

Empowering Communities to Conserve the Mali Elephants in Times of War and Peace

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Lake Banzena by Carlton Ward Jr



How have these elephants survived?

- Internationally important elephant population
- 12% of all West African elephants
- Most northerly in Africa
- Undertake the longest & most unusual migration of all elephants







Save the Elephants' GPS collar data
3 elephants 2000-2001
9 elephants 2008-2009



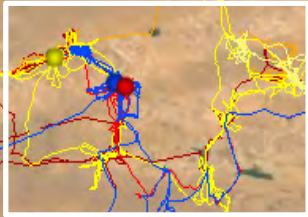
Zone of Intervention

The elephant migration route (in brown) in relation to West Africa.

The area of project intervention comprises the elephant range and extends to the Niger river (in blue)



Timbuktu



100km

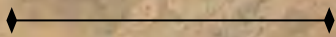
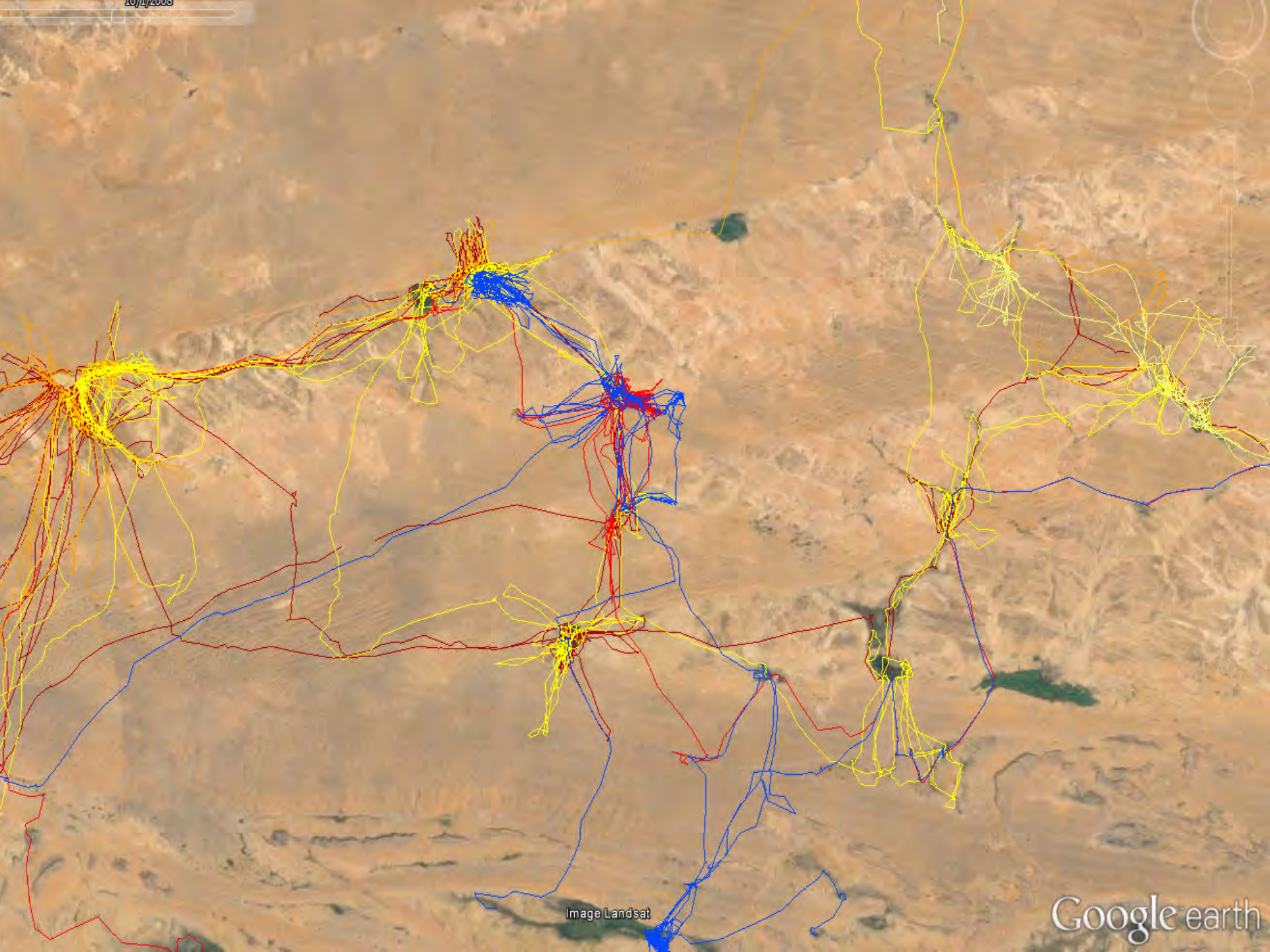


Image Landsat



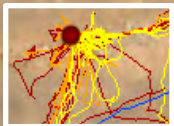
Google earth





A typical small lake (with fishing nets in the foreground)

