

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR MARCH, 2011



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the **Central Region**, good rains fell in mid-March along both side of the Red Sea from Lith to Rabigh in Saudi Arabia, near Suakin in Sudan and Between Mersa Gulbub and Tio in Eritrea. Light showers also fell at times in the spring breeding areas of the interior of Saudi Arabia near Riyadh. Vegetation was drying out on the Red Sea coast in Egypt between Shalatyn and the Sudanese border, although small areas of green vegetation persisted in some places near Halaib. Although light rain fell on the Red Sea coast in Yemen near Hodeidah, vegetation remained mostly dry except on the southern plains where small areas of green vegetation were present. Light rain fell from North Darfur, Sudan to Jebel Uweinat in southwestern Egypt in the third decade of March. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 390*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to medium seasonal short rains continued to fall on the highlands from 1st to 10th of March. In the Southern Region, rainfall was reported in and around Adi Ugri (1500N/3850E) and Dekemhare (1505N/3906E). Coastal areas notably in and

around Sheib medium showers were recorded on 7th and 9th of the month. Some locations in the north and south of the Red Sea coast had also received some light rains.

The following rainfall was recorded in Asmara (1520N/3858E):

Date	Rainfall (mm)
01/03/2011	1.0
03/03/ “	2.0
06/03/ “	1.0
08/03/ “	3.0

Vegetation in the highland and coastal Wadis were observed semi-green. However, in the western lowlands and other coastal plains natural vegetation were observed drying out. Average high and low temperatures of Assab and Massawa were 24/31 and 29/36 degree centigrade respectively.

Prevailing wind was North Easterlies with average speed of 05 meters/second.

1.3 Ethiopia

During March, cloudy weather conditions prevailed with a relatively cooler morning and nighttime but humid and warm daytime in the eastern parts of the country. Although there were some rains in many areas, generally the vegetation remained dry with little greening in

the eastern parts that are usually the spring breeding areas for locusts and other migratory pests.

There was some amount of rainfall during the first half of the month and it encouraged some greening of vegetations in Dire Dawa and its surroundings where rains fell. There were good rains in other parts of the country and generally the vegetation was progressively greening.

1.4 Kenya

Most days of March remained sunny and dry except of some torrential rainfalls that occurred after mid-month in some parts of the country. These rainfalls had triggered greening of vegetation in several areas that had received rainfalls.

1.5 Somalia

During March, small amount of rain fell in coastal and sub-coastal areas in the north. However, vegetation remained dry due to the prolonged drought and overall ecological conditions are not favorable for locust breeding.

1.6 Sudan

Generally, no significant rainfall occurred during March, mainly in the winter breeding coastal areas. Light showers were reported in North Darfur and on the Red Sea coast near Suakin. On 17th March, unusual light to moderated rains fell in Toker Delta and in the southern coastal parts causing ecological conditions to improve slightly in those areas.

1.7 Tanzania

Most parts of the country received heavy to moderate rains during March due to the onset of the rainy season.

1.8 Uganda

Most parts of the country started receiving first rains from mid of March. The rains had been generally moderate but heavy showers and thunderstorms reported in some places. Vegetation was reported generally dry across most parts of the country, however started greening with the onset of the rains.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

A late report indicated that 1st to 4th instar solitarious hoppers and immature and mature solitarious adults were present on the Red Sea coast near Mersa Gulbub (1633N/3908E) in February. Some hoppers formed medium density groups and ground teams treated 720 ha. However, in March no locusts were seen during a ground survey conducted by PPD staff on the southern and northern coastal areas.

2.3 Ethiopia

Locust situation remained calm.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported

2.5 Sudan

During the second half of March, Desert Locust activities declined in the Red Sea coast. Intensive surveys had been conducted by PPD staff along the coast covering the Central coast, the Northern coast & Wadi El Diib, Toker Delta and the Southern coast. During the month, 31,900 ha were surveyed and only 401 ha were reported infested with scattered immature solitarious and gregarious adults up to 350 adults/ha in Wadi Diib near the Egyptian border. Low to medium density hopper bands of all instars and groups of immature solitarious and gregarious adults at

densities up to 4,000 adults/ha were also present on the coastal plains from Port Sudan (1938N/3713E) to the south of Suakin (1906N/3719E). During March, control teams treated 3,740 ha of infestations of which 2,600 ha by air.

