



**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**

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## **El Niño Timor-Leste Update: Some rains bring relief to more farmers**

1/02/2016 – 15/02/2016

There have been more good rainfalls received across the mountains of Timor-Leste. The eastern and south west coastal regions received rain in early February but then the second week of February was dry again. This has saved some crops at risk along the coast as well as increased available food for livestock. These coastal areas will likely result in reduced crop production. Rice field preparation is generally delayed across the nation as farmers struggle to cope with intermittent rain and many irrigation systems are not yet delivering water.

### **From West to East...**

**Oecussi** has received continued good rains in the mountains. The coastal area has been dry with only a few rains so far in February. Dry land rice fields have been planted but irrigated rice has not been prepared.

**Bobonaro:** Atabae and Balibo still have a shortage of rainfall especially along the coast. Further information is not available for this region but it is expected that mountain areas are performing well.

**Covalima** in the mountains good rains have been received. The coastal areas received some rains in the first week in February but then no rain in the second week. This means that much of the coastal areas are still at risk of crop failure. There has been some preparation of rice seedlings.

**Liquica** has received some events of big and destructive rainfall. This has resulted in some damage to crops and infrastructure such as the school in Ulmera. There has been some maize lodging (falling over) due to rainfall along the coast. In the mountain areas, crops are growing well.

**Ermera:** feedback not available but presumed that crops and livestock performing well.

**Dili** has received better rains in February with more planting. Atauro has also continued to receive rains.

**Aileu** has received consistent good rains during February with 430mm received in the last 4 weeks but note a number of problems with livestock disease.

**Ainaro** has received sufficient rains in the mountains but the Administration Post of Hato-udo is still at risk with reduced rainfall. Flexia recorded heavy rain in the first week of February.

**Manufahi** received some rains along the coastal areas in the first week of February. In Betano, 58 mm of rain was recorded on one day but only 146 mm over the last 4 weeks. Same has received more consistent rains with a heavy rainfall of almost 100 mm in one day and 389 mm over the last 4 weeks. This has triggered some planting of maize but there has been very little follow-up rain in the second week along the coast.

**Manatuto:** feedback not available for Administration Posts but consistent high rainfall has been received in the mountains around Laklubar. It is reported that crops are growing well on the south coast.

**Baucau** has received good rain across the municipality. On the plateau, over 200 mm has been received in the last two weeks and 477 mm over the last 4 weeks. This has triggered planting in some areas along the coast. Maize in the mountains is more advanced and some areas are beginning to harvest. Livestock have improved condition with more feed available.

**Viqueque** continues to remain dry along the coast. There was one day of heavy rain with 52 mm but very little follow-up rain. Over the last 4 weeks only 143 mm was received, concentrated over brief periods. Some areas have tried to plant maize 2 or 3 times with continued crop failure. These conditions are resulting in further loss of livestock.

**Lautem** has received reasonable rains on the plateau in the first week of February which has brought relief for the farmers in the mountains. The weather station at Fuiloro recorded 243 mm over the last 4 weeks. Conditions are still very difficult along the coastal areas of Lautem and Iliomar, including Lore I, with more crop failures and loss of livestock.

**Emergency Warning (areas that require immediate assistance):**

- Coastal areas of Lautem and Viqueque losing crops and animals.
- South coast areas in Covalima

Rains have improved the situation generally across Timor-Leste which has prevented large scale crop losses. However many farmers have lost crops and animals despite recent rains. Some will try to plant again but others may consider it too late and look to other food sources. The impact on animals will take longer to recover as herds and flocks are slowly rebuilt.

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.

