



Organisational advisory services for the Lake Chad Basin Commission

Project Partner:	Lake Chad Basin Commission
Project Region:	Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria
Project Term:	overall: July 2011 – June 2017 current phase: July 2011 – June 2014
Project Budget:	total: EUR 4 million current phase: EUR 2 million

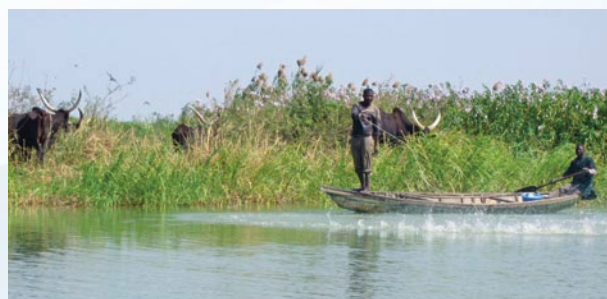
Context

The Lake Chad Basin Commission was founded in 1964 by the four countries bordering Lake Chad: Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad. The Central African Republic became a member of the Commission in 1985, and Libya joined in 2007. In addition to supervising and coordinating transboundary water projects, the Commission has been mandated by the member states with the task of protecting natural resources, regulating and monitoring water use and settling disputes. The commission was reorganised in 2009 and 2010 and currently finds itself in an implementation phase. During this phase, a clearly defined and integrated management strategy is to be developed, one which will enable the organisation to fulfil its tasks in the long term. The commission is the sole institution approved by the bordering countries in addressing current and future transboundary problems.

The Lake Chad basin encompasses 2,433,000 km² and extends across Chad, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, Algeria and Libya. There are three climate zones in the basin: arid in the north, semi-arid and sub-tropical in the south. This results in considerable regional and seasonal differences in precipitation.

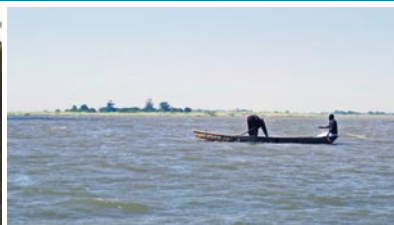
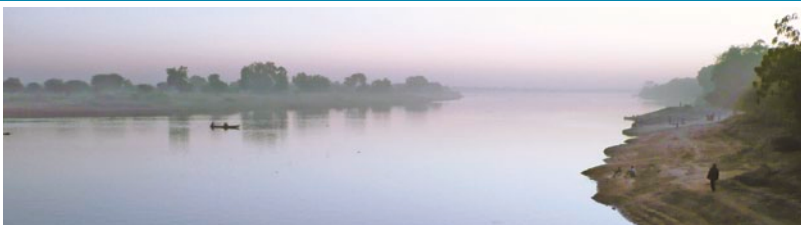
The Lake Chad basin is one of Africa's largest sedimentary groundwater basins without an outlet. Groundwater recharge mainly depends on inflow from the Chari, Logone and Komadugu-Yobe rivers, making for an aquifer system that is highly sensitive to changes in the amount of precipitation and inflow.

The surface of Lake Chad has decreased from 30,000 km² to approximately 2,500 km² since 1960. Climate fluctuations, enormous population growth in the region, the construction of dams, large irrigation projects in the basin's catchment area, and extensive extraction of groundwater have all contributed to the shrinking of the lake.



Fishers on the Lake Chad

Approximately 37 million people live in the Lake Chad basin, the majority of them agricultural and livestock farmers and fishers. The reduction of available water resources has led to a decline in the fishing industry and has also threatened biodiversity. Additional settlements in the dried-out areas of the lake increase stress on the aquifer system through increased agricultural use, while slash-and-burn practices accelerate desertification. These factors lead to reductions in food security, social tensions, increased poverty, and likewise encourage migration.



Project

The development cooperation programme 'Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Lake Chad Basin' is a cooperative project carried out in association with the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR). Following its reorganisation, the project is now divided into a technical component (BGR) and an organisational/institutional component (GIZ).

GIZ's tasks comprise of:

- 💧 supporting the commission in institutional reform
- 💧 information and data management
- 💧 strengthening planning, communication and cooperation within the commission and its partner institutions in member states
- 💧 raising the status of the commission and its regional and international visibility

Impact

In order to strengthen the commission's capabilities and so enable it to fulfil its mandate and achieve long-lasting results, two overarching areas of responsibility have been defined:

- 💧 Increasing the performance and effectiveness of the organisation and its contact partners in the member states
 - providing organisational advisory services
 - implementing a communication system
 - developing a training plan (planning, communication, coordination, conflict management, training courses and exchange trips)
- 💧 Expanding and adapting the existing information system to meet the requirements contained in a biennial report (Ecological Condition of Lake Chad)
 - expanding the database, GIS, software

- structuring the biennial report
- developing a monitoring and evaluation system
- establishing an indicator system
- reactivating the data exchange protocol among the member states
- supporting data collection, processing and evaluation at the respective institutions in the member states
- designing and developing a website with a communication platform for the Lake Chad Basin Commission and institutions in the member states

The programme also supports

- 💧 information exchange with other regional and international river basin and water catchment area commissions
- 💧 organisational development of transboundary management structures (including data, information and knowledge management)
- 💧 design and development of a website with a communication platform for the Lake Chad Basin Commission and institutions in the member states



Visit by the international Danube, Rhine and Lake Constance commissions as part of a capacity building, awareness raising and knowledge transfer measure (Feb. 2012)

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