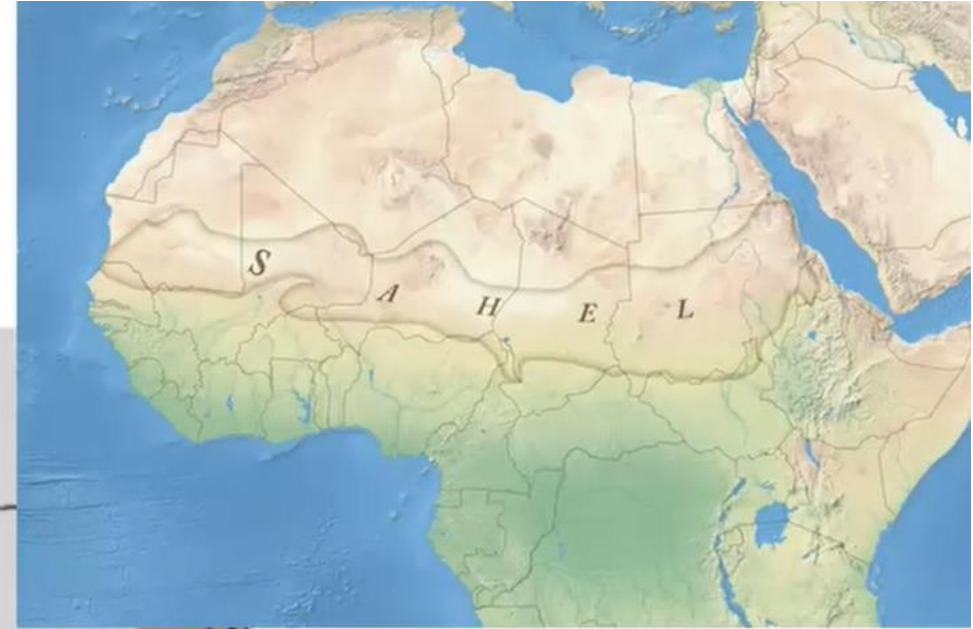
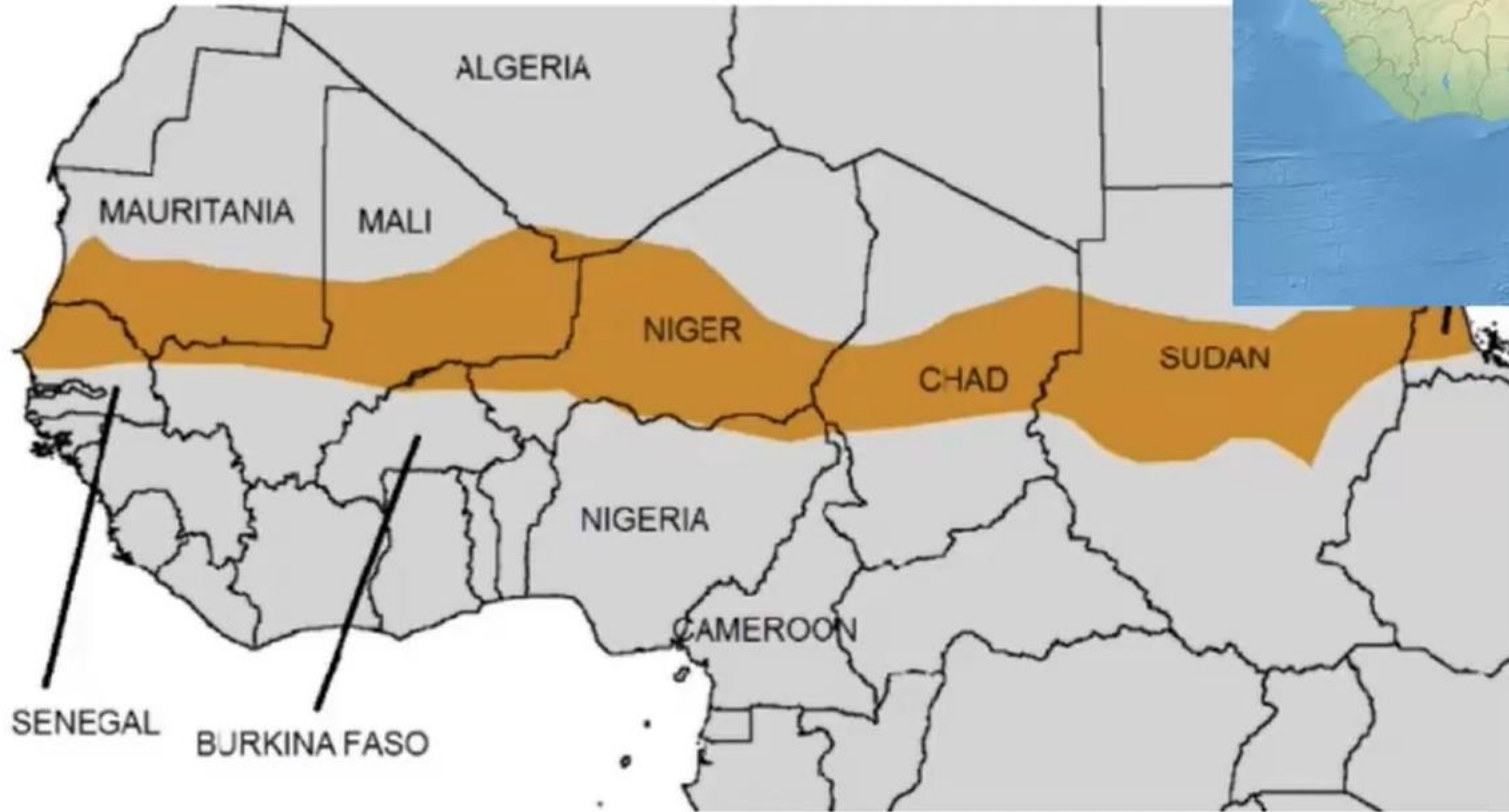


