

SUCCESS STORY



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SECURITY



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DEVELOPMENT



PRESIBALT

"To improve the lives of about 15 million people! p.8

EVENTS



MAY 22, 2016

An original "Lake Chad Day" ! pp.10-15

LCBCNEWSMAGAZINE

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Emergencies

and exigencies!



The first half of the year has been particularly rich in events, both from the development side and that of the security. There was the launching of PRESIBALT, a program aiming at the strengthening the lives of more than 15 000 000 people (among which 52 % of women). On the other hand, the Plan of development and adaptation of the Lake Chad Development and Climate resilience Plan also knew notable advances. In the security plan, and after some regulations to adjust the various elements of the engine, the Multinational Joint Task Force is now completely operational and leading the offensive on the ground, with convincing results.



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LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION

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The first half of the year has been particularly rich in events, both from the development side and that of the security. There was the launching of PRESIBALT, a program aiming at improving the livelihoods of more than 15 million people (among which 52 % of women). On the other hand, the Lake Chad development and Climate Change Resilience Action Plan also recorded significant progress. On the security level, and after some readjustments, the Multinational Joint Task Force is now fully operational and leading military operations on the ground, with convincing results...



» LCBC's Executive Secretary with an AfDB delegation...



» LCBC's Executive Secretary with a British delegation...



» The MNTJF Commander with the AU Representative in Chad...



» LCBC's Executive Secretary with the German Ambassador in Chad and FAO Resident Representative...



» H.E. President Issoufou of Niger, current Chairman of LCBC's Summit of Heads of State, welcomed to the MNTJF HQ (N'Djamena) by the Executive Secretary and the deputy Force Commander...



» Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between LCBC and AU...



» Family photo with President Issoufou and his delegation at the MNTJF Headquarters...



» LCBC's Executive Secretary with AfDB's President...



» Group photo of LCBC's Executive Secretary with a joint USA, UN and EU mission...

EMERGENCIES AND EXIGENCIES

EDITO

It is just like the story of the chicken and the egg, except that in this current case and as in the situation of the donkey in the tale which died of hunger and thirst for not being able to make its choice between its peck of oats and its bucket of water, peoples are suffering and dying in the field due to lack of consistency between words and actions.

Nowadays, it is generally agreed that any development is possible without security just like there is no security without development. This is only possible when we translate our words into deeds or match our words with concrete actions. Their Excellencies Presidents IDRIS DEBY ITNO of Chad and ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU of Niger have rightly stated after the barbarous attack perpetrated by the Boko Haram Group Terrorist against the city of Bosso in Niger. I quote: "We lost a lot of time in meetings and discussions." Taking into account the urgency of the situation and current exigencies, it is high time to translate our words into concrete deeds. Appropriate concrete actions must be taken to meet fully critical and onerous humanitarian challenges facing countries that host refugees and other Lake Chad displaced persons.

It is worth noting that these countries have already been seriously affected both by the cost of this war imposed on them by this terrorist group



and the negative financial consequences as a result of the drastic or spectacular fall in the prices of their main raw materials. However, tremendous efforts are being made to overcome challenges relating to current military operations with a view to ensuring and preserving security for populations while providing them with minimum basic essential services. Efforts are also being made so as to redefine priorities, to bring back stability, and to promote both economic development and regional integration.

We must thus stop thinking that there is a clear demarcation between security and development and giving priority to one on the detriment of the other. While security is a dire need,

"Despite their strong commitment, Lake Chad riparian countries need support, particularly the support of International Community with a view to not only controlling and eradicating terrorism and violent fundamentalism, but also to attacking the evil at its roots, namely poverty control, climate change resilience, population pressure, youth unemployment..."

investing in various human and economic development sectors should also be considered as a top strategic priority. Facing this situation, necessary resources are actually needed as we all know "Money is the sinews of this war against Boko Haram Terrorist Group." More recently, world leaders, during their Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey have acknowledged that the situation in the Lake Chad area is the worst tragedy worldwide; worse than what is happening in Afghanistan or Iraq. Time is no longer for long discussions on measures whose implementation is time-consuming, while peoples continue to seriously suffer on ground. In this hardship, all what LCBC's Member States are in need of is concrete actions and serenity in lieu of soothing speeches and vague pledges.

Notwithstanding their strong commitment, Lake Chad riparian countries need support, particularly the support of the International Community so as to not only controlling and eradicating terrorism and violent fundamentalism, but also to tackle the root causes of the matter, such as poverty alleviation, climate shock, population pressure, youths' unemployment, etc.

These pernicious and complex challenges pave the way for organized crimes, all kinds of trafficking, terrorism

and violent fundamentalism, which thus brings the sub-region to favor a security-based approach in lieu of an approach which combines both the need of security and the priority of development.

Likewise the Programme for the Rehabilitation and Strengthening of the Resilience of the Socio-Ecological Systems in the Lake Chad basin (PRESIBALT) recently launched and the Lake Chad Development and Climate Change Resilience Action Plan, it is so urgent to meet both security and climate change challenge by implementing multisectoral, bankable and viable programmes and project.

Beyond the compassion and solidarity expressed here and there, Lake Chad riparian countries facing with various challenges are in dire need of the full mobilization of the international Community in providing them with adequate means so as to ensure the security and the protection of their populations and basin which despite the challenges it faces is bursting with significant potentials and other resources to feed close to 50 Million persons.

It is also worth recalling that the current tragedy in the Lake Chad area has direct negative impacts on regional and world security and stability. For

illustration, let us consider the desperate attempts of these thousands of young men and women struggling on a daily basis to reach Europe by means of makeshift canoes or boats. This situation is not only a humanitarian disaster and socio-economic challenges, but also a menace in the long run for the security of these countries considered to be an El Dorado. To meet this challenge in a sustainable manner, socio-economic development activities in migrants' countries of origin must be fully supported. In the same vein, poverty alleviation programmes must also be supported in Africa in general, and in the Lake Chad basin in particular.

Global stability is therefore as vital as the stability of the Member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to better meet the challenge and to win this war imposed on them and from which they are no more to shy away. As the Legal and Executing Entity in charge of promoting regional integration and solidarity policy, LCBC shall undoubtedly take the lead in taking the message when and where necessary. In front of the urgency of the situation, we must no more continue to waste time. It is therefore high time for us to take action!

**Engr. Sanusi Imran ABDULLAHI,
The Executive Secretary**

Planning workshop of the new phase of the technical cooperation between LCBC and BGR

For three days (12-14 April 2016), the Focal Points brainstormed on the planning of activities of the Project "Support to the underground water resources management at the Lake Chad Basin Commission" at the National Library. This meeting also enabled participants to build their capacities on the transboundary groundwater resources management.

The opening ceremony was chaired by the then acting Executive Secretary, Mister Moussa Salou Bisso in the presence of Focal Points from Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, CAR and Chad as well as LCBC's officers.

In his address, the acting Executive Secretary wished a warm welcome to participants including the new management team of BGR. He praised the fruitful cooperation between LCBC and GIZ for a more knowledge on the water resources of the basin and the active participation of the audience.

