

MIGRATORY PEST SITUATIONS IN NORTH SOMALIA
JANUARY 2016



1.0 GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE SITUATION

During the month of January 2016, the Desert Locust and other Migratory Pests situations continued to remain calm as the previous months.

Survey operations that were conducted by newly trained MoA teams at the beginning and towards the end of the month that covered localities in the plateau/escarpment including Hargeisa (09, 35N/43,59E), Boroma (09, 57N/43,31E), Berbera (10,27N/44,58E) via Lughaya (10,39N/43,55E) all the way to Zeila (11,21N/43,28E) and diverse communications that has been made at times with local residents in the frontline regions and some members among the **Community Based Desert Locust Information Network (CBDLIN)** confirmed the absence of Desert Locust activities in their respective regions. However, unconfirmed reports from different sources indicated solitary adults of D.L in meager amount were seen in the area of **Abdi- Geedi** (10, 30N/44,03E) that is proximate to Lughaya district of Awdal region.

The rainfall performance and pattern remained rainless and dry throughout the different regions of the country as recorded by **Automatic and Synoptic Rain gauge Stations Network (ASRSN)** and depicted by satellite-derived rainfall images of IRI¹.

The general aspects of the vegetation complexes is dry to drying in the plateau and escarpment whilst, the vegetation status in the recession habitats which are the primary breeding belts continued to remain dry and unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding due to the rainless conditions and procrastination of seasonal rains.

The other regions including Northeastern, Central and Southern regions of Somalia received no rain and remained dry entirely as stipulated by meteorological stations and depicted by satellite rainfall images.

Consequently, vegetation complexes including annuals, perennials, shrubs and forbs remained largely dry to drying except portions in riverine regions that remained green yet due to the previous substantial rains.

2.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

The weather and ecological conditions in the Northwestern regions remained rainless as indicated by the meteorological stations that recorded nil during the first two dekads throughout the country as indicated by **Automatic and Synoptic Rain gauge Stations Network (ASRSN)** and depicted by satellite-derived rainfall images of IRI.

Moreover, larger parts in the plateau and escarpment and the traditional breeding habitats in the coast faced a terrible and fierce drought that hit most of Northwestern regions of Somaliland as publicized by the concerned government authorities of NERAD².

¹ International Research Institute.

The overall vegetation status in Northwestern regions including the plateau and escarpment and potential breeding habitats in the coast drastically deteriorated and continued to sustain dry and unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding and development except localized green patches in minor areas.

In addition to that, multiple livestock deaths including shoats and large ruminants specifically cattle were reported many parts in Northwestern regions owing to the drastic drought that hit most of those regions and subsequently humanitarian assistance were requested.

Such the case being that, the president of Somaliland³, officially declared tomorrow that is dated 1st February, 2016 as a day of rain seeking/ begging prayer for the entire nation.

It is noteworthy to mention, that Northeastern regions of Puntland regional state, central and Southern regions of Somalia received no rain and subsequently continued to remain dry thoroughly. Nevertheless, portions of green conditions were observed in riverine areas along Jubba and Shabelle regions of Somalia due to the previous month's good rains.

Rainfall (mm) at Hargeisa, Erigavo, Boroma, Burao and Berbera Manual Rain gauge Stations data respectively recorded nil as of 1st to 2nd dekads of January, 2016⁴.

Date	Hargeisa (09,35N/43,59E)	Erigavo (10,61N/47,36E)	Boroma (09,57N/43,31E)	Burao (09,32N/45,31E)	Berbera (10,27N/44,58E)
01-20/01/16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION (*Shistocerca gregaria*)

In January, similar as the previous months, the Desert Locust situation continued to remain calm as confirmed by members among the **Community Based Desert Locust Information Network (CBDLIN)** and local residents in the frontline regions that stipulated the absence of locust activities in their respective regions.

However, insignificant number of solitary adults of Desert Locust were seen in Abdi-Geedi area (10, 30N/44/03E) as indicated by different local sources.

It is worthwhile to mention, that the plateau and escarpment and traditional breeding habitats in the coast where usually adults of solitary Desert Locusts frequently breed remained dry and largely unfavorable for DL breeding due to the prevalence of rainless conditions and severe dryness of vegetation in its entirety.

² National Environmental Research and Disaster Preparedness.

³ H.E, Ahmed Mohamed Mahmoud (Silanyo)

⁴ All other synoptic stations rainfall data across Somaliland recorded nill as well during January, 2016.