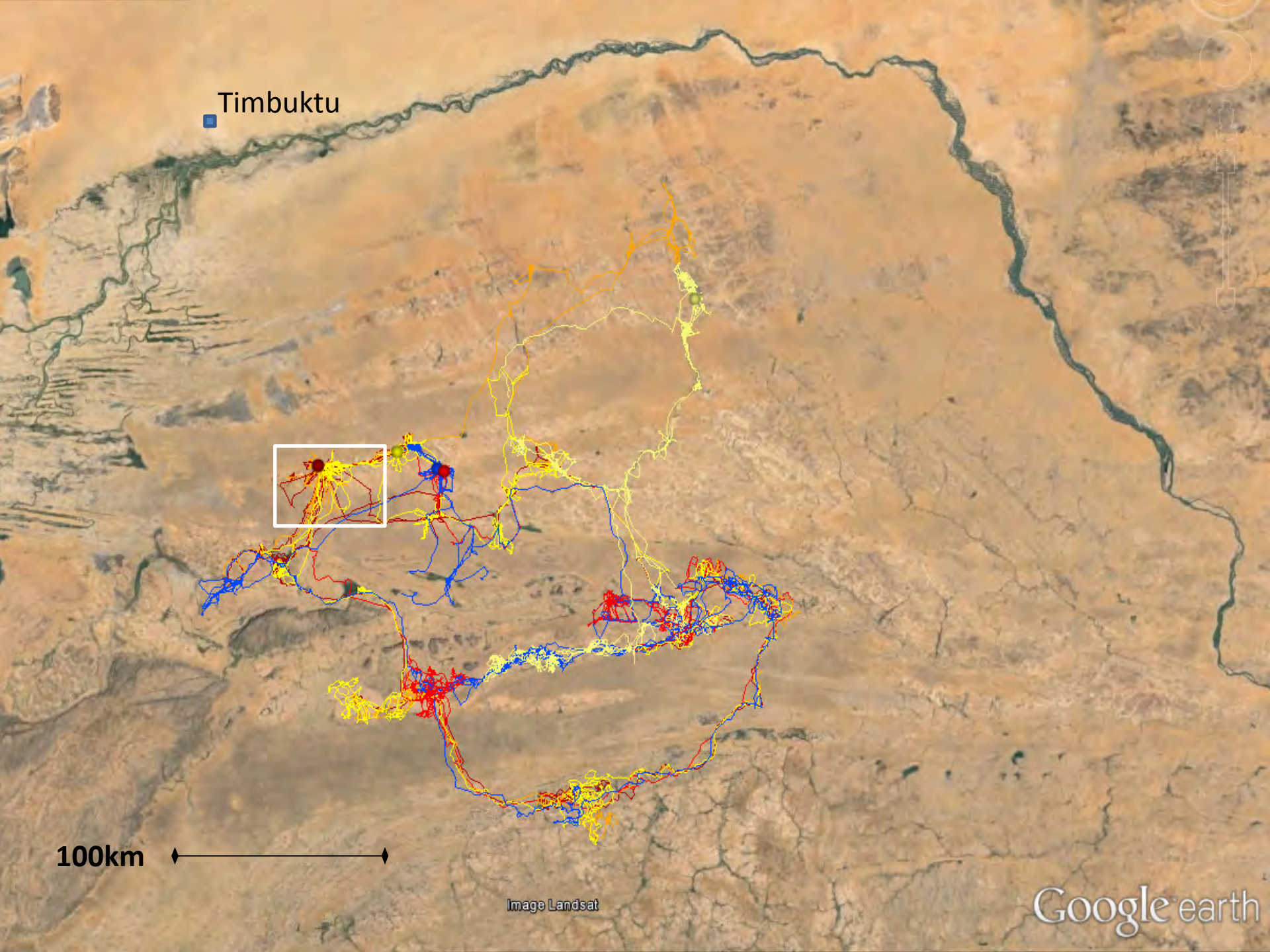
Timbuktu



100km

Image Landsat

Google earth







Photograph by Carlton Ward Jr



Photograph by Carlton Ward Jr

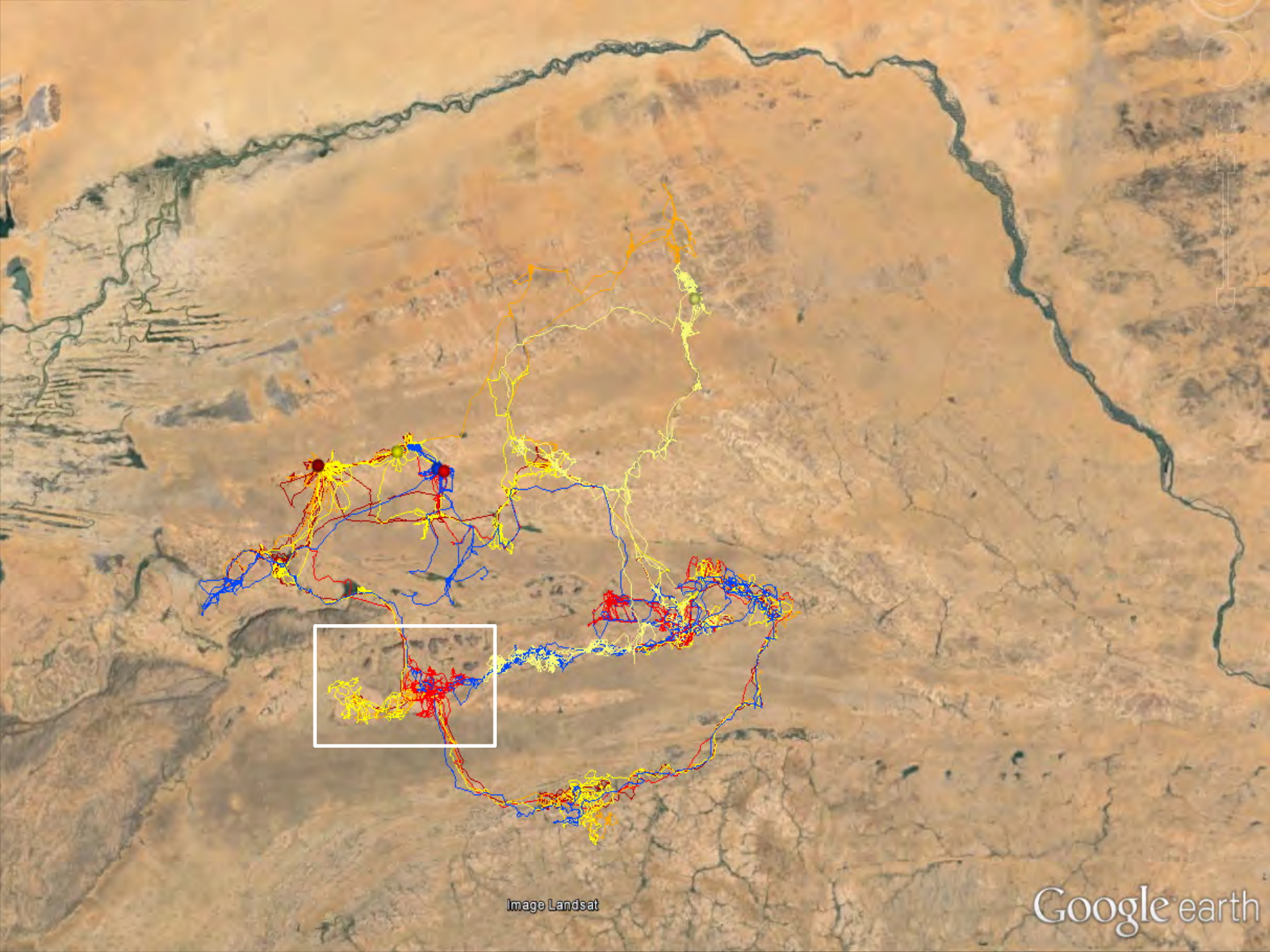


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