

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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

JANUARY, 2019



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region: light to moderate rains fell at times during January along parts of the Red Sea coast in Sudan near Tokar Delta where it was cloudy most of the month. Light showers occurred on the Eritrean coastal plains for two days only, 1 and 17 January. In Saudi Arabia, good rains fell during the last decade along parts of the northern Red Sea coastal plains, in the northern Asir Mountains, and in the interior near Khaybar, Tabuk, Al Jawf and between Riyadh and Gassim. Ecological conditions were favorable for breeding on the Red Sea coast and in sub-coastal areas of southeast Egypt, in Wadi Oko/Diib in northeast Sudan, and along the coast from Port Sudan to Mersa Cuba, Eritrea. Breeding conditions were also favorable on the central and northern coastal plains of the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia between Lith and Yenbo but were less favorable on the southern coast and on the Tihama of Yemen because of poor rainfall during January. Favorable breeding conditions persisted along the southeastern edge of the Empty Quarter in Saudi Arabia near the Yemen/Oman border as a result of rains from Cyclone Luban in October. These conditions extended south into eastern Yemen and Al Maharah province on the plateau between Thamud and the Oman border. *(FAO DL bulletin No. 484)*

1.1 Djibouti

Intermittent light rains may have fallen in the Obok region of the Country and in areas bordering northwest Somalia. Consequently, the weather remained cooler during January

1.2 Eritrea

Light to moderate rains fell for two days mainly in the central Red Sea coastal areas of the Country during January. However, most of the vegetation remained green with medium to dense coverage, mainly in irrigated lands where crops were also at maturity stages. Consequently, ecological conditions remained favorable for locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

During January, dry and hot weather conditions during day time and low temperature at night was prevailed all over the country. There was no rainfall reported in any of the Desert Locust breeding areas. Annual vegetation and soil were dry whereas the perennial vegetation remained green. The ecological conditions generally were not favorable for desert locust activity during the month.

1.4 Kenya

During January, hot and windy weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the Country. Generally, annual vegetations started to dry out while perennial vegetations remained partially green during the month.

1.5 Somalia

Intermittent and light rains may have fallen in areas bordering Djibouti, and the northern coast during January.

Vegetation was partially green on the northern coast, escarpments, plateau and areas bordering Djibouti.

1.6 Sudan

During most days of January, skies remained cloudy and light to moderate rains fell in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast of the Country, mainly in Tokar Delta. Vegetation were green and dense in the southern coast near the Eritrean border, Tokar Delta, the central parts; south of Suwakin, Port Sudan, Soil moisture was also wet in all areas where rains fell. These situations had created favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.7 Tanzania

During January, much of the country received significant amount of rainfalls except for some parts of Tanga, Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions which received less than 10mm. Heavy rain falls of more than 100 mm were reported in some parts of Lindi, Kigoma, Tabora, Dodoma and Ruvuma. Few locations in Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) received isolated heavy rains while the southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) received moderate rains accompanied with short periods of strong winds.

Annual types of vegetations were greening to green during the month. Agricultural crops in Southern, Southwestern, Western, Central, Eastern and in

Lake Victoria zones were in various stages of vegetative growth.

1.8 Uganda

During January, the Lake Victoria basin, parts of the west and Mt. Elgon region, continued to receive moderate showers and some thunderstorms. Parts of north experienced typical dry season with high temperatures. The rest of the Country recorded mixed weather conditions.

The vegetation remained green across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Incidences were not reported.

2.2 Eritrea

During January, Desert locust situation remained serious, consequently survey and control operations against 2nd to 5th instar gregarious hoppers, fledglings, gregarious immature and mature adults continued in areas between Qarura (160123N/391309E) and Marsa Cuba (161512N/391000E). Ground control teams sprayed 2,905 ha of hopper bands, fledglings and gregarious immature and mature adult groups, and 1,550 ha of mature copulating swarms at Emberemi (154215N/392214E) and Wochiro near the Port City of Massawa during January.

2.3 Ethiopia

No survey was conducted and the locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

No reports were received.

