

# Desert Locust threat in the Sahel

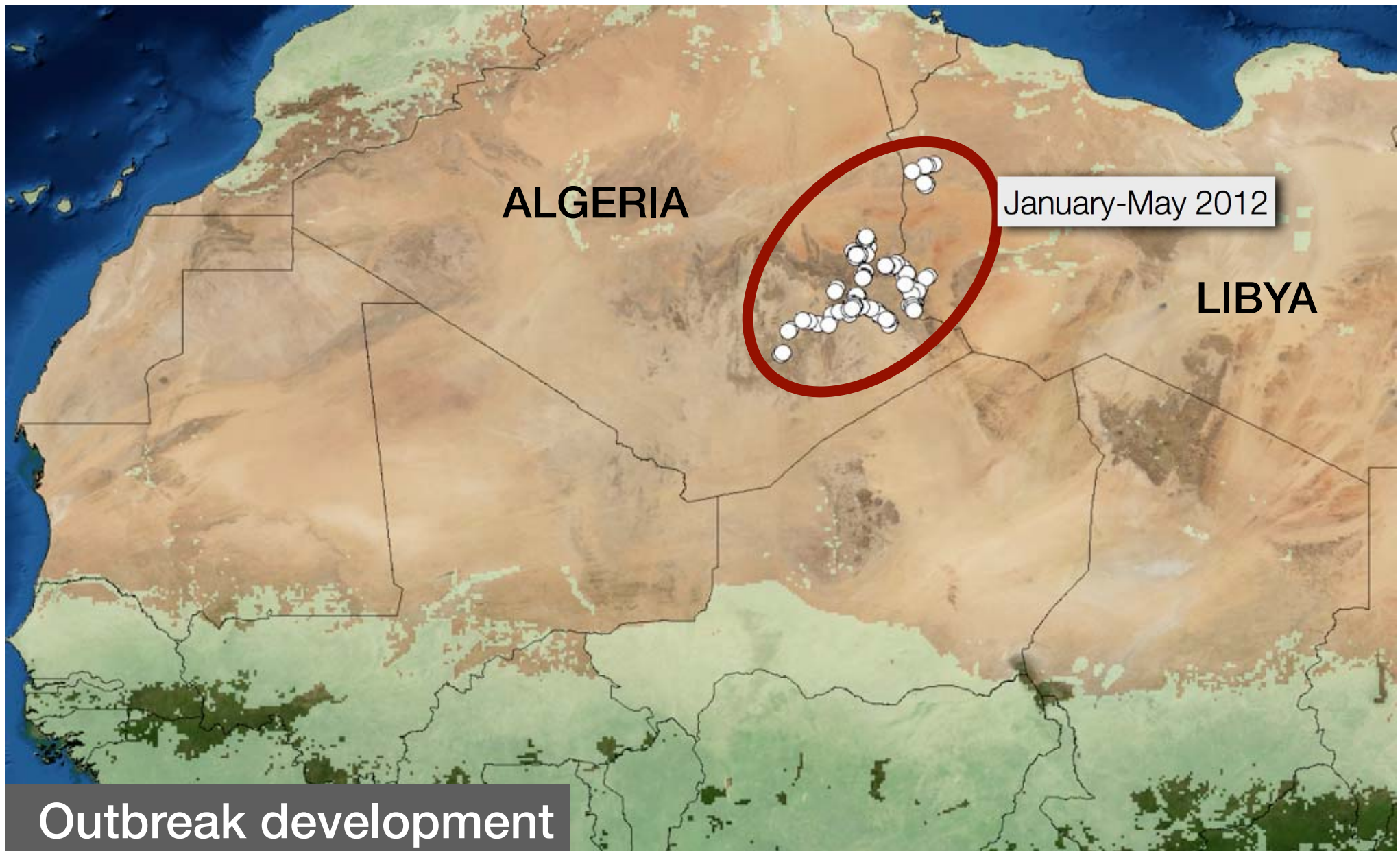
May - October 2012

BACKGROUND  
THREAT  
COST  
ACTION  
CURRENT SITUATION



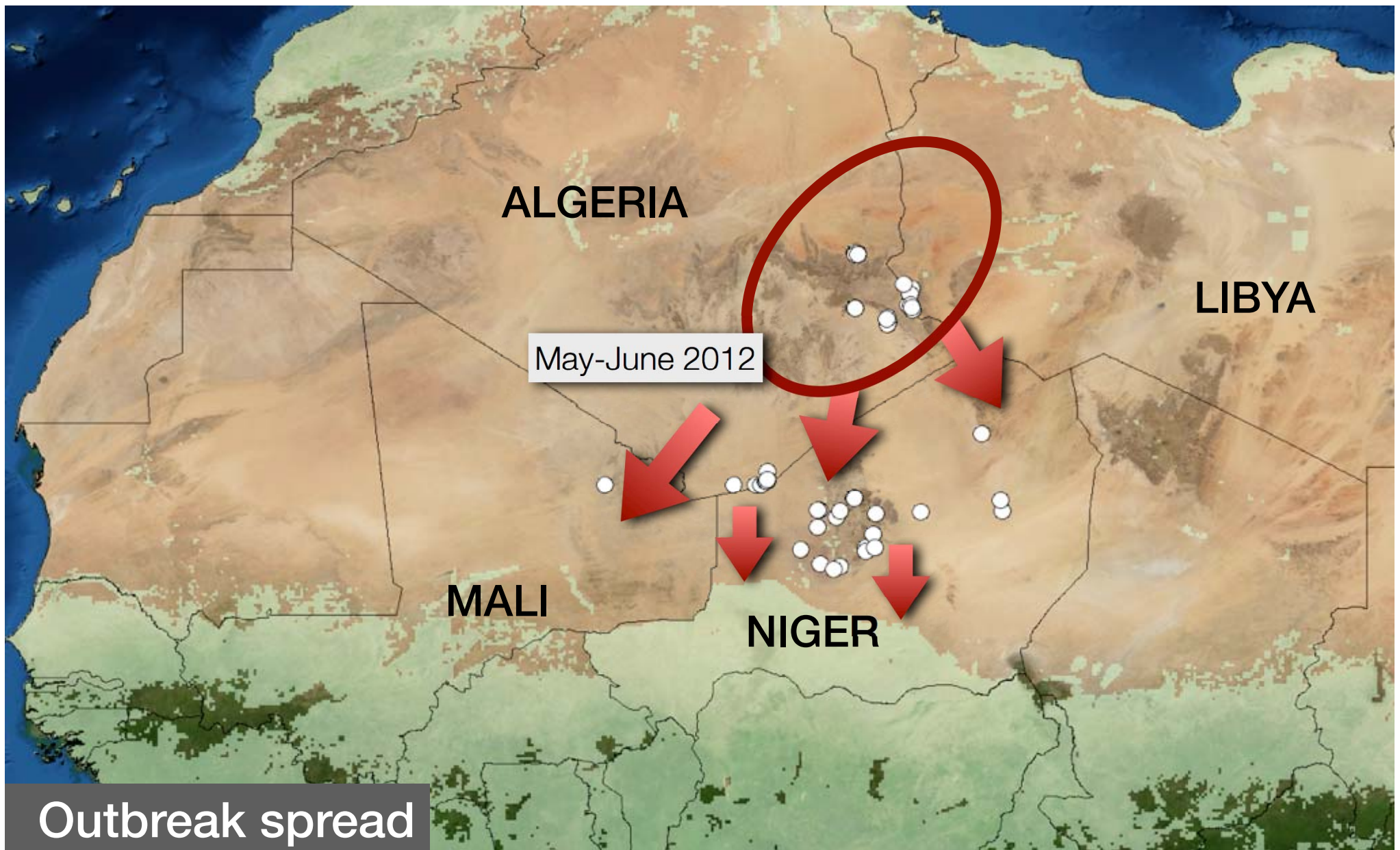
# **1. BACKGROUND**

HOW DID THE CURRENT SITUATION DEVELOP ?



- Good rains in October 2011 allowed locust to increase on both sides of the Algeria/Libya border in 2012
- Insecurity hampered survey and control operations - Algeria estimated they could reach only 15% of the infestations
- Libya's capacity to carry out control efforts was affected in the past year
