



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR LESTE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Seeds of Life - PO Box 221, Dili Timor-Leste

Seeds of Life
Fini ba Moris



**El Niño Timor-Leste Update: Animals dying and
crop failures on the south coast**

16/01/2016 – 31/01/2016

Some good rains have fallen across Timor-Leste in the northern areas and in the mountains which has brought welcome relief to farmers. However, the south coast has received very little rain which has resulted in many areas experiencing crop failure. In other areas the crop is performing so poorly that farmers consider it not worthwhile to weed so the crop is neglected and further stressed. More animals have been dying along the south coast and in some areas along the north coast. There are further delays in rice field preparation as farmers wait for enough rain to increase flow in the rivers.

From West to East...

Oecussi has received good rains in the western area and some farmers have started planting rice. Toward the east and down on the coast there has been less rain and corn crops are wilting.

*Inspecting a crop in Liafau, Oecusse
with low plant density due to crop
stress.*

(Photo: Wayan Tambun)



Bobonaro has received some more good rains in the main valley and into the mountains but the area around Atabae and Balibo continues to remain dry. Crops are wilting in these areas and some farmers are not weeding.

*Crops are wilting in the background, the
plot in the foreground performed so
badly it has not been weeded.*

(Photo: Wayan Tambun)



Covalima has had continued dry weather along the coast which has resulted in large scale crop failure in this key maize producing area.

Liquica (as per last report) has received some rains in the mountains. All along the coast is still very hot and dry with many crops withered and some have failed.

Ermera has had good rains and crops are growing well.

Dili has received some rains with some crops in and Atauro appears to be coping.

Aileu has received some good rains across the Municipality and the surviving crops are growing well.

Ainaro has received big rains in the mountains but the Administration Post of Hato-udo is in a critical state with lots of crops failed.

Manufahi has received very little rainfall along the coast and some crops are wilting and dying.

Manatuto north coast areas are dry and there has been crop failure in the Laclo area. Along the south coast is also an area of concern.

Baucau has received rain in the mountains but the coastal areas of Vemasse and Laga have crops at risk. In Baguia, the corn had grown to flowering stage and strong winds resulted in corn being knocked over.

Viqueque is still very dry along the coast. One Commercial Seed Producer reports that in Uato Carbau and Uatulari "all the maize crops have died and farmers have no seed to grow again. In the town food is difficult. Animals are losing condition and some have died." This situation was also confirmed by staff from Catholic Relief Services.

Very poor condition of crops in Suco Babulo, Uatulari, Viqueque.

(Photo: CRS)



Lautem on the eastern end again has had very little rain and farmers report continued wilting of crops. On the plateau there has been some rain in some areas.

In Lautem, buffalo (background) look for relief in remaining water hole with remains of two dead animals in foreground.

(Photo: CRS)



Warning (areas that require immediate assistance):

- Coastal areas of Lautem and Viqueque losing crops and animals.
- South coast areas from Dotik through to Suai

It is imperative that relief is sent quickly to those communities that are experiencing real difficulties.

The FAO conservation agriculture project is still having success stories with clear differences for those plots that have been doing no-till and mulching the soils.



Farmers in Lore, Lautem, where there has been no rain for a month, showing two corn plots: the traditional system of tilling and removal of organic matter on the left and conservation agriculture on the right. (Photo: Ruben Flamarique)

Much of the information for this report was submitted by Data Base Officers and Food Security Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries based in Municipal centres. We appreciated reports from Catholic Relief Services and those who have contributed photos.