Regards,

Samuel Bacon

Cropping Systems Advisor

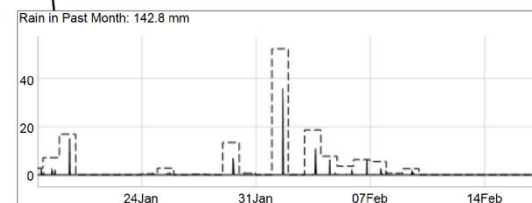
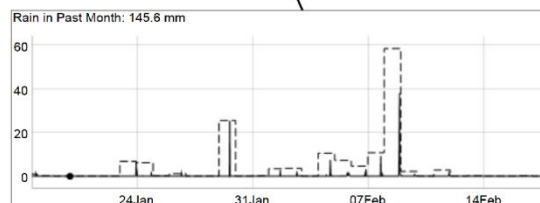
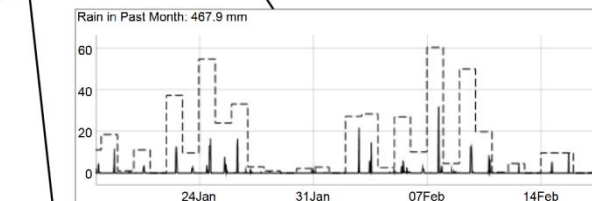
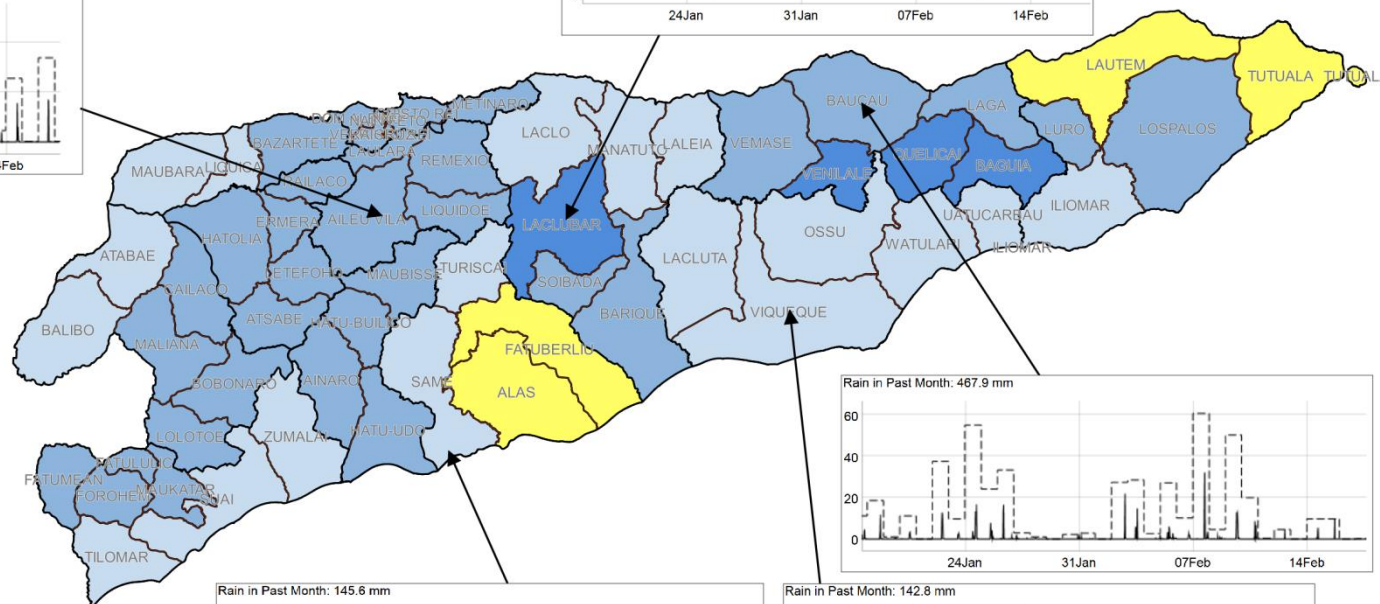
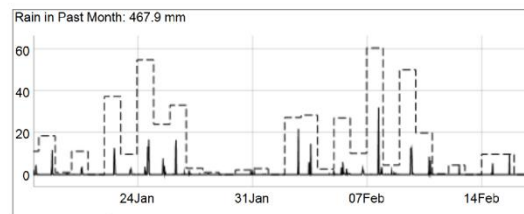
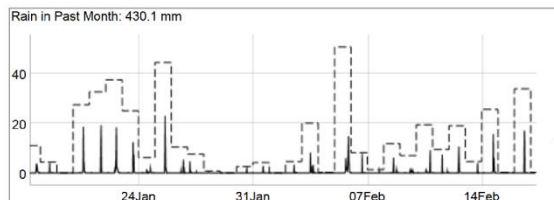
Seeds of Life