- Although both countries undertook control operations (42,000 ha in Algeria, 21,400 ha in Libya), they could not prevent swarms from forming in May

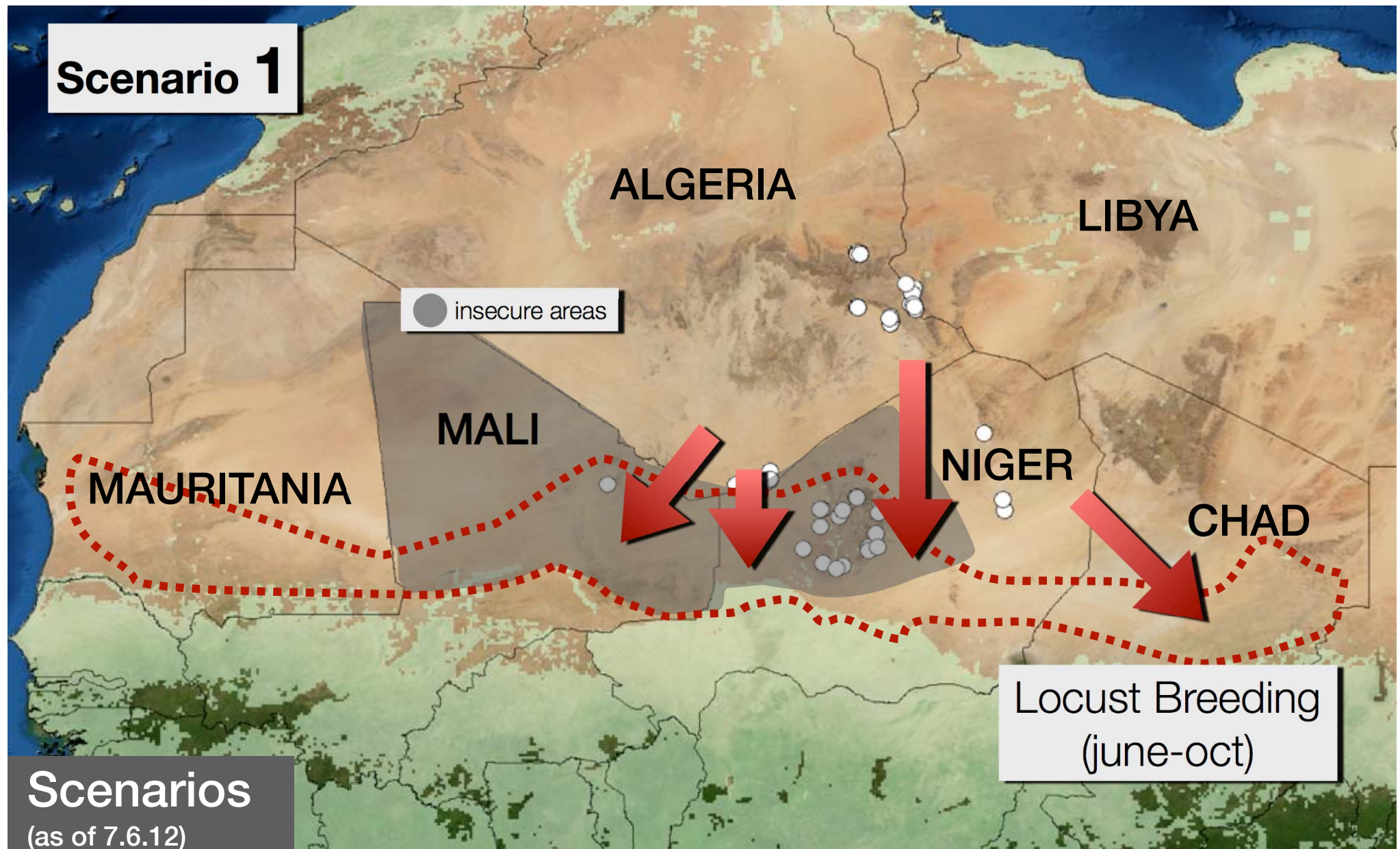




- When vegetation began to dry out, adult groups and swarms moved south
- The first infestations arrived in northern Mali on 27 May and in northern Niger on 30 May, and continued until mid-June
- Their arrival coincided with early rains in the northern Sahel - about six weeks earlier than normal
- The migration was not unexpected - FAO's Desert Locust Information Service operates an early warning system
- Countries were first informed on 25 March and regularly thereafter



