

BULLETIN OF THE PASTORAL SITUATION NIGERIA - MARCH 2019



Highlights

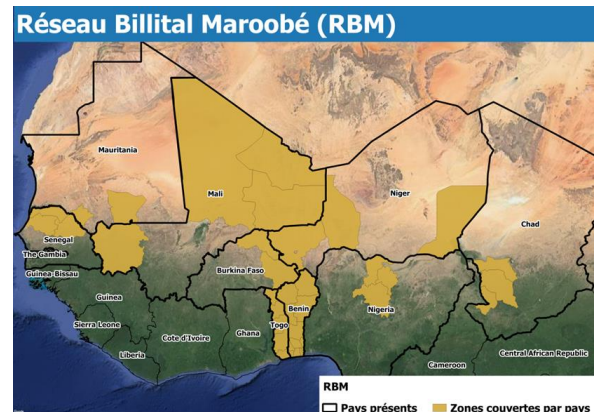
- The dry season in Nigeria is basically characterized by shortage of green palatable pastures and water, especially in northern Nigeria where the dry season is longer than the rainy season.
- At the moment there are larger concentration of pastoralist at the riverine areas where water and supplementary roughages are easier to get.
- The pastures are grossly inadequate for livestock in grazing lands and animals mostly depend on dry matter for routine grazing which is less nutritive.
- There is higher percentage of irrigation farming in fadama lands where pastoralist depend on as their last resort during these season.

Introduction

The network called Maroobe (RBM) initiated in 2013, an informative monitoring carried out by national offices in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The network has assigned to this survey three essential missions:

- To observe pastoral dynamics and the modalities of information flow in the cross-border area
- To relay information about the situation of pastors
- To provide evidence of cross-border operational strategies of access to pastoral resources

In 2014, the RBM has expanded the survey to all of the seven countries where it operates. In 2015, two new members, Togo and Chad, come to participate also in the informative survey which now covers nine countries: Benin (the national territory), Burkina Faso (regions of the East and the Sahel), Mali (regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal and Kayes), Mauritania (wilaya of Gorgol and Hodh El Gharbi), Niger (Tillabery, Diffa, and Tahoua regions), Nigeria (Kano, Kaduna and Katsina States), Senegal (the pastoral zone of the Ferlo, either departments of Linguère, Podor and Matam), Chad (regions of Hadjer Lamis, Chari Baguirmi and Mayo kebbi East) and Togo (all the national territory).



The informative survey aims to ensure a proactive monitoring of the pastoral situation and the threats looming over the families of pastors. Thus, the RBM seeks to have the opportunity to alert the public authorities, so that they can trigger quick actions and effective to alleviate the suffering experienced by farmers and to strengthen pastoral systems.

Methodology

The collector agents classify information according to the selected fields (pastoral situation, critical events, political or professional, events...). They must complete every time the source, location, the evidence so as to make a comprehensible information and so usable by the focal point.

The point focal of each country makes a first analysis, including a systematic verification (what source? who can confirm? precise what location? etc.). He considers the need to supplement the information himself or with the collector agent, neglect or even take it into account in the drafting of the country bulletin that he will ensure the dissemination at the national level and that he will forward to the centralizing network for feed the regional newsletter.

Pasture and water resources situation

This is the dry season period and it implies the use of dry grasses by animals, therefore farm residues and other livestock feeds such as wheat brans are used as supplementary feeds because natural grasses are grossly inadequate to animals

Most of the water points, water harvest and dams are dried so the major sources of water now are at the rivers and open dug wells.

The security situation especially in Zamfara, Kaduna, Benue and Nasarawa states is not good as pastoralist are suffering from the activities of rural bandits. Moreover, the



situation of Boko Haram in the north eastern states of Borno and Adamawa is also worsening but security agents and local community vigilante groups are putting efforts to alleviate the situation

The market situation

As movement of animals is mainly static during these period cattle markets are moderately supplied with ruminants animals and the prices are generally low. The tradings of animals are very higher as animals are being sold in exchange of livestock feed.

