

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR FEBRUARY, 2011



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the **Central Region**, no significant rain fell during February. Consequently, vegetation was starting to dry out on the Red Sea coastal plains. However, it remained green in the Tokar Delta and between Port Sudan and Eit in Sudan. In Saudi Arabia, ecological conditions remained favorable for breeding on the Red Sea coast between Yenbo and Qunfidah. In Yemen vegetation was expected to be drying out on the Tihama coastal plains. Light to moderate rain fell in parts of the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia but vegetation remained dry west of Buraydah. (FAO DL bulletin No. 389)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During February, cold weather condition persisted on the highlands and to some extent in the western lowlands. In the coastal areas, several light showers were reported North of Massawa in Shieb (1553N 3858E), Shelshela (1548N 3912E) and Wakiro (1546N 3914E) areas.

Short rains were also reported to the South of Dekamhare city (1505N 3906E) during the last week of February In the central highland,

natural vegetation was observed semi-green while, bush trees remained green in some large coastal Wadis.

Average high and low temperatures in Assab and Massawa were reported 30/21 and 33/24°C respectively. Prevailing wind direction was North Easterlies at 06mts/sec.

1.3 Ethiopia

During February, the eastern parts of the country remained sunny and cloudy interchanged with a relatively cooler morning and nighttime temperature. Although there were some rains in other parts of the country, there was no rain during the month and vegetation was reported dry in the east.

1.4 Kenya

Most days of February remained sunny and dry except of some torrential rainfalls that occurred for few days during the 3rd decade of the month in some of the coastal, central and eastern parts of the country. This rainfall had triggered greening of vegetation in those areas that had received rainfalls.

1.5 Somalia

During February, small amount of rain fell in some areas in the northwest including the coastal areas. However, vegetation remained dry and the prevailed drought created very unfavorable overall ecological conditions for locust breeding.

1.6 Sudan

Generally, no rainfall occurred during February, mainly in the winter breeding coastal areas. Consequently, vegetation started to dry out in areas where locust infestation occurred during the past few months. This situation created unfavourable ecological condition for further locust breeding.

1.7 Tanzania

Heavy to moderate rains fell in Southern & Northern Highlands, Coastal Belt, Rukwa, Lindi, Mtwara Shinyanga regions and the Lake Zone. Moderate & light rains fell in the Central, Morogoro and Singida regions.

1.8 Uganda

Report not received.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

A late report indicated that during the last week of January, ground control was conducted on 200 ha by PPD on solitary hoppers mixed with mature and immature adults near Mersa Gulbub (1633N/3908E), on the Red Sea coast.

2.3 Ethiopia

Locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported

2.5 Sudan

During February, hopper groups and bands of all instars ranging in size from 10m² to 5 ha were present on the central coast from Port Sudan (1938N/3713E) to south of Suakin (1906N/3719E). Groups of immature and mature adults at densities up to 5,000 adults/ha, some laying eggs, and a laying swarm on 9 February, were also seen in same area. Immature and mature solitary adults and a few groups persisted in the Tokar Delta. During the second half of the month, six small immature and mature swarms, varying in size from 50 to 400 ha, were reported in Wadi Oko just north of Tomala (2002N/3551E). One swarm was seen laying eggs on the 25th. Further north, scattered immature and mature solitary and gregarious adults were present along Wadi Diid to Sufiya (2119N/3613E). During February, control teams treated 9,845ha of which 5,950 ha by air. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 389)

2.6 Other Regions (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 389)

Central Region: Control operations continued during February in Sudan and, to a lesser extent, Egypt against groups of hoppers and adults, bands and swarms, which formed on the Red Sea coast and sub-coastal areas. In Saudi Arabia, hatching and hopper band formation continued on the Red Sea coast. Aerial and ground control operations were carried out in Sudan (9,845ha) and Saudi Arabia (14,196 ha) while only ground control was undertaken in Egypt (265 ha).

Western Region: Small-scale breeding continued for a fifth consecutive month in northwest **Mauritania**, causing hoppers and adults to form numerous small groups. Ground teams treated 74,000 ha during February. Infestations and control operations started to decline by the last decade of the month. Small adult groups appeared and laid eggs along the border of the southern portion of the Western

Sahara in Morocco, and limited control (43 ha) was undertaken. Low numbers of adults persisted in parts of the Sahara in Algeria where ground teams treated small groups in one area (45 ha).

