

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



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SITREP No. 09/2021-2022

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT
FOR MARCH, 2022**



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

In the Central Region: Similar to February, no significant rain fell in the Horn of Africa as well as in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden during March. Consequently, vegetation was nearly dry in all areas along the coastal plains except for a few places where it was still green. Overall, conditions were not favourable for breeding. During the last week of March, a few light showers fell in parts of southern (Arero-Teltele) and central (Bale Robe) Oromia in southern Ethiopia, and in the eastern parts of the Somali region between Degehabur, Kebridehar and Warder. However, this is unlikely to be enough to give rise to favourable breeding conditions. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 522*).

1.1 Djibouti

No rains fell during March.

1.2 Eritrea

During March, intermittent and localized light rain fell on the Red Sea coastal plains of the country. The vegetation status generally was dry creating unfavourable ecological conditions for DL breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

During March, sunny and dry weather conditions prevailed all over the country.

There was a below average rainfall in the southern parts of the country. Ecological conditions and weather situation generally remained dry in the main locust breeding zones in eastern and southern parts of the country, creating unfavourable conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

RAINFALL. Data (mm)

| Date | Dire Dawa 0936N/4150E | Remark |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 24/03/2022 | 10.0 | |
| Total | 10.0 | |

1.4 Kenya

During March, intermittent and scattered moderate to heavy rains fell in some locations in the Rift Valley, central and western parts of the country. However, ecological conditions remained dry mainly in the northern, north eastern, eastern and north western parts of the country.

1.5 Somalia

No rains fell during March.

1.6 Sudan

During March, no rain fell in the winter breeding areas across the Red Sea coastal plains. Vegetation was dry in the northern coast while it was a mix of dry and green in the southern coast and Tokar Delta. Consequently, ecological conditions became unfavourable for Desert Locust breeding.

1.7 Tanzania

During March, most parts of the country remained dry with some parts in Lake Victoria, western, eastern and southwestern highlands received light to moderate rainfalls. Central, southern and northeastern highlands also received moderate rains during the 4th week of March.

Vegetation including pasture, crops and rangelands remained green in most parts of the country due to the previous months' Cyclone.

1.8 Uganda

Parts of central, southwestern and Lake Victoria basin continued to record moderate to heavy rainfall. Several other parts of the country also started receiving near normal rainfall during the month.

Vegetation was green and greening in most parts of central and southwestern then greening in parts of western and northeastern. Several parts in the north remained dry.

2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*SCHISTOCERCA GREGARIA*) SITUATION DURING MARCH AND FORECAST UNTIL MID-MAY, 2022

2.1 Djibouti

During March, no locusts were reported.

Forecast:

No significant developments are likely.

2.2 Eritrea

During March, ground survey was conducted on the Red Sea coastal plains, north of the Port City of Massawa, and no locusts were reported during March.

Forecast:

No significant developments are likely.

2.3 Ethiopia

During March, immature swarm was reported in Borona Zone (0445N/3849, 0457N/3812E and 0504N/3723E), south Oromia region. During the month, 400 ha of infestation was sprayed by air.

Forecast:

A few small immature swarms may persist in parts of southern Oromia and SNNPR, but breeding is not likely. During April, a few small swarms could move north to areas of recent rainfall along the eastern escarpment and runoff areas between Bale Robe and Jigjga where they will mature but laying could be limited due to the poor rains that are expected.

2.4 Somalia

During March, no locusts were seen during surveys in northwest (Somaliland) and northeast (Puntland) and in central areas near Galkayo (0646N/4725E). (FAO DL bulletin No. 522).

Forecast:

No significant developments are likely.

2.5 Sudan

During March, low density of scattered immature/mature solitarious adults were found during ground surveys in Haderba, northern coast and in Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E), southern coast. Low density of solitarious hopper groups were also detected in a few locations at Adobana (1810N/3816E) in the southern coast.

Forecast:

No significant developments are likely.

2.6 Kenya

No locusts were reported during March.

Forecast:

No significant developments are likely.

2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During March, no locusts were reported in the countries.

Forecast:

No significant developments are likely.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 522)**3.1 Central Region:**

A few small remnant immature swarms in southern Ethiopia (400 ha treated). Scattered adults maturing in a few places on the Red Sea coast of Egypt and Sudan where breeding ended. Isolated adults in a few places on the Gulf of Aden coast in southern Yemen. No locusts reported elsewhere in the region.