## Scenario 1



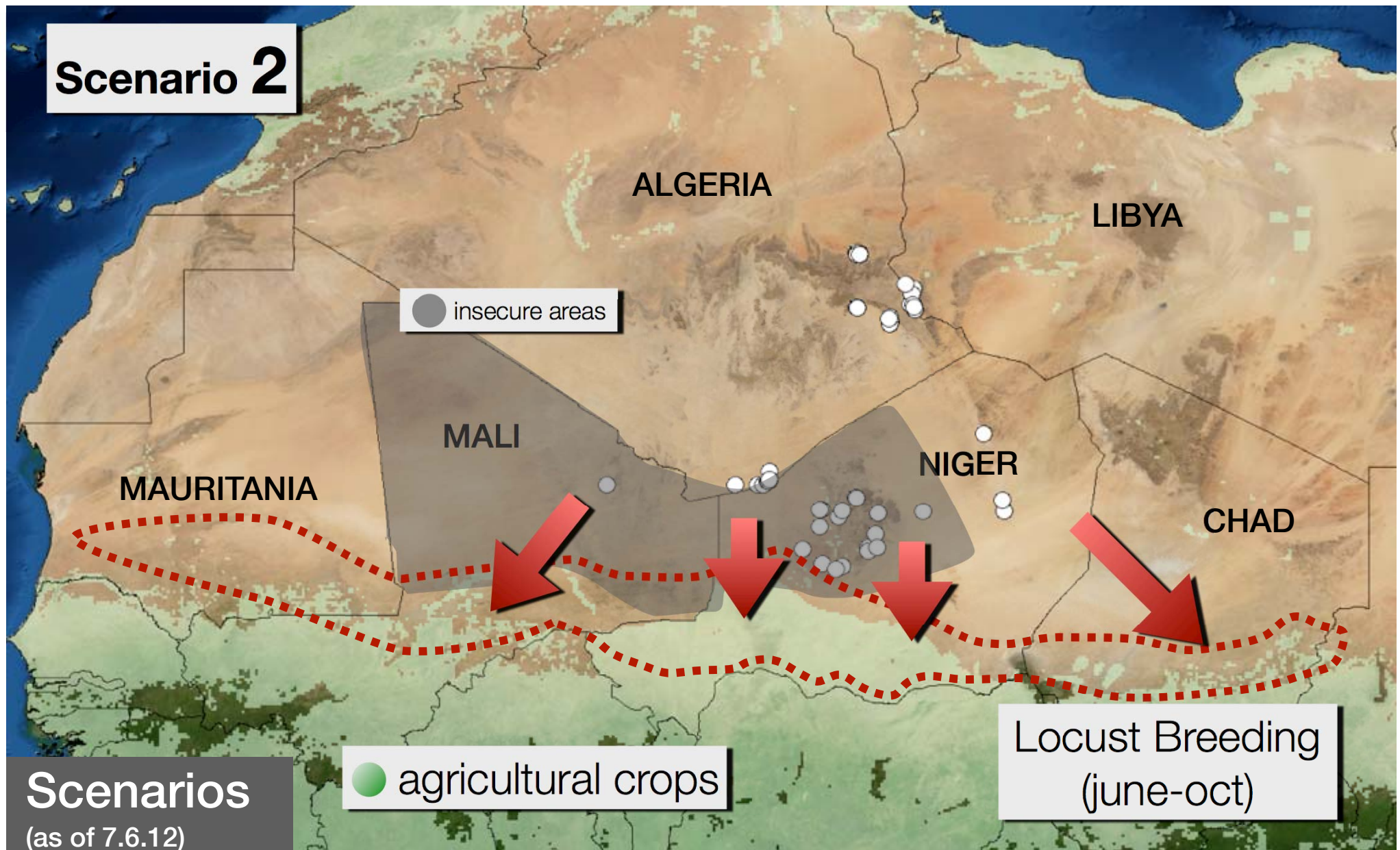
## Scenarios

(as of 7.6.12)

- As the locusts were arriving in the northern Sahel, there are two possible scenarios for this summer
- Scenario 1: the incoming locusts will remain in the northern Sahel in areas where it rained, mature and lay eggs
- This is good because the main cropping areas further south would be less affected
- This is bad because much of the north is inaccessible and insecure so infestations may go undetected and uncontrolled
- If the infestations are not controlled, there could be up to 250 times the number of Desert Locust at the end of summer

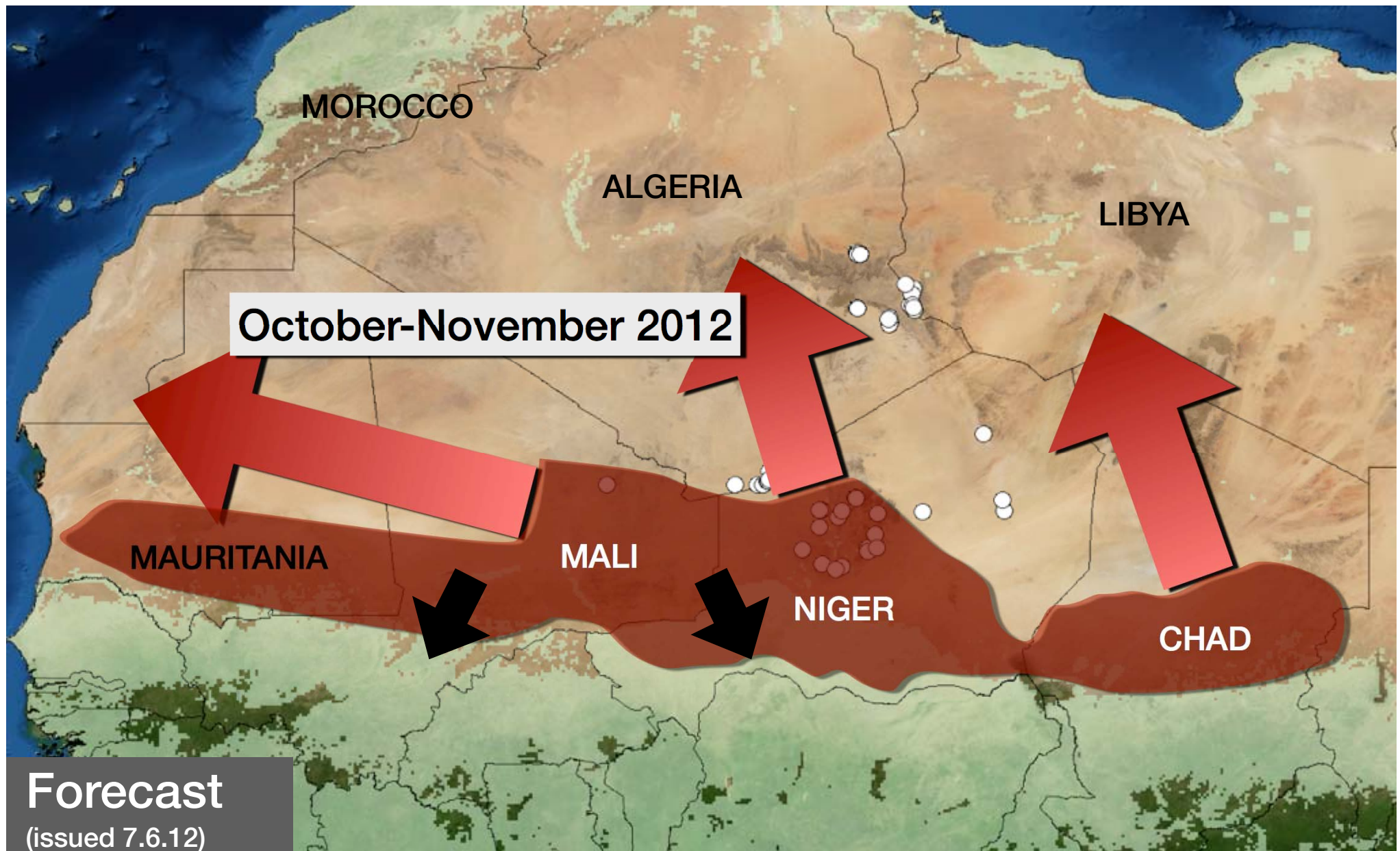


## Scenario 2



- Scenarios**  
(as of 7.6.12)
- Scenario 2: the incoming locusts fly over the northern areas that are still dry and continue south to agriculture zones in central and south Niger, central Mali and perhaps central Chad
  - This is good because the locusts leave areas in which survey and control operations are not possible or very limited, and go to areas where national teams can operate
  - This is bad because they would arrive in agricultural areas at the same time when this year's crop is being planted
  - Sahelian countries are already vulnerable and the food security situation this year is extremely precarious



