PPD staff on 1,245 ha in the Shinile Zone (1009N/04150E) of the Somale Region of the country during December. Except for very few scattered and immature Desert Locusts that were observed over 5 ha in the area, the situation remained calm throughout the country.

## 2.4 Somalia

Unconfirmed reports on 29/12/2013 from local scouts and district commissioner of Lughaya and the surrounding villages has reported that Garaaca(1043N/4349E), Kalawle Magadooleh, Turgoble and Bohol areas have been infested with hatched hopper bands.

On 30/12/2013 same unconfirmed reports from nomadic herders and locust scouts also indicated that areas southwest of Burao (0934N/4530E) including Cadaw-Yurura, Jamecada-Caynashe, Aroori villages and other surrounding localities have been infested.

Kalbarre which is near to Sheikh District (0957N/4510E) was also reported infested with immature gregarious adult groups, covering 5 Sqkm.

## 2.5 Sudan

During December, groups of mature and immature adults persisted in the summer breeding areas of the interior near the Nile Valley southwest of Atbara and southeast of Abu Hamed. Similar infestations mixed with solitary hoppers were also persisted on the western side of the Red Sea Hills north of Haiya. Control operations treated 2,240 ha up to 17<sup>th</sup> December. From 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of December, a DLCO-EA aircraft continued

treating infestation of swarms and hopper groups mainly in Tokar and other areas on the Red Sea coast that border Eritrea. During the operation, 3,630 ha of infestation have been treated using 6,630 liters of insecticide.

In the winter breeding areas, more hopper bands formed in the northeast along Wadi Oko near Tomala and scattered adults. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a medium density immature swarm reportedly crossed the border from Eritrea.

### **Situation in Other countries & Regions** (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 423)

**Central Region:** Locust infestations continued to increase during December along the Red Sea coastal plains in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Eritrea where a second generation of breeding was underway, causing numerous groups of hoppers and adults as well as hopper bands to form. Swarms formed in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. One swarm reportedly crossed the border from Eritrea to Sudan while others moved from Yemen to Saudi Arabia. Control operations treated some 80,000 ha in the four countries, including aerial operations in Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Eritrea. As ecological conditions remain favorable, second generation breeding will continue, causing more hopper bands and swarms to form during the forecast period.

**Western Region:** ground control operations continued during December against hopper groups, bands and adult groups in northwest Mauritania, treating nearly 15,000 ha. This caused locust infestations to decline by the end of the month. Nevertheless, another generation of breeding is likely to occur but on a small and limited scale in those areas remain favorable. Low numbers of solitary adults were maturing in parts of Western Sahara where small-scale breeding is expected during the forecast period. In Niger, hopper groups and adults were present in the Tenere Desert while isolated solitary adults persisted in parts of the summer breeding areas.

**Eastern Region:** no locusts were reported and the situation remained calm during December.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-February, 2014**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Hoppers will continue to form groups and small bands on the Red Sea coast between Tio and Karora that could lead to the formation of adult groups and a few small swarms. Another generation of breeding will cause locust numbers to increase further with egg-laying and hatching during January.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

No significant developments are likely.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

Breeding is likely in progress in some coastal, escarpment and plateau areas as far as Las Koreh. If so, locust numbers will increase, and hopper and adults may form small groups.

#### **3.5 Sudan**

A second generation of breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in the Tokar Delta and on the southern coastal plains. Further breeding may also occur in Wadi Oko. Hatching will occur during January and small hopper groups and perhaps a few bands may form.

#### **3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda**

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestations.

### **4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS**

#### **4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds (Quelea quelea sp.)**

. Infestation not reported in the region.

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

Infestation not reported in the region.

### **4.3 Tsetse fly**

Infestation not reported.

### **5.0 Tree Locusts**

During December, a DLCO-EA aircraft has been deployed in Turkana County, Kenya to control Tree Locusts infestation. The locusts were ravaging tree leaves, which are important fodder for animals. This is the second deployment of an aircraft to the area within 3 months.

## **CIFO**

**For Director,**

07 January, 2014

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website: [www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)