Desert Locust threat in the Sahel

2012

Informal Donors' Meeting

FAO Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division

Friday, 5 October 2012, 10.00 – 12.00 hours
Iran Room

Executive Brief (4 October 2012)

Abstract – FAO Regional Strategic Response Framework
for the response to the 2012 Desert Locust threat in the Sahel

FAO Desert Locust Bulletin No. 408 (2 October 2012)
September 2012 with forecast to mid-November 2012

Informal Donors' Meeting Presentation (5 October 2012)

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Desert Locust threat in the Sahel

2012

4 October 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Sahel in West Africa currently faces the most serious Desert Locust threat since 2005. More than **50 million people** could be affected in **Chad, Mali, Mauritania** and **Niger**.
- A **second generation of breeding is underway in Mali, Niger** and **Chad** due to unusually favourable ecological conditions. If control operations are not effective, numerous swarms could leave the Sahel when vegetation dries out (late October onwards), migrating to Algeria, Libya, northwest Mauritania and perhaps Morocco while a few may remain and threaten cropping areas in Mali and Niger.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) requested **USD 10 million** in June 2012 for urgent action to coordinate the emergency campaign and allow national locusts control units to undertake the required operations.
- With the **USD 3.1 million** received so far, FAO ensures **overall campaign coordination and technical support** through:
  - **Regular update of the Regional Action Plan.**
  - **Elaboration of a Regional Strategic Response Framework for the Desert Locust threat in the Sahel.**
  - **Strengthened the operational capacity of national survey and control teams in Niger, Chad and Mali.**
  - **Triangulation of pesticides** (airlifting pesticides from a country in the region with available stocks to a recipient country).
  - **Enhanced preparedness for potential upscale of interventions in Niger, Mauritania, Chad** and **Mali.**
- Bilateral assistance of USD 1 million to Niger has allowed the country to further strengthen its survey and control capacity.
- **Current funding gap is USD 5.9 million**. Consequences of unmet requirements: reduction of field survey teams, less control, increased risk to crops, and more locusts will move to other countries.

LATEST UPDATE

Second-generation breeding underway in Mali, Niger and Chad. *This will cause locust numbers to increase further in all countries during October and November. Locusts are presently scattered throughout a large portion of the Sahel due to good rains and unusually favourable ecological conditions this summer. As the rains are now ending, vegetation will dry out, forcing the locusts to concentrate and form hopper bands and adult swarms. So far, small hopper bands have started to form in northeast Chad. Locust breeding also commenced recently in western Mauritania.*

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN

Regional technical meeting, jointly organized by the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), FAO and the World Bank was held in September in Nouakchott, Mauritania. The meeting updated the **Regional Action Plan** for September-November 2012 according to two likely scenarios. Participants included the ten CLCPRO member countries, the World Bank, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), CLCPRO and FAO. The financial requirements remained unchanged (USD 10 million).

The Desert Locust **Strategic Regional Response Framework** is designed around the five results of FAO's broader response to the current Sahel crisis.

Survey operations in Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger continued in September and control teams are being strengthened. Interventions are limited in northern Mali due to insecurity and military escorts must accompany teams in northern Niger. Control operations were mounted in Chad where a second mission of the Campaign Coordinator started at the end of September to further strengthen the country's technical capacity.

Pesticide triangulation. Morocco agreed to donate 60 000 litres of pesticide each for Mali and Niger. In collaboration with WFP, the first airlifting of pesticide is scheduled for end of October (Mali: 32 000 litres; Chad: 20 000 litres).

Aerial operations. A tender to hire aircraft for Mali, Mauritania and Niger was launched in case aerial operations are needed in October and November. An aircraft logistician was deployed to Senegal and Niger to assess the national capacities and provide recommendations as needed.

Funding required (USD)	Pledges (USD)	Funding received by FAO (USD)	Funding received bilaterally (USD)	Funding gap (USD)
10 million FAO appeal (21 June 2012)	**3.9 million** Discussions ongoing with two donors	**3.1 million** Funds received from France, United Kingdom and USA	**1 million** Donated to Niger*	**5.9 million**

* This amount reflects the needs identified for Niger within FAO's Appeal and covered by bilateral assistance; it does not reflect the total bilateral contributions received by Niger.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Addendum to Food and Nutrition Crisis in the Sahel: Urgent action to support the resilience of vulnerable populations – Desert Locust threat in the Sahel (June 2012): English version / French version
- Situation updates: Locust Watch / Sahel Crises / Twitter / Facebook
- FAO Response Coordinator: Dr Annie Monard, +39 06 570 53311, annie.monard@fao.org
- FAO Operations / Donors Focal Point: Ariella Glinni, +39 06 570 54091, ariella.glinni@fao.org

Desert Locust threat in the Sahel

2012

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– ABSTRACT –

FAO REGIONAL STRATEGIC RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVE AND RESULTS

The **overall objective** of FAO's proposed programme is to safeguard the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of rural communities in the Sahel and neighbouring countries.

The **specific objective** is to protect agriculture production and the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers, herders, agropastoralists and agrosilvopastoralists, as well as other groups rendered vulnerable by the 2012 Desert Locust threat in the Sahel.

The **five expected results** for the Desert Locust regional strategic response framework are:

Result 1 – *Protect and strengthen livelihoods of vulnerable populations*

- Support national locust programmes in responding to the Desert Locust threat in an effective and environmentally safe manner
- Ensure that pesticides are used appropriately and safely; soil, water, food, animal and human contamination is avoided
- Avoid the purchasing of new pesticides through redistribution and triangulation of pesticides within the Region
- Promote the use of biopesticides whenever possible

Result 2 – *Govern risks and manage crises:* strengthened national and regional institutional capacities in coordinating and managing crises and reducing food insecurity risks

- Harmonize national action plans
- Ensure national activities fit into a broader, coordinated regional context
- Support regional coordination to provide an effective and harmonized rapid response

Result 3 – *Watch to safeguard:* needs assessments, monitoring, and early warning systems at local, national and regional levels are strengthened in a concerted and integrated way

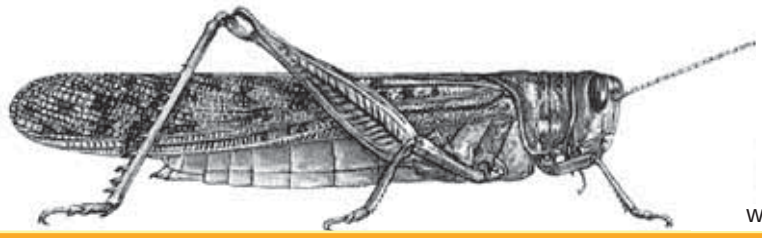
- Strengthen national and regional institutional capacities for survey, early warning and control response
- Improve and upgrade the current Desert Locust information system
- Monitor and control Desert Locust infestations timely and efficiently

Result 4 – *Prepare to respond*: contingency plans and crisis preparedness are strengthened at regional, national and local levels