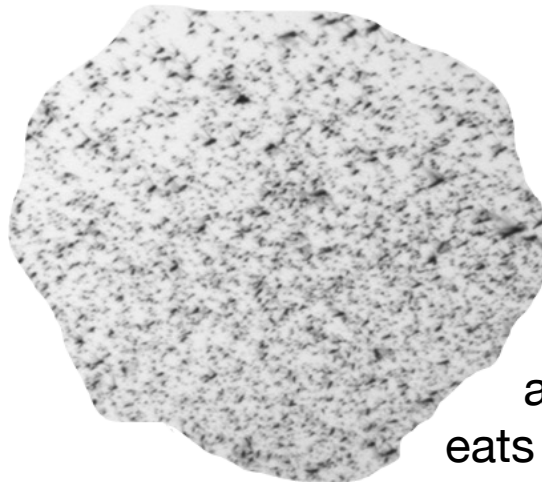


- In reality, probably a little bit of both scenarios will occur
- There is a high risk that Desert Locust populations will increase dramatically this summer, especially if rains are good and many areas are inaccessible
- At the end of summer (October), large numbers of locusts, including swarms, could be present and threaten the harvest
- As vegetation dries out, Desert Locusts are expected to move to NW Mauritania, Algeria, Libya and perhaps Morocco

## **2. THE THREAT**

WHY ARE DESERT LOCUST SO DANGEROUS ?





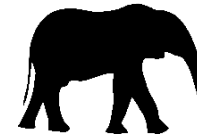
a 1 km<sup>2</sup> Desert Locust swarm  
eats the same food in 1 day as ...



35,000



20



6



a swarm the size of Niamey (or Bamako)  
consumes the same amount of food in 1 day as ...



8.5 million



half the  
population  
of Niger  
(or Mali)

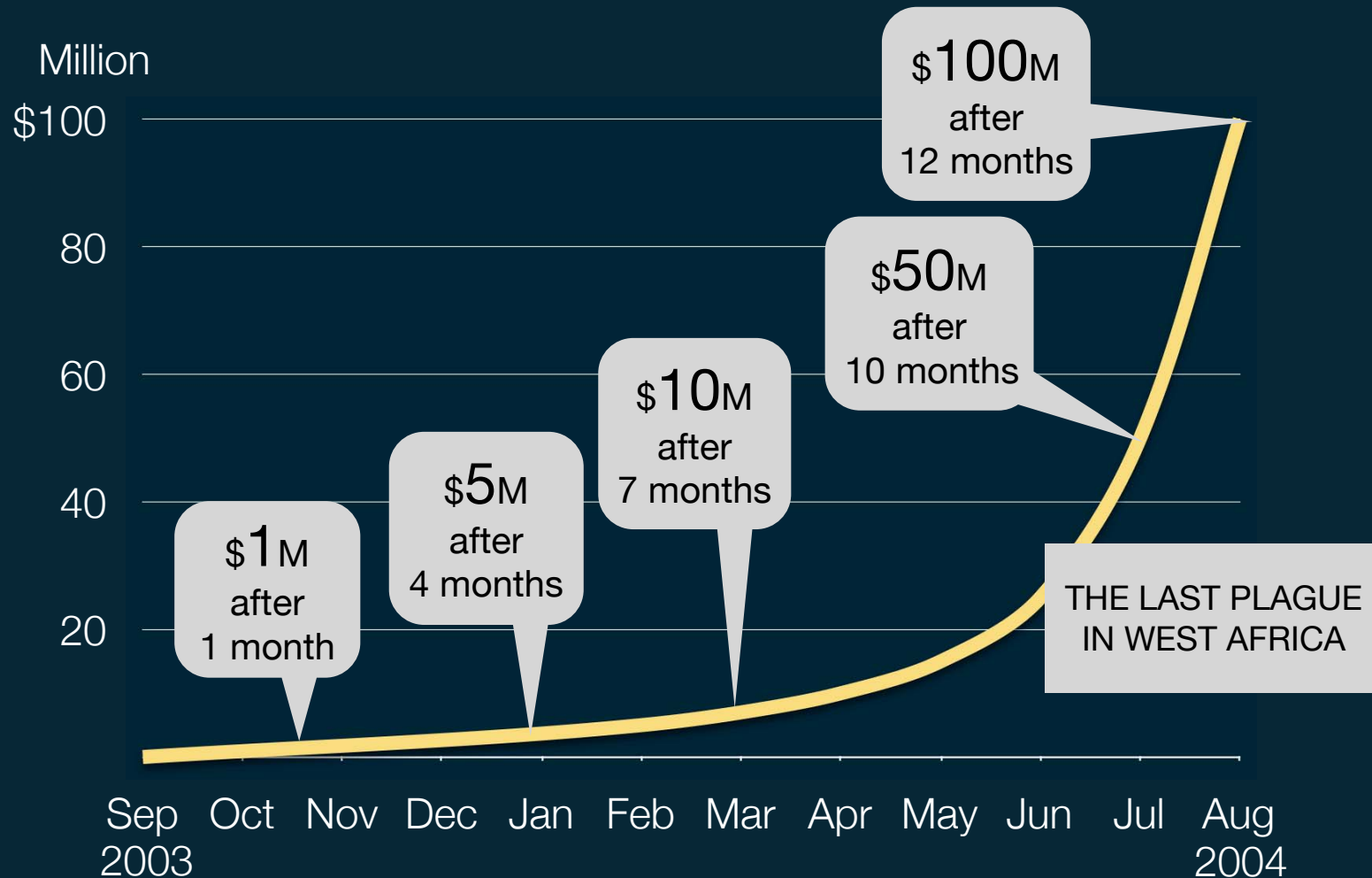
# 50 MILLION

LIVELIHOODS AS WELL AS CROP PRODUCTION, FOOD & NUTRITION  
SECURITY ARE THREATENED IN **CHAD, MALI, AND NIGER**

## **3. THE COST**

IS IT EXPENSIVE TO STOP THE LOCUSTS ?