Regards,

Samuel Bacon

Cropping Systems Advisor

Seeds of Life

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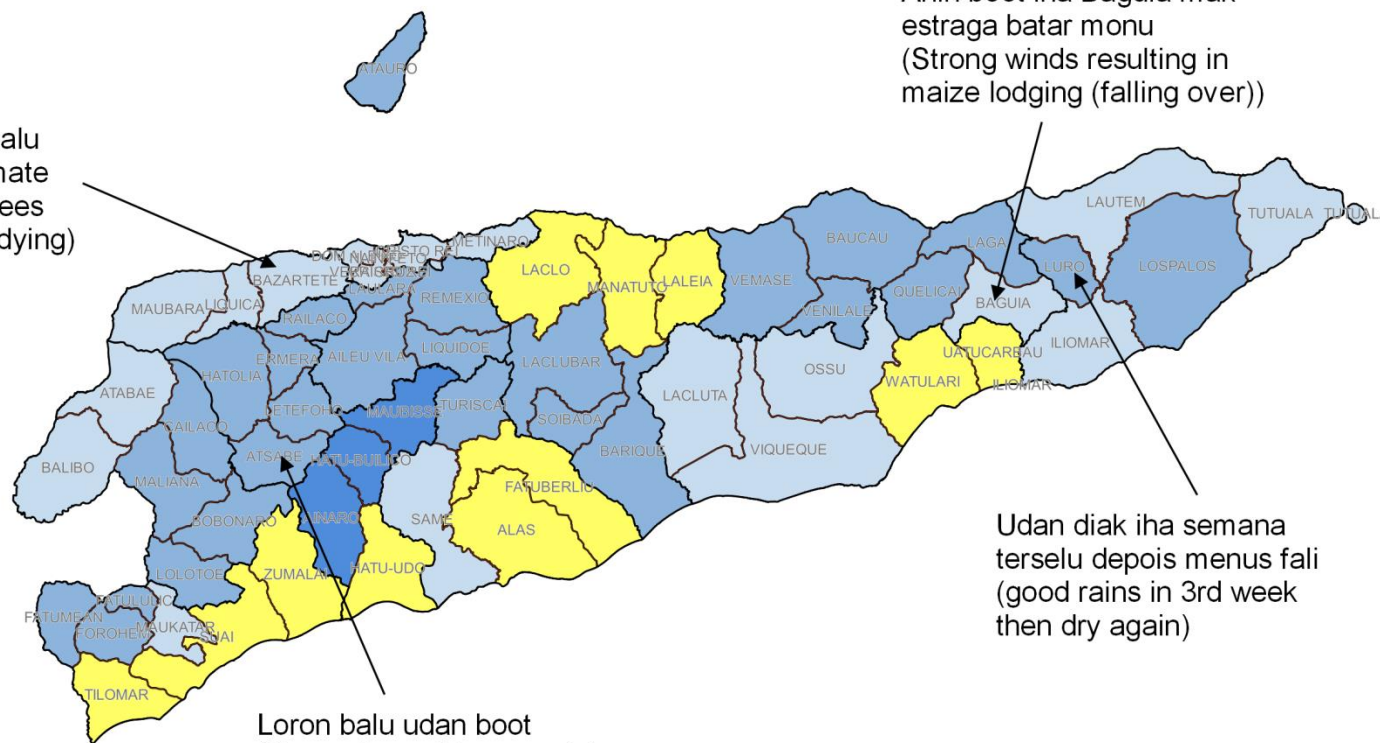


Janeiru 16/01/16 - 31/01/16

Anin boot iha Baguia mak
estraga batar monu
(Strong winds resulting in
maize lodging (falling over))

Udan diak iha semana
terselu depoiss menus fali
(good rains in 3rd week
then dry again)

Loron balu udan boot
(Some days of heavy rain)



Dadus iha geral deit liu husi husu agrikultor sira
iha posto administrativo.
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Seeds of Life
Fini ba Moris

Produsaun: S. Bacon
Data: 3/02/2016
Projeksaun: WGS84
Lokasaun: S -8.8o, E 125.8o
Skala: 1:1250000

Kona ba Udan:
 Udan lae iha - iha loron ida mos lae iha durante semana rua
 Udan uitoan - udan ne'ebé la sufsente ba to'os
 Udan naton - udan diak ba ita nia to'os
 Udan boot - udan liu buat ne'ebé ita preseiza
 Udan boot demais - udan estraga to'os ka fatin