- Incorporate lessons learned from the current and previous Desert Locust threats in national contingency plans
- Execute surveys and control operations and reporting according to contingency plans

Result 5 – *Inform and communicate for knowledge:* knowledge management and dissemination of good practices in risk reduction and strengthening resilience are supported at all levels

- Quantify the needs for recovery of affected populations and communicate them to the donor community
- Improve the *modus operandi* for Desert Locust survey and control operations
- Update the manual for emergency survey and control operations
- Document the technical, socio-economic and environmental relevance of the locust campaign
- Inform donors and the general public about the Desert Locust threat on regular and timely basis vis-a-vis regular bulletins, updates, social media and the press



warning level: **THREAT**

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations

No. 408

(2 Oct 2012)

General Situation during September 2012 Forecast until mid-November 2012

The Desert Locust situation remained serious during September as a second generation of breeding commenced in northern Mali, Niger and Chad. This will cause locust numbers to increase further. As vegetation dries out, hopper bands and swarms are likely to form. From mid-October onwards, there is an increasing risk that adult groups and small swarms will move out of the Sahel and into Northwest Africa and, to a lesser extent, into cropping areas in Mali and Niger. The situation is further compounded by insecurity in northern Mali and in parts of northern Niger. Surveys should be maintained in all affected countries and control operations carried out when appropriate in order to reduce locust numbers and the potential threat to crops and pastures. All countries in the region should remain on high alert. Elsewhere, locusts were concentrating in parts of Sudan while monsoon rains ended along the Indo-Pakistan border where the situation remains calm.

Western Region. A second generation of breeding commenced in early September in northern **Mali**, **Niger** and **Chad**. Hoppers and adults formed small groups in northeast Mali, groups of adults were present in central Niger, and small hopper bands formed in northeast Chad. Control teams treated 626 ha in Chad. Small-scale breeding occurred in southeast **Mauritania** and started in the west. Relatively large numbers of locusts are thought to be scattered throughout a large portion of the northern Sahel. During the forecast period, locust numbers will increase further as breeding continues. As vegetation dries out, the scattered locusts will concentrate, hoppers will form small groups and bands while adults will form groups and small swarms that are likely to migrate from late October onwards towards southwest and central **Libya**, southern and central **Algeria** and northwest Mauritania. Some locusts could reach areas of recent rainfall in the **Western Sahara** and western Algeria while others could move into cropping areas in Mali and Niger.

Central Region. Small-scale breeding during September caused locust numbers to increase in the summer breeding areas of the interior of **Sudan** where they were scattered over a large area between Darfur and the Red Sea Hills. By the end of the month, small groups and one small swarm formed to the northwest of Khartoum, and control teams treated 41 ha. As vegetation dries out during the forecast period, locusts will continue to concentrate and are likely to form additional groups. Therefore, intensive surveys should be maintained in all areas. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the Region, except for a few adults on a farm in the interior of **Saudi Arabia**.

Eastern Region. Low numbers of solitarious adults persisted in a few places along both sides of the border in Rajasthan, **India** and in adjacent areas in **Pakistan** during September where small-scale breeding occurred. As the monsoon rains ended in mid-September, locust numbers will decline as vegetation dries out. No significant developments are likely.

The FAO Desert Locust Bulletin is issued every month by the Desert Locust Information Service, AGP Division (Rome, Italy). It is supplemented by Alerts and Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity. All products are distributed by e-mail and are available on the Internet.
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No. 408

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

Weather & Ecological Conditions in September 2012

Good rains continued to fall in much of the summer breeding areas of the Sahel from Mauritania to Eritrea where conditions remained favourable for breeding. The monsoon rains came to an end along the Indo-Pakistan border at mid-month.

In the **Western Region**, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) begin its southern retreat in early September but then pushed anomalously northward again during the second decade of the month, up to 300 km further north than usual, before moving southwards again in the last decade. Strong southerly winds were associated with the northward movement, resulting in late and above-average rains across Mauritania, central and northern Mali, and in parts of Niger and Chad during the first three weeks of the month. Thereafter, very little rain fell except in southeast Mauritania. Consequently, ecological conditions remained extremely favourable for breeding throughout southern and central Mauritania, in northern Mali (Adrar des Iforas, Tamesna), northern and central Niger (Tamesna, Air, pasture areas), and in central and eastern Chad (Kanem, Batha, Biltine). Unusually favourable conditions developed in northeast Chad along the southern side of the Ennedi Plateau and in parts of the Mourdi Depression. Vegetation started to dry out in a few places of southeastern Mauritania after mid-month but was becoming green in the west (Trarza). In Northwest Africa, widespread light to moderate showers, associated with Tropical Storm Nadine located west of the Canary Islands, fell over Western Morocco and southern Morocco on 22-24 September, extending to north and northwest Mauritania. The heaviest rainfall occurred in the central Western Sahara. Good rains also fell in western Algeria and near the Niger border at In Guezzam (45 mm).

In the **Central Region**, good rains continued to fall during September in the summer breeding areas of the interior in Sudan south of 15N. The rains extended to 18N over eastern Sudan and the western lowlands in Eritrea. Consequently, ecological conditions remained favourable for breeding in Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan, River Nile, Northern and Kassala States in Sudan, and in western Eritrea. Vegetation was becoming green in Khartoum State. Light to moderate rains fell on the Red Sea coast in Yemen as well as in eastern Ethiopia, extending to the plateau in northern Somalia.

In the **Eastern Region**, light to moderate rains associated with the seasonal monsoon fell over most parts of Rajasthan, India and in adjacent areas of Tharparkar, Khairpur and Cholistan deserts in Pakistan during the first half of September. Thereafter, the monsoon withdrew towards the southeast and no significant rain fell. Nevertheless, vegetation remained green and ecological conditions were favourable for small-scale breeding in both countries.

Area Treated

Chad	626 ha (September)
Sudan	41 ha (September)

Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on page 1)

WESTERN REGION

Mauritania

• **SITUATION**

During September, small-scale breeding continued in the southeast from north of Aioun El Atrous (1639N/0936W) to east of Nema (1636N/0715W) where low numbers of solitarious hoppers of mainly late instars and immature and mature adults were present. Further west, locust numbers increased slightly as adults appeared in Kiffa, western Tagant, northern Brakna and eastern Trarza. Solitarious hoppers of all instars were present near Tidjikja (1833N/1126W) and Moudjeria (1752N/1219W) where small-scale laying occurred during the second half of August and early September. Breeding was reported southeast of Aguilal Faye (1827N/1444W) in the Aouker of Trarza at mid-month and at the end of the month in Inchiri, southeast of Akjoujt (1945N/1421W), and in southwest Adrar.

• **FORECAST**

Locust numbers will decline in the southeast but increase in the west (Trarza, northern Brakna, western Tagant) and northwest (Inchiri, Dakhlet Nouadhibou, southwest Adrar) as adults arrive from the southeast and small-scale breeding occurs. There is an increasing risk of small groups and swarms arriving in these areas from northern Mali after mid-October.

