

**DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA
(DLCO-EA)**



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SITREP No. 08/2020-2021

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION
REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2021

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

In the Central Region: In east Africa, light to moderate rains fell during a few days in the last decade of February from north of Mt. Kenya to the central Rift Valley in Ethiopia, including Samburu, western Marsabit, eastern Turkana counties in northern Kenya and reaching as far as Adama in Ethiopia. Consequently, breeding conditions are likely to improve in these areas. Although no rains fell in northern Somalia, vegetation remained generally green on the northern plateau from the heavy rains of Cyclone Gati last November but was drying out on the northwest coast and escarpment. In the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea, light showers fell at times during the first decade on the southern coast of Saudi Arabia near Jizan and on the Tihama of Yemen, extending to the southern coast of Eritrea. Light rains also fell further north on the coast of Saudi Arabia between Yenbo and Duba. As a result, ecological conditions remained favourable in these areas as well as on the northern coastal plains in Eritrea and adjacent coastal areas of Sudan to Port Sudan. In the absence of rains, vegetation was drying out in northeast Sudan along Wadi Oko/Diib and adjacent areas in southeast Egypt. In the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia, light rains fell during the first decade in areas near Qaryat Al Ulya and Al Hofaf. These rains combined with warmer than usual temperatures allowed conditions to become favourable for breeding at least one month earlier than in most years. Dry conditions prevailed in the interior of Yemen. In Oman, light rains fell at times in central areas between Marmul and Duqm, (*FAO DL bulletin No. 509*).

1.1 Djibouti

Light rains fell mainly during the first decade of February in most parts of the country, consequently, annual vegetation started greening in some locations where rainfall occurred.

1.2 Eritrea

Moderate rains fell mainly on the northern and southern Red Sea coastal plains during the first and second decades of February. It was also reported that vegetation was green and soil was wet through out the northern Red Sea coastal plains early during the month though, it was dry in the remaining locations of the coastal plains.

1.3 Ethiopia

Most parts of the country experienced dry though conditions light to moderate rains fell in some areas in the southwestern, central Rift Valley and northeastern parts of the country during the first and second decades of February. Parts of Somali region, south and southeastern parts of Oromia and Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples region (SNNPR) were dry but vegetation has remained green. However, the ecological conditions continued to remain unfavourable for Desert Locust breeding.

1.4 Kenya

During February, light rains fell at times in some parts of the central, rift Valley and western regions, while the northeastern, eastern and most of the northern parts remained dry. Consequently, annual vegetation continued to dry out in the northern, northeastern and eastern parts of the country, creating unfavourable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

1.5 Somalia

During February, no rain fell in the northern sector of the country. However, some vegetation mainly on the plateau remained green as a result of the heavy rains that fell when Cyclone Gati hit the country during November.

1.6 Sudan

During February, light rains fell along the Red Sea coast. Consequently, ecological conditions remained favourable mainly in the central and southern coastal areas of the country for locust breeding and developments but were dry in the northern coast and sub-coastal areas. Vegetation was also green in the summer breeding areas along the banks of River Nile, Atbara seasonal River and irrigated schemes.

1.7 Tanzania

Moderate to heavy seasonal rains continued to fall during February in most parts of the country. The vegetation was green across the country as a result of the continuation of the seasonal rainfalls.

1.8 Uganda

During February, some parts of eastern, central and southwestern of the country received moderate to heavy rainfalls however, some parts areas within the same regions remained dry and hot. Most parts of northern and northeastern of the country remained hot and dry. These parts are expected to start receiving some rains towards the end of March.

Vegetation was drying and dry in most parts in the north, while it was green in parts of central and southwestern of the country. Vegetation in the rest parts of the country was a mixture of green and drying.

2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*Schistocerca gregaria*) SITUATION DURING FEBRUARY AND FORECAST UNTIL MID-MARCH, 2021

2.1 Djibouti

No locust were reported during February.

Forecast

There remains a risk of a few swarms appearing at times from adjacent areas of Ethiopia and northwest Somalia.

2.2 Eritrea

During February, Desert Locust survey and control operations continued in the central and northern Red Sea coastal plains of the country.

Control operations were conducted in the Northern Red Sea region on mature and immature swarms; which have migrated from northern Ethiopia, near Ghinda (1526N/3904E) and Foro (1515N/3937E), on 1st to 5th instars gregarious and scattered hopper groups, fledglings mixed with low density hoppers around Hasmet (1559N/3914E), Aqbanazuf Plains (1557N/3916E), wekiro and near Mehimet (1723N/3833E).

Control operations also conducted on breeding groups around Aqbanazuf Plains and Wekiro, on immature groups mixed with low density immature adults around Mehimet and in the central coastal areas. In addition, egg laying and hatching were reported around Aqbanazuf Plains and Hasmet.

Ground control teams treated 1,120 ha during the month and bio-pesticide was sprayed on 1 ha in Wekiro as a trial.

Forecast

Hopper groups are expected to form near Wekiro that will start to fledge in April.