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Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## Fevereiro 1/02/16 - 15/02/16







**Agricultural  
Land Use & GIS**  
**ALGIS**  
Journals of Agriculture, Creativity & Enterprise  
Champaign, Illinois

Seeds of Life  
Fini ba Moris

Produsaun: S. Bacon  
Data: 17/02/2016  
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

Udan (Rain)

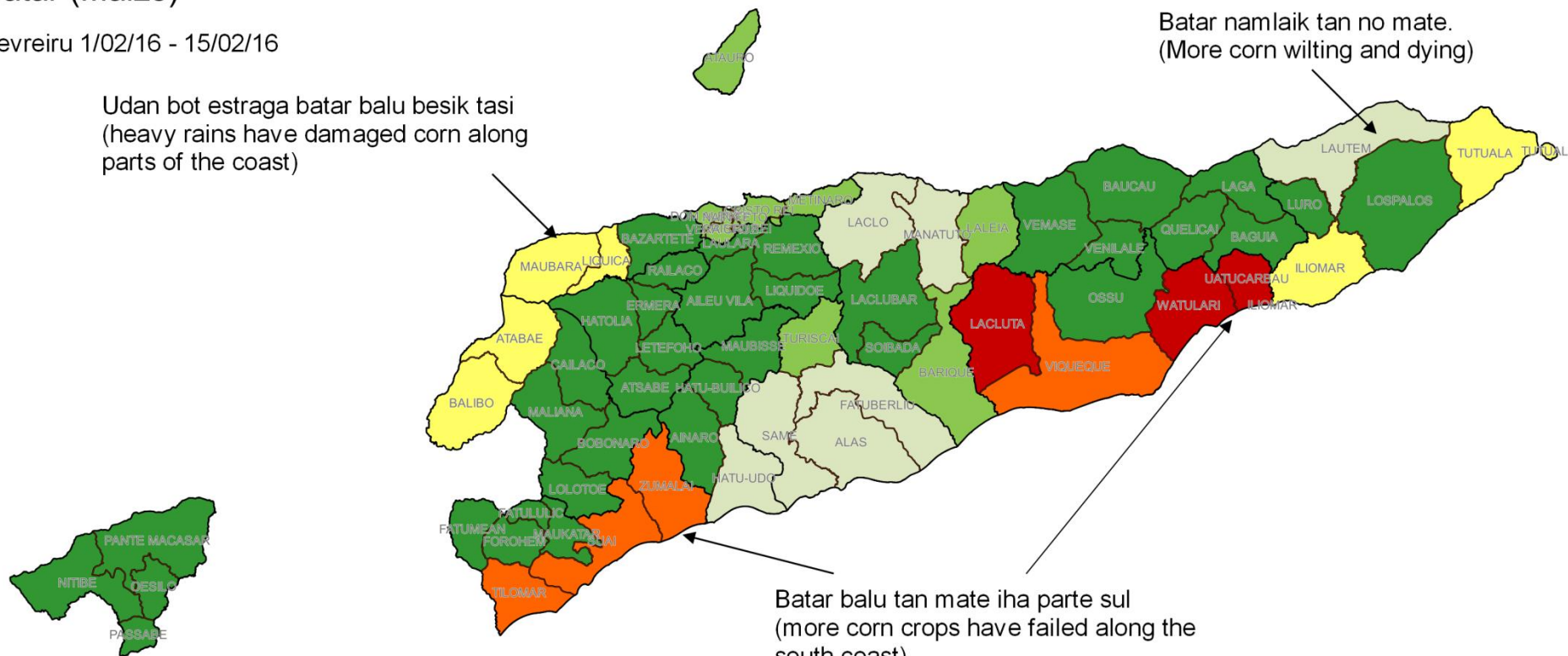
-  udan lae iha (no rain)
-  udan uitoan (low rain)
-  udan naton (enough rain)
-  udan boot (big rain)

# Batar (Maize)

Fevreiru 1/02/16 - 15/02/16

Udan bot estraga batar balu besik tasi  
(heavy rains have damaged corn along  
parts of the coast)

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



Batar balu tan mate iha parte sul  
(more corn crops have failed along the  
south coast)

## Informasaun Mapa



Dadus iha geral deit liu husi husu agrikultor sira  
iha Posto Administrativo.  
Se karik sala ruma favor ida kontatu ba  
samuel.bacon@seedsoflifetimor.org.