Mali

• **Situation**

During September, solitarious adults were maturing in the northeast between Kidal (1827N/0125E) and Tin Essako (1826N/0229E) in the southern Adrar des Iforas and on the Tamesna Plains between Tin Essako and the Niger border. Adult densities increased from 400 adults/ha during the first decade of the month to 5,000 adults/ha in the second decade, and an increasing number of infestations were found in the Tamesna where a second generation of egg-laying had commenced earlier in the month. First generation solitarious and *transiens* hoppers of all instars and maturing adults formed small groups in at least one location in the Tamesna by mid-month. No locusts were seen during surveys in central and western areas near Mopti (1430N/0415W), Nara (1510N/0717W), Nioro (1512N/0935W) and Kayes (1426N/1128W).

• **Forecast**

A second generation of breeding will continue in Tamesna and probably in parts of the Adrar des Iforas, causing locust numbers to increase. Hoppers will be present during October with fledging likely to commence after mid-month and continue into November. As vegetation dries out, hoppers will concentrate and form small groups and bands while adults will form groups and small swarms that are likely to migrate mainly towards the north and northwest while a few could move to central and western Mali.

Niger

• **Situation**

During September, first generation solitarious adults continued to mature between Tanout (1458N/0852E) and Agadez (1700N/0756E), between Tahoua (1457N/0519E) and Filingué (1421N/0319E), and north of Diffa (1318N/1236E) near the Chad border. A second generation of breeding commenced early in the month south of Agadez and In Gall (1651N/0701E). By mid-month, egg-laying was reported west of Tahoua where groups of immature and mature adults were present. No locusts were seen south of Tahoua and Filingué or near Zinder (1346N/0858E). No surveys were carried out during the last decade of the month.

• **Forecast**

A second generation of breeding will continue in central pasture areas, on the Tamesna Plains and perhaps in parts of the Air Mountains, causing locust numbers to increase. Hoppers will be present during October with fledging likely to commence after mid-month and continue into November. As vegetation dries out, hoppers will concentrate and form small groups and bands while adults will form groups and small swarms that are likely to migrate mainly towards the north and northwest while a few could move south towards cropping areas. Surveys should resume in all areas.

Chad

• **Situation**

During September, first generation solitarious hopper of all instars and adults continued to mature mainly between Arada (1501N/2040E) and Fada (1714N/2132E) in Biltine and eastern BET and, to a lesser extent in northeast Kanem, northwest Batha and southern BET from Salal (1448N/1712E) to north of Beurkia (1523N/1800E). Locals reported seeing small mature swarms northeast of Beurkia near Kouba Oulanga (1545N/1818E) and north of Fada on the southwestern edge of the Mourdi Depression during the first week. At the same time, a second generation of breeding commenced and solitarious adults and groups of *transiens* adults laid eggs that started hatching by the 20th. From mid-month onwards, there were an increasing number of small hopper bands, at densities up to nearly 200 hoppers/m^2, seen in the Fada area.

• **Forecast**

A second generation of breeding will continue in BET, Biltine, Kanem and Batha, causing locust numbers to increase. Hoppers will be present during October with fledging likely to commence after mid-month and continue into November. As vegetation dries out, hoppers will concentrate and form small groups and bands while adults will form groups and small swarms that are likely to migrate towards the northwest.

Senegal

• **Situation**

Isolated mature solitarious adults were seen in the north between Richard Toll (1626N/1541W) and Dagana (1631N/1530W) on 14-18 September.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Algeria

• **Situation**

During September, immature solitarious adults were seen in the extreme south near the Mali border and Timeiaouine (2026N/0148E), while both immature and mature adults were present near the Niger border and In Guezzam (1937N/0552E).

• **Forecast**

From late October onwards, small groups of adults and swarms are likely to arrive in the southern and central Sahara from current infestations in the northern Sahel. There is a low to moderate risk that some adults could reach areas of recent rainfall in the west of the country.

Morocco

• **Situation**

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during September.

• **Forecast**

From late October onwards, there is a low to moderate risk that small groups of adults and swarms could arrive in areas of recent rainfall in the Western Sahara from current infestations in the northern Sahel. If more rains fall, the adults will eventually mature and breed.

Libya

• **Situation**

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported in September.

• **Forecast**

From late October onwards, small groups of adults and swarms are likely to arrive in the southwest and perhaps in central areas from current infestations in the northern Sahel.

Tunisia

• **Situation**

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported in September.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

CENTRAL REGION

Sudan

• **Situation**

During September, scattered mature solitarious adults were present in Northern Kordofan between Hamrat Esh Sheikh (1438N/2756E) and Umm Saiyala (1426N/3112E), in Khartoum State, along the Nile River near Atbara (1742N/3400E), Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E), Merowe (1830N/3149E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E) in River Nile and Northern States. Small-scale breeding was detected along the Atbara River in Kassala State and in Red Sea State on the western side of the Red Sea Hills near Derudeb (1731N/3607E) and Haiya (1820N/3621E). At the end of the month, hoppers and mature adults formed small groups in Wadi Muqaddam area about 75 km northwest of Khartoum, and adults were laying eggs. One small mature swarm was seen nearby in Qoz Abu Dulu. Control teams treated 41 ha.

• **Forecast**

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in parts of West and North Darfur, Northern Kordofan, River Nile, Northern and Kassala states. Fledging will occur from mid-October onwards. As vegetation dries out, hoppers and adults are likely to form small groups.

Eritrea

• **Situation**

No reports were received during September.

• **Forecast**

Small-scale breeding is expected to occur in the western lowlands, causing locust numbers to increase slightly. Surveys should be carried out to monitor the situation.

Ethiopia

• **Situation**

During September, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the east near Dire Dawa (0935N/4150E) and in the north.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

• **Situation**

No reports were received during September.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

• **Situation**

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported during September.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Egypt

• **Situation**

During September, no locusts were seen during

surveys on the Red Sea coast near Shalatyn (2308N/3535E) and Abu Ramad (2224N/3624E).

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Saudi Arabia

• **Situation**

During September, a few immature solitarious adults were seen in the interior on a farm near Sulayel (2027N/4534E) on the southwestern edge of the Empty Quarter. No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the Asir Mountains near Al Barzah (2157N/3942E) and Khamis Mushait (1819N/4245E), and in the interior north of Riyadh (2439N/4646E).

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Yemen

• **Situation**

No surveys were carried out and no locusts were reported in September.

• **Forecast**

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present in a few places along the Tihama where they could breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall.

Oman

• **Situation**

During September, no locusts were seen during surveys carried out in the southern region of Dhofar north of Thumrait (1736N/5401E), in the northern interior of Dakhliya between Adam (2223N/5731E) and Nizwa (2255N/5731E) and on the Musandam Peninsula.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda and UAE

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN REGION

Iran

• **Situation**

No reports were received during September.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

• **Situation**

During September, low numbers of mature solitarious adults were present along the Indian border in Khairpur Desert east of Rohri (2739N/6857E) and in Cholistan south of Rahimyar Khan (2822N/7020E) and Bahawalpur (2924N/7147E). Isolated immature solitarious adults were reported west of Karachi near Uthal (2548N/6637E). No locusts were seen in Tharparkar.

