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Skies go black in Africa's worst locust plague in decades

Associated Press, Published: 26 Jan, 2020

The worst outbreak of desert locusts(蝗蟲) in Kenya in 70 years has seen hundreds of millions of the bugs swarm into the East African nation from Somalia(索馬里) and Ethiopia(埃塞俄比亞). Those two countries have not had an infestation(侵擾) like this in a quarter-century(四分一世紀), destroying farmland and threatening(威脅) an already vulnerable(受威脅) region with devastating(毀滅性的) hunger.

When rains arrive in March and bring new vegetation(植被) across much of the region, the numbers of the fast-breeding locusts could grow 500 times before drier weather in June curbs(制止) their spread, the United Nations says.

About US\$70 million is needed to step up aerial pesticide spraying(殺蟲劑噴灑), the only effective way to combat them, the UN says. That won't be easy, especially in Somalia, where parts of the country are in the grip(控制) of the extremist group(極端主義組織).

The rose-coloured locusts turn whole trees pink, clinging to branches like quivering ornaments before taking off in hungry, rustling clouds. As thick clouds of the insects descend on plants and blacken the sky, Kenyans have been seen shooting in the air, banging cans and racing around, waving sticks in desperation to shoo them away.

Farmers are afraid to let their cattle out for grazing, and their crops of millet, sorghum and maize are vulnerable, but there is little they can do. About 70,000 hectares of land in Kenya are already infested.

A single swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square kilometre of farmland, an area the size of almost 250 football fields. Even a small swarm of the insects can consume enough food for 35,000 people in a single day, said Jens Laerke of the UN humanitarian office in Geneva.

“This one, ai! This is huge,” said Kipkoech Tale, a migratory pest control specialist with the agriculture ministry. “I’m talking about over 20 swarms that we have sprayed. We still have more. And more are coming.”

Please read the following newspaper carefully and answer the questions at the back page.

<p>What: <i>(Hint: What is the <u>main</u> <u>controversy</u> and <u>concepts</u> of <u>LS</u> are mentioned in the news above?)</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>When: <i>(Hint: In what time did the above news break out?)</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/>
<p>Where: <i>(Hint: In what place did the above news take place?)</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Who: <i>(Hint: What kind of people are involved in the above news? Mention THREE.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● _____● _____● _____
<p>Why: <i>(Hint: Why this accident make many people feel shocked?)</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Reflection (30-50 words): <i>(Hint: What are your feelings/ opinions towards the news above? Any suggestion/ solutions to solve the problem or situation mentioned above?)</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>