Isolated wetlands in the Sahel: key seasonal resources under pressure

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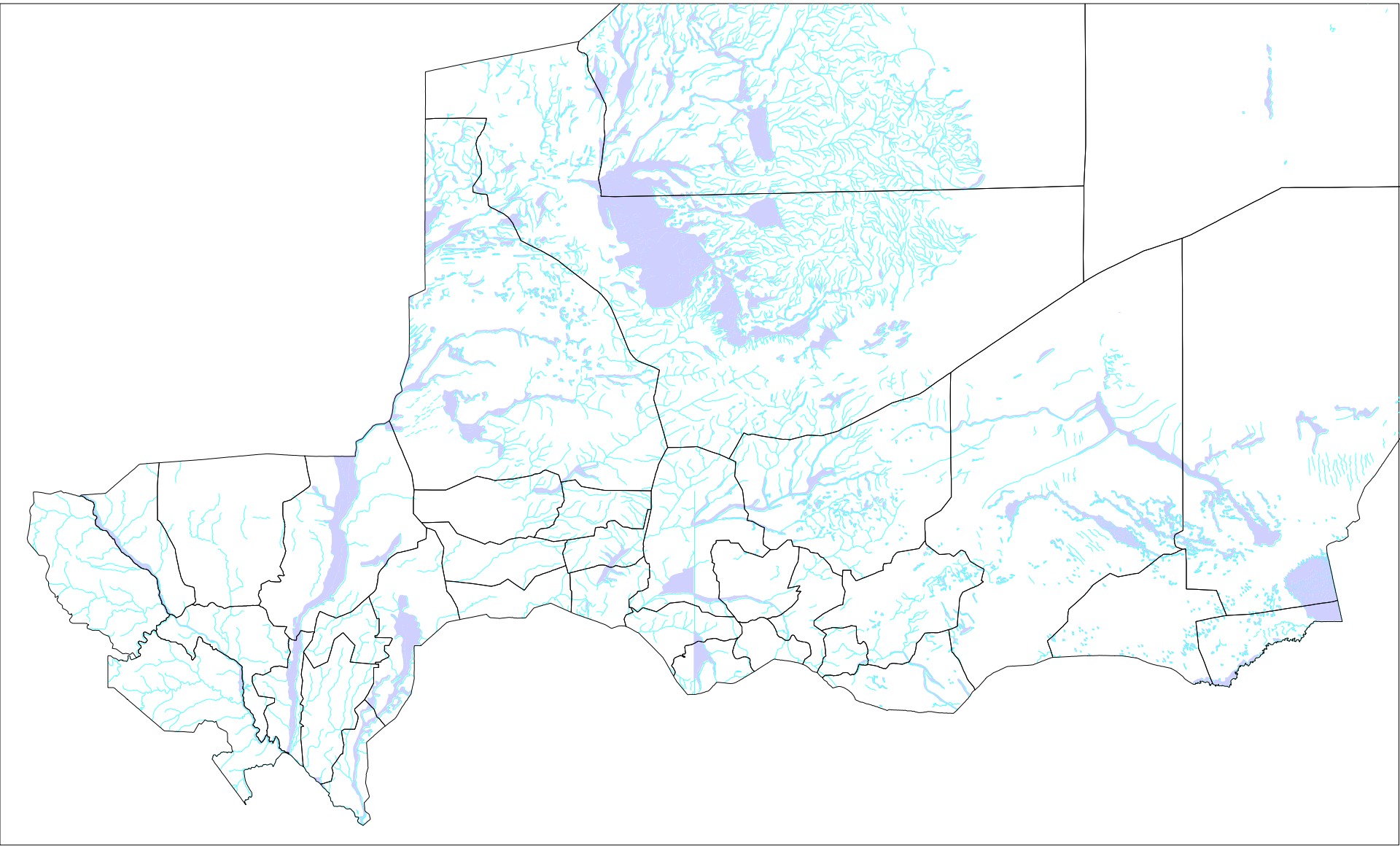
Outline

1. Niger itself
2. Utilisation of wetlands in Niger, and some interactions, nearby & far away
3. Summary and conclusion


NIGER

Some information on Niger

- 1.25 million km^2, mostly 200-300 m a.s.l.
- Approx. 10 million inhabitants
- Population growth 3.1% per year
- Northern 2/3 desert
- Southern 1/3 200-600 (800) mm/yr
- Poor soils mostly, rainfall not dependable; millet yield av. 300 kg/ha
- Difficult environment, low on UN indexes



Agriculture at isolated wetlands Niger

- **Dry season crops: 42-64.000 ha (more after poor harvest upland)**
- **$200-$4300 per ha, vs. $70 upland**
- **high nutrition**
- **competition with e.g. field maintenance**

