

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)
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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

OCTOBER, 2016



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, the Inter-Tropical Zone (ITCZ) continued its southward retreat during October over the interior of Sudan where it was south of Nyala, Ed Nahud and Gedaref, which is outside of the summer breeding area. Nevertheless, a few showers continued to fall in North Kordofan between El Obeid and Sodiri. More importantly, good rains fell in northeast Sudan near Sufiya and in adjacent areas of southeast Egypt on the Red Sea coast as far as north as Shalatyn on 26-27 October. This should allow annual vegetation to start to become green and could provide suitable breeding conditions. Showers fell at times in the highlands of Yemen and Eritrea that may have extended to coastal areas, which should allow ecological conditions to remain favorable for breeding in Yemen and improve in Eritrea. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 457*)

1.1 Djibouti

Day and night temperatures remained hot during October and no rainfall was reported. Consequently, ecological and weather conditions remained unfavorable for DL breeding.

1.2 Eritrea

Winter rains started to fall at times on the Red Sea coastal areas. Consequently, vegetation condition started greening, creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding mainly along the northern Red Sea coast.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the first and second decades of October, light rains fell in few places of the country including in the winter breeding locations of the Somali Region. As the summer rain season came to an end, the soil and annual vegetation was drying out where as the perennial vegetation remained green. Ecological conditions were favorable during the month for Desert locust breeding mainly in the winter breeding areas in the eastern parts of the country.

1.4 Kenya

During most days of October, hot and windy weather conditions prevailed in all over the Country. Heavy cloud build ups were also observed mainly during the 2nd and 3rd decades in the central and Rift Valley parts of the country. Consequently, few days of light to medium amount of rains fell in some locations of the above indicated parts of the country.

Annual vegetation remained dry while perennial vegetation were partially green during the month.

1.5 Somalia

During October, except for very light rains that fell in the far end of the northwestern parts of the Country bordering Ethiopia the weather and ecological conditions remained very dry.

1.6 Sudan

Few light showers fell in North Kordofan while good rains reported in the northeast near Sufiya during October.

Vegetation cover was drying out in most areas and green vegetation was observed only in the streams and along the Nile River basins.

1.7 Tanzania

During October, areas with two seasonal rainfalls around Lake Victoria basin continued to receive rains while other locations experienced dry weather conditions. The maximum recorded amount was above 200mm, especially in the first two weeks of the month.

Some areas with one seasonal rainfall in the Western parts including Kigoma, Tabora and Rukwa received some seasonal rains during the first two weeks of the month.

Different types of vegetations were green in Lake Victoria Basin due to earlier rains in late September, and to partially green in most of the North eastern and Southern highlands where some showers were reported. Pastures and rangelands in other parts of the country remained dry.

1 1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the Western, Central, Eastern and Northern Regions recorded heavy rains and thunderstorms, accompanied by hailstorms. However, the rains remained unpredictable in many parts of the Country.

The Vegetation was green in most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Ground survey was carried out during 27-31 October by the PPD staff in the northern Red Sea coast of the country covering areas between Massawa and Qrora. During the survey, isolated mature solitarious adults were found on the central coastal plains of the Red Sea between Sheib (1551N/3903E) and Mersa Gulbub (1633N/3908E). Groups of adults were also seen laying eggs at two locations during the last week of the month.

2.3 Ethiopia

During October, PPD staff surveyed 3,430 and 4,780 hectares in different locations in the eastern parts and the Afar region of the Country respectively.

During the survey, solitarious immature adults at densities of 50 adults/ha on 70 ha and hopper bands and solitary adults on 170 ha were found at locations (104652N/0423422E) and (12281N/411325E) in the east and in the Afar region respectively.

During the month, 3rd and 4th instar hopper bands on 30 ha were controlled using 15 liters of Malathion 95%ULV.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during the month.

2.5 Sudan

Desert Locust situation became serious in the Country during October and local outbreaks were developed in North Kordofan, North West part of Khartoum State and in the adjacent south eastern parts of Northern State (Baiyuda Desert). Intensive survey and control operations conducted in all of the summer breeding areas during the month.

Consequently, 4th and 5th instars hopper bands were detected at three locations south and north of Wadi Abu Uruq (1549N/3024E), Abu Uruq (1552N/3029E) and Al Danageer (1616N/3035E) in the North

Kordofan State. Band size varied from 50m² to 1 ha. In addition, mature solitarious scattered adults of various densities were also reported in many locations between Um Saiyala and Hamret Elwiz. In Khartoum and Northern States, gregarious 2nd – 4th instars hopper groups of low to medium densities were detected at Wadi Muqaddam (1654N/3139E), Koraab (1653N/3142E) and Um Regerega (1649N/3136E). Mature gregarious scattered adults were also seen in Goz Alagarib (1639N/3139E) at density of 250 adults/ha.