Water and Climate Change: Farmers' Adaptation Strategies in the West African Sahel

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Where is the Sahel?



- Population: 125 million; UN estimates 540 million by 2100
- Population density overall low, but high birth rate (among highest in the world) and population concentration around diminishing water sources leads to dense areas

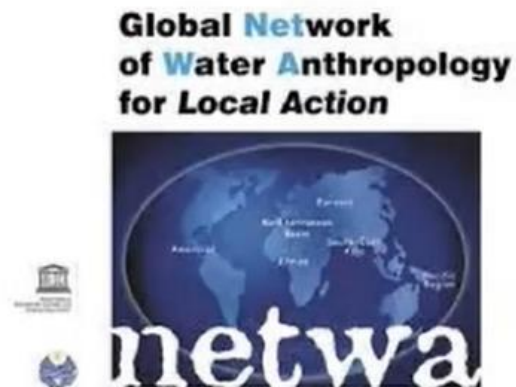
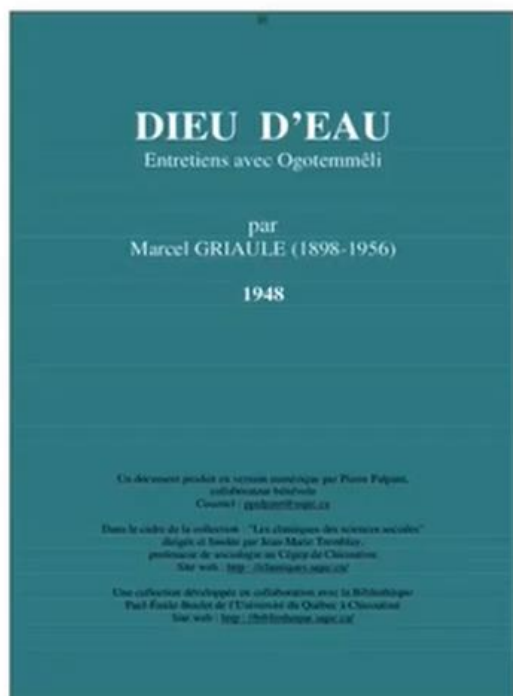
Background

For communities in the West African Sahel:

