

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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SITREP No. 10/2015 - 2016

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

APRIL, 2016



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, good rains fell in the spring breeding areas of the interior of the Arabian Peninsula during April, causing floods in some places. Widespread moderate to heavy rains fell in the interior of Yemen between Thamud and Marib during the first two decades, in Saudi Arabia east of the Asir Mountains and as far north as Hail throughout the month, and in northern Oman as well as on the central coast and sub-coastal areas south of Hayma during the first decade. Consequently, ecological conditions were favorable for breeding in all of these areas. On the Red Sea coast, light to moderate rains fell at mid-month in Yemen and in Saudi Arabia as far north as Thuwal, on the central coast of Sudan between Port Sudan and Mohamed Qol, in Eritrea between Mehimet and Embere as well as on the southern coast from Mersa Fatma to Djibouti. In the Horn of Africa, moderate to heavy rains fell throughout the month in eastern Ethiopia and on the escarpment and plateau in northern Somalia. As a result ecological conditions are likely to become favorable for breeding in these areas. (FAO DL bulletin No.451)

1.1 Djibouti

Though, some rainfalls reported in the capital and in the interior regions nevertheless, warmer and dry conditions dominated over the entire Country during April. Average low temperatures ranged 29°C at night and around 34°C during the day.

1.2 Eritrea

There was heavy rainfall during the 2nd decade of the month in areas around Ghelealo (N151007/E0395730) and during the 3rd decade few kilometers west of Tio town (N143916 /E0405630). During the 3rd decade, there was also medium rainfall that occurred around Qrora, at the northern Red Sea coastal area.

Most of the vegetation along the coastal areas was drying out. However, during a survey assessment, the soil moisture was found wet in areas around Tio.

1.3 Ethiopia

During April, the temperature has increased slowly and sunny weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the country. However, low to moderate amount of rainfall occurred in most parts of the country including in the desert locust spring breeding areas. Consequently, the annual and perennial vegetations were greening and green mainly in the desert locust

spring breeding areas in the eastern parts of the country.

1.4 Kenya

Medium to heavy rains fell almost on the entire parts of the country during April. Specifically, floods from heavy rains that fell during the last days of the month have caused some infrastructure damages and death of people in some areas.

Different species of annual vegetations started greening in vast areas of the country due to the continuous rainfalls.

1.5 Somalia

The weather conditions in northwestern regions steadily improved during the first and second decades of the month. Heavy cloud overcasts and dramatic temperature increases associated with good rains were characterized throughout the month of April.

During the first two decades, moderate to light and localized heavy precipitations with good temporal and spatial distribution were reported in most parts of the northwestern regions particularly in the plateau and escarpment.

Nevertheless, primary potential breeding habitats in the coast received light to moderate precipitations during the second decade.

Though, except for some pocket green areas along the plateau and escarpment, the entire vegetation complexes were dry in most of the northwestern regions. Light rainfall was also reported elsewhere in the Country, but most places remained dry and rainless.

Rainfall during April, 2016 in mm

Date	Harg eisa	Borom a	Dila	Aburi in	Botor	Togoc halle
04	-	1.5	-	-	-	-
05	7.0	16.0	33.0	3.0	-	-
07	1.0	2.5	86.0	-	58.0	58.0
09	-	3.0	-	-	-	-
10	8.5	60.0	8.0	7.0	19.0	13.0
11	9.5	8.0	5.0	-	10.0	23.0
13	-	3.0	-	-	11.0	-
14	-	9.0	-	-	-	-
15	14.0	3.5	20.0	78.5	32.0	-
16	22.0	-	1.0	24.0	18.0	-

17	4.0	-	-	10.0	-	-
19	-	-	5.0	1.0	-	34.0
Total	66.0	106.5	158.0	123.5	148.0	128.0

1.6 Sudan

Light to medium amount of rainfalls were reported in the central Red Sea coastal areas of the Country. However, vegetation remained dry on the coast.

1.7 Tanzania

It has been raining heavily all over the country with some regions receiving above normal amounts of rains during the whole month of April. Consequently, floods have caused serious damage to infrastructure including homes, roads, railway and bridges. Deaths caused by flood also reported in Kilimanjaro and Morogoro regions.

Vegetation generally was green in most parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

During April, the whole country started receiving the normal seasonal rains. The rains were heavy across most parts of the Country, resulting in floods that destroyed road infrastructure and many other properties.