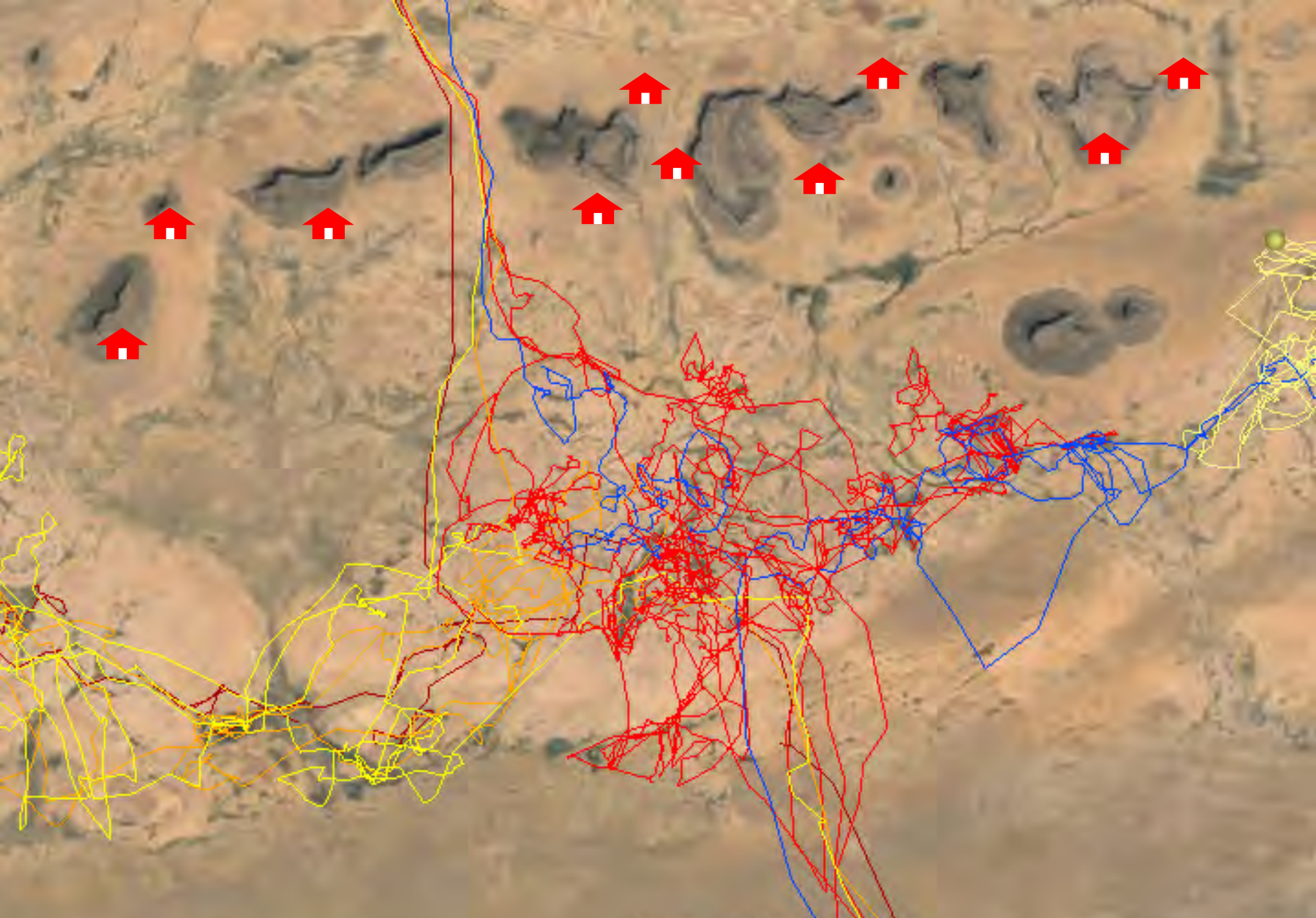


Image © 2013 DigitalGlobe

Image Landsat

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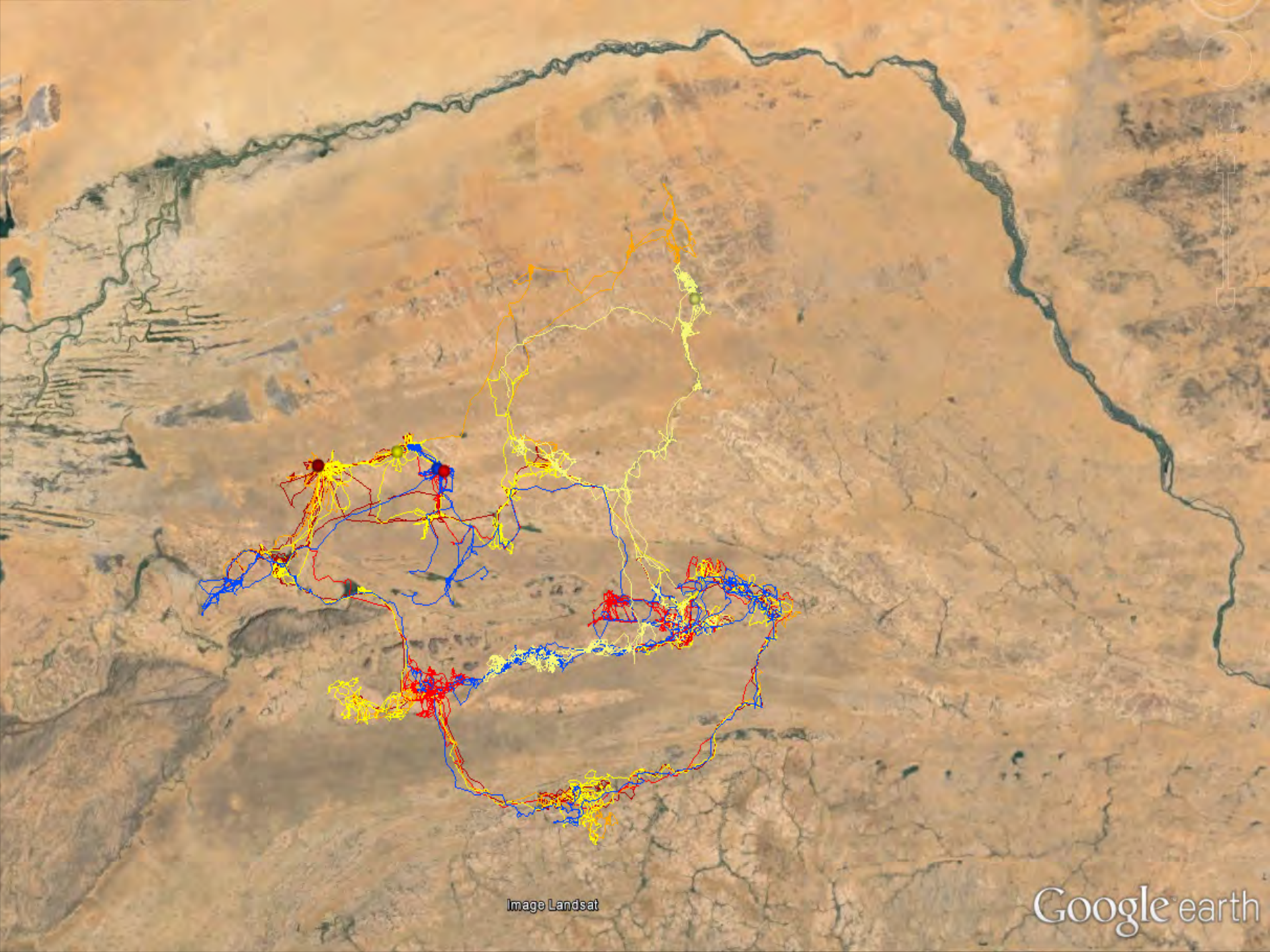
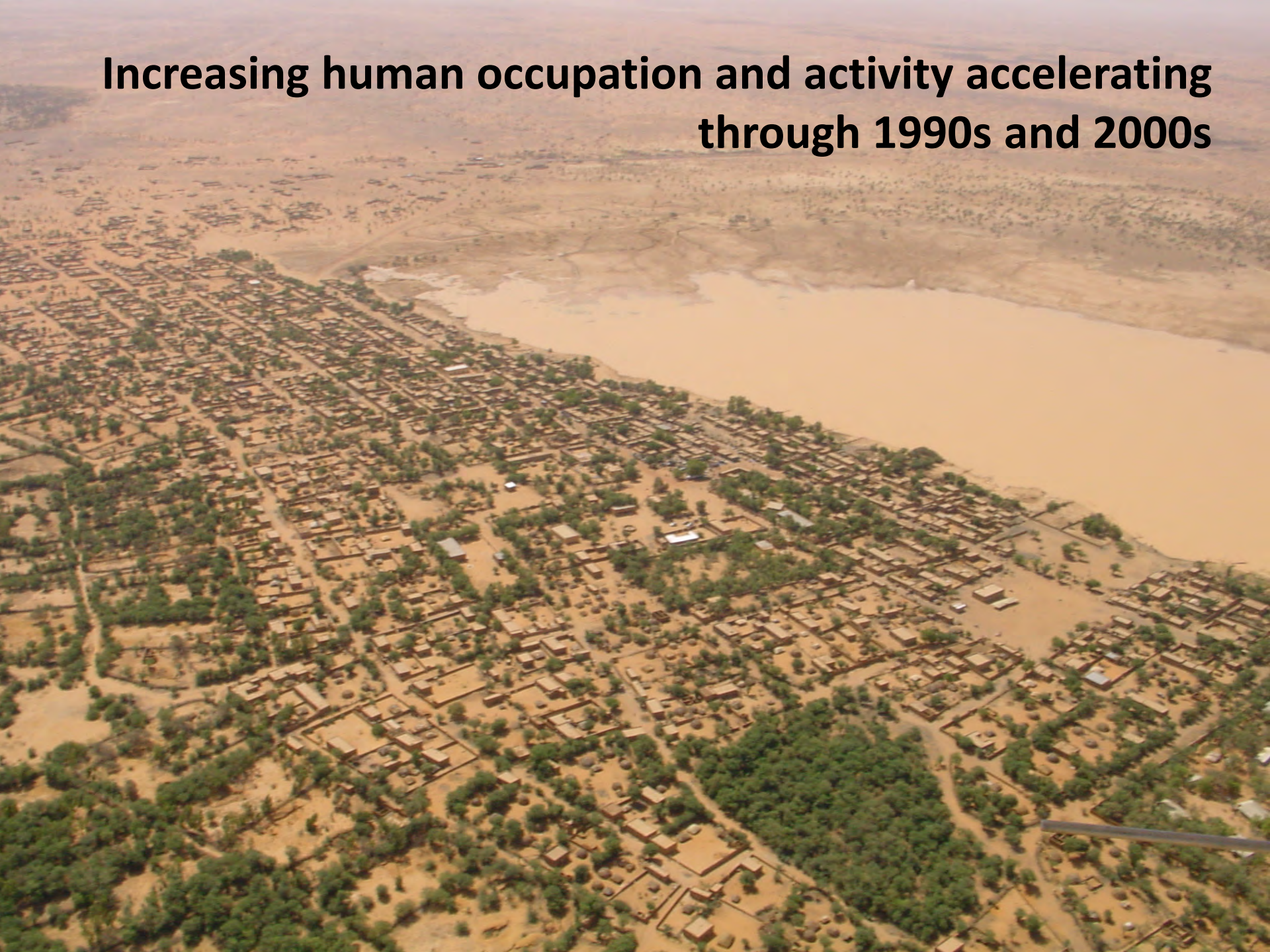