During their deliberations, the participants reviewed the outcome of the first phase of the project and planned the activities up to June 2018.

LAUNCHING OF PRESIBALT

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

The technical workshop to launch the Programme for the rehabilitation and strengthening of resilience of socio-ecological systems of the Lake Chad basin (PRESIBALT) was held from 28th to 29th January 2016 in LCBC's Conference Room under the chairmanship of Engr. Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, the Executive Secretary of the Commission in the presence of the Chadian Minister of Rural and Urban Hydraulics, the Resident Representative of AfDB in Chad, LCBC's Focal Points from Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, CAR and Chad, and other LCBC's programmes and projects managers and Partners in Chad.

The main objective of PRESIBALT is to alleviate poverty among vulnerable populations who depend on the natural resources of the basin in Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Central Africa Republic and Chad, through significant investments needed for the strengthening of institutional, and socio-economic resilience systems at the regional level, a good valuing of available water resources just like the productive potentials of lacustrine and river systems likely to foster the socio-economic development in the area.

This is the translation of the commitment of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to assist LCBC in implementing the Five Year Investment Plan (FYIP) 2013-2017 into concrete actions through the African Development Fund (FAD) and the involvement of various actors (Technical Ministries, National semi-public bodies, international specialized institutions, the civil society, local governments, farmers organizations, vulnerable groups, etc.)

The Programme covers five (5) years and comprises three (3) components as follows: The preservation and the valuing of water resources; the development of ecological services and value chains; the institutional development and the management of the Programme. Over 15 Million persons (of which 52% are women) around the lake area will increase their revenues, improve their food security and their



Family photo at the end of the launching ceremony of PRESIBALT: "the flow of personalities from various horizons shows the importance of this ever implemented development program by the African Development Bank on the African continent..."

access to basic social facilities. In addition to the intra-regional commercialization of agricultural products, local and regional consultations and integration so as to achieve integrated management of natural resources are also taken into consideration. Generally speaking, PRESIBALT will take into account the social dimension of the resilience with a view to reducing potential sources of conflicts. The Programme will also allow in one hand rehabilitating the entire agro-hydro-meteorological networks in the basin and simulation tools likely to ensure a sound management of water resources, and on the other, it will strengthen LCBC's capacities for an effective and efficient use of its regional data base provided in the Lake Chad basin Water Charter, and so as to fund the forums of the basin resource users with a view to better sharing collected information. At the same time, an Early Warning System combined with an agricultural information system will be set up to prevent natural disaster hazards. Last but not least, the Programme will set up an integrated knowledge sharing and management system on the activities of the Programme by disseminating knowledge on a regular basis on LCBC website, with a view to capitalizing and managing the knowledge and experiences acquired.

Under the combined pressure of climate change and human factors, Lake Chad

ecosystems have been significantly impacted negatively in these recent years. The Lake Chad basin considered as an actual showcase between the Sahel and Sahara, remains a vulnerable area on political, humanitarian, economic, social and security levels. The extent of the disaster requires a regional intervention approach which will consider the rehabilitation and the strengthening of socio-ecological resilience systems as one of its top priorities. The safeguarding of this precious resource and the future of populations which depends on these resources are the focus of the African Development Bank (AfDB) as the leader of LCBC's technical and financial partners in mobilizing the necessary resources for the implementation of the FYIP.

This mark of attention of the first financial institution for development of the continent for the safeguarding and preservation of this common resource among several countries of the region and considered as source of regional stability and integration was highlighted in all the remarks made by the various speakers during the technical launching of the Programme. They also commended the good relationships between LCBC and AfDB. To conclude, they all wish successful implementation of PRESIBALT.

Abdou Mohammed

FIGHT AGAINST BOKO HARAM

PROGRESS, BUT...

ANALYSIS



The BOKO HARAM sect of which initial name is "Jama'atulAhlis Sunna Lidda'awatiWal Jihad " meaning "Sunni Group for Preaching and Jihad" underwent some gradual transformations since its creation in 2002 as a regional threat disrupting seriously agricultural and pastoral activities in the Lake Chad basin. This group made some tremendous progress in 2009, from a section of combatants conducting sporadic strikes from their strongholds to a force which is able to conquer and control territories.

Boko Haram expanded its movement away from its bases in the North-eastern Nigeria to the neighboring countries such as Cameroon, Niger and Chad. Their activities mainly focus on atrocious and horrendous attacks marked by the lack of consideration for human life and blind destructions. The resort to children who are used as suicide bombers, the killings of civilians, the hostage-taking and notably the abduction of hundreds of school girls in Chibok (Nigeria) in April 2014 sparked off sentiments of indignation across the world and attracted the determination to crack down on this terrorist group wherever they are found. This document takes stock of the efforts pooled so far by the LCBC member countries to address the terrorist threat posed by the Boko Haram sect in a concerted and coordinated manner. Emphasis will be laid on the initiatives and actions carried out under the banner of LCBC.

BACKGROUND OF THE FIGHT AGAINST BOKO HARAM

The Paris Summit held on the 17th May 2014 devoted to security in Nigeria and which was attended by the Heads of State of Benin, Cameroon, France, Nigeria, Niger and Chad as well as the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union was a catalyst for the regional and international mobilization against the terrorist group Boko Haram.

Actually, at the regional level, the

Heads of State and Government of LCBC member countries and Benin met in Niamey on the 7th October 2014 as part of an extraordinary Summit. They decided to "combat Boko Haram in synergy wherever they are found". In this vein, they proffered resolutions including, among other things, the development of a common strategy to fight against the terrorist threat in LCBC area and the building of operational and intelligence capacities as well as the coordination of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF).

The implementation of these landmark resolutions was concretized during the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense of the LCBC member countries and Benin held on the 20th January 2015 in Niamey, Niger, by the adoption of measures meant for the effective operationalization of the MNJTF. It is worth noting the appeal to the African Union (AU) to facilitate the development of the strategic Concept of Operations (CONOPS) of the MNJTF for the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram. The CONOPS was drafted by

a team of experts from LCBC, the AU and the EU and the P3 who met in Yaounde on 5-7 February 2015. Then, this document was validated by the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) at its 489th session held in February 2015 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

The planning process of the military operations and logistical support of the MNJTF/LCBC and Benin and its implementation framework were completed in N'Djamena on the 24th May 2015 as part of the meeting of experts in charge of developing additional documents on the operationalization of the MNJTF for the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram.

During an extraordinary meeting held on the 11th June 2015 in Abuja, Nigeria, the Heads of State and Government of LCBC and Benin approved the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and related documents of the MNJTF/LCBC for the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram and the Strategy for the common fight against the terrorist threat in the LCBC area. They further approved the immediate deployment of the headquarters of the MNJTF in N'Djamena, Chad by making available the personnel, the logistics, funds and appointing the three top-ranking officers at the Headquarters of the Force.