Legenda

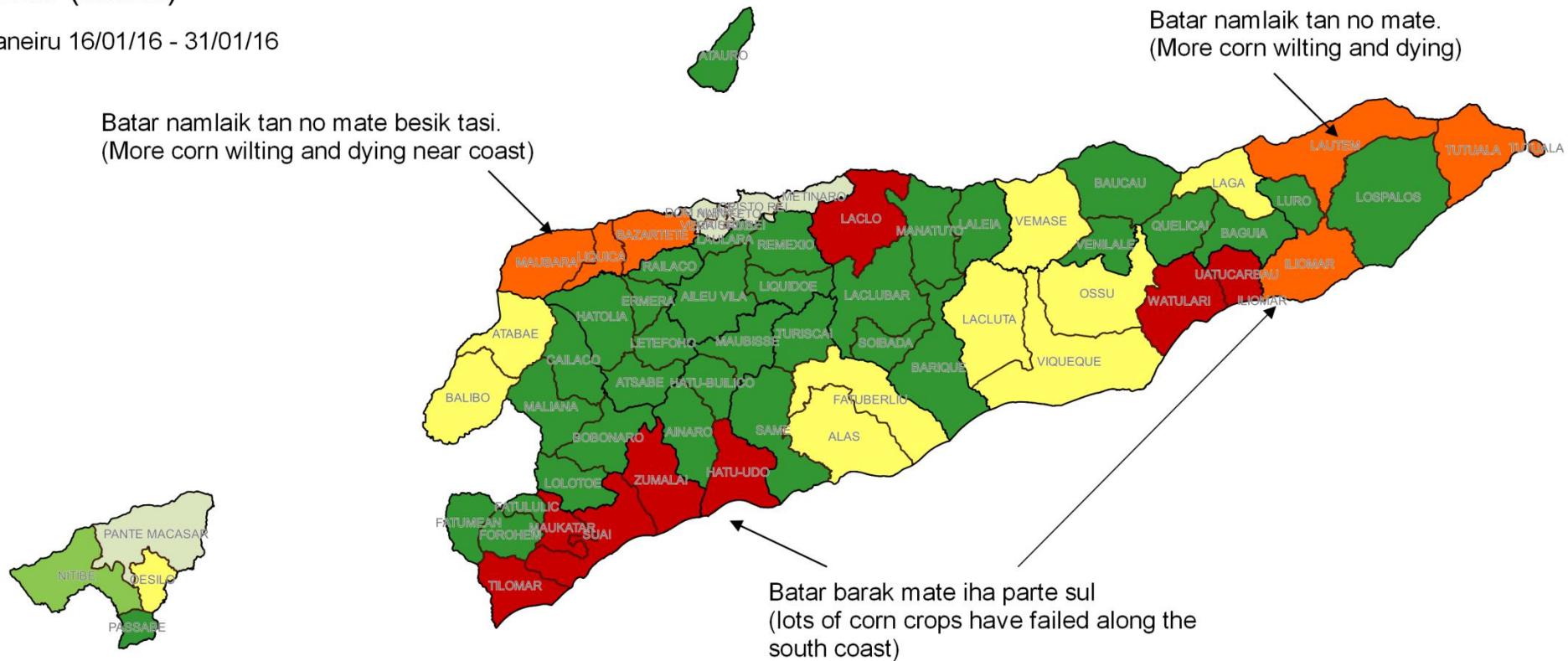
Udan (Rain)

-  udan lae iha (no rain)
-  udan uitoan (low rain)
-  udan naton (enough rain)
-  udan boot (big rain)

Janeiru 16/01/16 - 31/01/16

Batar namlaik tan no mate besik tasi.
(More corn wilting and dying near coast)

Batar namlaik tan no mate.
(More corn wilting and dying)



Batar barak mate iha parte sul
(lots of corn crops have failed along the
south coast)

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Kona ba Batar:
La kuda - sidauk kuda batar
Moris diak - batar lao diak no buras
Namlai - batar komesa sae aat tanba udan menus
Balu mate - mate iha fatin balu deit
Barak mate - batar barak mate iha Posto Admin