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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

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)

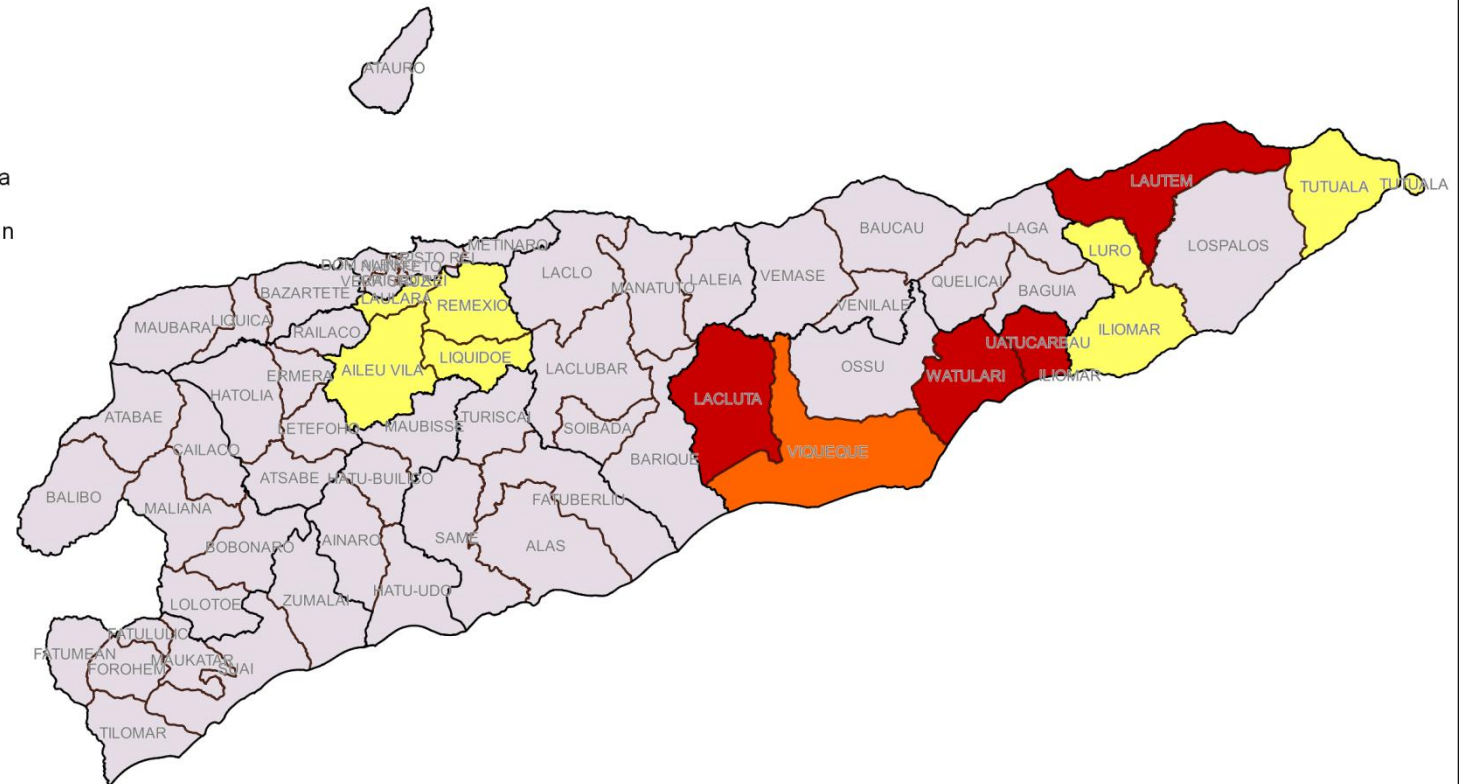


# Hare (Rice)

Fevreiru 1/02/16 - 15/02/16

Iha fatin barak to'os nain sidauk prepara rai tanba bee sidauk sufisenti  
(In many places farmers have not begun preparing rice fields as there is not enough water)

