

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

DECEMBER, 2017



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, no significant rain fell during December in winter breeding areas along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts. Nevertheless, vegetation was green or becoming green in a few places along the central and southern coast of Sudan, on the coast in southeast Egypt and on the northern coast of Saudi Arabia between Thuwal and Al Wajih. Smaller areas of green vegetation were present in sub-coastal areas of northeast Sudan, and on the coast in Eritrea near the Sudanese border and on the southern parts of the Akbanazouf plain. In Oman, good rains fell during the second decade of the month in parts of the northern coast and interior. (FAO DL bulletin No. 471)

1.1 Djibouti

During December, colder weather conditions prevailed in the country. No rainfall was occurred and except for some green vegetation present in the northeastern parts, generally dry conditions dominated the whole Country. Temperatures ranged from 22°C during the night and around 30°C during the day.

1.2 Eritrea

Some insignificant rains may fell during the first decade of December mainly on the northern Red

Sea coastal plain, which border Sudan. Few patches of green vegetation were observed on the northern coast and in rain-fed irrigated areas.

1.3 Ethiopia

During December, dry and hot weather conditions and very cold at night and in the morning times prevailed in the country, including in the Desert Locusts breeding areas.

There was no rainfall reported mainly in the Desert Locust breeding locations in the east during the month. Most of the annual vegetations were drying out, while the largest part of the perennial vegetations remained green and the soil was dry. Consequently, ecological conditions were not generally favorable for Desert Locust breeding during the month.

1.4 Kenya

Even though intermittent light rains fell in the coastal and in some locations in the central parts, however mostly dry and windy weather conditions prevailed across the country during December. Annual and perennial vegetations remained partially green in some areas of the Country as a result of the previous months' rainfalls.

1.5 Somalia

Intermittent light rains may fell mainly during the third decade of December in some locations in the north and northwest. Consequently, some green vegetation existed mainly on the northern coastal plain and the northwestern parts, which borders Ethiopia. .

1.6 Sudan

Scattered light rains fell during the first and second decades of December mainly in the winter locust breeding areas along the Red Sea coast.

Except for few patches of greening and green vegetation present in the Tokar Delta, Gob and near Suwakin towards the south, most areas were dry.

1.7 Tanzania

During December, light to heavy rains fell in Lake Victoria Basin, in southwestern highland, in western and southern regions of Ruvuma. The northern and southern coasts including the isles of Unguja and Pemba also received moderate showers. The northeastern highlands and central areas had intermittent and isolated rains.

Green vegetation have persisted in wider areas where rains fell from late September up to December.

1.8 Uganda

During December, the rains declined sharply and most parts of the Country were dry with a few places recording scattered showers and some thunderstorms. However, the vegetation remained green across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Desert Locust incidences were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Ground survey was conducted by PPD staff during 16-20 December in the northern Red Sea coastal

plains covering up to the Sudanese border and no locusts were seen.

2.3 Ethiopia

Desert Locust incidences were not reported.

2.4 Somalia

Report not received.

2.5 Sudan

During December, PPD staff conducted ground survey on 24,422 ha in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coastal plains.

During the survey, isolated mature solitary adults on 800 ha and isolated immature adults on 400 ha and on about 200 ha were detected in Gob, Baharyar (Tokar Delta) and Ayet respectively. Small-scale breeding was also detected near Suwakin during the second half of December.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 471*)

Central Region: The situation continued to remain calm during December. No locusts were present in the region except for isolated solitarious adults in a few places in the central and southern coast of the Red Sea in Sudan. Limited breeding was detected in one area. During the forecast period, the situation is likely to remain calm. Low numbers of adults are expected to be present in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and perhaps southeast Egypt and northern Somalia. Based on seasonal precipitation forecasts, small-scale breeding is likely to occur on the Red Sea coast in Sudan and, to a lesser extent in other places that receive rainfall along both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. However, locust numbers will remain low.

Western Region: The situation continued to remain calm during December. Isolated solitarious adults were present in a few places northwest and northern Mauritania, in the central and southern Sahara of Algeria and in the northern Sahel in Chad. Small-

scale breeding occurred in northwest Mauritania but locust numbers remained low.

Eastern Region: The locust situation continued to remain calm in the region during December. No locusts were reported and no significant developments are likely during the forecast period.

3.0 Forecast until mid-February, 2018

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in areas of recent rainfall on the central and northern Red Sea coastal plains.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of adults may appear and breed on a small-scale on the northwest coast in any areas that receive rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will occur in areas of recent rainfall along the Red Sea and in sub-coastal areas of the northeast, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Limited hatching will commence in early January and hoppers will fledge by mid-February.

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

Monthly report not received.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Aerial Quelea birds control operations were conducted during December by a DLCO-EA aircraft in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions. During the operations, an estimated of 30.4 million birds, which were roosting on 86.5 hectares of Maize, Reed and Sugarcane plantation were sprayed using 360 liters of Queletox.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Aerial Quelea birds control operations were conducted by a DLCO-EA aircraft during the last and first week of November and December respectively in the northeastern parts of the Rift Valley.

The operations were conducted in seven districts in the Amhara Administrative Region, where 15.26 million birds were killed in nineteen roosting sites. During the operations, 672 liters of Bathion 60% ULV was sprayed on 336 hectares, and mortality was estimated between 90 and 99%.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Monthly report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Aerial Quelea control operations concluded and no infestation reported.

4.1.6 Uganda

Infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During December, the following moth catches were reported:

- 156 in Mbozi, Momba, Mbeya rural and Mbeya urban districts in Mbeya region, in the Southwestern highlands
- 27 in Lindi region
- 561 in Shinyanga region in Lake Victoria basin.

Fall Armyworm (FAW) During December, all short rain Maize growing areas; including northeastern, Lake Victoria and, eastern and southern highland zones reported heavy infestation.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm infestation not reported.

The Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestations declined significantly due to declining Maize crop from fields/farms. It is also reported that the Country is recording a bumper Maize harvest which could confirm that the FAW did not have substantial impact on Maize production in the Country due to the heightened control measures applied by the Crop Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. (*Base Manager DLCO-EA Kampala CRB*)

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Infestation not reported.

Fall Armyworm

Infestation likely continued on some Maize growing areas however report was not received during compiling of this Sitrep.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

Fall Armyworm

Infestation likely continued on some Maize growing areas however report was not received during compiling of this Sitrep.

Forecast until end of January, 2018

African Armyworm: it is highly likely outbreaks to appear during the forecast period mainly in the southwestern, western, northern and central highlands and the southeastern coastal areas in Tanzania, in southeastern and coastal areas of Kenya and in some southern regions of Uganda. Consequently, it is highly advisable to continue installation of pheromone traps and continue monitoring of moth movements.

The **Fall Armyworm** infestation is likely to continue affecting the farming community in the main Maize growing areas in eastern and Horn of Africa regions. Generally, it is highly advisable to monitor its' developments in order to detect early infestations mainly in new Maize fields. It is also highly advisable to control any outbreak of the Fall Armyworm at early stage of the worms' appearances as late instars may be difficult to control.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

4.3.1.1 Tsetse flies:

Incidence was not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

05 January, 2018

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