Legenda

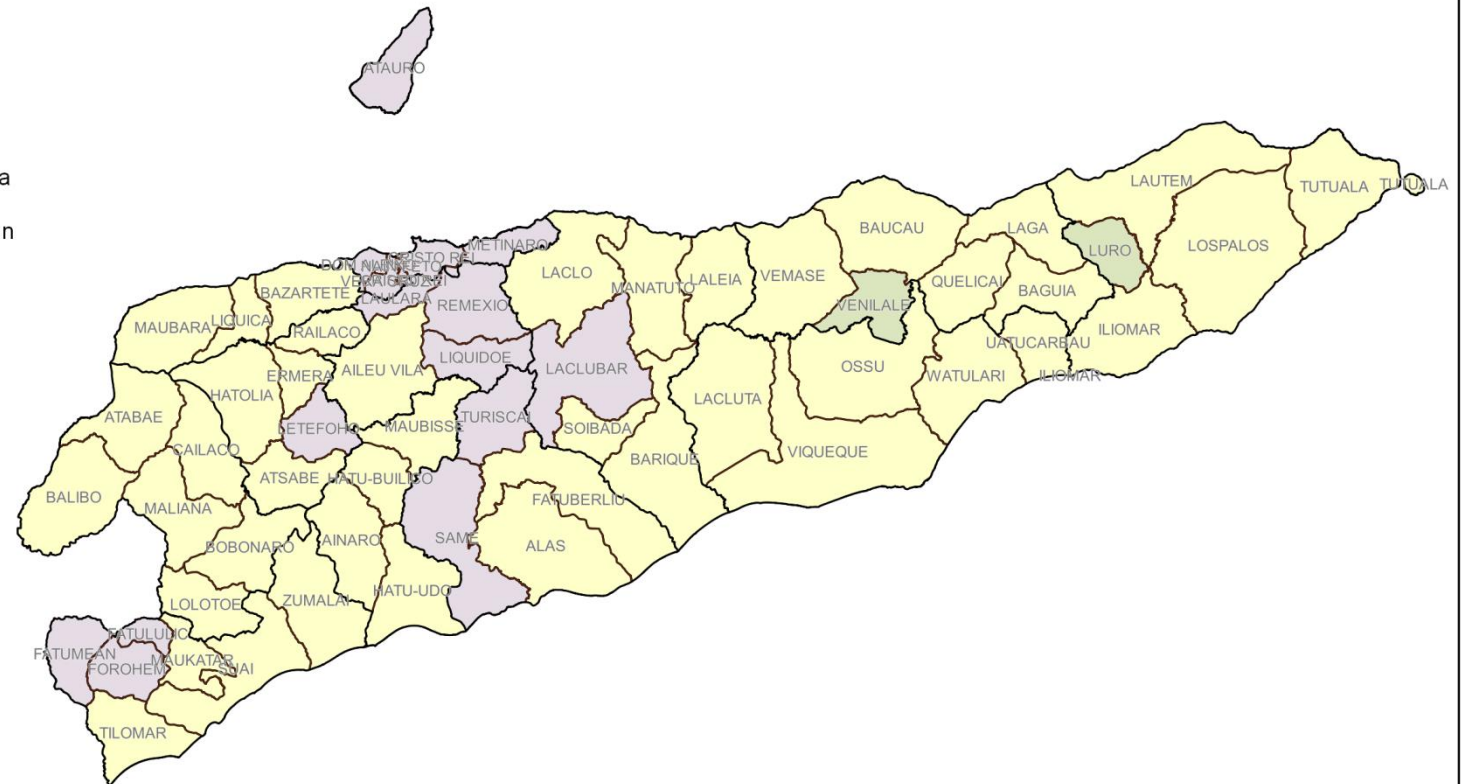
Batar (corn)

-  la kuda (not planted)
-  balu kuda ona (some planted)
-  barak kuda ona (many planted)
-  moris diak (growing well)
-  namlaik (wilting)
-  balu mate ona (some failed)

Hare (Rice)

Janeiru 16/01/16 - 31/01/16

Iha fatin barak to'os nain sidauk prepara
rai tanba maran liu
(In many places farmers have not begun
preparing rice fields as it is too dry)



Informasaun Mapa



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Agricultural
Land Use & GIS
ALAGIS
National Institute of Statistics of Timor-Leste

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Informasaun Dadus

Kona ba Hare:
La kuda - sidauk kuda hare
Balu kuda ona - iha fatin balu, laos P. Admin hotu
Moris diak - hare lao diak no buras
Namlaik - hare komesa sae aat tanba bee menus
Balu koileta - iha fatin balu sei koa hare
Balu mate - mate iha fatin balu deit
Barak mate - hare barak mate iha Posto Admin

Legenda

Hare (Rice)

