DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR AUGUST, 2014

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moved north during the first half of August over Sudan, reaching Dongola, and began to retreat southwards. Good rains fell throughout the summer breeding areas from Darfur to the Red Sea Hills, and to the western lowlands in Eritrea. Good rains also extended into the Libyan Desert of northwest Sudan, north of Wadi Howar, reaching Nukhaylah Oasis and Jebel Abyad Plateau where it rarely rains. Good rains that fell along the Red Sea from Jizan, Saudi Arabia to the Gulf of Aden in Yemen will allow breeding conditions to become favorable. Light rains fell in parts of the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen, mainly in Marib where flooding was reported and in Wadi Hadhramaut. Consequently, only limited areas appear to be favorable for breeding. In Oman, light showers occurred in parts of the northern interior but vegetation continued to be dry. In the Horn of Africa good rains fell in northern and eastern Ethiopia. Light rains associated with the Karan season fell over parts of the Somali plateau near Boroma and on the escarpment, and vegetation started to become green in some areas. *(FAO DL bulletin No.431)*

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

August remained the wettest month of the year where medium to heavy amount of rains associated with thunderstorms have continued to fall in all parts of the country. Rainfalls also have extended to the northern and southern Red Sea coastal areas, and by the end of the month, heavy torrential rain has caused several damages to crops and infrastructure in Harsile area, south of the port City of Assab.

Annual and perennial vegetations were also growing abundantly and turning green respectively in vast areas of the country.

1.3 Ethiopia

During August, almost all parts of the country have received light to heavy amount of rainfalls including the areas where desert locust hoppers were detected and in the summer Desert Locust breeding areas. It was also reported that few areas were flooded due to the heavy rains occurred.

Both annual and perennial vegetations in all parts of the country in general, and in all desert locust invaded and surveyed areas in particular, were green.

1.3 Kenya

Larger areas of the country continued to experience cool and cloudy weather conditions during August. Though, some light to moderate rains fell in few locations but most parts of the country remained rainless and dry.

1.4 Somalia

The weather conditions in Northwestern regions of the country have improved gradually and seasonal Karan precipitation intensified during the month of August.
Light to moderate amount of rains fell in some parts of Marodijeh and Awdal regions during the first and the second dekad of the month and few days during the third dekad.
Consequently, annual and perennial vegetations started greening and became conducive for Desert Locust development mainly on the plateau and escarpment.
However, the northern and northeastern coastal and sub-coastal areas, which are potential Desert Locust breeding areas, remained dry and rainless during the month.

Rainfall record (mm) during August, 2014

Date	Hargeisa	Gabiley	Togochalle	Boroma	Dila	Qulujeed
01	-	-	-	-	1.0	9.0
02	-	-	-	-	-	6.0
04	-	-	-	6.5	-	3.5
05	-	3.5	5.0	-	4.0	5.0
06	7.0	-	-	-	-	-
07	-	6.0	8.0	-	4.0	3.0
08	23.0	16.5	-	-	3.0	-
09	3.0	-	-	11.0	-	-
10	-	9.5	9.0	-	-	-
11	-	21.0	-	-	-	-
12	-	14.5	-	-	-	1.5
13	-	-	-	-	1.0	-
16	-	2.0	-	-	-	2.5
17	-	-	-	-	-	4.0
19	-	-	-	10.0	-	1.0
20	-	6.5	-	-	6.0	-
Total	**33.0**	**79.5**	**22.0**	**27.5**	**19.0**	**35.5**

1.6 Sudan

The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moved north during the first half of August over the country, reaching Dongola, and began to retreat southwards. Good rains fell throughout the summer breeding areas from Darfur to the Red Sea Hills, and to the Eritrean border. Good rains also extended into the Libyan border in northwest, north of Wadi Howar, reaching Nukhaylah Oasis and Jebel Abyad Plateau where it rarely rains

1.7 Tanzania

The country remained dry and cold. However, some showers were received in some parts of the southern highlands and the Lake Zone during the month.

1.8 Uganda

Unusual rains continued to fall and most parts of the Country have received moderate amount of showers, which were associated with thunderstorms. The seasonal rains (September – December) are expected to start during the second week of September and it is forecasted that the rains could be very heavy.
Vegetation were reported green across most parts of the country due to the rainfalls that have occurred.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were reported.