• Forecast

Locust numbers will decline in Cholistan and Khairpur as vegetation dries out. No significant developments are likely.

India

• **Situation**

A fourth instar hopper and isolated mature solitary adults were present at one place northwest of Bikaner (2801N/7322E) near the Pakistani border on 17-19 September.

• **Forecast**

Locust numbers will decline in Rajasthan as vegetation dries out. No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

• **Situation**

No reports received.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Announcements

Desert Locust warning levels. A colour-coded scheme indicates the seriousness of the current Desert Locust situation: green for *calm*, yellow for *caution*, orange for *threat* and red for *danger*. The scheme is applied to the Locust Watch web page and to the monthly bulletin's header. The levels indicate the perceived risk or threat of current Desert Locust infestations to crops and appropriate actions are suggested for each level.

Locust reporting. During calm (green) periods, countries should report at least once/month and send RAMSES data with a brief interpretation. During caution (yellow), threat (orange) and danger (red) periods, often associated with locust outbreaks, upsurges and plagues, RAMSES output files with a brief interpretation should be sent at least twice/week within 48 hours of the latest survey. Affected countries

are also encouraged to prepare decadal bulletins summarizing the situation. All information should be sent by e-mail to the FAO/ECLO Desert Locust Information Service (eclo@fao.org). Information received by the end of the month will be included in the FAO Desert Locust Bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

Locust tools and resources. FAO has developed a number of tools that National locust information officers and other interested individuals can use for Desert Locust early warning and management:

- **MODIS.** Vegetation imagery every 16 days (http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Food_Security/.Locusts/.Regional/.MODIS/index.html)
- **MODIS.** Daily rainfall imagery in real time (http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Food_Security/.Locusts/index.html)
- **RFE.** Rainfall estimates every day, decade and month (http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Food_Security/.Locusts/index.html)
- **Greenness maps.** Dynamic maps of green vegetation evolution every decade (http://www.devcocast.eu/user/images/dl/Form.do)
- **FAODLIS Google site.** A platform for sharing problems, solutions, tips and files for eLocust2, eLocust2Mapper, RAMSES and remote sensing (https://sites.google.com/site/faodlis)
- **FAOLOCUST Twitter.** The very latest updates are posted on Twitter (http://www.twitter.com/faolocust)
- **FAOLocust Facebook.** A social means of information exchange using Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/faolocust)
- **Slideshare.** Locust presentations and photos available for viewing and download (http://www.slideshare.net/faolocust)
- **eLERT.** A dynamic and interactive online database of resources for locust emergencies (http://sites.google.com/site/elertsite)

SWAC website. The FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC) website (http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/SWAC) is now available in French.

New information on Locust Watch. Recent additions to the web site (www.fao.org/ag/locusts) are:

- **Desert Locust situation updates.** Archives Section – Briefs
- **Sahel Crises.** Information Section

Sahel locust threat. An updated information package explains the current threat to the Sahel in West Africa by Desert Locust. It is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/2002/index.html.

2012 events. The following activities are scheduled or planned:

- **Sahel Crises.** Informal Donors Meeting, Rome (5 October)
- **CRC.** 28th Session, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (24-28 November)
- **SWAC.** 28th Session, New Delhi, India (5-7 December)

Peter Haskell. It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Peter Haskell on 26 September 2012. In 1959, he became Deputy Director of the Anti-Locust Research Center (ALRC) in the UK (upon the retirement of Boris Uvarov) and Director in 1962. He oversaw the development of the Centre for Overseas Pest Research (COPR) from 1971 until he retired in 1983. We would like to express our sincere condolences to his family and government.

Myriam Mohamed Cherif. It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Myriam Mohamed Cherif on 24 September 2012. Myriam worked with great dedication and enthusiasm for two FAO regional locust commissions, 17 years in CLCPANO and 10 years in CLCPRO. In 2011, the Director-General of FAO presented her with a medal for 25 years of service to the Organization. We would like to express our sincere condolences to her family and government.

Glossary of terms

The following special terms are used in the Desert Locust Bulletin when reporting locusts:

NON-GREGARIOUS ADULTS AND HOPPERS

ISOLATED (FEW)

- very few present and no mutual reaction occurring;
- 0 - 1 adult/400 m foot transect (or less than 25/ha).

SCATTERED (SOME, LOW NUMBERS)

- enough present for mutual reaction to be possible but no ground or basking groups seen;
- 1 - 20 adults/400 m foot transect (or 25 - 500/ha).

GROUP

- forming ground or basking groups;
- 20+ adults/400 m foot transect (or 500+/ha).

ADULT SWARM AND HOPPER BAND SIZES

VERY SMALL

- swarm: less than 1 km^2 • band: 1 - 25 m^2

SMALL

- swarm: 1 - 10 km^2 • band: 25 - 2,500 m^2

MEDIUM

- swarm: 10 - 100 km^2 • band: 2,500 m^2 - 10 ha

LARGE

- swarm: 100 - 500 km^2 • band: 10 - 50 ha

VERY LARGE

- swarm: 500+ km^2 • band: 50+ ha

RAINFALL

LIGHT

- 1 - 20 mm of rainfall.

MODERATE

- 21 - 50 mm of rainfall.

HEAVY

- more than 50 mm of rainfall.

OTHER REPORTING TERMS

BREEDING

- the process of reproduction from copulation to fledging.

SUMMER RAINS AND BREEDING

- July - September/October

WINTER RAINS AND BREEDING

- October - January/February

SPRING RAINS AND BREEDING

- February - June/July

DECLINE

- a period characterised by breeding failure and/or successful control leading to the dissociation of swarming populations and the onset of recessions; can be regional or major.

OUTBREAK

- a marked increase in locust numbers due to concentration, multiplication and gregarisation which, unless checked, can lead to the formation of hopper bands and swarms.

UPSURGE

- a period following a recession marked initially by a very large increase in locust numbers and contemporaneous outbreaks followed by the production of two or more successive seasons of transient-to- gregarious breeding in complimentary seasonal breeding areas in the same or neighbouring Desert Locust regions.

PLAGUE

- a period of one or more years of widespread and heavy infestations, the majority of which occur as bands or swarms. A major plague exists when two or more regions are affected simultaneously.

RECESSION

- period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms.

REMISSION

- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.

WARNING LEVELS

GREEN

- Calm. No threat to crops. Maintain regular surveys and monitoring.

YELLOW

- Caution. Potential threat to crops. Increased vigilance is required; control operations may be needed.

ORANGE

- Threat. Threat to crops. Survey and control operations must be undertaken.

RED

- Danger. Significant threat to crops. Intensive survey and control operations must be undertaken.

REGIONS

WESTERN

- locust-affected countries in West and North-West Africa: Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia; during plagues only: Burkino Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.