4.0 Other Migratory Pests (Red-billed Quella birds and African Army Worm)

Reports and any other relevant information of other Migratory Pests infestations were not reported yet.

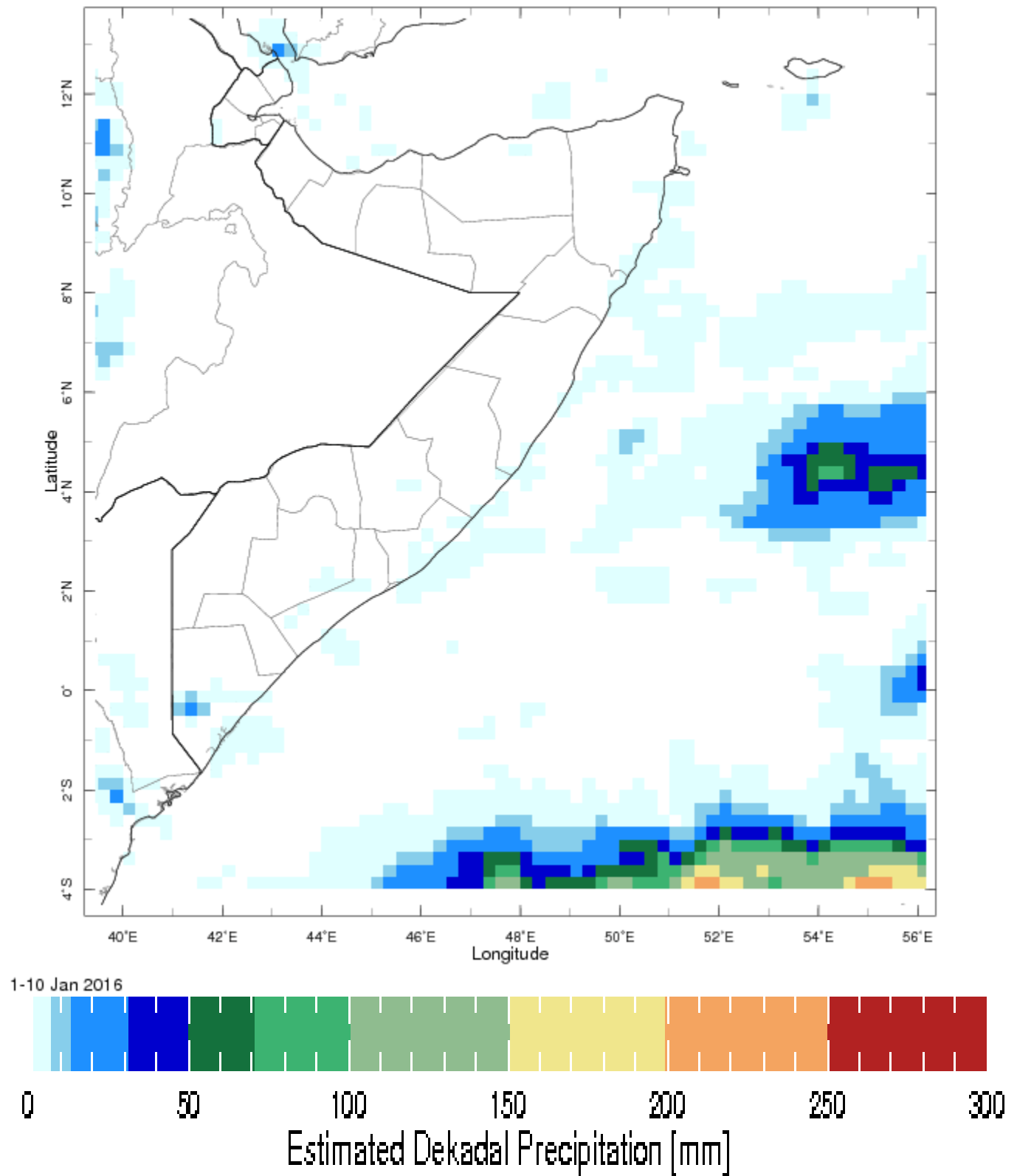
5.0 Forecast until mid-March 2016

No significant developments are likely during the forecast period, due to the rainless and severe dryness conditions in both the key breeding habitats in the coastal plains and subsidiary breeding habitats in the plateau and escarpment.