2.6 Other Regions *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 390)*

Central Region: Aerial and ground control operations increased during March in Saudi Arabia where more than 30,000 ha of hopper bands and groups of hoppers and adults were treated on the central Red Sea coastal plains. Two small immature swarms formed and were treated in one area. Locust infestations declined on the Red sea coast in Sudan due to on-going control operations (3,740 ha) against hopper bands and adult groups. Hatching continued in Egypt and ground control teams treated some 2,200 ha of hopper bands and groups of hoppers and adults. A few adults were seen in northern Oman and in crops on the Red Sea coast in Yemen. During the forecast period, small groups and swarms could form on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia and move into the spring breeding areas of the interior of the country. There is an increased risk that a few groups or swarmlets could cross the Red Sea to Sudan from early May onwards.

Western Region: Locust infestations declined during March in northwest Mauritania even though Small-scale breeding continued for a sixth consecutive month, and hoppers and adults formed small groups that were treated (4,768 ha). Small adult groups and two small swarms appeared in adjacent areas of southern Western Sahara in Morocco and laid eggs. Control teams treated 314 ha. Limited control operations (290 ha) were also carried out in the central Sahara of Algeria against adult groups. Few adults were reported on the Tamesna Plains in northern Niger. During the forecast period, locust numbers are expected to continue to decline although limited hatching will occur in the northwest and adjacent areas of Western Sahara.

Eastern Region: Low numbers of locusts appeared in the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan in early March. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding in areas of recent rainfall will cause locust numbers to increase slightly but remain low and below threatening levels.

3.0 Forecast until mid-May 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

Locust numbers will decline on the Red Sea coast and in Wadi Diib due to control operations and drying vegetation. Scattered adults and perhaps a few small groups are likely to appear in a few areas along the Nile and Atbara Rivers between Khartoum and Dongola. There is an increasing risk that a few groups or swarmlets could arrive from the eastern side of the Red Sea after early May.

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 March, *Quelea quelea* outbreak was reported in Dodoma Region.

A DLCO-EA Aircraft sprayed 5 roosts having an estimated bird population of 6.3 million. They were roosting on 110 ha of Acacia trees/Reeds/Typha grasses and sprayed with 270 lts. of Queletox killing 85% of the bird population.

Crops saved included Sorghum, Millet & Paddy.

4.1.2 Kenya

During March, *Quelea* infestations were reported and controlled by a DLCO-EA Aircraft in Embu, Moya, Kigo and Kiratu localities in the Eastern Province. In all locations, birds were feeding on Rice seeds but the level of damage was not reported. On 14th of March, 0:35 minutes of aerial survey was done in Kigo to identify and estimate the size of infestation.

On 9th, an estimated of 4.0 million birds roosting on 40 ha of Blue-Gum trees were controlled in Embu using 80 liters of Queletox and kill was estimated 90%. Spray time was 0:40 minutes.

On 12th, an estimated of 1.0 million birds roosting on 70 ha of Acacia trees were controlled in Moya using 70 liters of Queletox and kill was estimated 90%. Spray time was 0:30 minutes.

On 15th, an estimated of 0.7 million birds roosting on 40 ha of Blue-Gum trees were controlled in Kigo using 80 liters of Queletox and kill was estimated 80%. Spray time was 0:35 minutes.

On 16th, an estimated of 1.2 million birds roosting on 25 ha of shrubs were controlled in Kiratu using 80 liters of Queletox and kill was estimated 80%. Spray time was 0:40 minutes.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

Week 14-2-2011 - 20-2-2011

There was a report of Armyworm outbreak received from Mvomero District in Morogoro Region. Muheza (83), Tanga City (22), Mbeya (10), Sanya Juu (10) Mbozi (7), Dodoma (4) and Handeni (1) reported moth catches.

Week 21-2-2011 – 27-2-2011

Armyworm outbreak report was received from Mvomero District and Kilosa District in Morogoro Region.

Three trap stations Mbeya (16), Muheza (14) and Mbozi (6) reported moth catches.

Week 28-2-2011 - 06-3-2011

Armyworm outbreak was reported in Mvomero District in Morogoro region.

Moth catches were reported in Mbeya (14), Kyela (9), Muheza (6), Mulbadaw (2) and Mbozi (1).

Week 07-3-2011 - 13-3-2011.

There was no report of Armyworm outbreak received but Kyela (19), Mbeya (11), Mbozi (3) and Moshi (1) reported moth catches.

Week 14-3-2011 - 20-3-2011

Armyworm outbreak was reported in Moshi and Rombo Districts in Kilimanjaro District. Rombo (310), Shimbi Mashariki (275), Muheza (8) and Mbeya (7) reported moth catches.

Forecast during April 2011

During April, Armyworm infestations could occur in the Northern and northeastern parts of Tanzania and there is an increasing risk that infestation could appear in the Coastal, Southern Rift Valley and Eastern parts of Kenya where some rainfall and greening of vegetation was observed. Therefore, regular

monitoring of moth traps, pastures and field crops is highly advised.

SIFO

For Director,
05 April, 2011

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