

**MIGRATORY PEST SITUATIONS IN NORTH SOMALIA**  
**FEBRUARY 2016**



**1.0 GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE SITUATION**

During the entire month of February, the Desert Locust and other Migratory Pests situations report continued to remain calm throughout the country as stipulated by some members among the **Community Based Desert Locust Information Network (CBDLIN)** and local residents in the remote breeding regions whom diverse contacts were made at times during the month.

However, survey operations that were conducted during the month of February as usual by the newly trained MoA teams in some parts of Marodijeh, Sahil and Awdal regions among them were **Hargeisa** (09, 35N/43,59E), **Boroma** (09,57N/43,31E), **Lughaya** (10,39N/43,55E) down to the coast of Silil.

Survey results indicated that meager numbers of Solitarious early instar hoppers were detected in an area between **Ceel-Sheikh** (10, 25N/44,16E) and **Lughaya** (10, 39N/43,55E) that is near to **Abdi-Geedi** ((10, 30N/44,03E)

The rainfall performance and pattern in Northwestern regions of Somaliland experienced severe drought that hit most of the regions and remained rainless and dry during the first two dekads as indicated by both **Automatic and Synoptic Rain gauge Stations Network (ASRSN)** across the entire country.

Nevertheless, low to moderate rains received on 25<sup>th</sup> of February in some localities of **Sanaag** region including **Ceel-Murgud, Dagaar, Ceel-Qaab, Yufle** and **Ceel-Dhadhaable** among others.

Consequently, the diverse vegetation complexes in Northwestern regions remained dry to drying across the key breeding habitats in the coast and subsidiary breeding habitats in the plateau and escarpment owing to the protracted rainless conditions.

It is worthwhile to mention, that Northeastern regions of Puntland autonomous state experienced severe drought and remained rainless whilst, central and Southern regions of Somalia received no rain throughout the month.

Hence, the generic vegetation complexes among them are annuals, biennials and perennials in those regions remained largely dry throughout the country except green patches observed along the inter-riverine regions as depicted by satellite-derived vegetation images of IRI<sup>1</sup>.

**2.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

The rainfall performance and pattern in Northwestern regions of Somaliland during the month of February, 2016 has remained rainless specifically during the first two dekads as indicated by meteorological stations network and depicted by satellite-derived rainfall images of International Research Institute.

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<sup>1</sup> International Research Institute

It is worthwhile to mention, that severe drought hit most of Northwestern regions of Somaliland and Puntland caused that water sources have dried up in many places, agricultural land resembled desert and many livestock have died in parts of Somaliland and Puntland following the failure of the last two seasons and negative effect of EL Niño. An estimated population of 510,000 people faced acute water and pasture shortages in drought affected parts of Somaliland and Puntland.

In Puntland 215,000 people are affected by drought whilst 295,000 people are affected in Somaliland and cereal production is 87% lower than the average of 2011 to 2014.<sup>2</sup>

Consequently, the diverse vegetation complexes including annuals, biennials and perennials in Northwestern regions of Somaliland and Northeastern regions of Puntland remained dry thoroughly and currently unfavorable for any D.L breeding, whilst central and Southern regions of Somalia remained largely dry as well except localized green patches observed in inter-riverine areas.

**Rainfall (mm) at Hargeisa, Burao, Berbera, Boroma and Garowe Synoptic and Automatic Rain gauge Stations Network data respectively for February, 2016 recorded nil for the first two dekads.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hargeisa</b>	<b>Burao</b>	<b>Berbera</b>	<b>Boroma</b>	<b>Garowe</b>
1-20-2-16	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00 mm</b>	<b>0.00 mm</b>	<b>0.00 mm</b>	<b>0.00 mm</b>	<b>0.00 mm</b>

### **3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION (*Schistocerca gregaria*)**

Generally, the Desert Locust situation sustained to remain calm as the previous months throughout the different regions of the country.