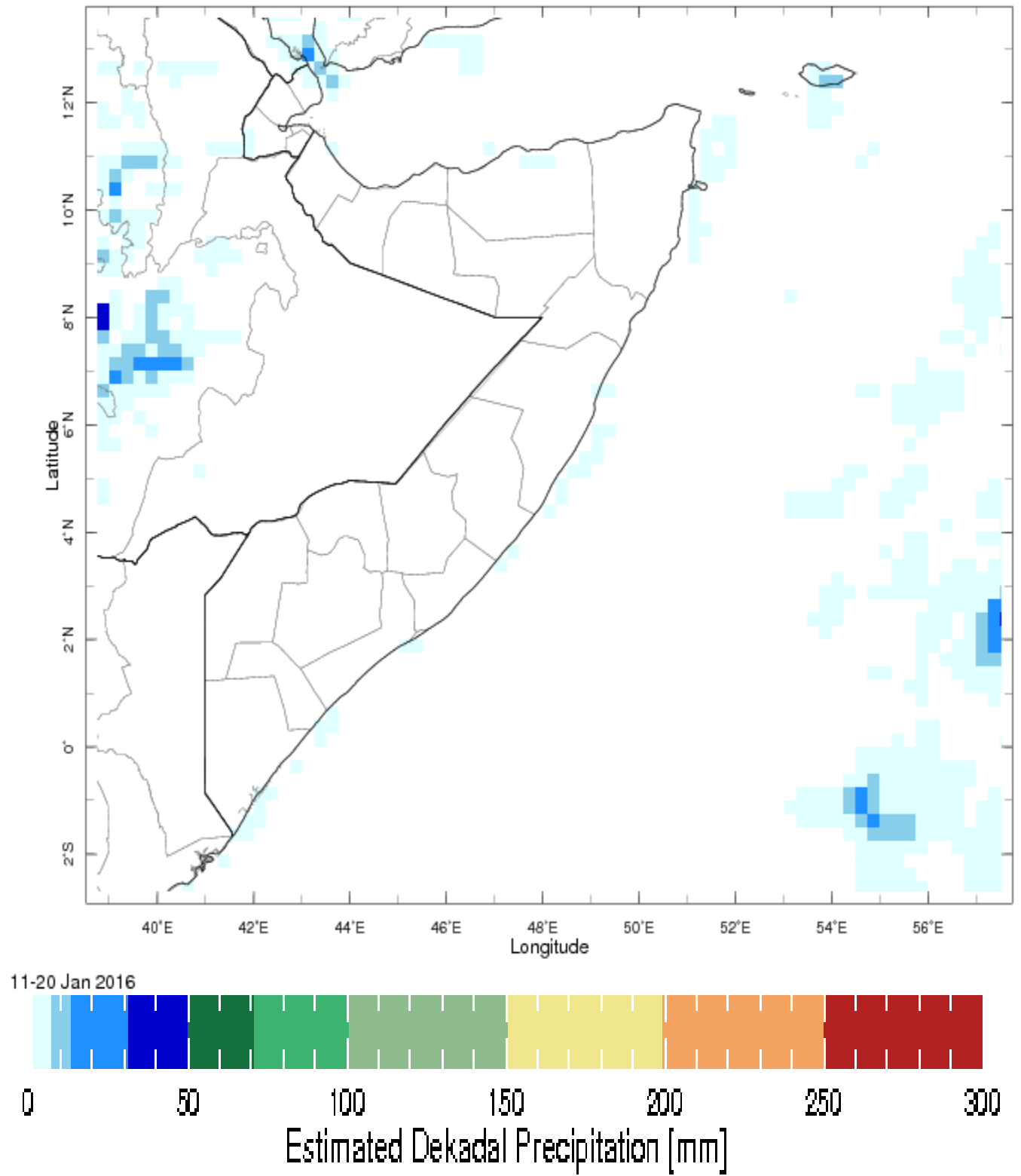
However, if forthcoming and expected El Niño/ Hays seasonal rains in this year sufficiently fell on both the plateau and escarpment and potential breeding localities in the coast and effectively improve both vegetation complexes and soil conditions, then any infestation is likely to commence and breed on a small scale thereafter.