2.3 Ethiopia

Ground survey has been conducted in Tigray, Afar and Amhara administrative Regions of the country, where Desert Locust infestation was reported during August. The swarm has reached and laid eggs in north and south Wollo in the Amhara regic

region and, Chifra (1110N/4001E), Adar, Mille (1331N/4046E) districts of Afar region during June and July.

During the survey, five small mature swarmlets with an estimated size of 1-5km^2 and, hopper bands of 1st and 2nd instars were found on 1,339 ha. Two of the swarmlets were seen copulating and laying eggs at locations 112448N/403530E and 112957N/402753E between 13 and 16 of the month. More hopper infestations were also reported in many villages, mainly in the Afar Administrative Region.

Ground teams have successfully controlled 95 ha of settled swarmlets and 178 hopper bands on 313 ha. Hopper sizes were estimated between 2,500m^2 and 5,000m^2. During the operation, over 300 ULV sprayers were used and 434 liters of Malathion 50% EC and 95% ULV have been sprayed.

More hatching, control operation and monitoring of the situation have continued by the end of the month.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

During August, low numbers of mature solitarious adults were present at densities up to 150 adults/ha in a few places of North Kordofan near Sodiri (1423N/2906E), in White Nile east of Umm Saiyala (1426N3112E), in Baiyuda Desert north of Khartoum, in Kassala State south of Derudeb (1731N/3607E), on the western side of the Red Sea Hills northwest of Haiya (1820N/3621E), and in River Nile and Northern States along the Nile Valley near Ed Damer (1734N;3358E), Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E), Merowe (1830N/3149E), Debba (1821N/3057E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E). Small-scale breeding occurred further north towards Wadi Half (2147N/3122E) where a few third instar hoppers were reported. *(FAO bulletin No. 431)*

Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 431)

Central Region: The situation remained calm in August. Low numbers of adults were present in Sudan and small-scale breeding was probably underway but difficult to detect. A few swarms continued to lay eggs in small areas on northeast Ethiopia and control teams treated 313 ha of hopper bands. In the absence of surveys, the situation remained unclear in Yemen where there were unconfirmed reports of adults on the Red Sea coast and swarms in the southern highlands.

Western Region: The situation remained calm in August. Low numbers of adults were present in Mauritania, Niger and Chad, and almost certainly in northern Mali but surveys could not confirm this due to persistent insecurity.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm in August with only low numbers of adults present along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border.

3.0 Forecast until mid-October, 2014

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults are likely to be present in the western lowlands and breeding in areas of recent rainfall. Consequently, locust numbers will increase.

3.3 Ethiopia

Hatching and band formation may continue in the northern Awash Valley during September. Any hoppers that escape control operations may form small adult groups or swarmlets that could spread into adjacent highland areas or move southeast towards Dire Dawa.

3.4 Somalia

Isolated adults may be present in a few places on the plateau. No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Small–scale breeding is likely to be in progress within a large area between Darfur and the Red Sea Hills. Breeding will continue during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to gradually increase. Once the seasonal rains end, vegetation will start to dry out and locusts will concentrate and could form small groups.

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.)*

4.1.1 Kenya

Quelea birds were reported attacking Wheat in Naivasha and Rongai areas of Nakuru County. Control by blasting (firebomb) was carried out by PPSB staff on an estimated 1.5 million birds, which were roosting in Eucalyptus trees in Naivasha County.

4.1.2 Tanzania

A DLCO-EA aircraft continued Quelea birds control operations in different regions of the country during July and August and details are presented as follow;

Late report:
Between 23rd and 29th of **July,** an estimated of 14 million birds roosting on 584 ha of Reeds and shrubs have been controlled by air using 500 liters of Queletox in Mbarali area in Mbeya Region.

August

On 6th, 7th and 10th of the month, an estimated of 60 million birds roosting on 6.5 ha of Reeds and Sugarcane have been controlled by air using 250 liters of Queletox at Mvomero in the Pwani region.

4.1.2 Ethiopia

No infestation reported.

4.2 African Armyworm *(Spodoptera exempta)*

4.2.1 Tanzania

No infestation reported.

4.2.2 Kenya

No infestation reported.

4.2.3 Ethiopia

No infestation reported.

Forecast for September, 2014

As the Armyworm breeding season is coming to an end, there is no likely situation where major outbreak could occur in the region. However, some minor infestations might continue mainly in the northern highlands of Eritrea. Therefore, it is advisable to monitor further developments.

4.3 Tsetse fly

Infestation not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

04 September, 2014

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