DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 2016

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, very little rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden during December but breeding conditions were favorable in many areas. In Saudi Arabia, light rains fell in early December on the coast between Jeddah and Yenbo. Breeding conditions remained favorable in most coastal areas. In Yemen, ecological conditions were favorable for breeding on the northern Tihama coast while drier conditions prevailed on he central coast as well as on the southern coast in Al-Maharah. *(FAO DL bulletin No. 459)*

1.1 Djibouti

Cold night and day temperatures prevailed during December, where it was fluctuated between 19 and 24^{0}C respectively. Even though most of the Country remained dry however, due to the light rains that fell during November, some green vegetation was observed in very limited places.

1.2 Eritrea

During December, scattered and very light rains fell on the northern Red Sea coastal areas. Crops and some wild vegetation were green mainly in irrigated farms and in some Wadis.

1.3 Ethiopia

During December, sunny weather conditions prevailed, the temperature increased and no rainfall occurred in most parts of the country, including in the Desert Locust winter breeding areas.
Consequently, vegetation was drying and dry in different areas where Desert Locusts breeding takes place.

1.4 Kenya

During December, except for few days and scattered light rains that fell mainly in the central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country, the situation remained sunny and dry. Groups of annual vegetations were green in areas where rains fell.

1.5 Somalia

During December, except for very light rains that fell in the northeast coastal plains in Puntland, generally ecological conditions remained dry.

1.6 Sudan

Light to moderate Rains fell along the coastal plains of the Red Sea mainly in areas between Port Sudan and Toker Delta, and in areas bordering Eritrea. Low precipitation occurred in the northern parts from Eiat to the Egyptian border, and in the northwest Red Sea Hills.
Vegetation was greening in some areas but was entirely green in most of the winter breeding areas. However, it was dominantly dry in the Northern parts.

1.7 Tanzania

During December, most of the country continued receiving below normal rainfalls except in some isolated areas in Kagera, Kigoma, Geita, Simiyu, Mara, Arusha and Manyara regions, which got normal to above normal rainfalls.
Isolated few rain showers and thunderstorms were also experienced in Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions), Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and in Southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region).
Vegetation remained green in areas, where some rains fell during November and early December, especially in Lake Victoria Basin, and in some isolated areas of other regions. However, pastures and rangelands in other parts of the country remained dry.

1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the country continued receiving light to medium amount of rainfall.
Vegetation remained very green in areas where continuous rainfalls occurred.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Due to successful ground control operations against gregarious immature adults, Desert Locust outbreak declined by the end of December mainly in the central Red sea coast between Shelshela (1553N/03902E) and Marsa Cuba (1616N/03910E). **1,065** ha of infestation was treated during 13th – 29th December and no crop damage was reported.
During the 3rd decade of the month, gregarious copulating adults were seen in Fegerethan (1744N/3837E), which is located east of Qrora town in the Northern Red sea coast of the country. Ground control teams controlled **304** ha in the indicated location.
First instars gregarious hoppers and hopper bands were also seen east of Qrora town at Ambaset (1742N/03838E) and Antre (1744N/03838E, 1744N/03837E) during the last decade of the month.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during December.

2.4 Somalia

Scattered mature solitarious adults were present at a few places on the northwest coast and at the base of the escarpment between Lughaye (1041N/4356E) and Bullhar (1023N/4425E). A small group of adults were seen copulating at one place. *(FAO DL bulletin No. 459)*.

2.5 Sudan

During December, Desert Locust survey operations were conducted by PPD staff in the winter breeding areas between Suwakin and Toker Delta, and southwards up to the Eritrean border. Consequently, scattered solitarious adults were found and several medium density groups of mature gregarious adults arrived on the southern coastal plains between Karora (1745N/3820E) and Aiterba (1753N/3819E) from adjacent areas in Eritrea on the 7th. Some of the adults were copulating. Isolated mature solitarious adults were seen at one location in Wadi Diib north of Tomala (2002N/3551E). In the Nile Valley, adult groups were copulating near Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E) at densities up to 1,000 adults/ha and scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were present between Shendi (1641N/3322E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E) and in Wadi Muqaddam in

the Baiyuda Desert. Ground control teams treated 75 ha in Meatib and 40 ha in Gadempower near the Eritrean border.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 459)*

Central Region: an outbreak on the central Red Sea coast of Eritrea continued during December and hoppers and adults formed numerous small groups. By mid-month, control operations had reduced the infestations, preventing crop damage but breeding occurred farther north near the Sudanese border where hatching were forming small bands late in the month. Several adult groups appeared in adjacent coastal areas in Sudan and laid eggs while small-scale breeding was in progress farther north along the coast. Small-scale breeding was also underway in a few places on the Red Sea coast in Yemen and Saudi Arabia where limited control was carried out. Scattered adults were seen on the coast in northwest Somalia. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding will continue on both sides of the Red Sea, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Breeding will also occur on the northwest coast of Somalia in areas that receive rainfall.

Western Region: although groups of hoppers and adults as well as some hopper bands formed in northwest Mauritania, infestations declined and less control was required in December compared to the previous month. However, another generation of breeding is likely to occur in the northwest and breeding should commence in the north. Numerous hopper groups and small bands formed, control operations increased slightly, and relatively large areas of vegetation became green during December in adjacent areas of Western Sahara in Southern Morocco. Consequently, locust numbers could increase further in both areas. Once temperatures increase, small-scale breeding is expected to commence in western and central Algeria where solitarious adults are present. Isolated adults persisted in northern Niger where local breeding was reported.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm in the region during December. No significant developments are likely.

3.0 Forecast until mid-February, 2017

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Hopper groups and bands will continue to form on the northern coast near the Sudanese border with fledging starting by mod-February, which could cause small immature groups to form. A small-scale second generation of breeding may occur on the central coast.

3.3 Ethiopia

Low number of adults may appear along the railway area between Dire Dawa and Ayisha.

3.4 Somalia

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly on the northwest coast. Limited hatching will occur early in the forecast period and perhaps a few small groups could form.

3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly on the Red Sea coastal plains, mainly between Suakin and Karora, and in sub-coastal areas in the northeast. There is a low to moderate risk that a few small groups may appear from Eritrea.

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 (*Queleaquelea sp.*)

4.1.1 Kenya

During December, Quelea infestations on irrigated Rice in Kisumu and Sorghum crops in Kibwezi in Makueni County were reported.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Infestation not reported.

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

Report not received.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

Infestation was not reported mainly in the main breeding locations of Tanzania.

Forecast until end of January, 2017

It is likely that infestation to appear mainly in some locations in the southern and Central Highlands of Tanzania. Consequently, it is highly recommended to continue monitoring of moth movements in order to detect early infestations.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

Report not received.

CIFO

For Director,

05 January, 2017

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