Haree rai maran kuda tiha ona maibe natar ho irrigasaun seidauk  
(Dry land rice has been planted but irrigated rice not yet)



## Informasaun Mapa



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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)

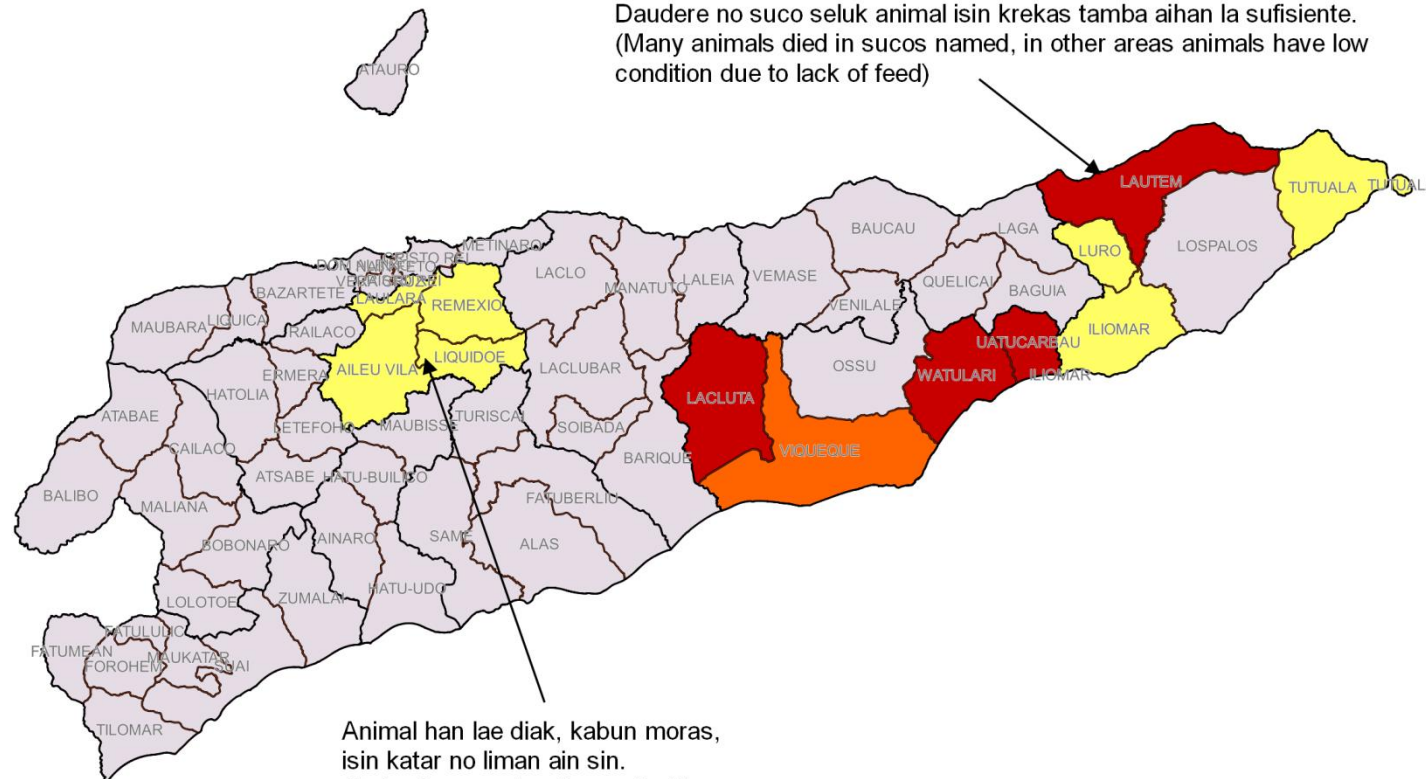
# Animal

Fevreiru 1/02/16 - 15/02/16

Mapa ida ne'e hatudu deit fatin ne'ebe ita hetan informasaun kona ba animal nia kondisaun iha geral husi Koordinator Extensionista (se informasaun iha).