It is noteworthy to mention, that diverse contacts were made with different stakeholders in the key breeding habitats in the coast and secondary breeding habitats in the plateau and escarpment reported that the Desert Locust situation remained calm yet.

However, survey results indicated insignificant Solitarious early instar hoppers were detected in an area between Ceel-Sheikh (10, 25N/44,16E) and Lughaya (10, 39N/43,55E) that is near to Abdi-Geedi ((10, 30N/44,03E)

Nevertheless, bearing in mind the protracted rainless conditions associated with noxious drought that hit mainly along the plateau and escarpment and key potential breeding habitats in the coast elucidated that current conditions are not conducive for any D.L breeding and development.

Such the case being that, it is judiciously recommended that survey operations scheduled for this week should be postponed owing to the severe dryness and drought in entire breeding regions of the country.

Therefore, careful tracking and monitoring of the nexus weather parameters for the coming months ahead is indispensable for deciding the timing of future ground survey operations needed.

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

Reports and any other pertinent information of other Migratory Pests infestation were not received so far

<sup>2</sup> Source, Save the Children, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 (press release).

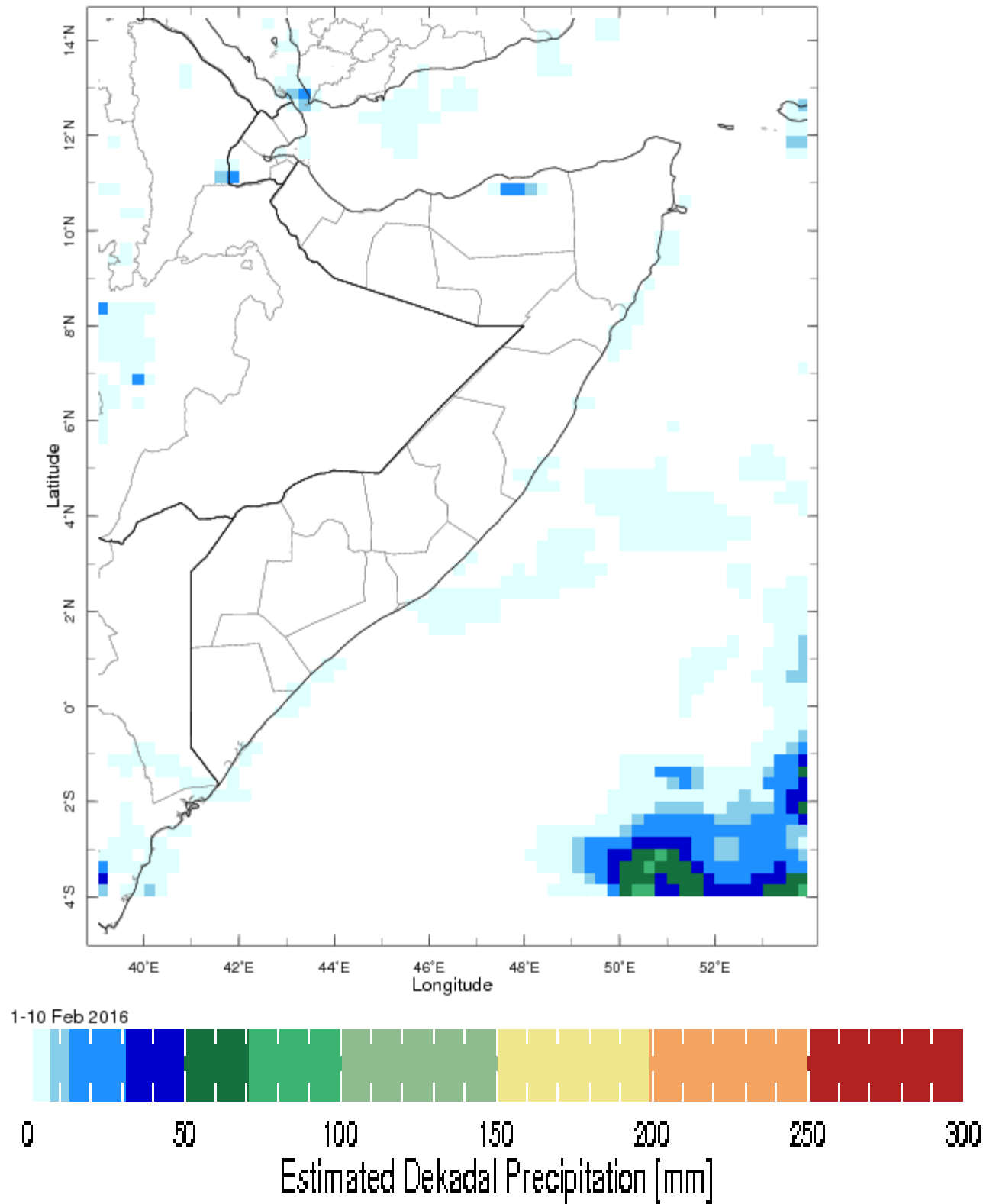
## **5.0 Forecast until mid-April 2016**

