

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



Headquarters (Addis Ababa)

Tel: 251-1-16461477/0287/0290

Fax: 251-1-16460296

Operations Office (Nairobi)

Tel: 254-020-6002305/6001488

Fax: 254-020-6001575

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

FEBRUARY, 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 Gulf of Aden during February, except for light showers during the first decade on the southern coast of Sudan and on the Eritrean coast near Sheib and Massawa. Light rain fell in the Tokar Delta during the first decade. Consequently, vegetation was drying out in most areas except in a few places on the northern coast of Eritrea and on the central and southern coast of Saudi Arabia where ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding. Good rains fell during the last decade in parts of the spring breeding areas in the interior of Yemen and northern Oman. Vegetation remained green in interior and coastal areas of Hadramaut of southern Yemen from heavy rains associated with two cyclones in November. (*FAO DL bulletin No.449*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Except for some light rains that fell during the 1st decade of February between Sheib and Massawa, no significant rainfall was reported elsewhere in the country. Crops and other groups of annual and

perennial vegetations were drying on the coastal areas except for some green patches of crops in Wadis, and around Mehimet and Massawa.

1.3 Ethiopia

During February, temperature has increased and sunny weather conditions prevailed in most part of the country including in the winter Desert Locust breeding locations.

Consequently, no rainfall was reported mainly in the winter Desert Locust breeding areas in the east throughout February.

Groups of annual and perennial vegetations were generally dry in the winter DL breeding locations.

1.4 Kenya

Some two to three days of scattered light to moderate amount of rains fell mainly in the Rift Valley, western and central highlands during the second decade of February.

Perennial and annual vegetations remained green in vast areas of the country due to the previous months' rains.

1.5 Somalia

Generally, the weather and ecological conditions in the northeastern and northern parts of the country

remained very dry during February, creating unfavorable conditions for Desert Locust developments.

1.6 Sudan

During the first decade of February, low amount of rains fell in the southern parts of the Red Sea coast near the Eritrean border. During the third decade of the month, moderate rainfall was also recorded in the Toker Delta.

However, with the increasing temperature and dryness of the soil, vegetation cover has started to gradually dry out in the winter breeding areas except of some green areas which have remained in the Toker Delta and along the Wadis.

1.7 Tanzania

During February, most parts of the country have received wide range of rainfalls. Consequently, the southern parts received moderate amounts of rains while the Lake Victoria and Central zones had some light showers.

Vegetation generally remained green in most parts of the country. Staple food crops including Maize, Sorghum, Millets, Wheat, Barley Paddy and Beans were in good stand in various zones of the country.

1.8 Uganda

The El-Niño phenomenon totally ceased and some short dry spell set in most places. Increase of temperature and heat continued to be experienced especially in the Central Region. The first rains of the year are expected to begin by mid March.

Vegetation in the central, west and southwestern parts of the country were mainly green, while it was a mixture of green and drying in the rest of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

During the 3rd decade of February, ground survey was conducted by the PPD staff along the Red Sea coast mainly between Qrora (N175130/E382615) and some kilometers south of Massawa (153018N/E390747E) and no locusts were detected.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

2.4 Somalia

Unconfirmed report indicated that low numbers of early solitarious hoppers were detected during February in an area between Ceel-Sheikh (1025N/4416E) and Lughaya (1039N/4355E) which is near to Abdi-Geedi ((1030N/4403E).

2.5 Sudan

During February, PPD staff have conducted ground survey and immature solitary and scattered locusts were found with low densities in the southern parts of the Red Sea coast. Immature and mature developing solitarious were also detected in the Toker Delta (1827N/3741E). No locusts were seen in the northern parts except of low density solitarious in Wadi Aldaiib.

Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 449)

Central Region: The situation remained calm during February due to generally poor rainfall and ecological conditions in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Consequently, only low numbers of solitarious adults were maturing in a few places on the southern coast in Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Unless further rain falls, breeding will decline and come to an end during the forecast period.

Western Region: Breeding continued during February in northern Mauritania and in parts of the Western Sahara in southern Morocco, causing small groups of hoppers and adults to form in some places. Ground control operations increased in Morocco (3,345 ha) and Mauritania (1,295 ha).

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm during February.

3.0 Forecast until mid-April, 2016

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Scattered locusts may be present near Mehimet where copulating adults were seen in January. No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Scattered adults are likely to persist on the northwest coastal plains and breed on a small scale if rainfall occurs.

3.5 Sudan

Low numbers of adults will persist and breed on a small-scale in areas that remain green in Tokar Delta and perhaps on the southern coast.

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

Report not received.

4.1.2 Tanzania

No outbreak was reported during February however, large flocks of Quelea birds continued to appear in Lake Victoria, central and Northern zones.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Infestation not reported.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During the month, outbreaks of Armyworms were reported in the Western zone, in Mvomero district in Morogoro region, in Temeke district in Dar-es-Salaam region, in the Northern zone, in Kilindi and Handeni districts in Tanga region and in Kiteto district in Manyara region.

Moth catches were also reported as follow:

In Morogoro region 277 moths,

In one district in Mbeya region 19 moths,

In two districts in Arusha region 29 moths

In one district in Manyara region 41 moths.

Forecast during March, 2016

Even though, no infestation was reported in the other member states during February however, it is likely that more outbreaks to appear mainly in the northern, northeastern and eastern parts of Tanzania, and the southern and coastal parts of Kenya during March. Therefore, it is highly advisable to monitor moth migrations and organize survey to detect early appearances of the worms.

4.3 Tsetse fly

4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

04 March, 2016

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