(This map only shows information that has been received about animal condition usually from the Extension Coordinator.)

Animal barak mak mate iha Sucu Maina II, Serelao, Ililai, Euquise no Daudere no suco seluk animal isin krekas tamba aihan la suficiente. (Many animals died in sucos named, in other areas animals have low condition due to lack of feed)



Animal han lae diak, kabun moras, isin katar no liman ain sin. (Animals are not eating well with sick bellies, skin disease and foot problems)

## Informasaun Mapa



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Agricultural Land Use & GIS  
ALUGIS  
Project of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries  
Timor-Leste

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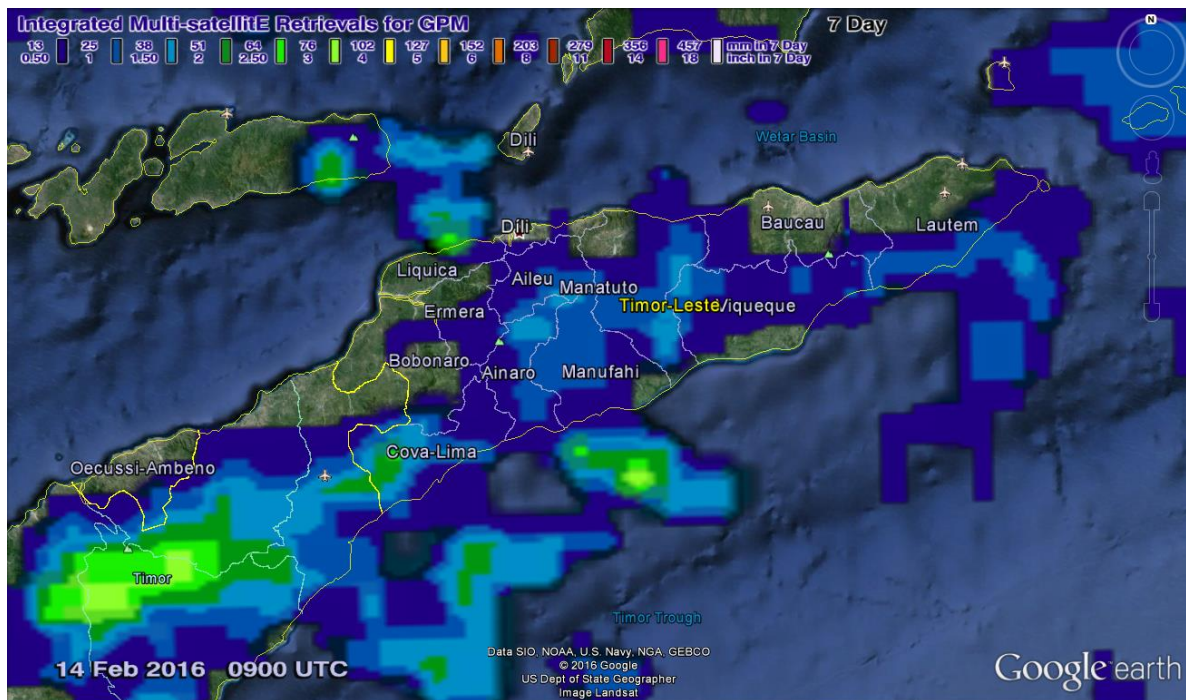
## Legenda

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 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February, 2016:

