

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)

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SITREP No. 09/2009-2010

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR MARCH, 2010



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, no significant rain fell along both sides of the Red Sea during March. Consequently, vegetation was dry and ecological conditions remained unfavorable in winter breeding areas except on the Red Sea coast north of Jeddah from earlier rains. Conditions also remained dry along both sides of the Gulf of Aden except for a few places on the southern coast of Yemen northwest of Aden where green vegetation was present. Light rains fell during the last week of March in the spring breeding areas of the northern interior of Saudi Arabia. Light to moderate rains fell in the summer breeding areas of Shabwah and Hadhramaut in the interior of Yemen that could cause ecological conditions to become favorable for breeding earlier than most years. Good rains also fell on the plateau of northwest Somalia and in adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia. Light showers were reported in parts of northern and central Oman but vegetation remained dry and conditions were not favorable for breeding. (FAO DL bulletin No. 378)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During the month, no significant rainfall was experienced in the western lowlands. On the highlands, some showers occurred to the South in which signified the start of short rains. In the coastal areas moderate rains occurred in and around Massawa on the 13th and 14th of and to the north on 22nd and 23rd of March. Vegetation in the highland areas remained semi-green sustained by short rain drizzles that occurred during the month. In the western lowlands, vegetation was dry and in the coastal plains it was drying out though large Wadis, north of Massawa were observed green. Maximum and minimum average temperature for Assab and Massawa were 34/23, 37.5/27 Degree Centigrade respectively. Prevailing wind was North Easterlies at a speed of 7 meters/second.

1.3 Ethiopia

Heavy rainfall was occurred for few days during the first half of March in some of the locust breeding areas in eastern Ethiopia around DireDawa and Jijiga.

1.4 Kenya

Moderate to heavy shower rains occurred during the first and the third decade of March in Central, Eastern, Rift Valley and Western

provinces of the country. Consequently, many areas were flooded, human and animal death and property destruction was reported. Vegetation was observed and remained green in most parts of the country due to the continuous rainfalls.

1.5 Somalia

Low to medium rainfall was reported in many regions in the northern parts of the country during March. Consequently, vegetation was green in many locations except Las-Anod (Sool) region. Soil in the coastal plains was reported moist.

1.6 Sudan

No significant rainfall was occurred and vegetation started to dry up.

1.7 Tanzania

The Northern & Southern Highlands, the Lake Zone, and the Coastal Belt had very heavy rains while the Central & Western Regions of the country received moderate to light rains. The vegetation remained green in most parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

Heavy rains and thunderstorms were recorded across most parts of the Country. A massive land slide swept part of Mt. Elgon region, in Bududa District, killing over 350 people, and leaving thousands injured and homeless. The Country also recorded high temperatures that were attributed to the tropical cyclone in the Indian Ocean that caused dry spells with the high temperatures.

Vegetation was reported very green across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust survey was carried out by PPD staff in the eastern lowland winter locust breeding areas from 24-27 March, 2010. No locusts were seen during the survey.

2.3 Ethiopia

Ground survey was not conducted and the locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

Scattered mature solitarious adults were seen at one place in Tokar Delta. Low numbers of fourth and fifth solitarious hopper and mature adults were present on the northern coast at Mohamed Qol (2554N/3709E).

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions (*Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 378*)

Central Region: The locust situation remained calm during March except for one area on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia where numerous very small hopper groups and bands formed as a result of local breeding and concentration in vegetation that remained green. Ground teams treated 153ha.

Western Region: The locust situation remained calm during March throughout the region. Low numbers of solitarious adults persisted in northwest and northern Mauritania. Scattered solitarious adults appeared in areas of recent rainfall south of the Atlas Mountains in northeast Morocco along the border with Algeria. Some of the adults were seen laying eggs. A few adults were also reported in central Sahara in Algeria.

Eastern Region: Isolated adults appeared in a few places in the spring breeding areas of western Pakistan from late February onwards.

3.0 Forecast until mid-May 2010

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely. .

3.5 Sudan

No significant developments are likely.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestation.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Tanzania

Reports of *Quelea quelea* outbreaks were received from Dodoma and Singida regions and ground survey teams have been deployed to confirm the location of the outbreaks.

4.1.2 Kenya

Quelea infestation was not reported

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Armyworm outbreaks were received from Arusha & Iringa regions as follows:-

Arusha region:

Monduli village - 14 ha of Maize crops and 11 ha of grassland were destroyed by the worms.

Mferejini Village:-12 ha of Maize crops & 18 ha. of grassland were attacked by the worms.

Telela Village:-10 ha. of Paddy and 11 ha. of Maize crops were destroyed by the worms.

Iringa region:

Several outbreaks were reported from the region where a total of 120 ha. of Maize crops were destroyed in Mufindi district.

4.2.2 Kenya

Report not received.

4.2.3 Uganda

Armyworm outbreak was reported and confirmed in the Western District of Kasese. A lot of cereal crops, especially Maize was damaged and destroyed. However, local efforts, coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture extension staff contained the problem.

Forecast during April 2010

During April, residual infestation could exist in some of the northern parts of Tanzania, while there is a high probability that infestation could move to the southern, central Rift Valley and southeastern parts of Ethiopia. Therefore, regular monitoring of traps and field crops is highly advised.

4.3 Tse-tse fly

4.3.1 Uganda

Tse-tse flies infestation was observed on the rise during March. The press carried stories about its' escalation and some efforts towards aerial spraying of the same

SIFO

For Director,
06 April, 2010

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