# \$1 MILLION SAVES \$100 MILLION



- Experience has shown that the earlier everybody can respond, the better
- This protects crops, protects the environment (using less pesticide), contributes to food security, and saves money
- Financial requirements can escalate, quickly going from USD 1 million to USD 100 million in one year
- The current situation is clearly not that same as in 2003-05, but it could be the early stages of the beginning
- Whatever can be done now will protect crops and reduce the size of an eventual spread to other countries



**\$ 570 MILLION**

CONTROL OPERATIONS  
(2003-2005)

**\$ 3.3 MILLION**

ANNUAL COST  
PREVENTIVE CONTROL  
WESTERN REGION

**170**

YEARS OF PREVENTIVE CONTROL

- Prevention saves lives
- Prevention saves livelihoods
- Prevention saves money

## **4. ACTION**

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE THREAT ?



# CALL TO ACTION **NOW**

Activate Contingency Plans:

**Niger:** *Plan de gestion du Risque Acridien*

**Mali:** *Cadre de gestion du Risque Acridien*

**Chad:** *Plan de gestion du Risque Acridien*

**Mauritania:** *Plan de gestion du Risque Acridien*

Mobilize field teams in Niger & Mali

Start regular surveys in Mauritania & Chad

Initiate public awareness campaigns



	USD
FUNDING REQUIRED (FAO APPEAL 21 JUNE 2012)	10 000 000
PLEDGES	3 900 000
FUNDING RECEIVED	4 100 000
FUNDING GAP	5 900 000

500 000 technical assistance  
 6 000 000 survey & control ops  
 1 400 000 aerial survey & control  
 1 000 000 pesticide airlifts  
 191 000 expendable equipment  
 909 000 agency support costs

discussions ongoing with 2 donors

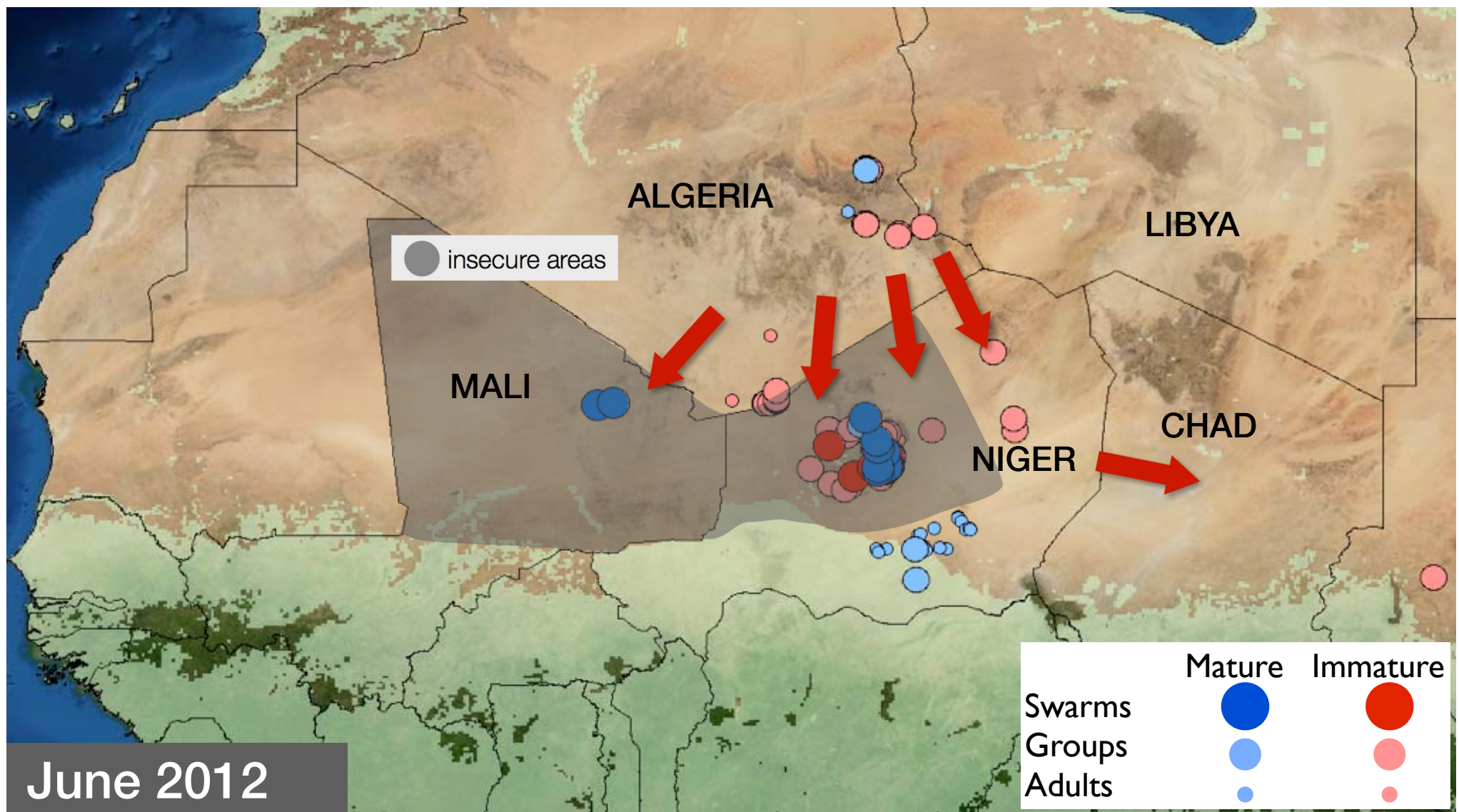
3 100 000 received (FAO)  
 1 000 000 bilateral (Niger)

4 October 2012

- Immediate funding requirements for supporting Sahelian countries to address the current Desert Locust threat are estimated at USD 10 million
- Funds are mainly required to allow national locust control units to operate and to ensure proper coordination by FAO and its Regional Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO)