Livestock raising & isolated wetlands in Niger

- **$35 million/yr; transhumance; nutrients**

Fisheries at isolated wetlands Niger

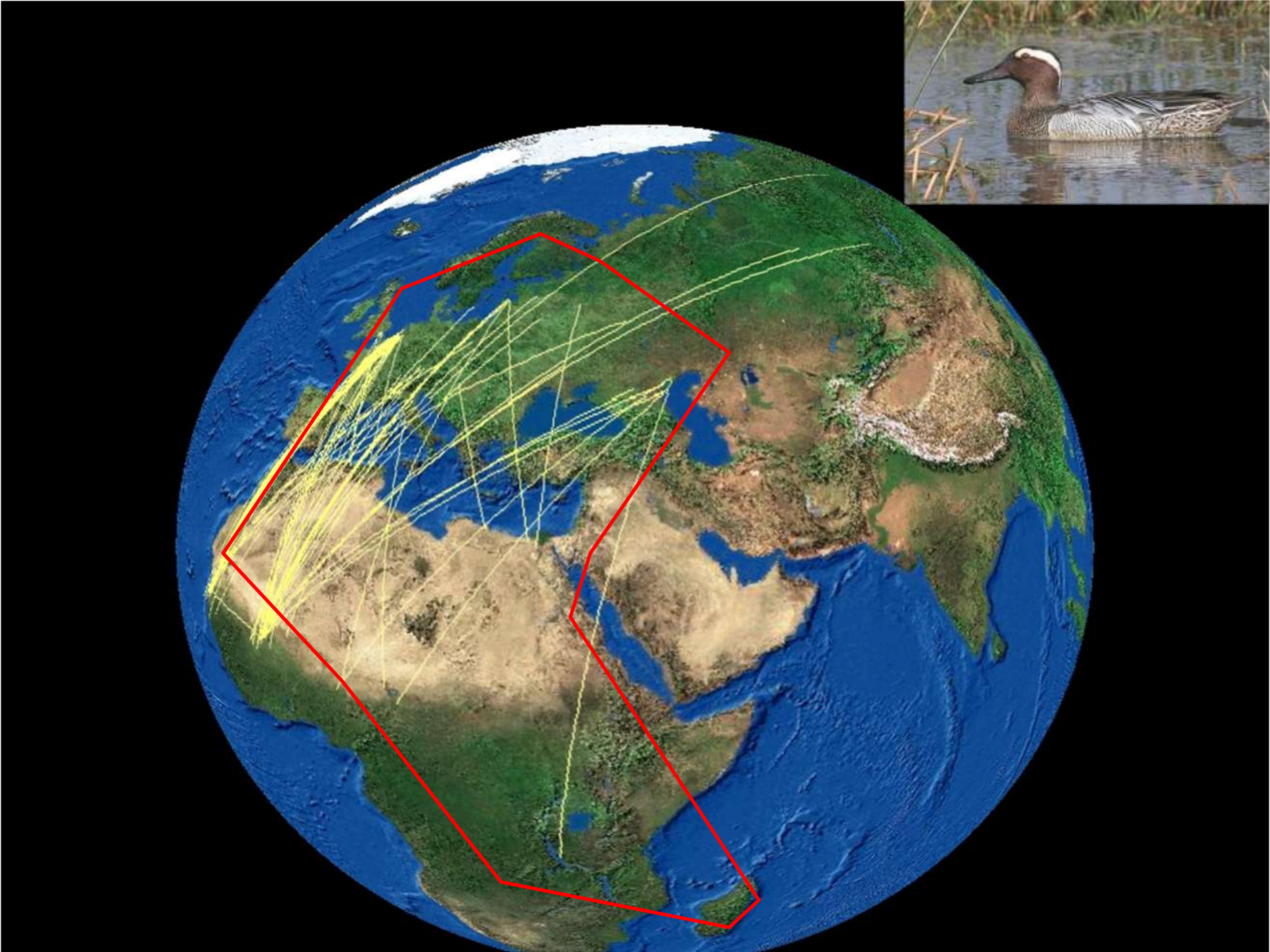
- **Fisheries: $11 million – river decreasing; 430 ton, $250.000/yr, Tahoua alone**

Natural products at isolated wetlands in Niger

- **Wood, clay, reeds, traditional medicine: no data**

Biodiversity at isolated wetlands in Niger

- **>1.2 million migr. waterbirds; value?**



Drought & isolated wetlands in Niger

- **Drought ‘insurance’, safety net; migration**

Summary:

- **Wetlands in great demand by various user groups**
- **Use of wetlands affects use of other areas, in other seasons**

Over past 15 years:

- **More people due to birth rate, drought, migration**
- **More dry season cropping**
- **Less travelling livestock access**
- **Degradation**

Conclusion

PINReM of isolated wetlands needed (Participative Integrated Natural Resource Management)

Also for the sake of areas elsewhere