

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

MARCH, 2016



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, light rains fell in eastern Ethiopia during the first two decades. In Yemen, light to moderate showers fell in parts of the interior between Marib and Thamud on 7-9 March. In Saudi Arabia, good rains fell in the southern portion of the spring breeding areas in the interior between Wadi Dawasir and Al Ahsa during the first and third decades. As a result, breeding conditions are expected to improve in all of the above-mentioned areas. Dry conditions prevailed in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. (*FAO DL bulletin No.450*)

1.1 Djibouti

The situation remained sunny and dry during March.

1.2 Eritrea

Rainfalls have been reported during the 2nd decade of the month in Gindae (1524N/03903E) and during the 1st decade in the highlands and western lowlands mainly around Mendefera town and around Akurdet respectively.

Except for some green vegetation seen between Ghindae and Gahtelay, most of the crops have

matured and other annual and perennial vegetations were dry in the eastern coastal plains.

1.3 Ethiopia

During March, the temperature has increased slowly and sunny weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the country including in the desert locust spring breeding areas. Light amounts of rains also occurred in desert locust spring breeding areas during the first decade of the month.

Generally, the annual vegetation appeared dry and perennials were partially green mainly in the spring Desert Locust breeding locations in the east.

1.4 Kenya

The weather and ecological conditions remained hot and dry during March.

Consequently, annual vegetations started to dry out and perennials still remained green in some of the central, Rift Valley and western parts of the country.

1.5 Somalia

The weather and ecological conditions in the northeastern and northern parts of the country continued remaining very hot and dry during March. Consequently, both the weather and ecological conditions became unfavorable and not conducive

for any Desert Locust breeding and development in the northern parts.

1.6 Sudan

No precipitation recorded in all the Red Sea coastal and sub-coastal areas during March, and vegetation was dry and drying out except for few areas in the Toker Delta, which have remained green.

1.7 Tanzania

During March, the southern highlands, which include Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe regions and the eastern parts of the Coast and Morogoro Regions have received moderate amount of rains. The northern parts had some showers in few areas however, mostly it was dry spell. The Lake Victoria and central zones also had some showers but most areas were dominated by a dry spell. Vegetation generally was 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

Isolated but severe thunder and hailstorms were reported in some parts of the Central and Western Regions of the Country. (In Bulisa district, along the Lake Albert shores, a storm has killed two people, left over 12 others missing and lots of properties destroyed)

Vegetation conditions were partially green in many places of 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 have conducted ground surveys during 14 - 16 March along the Red Sea coast of the country between

Sheib (160954N/0385633), north of Massawa and Gindae (N152414 /E0390322) and south of Massawa. During the surveys, most of the vegetation status was found dry and drying in all areas and no locusts were detected.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

During March, the PPD staff have conducted ground survey in the Red Sea State and no locusts were found.

Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 450)

Central Region: Groups of hoppers and adults as well as hopper bands and at least one swarm formed on the southern coast of Yemen in March where heavy rains associated with two cyclones fell last November. The extent of the current breeding is not well known because survey teams cannot access most areas due to prevailing insecurity. As vegetation dries out along the coast, more groups, bands and swarms are likely to form. There is a moderate risk that adult groups and a few small swarms will move along the coast and into the interior of southern Yemen, perhaps reaching spring breeding areas in the interior of central Saudi Arabia and northern Oman. Elsewhere, the situation remained calm and no locusts reported except for limited local breeding in northeast Oman.

Western Region: Numerous hopper groups and bands formed during March in the southern portion of the Western Sahara in Morocco and in northern Mauritania, respectively. Control operations continued in Morocco (5,095 ha) but declined in Mauritania (659 ha). As vegetation dries out, more hopper groups and bands are likely to form as well as adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms that

could move to spring breeding areas south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria, and breed.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm during March and no locusts were reported in the region.

3.0 Forecast until mid-May, 2016

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

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

Quelea birds were reported causing damage to irrigated Rice in Kisumu County in the western parts of the country.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Heavy and serious outbreaks and crop damages have been reported in Dodoma, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Geita, Mwanza, Tabora, and Singida. It has also been reported that such level of infestation was not seen for the last 20 years.

Consequently, DLCO-EA has deployed two spray aircraft; one during mid-month and the second by the end of the month, to control the infestations.

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 March, no Armyworm outbreak was reported in the country.

However, the following moth catches figures were received from various districts:

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Morogoro | 1 |
| Mbeya | 118 |
| Arusha Rural | 22 |
| Arusha Urban | 111 |

Forecast during April, 2016

It is likely that minor Armyworms outbreak to appear mainly in the northern and northeastern parts of Tanzania, and the coastal and central parts of Kenya during April. Therefore, it is highly advisable to continue monitoring of moth migrations and organize survey operations in order to detect early appearances of the worms.

4.3 Tsetse fly

4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

06 April, 2016

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