Eastern Region: No locusts were reported in the Region during February.

3.0 Forecast until mid-April 2011

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small concentrations of hoppers and adults may be present on the central Red Sea coast but numbers will decline as vegetation dries out. No further breeding is expected unless more rain falls.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Breeding will continue on the central coast (hatching in early March) and in Wadi Oko (Hatching at mid-month). Low numbers of small hopper bands are expected to form in both areas that will fledge by mid-April (Central coast) and late April (Wadi Oko). As vegetation dries out, locusts will concentrate and form groups, hopper bands and a few small swarms. There is a moderate risk that some groups and swarms will appear in Tokar Delta. Further breeding is likely to occur unless more rains fall.

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

During February, Quelea quelea outbreaks reports were received from Kilimanjaro & Mbeya regions and a DLCO-EA Aircraft has been deployed on 22nd of the month.

Three roosts with an estimated bird population of 4 million on 150 ha of Acacia trees were controlled with 250 liters of Queletox, killing 95% of the bird population.

Birds were feeding on irrigated Rice and crop losses to the birds termed very minimal as the operation was timely

4.1.2 Kenya

Late report

During January, a DLCO-EA Aircraft controlled Quelea birds in Mawndu and Makindu districts in the Eastern, Narok in the Rift Valley and Kisumu in the Western Provinces. Birds were feeding on ripening Sorghum crops and mortality of birds after spray was estimated 90%. Details of the control operation were reported as follow:

Mawndu: on 23rd January, 30 ha of roost site was sprayed using 60 liters of Queletox with a flying time of 1:20 hours.

Makindu: Between 13th and 18th, and on 25th of January, a total of 410 ha of roost sites with an estimated bird population of 10 million were sprayed using 800 liters of Queletox. These operations used 8:55 flying hours.

Narok: on 18th of January, 30 ha of roost site was sprayed using 60 liters of Queletox with a flying time of 0:40 hours.

Kisumu: on 5th and 7th of January, 100 ha of roost site was sprayed using 200 liters of Queletox. Bird population was estimated 0.5

million and 1:40 flying hours were utilized to control the infestation.

During February, *Quelea* infestations were reported and controlled by a DLCO-EA Aircraft in Garsen in the Coastal Province and Moya in the Eastern Province. In both locations, birds were feeding on Rice seeds but the level of damage was not reported.

On 22nd and 24th of the month, 2.5 million birds roosting on 80 ha of Taifa grasses were controlled in Garsen by air using 160 liters of Queletox, and kill was estimated 90%.

On 25th and 26th of the month, 2.5 million birds roosting on 60 ha of Taifa grasses and Blue gum trees were controlled in Moya by air. 120 liters of Queletox, was used and kill was estimated 85%.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Minor Armyworm infestations continued to occur during February in some locations and were reported as follows:

Week 31-1-2011 to 06-2-2011

Moth catches were reported in seven trap stations during the week. Mbeya (30) Naliende (11) Masasi (9) Mbozi (4) Newala (2), Dodoma (2) and Kibaha (2) The traps at Tanga City, Tengeru, Moshi, Rombo, Handeni, LindiRural, Mtama,Iringa, Ismani, Kalenga and Morogoro reported **NIL** catch.

Week 07-2-2011 – 13-02-2011

There was a report of Armyworm outbreak received from two villages Nangoo and Mkungu in Lindi Region.

During the week, eight trap stations reported moth catch as follows Muheza (54), Mbozi(15), Mbeya (13), Kyela (13), Naliendele (13), Newala (5), Dodoma (4) and Mferejine (2). The traps at Tanga City, Tengeru, Moshi,

Rombo, Handeni, Lindi Rural, Mtama, Iringa, Ismani, Kalenga, Rundugai, Karatu, Mulbadaw, and Morogoro reported **NIL** catch.

Forecast during March 2011

During March, Armyworm infestation could occur in the Northern, Coastal and Western regions of Tanzania where moderate to heavy rains were reported. There is also a high probability that moths could migrate to the Coastal and Eastern parts of Kenya where some rainfall and greening of vegetation had occurred. Therefore, regular monitoring of moth traps, pastures and field crops is highly advised.

SIFO

For Director,
04 March, 2011

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