

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)

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SITREP No. 07/2010-2011

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR JANUARY, 2011



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the **Central Region**, light rain fell at times in a few of the winter breeding areas along both side of the Red Sea. In Saudi Arabia, light to moderate showers fell at times on the coast between Jeddah and Rabigh and near Lith. Heavy rains fell on the 26th in the Jeddah area, causing floods, and in the interior between Buraydah and Jubail. In Yemen, showers were reported on the northern coast near Suq Abs on the 19th. (FAO DL bulletin No. 388)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

During January, light to medium rainfall was reported in the coastal and sub coastal areas of the Northern Red Sea Zone though, the Southern Red Sea Zone remained dry. In the highland areas, very cold weather prevailed while in the Western lowlands weather was characterized by cold mornings and hot afternoons.

Green natural vegetation was observed on the escarpment and sub coastal foothills. In large coastal Wadis, main crops were harvested and secondary ratoon cycle crops were green. In

the highland vegetation was semi-green, while in the Western lowlands vegetation was observed dry.

Average high and low temperature of Assab and Massawa were 29/18 and 34/23 Degree Centigrade respectively. Prevailing wind was North Easterlies at a speed of 07mts/sec.

1.3 Ethiopia

Sunny and cloudy weather conditions with relatively cooler morning and night time temperatures prevailed in eastern Ethiopia. Though, most days of the month remained dry in the country, some areas in the northern, southern and north-eastern had received low to moderate rainfall during mid-January. Generally, vegetation was dry and drying out in most parts of the country, particularly in the east where spring Desert Locust breeding occurs.

1.4 Kenya

The month of January experienced sunny and dry weather conditions except of torrential rainfall that occurred for two days during the beginning of the 3rd decade of the month in some of the coastal, central and eastern parts of the country.

Annual vegetation was dry in most parts of the country while some perennial vegetation remained green.

1.5 Somalia

During January, vegetation remained generally dry except for small green patches in the northern highlands and few places on the northern coastal areas.

1.6 Sudan

On 9th of January, light rains fell in Tokar Delta and the southern coast, and the last rain fell on 7th of January in the central Red Sea coast. However, vegetation remained green and greening in both areas and soil was wet. In the northern coast, last rain was recorded in late December but vegetation was green, and soil was wet. In Wadi Diib/Oku, vegetation was almost drying out and soil was dry creating unfavourable conditions for locusts to breed.

1.7 Tanzania

Scattered moderate rains fell in the Lake Zone, Rukwa & Mbeya regions while the coastal belt had light rains.

The rest of the country remained hot and dry.

1.8 Uganda

Apart from the South-western parts of the country that continued to record scattered showers and some mild thunderstorms, most parts of the country remained dry. The Central region has been dry and hot for the whole of January 2011.

Weather forecasts still indicate the possibility of drought in the first quarter of 2011 that should otherwise be wet season.

The vegetation was generally green in the central and western parts of the country. In the Northern region, it was drying with some wildfires being reported in some areas.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

During January, few solitary adults were seen near Afabet (1612N/3841E) and west of Tio (1441N/4057E) during a ground survey that was carried out by PPD.

2.3 Ethiopia

Although no survey was conducted during the month the locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported

2.5 Sudan

Between 16 to 22 January 2011, an estimated of 23,850 ha were surveyed by PPD staff along the southern, central and northern Red Sea coast, Wadi El Diib/Oku and Tokar. 1,474 ha were reported infested and 1,426 ha (926 ground + 500 air) were treated using 1,476 litres of Insecticides (1,386 ltrs of Polytrin C220 ULV + 90 ltrs of Malathion 57% EC) at a rate of 1 – 2 ltrs/ha. It was reported that by the end of the month, control teams treated 3638 ha by ground and 3420 ha by air.

In the central Red Sea coast, medium density breeding swarms were detected laying eggs between Suakin (1906N/3719E) and Port Sudan (1938N/3713E) on 200 ha on 1st, 16th and 18th of the month and were treated aurally. Hopper bands of hatchlings up to 5th instars were also found with a size ranged from 1000 m² to 5 ha. Medium densities of solitary and gregarious hopper groups of 1st up to 5th instars and mature gregarious breeding groups at 600 to 2,500 individuals/ha were also observed and treated in many places. **In Wadi El Diib/Oku**, hopper bands of 3rd and 4th instars at 20 to 30 m² size and low densities of immature/maturing solitary scattered adults were found in few locations.

