

A Conceptual Approach of Tele-epidemiology Applied to the Rift Valley Fever in Senegal

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1 - Improving access to healthcare

Treating patients at remote and mobile sites

2 - Environment / Climate / Health

Monitor, predict and prevent epidemics

Tele-epidemiology consists in monitoring and studying the propagation of human and animal diseases (water, air and vector borne diseases) which are closely linked to climate and environmental changes, based on space technology. The French Space Agency (CNES) has thus developed, with its partners, a concept based on a deterministic approach of the climate-environment-health relationships and on an original and really adapted space offer.



The tele-epidemiology conceptual approach

Multidisciplinary approach based upon the study of the key mechanisms favoring emergence and propagation of infectious diseases linking disciplines like environmental sciences, epidemiology, climatology, entomology, hydrology, microbiology...

The analysis of those processes is a key step in the development of new and original risk mapping using space technology

1- Experimental design mainly field studies

- Observing strategy: monitoring and assembling multidisciplinary in-situ datasets
- Diagnostic: extract and identify the main physical and biological mechanisms at stake

2- Obtaining well adapted products from Space

- Remote-sensing monitoring of environment, linking epidemics with confounding factors
- Remote-sensing from space: use of products, fully adapted to the various spatio-temporal scales of variability

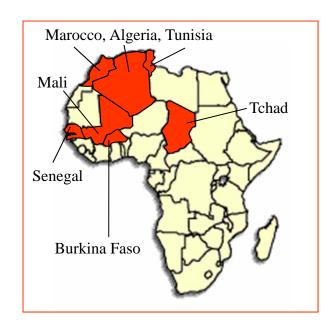
3- and dedicating modeling

- Modeling towards an operational Early Warning System (EWS);
- Validating/testing EWS



- Concept currently applied to different infectious diseases:
 - Malaria in urban areas: Puerto Iguazu (Argentina), Dakar (Senegal), Bamako (Mali),
 Ndjamena (Tchad)
 - Malaria in rural areas in Burkina Faso
 - o Bilharzia in China
 - Vibrio in the Mediterranean basin
 - o Dengue in Argentina and in Martinique Island
- Elaboration of an operational system ⇒ RVF in Senegal









Tele-epidemiological conceptual approach applied to Rift Valley Fever (RVF) Monitoring in Senegal











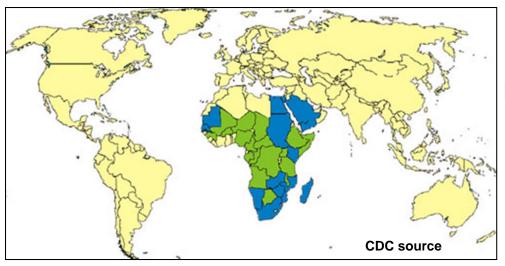






- The Rift Valley Fever (RVF) is an arthropod-borne viral disease,
- > Found essentially in Africa
- ➤ Primarily spread amongst domestic animals by the bites of infected mosquitoes, especially *Aedes vexans* and *Culex poicilipes* ⇒ The abundance of such RVF vectors is directly linked to **ponds' dynamics** and their vegetation cover and turbidity degree. The ponds' dynamics is associated with the **spatio-temporal** variability of rainfall events.
- > RVF virus could also infect humans
- > RVF is causing epizootics of spontaneous abortion and high mortality rate for domestic animals

⇒RVF can cause very serious economic losses in livestock.



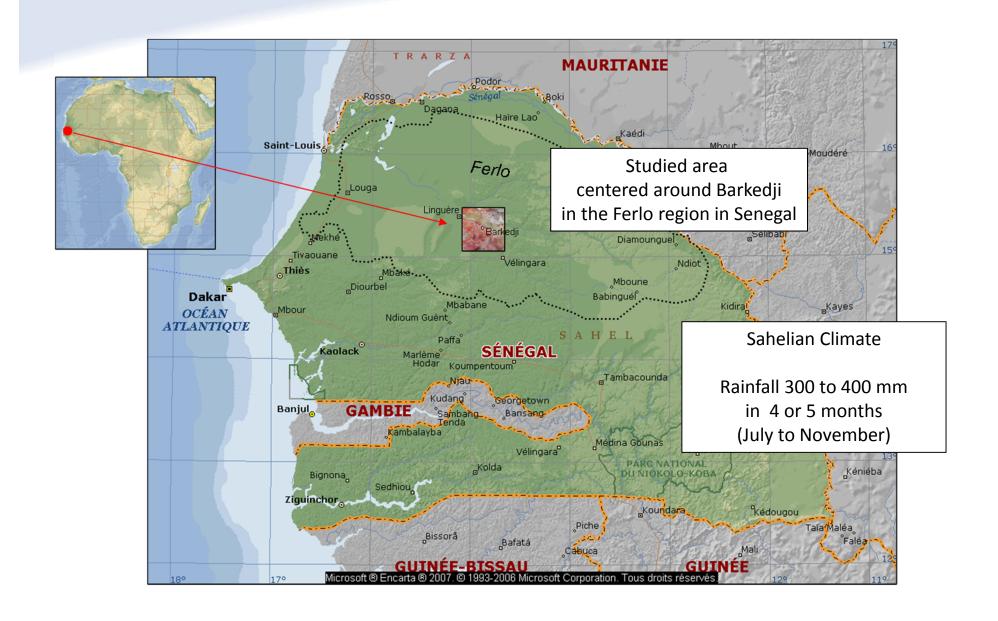
Countries with endemic disease and substantial outbreaks of RVF

Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Sudan, Egypt, Madagascar, *Saudi Arabia, Yemen*

Countries known to have some cases, periodic isolation of virus, or serologic evidence of RVF:

Botswana, Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia

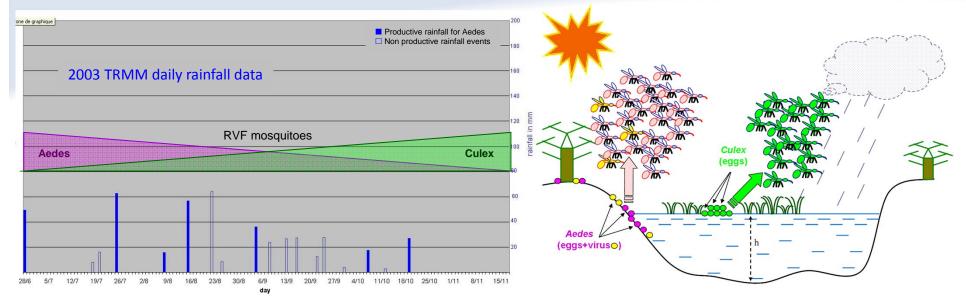


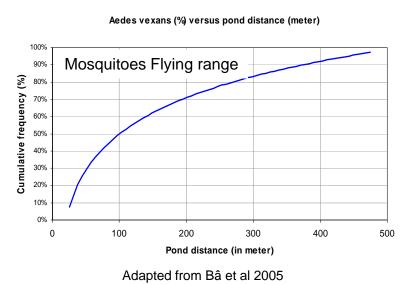




Understanding mechanisms at stake

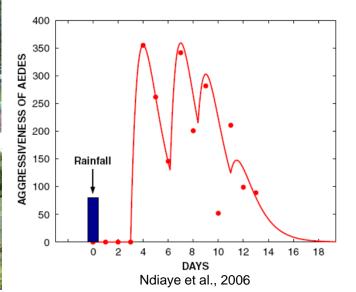
From rainfall event to vectors' aggressiveness











A Remote-sensing tool applied to Rift Valley Fever (RVF) Monitoring

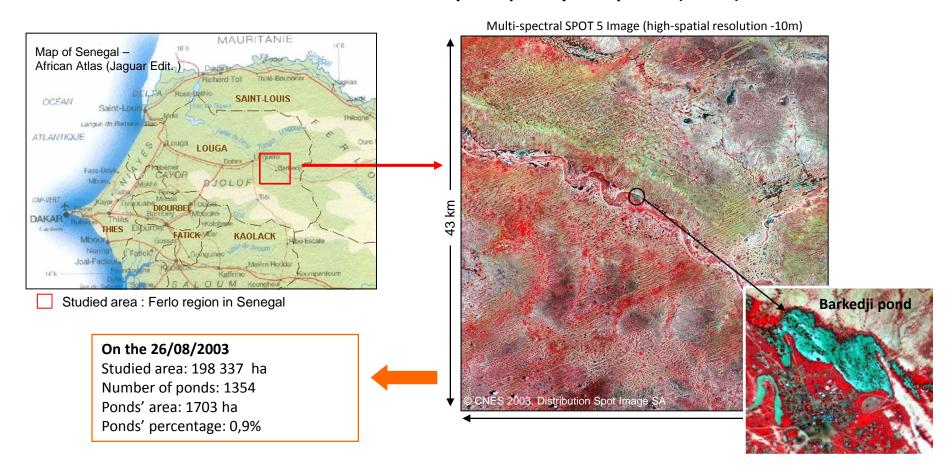
Analyses and processing of high-spatial resolution satellite images (SPOT 5, 10m)