3.2 Western Region

No locusts present.

3.3 Eastern Region

No locusts present.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS**4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds (*Quelea quelea* sp.)****4.1.1 Kenya**

On 14th March, *Quelea* birds Infestations were reported in Kisumu County (West and South West Kano, Ahero and other community-based irrigation Schemes). Survey was undertaking to determine the extent of invasion for control operation preparations.

4.1.2 Tanzania

Large flocks of *Quelea* birds were reported causing threats to irrigated Rice schemes in Uyui District, Tabora Region. During the decade of the month, a DLCO-EA aircraft sprayed 250 litres of Bathion ULV on 145 ha of roosting sites killing 4.2 million birds.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Aerial *Quelea* control operations by a DLCO-EA Aircraft continued from 26th to 28th March in Amhara Administrative region. Consequently, an estimated of 3.0 million birds were controlled in one district, where the birds were roosting in three sites on Typha grasses and Acacia trees. During the operations, 175 litres of Bathion 40% ULV was sprayed on 87.5 ha of roosting sites.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Monthly report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Monthly report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

During March, increasing populations of *Quelea* birds were reported in Bulambuli district that were attacking Paddy Rice fields.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

During March, outbreak and infestations continued on crops and pasturelands in central, southwestern and northeastern highlands. Monitoring and control operations continued in collaboration with and advice given by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Heavy infestations continued to occur in Maize fields across the country.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm

Localized outbreaks occurred in eastern (Serere and Bukedea districts), in some locations in central parts (Luwero district) of the country. Ground control operations were progressing with the assistance of the Crop Protection Department of MAAIF.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences were not reported.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Monthly report not received.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences were not reported.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

During March, continuation of African Armyworm infestations reported in Taita Taveta, Makueni, Narok, Nakuru, Kajiado and Bomet counties.

Control operations were undergoing in Narok and Bomet Counties with the collaborations of affected farmers and PP & FSD. More spread and infestations of the worms were reported in Nyamira, Kericho, Migori, Homabay and Busia Counties.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Infestations were reported in Narok and Bomet Counties affecting early planted Maize crops. More incidences were reported in Kakamega, Bungoma and Busia Counties. Consequently, sensitization is being carried out by county teams on the options available for management of the pest.

Forecast until end of April, 2022

African Armyworm:

During March, African Armyworm incidences were reported in several regions in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. It is likely that the pest continues migrating to north and infest areas located in central, northern Rift Valley, northeastern and northern parts of Kenya; northeastern and northern parts of Uganda; southern and southeastern parts of SSD and, the central Rift Valley, southern, southeastern and southwestern parts of Ethiopia.

Therefore, countries are requested to continue mounting the farmers based monitoring and forecasting system for effective early detection, forecasting and interventions measures.

Fall Armyworm

It is likely that infestations to continue in irrigated and in newly planted Maize crops across the region, mainly in Ethiopia, Eritrea, SSD and Sudan with the onset of the rain season.

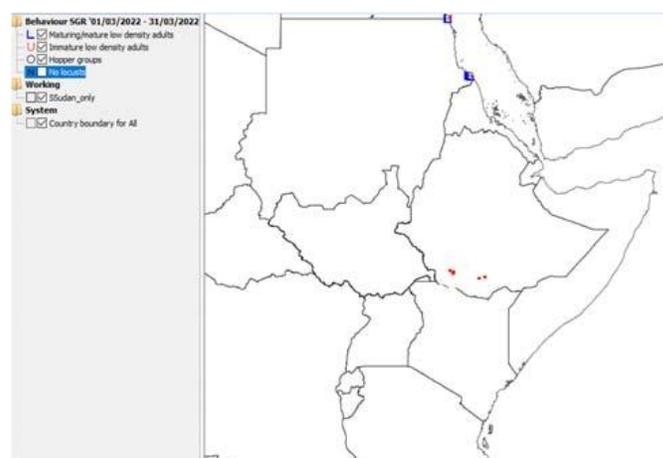
4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences were not reported.

For Director
Mehari Tesfayohannes
CIFO, DLCO-EA
5th April, 2022

For more information about the Organization, please visit incidences Website: www.dlco-ea.org



Immature Swarm