OPERATIONALISATION OF THE MULTINATIONAL JOINT TASK FORCE

In line with the immediate operationalization of the MNJTF, the Chiefs of Defense Staff of LCBC member countries and Benin met in N'Djamena on the 20th August 2015 as part of a special session and decided to deploy the contingents immediately in their respective areas of responsibilities (AoR) in a bid to enable the Force Commander perform his tour for the transfer of authority.

In this vein, the ceremonies for the transfer of authority from the national forces to the MNJTF were organized as part of the tour of the Force Commander in Baga and Mora on 6 and 8 September 2015 respectively and in Bagassola on the 11th January 2016.

The operationalization of the MNJTF



Group of officers at the MNJTF headquarters in N'Djamena: "the fighting against Boko Haram terrorist group contributed to the strengthening of the military cooperation and the sub-regional integration..."

is henceforth effective. The headquarters is fully operational since the 3rd August 2015 at the temporary site in Farcha neighborhood in N'Djamena, Chad. The sectors and sub-sectors are deployed and conduct operations against the Boko Haram combatants in their respective areas of responsibilities in compliance with the phasing of the mission and in coordination with different national forces.

The current operations of the MNJTF in combination with the national security and defense forces have degraded the human and logistical capabilities of Boko Haram. As such, their ability to instill fear everywhere at the same time as compared to the same period in 2015 was reduced sharply. Furthermore, in search of logistical resources, the Boko Haram insurgents form small groups who attack people around Lake Chad and the southern side of the Komadugu Yobe River (Niger-Nigeria border). Their tactics lay emphasis on the suicide attacks conducted by children and the utilization of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The fulfillment of the mandate of the MNJTF will continue in accordance with the new vision championed by the 2nd regional Summit on security (2nd RSS) held on the 14th May 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria, which combines the military operations with the humanitarian activities and development as part of the fight

against the terrorist group Boko Haram.

CONCLUSION

The fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group spurred a synergy of actions of LCBC member countries and Benin, which was instrumental in the strengthening of the military cooperation and sub-regional integration. The tireless efforts and sacrifices undergone by these countries to eliminate this threat to the regional security are laudable and promising for the populations. The operationalization of the MNJTF is a role model of unity in the action in Africa. It is worth commending the African solidarity move that emerged among the Central African countries as part of the support to LCBC member countries facing the terrorist activities of Boko Haram. Likewise, it is noteworthy the multifaceted assistance of the African Union, the European Union and the international partners such as France, the United Kingdom and the United States to the MNJTF. We do hope that the pledges made at the Donors' Conference held on the 1st February 2016 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia will be actualized without delay just like the joint meeting ECCAS-ECOWAS to set up a transregional common strategy.

**Col. Ndougou Hypolithe Jean
Military Adviser**

SCHOOL KITS CAMPAIGN

EDUCATION



The General Secretary of the government house of Bol region giving the kick-off of the delivery of 550 school kits: "education remains the most powerful weapon to change the world "...

This year, the children of the Primary School of Yakoua received their Christmas presents in May. In fact, on this day of Saturday, May 21, 2016 of the Gregorian calendar and in a very friendly weather, the schoolchildren of Yakoua who were having lessons on the ground under makeshift tents, were surprised to meet with Father Christmas. The latter was dressed in the uniform of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and carried Santa Claus' sack full of precious school kits these children were lacking. In line with the celebration of its 52nd anniversary, this old sub-regional Organization in charge of the management of resources of the Lake Chad basin decided, taking into account the current situation, in lieu of the usual "Information Day", to support the riparian populations of Lake Chad, notably those who were displaced from Lake

Chad islands. This support refers to symbolic humanitarian interventions including the commissioning of boreholes and the donation of pharmaceutical products and school kits.

For the 1,500 schoolchildren of this primary school of Bol Region in Chad, these presents were timely. With only 142 schoolchildren last year, the strengths of the primary school of Yakoua has reached, this year, 1,500 schoolchildren taking into account massive displacements on dry lands or terra firma of islanders fleeing the exactions of the Boko Haram Terrorist Group. As they took nothing during their frantic fleeing from the exactions of this terrorist group, these families found themselves with nothing, lacking everything and in a dire need of water, food, shelter, etc. Their children need to be educated

and only five teachers are endeavoring to teach them in overcrowded makeshift classrooms.

The school kits offered by LCBC comprising one bag, exercise books, pens, colored pencils, one ruler, one gum, one pencil, one square, one divider and a cartoon, etc., was a strong relief for both these children and their parents who do not have necessary resources to buy the required school stationeries. The Regional Delegate of Education of Bol stated: "This donation is a strong relief for parents. We assure you that these school kits will be used wisely for quality results. Although we received these kits almost at the end of this school year, they will be useful next year."

The Permanent Secretary at Governor's Office in Bol declared that "Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world. I wholeheartedly thank LCBC and urge children to work harder at school to keep their promises to LCBC, in other words to achieve good results." The Mayor of Bol and the Representative of the Village Leader expressed their sincere thanks to LCBC for its support to the children of displaced families and urged them to generate very good results at school. The Representative of the recipients, a young girl named Falmata Marara, on behalf of her classmates, expressed her profound gratitude to the Lake Chad Basin Commission on these words "We commit ourselves to use conveniently these school kits and to score good results at school."



According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, over 2,700,000 people were displaced due to conflicts in the Lake Chad basin. Most of them are women and children living in camps in Niger, Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon where they are in dire need of basic commodities and rely on the resources of the host communities. Beyond its mainstream mission on the integrated management of water resources of the basin, notably with the support of partners and the Governments of Member States, LCBC endeavors to mobilize funds needed for the attainment of its ambitions while providing assistance to deprived peoples in terms of potable water, food, healthcare, education, capacity building, etc.

WATER SUPPLY COVERAGE

A blessing borehole for Toui village

“Water is the most precious gift one can offer to somebody. It quenches the thirst of people. It is indispensable for the growing of crops and livestock farming. It purifies and heals the body. Without water, there is no life.....”The leader of the village of Toui, draped in his white regalia, keeps on praising the benefits of the newly commissioned well equipped with hand pump graciously offered by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC).

“It is for the first time in memory that the village of Toui welcomes such a huge number of VIPs thanks to this well...”, the patriarch stated spying at the other local dignitaries which had made a point of honoring with their presence this official ceremony of hand-over which is engraved for ever on the memory of the inhabitants of this village located in the far reaches of Lake Chad.