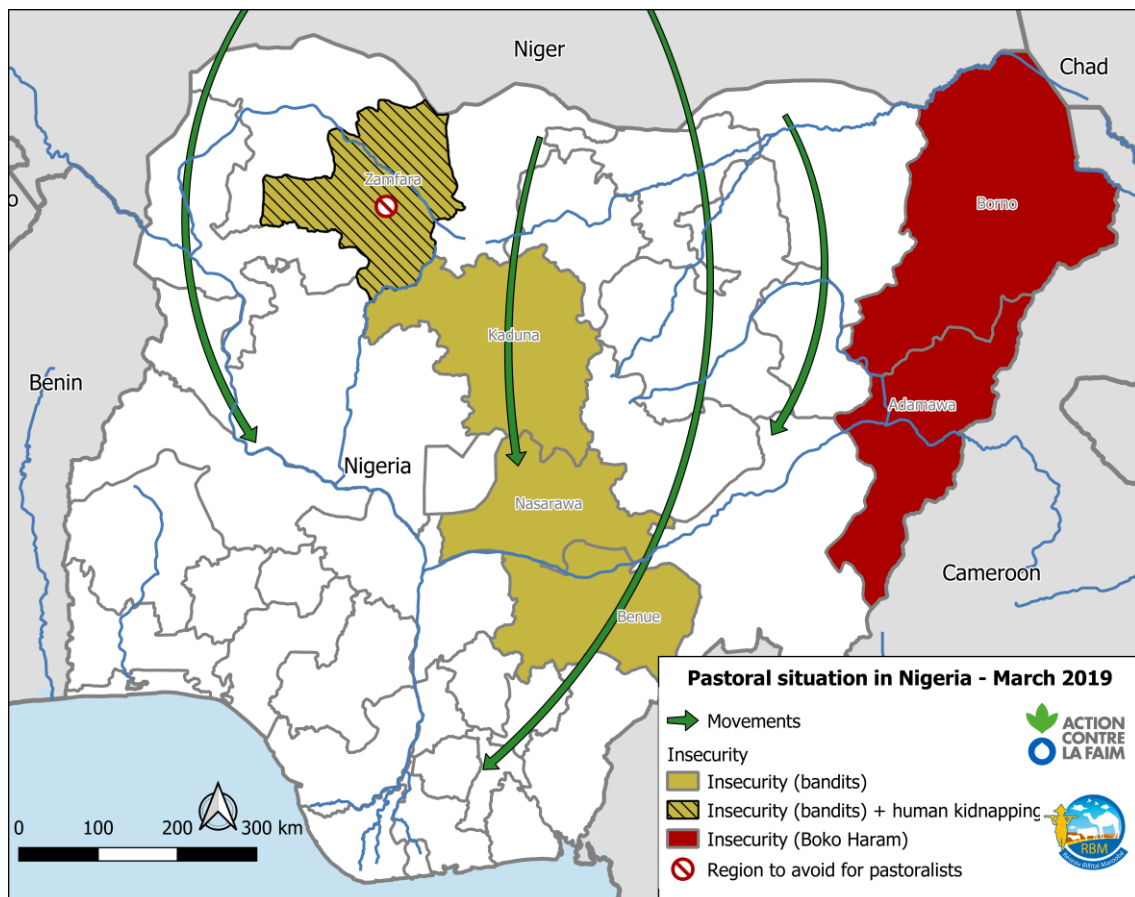
National movements of farmers and livestock

The movement of farmers and animals at the moment are stationary. Crops farmers are busy with their irrigation farming operations while the arable crop farmers are concentrating on land clearing pastoralist herdsmen are mainly settled at their dry season grazing centres thus there is low livestock mobility across borders.

Cross-border movement of farmers and livestock

The cases of cattle rustling have been reduced drastically during these period. But the cases of human kidnapping are very rampant and had reached an alarming proportion especially in Zamfara state and we are currently advising our transhumance pastoralist to avoid Zamfara area for their safety and that of their animals.

From (Country, State, region)	To (Country, Région, Département)	Number of animals, kind of animals	Reason of the movement
Northern Nigeria and from Niger Republic	Towards Southern Nigeria and at the river Basin areas	Several herds of cattle and flocks of sheep	Routine movement in search of easier and safer pasture
Northern Nigeria	Midle Belt and to Southern region	Cattle and Sheep herders	Searching for available scarce feeds and water



Recommendations

- To Federal and States : to support pastoralists with subsidised livestock feeds this season ; to make more effort on the demarcation of interstate stock routes to ease the seasonal mobility of livestock as pastoralist and trade animals share routes with motor vehicles which is hazardous.
- To pastoralists' organizations : to continue to mobilize farmers to embraces commercial pasture production so as to alleviate the shortage of animal feeds during the dry season and in cases of drought, it will serve as reserved pastures.

Information and contacts

For more information please visit the sites:

- www.maroobe.com for RBM activities
- www.sigsahel.info for access to bulletins
- www.geosahel.info for viewing cards

For more information about the data or methods, please contact:

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