Computation of ponds' area, their vegetation cover and turbidity



Evaluation of Zones Potentially Occupied by Mosquitoes (ZPOM)





Detection of ponds and their characteristics



Developing brand-new indices by combining various wavelengths



Ponds detection



NDPI f(MIR, Green)



Ponds characteristics



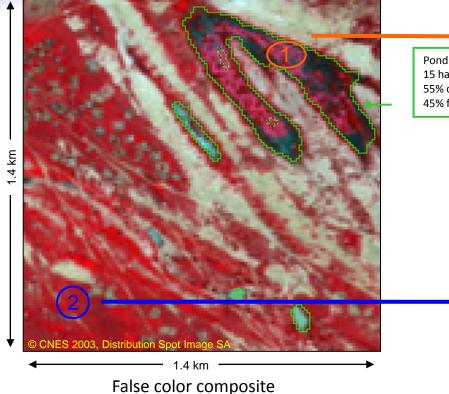
→ NDVI f(NIR, Red)

→ NDTI f(Red, Green)



A Remote-sensing tool applied to Rift Valley Fever (RVF) Monitoring

Spot 5, multi-spectral high-spatial resolution (10-m) August 26th, 2003 (during the rainy season)



The new Normalized Difference Pond Index or:

NDPI = (MIR-Green)/ (MIR+Green)

Pond south-west Barkedji 15 ha (peak of rainy season) 55% covers by vegetation 45% free water



1- pond vegetation

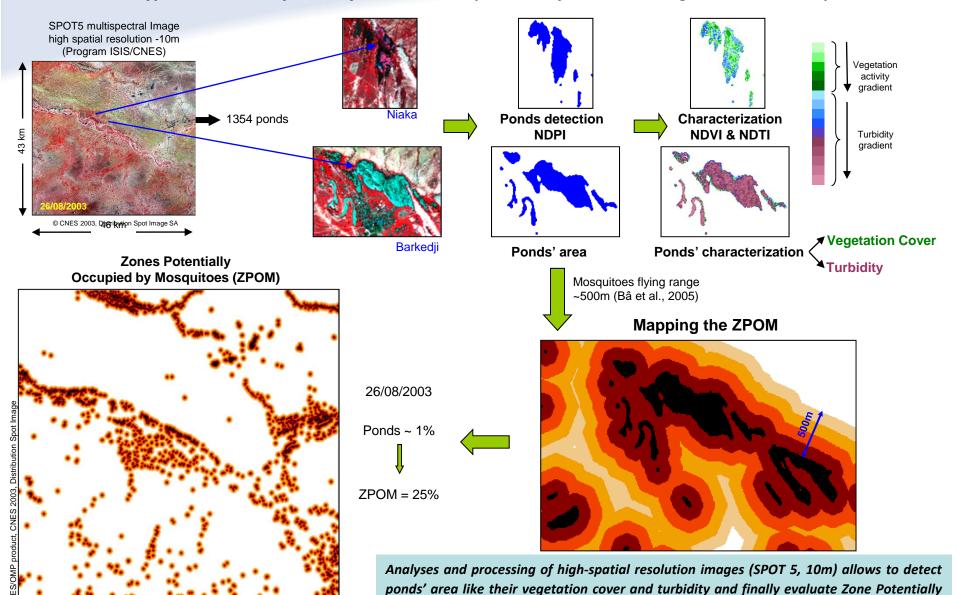


2-sahelian savanna



A Remote-sensing tool applied to Rift Valley Fever (RVF) Monitoring

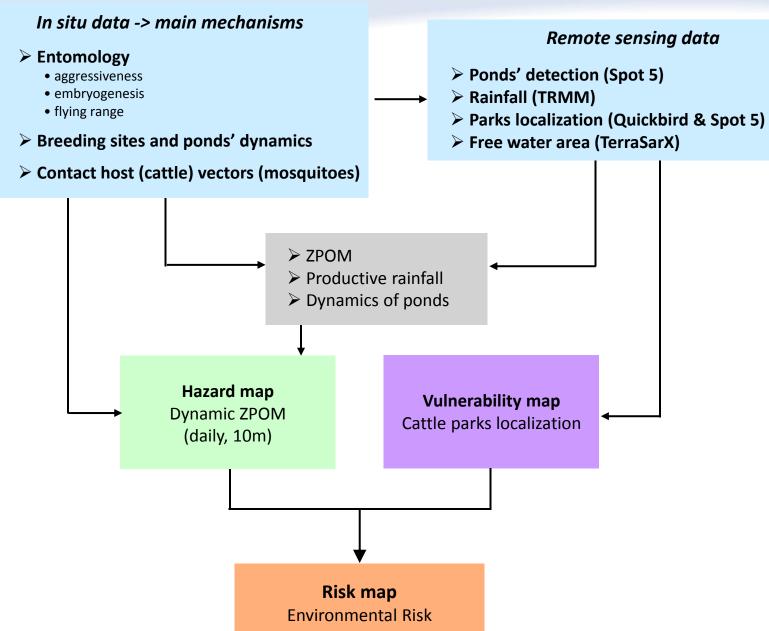
Identify environmental factors of Aedes & Culex presence by remote sensing to obtain risk map