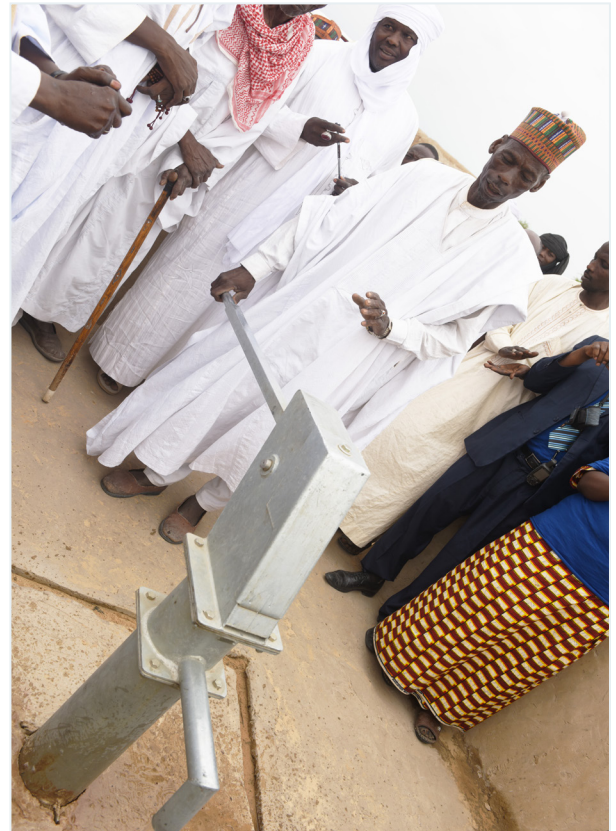
All the inhabitants of the village including men, women, children and elderly persons attended the event around the well constructed at the entrance of the village and fenced with a concrete wall. The relevance of their presence is undeniable: Having the precious blue liquid, which is a source of hope and the most precious property worldwide especially in this sandy and dusty area, and a privilege many men, women and children do not have.

Like all these remote villages in the Bol region (Lake Chad), the village of Toui does not have satisfactory access to potable water. In such circumstances, many villagers have no other option but to resort to extremely dirty water source of various diseases as there is no drinking water supply facility in their village.

To meet the urgent and vital need of these peoples, LCBC decided to fund the construction of a well as part of its 2015 programme of activities which features the construction of fifteen (15) wells in its Member States, equivalent to three (3) wells per Member State) to quench the thirst of the riparian communities of Lake Chad who usually ply tens of kilometres by foot in search of the precious liquid.

It is worth noting that in these arid and difficult areas characterized by the receding of Lake Chad and the security challenge due to the exactions of the Boko Haram Terrorist Group, potable water supply for daily household needs and stock watering is a great challenge.

To avoid these exhausted families trekking continuously on long distances



carrying heavy water buckets on their heads, the construction of a well closer to these populations was necessary and timely. In addition to the relief of the multiple tasks of women and young girls (in charge of water collection), the borehole equipped with manual pump will not only ensure good health but also good

sanitation.

To show all the significance they attach to the event, the inhabitants of Toui, notwithstanding their pressing concerns, spared no efforts to highly welcome their guests. Although it was sober, the official hand-over ceremony of this borehole has become a forum for the sensitization of local populations on the relevance of the blue liquid, sanitation and the need to preserve this jewel. All the guest speakers including the Chief of the village of Toui, the Chief of the county of Karangua, the Prefect of Mamdi and the Mayor of Bol as well as the representative of the Executive Secretary laid emphasis on this move.

To wrap up the commissioning ceremony of the borehole, the Chief of the village of Toui and the imam of this village inaugurated the borehole by activating the crank together allowing fine crystal-line drops of water flowing from the tap which many people attending the ceremony hastened to collect with their two hands so as not to lose any drop and to taste this precious liquid.

The ceremony definitely successfully ended on the symbolic hand-over of few school kits and T-shirts to the school children of Toui followed by a lunch offered to the guests by the villagers.

At the village of Toui like in the other sites which were selected for the construction of the 15 number boreholes, water flew indeed on this 22nd May 2016, but the inhabitants still need more water. The Chief of the villa stated: "Please tell LCBC that we are grateful for this gesture although it is not sufficient as there are over two thousand people here. Only a water-elevated tank is needed to meet the needs of the entire village in terms of potable water..." In the meantime, the imam of the village commended the efforts of LCBC for the donation stating "He who drinks water from a borehole can only bless the hands of the one who constructs it."



Despite the fact that clean, safe and reliable water is source of good health, food security and economic opportunities, and its lack a source of poverty, diseases, loss of biodiversity, conflicts and instabilities, one person out of two within the Lake Chad basin does not have access to potable water. Potable water supply is a serious daily challenge for these riparian populations more affected by recurrent droughts and the arrival of thousands of displaced persons fleeing the exactions of the Boko Haram Terrorist Group.

In addition to insecurity, access to potable water is a serious challenge. Women and children trek on kilometres to fetch water facing many hazards.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission in charge of the integrated management of water resources endeavours to find out solutions to these problems through its programmes and projects. The construction or the rehabilitation of boreholes equipped with manual pumping system, the potable water supply or the promotion of best agricultural practices and appropriate sanitation to improve the quality of surface waters enable hundreds of thousands of people to quench their thirsty, children to go to school instead of spending their time fetching water, to significantly reduce waterborne diseases and those related to the lack of sanitation, and to support agricultural activities...

Taking into account the enormous needs and the urgency of the situation, these significant measures are considered as a drop of water in the ocean. This is why LCBC needs your support to keep on bringing smiles to millions of people who are hopelessness...

OBITUARY

MOUSSA HERBAMA HAROUN



We are deeply saddened of the news of Moussa Herbama Haroun's passing, on February 15, 2016, in his lifetime, a storeman at the LCBC. The long disease of Moussa Herbama was a real ordeal. We can but imagine to what extent these last days were difficult for all those who are dear to him. We are truly sorrow of the loss of a person who had to give so much again. Herbama was not just a great colleague, he was so kind and so thoughtful that his death will not only leave a space in our lives, but in the hearts and the minds of all those who knew him. To his widow and left children, the Executive Secretary and all the staff of LCBC extend their deepest condolences. May God grant you the serenity and peace that you seek and may the soul of your loved one rest in peace.

OUTMAN OUMAR YOUSSEUF

We are truly sorrow to hear about the loss of Outman Oumar Youssouf, national Coordinator for the Chad of the Program of Lake Chad Sustainable Development (PRODEBALT), on April 15th, 2016, the consequences of a long disease. At this difficult time, the Executive Secretary of the LCBC as well as the entire staff express to his family, his(her) close relations, his friends, his collaborators, their deepest condolences and the expression of their sympathy and condolence. May the Almighty pay amply the deceased, to approve him among his virtuous servants, to spread on him His Mercy and His Blessing and to welcome it in its vast paradise.



PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED TO GREDAYA

HEALTHCARE



The populations of Gredaya (Hadjer Lamis Region) were the most happiest people in Chad on this sunny Sunday 22nd May 2016 as they received a donation of pharmaceutical products worth close to Twenty-Five Million (25,000,000) Francs CFA from the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC).

In fact, the commemoration of the 52nd Anniversary of this august Organization in charge of the integrated management of water and fishery resources of the Lake Chad Basin in a safe and sustainable manner, was an opportunity for a series of humanitarian activities including the donation of pharmaceutical products, furniture and medical equipment to the Gredaya Health Centre.

The donation was composed, inter alia, of basic pharmaceutical products such as antibiotics, anti-malaria drugs, anti-inflammatory drugs, vaccines, furniture, beds, delivery tables, litters, wheelchairs and fridges to keep the vaccines.