Vegetation was green in many places across the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

The Plant Protection staff of the MoA conducted ground surveys during 26 - 28 April along the southern Red Sea coast of the country between Massawa and Tio (N143916/E0405630). During the survey, immature solitary and scattered adults were detected in areas around Tio town (N143916/E405630).

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

No locusts were reported.

Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 451)

Central Region: The situation worsened in Yemen as adult groups and a few small swarms formed on the southern coast in early April and moved into the interior where widespread rains led to rapid maturation and egg-laying. Hatching and band formation commenced by the end of the month. The extent and scale of current breeding are not well known due to the difficulty of undertaking surveys. However, infestations are likely to be scattered throughout a large, remote and insecure area where control operations cannot be carried out easily. Widespread hatching is expected during May that will cause numerous hopper groups and bands to form, followed by a high risk of swarm formation in June. Scattered adults were present on the Red Sea coast in Yemen and southern Eritrea where small-scale breeding may occur during mid-June. Small-scale breeding occurred in northern Oman and may take place in the interior of Saudi Arabia during May.

Western Region: Ground control operations continued during April in the southern portion of the Western Sahara in Morocco and in the northern Mauritania, treating 6,502 ha and 1,358 ha respectively of hopper and adult groups as well as a few small hopper bands in Morocco. Elsewhere, low numbers of adults were present in northern Mali and Niger.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm during April. Small-scale breeding occurred in southern Iran but locust numbers remained low. No significant developments are likely during the forecast period.

3.0 Forecast until mid-June, 2016

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults are likely to persist near Tio where small-scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rainfall.

3.3 Ethiopia

Isolated adults may appear in the eastern region between Aysha and Jijiga and breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall.

3.4 Somalia

Scattered adults may appear in recent areas of rainfall on the plateau between Boroma and Burao and breed on small scale.

3.5 Sudan

Isolated adults may appear and breed on a small scale along the Nile Valley in Northern and River Nile States. No significant developments are likely.

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

During April, Quelea birds infestation continued to occur and they are reported causing damage to irrigated Rice in Kisumu County in the western parts of the country.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Two spray aircraft continued *Quelea* control operations in different districts of the Country. Consequently, the following partial reports have been received by the end of April:

Region: Singida (Singida V, Ikungu, Singida Manispaa Districts)

Between 6th and 12th of April, an estimated of 8.3 million *Quelea* birds, which were roosting on 150 ha of Acacia trees, Reeds and Sugar Cane have been controlled using 300 liters of Avicide.

Region: Shinyanga (Mawemilu, Masengwa, Ikonda, Bilituyu Districts)

On 4th, 5th and between 13th and 17th of April, an estimated of 24 million *Quelea* birds which were roosting on 730 ha of Acacia trees have been controlled using 375 liters of Avicide.

Region: Tabora (Mwasalla District)

On 3rd of April, an estimated of 0.9 million *Quelea* birds which were roosting on 40 ha of Acacia trees have been controlled using 75 liters of Avicide.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Infestation not reported.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

There was a report of an outbreak of *Quelea* birds in Kibimba Rice schemes in the Eastern parts of the Country. Bird population was estimated at about 100,000 and with about 10% rice damage that occurred in the Tilda rice fields due to the birds attack. The population was also reported

growing and the possible scenario for an aerial control during the coming month.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During April, no Armyworm outbreak was reported in the country.

However, the following moth catches figures were received:

Mbeya = 134

Arusha urban = 21 and

Tanga 3

4.2.2 Kenya

Armyworm outbreaks have occurred in Voi, Mwatate and Taveta Sub-Counties on the sub-coastal areas of the Country.

On 14th of the month, a 2.1 ha infestation on Maize and pasture was reported in Kwekele, Mwachabo and Chawia wards in Mwatate Sub-County. Density of the worms was estimated 16 worms/sqm and 4 per plant.

On 11th of the month, infestation on pastureland was reported in Buguta in Voi Sub-County. Density of the worms was estimated 10-20 worms/sqm and 4 per plant.

Forecast during May, 2016

It is highly likely that more Armyworm outbreaks to occur mainly in the central, coastal and sub-coastal areas and the Rift Valley regions of Kenya. Therefore, it is highly advisable that **Armyworm Forecasters** to continue monitoring of moth migrations and organize survey operations to detect early appearances of the worms in the above mentioned locations.

4.3 Tsetse fly

4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

04 May, 2016

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