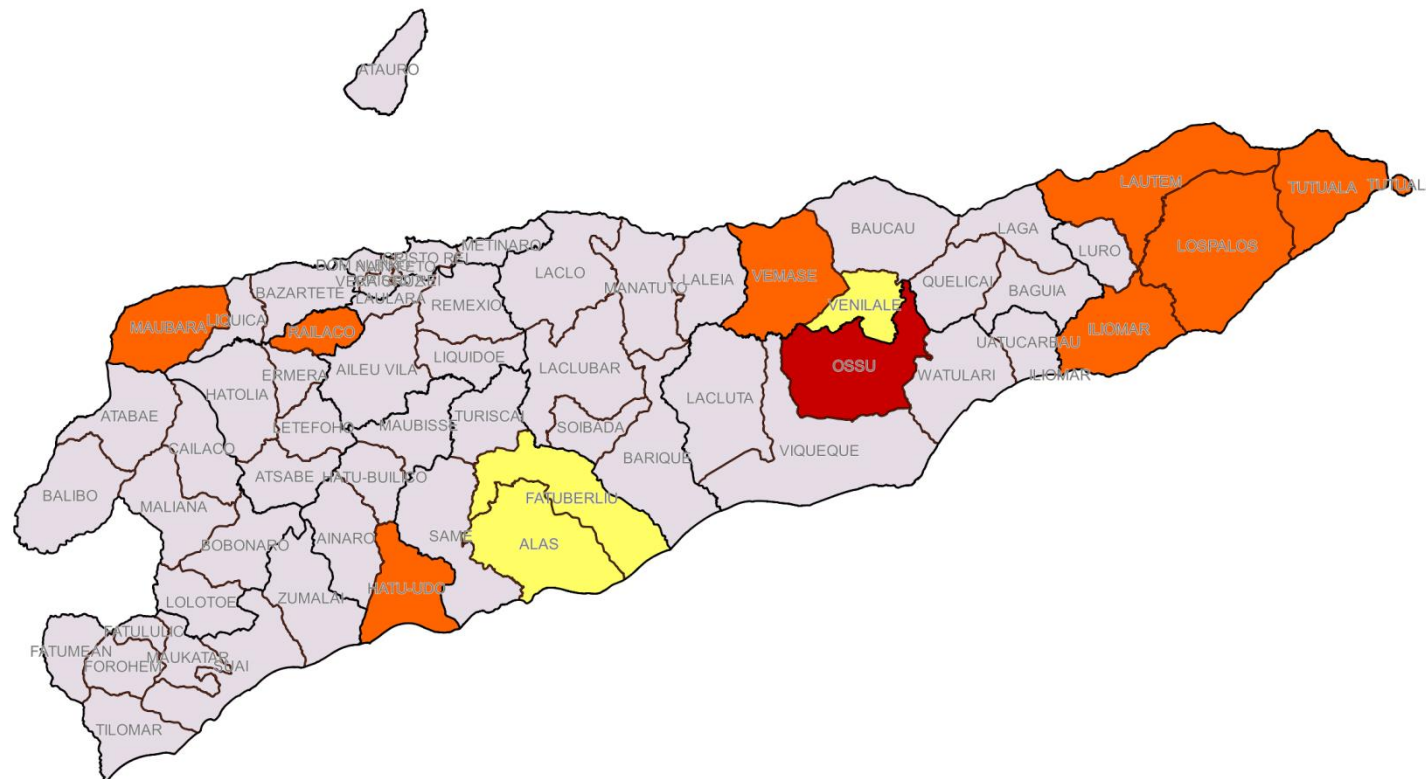
- la kuda (not planted)
- seidauk kuda (not yet planted)
- balu kuda ona (some planted)
- barak kuda ona (many planted)
- moris diak (moris diak)

Animal

Janeiru 16/01/16 - 31/01/16

Mapa ida ne'e hatudu deit fatin ne'ebe ita hetan informasaun kona ba animal nia kondisaun. Dala barak husi ema ida deit entaun ita tenki konfirma situasaun iha Munisipal.