100 ha were treated and 100 litres of insecticide used in the control operations.

In Toker Delta and the southern coastal parts, solitary and gregarious, hopper groups of 3rd instars up to fledglings and immature/mature adult groups at a density of 1000 individuals/ha were also observed. 25 ha were treated by ground means in Toker Delta using 50 litres of Insecticide.

In the southern parts, only low densities of mature solitary scattered adults were seen at two locations.

In the northern coastal parts, hopper bands of 1st up to 4th instars were found at a density of 40 to 6,000/m². All infested areas were treated using 8 litres of Insecticide.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 388)*

Central Region: Hatching and band formation occurred in the winter breeding area along the Red Sea coast in Sudan and Saudi Arabia during January. Several swarms were reported in the same area. More than 7,000 ha were treated in Sudan, partially by air, and nearly 2,800 ha in Saudi Arabia. A small swarm and breeding were reported in adjacent areas of southeast Egypt where teams treated nearly 400 ha. In Yemen, small-scale breeding occurred on the Red Sea coast but locust numbers remained low and control was not required.

Western Region: Small-scale breeding continued for a fourth consecutive month in northwest **Mauritania**, causing locusts to increase in number and from small groups. Ground control operations intensified, treating more than 14,000 ha during the first two decades of January. Some of the infestations extended into the southern portion of the Western Sahara in Morocco where limited control (55 ha) was undertaken. Low numbers of adults were present in parts of the Sahara in Algeria.

Eastern Region: Locust populations continued to decline in summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border during January, and the situation had returned to normal.

3.0 Forecast until mid-March 2011

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present along parts of the Red Sea coastal plains between Sheib and Karora. Small-scale breeding may occur in areas that receive rainfall or runoff, causing locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in the northwest on the coast and breed on a small scale in areas that receive rainfall.

3.5 Sudan

Locust numbers will increase on the central coast as hatching continues during the first week of February, leading to the formation of hopper groups and bands. Adults are expected to form small groups and a few swarms throughout the forecast period, mainly on the central coast and to a lesser extent in Wadi Oko/Diib and the Tokar Delta. Breeding may also continue in the Tokar Delta.

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 January, Quelea infestation was not reported. However, small-scale breeding is likely commencing in the traditional breeding areas.

4.1.2 Kenya

A DLCO-EA Aircraft controlled Quelea birds in Kibwezi district in the Eastern Province and Narok district in the Rift Valley by mid and end of January. Birds were feeding on ripening Sorghum crops. However, details of the control operation were not available at the time of compilation of the report.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Armyworm infestations were occurred in the following locations and were reported as follows:

Week 27-12-2010 - 02-01-2011

Lindi & Masasi Districts in the Southern region and moth catch were reported as follows:-

Mbeya (61) Kyela (17) and Mbozi (10)

Week 03-01-2011 - 09-01-2011

Kilosa and Mikase in Morogoro Region however, moth catches were not reported in the same areas. Other eleven trap stations reported moth catches as follows:-

Mbeya (85) Masasi (80) Kyela (19) Handeni (10) Kibaha (8) Mtama (3) Tengeru (2) Naliendele (2) Dodoma (2) Moshi (1) Rombo Mkuu (1).

Week 10-01-2011 - 16-01-2011

Mtama in Lindi and Mtibwa in Mvomero Districts in Morogoro Region.

Nine traps stations reported moth catches as follows:-

Mbeya (129) Masasi (37) Shinyanga (17) Mbozi (12) Handeni (5) Naliendele (5) Rombo Mkuu (2) Mulbadaw (2) and Kibaha (1)

Week 17-01- 2011 - 23-01-2011

Lindi District and Lindi Rural where moth catches were not reported.

Eight trap stations reported moth catches as follows:-

Mbeya (34) Newala (10) Masasi (9) Shinyanga (6) Mbozi (6) Handeni (5) Kyela (4) and Rombo Mkuu (1).

Forecast during February 2011

During February, Armyworm infestation will continue to occur in the Southern region and the infestation will spread to most locations in the Central, Coastal and Western regions of Tanzania. There is also a high probability that moths could migrate to the Coastal and Eastern parts of Kenya. Therefore, regular monitoring of moth traps, pastures and field crops is highly advised.

SIFO

For Director,

04 February, 2011

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