Taking into account, the rainless and noxious drought conditions prevailed, both in the potential breeding habitats in the coast and large portions along the subsidiary breeding habitats in the plateau and escarpment and drastic dryness of ecological conditions, elucidated that current conditions are not conducive for any D.L breeding and development.

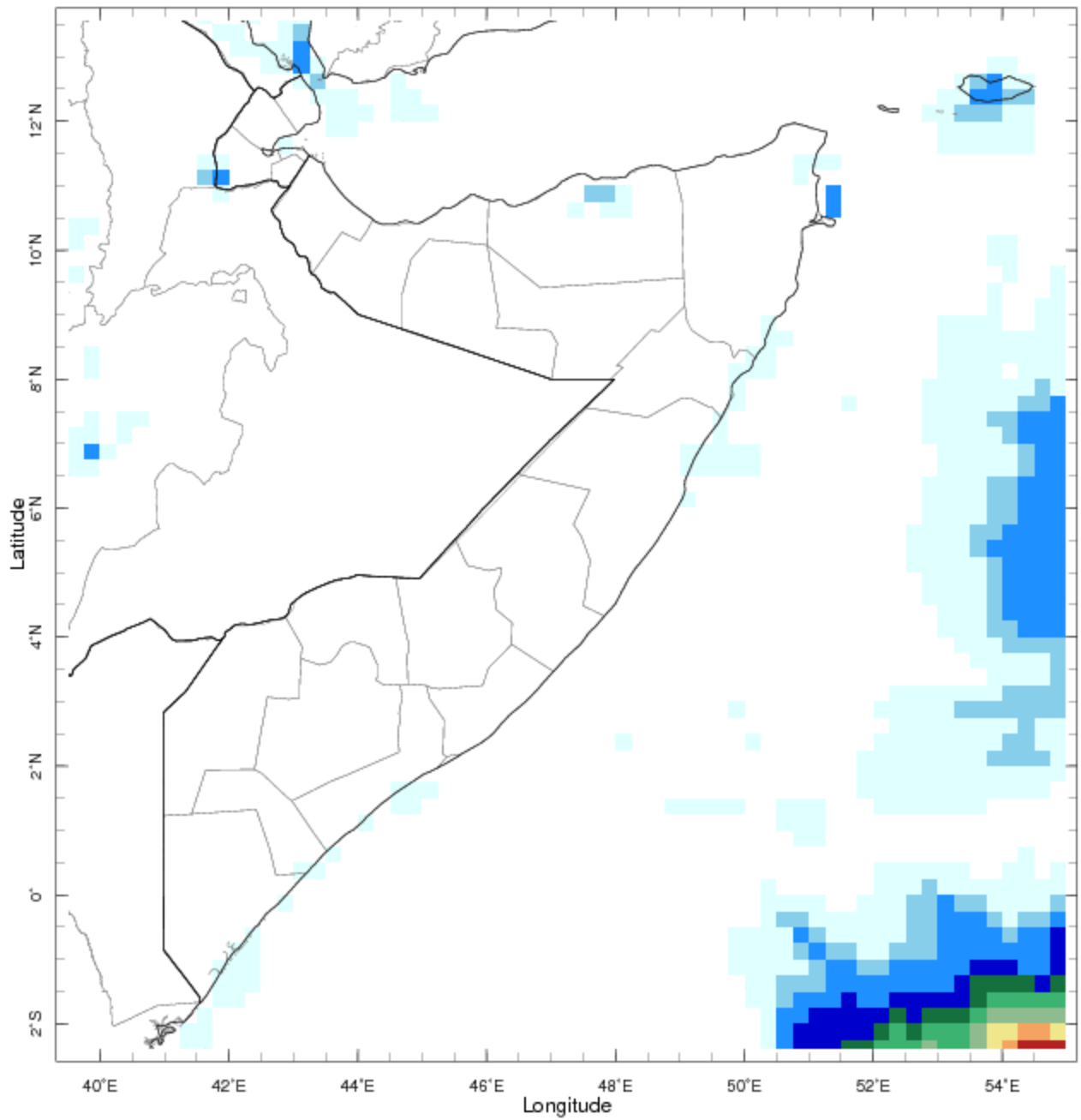
However, it is projected that small scale breeding might occur during the forecast period, if and only if, expected seasonal spring rains that is vernacularly known as (**Gu'**) would effectively improve temporally and spatially and there by moisten the soil deeper and thrive the vegetation complexes further.