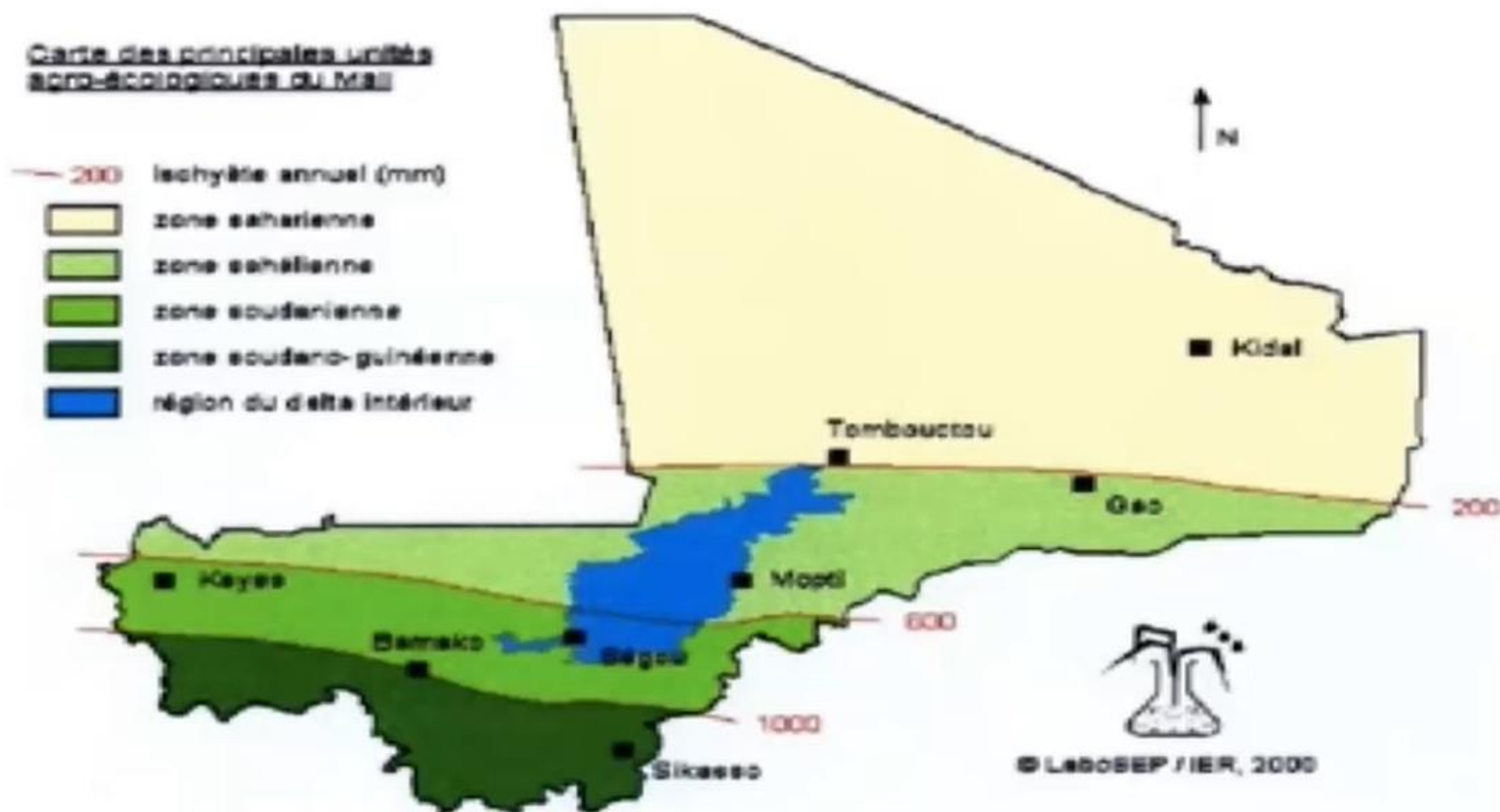
- Water scarcity and food insecurity are the most immediate effects of climate change
- More efficient water management systems will be vital to ensure adequate water supply for a growing population



Anthropology and the cultural dimension of Water



Rainfall and climatic zones



Affected Social Categories

- Malnourished people suffering from extreme food insecurity (fewer than other categories)
- Floating communities, without any property rights in their region (free and unfree)
- Impoverished un-stabilized communities (nomadic pastoralists)
- Impoverished relatively stabilized communities (sedentary communities with access to land, such as farmers)
- Less impoverished relatively stabilized communities (rural families with some wealth, access to land, and access to opportunities through connections to politics, remittances, and commerce)



Climate Change & Policy Responses : Timbuktu Region (Northern Mali)



Water: a right or a commodity?

Water in ON is available, but costly



In the Office du Niger in Mali, a planned, irrigated cultivation area, water is state property

Farmers can use this land but to do so they must pay for water

The price of water increases every year

The constraints of water price and fertilizers prevent farmers from implementing their local knowledge and adaptation strategies.