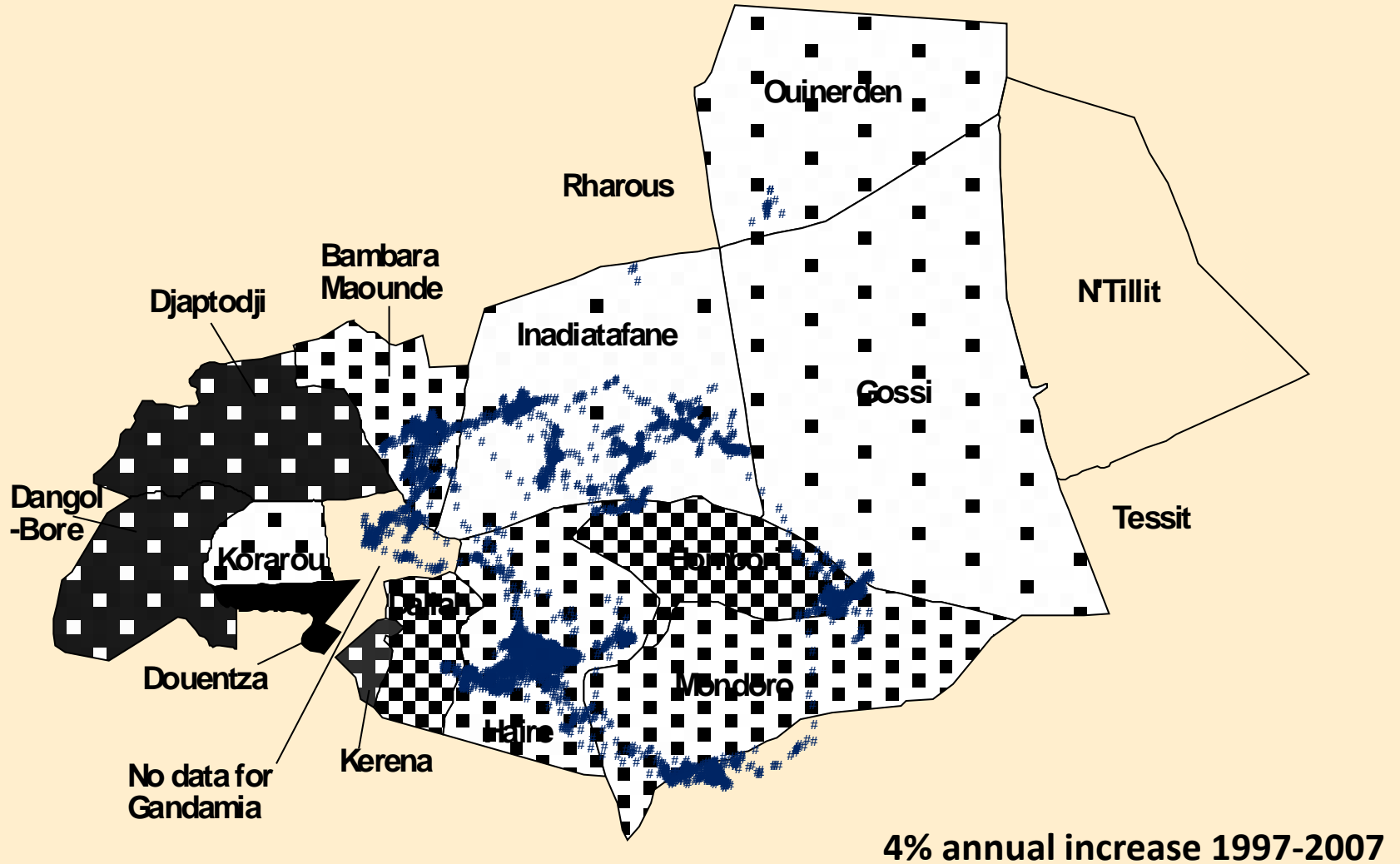
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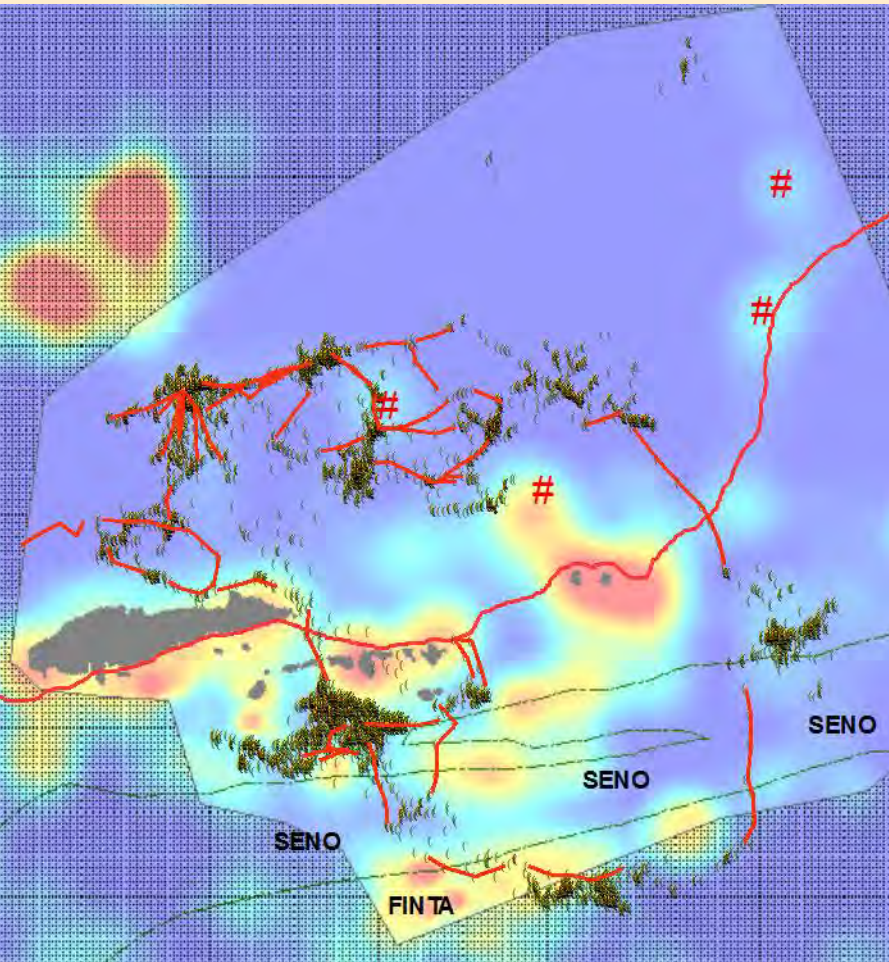
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Increasing human occupation and activity accelerating through 1990s and 2000s