Occupied by Mosquitoes (ZPOM)



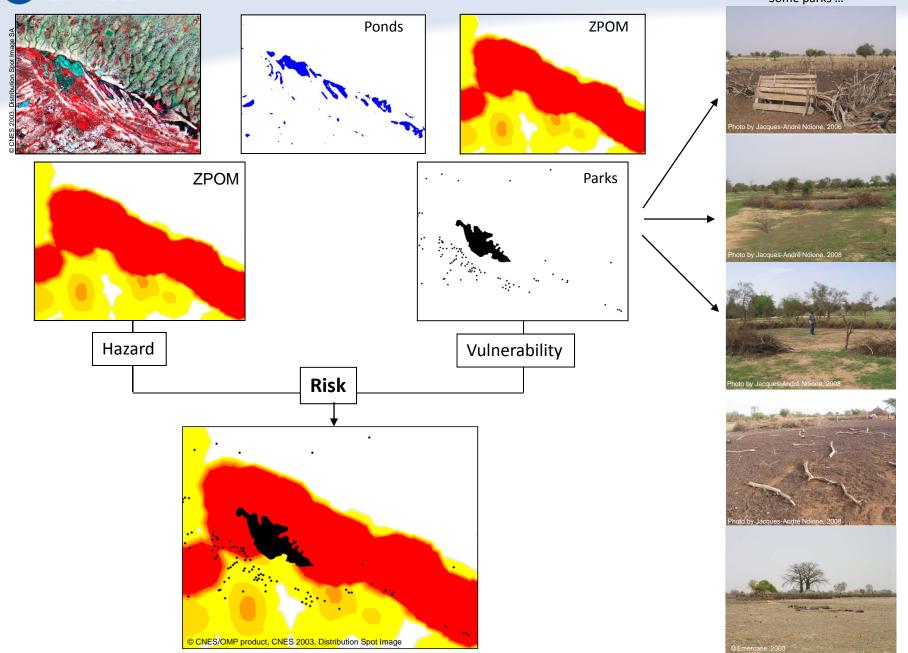
The integrated conceptual approach for RVF





From remote sensing to risk

Some parks ...



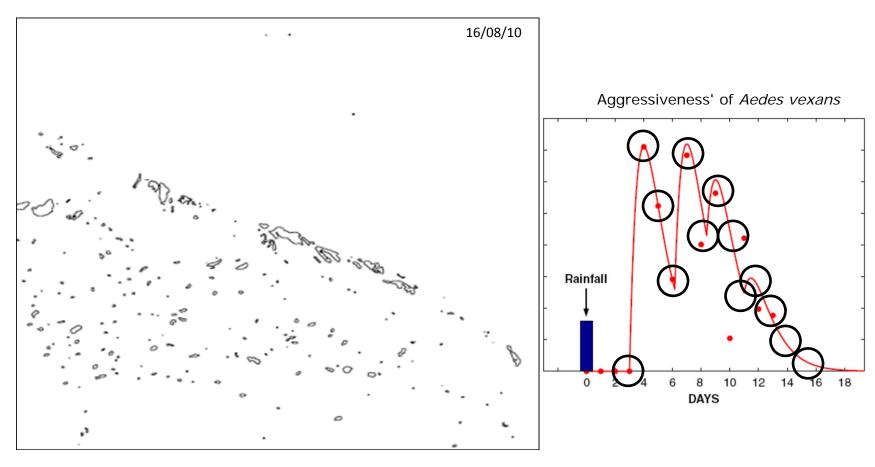


31st July 2010: productive rainfall 61,3mm

Agressiveness of *Aedes* from 31st July to 15 August 2010

Hazard : Potential Presence of Aedes

Aucun Faible Moyen Fort Très fort



Studied area (15km*15km) centered on Barkedji



- Development of an integrated methodological approach to obtain environmental risk mapping based on space technology
- Concept currently applied to different infectious diseases at different places
- Towards the elaboration of operational Early Warning Systems
- This conceptual approach is meant to be applied to other diseases in other places with different environments

Contacts & informations

Telehealth CNES: www.cnes.fr/telesante & http://RedGems.org

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