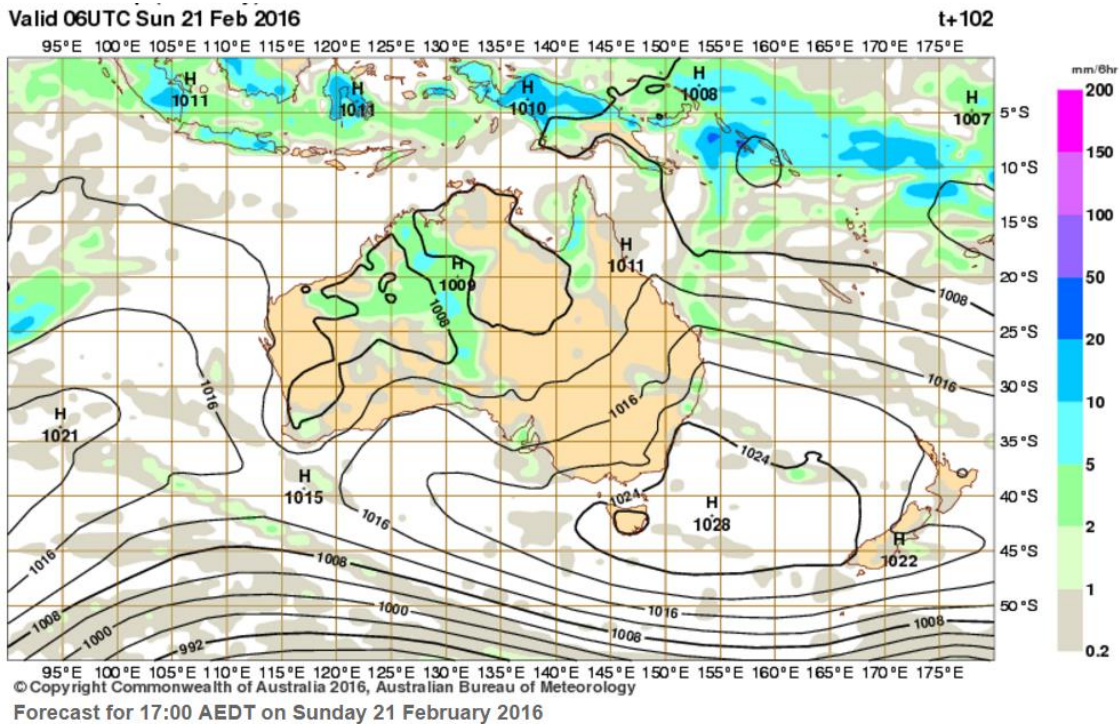


Source: <http://pmm.nasa.gov/data-access/google-earth>



## Outlook

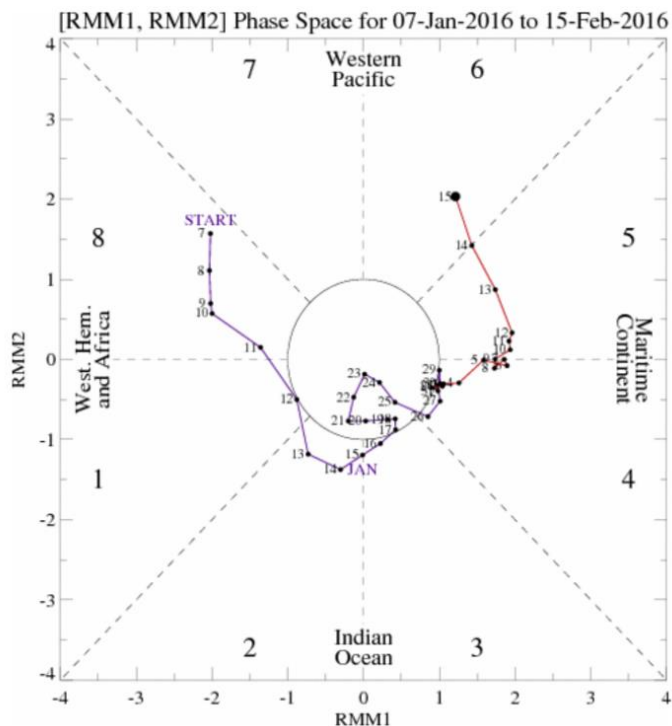
Possible showers will continue. Rainfall forecast map shown for Sunday evening, 21/2/2016.



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

## Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO)

The MJO has moved across TL over the last two weeks of rainfall.



The MJO is a convection phase that moves around the equator from west to east. The diagram here can be imagined as if viewing the earth from above. The MJO tends to develop in the Indian Ocean (2), moves through the Maritime Continent (4-5, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Philippines), then over the Pacific Ocean.

The signal is weaker inside the circle and stronger as the signal moves out. This may lead to heavier rains over TL as the MJO moves through 4-6 if further out from the circle.

Source: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/whindex.shtml>