CENTRAL

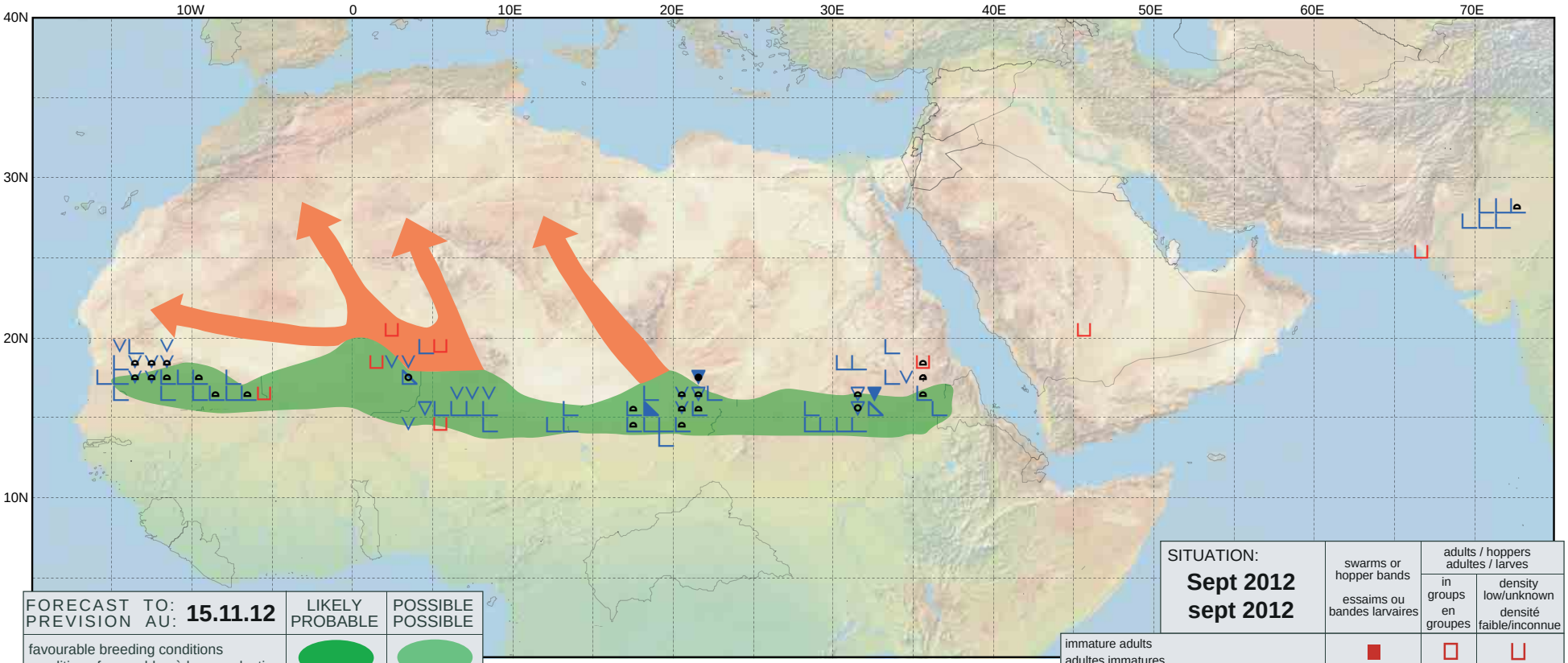
- locust-affected countries along the Red Sea: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen; during plagues only: Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Qatar, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE and Uganda.

EASTERN

- locust-affected countries in South-West Asia: Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan.

Desert Locust Summary
Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

408



FORECAST TO: / PREVISION AU: **15.11.12**	LIKELY / PROBABLE	POSSIBLE / POSSIBLE
favourable breeding conditions conditions favourables à la reproduction		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

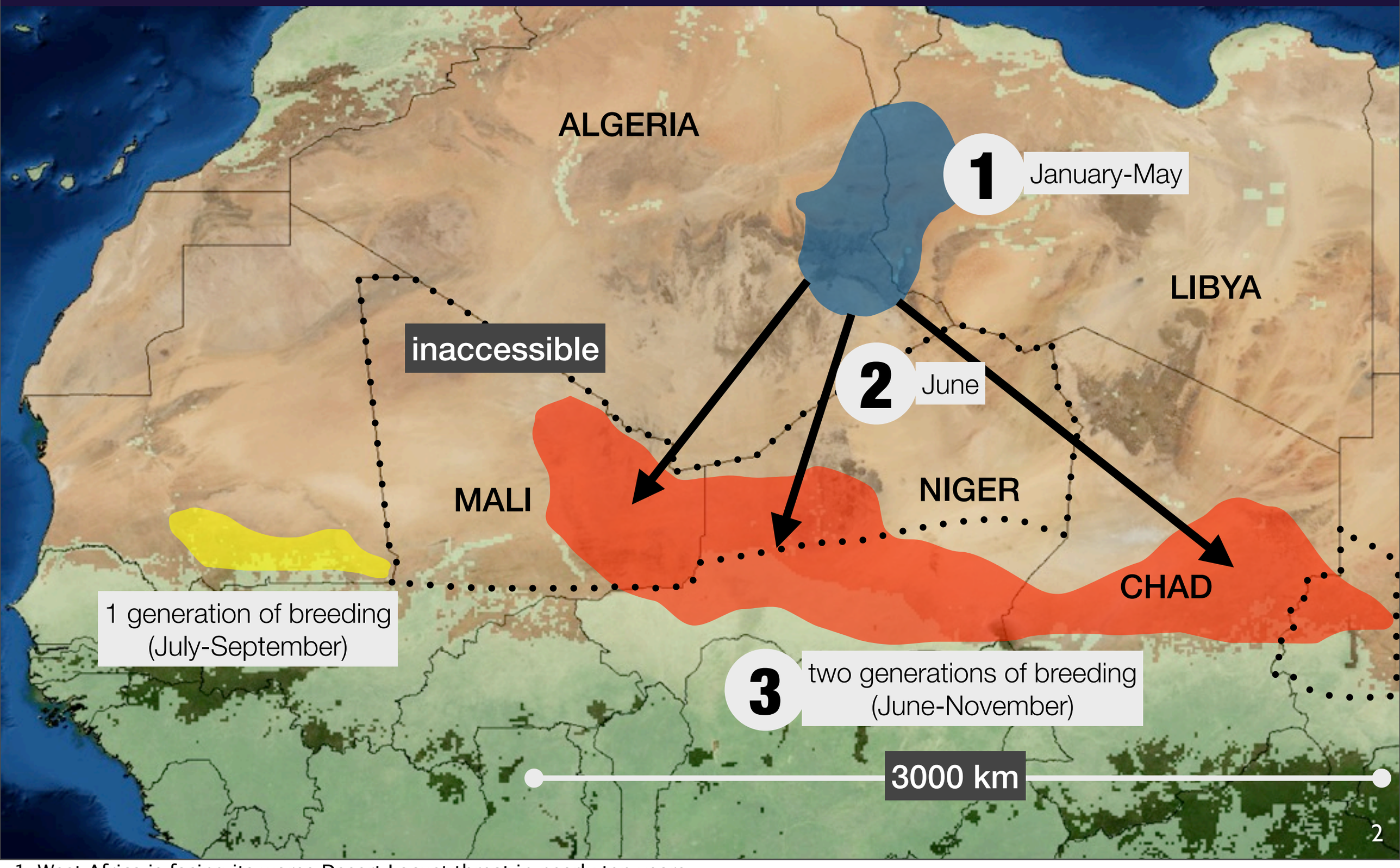
SITUATION: **Sept 2012 / sept 2012**	swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults / hoppers adultes / larves: in groups / en groupes	adults / hoppers adultes / larves: density low/unknown / densité faible/inconnue
immature adults adultes immatures	■	□	⊔
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures	◣	◺	∟
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue	▲	△	∧
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs	▼	▽	∨
hoppers larves	●	○	⌓
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)	◘	◙	⌾