FOR DIRECTOR,

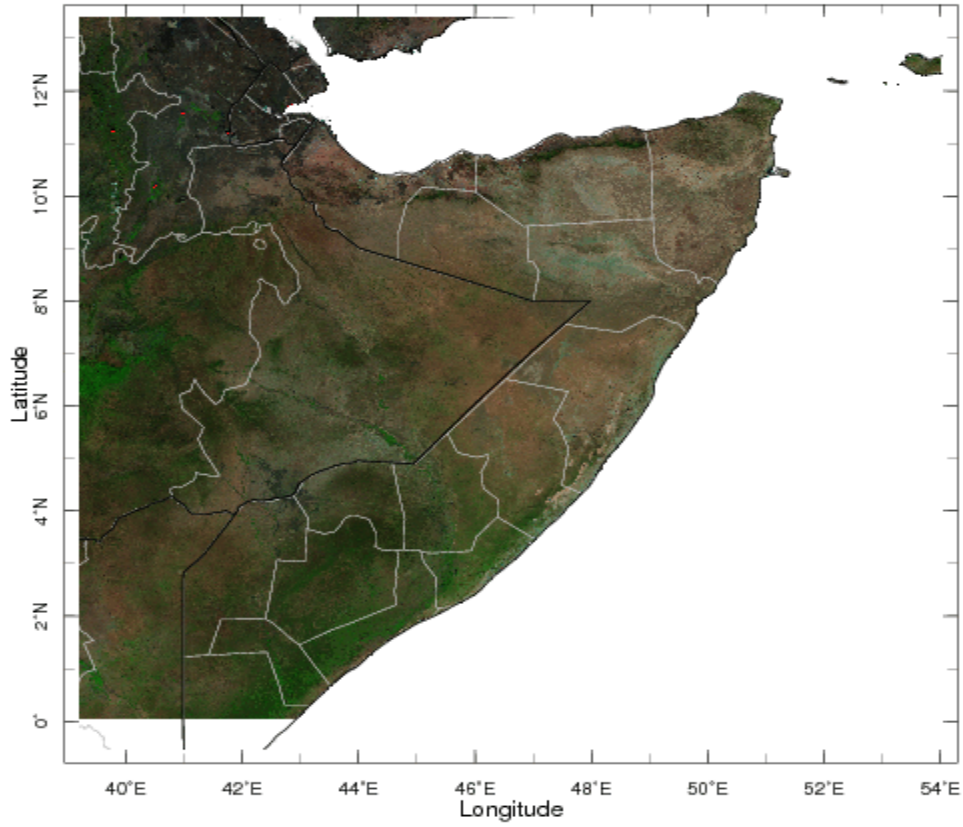
6.0 Rainfall estimates for the first dekad of January (RFE 2016)



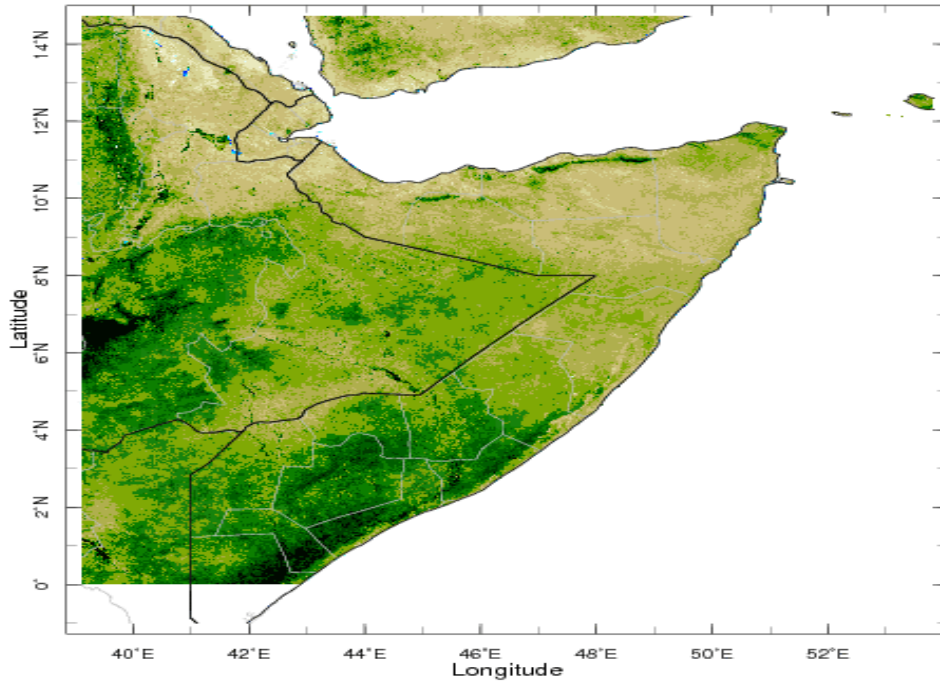
6.1 Rainfall estimates for the second dekad of January (RFE 2016)