2.3 Ethiopia

During February, the Desert Locust situation continued to remain very serious in eastern, southern and southeastern parts of the country as immature swarms were reported in the Somali, Oromia and the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Republic (SNNPR) regions of the country.

The swarms were reported in the Districts of Shebele zone in the Somali region, Bale, east Bale, Borena and Guji zones in the Oromia region and in southern Omo zone in the SNNPR region.

Immature swarms migrated from Somalia through Siti zone of Somali region and from northern Kenya to Borena and Bale zones in Oromia, and to south Omo zone in SNNPR

regions. Immature swarms movements were also reported in eastern Somali, eastern and western Hararghe in Oromia and Dire Dawa administration regions.

Ground and aerial control operations continued on immature swarms around Dire Dawa, Hararghe, Borena, Bale, Arbaminch, Hamere and adjacent areas. Consequently, control teams treated 83,990 ha of which 79,341 ha were by air.

Forecast

Swarms are expected to mature and lay eggs mainly in the south (South Omo, Konso, Borena) and the southern Rift Valley where rain has already fallen or where it falls during March. Additional swarms from northern Somalia may appear near Dire Dawa where breeding is likely if rains fall. Breeding may also occur in the Hara Highlands. Consequently, hopper bands will form by late March and throughout April.

2.4 Somalia

During February, breeding continued on the northwest coast (Somaliland) and in the northeast (Puntland) where an increasing number of immature swarms formed as hopper bands fledged. By the end of the month, a few late instar hopper bands remained on the northwest coast near Djibouti but most of the infestations had declined as hoppers fledged and swarms moved up the escarpment to the northern plateau between Hargeisa (0931N/4402E) and Burco (0931N/4533E) to east Bosaso (1118N/4910E). Newly formed immature swarms were seen on the plateau between Iskushuban, Erigavo (1040N/4720E) and Garowe (0824N/4829E). In the central and southern region, no locusts were reported except for a few infestations on the coast north of Mogadishu (0202N/4520E). The few remaining swarms probably moved to Kenya during the first half of February. Control

operations treated 21,143 ha of which 7,387 ha were by air in the north. (FAO DL bulletin No. 509).

Forecast

More immature swarms will form in Puntland and, to a lesser degree, in Somaliland. The swarms are likely to move to the northern plateau where some may disperse in a westerly direction. Any rainfall that occurs would allow the swarms to mature and lay eggs from late March onwards, giving rise to hatching and hopper band formation in April and May.

2.5 Sudan

Aerial and ground control operations continued on breeding and maturing swarms which were seen in the central coast between Khor Baraka (1811N/3734E) northward to north of Suakin (1908N/3717E) in addition to north in Adhip (1827N/3637E) near Haiya (1820N/3621E).

In the southern coast, control operations were conducted against immature swarms, hopper bands and mature/immature groups in areas around Aiterba (753N/3819E), near the Eritrean border. Hopper bands/groups and immature groups were also controlled in several locations in Diib extended from Ankor (2123N/3602E) northward to Agwatait (2146N/3607E).

In River Nile state, low density and scattered mature/immature adults were reported in several locations on both sides of the Atbara River, and isolated mature adults were seen in two locations in north Dongola (1910N/3027E) in the Northern state.

Control operations treated 16,781 ha of which 12,960 ha by air using 14,036 litres during February.

Forecast

Adult groups and swarms may continue to lay along the Red Sea coast between Suakin and

Tokar where hatching and band formation will occur in March. There is a risk that some groups and small swarms will move inland to the Atbara River and Nile Valley. These could be supplemented by additional groups and swarms arriving from the coast of Eritrea.

2.6 Kenya

During February, immature swarms continued to spread across 24 counties in northern, central southeastern, mid-western and southern parts of the country, where some have reached the northern border of Tanzania. In addition, very few immature swarms arrived from southeastern and western parts of Ethiopia and Somalia respectively during the beginning of the month. However, the number of swarms reported in the country during the month was declining from time to time due to the intensive ground and aerial control operations which were conducted. Control operations treated 11,349 ha of which 6,067 ha were by air.

Forecast

Rainfall during the last week of February may have been sufficient for some swarms to mature and lay in Marsabit, Samburu and Turkana counties, which would give rise to hatching and band formation from late March onwards, however, additional rains are likely to be required during March, mainly in the north and, to a lesser extent, in some central areas where breeding is most likely to take place. If so, hatching and band formation can be expected in April. The scale of breeding this year will be substantially less than in 2020.

2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

Uganda:

During February, no locusts were reported and situation remained calm.

Forecast

There remains a low to moderate risk that a few small swarms from adjacent areas of Kenya could reach Karamoja in the east.

South Sudan

During February, no locusts were reported and situation remained calm.

Forecast

There remains a low to moderate risk that a few small swarms from adjacent areas of Kenya and southwest Ethiopia could reach Eastern Equatoria.

Tanzania

Few immature and maturing swarms arrived from neighbouring areas of Kenya by mid-February in Mwangi district in Kilimanjaro region and Rongai (0307S/3793E) north of Arusha and moved to Landanai (0404S/3708E) in Manyara region. By end of the month, copulation and egg laying was reported in Magadi, Tanzania near Longido (0244S/3642E). Aerial control operation treated 638 ha.