DESERT LOCUST THREAT IN THE SAHEL 2012

Keith Cressman (FAO Senior Locust Forecasting Officer) presents the Desert Locust Threat in the Sahel 2012:

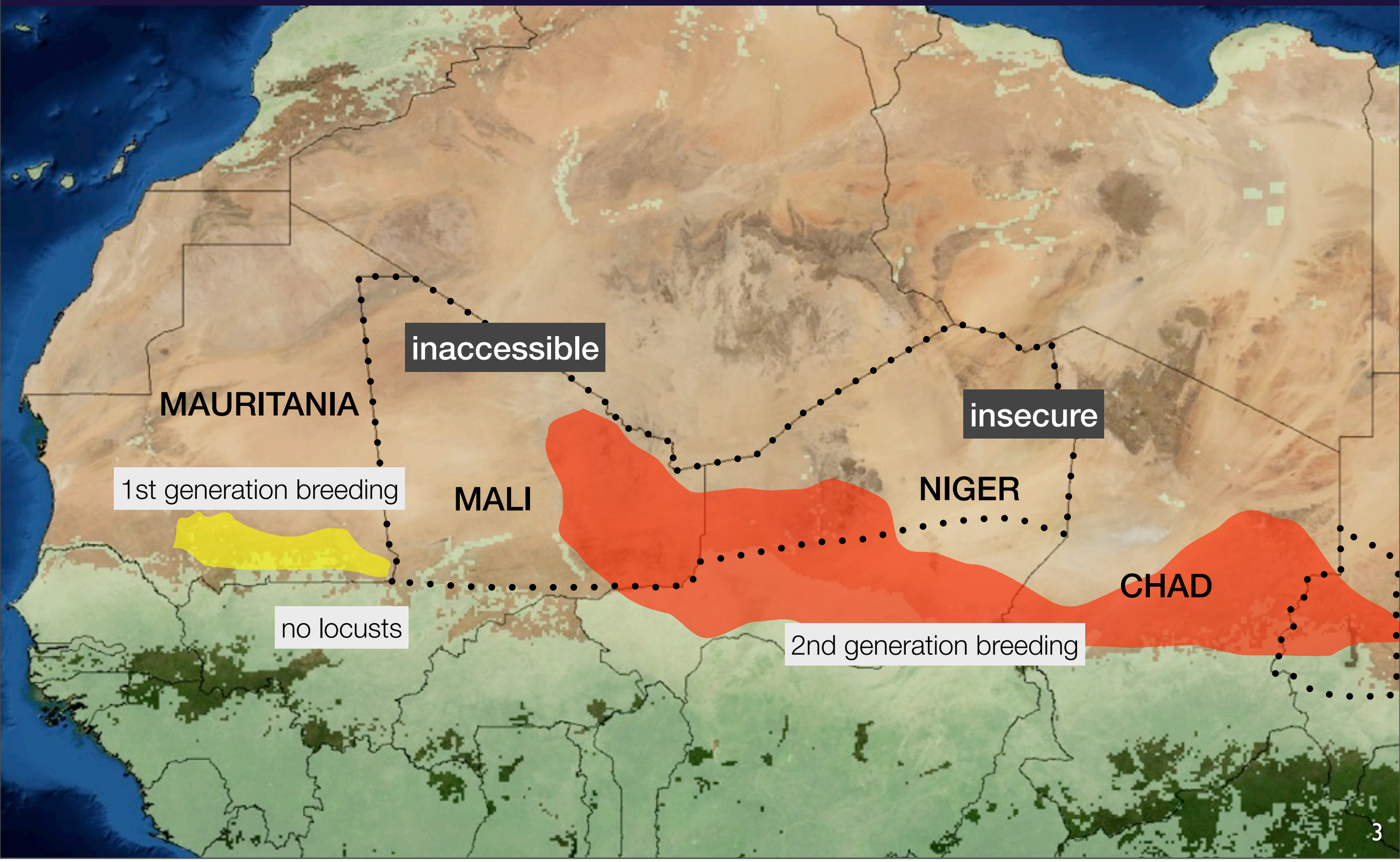
1. the current situation and forecast in West Africa
2. where we stand with the appeal made in June
3. what action has been taken since then