The donation ceremony took place in the premises of LCBC's Headquarters located at the Place de la Grande Armée, N'Djamena, in the presence of the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in N'Djamena and the Representative of the African Union. This ceremony came on the heels of a series of humanitarian activities that were carried out as part of the aforesaid commemoration, which also featured the commissioning of boreholes and the hand-over of school kits to displaced children and a borehole in the Lake Chad area.

While handing over the donation, the Acting Executive Secretary of LCBC, Mr. Salou Bisso Moussa, mentioned that his institution is well aware of the hardship facing populations in the field. In this vein, he further mentioned that the 2016 commemoration was centered only on our populations as opposed to the usual business laying more emphasis on the promotion of education, health, access to potable water, food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, human rights, gender equity, environmental protection, peace and security as part of all its programmes and projects. He also stated that LCBC is paving the way for new other projects, which will turn the difficulties into opportunities and make Lake Chad a green basin for both Member States and populations. The Acting Executive Secretary reaffirmed that "today and more than ever, we

are busy working to streamline our means, guide our supports towards actions with rapid and actual impacts on the improvement of the living conditions of the populations in collaboration with Development Partners and Member States."

On his part, the Regional Delegate of the Gredaya Health District, Mr. Mahamat Saleh, thanked LCBC, on behalf of the recipients and full gave assurance that the donation will be used wisely. In the same vein, the Gredaya Medical Officer, Dr. Dogo Yabana commended the support, which will be of great help to the peoples of his administrative entity. He recalled the multifaceted interventions of the Commission in its Member States and praised the initiative LCBC to celebrate its 52nd anniversary in this original way for the great benefit of Lake Chad riparian populations who are seriously affected. He was pleased to realise that LCBC answered the prayers of the populations of his Health Centre by providing with these drugs and other medical aids, which will help health workers relieve the suffering of their patients. In view of this act of solidarity, the Chief Medical Officer felt that saying "thank you" is not enough. This is why he prayed God to reward the donor of this donation which is beyond his expectations and hopes. He also requested that this valuable support has favorable spill-over effects in the future.

Common area where resources are shared by the riparian countries (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, CAR and Libya) the lake Chad Basin covers a surface area of 967, .000 square kilometres with close to 50 Million inhabitants living mostly on agriculture, stock-farming and fishing. The value of Lake Chad relies on its contributions in terms water, food-stuffs and job opportunities for a rural population estimated at three Million people and whose livelihoods directly depend on the exploitation of its significant natural resources. As a genuine agricultural pole thanks to the permanent availability of water, feed-grade and fertile lands, Lake Chad plays a key role for the regional trade, thus contributing to the preservation of food self-sufficiency and job opportunities for tens of Millions of people. It is also an exporting centre of agricultural products between the regional major cities and the poor Sahel hinterlands. This region also represents not only a distribution centre of manufactured goods coming mainly from Nigeria, but also a center of all kinds of trafficking. However, the drastic shrinkage of Lake Chad combined with the spread of violence resulting from the insurgency of the Boko Haram Terrorist Group in North-East Nigeria and then in the borderlines of Niger, Cameroon and Chad cause the displacement of riparian populations of Lake Chad, notably those living in islands. This thus disrupts commercial activities and destabilises the regional economy while affecting populations which are already considered among the poorest peoples worldwide...

LAKE CHAD DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN

A MEGA PROJECT FOR A MEGA LAKE CHAD

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS



Changing difficulties into opportunities and turning the Lake Chad basin into a green and open living environment, a granary for riparian populations and those of the hinterland, this is the main objective of the multi-sectoral climate change resilience development action Plan designed by the Member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) with the support of the World Bank and the French Development Agency (AFD). This Plan covers the period from 2016 to 2025.

Like the ongoing operation of restoring peace and security in the Lake Chad basin, the key message of this action plan which enjoyed the support of a dozen of Heads of State of France and Africa during the Conference of Paris on Climate in December 2015, consists in turning Lake Chad into an actual rural development and regional integration pole.

This action Plan which was derived from the various planning documents elaborated by LCBC, particularly the Vision 2025, the Strategic Action Plan, the Emergency Development Programme for youths and vulnerable groups, the Lake Chad basin Water Charter, the Environmental Audit, etc. is aiming at contributing to the improvement of the food security, providing job opportunities and social inclusion of youths by improving in a sustainable way the livelihoods of riparian populations and those living in Lake Chad islands and strengthening the resilience to a system characterized by a high population growth, a critical hydrological variability and climate uncertainties.

As a prelude to a tour in all the Member countries with a view to further identify challenges, a team of the World Bank in Washington visited LCBC's Headquarters in N'Djamena in late July 2016. After two week discussions with not only LCBC's experts and management, but also with Chadian national officials, the World Bank Team was provided with all necessary and urgent actions to be implemented as part of the seven components approved under this flagship, risky and costly programme. The seven components are as follows: Support producers and production systems so as to improve productivity and agricultural resilience systems (agriculture, fishery and livestock farming) ; Ensure the access to resources and manage conflicts; improve livelihoods by enhancing public basic services; facilitate exchanges (transport and trade); preserve the environmental potential of Lake Chad and its basin; better manage water resources in the basin (water uses and pollution); disseminate information, improve knowledge and environmental monitoring...

As a landlocked sea confined between the Sahel and Sahara, Lake Chad is shared by Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. It is worth noting that part of its hydrographical basin expands to include the territory of the Central African Republic and at the downstream level, some its tables are extended to Libya. Under the menace of both climate change and human pressure, its size has significantly reduced for these recent years, shifting from 22, 000 square kilometers in 1960 to 1, 700 square kilometers in 1985 before reaching 8, 000 square kilometers in 2015.

Notwithstanding these challenges, Lake Chad remains not only a large ecosystem which is highly productive and provides livelihoods to more than two (2) million inhabitants, but also a significant export pole of food for all the surroundings of the Member States. Despite the poverty, demographic pressure and the security challenge, the natural resources in the lake

enabled riparian populations to develop productive activities related to fisheries, agriculture, livestock farming, trade or craft. This regional economic dynamism particularly is based on a complex agricultural system combining mobility, multi-activity and multipurpose.

Considered as a RAMSAR SITE and being registered as a UNESCO World Heritage, the importance of Lake Chad is now evident and focuses on the precious ecosystemic services it provides, particularly in this Sahel and Saharan environment characterized by the aridity, the scarcity and the irregularity of water resources.

In spite of the fact that Lake Chad is vital, it remains however very vulnerable. The population pressure also has negative impacts on populations already poor in their majority and with poor access to basic social services such as health cares, education, potable water, roads, electricity, etc.

Lake Chad is not only threatened by spectacular hydrological variations, but also by pollution and security challenge. In fact, since 2014, the Lake Chad region has faced with barbarous attacks perpetrated by the Boko Haram Terrorist Group. Started in the Northern-East of Nigeria, the phenomenon is extended to include the neighboring countries of Niger, Cameroon, and Chad thereby causing hundreds victims, thousands of displaced persons and stopping the transboundary trade and destabilizing the regional economy entirely.