Forecast

Small residual immature and maturing swarms are likely to persist in a few places in the northeast near the Kenya border (Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Arusha regions). As seasonal southerly winds become established over these areas, most of the swarms should move north back into Kenya, however, there is a low risk that any remaining adults could lay eggs in moist, sandy areas.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 509)

Central Region

Swarm invasion of Kenya declines, immature swarms present in Ethiopia (73,838 ha treated) and Kenya (11,349 ha); a few swarms cross to northeast Tanzania (638 ha); hopper bands fledge and 5 ha) and swarms arrive in the interior to lay; scattered adults in Egypt (30 ha) and Yemen.

Western Region

Control operations against adults in Algeria (20 ha); isolated adults in Niger and limited breeding in Morocco.

Eastern Region

No locusts reported.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

4.1 Red-billed *Quelea* birds (*Quelea quelea* sp.)

4.1.1 Kenya

During February, *Quelea* incidences were reported in several locations (0234S/3809E, 0234S/3812E, 0233S/3810E, 0233S/3811E, 0226S/3804E) in Mtito Andei Ward, Makueni county. Consequently, an estimated of 11 million birds were successfully controlled by a DLCO-EA aircraft using 400 litres Vanish 64% ULV. The birds were mainly feeding on Millet and Sorghum crops.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During February, incidences were not reported.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Incidences were not reported.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Monthly report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Monthly report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

Incidences were not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Fall Armyworms continued to appear on seasonal Maize crops in many regions of the country.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences were not reported.

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

Incidences not reported.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Report not received.

Fall Armyworm

Report not received.

Forecast until end of March, 2021

African Armyworm

It is less likely that infestation to appear in region.

Fall Armyworm

Fall Armyworm infestations are likely to continue widely during March in irrigated and seasonal Maize and Sorghum growing areas in the region. Consequently, Member Countries are highly advised to continue monitoring of moth movements and early infestations.

4.3 Tsets fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

4.3.1.1 Tsetse Flies

Incidences were not reported.

For Director

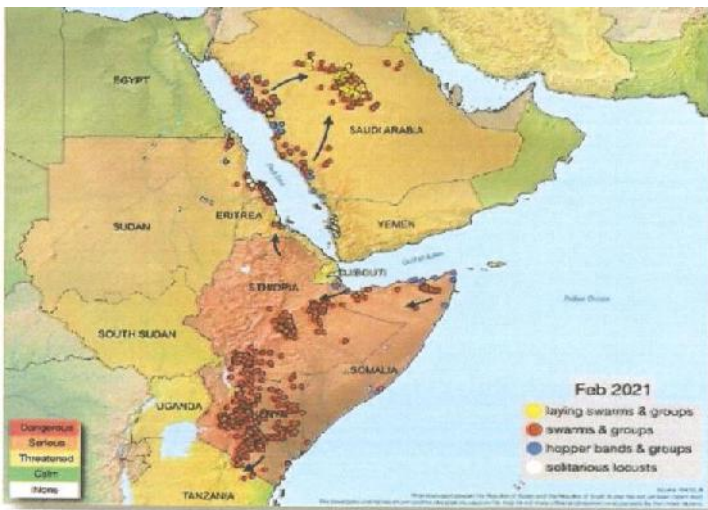
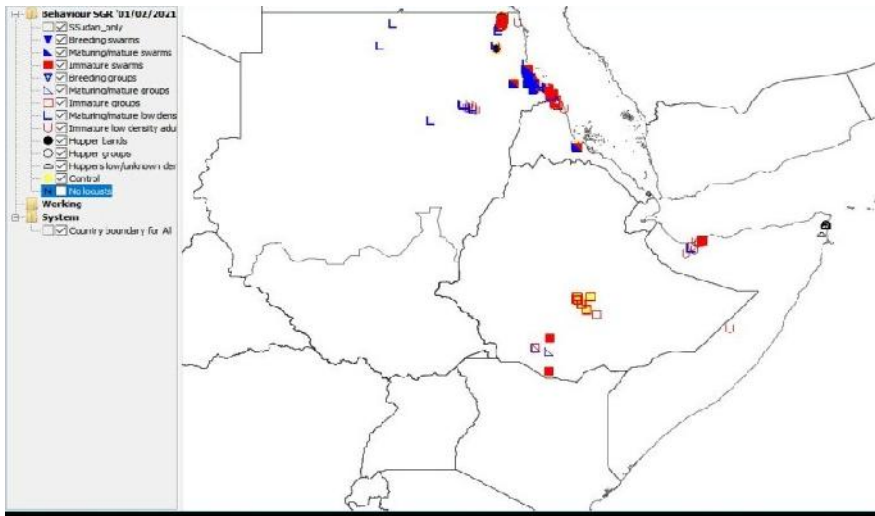
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CIFO, DLCO-EA

4th March, 2021

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website: www.dlco-ea.org

Rain fall and Desert Locust Situation



FAO bulletin No. 509

Note that one swarm likely has been reported several times when flying from one area to another.

Rainfall Map during February, 2021