In River Nile state, mature scattered solitarious adults were reported at density ranging between 25 to 200 adults/ha.

In Red Sea and Kassala States, low density solitarious hoppers were detected in Traseab area (1614N/3602E), though relatively high density of mature solitarious scattered adults (350/ha) was also reported.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 457)*

Central Region: an outbreak developed in North Kordofan and the Baiyuda Desert of northern Sudan as a result of summer breeding and drying conditions. The outbreak may extend east of the Nile Valley. Ground and aerial control operations were immediately mounted, treating nearly 3,000 ha of hopper groups and bands. Some of the hoppers have already fledged and immature adults are forming groups and perhaps a few small swarms that will move to the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea, initially to northeast Sudan and southeast Egypt where good rains will allow adults to mature and lay eggs that should hatch by the end of the forecast period. Breeding was in progress on the southern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia where control operations treated 3,400 ha and on the Gulf of Aden coast in southern Yemen. A few adult groups were breeding on the Red Sea coast of Eritrea while locust numbers declined in eastern Ethiopia. During the forecast period, breeding will occur along both sides of the Red Sea as well as in coastal areas of southern Yemen and northwest Somalia if rains occur.

Western Region: An outbreak developed in western Mauritania in early October as a result of widespread egg-laying and hatching by summer-bred gregarizing adults, including a few swarms that may have originated from undetected areas or from northern Mali where insecurity prevents regular surveys. Control operations intensified in Mauritania, treating more than 8,100 ha of hopper and adult groups, and small bands and swarms. Smaller infestations were seen in adjacent areas of Western Sahara in southern Morocco where limited control operations were carried out against adult groups. A new generation of adult groups and small swarms is likely to form from about mid-November onwards in western Mauritania and are likely to move into Western Sahara and northern Mauritania where good rains fell and further breeding could occur. Scattered adults were present along the southern side of the Alas Mountains in Morocco and western Algeria. Control operations were undertaken along the Mali border in southern Algeria against high densities of hoppers. Locust numbers declined in the summer breeding areas of northern Niger and Chad where primarily low numbers of adults persisted.

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

3.0 Forecast until mid-December, 2016

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding on the Red Sea coastal plains will cause locust numbers to increase slightly. Hatching will commence by mid-November and a few small hopper groups could form.

3.3 Ethiopia

Isolated adults may persist in few areas of previous breeding near Ayisha and in the Afar region.

3.4 Somalia

Small residual populations may be present in areas of previous breeding on the northwest plateau and escarpment.

3.5 Sudan

Hopper and adult groups, small bands and perhaps a few small swarms are likely to form in North Kordofan and the Baiyuda Desert, and possibility extends east of the Nile Valley to the Red Sea Hills. As vegetation dries out, adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms will appear on the Red Sea coast and in sub-coastal areas of the northwest, and breed in areas of recent rainfall.

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 October, Quelea outbreaks and infestations on irrigated Rice were reported in Busia, Siaya and Kirinyaga counties. Consequently a DLCO-EA aircraft was deployed and controlled 5 roosts using 400 lts of Fenthion 640 ULV.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During October, outbreaks of Quelea birds were reported in Kilimanjaro and in Morogoro Regions of the Country where 12 million birds were controlled successfully by a DLCO-EA aircraft. The birds were roosting in 10 sites covering 153 ha, and were threatening estimated of 120 tons of Rice.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Estimated of 4 million Quelea birds colonies were reported at Meki and Liben Districts in the Oromya Region. However, no control operation was conducted and farmers have started harvesting their crops.

Similarly, estimated of 4.5 million Quelea colonies at three sites were reported in the Amhara Region in the north and were controlled by air. During the operation, 150 hectares were sprayed with 150 liters of Bathion 60% ULV and the percent kill was estimated 98%.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

Infestation not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

Infestation not reported.

Forecast until end of November, 2016

Early infestation could appear mainly in the primary breeding areas of the coastal areas in Kenya. Consequently, monitoring of the situation and moth movements should be in place.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina* spp.)

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) reported an upsurge of Tsetse flies within and around three National Parks namely; Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Kidepo National parks. The flies were

reported affecting wildlife, visitors and workers in the parks and domestic animals around the parks. (*Source: Base Manager Kampala CRB*)

CIFO

For Director,

14 November, 2016

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