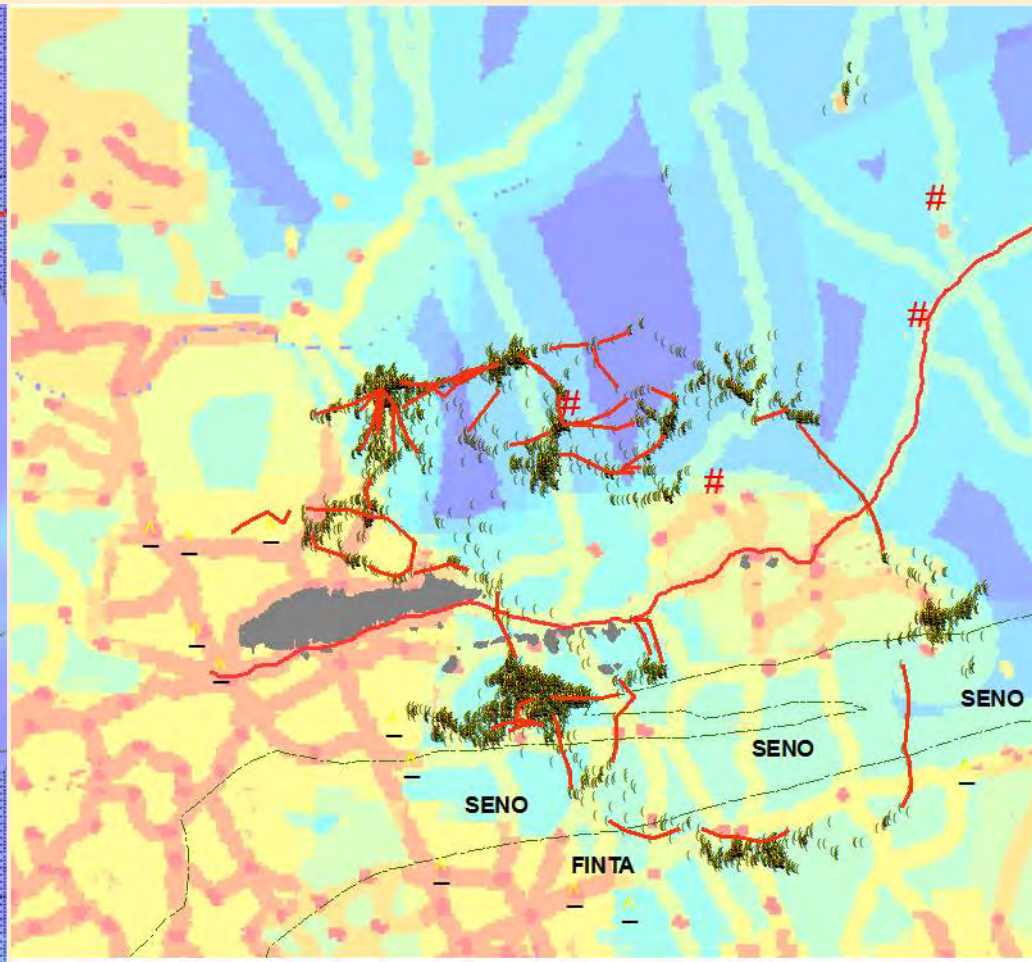


Population density by commune 1997 census data





Modelled variation in the intensity of human impact from low (blue) to high (red) using ground data of settlements/campements, roads and cultivation.