The reverse side of the coin is that this situation has led to the strengthening of integration dynamisms which have recently been developed by Lake Chad riparian countries (revitalization of all the springs of LCBC, such as Boundaries Agreements, joint mobilization and solidarity towards restoring peace and security, common projects, etc. These efforts need to be translated into concrete developments actions as part of this Action Plan, which shall ensure a green and bright future for Lake Chad.

JOINT UNITED STATES, UNITED NATIONS AND EUROPEAN UNION VISIT

STAUNCH SUPPORT TO LCBC

DIPLOMACY

After Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger and Chad, the joint United States, United Nations and European Union mission led by the Deputy Secretary of State in charge of Population, Refugees and Migration at the US State Department, Mrs. Anne C. Richard, the European Commissioner in charge of Humanitarian Assistance and Crisis Management, Mr. Christos Stylianides and the UN Assistant Secretary General Toby Lanzer, ended on Sunday, 17th July 2016 with a tour of the Headquarters of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the Headquarters of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) of the Commission's member countries and Benin Republic.

During their talks with the Executive Secretary of LCBC, Engr. Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, the above-mentioned diplomats got acquainted with the latest developments in the field, the business of the Commission and the ongoing operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force and reaffirmed the support of their respective institutions to LCBC, the MNJTF and the populations who are affected by the atrocities of the terrorist group Boko Haram. At the headquarters of LCBC just like in all the countries they visited, they delivered the same message which highlights the full support of the United States, the United Nations and the European Union to the populations of the Lake Chad basin:

"In Chad, Cameroon or in the neighboring countries like Niger and Nigeria, the United States are deeply concerned with the current situation of displaced persons and refugees due to the continuous violence in the Lake Chad basin", said the Deputy Secretary Richard. She further mentioned that the United States acknowledge the efforts pooled by the governments of the

region where millions of people were compelled to quit their villages and are pleased to increase their assistance to the UN agencies and NGOs by an allocation of additional 27 Million US dollars, for a total amount of 112 Million US dollars during the current fiscal year.

"The European Union is very preoccupied by the serious humanitarian crisis which hit the Lake Chad basin. It keeps up assisting the populations who are affected by this regional crisis. We will continue to provide our assistance wherever it is necessary", declared the Commissioner Stylianides, who announced an extra package worth 58 Million Euros in 2016 from the European Union to assist the most vulnerable populations. "This package will enable us to provide food supplies, shelter, potable water, healthcare and protection to those who are affected by the conflicts. The objective is also to prepare the populations to better resist the challenges by strengthening their resilience. This funding is part of the overall humanitarian drive of the European Union in the Sahel Region, which is estimated at over 200 Million Euros in 2016."

According to the Assistant UN Secretary General, Mr. Lanzer: "I am very grateful for the funds received from the United States and European Union. In addition to the Emergency Response Central Funds, which provided over 102 Million dollars in terms of humanitarian assistance in the Lake Chad basin, the UN agencies and their partners can enhance their assignment for the victims of



crisis, including the displaced persons and host communities in line with our 90-day response plan which was finalized in early July".

All the participants agreed to call on "other members of the international community to follow the example of the United States and the European Union and support the field response in a bid to avoid a deeper and more costly crisis in the coming months."

As an internal sea and genuine food provider for close to 50 Million people in its basin, Lake Chad has been confronting several challenges these past years. The riparian populations are grappling with extreme poverty including acute food insecurity and malnutrition as well as the shrinkage of the lake attributed to climate change and the violent extremism of the terrorist group Boko Haram, which compelled close to 3 Million to quit their villages. This applies to most of the host communities who have to share their scanty resources thus causing a price hike in the market. Close to ten Million people are starving facing a humanitarian distress and are in dire need of protection, shelter, food supplies, healthcare, potable water, hygiene, sanitation and education, etc.

61ST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

FINAL COMMUNIQUE



Under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency, Mister ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic of Niger, Chairman of the Summit of LCBC Heads of State and Government, the sixty-first ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) was held on the 21st January 2016 in the Meeting Hall n° 5 of the Niamey Conference Centre, Republic of Niger, under the Chairmanship of H.E. WASSALKE BOUKARI, Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation from the Republic of Niger, Chairman of the Council of Ministers. This session followed the Experts meeting held on the 20th January 2016.

In Attendance were Commissioners of the following countries:

For the Republic of Niger :

- H.E. WASSALKE BOUKARI, Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation, 1st Commissioner of Niger to LCBC, Chairman of the Council of Ministers;

- General ABDOU KAZA, Governor of the Diffa Region, 2nd Commissioner of Niger to LCBC.

For the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

- H.E. SULEIMAN H. ADAMU, Federal Minister of Water Resources, 1st Commissioner of Nigeria to LCBC;

- H.E. IBRAHIM KHADIJA BUKAR ABBA, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2nd Commissioner of Nigeria to LCBC;

For the Republic of Chad :

- H.E. MAHAMAT ABALI SALAH, Minister of Pastoral and Rural Hydraulics, 1st Commissioner of Chad to LCBC;

- Mr TCHOUADANG KADJONGA, Representative of the Minister of Agriculture, 2nd Commissioner of Chad to LCBC.

For the Central African Republic :

- H.E. ISABELLE GAUDEUILLE, Minister of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fishery, Environment and Ecology, 1st Commissioner of the CAR to LCBC.

For the Republic of Cameroon:

- Mr MAROUF MOUSSA, Representative of the Governor of the Far North Region, 2nd Commissioner of Cameroon to LCBC.

Libya was not represented.

In attendance were also the Cabinet Ministers, MPs, Members of the Regional Parliamentary Committee for the Lake Chad Basin, the Governor of the Niamey Region and Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps.

The opening ceremony was marked by the welcome remarks by Mister HAMIDOU GARBA, Governor of the Niamey Region, the keynote addresses by Engr. SANUSI IMRAN ABDULLAHI, Executive Secretary of LCBC and H.E. BOUKARY ADJI, Co-champion of LCBC for the safeguard of Lake Chad as well as the opening remarks of H.E. WASSALKE BOUKARI, Ministers of Hydraulics and Sanitation from the Republic of Niger, Chairman of the Council of Ministers representing the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

During their deliberations, Commissioners reviewed the following agenda:

1. The report of the Executive Secretary ;
2. The report of the Financial Controller for 2015 ;
3. The report of the national experts focused on the following :

• The report of the external audit of financial statements for the years ended on the 31/12/2014 ;

• The 2016 program of activities and draft budget of the Executive Secretariat ;

• Memoranda presented by the Executive Secretariat.

After deliberations, Commissioners commended the Executive Secretary, the Financial Controller and the national experts for the

clarity of their reports and adopted the following documents:

- The report of the Financial Controller for 2015 ;

- The report of the external audit report of financial statements of LCBC for the year ended on the 31/12/2014 ;

- The 2016 program of activities and draft budget of the Executive Secretariat amounting to revenues and expenditures at 21,550,482,379 FCFA broken down as follows:

* **12,805,445,947 FCFA** to be funded by the technical and financial Partners ;

* **8,745,036,432 FCFA** to be funded by the contribution of member countries of which **3,115,538,449 FCFA** are funded by the arrears paid and **5,629,497,983 FCFA** by the annual contributions 2016.