(This map only shows information that has been received about animal condition. Often this is from only one person in the area and the reports need to be confirmed in the Municipality)



Informasaun Mapa



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Informasaun Dadus

Kona ba Batar:

La kuda - sidauk kuda batar

Moris diak - batar lao diak no buras

Namlaik - batar komesa sae aat tanba udan menus

Balu mate - mate iha fatin balu deit

Barak mate - batar barak mate iha Posto Admin

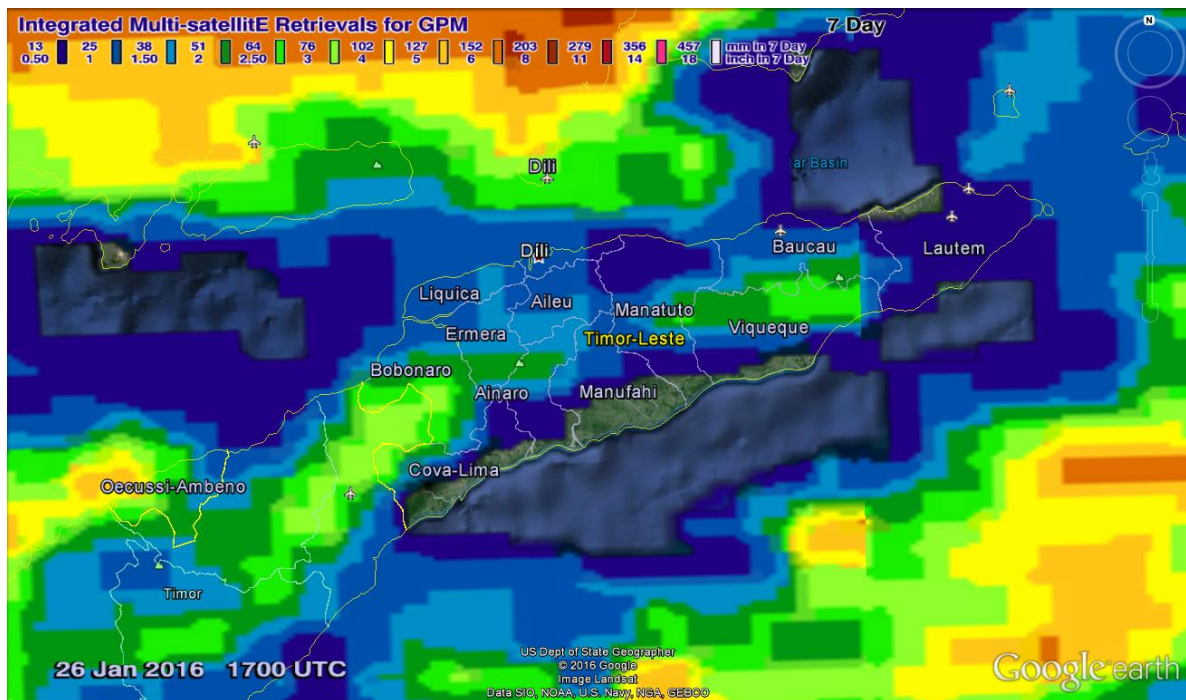
Legenda

Animal

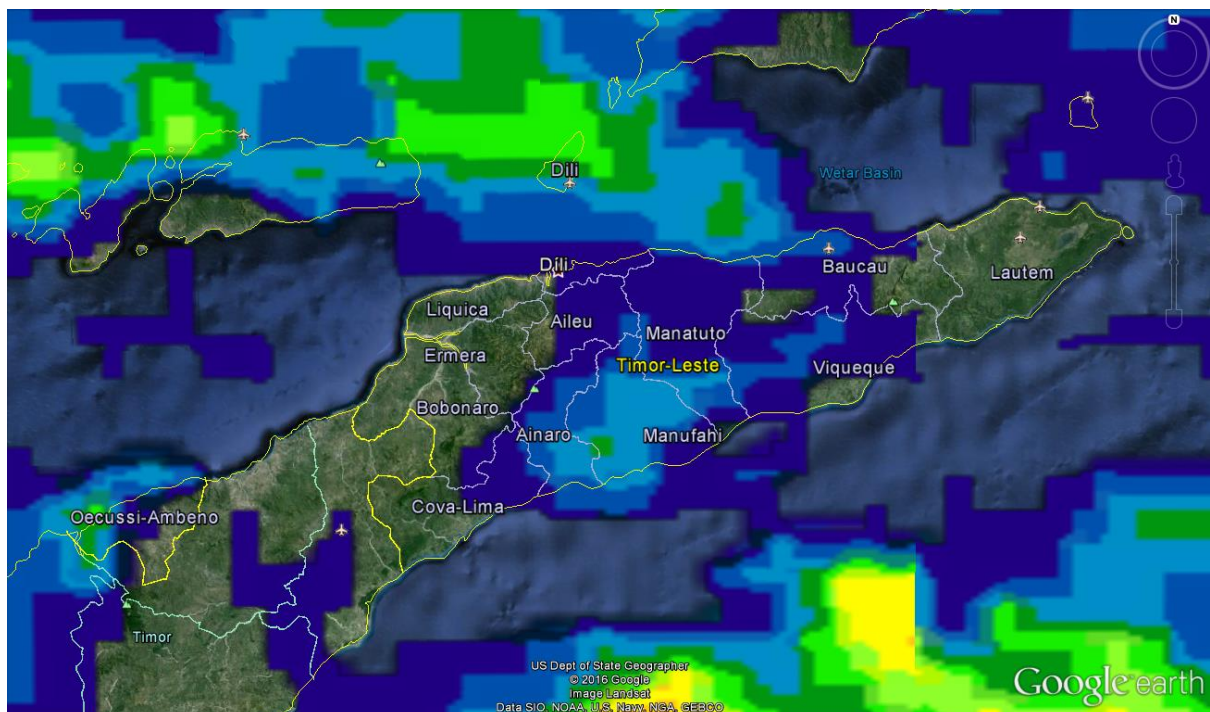
- Dadus lae iha (no data)
- Krekas (low condition)
- Balu mate (some died)
- Barak mate (many died)