The elephant data in relation to Sanderson *et al.*'s global footprint model (Sanderson *et al.*, 2002)

Conclusions 2006

- Interconnectedness of the elephant range - incremental degradation & increasing human activity
 - Millet fields in the Porte des Elephants
 - Increasing reliance on Lake Banzena plus inc. human activity

We had 5 years to start turning things around

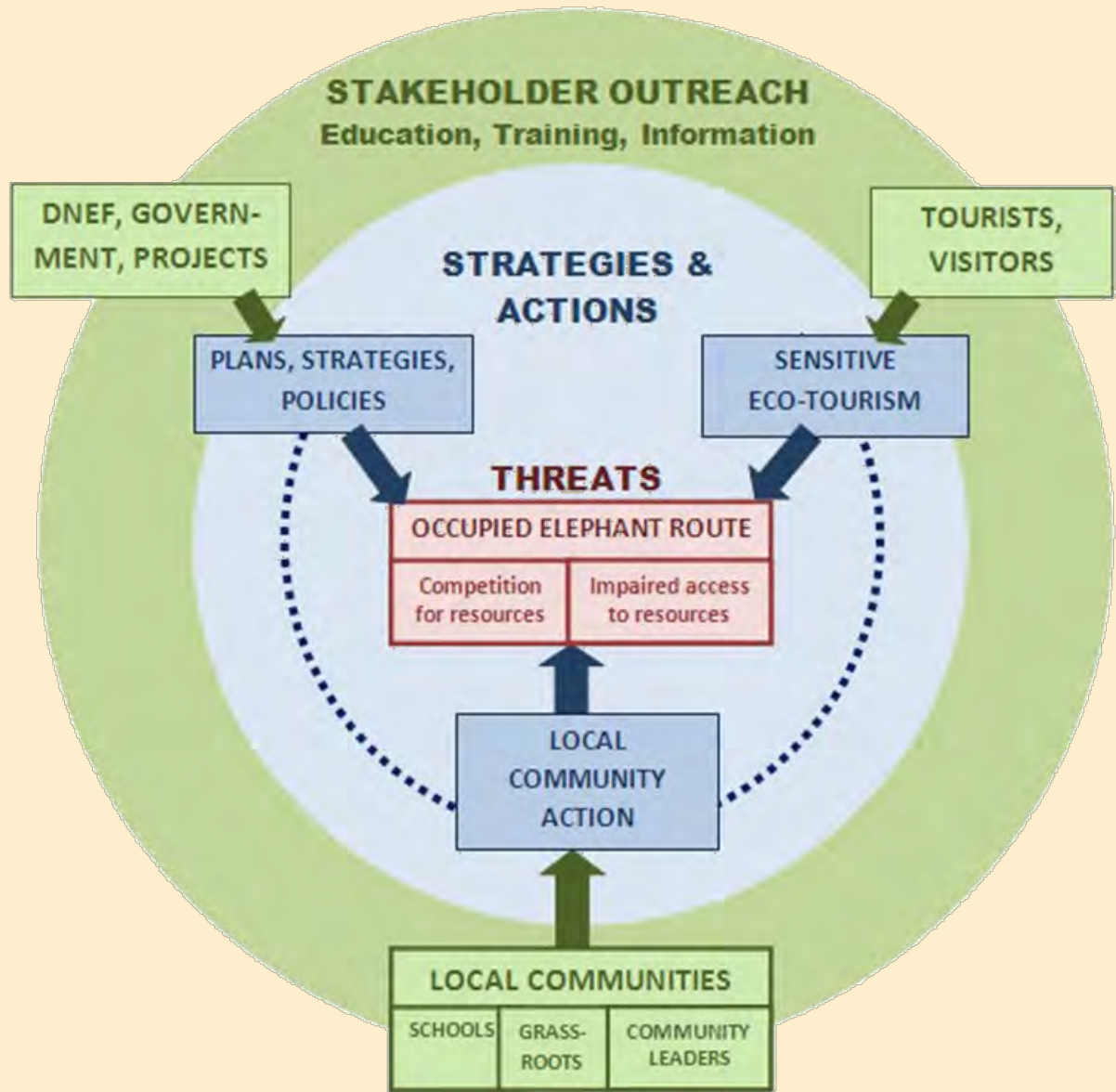
But what to do?

In 2006:

- 2 forester posts & no vehicles
- No resources
- No government morale or political will

Think again

Build a shared vision within Mali



Community dialogue: understanding the human dimension

“If elephants disappear it
means the environment is no
longer good for us”



Guide d'animation des pour la sauvegarde



VISITER LES ÉLÉPHANTS DU GOURMA

En respectant
ce guide, c'est
participer à la
protection
d'un patrimoine
national unique



A quoi servent les frais d'entrée dans la réserve des éléphants?

Une partie de ces fonds reviennent aux communes
abritant les éléphants en vue de la réalisation d'actions
et de mesures concrètes de protection des éléphants:

- Créations de zones de protection communautaire
- Interdiction de défrichement sur les axes de migration des éléphants
- Sensibilisation sur la cohabitation homme et éléphant
- Donc les frais d'entrée contribuent:
 - Au développement socio économique et culturel de la région des éléphants
 - À la protection des mares, des cures salées et des forêts qui conditionnent la survie des éléphants dans le Gourma
 - À la conservation de plus d'espaces pour les éléphants



Mohamed Ollé, l'un des meilleurs guides primaires des éléphants du Gourma

Y a-t-il des frais d'entrée dans la réserve des éléphants?

- Nationaux 1000 FCFA / jour / personne
- Etrangers résidents 3000 FCFA / jour / personne
- Etrangers non résidents 5000 FCFA / jour / personne

Où doit-on payer ces frais?

- Cartonnements forestiers de Douentza ou Rharous
- Poste forestiers de Gossi, Bambara-Maoudé, Boni, Hombori, Inadiatafane, Ouinerdène, Mondoro
- Dans les chefs lieu des communes de Gossi, Bambara-Maoudé, Boni, Hombori, Inadiatafane, Ouinerdène, Mondoro

Qui doit collecter les frais d'entrée dans la réserve des éléphants?

- Les frais sont collectés contre une quittance du trésor par:
- Les agents des Services des Eaux et Forêts
 - Les agents des communes rurales



Thèm

Thème I

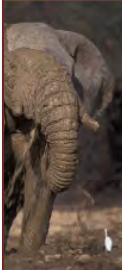


Assure Access
to Water

If the elephants disapp
that means the
environment is
no longer good
for humans



vons
e national
tali ...



avant qu'il ne soit
trop tard!