Considering the resources available as at 31/12/2015 for an amount of **494,296,368 FCFA**, the total amount of contributions expected from member countries in 2016 stands at **5,135,201,615 FCFA**.

Considering the important accumulation of arrears of contributions expected from member States which are estimated to **6,263,672,417 FCFA** as at 31/12/2015, the risks of which and result in hammering LCBC activities and the pursuing of on-going projects designed by the development partners, the Commissioners decided to carry out any necessary actions towards their respective administration in favor of settling their respective arrears of contribution and to ensure

that member countries pay their contributions to the 2016 budget of the Executive Secretariat three months after the holding of this session.

After the briefing by the Executive Secretary on the recruitment of the new operational positions, the Commissioners recalled that this exercise should be carried out by a consultant to be appointed in a transparent manner by the Executive Secretariat under the supervision of the Minister 1st Commissioner of Chad. Noting that this process was not duly respected, they requested the Minister / 1st Commissioner of Chad and the Current Chairman of the Council of Ministers to ensure transparency of the selection process and to finalize it by 21st February 2016.

After listening with keen interest the presentation of the Executive Secretary on the conduct of and outcome of the LCBC side event at COP21 on climate change in Paris, Commissioners recommended that in addition to the advocacy campaign run by the Champions, there should be a flagship advertisement at the national level and the civil society and national MPs should play a key role.

They further instructed the Executive Secretary to fine-tune the preparations of the

Donors' Conference slated for June 2016 in Paris in a bid to fund the Lake Development and Climate Resilience Action Plan.

Commissioners examined two memoranda submitted by the Executive Secretariat, the first on Annex 6 of the Water Charter relating to the protection of environment and the other on the demarcation of international boundaries in the Lake Chad. After deliberation, they approved the draft Annex 6 of the Water Charter and notwithstanding the necessity and opportunity to conduct the works of demarcation of international boundaries in the Lake Chad, they instructed the Executive Secretariat to postpone this activity for an ultimate date as result of security challenges prevailing in the Basin.

In addition, Commissioners commended the progress made as part of the ongoing electoral process in the CAR, which will wrap up the transitional period and pave the way for a better future in this country. They saluted the efforts deployed so far by the authorities of the transition, the different CAR's stakeholders and their partners in terms of stabilizing this country despite the current hardship. They also wish that peace and serenity be restored in the CAR.

Commissioners also wished that peace and stability be restored quickly in Libya so as to enable this country join its peers for the development of the Lake Chad Basin.

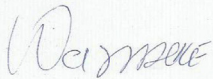
Commissioners agreed to hold the 62nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers at a time and venue which will be commonly approved by the LCBC member States in 2016.

Commissioners expressed their gratitude to the President of France and the development partners for their continued support to LCBC.

Following the deliberations which took place in a brotherly and convivial atmosphere, Commissioners conveyed to H.E. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic of Niger, through H.E. WASSALKE BOUKARI, the Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation, 1st Commissioner of Niger to LCBC, their heartfelt regards and expressed their profound gratitude to the government and people of Niger for the warm welcome and legendary hospitality accorded to them.

Issued in Niamey, this 21st day of January 2016, in French and English. Both version being equally authentic.

H.E. WASSALKE BOUKARI



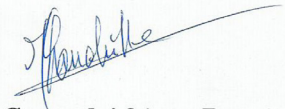
For the Republic of Niger

H.E. SULEIMAN H. ADAMU, *face*



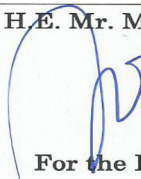
For the Federal Republic of

H.E. ISABELLE GAUDEUILLE



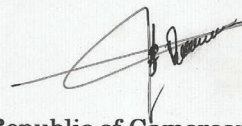
For the Central African Republic

H.E. Mr. MAHAMAT ALBALI
SALAH



For the Republic of Chad

Mr. MAROUF MOUSSA



For the Republic of Cameroon

Second regional Summit on security in the Lake Chad basin

Following the Paris Summit on security in Nigeria held in May 2014, Heads of States of France and Africa, and representatives of the European Union, the United States, Great Britain, China and international organizations took part May 14, 2016 in Abuja in the second Summit devoted to the achievements of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to counter the terrorist group Boko Haram and the evaluation of the humanitarian situation in affected regions. This Summit enabled to intensify the regional and international mobilization to combat Boko Haram and fine-tune the action plan for the development and resilience to climate change in the Lake Chad region for the post-conflict phase. Several decisions aimed at strengthening the cooperation among the States of the region were made to free the abducted girls, fight against the insurgents in an effective manner and protect the victims of terrorism. The economic and financial partners in attendance committed to supporting the regional cooperation and strengthening the international plan to crack down on the insurgents and protect their victims. The States involved in the fight reaffirmed their commitment to protect the human rights, notably the girls trapped in violence, forced marriage and sexual slavery threat. The domination of the Boko Haram group has decreased around Lake Chad. However, the international community should go an extra mile in terms of financial and military assistance to successfully fight against the Islamist group and help the populations facing a worrying humanitarian situation. The final Communiqué of the Summit highlighted that the defeat of the Islamist sect does not only depend on the military solution but also on development strategies, which address the root causes of insurgency. Additionally, 960 Million Euros are needed for the development of the region.

Abdou Mohamed

LITTLE LAND COVER CHANGE FOR LAKE CHAD

ENVIRONMENT



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Analysis of the current situation and the way forward

As urbanization expands and cities grow, the need to deal with the environmental impacts becomes even more important to ensure sustainable development; this also entails handling increasing volumes of wastewater. However, efficient wastewater management requires a thorough understanding of the quality, quantity, frequency and sources of waste effluents, this include the knowledge about the locations, routes and discharge points.

Lake Chad Basin, like many water basin around the world, become the natural recipient of both the industrial and domestic waste which are in most cases discharged directly to the water courses, this no doubt has proven effect on man and the receiving water body (more or less related to the water and habitat quality).

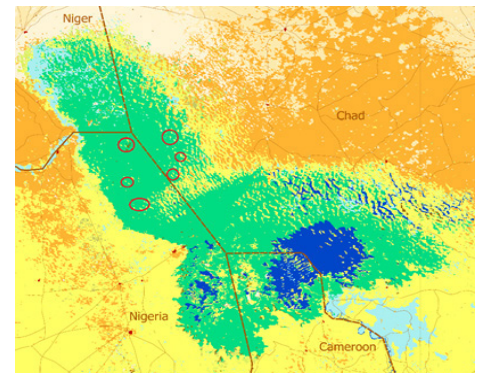
As a prelude to the water quality monitoring in the basin, the LCBC initiated a field assessment that focused on identifying the likely sources of the pollution whose effluents has the potential of disturbing the ecological

balance of the basin river system. These includes discharges from the tanneries, textiles, slaughterhouses, soap and oil making factories, agricultural farm, and municipal/ domestic waste that are also directly released to the water system.