2012 Locust Situation Evolution



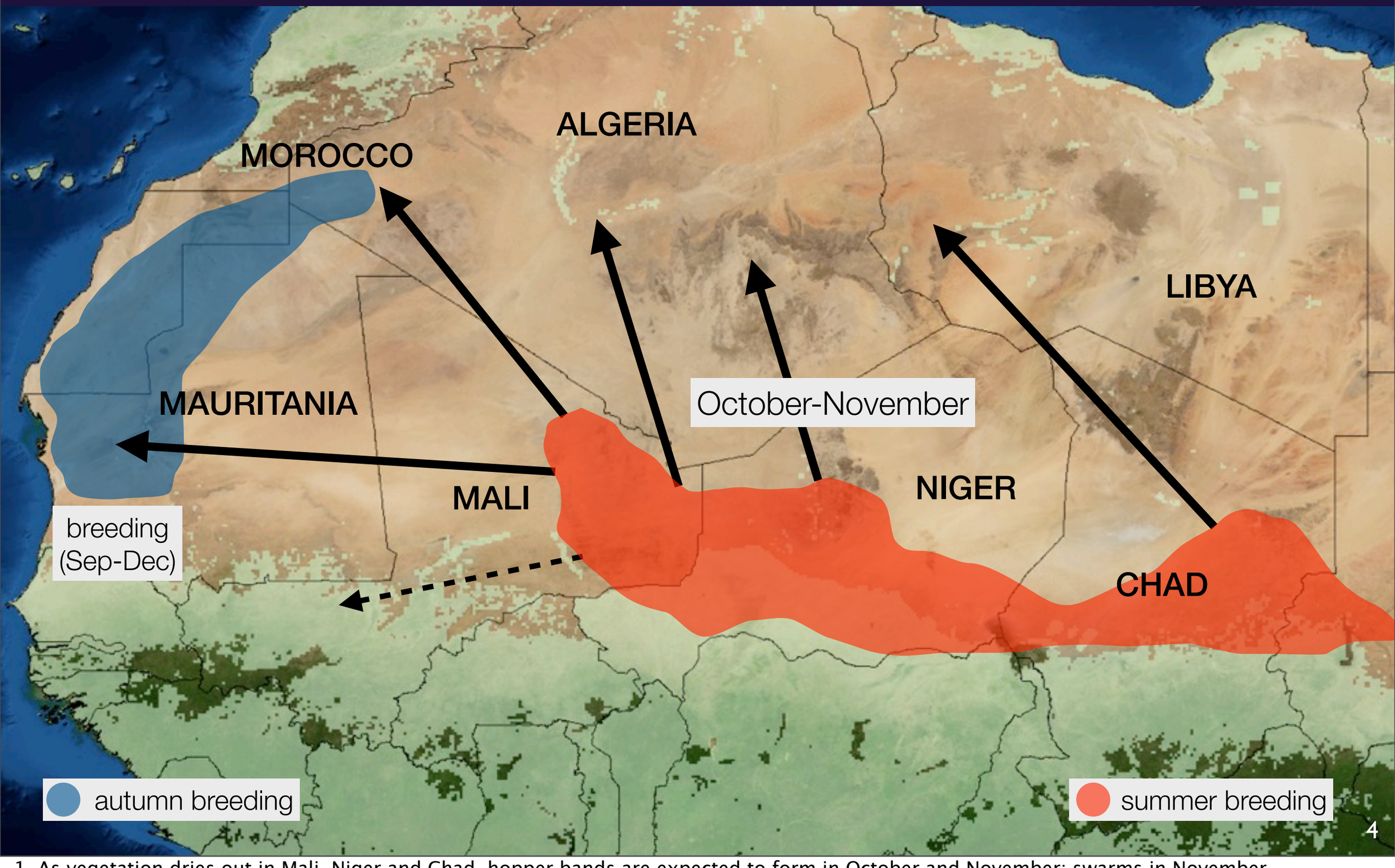
1. West Africa is facing its worse Desert Locust threat in nearly ten years
2. The threat originated further north in Algeria and Libya at the beginning of this year
3. Normally both countries can manage, but this year was compounded by insecurity on the border and a deterioration of Libyan capacity
4. In late March, FAO began warning Sahelian countries to be prepared for locusts arriving by late May
5. Control ops undertaken by Algeria/Libya but could not stop adults from forming groups and swarms that moved to the N Sahel (late May–June)
6. Niger treated the incoming populations but could not prevent egg-laying and hatching
7. Unusually early and good rains fell in May and continued during the summer this year throughout the Sahel
8. Exceptionally favourable conditions allowed two generations of breeding in Mali, Niger, Chad (June–Nov): 250-fold increase

Current Locust Situation



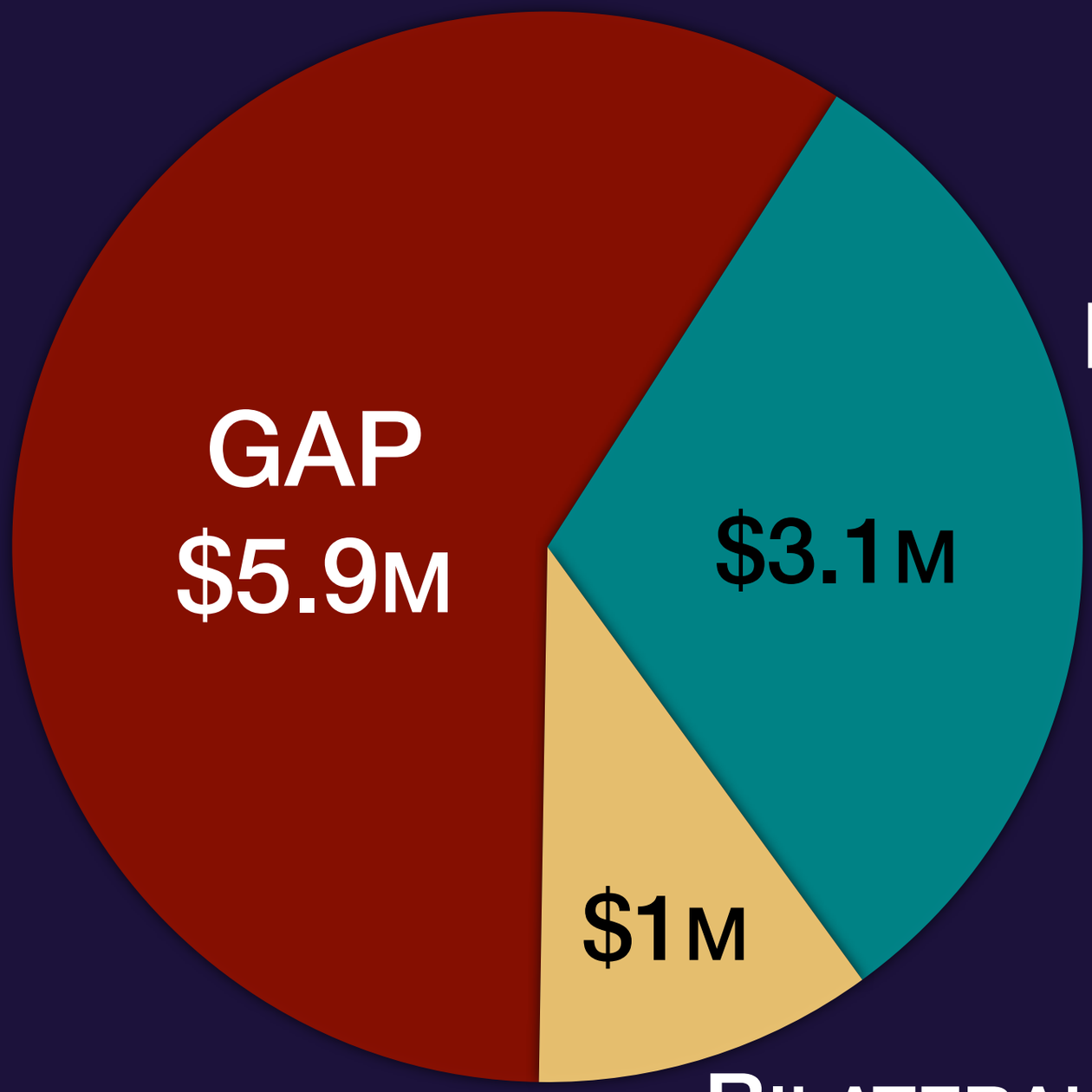
1. Because of the good rains, current conditions remain favourable although vegetation is starting to dry out in a few places
2. In those places, locust are concentrating and gregarizing to form hopper bands and groups of adults
3. The most critical areas are in NE Chad, central Niger (and probably in N Niger and NE Mali but this cannot be confirmed at the moment)
4. Due to insecurity, the situation in N Mali remains unclear (a few surveys are possible by local Turegs) and gaps in Niger surveys (with military escorts)
5. In central and western Mali, ground surveys carried out by national teams in cropping areas did not find any locusts
6. In south Mauritania, one generation of small-scale breeding (normal) is coming to an end and adults are moving to the NW