Direction Nationale des
Eaux et Forêts
BP 274 Bamako, Mali / Tel: 223 2020200
Projet de Conservation et de Subvention
de la Biodiversité dans le Gourma
et du Sahel

Association Malienne pour le
Conservatoire de la Faune et
de l'Environnement (AMCFE)
BP 2021 Bamako, Mali
association@amcfe.net
M: 223 2020175



Over 50,000





Over 96%



**High degree of
resource
exploitation &
degradation by
outsiders**



**Shifting 'bush
cultivation' →
erosion**



Over 50%



Based on study results - brought together clans, ethnicities, local government together to agree on the problems, thus establishing common ground



Then work out solutions that bring benefits for elephants, people & the ecosystem



SOCIETE DE GENIE CIVIL ET DE FORAGE





“Since we left we no longer have stomach aches. The men can go back to Banzena if they want but we are staying here”



**Biggest problem is
no commonly
agreed NRM
systems across
ethnicities**

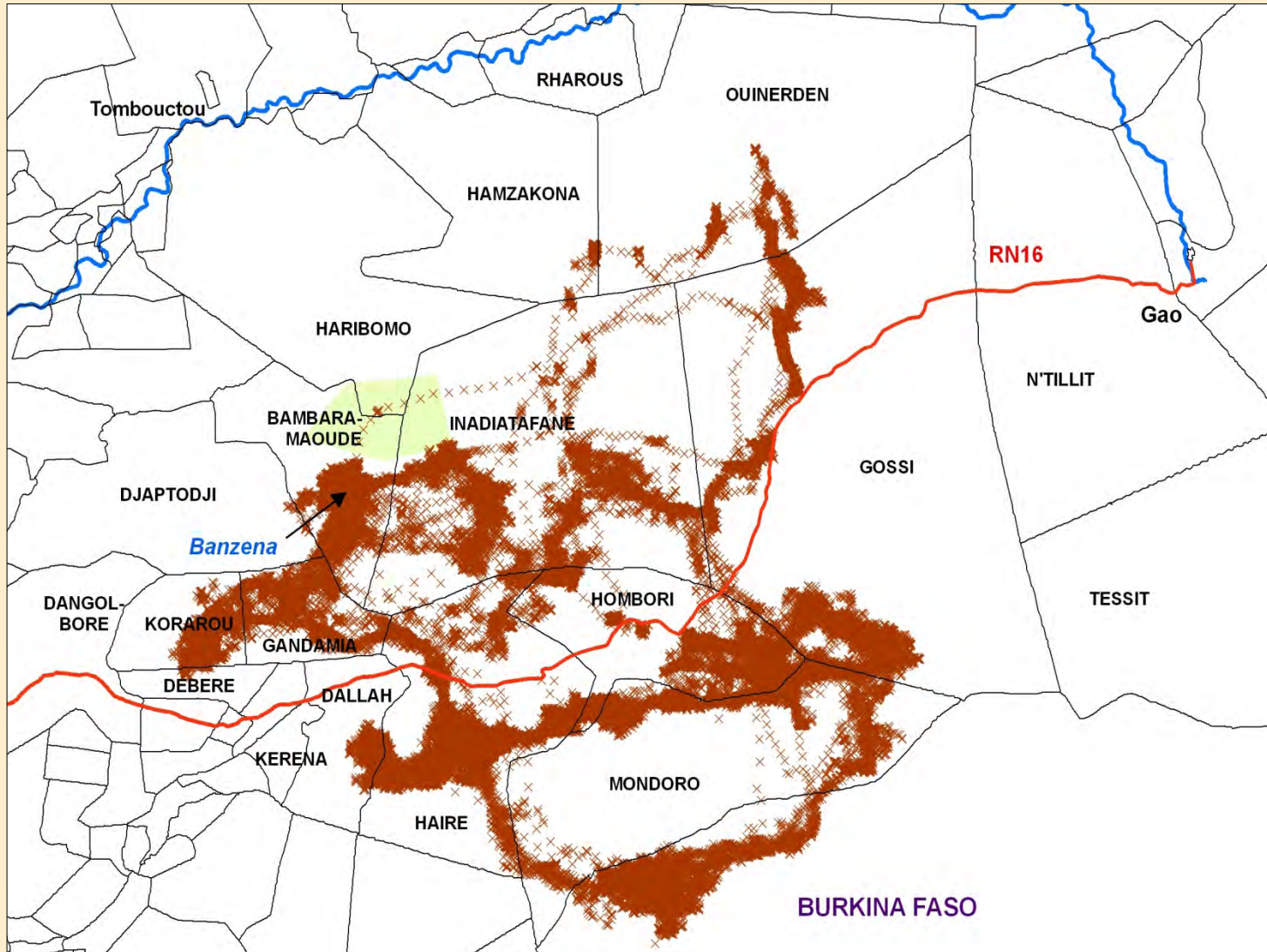


Community NRM that includes elephant habitat protection: management committee plus patrols





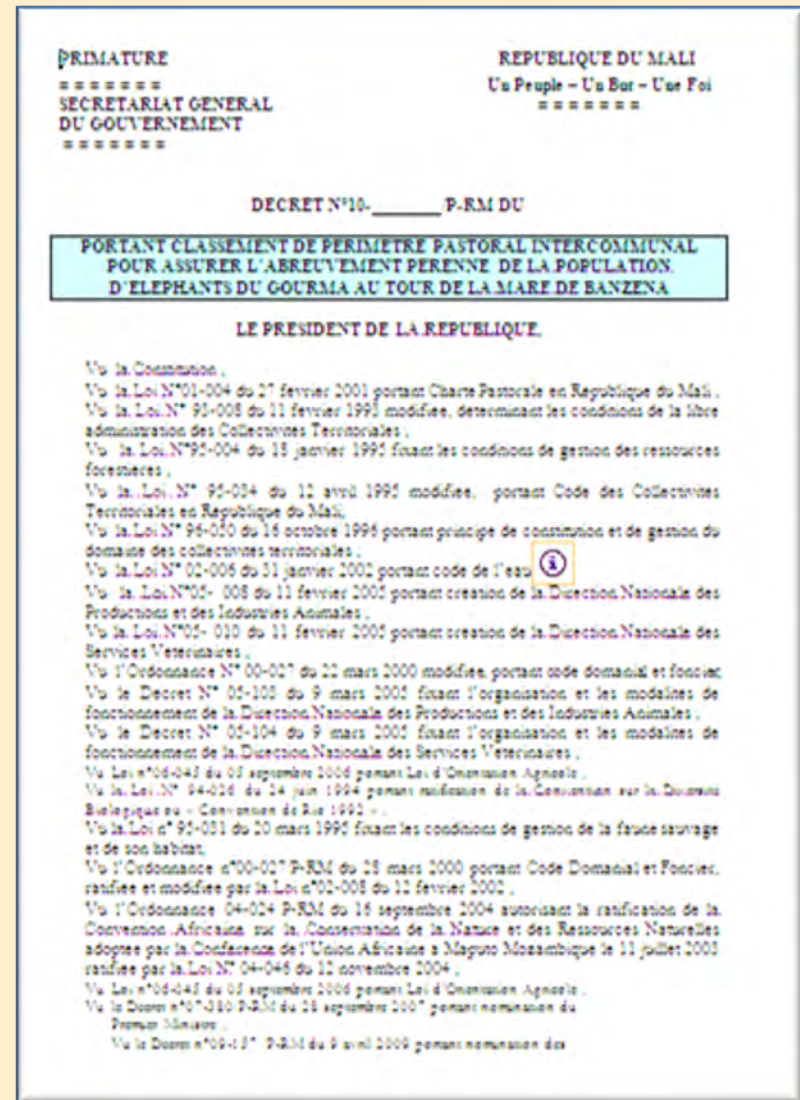
Management committee designated 400,000 ha pastoral reserve
reserve → 923,800 ha by adjacent communities