2.5 Sudan

During January, first generation hoppers and adults continued to mature in outbreak areas on the central coast of the Red Sea from north of Port Sudan (1938N/3713E) to Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E). An

increasing number of adult groups and swarms formed, mature and laid eggs as the month progressed, initially on the southern coast between Aiterba (1753N/3819E) and the Eritrean border, and then extending to the central coast. This led to substantial hatching and the formation of early instar hopper groups and bands after mid-month on the southern coast. Control operations treated 34028 ha, of which 23860 ha were by air. In the northeast, solitary adults were maturing in Wadi Oko/Diib south of Tomala (2002N/3551E) and along the western side of the Red Sea Hills. No locusts were seen in the Nile Valley or in the northern interior near Merowe (1830N/3149E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E) (*FAO DL Bulletin No. 484*)

Desert Locust situation in Central and other Regions (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 484*)

Central Region: An outbreak occurred on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and Eritrea where an increasing number of groups, bands and several swarms formed during January from a second generation of breeding. A few mature swarms appeared on the coasts in southeast Egypt and northern Saudi Arabia that probably originated near the Sudan/Eritrea border. Immature swarms invaded farms along the western and northern edges of the Empty Quarter in the interior of Saudi Arabia, coming from the southeastern Empty Quarter near the Yemen/Oman border where two generations of breeding occurred after good rain from Cyclones Mekunu (May) and Luban (October). A few of these swarms moved to UAE and southern Iran. Aerial control operations were mounted in Sudan and Saudi Arabia in addition to ground control in both countries, Eritrea and Egypt treating nearly 55,000 ha during January.

Western Region: Local breeding occurred in northwest Mauritania and southern Algeria, and isolated adults were present in northern Niger. Ground teams treated 100 ha in Mauritania.

Eastern Region: Adult groups arrived on the southern coast of Iran from Saudi Arabia at the end of the month and quickly matured.

3.0 Forecast until mid - March, 2019

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Second generation breeding will continue on the central and northern Red Sea coastal plains with additional laying and hatching, causing more groups and bands to form. Second generation fledgling will commence at the beginning of February and increase during the month giving rise to adult groups and small swarms. There remains a high risk of cross-border movement on the coast between Eritrea and Sudan. If conditions start to dry out, locusts are likely to move north along the coast or across the Red Sea.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of adults may be present on the northwest coastal plains; however, breeding is not expected unless additional rains fall.

3.5 Sudan

Second-generation hatching and the formation of hopper groups and bands will continue on the central and southern coastal plains. Immature groups and small swarms are likely to start forming during the second half of February. There remains a high risk of cross-border movement on the coast between Sudan and Eritrea. Breeding is also likely to be in progress in Wadi Diib, giving rise to groups and a few small swarms. If conditions start to dry out, locusts are likely to move towards the Nile Valley or across the Red Sea.

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 January, Quelea birds outbreak was reported on Rice irrigation schemes in Mwea County. Consequently, deployment of a spray aircraft by DLCO-EA was under progress.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Incidences not reported.

1.3 Ethiopia

Incidences not reported.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Monthly report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Incidences not reported.

4.1.6 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

During January, FAW damages were reported in all Maize growing areas, especially in Southern, South Western, Western, Central and Lake Zones.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall armyworm (FAW):

The Ministry of Agriculture continued to get reports and observations of some minor incidences (of less than 20%) of **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** in some Maize growing areas. It was reported that damages were mainly observed on older Maize leaves. Surveillance teams were also on ground to assess the situations, in preparation for the major first cropping season of the year.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

Fall Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm

Fall Armyworm infestations continued mainly in irrigated areas in 8 zones, 32 Districts and 214 villages of Oromya and Gambella Administrative Regions. The pest infested 3,467 ha of Maize and Sorghum fields. Chemical and cultural (hand picking) control was conducted on 964 and 789 ha respectively. During the operation, 1,531 liters of pesticide was sprayed to control the pest.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported

Fall Armyworm

Report not received.

Forecast until end of February, 2019

African Armyworm:

It is less likely infestations to appear in the secondary breeding locations.

Fall Armyworm

Infestations are likely to continue during February and affect mainly irrigated and seasonal short rains Maize crops. Consequently, member countries are highly advised to continue monitoring of moth movements for early detections of the worms.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

4.3.1.1 Tsetse flies:

Incidences not reported.

CIFO

For Director,
06 February, 2019

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