Integrated Multi-Satellite Data for Rainfall

Rain in third week of January, 2016:



Rain in forth week of January, 2016:

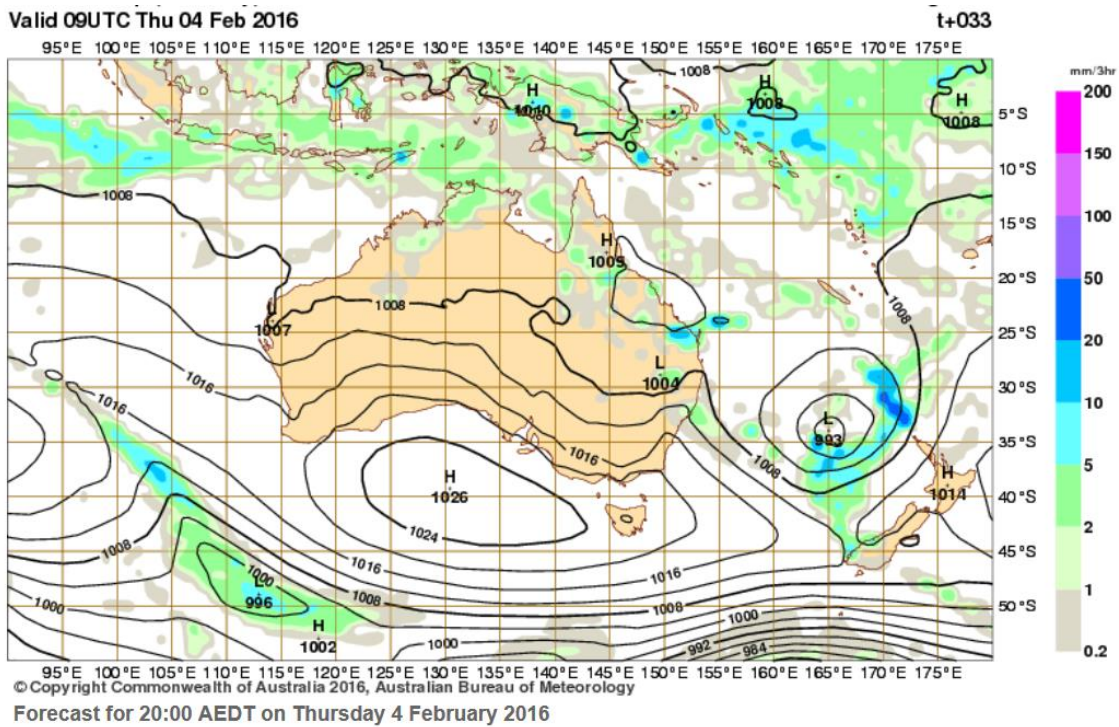


Source: <http://pmm.nasa.gov/data-access/google-earth>

Outlook

The outlook looks like possible further patchy rains will continue.

Below shows rainfall forecast map for Thursday evening, 4/2/2016.



Source: <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/charts/viewer/index.shtml> accessed 3/02/2016