Locust Outlook



1. As vegetation dries out in Mali, Niger and Chad, hopper bands are expected to form in October and November; swarms in November
2. This will coincide with and could threaten the summer harvest
3. From mid-October onwards, the swarms will move mainly to the N and NW into SW Libya, south and central Algeria, NW Mauritania and Western Sahara
4. There is a low risk a few swarms could move SW towards western Mali and Senegal that would threaten crops and the harvest
5. Depending on rains, at least one generation of breeding is likely in NW Mauritania before the year end; this could extend to Western Sahara
6. If temperatures remain unusually warm and there are rains, breeding could also occur this year in NW Africa, or wait until Spring 2013

$10 MILLION 21 JUNE FAO APPEAL

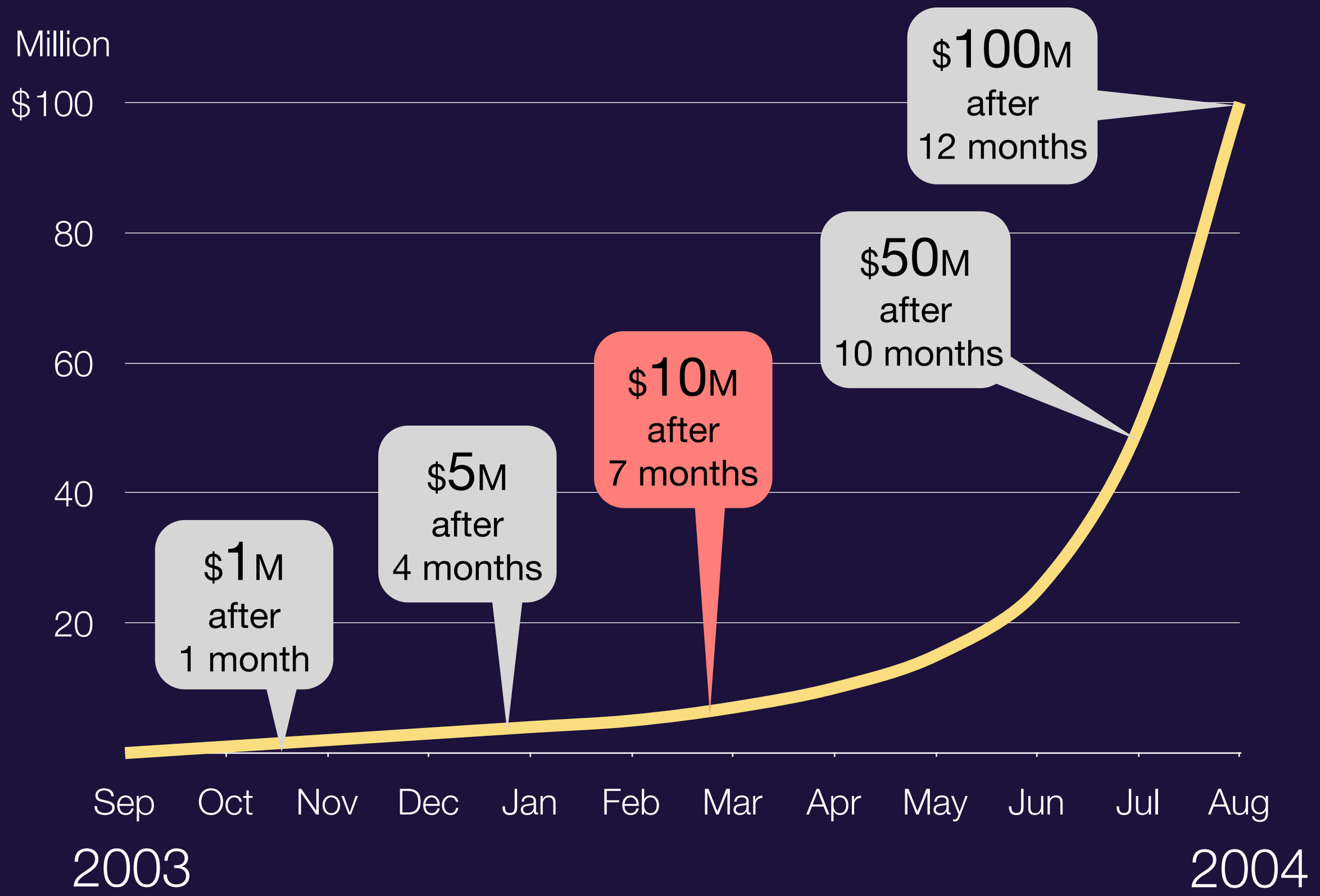


1. FAO appealed for $10m (June, IDM) – where do we stand?
2. >40% received: $3.1m received through FAO (France, USA, UK)
3. Niger received bilateral assistance of which $1m covers the country's needs identified within FAO's appeal
4. $5,870,700 gap (<60% of original appeal) but $3.9m (two-thirds) is under discussion
5. Consequences of the gap: reduction of field teams for surveys, less control, increased risk to crops, and more locusts will move to other countries

1. resources mobilized
2. surveys extended
3. technical assistance
4. action plans updated
5. pesticide triangulation
6. control operations
7. upscaling preparedness

1. So how have the funds received so far been spent? (explain 7 item list)
2. Despite the difficulties and dangers of insecurity, good progress has been made in the three countries
3. This is primarily due to a very positive response to the appeal that allowed timely action to be taken to counter the threat
4. All of these actions have occurred within a coordinated regional approach that has been strengthened throughout the crisis (HQ missions, regional meetings, elaboration of the Desert Locust strategic regional response framework around the five results of FAO's broader response to the current Sahel crisis)
5. So what? In order to protect crops, this year's harvest and livelihoods of some 50 million people in the region, and to reduce the scale of the migration to other countries

$1 MILLION SAVES $100 MILLION



1. FAO and affected countries have learned important lessens from the last plague in the Region
2. Experience has shown that the earlier everybody can respond, the better
3. This protects crops, protects the environment (using less pesticide), contributes to food security, and saves money
4. In the last plague: if $1m would have been available shortly after the emergency started, then maybe we could have avoided the plague for next 2 years
5. It is important to understand how quickly financial requirements can escalate, going from $1 million to $100 million in one year
6. Clearly the current situation faced is not in the same situation as in 2003-05; but it could be in the early stages of the beginning
7. The difference during the current crisis is that the appeal and the response is slightly faster this time

LATEST INFORMATION

www.fao.org/ag/locusts

www.facebook.com/faolocust

www.twitter.com/faolocust

1. Good progress has been made with the assistance received so far
2. But there remains a shortfall in funding
3. This can have significant consequences on livelihoods and food security in affected countries as well as for other countries in the region
4. Everyone must be prepared to face a situation that can worsen in the coming months