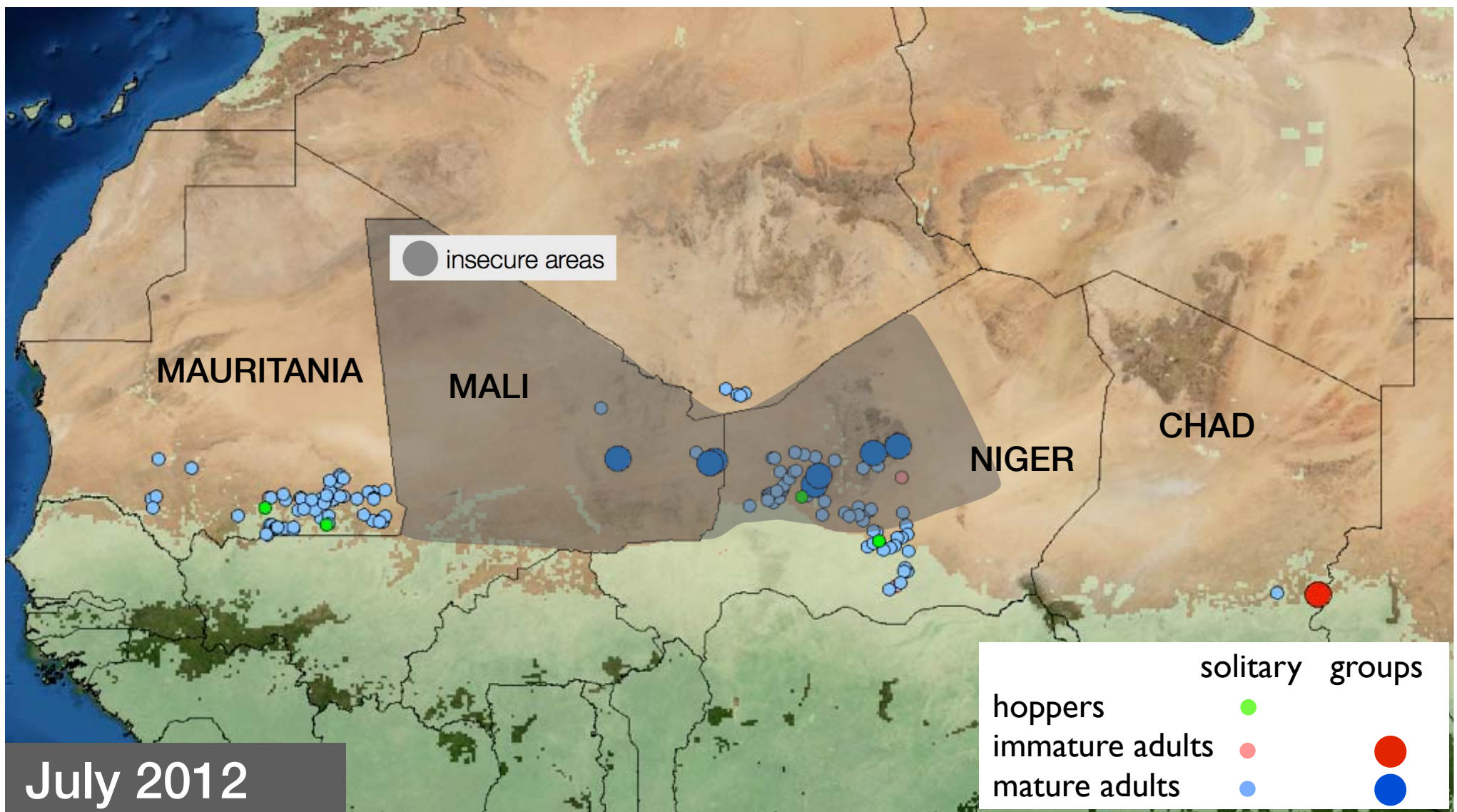
## **4. CURRENT SITUATION**

WHERE ARE THE LOCUSTS NOW ?

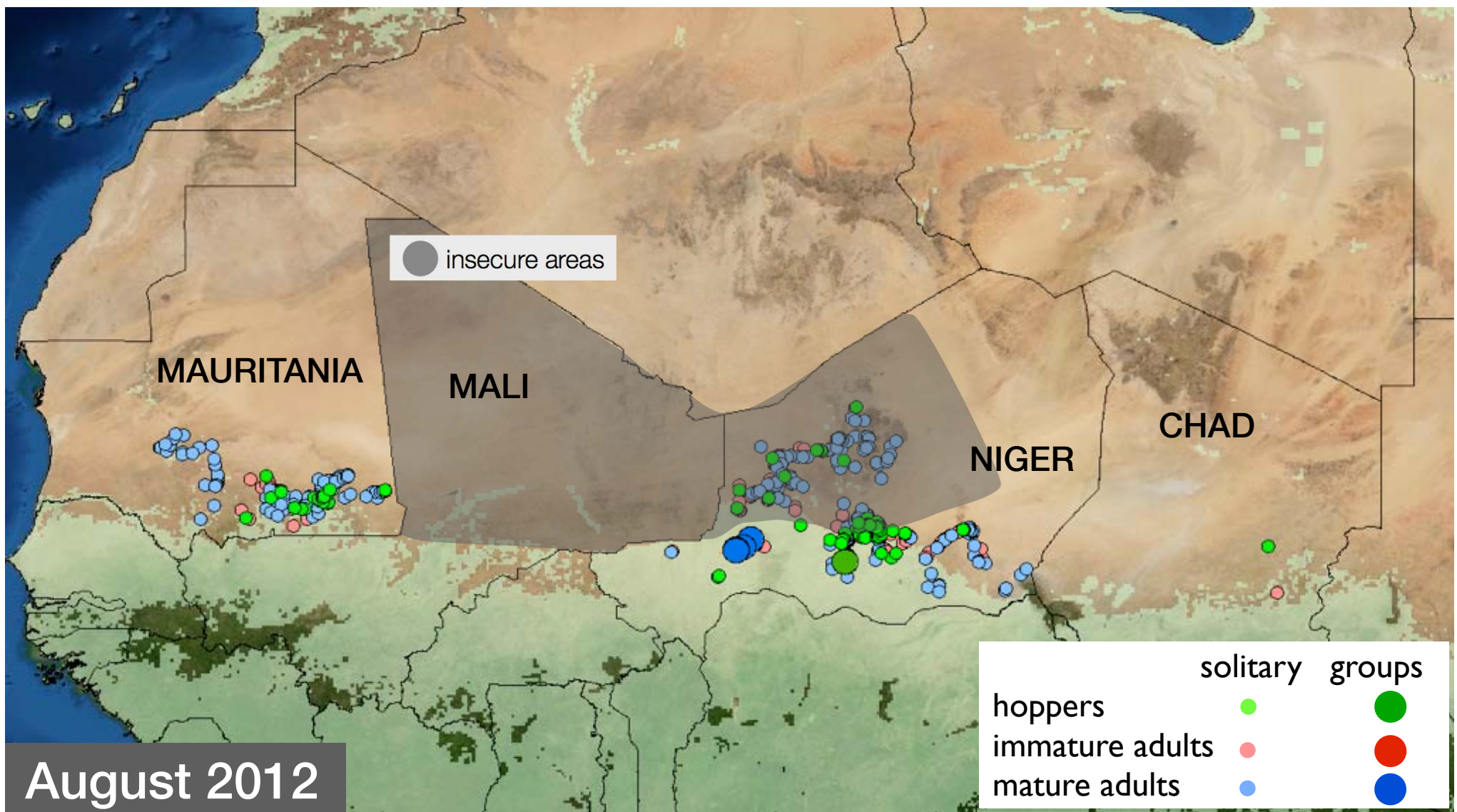


- The situation improved in Algeria and Libya as remaining populations moved to the northern Sahel
- More than 17 reports of immature adult groups and swarms were received from northern Niger; control operations were mounted; damage occurred on dates and cultivations
- Some groups continued south into pasture and cropping areas; egg-laying started on 21 June
- Reports of mature swarms were received during the first half of June from northern Mali