In all most all the sites identified, water courses are the primary recipient of the waste. As in the case of municipal waste, all the industrial waste are also channeled to be discharged directly in to the nearby river while in some few cases, the wastewater is redirected in to an artificial pond that subsequently infiltrate into the groundwater or be allowed to overflow in an open field were some portion infiltrate while the rest evaporate to the atmosphere.

In all the point so far identified, very few of them treat their effluent before discharged as in the case of oil fields and refinery in Chad and tanneries in Kano, Nigeria. While some used the lagoon technologies to serve as a transit for the effluents before it finally reach the water course or infiltrate to the ground aquifer.

Aminu Bala Magagi,
Wetlands Ecology Expert



CLIMATE CHANGE

Little Land Cover Change for the Lake Chad between 2000-2010

The Lake Chad experiences only a minor change between the year 2000 and 2010. The significant changes were detected by the European Space Agency (ESA) in a circular region beginning 36 – 70 km in the north basin of the Lake Chad NE of the village of Malam Fatori in Nigeria extending to great barrier in Chad between the year 2000 and 2005. The changes converted the "Broadleaved Deciduous Tree" land cover class into "Rain fed Crop land" land cover class. The changes were not unexpected as a previous study by Kolawole (1988) has traced the establishment of many new communities on the lake floor, where about 25,000 people live in 49 villages founded in 1984 - 1985. What is unexpected with this new information is that the whole Lake Chad in its 1963 shoreline is classified into two major classes, "shrub or herbaceous flooded" class (green in map) and the "water bodies" mainly in the south basin (dark blue in map). Other classes identified in the Lake Chad include, "Shrubland", "Irrigated/Post flooding Cropland", "Grassland" and "Urban Areas".

Mohammed Bila
Remote Sensing and GIS Expert

MS. ALBERTINE MADANG

"LCBC HAS GIVEN ME ALL!"

PORTRAIT



Proud with her 54 years old, Mrs. Albertine Madang is considered as one of the oldest staff of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). At the premises of this regional Organization located at the Place of the Great Army in N'Djamena, this short but unobtrusive woman has witnessed not less than six (6) Executive Secretaries at the leadership of the Commission.

From all these pleasant souvenirs of these Executive Secretaries, she has fond memories of Chief Festus Olufemi Olufolabi (1976-1983 NDLR). She also commended the valuable efforts being made by Engr. Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, the current Executive Secretary of LCBC to improve staff living conditions and work environment, such as the grant of transport, housing allowances, etc. According to her, the Executive Secretary allowed staff, notably junior staff to enjoy several benefits, which enabled the entire personnel of LCBC to afford the cost of life in N'Djamena which is considered as one of the most expensive cities worldwide.

It is worth noting that Mrs. Albertine who is working as a secretary at the Division of Cooperation and Projects of LCBC rarely opens her heart. However, in this particular case, she eagerly lends herself to this interview. Indeed, taking into account the fact that there are few women employed at LCBC and that no woman holds a management position, she is very proud that her modest person is selected for this profile.

Nothing about this native of the village of Batschanga located in the forest area of Cameroon suggested that she might one day go far from her home town if it were not the death of her father who was a former employee in a tobacco company in Cameroon, when she was very young. She explained "Not having necessary resources to pursue my studies, I regretfully stopped school despite my strong willingness to succeed in my life."

Thanks to one of her sister who supported her by

taking her under her wing, the young orphan could now be trained in shorthand typing in Maroua, Far North Cameroon. She got her CAP Degree in Secretariat, and was then engaged as a secretary for the Office of LCBC Forest and Fishery Project in Maroua as LCBC had itself been temporarily relocated in this regional capital City of the Far North of Cameroon in 1980 due to the civil war in Chad.

As such, she was lucky to work under the Project Coordinator who was from Belgium. The latter trained her in archives, mail management and cash management. She proudly told us "I was in charge of paying the salaries of field workers." Mrs. Albertine has a good souvenir of such a LCBC with a lot of projects and programmes executed for the great benefit of populations who were in a dire need.

"I am convinced that this current security challenge witnessed on ground would have not happened if LCBC had continued to be effectively and efficiently on ground." Another good souvenir is that by that time "LCBC was very famous and people was very proud of it and grateful for its field interventions."

In 1981, likewise the other Project staff, she was deployed to the Executive Secretariat of LCBC, particularly at the Division in Charge of Forests and Fisheries and at the Division of Livestock, cumulatively. She was later on posted at the Division in Charge of Agriculture where she served until the Organization was restructured in 1990.

Meantime, peace and security were restored in Chad and LCBC came back to its Headquarters at N'Djamena in 1986. In this environment which was new to her, she spared no efforts to cope herself with her duties and responsibilities and to perform well in a highly competitive work environment at LCBC, despite the numerous blackouts observed throughout the day. Lights were restored in the evening and staff used to come to work at night. In spite of the fact that she is only fluent in the French language, she used to type reports in the English language, one of the two working languages of LCBC.

It is worth noting that the task was onerous to perform their duties as secretaries did not use computers by that time at LCBC. She explained "Every thing was done by hand. The whole work had to be done again and again in case of errors." She remembered again the computer era at LCBC in the 1990's and her training in Microsoft Word Office. "I spent more time at work than at my home with

my kids", she said with a sigh.

From her long lasting career within this regional Organization, she has fond memories of a succession of slices of life. She explained, "My most memorable souvenir was when I attended for the first time LCBC's Council of Ministers in 2000. It was the first time in my life that I boarded on an air plane. Since then, I have attended almost all Council Meetings."

The native of Batschanga had the opportunity to visit all the capital cities of LCBC's Member States. She stated, "I saw and learned a lot of things, and made friends everywhere."

However, every rose has its thorn. I hereby referred to the hard periods without salaries due to the non-payment of contribution arrears by LCBC's Member countries. She further explained that, "In 1994, for example, we spent ten (10) months without any penny paid. I remembered that I was evicted from the house that I was renting because I was unable to afford my monthly rent. I had to squat in a corner of the office at LCBC premises with my two children. What a very hard period! I saw colleagues whose children passed away because they could not afford their medical prescriptions."

Despite this hardship, she has no feeling of remorse. All what she hopes is to see again an LCBC, as in the past, more active on ground and hard worker with a view to put an end to the hardship of these poor populations."

Mrs. Albertine is more than ever committed professionally. This is highly commended by her direct line manager, Mr. Mana Boubakari. The latter explained, "She is a smart woman with significant listening skills. She has all what a supervisor may expect from his subordinates." However, the Acting Technical Director further put it, "Mrs. Albertine likewise other LCBC secretaries, is facing the challenge imposed by new information and communication technologies. Hopefully, the institutional reform of LCBC may help improve this weakness. According to Mrs. Albertine Madang, whatever the result of this reform is, it is undeniable that "the 36 years spent at LCBC enable me today to be proud of this outstanding experience, competence and significant knowledge I have gained and that one could not acquired easily in a slice of life. In view of the above, I have nothing to say than expressing my profound gratitude to LCBC as this Organization has given me all."