**FOR DIRECTOR,**

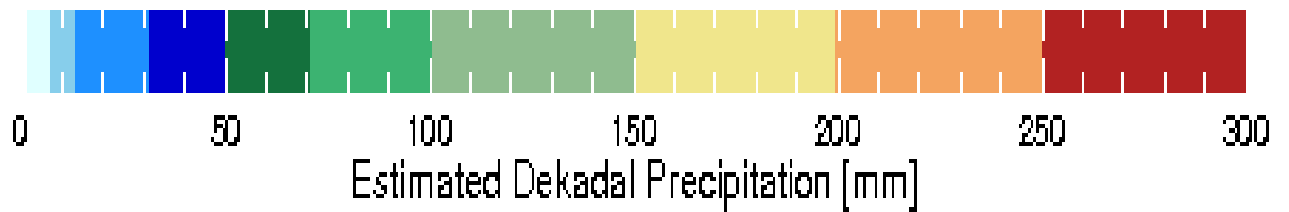
## 6.0 Rainfall estimates for the first dekad of February (RFE, 2016)



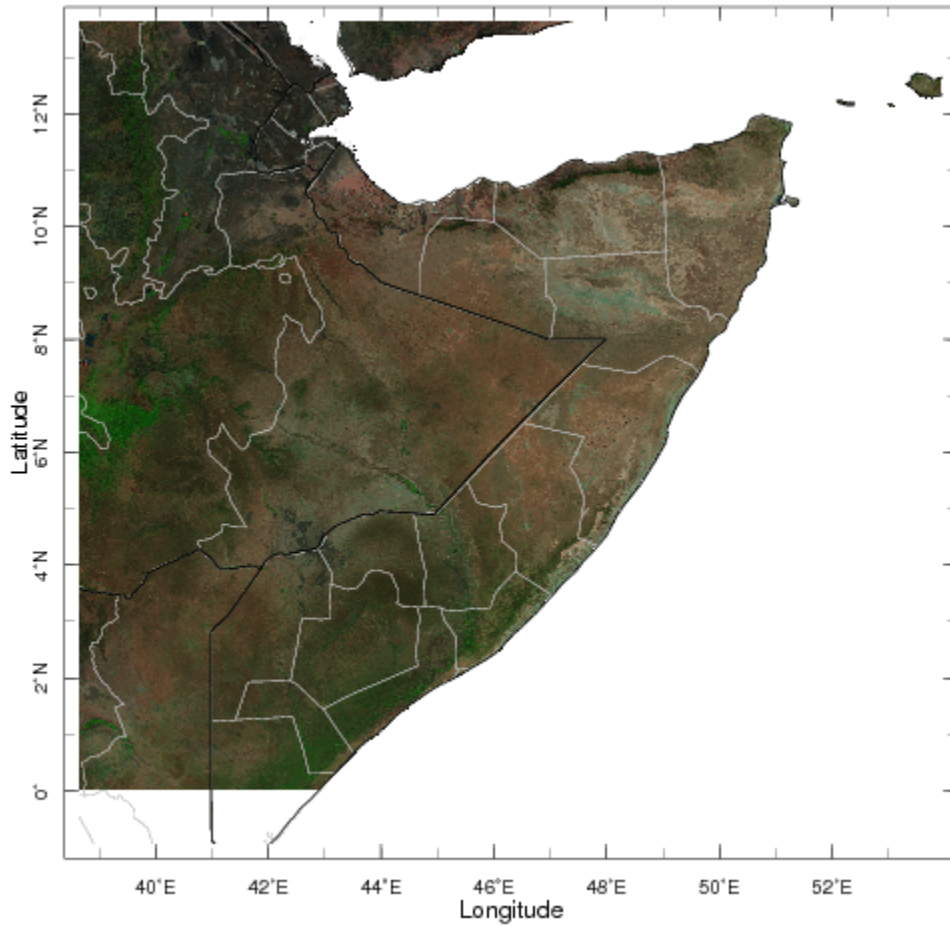
## 6.1 Rainfall estimates for the second dekad of February (RFE, 2016)



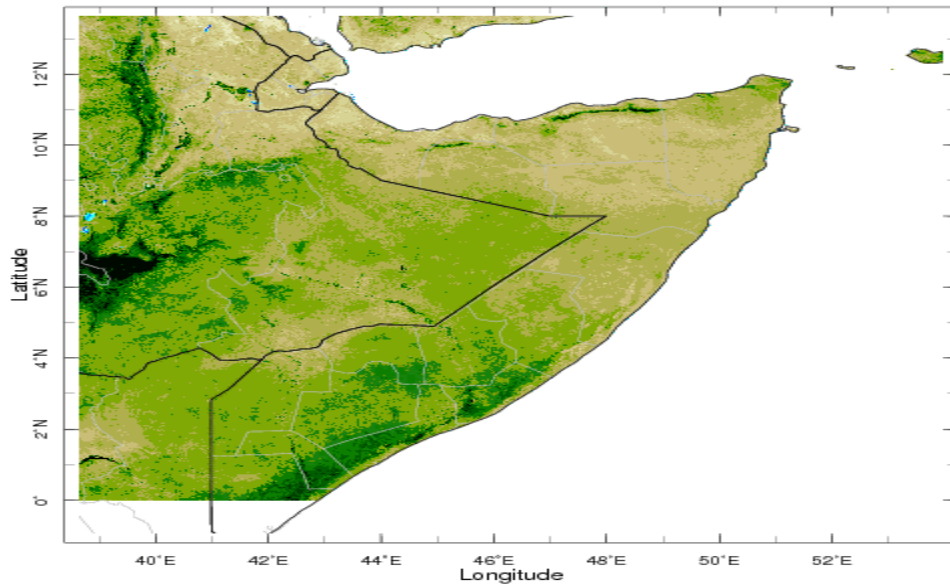
11-20 Feb 2016



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



2-17 Feb 2016



2-17 Feb 2016

### 6.3 Vegetation Health Index for the 1<sup>st</sup> dekad of February, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia.