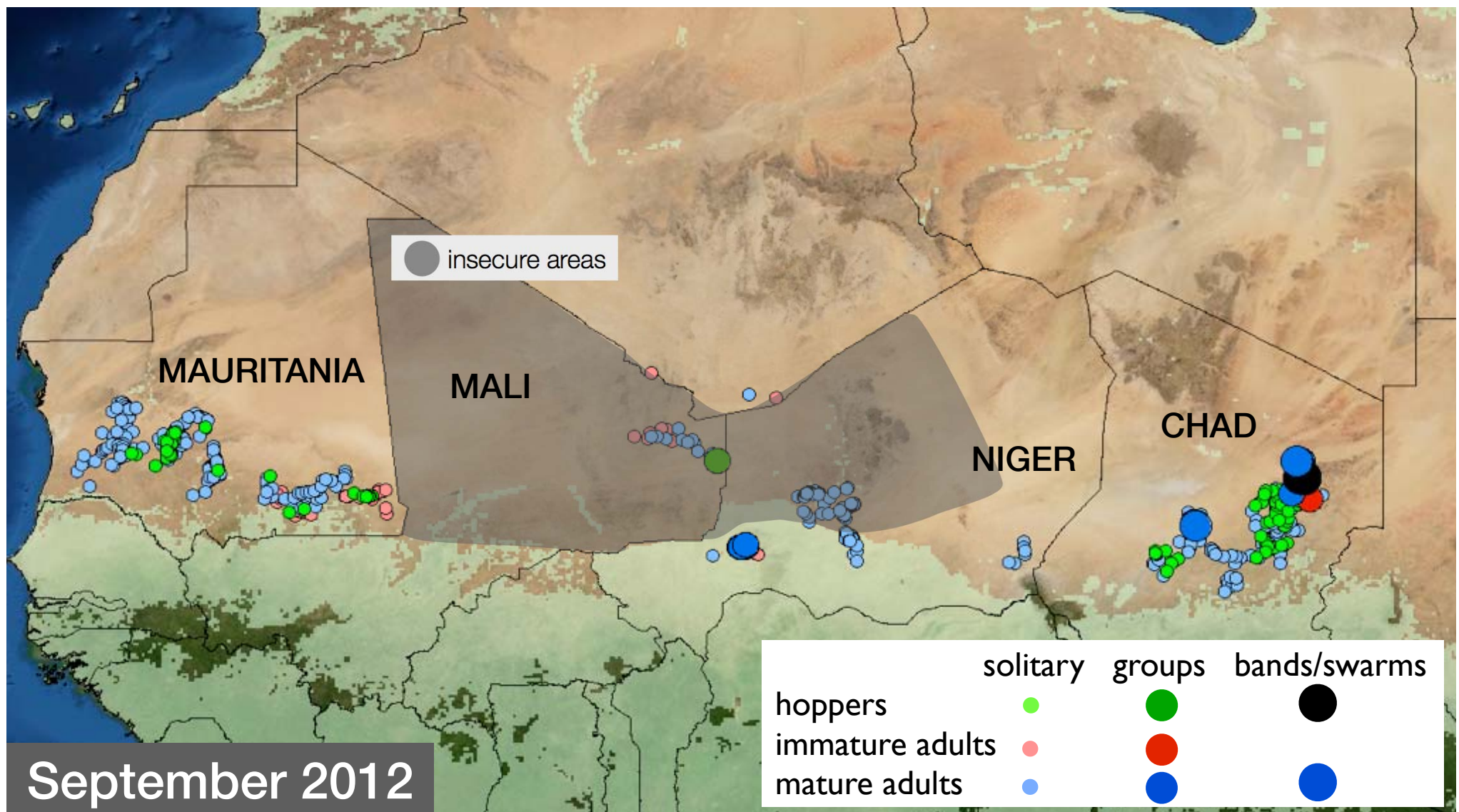


- Egg-laying and hatching occurred throughout July in northern and central Niger, and probably in northern Mali
- Groups of mature adults persisted in parts of northern Niger and Mali
- An immature adult group was seen in early July in eastern Chad probably coming from northeast Niger
- Low numbers of adults were present and breeding on a small scale in southern Mauritania



- More areas are greener this year than last in the northern Sahel from Mauritania to Chad, and up to 150km further north
- Breeding continued in northern and central Niger (and probably in northern Mali but surveys cannot confirm this)
- An increasing number of hoppers and a few small groups were reported in Niger
- Fledging started in Niger by mid-month (and probably earlier in northeastern Mali at the end of July)
- Small-scale breeding continued in southern Mauritania