Legal back-up

- Decentralization legislation:
 - Local & intercommunal conventions
- Livestock legislation (Charte pastorale):
 - Establishment of pasture reserves
- Communities legislation:
 - Establishment of community groups and “associations” with authority to act as foresters
- Planning legislation
 - Area zonation
- Environmental legislation
 - Species protected from over-exploitation and hunting









Intercommunity meeting – 4 days



Elders & clan leaders

Pledged to convey the message throughout the community and to the leaders of the armed groups

“Anyone who kills elephants steals from the local people”

Traditional chief of
Ebanguimallen

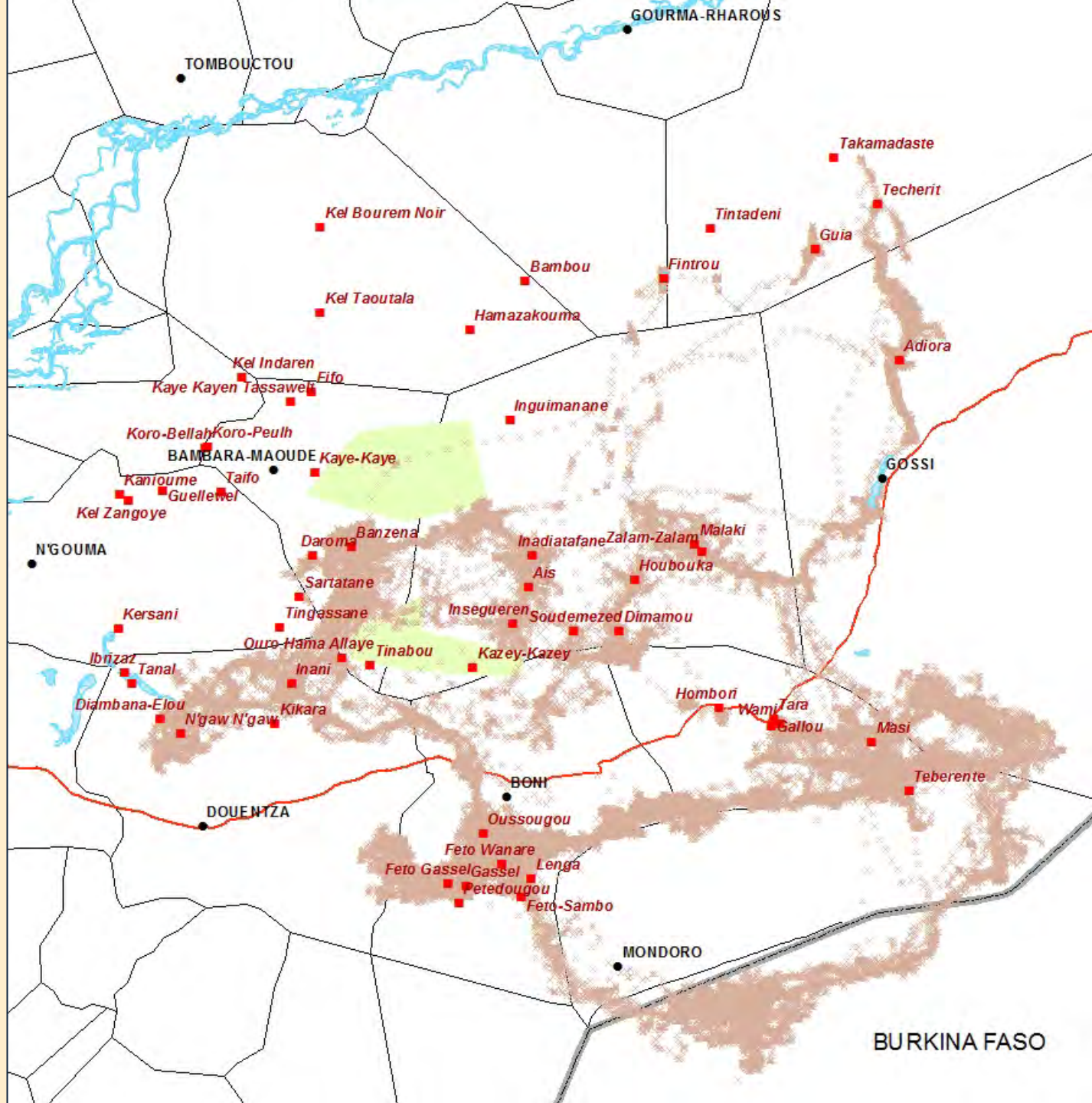


Grain distribution





Vigilance networks



BURKINA FASO

Survey into displaced people

- **Categories according to motives for displacement (est. nos.)**
 - Fear of reprisals / links with central power **29,000**
 - Managing risks and the opportunistic quest for refugee status **58,000.**
 - Large herd-owners who hope to acquire land and/or infrastructure in the context of reconstruction **500**
 - Commerce/illegal trafficking with armed groups **1,500**
 - Employees of armed groups **7,500**
 - Application of Sharia law **5,000**



Reconciliation workshop – 3 days



- Opened by 4 ministers
- Representatives 11 ministries, local communities etc.
- *"How can emergency humanitarian aid, indispensable in the post conflict phase, rapidly relieve present suffering, without exacerbating imbalances which are already threatening a viable future?"*



Main conclusions

- Reconciliation, within and between communities, is a prerequisite for ensuring the social, economic and environmental sustainability of aid and reconstruction.
- Community cohesion is necessary to avoid NR over-exploitation
- Reconstructing local communities will also help to improve local, national and international security
- Local authorities must play an integral role in post-conflict reconciliation, aid and reconstruction, to ensure that these efforts are well targeted and to obtain the desired results.
- Such a huge task requires a coordinated effort → plan to help coordinate the efforts made by many parties with different agendas.
- Report <http://www.wild.org/blog/protecting-elephants-through-promoting-peace/>

Why do the people protect the elephants?

- Benefits of natural resource management systems
 - more resources are available
 - they have control over them
 - receive revenue
 - youth employment
- Do they need elephants to do this?
 - pride
 - indicator
 - seed dispersers /forest regeneration/fruits and seeds
 - dung helps conjunctivitis
- wonder at elephant behavior
- “Baraka”
- tourism revenue (future)

Together, these produce an overall benefit that is ‘greater than the sum of the parts’



Conservation/environment at the centre not an optional extra

- The link ecosystem degradation - youth unemployment – security & illegal trafficking (border security is impossible)
- Ivory trade - the need for supply-side control that deals with the drivers to complement demand-side measures
- Implicating the community in well-targeted aid & development reconciliation
- The role of environmental protection in reconciliation
- Future vision – wildlife restoration!



Thank you!

<http://www.wild.org/where-we-work/the-desert-elephants-of-mali/>



The story is told on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjYt5uQPu8o>

12 years in 10 minutes!

And as a case study in this concise overview of conservation, CUP 2013!

"This book is exceptional in many ways greatly enhances our understanding of conservation A must read for everyone, and especially for students, researchers, and conservation practitioners."

Russell A. Mittermeier