6.2 Modis and NDVI images for Northern and Southern Somalia, for the first half of January, 2016.

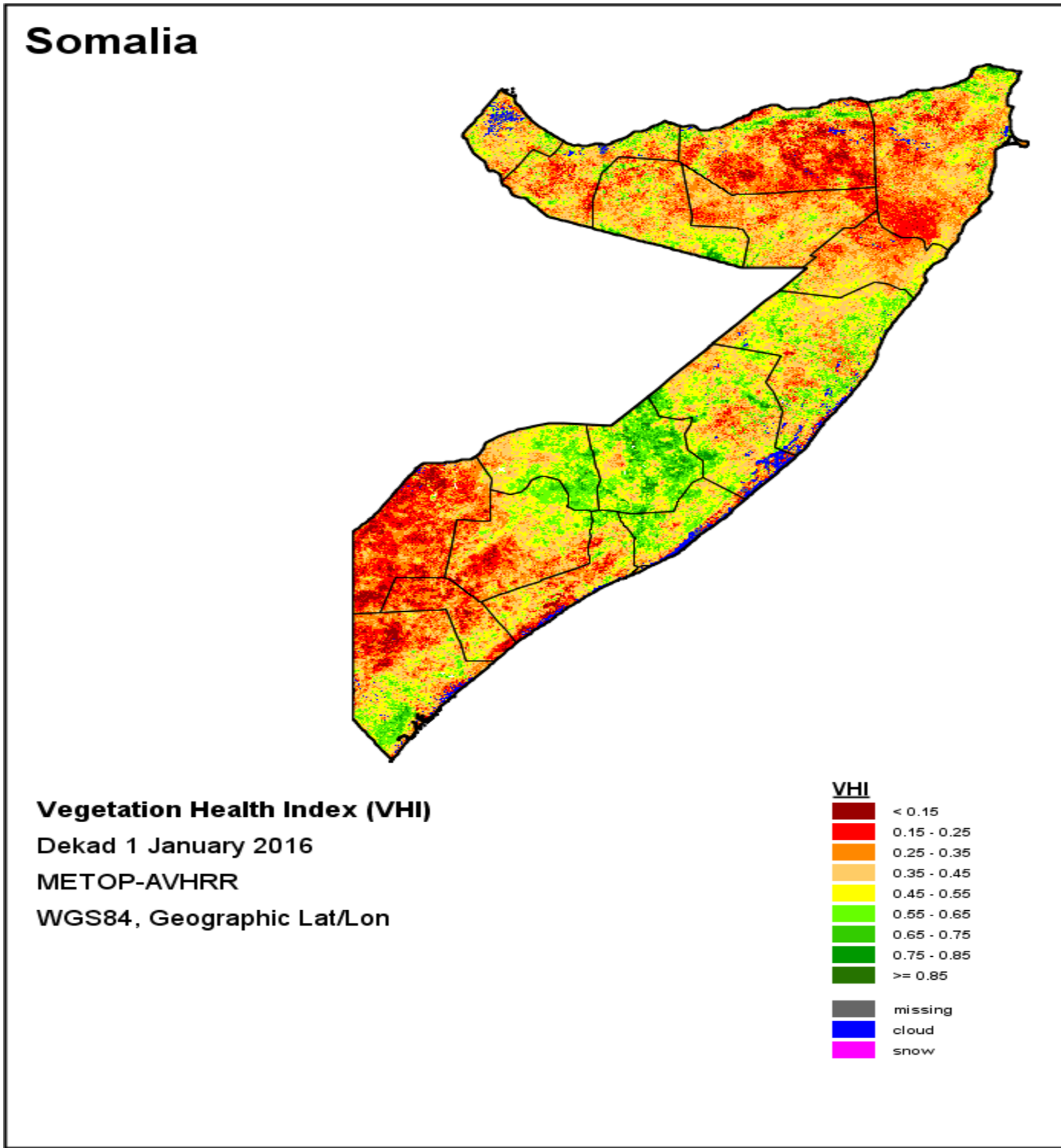


1-16 Jan 2016



1-16 Jan 2016

6.3 Vegetation Health Index for the 1st dekad of January, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia.



6.4 Vegetation Health Index for the 2nd dekad of January, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia