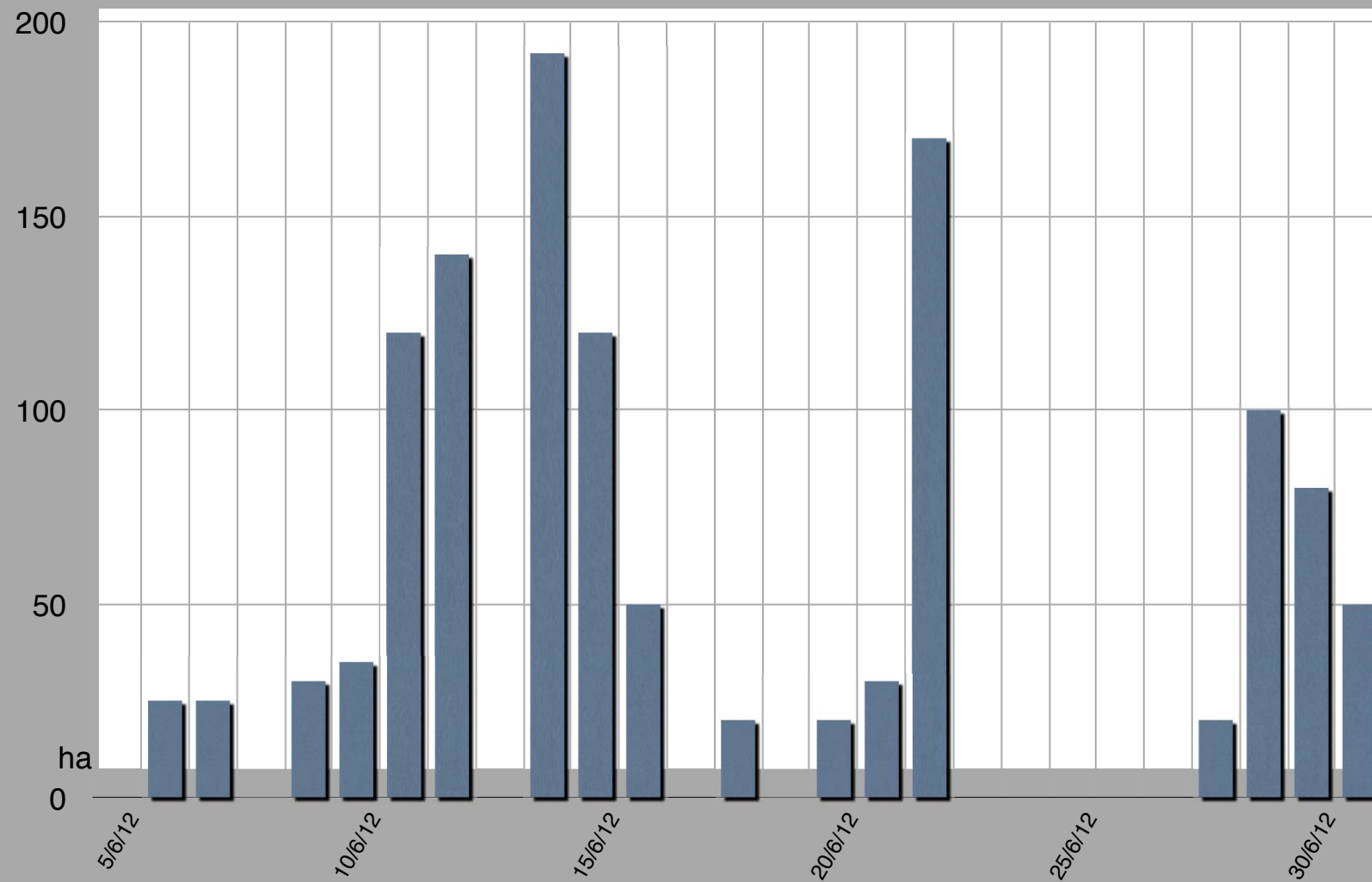




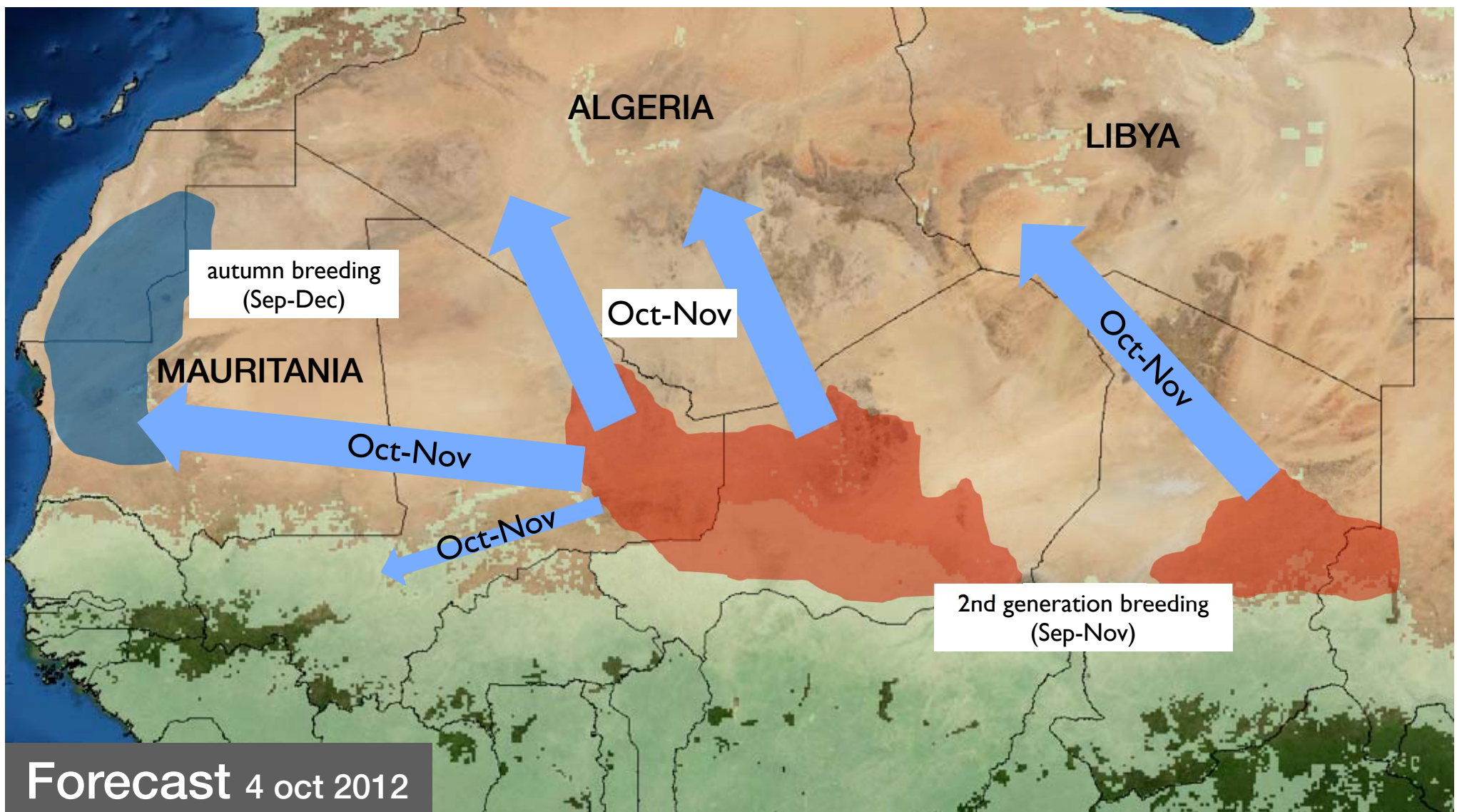
- First generation adults laid eggs in northern Mali, Niger and Chad from early September
- Hatching of the second generation occurred by the end of the month in Chad (and probably Mali and Niger)
- Locusts concentrated in some areas and formed a few adult groups (Mali and Niger) and small hopper bands (Chad)
- Control teams treated more than 600 ha of hopper bands in northeast Chad
- Rains continued to fall and ecological conditions remained unusually favourable for breeding
- Small-scale breeding commenced in western Mauritania

# Daily control operations

■ Niger







- A second generation of breeding will occur in Niger, Mali and Chad from September to November, causing locust numbers to increase
- As vegetation dries out after mid-October, locusts will concentrate and gregarize in remaining green vegetation or crops
- Adults, small groups and swarms will move to northwest Mauritania and to south-central Algeria and Libya in November, the exact timing will depend on rainfall and vegetation conditions in October and November
- At least one generation of breeding will occur in northwest Mauritania and probably Western Sahara from September onwards





## LATEST INFORMATION



[www.fao.org/ag/locusts](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts)



[www.facebook.com/faolocust](https://www.facebook.com/faolocust)



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