



## Lake Chad Region Recovery and Development Project (PROLAC)

### Terms of Reference

**Recruitment of a Consultant for the Mapping of Research  
Equipment in Universities and Research Institutions of the  
Lake Chad Basin**

*March 2025*

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## 1. Background and Rationale

The Lake Chad region is one of the areas in Africa where insecurity is masterminded by relentless violence throughout the Basin, resulting in the disruption of the social fabric and the destruction of traditional livelihoods, internal displacement of people within their own country or in neighbouring countries, and a staggering human toll.

The violence of Boko Haram (BH) in the Lake Chad Basin has disproportionately affected community members living in this Basin. It has placed it at the de facto forefront of the devastating crisis. In addition to being the first victims of violence and violent extremism, communities continue to suffer economic, social, and cultural disintegration. Several displaced villages closed markets, suspended economic trade activities, and kidnappings of people, ransom demands, etc., describe the deterioration of the economic and social fabric in which the communities of the Lake Chad Basin live daily.

This situation led LCBC and Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) to review the prevailing situation in this Basin, which affects four countries: Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, and Chad.

The conclusions of the discussions led, on the one hand, to the organisation and holding of the first inaugural session of the Governors' Forum of the Lake Chad Basin and, on the other hand, to the Development of a Regional Stabilisation Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin which plans, in particular, the Development and implementation of regional projects to reduce the extreme poverty prevailing in the Lake Chad Basin. The launching of the Lake Chad Region Recovery and Development Project (PROLAC) is in line with this approach.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of PROLAC is to contribute to the recovery of the Lake Chad Region through supporting regional coordinating and crisis monitoring, connectivity and agricultural livelihoods in selected provinces of the Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Chad, and the Republic of Niger. Project beneficiaries will include vulnerable populations in the intervention areas in the three countries and will include at-risk youth and women. Nigeria will be fully involved in the governance of the PROLAC Project as a member of the LCBC and through its participation in the PROLAC Project Coordination Committee at the regional level, as well as through Component 1 of PROLAC. Simultaneously, the PPRC in North-Eastern Nigeria was adapted to align its activities with PROLAC project components through Additional Financing (AF) and a Restructuring Operation (P173104). PROLAC has five (5) components.

**The Project seeks to address the challenges of regional development in the Lake Chad region and to contribute to the recovery of the region through the following five (5) components:**

- Component 1: Regional Lake Chad Knowledge and Monitoring Platform and Secretariat for the Development of the Lake Chad Region.
- Component 2: Restoring Sustainable Rural Mobility and Connectivity
- Component 3: Strengthening the Recovery of Agricultural Livelihoods
- Component 4: Project Management
- Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC).

LCBC is responsible for implementing sub-component 1a on the Regional Lake Chad Knowledge and Monitoring Platform and Secretariat for the Development of the Lake Chad Region. In this capacity, LCBC shall coordinate all activities as part of the operationalisation of the Regional Knowledge and Monitoring Platform (RKM) and in close partnership with all stakeholders in the Lake Chad Region. Specifically, LCBC shall coordinate:

- Activities related to access to high-quality information and data to better understand national and regional dynamics,
- Knowledge generation activities and supporting evidence-based analysis for regional/transboundary policy and programme development,
- Dialogue to improve regional cooperation between border countries and among partners by providing a solid and neutral basis for discussion, coordination, and planning,
- Communication and organisational events,
- Research, data production and dissemination for decision-making.

LCBC is the central coordinating, guiding and decision-making body for joint transboundary development activities to ensure coherence and consistency.

It is within this framework that the LCBC established a regional knowledge management platform (KMP) based on the Lake Chad Basin Information System (LIS), with the following objectives:

- Strengthen the existing LIS,
- Facilitate access to high-quality information and data,
- Better understand complex national and regional dynamics,
- Strengthen cooperation between actors, institutions and governments,
- Support the development of regional/transboundary projects on an evidence-based,
- Strengthen the capacity of local and international stakeholders to contribute to informed decision-making in the region and to provide coherent and strategic approaches and programmes in response to ongoing crisis risks.

To achieve these objectives, all stakeholders are required to participate, including the institutions in charge of research and knowledge production. As part of the implementation of the PROLAC/MCRP, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in December 2022 between LCBC and four (4) universities in the Lake Chad Basin: the University of Diffa, the University of Maroua, the University of Maiduguri, and the University of N'Djamena.

This Mou made it possible to:

- Develop a framework for collaboration and cooperation between the LCBC and universities in the Lake Chad region,
- Harmonise research themes across the universities of the Basin,
- Awarded over 200 scholarships and research grants to students and researchers in the four universities,
- Ensure the collection, production, and sharing of data to populate the regional knowledge platform (LIS/KMP),
- Support the organisation of the Lake Chad Region Development Forum,
- Facilitate student mobility among the universities of the Basin.

In addition, each of these universities signed a separate agreement with the National Project Implementation Unit (PIUs) of PROLAC/MCRP in their respective countries. It enabled the PIUs to provide technical support, particularly in terms of laboratory equipment, to strengthen the technical capacities of these universities and research institutions. However, the lack of a detailed mapping of research equipment is a significant barrier to the pooling of resources, inter-university cooperation, and access to equipment. In this context, it has become necessary to recruit a consultant to conduct a comprehensive mapping of the research equipment available in these partner universities and other research institutions in the Basin, to facilitate access for students across the region.

## **2. Objectives**

The overall objective of this assignment is to identify, catalogue, and assess the research equipment available in universities and research institutions in the Lake Chad Basin, to facilitate their accessibility and optimal use by researchers and students in the region.

Specifically, the assignment aims to:

- Identify and map existing research equipment in universities and research institutions across the Lake Chad region,
- Assess the equipment in terms of functional condition, access conditions, capacity, storage location, and highlight existing gaps.

- Identify the levels of accessibility and usage of the equipment by students in the Lake Chad region,
- Identify and analyse the skills available in research laboratories at universities and research institutions,
- Identify technical capacity-building needs in research laboratories at universities and research institutions,
- Identify best practices for sharing and mutualizing equipment and skills between universities and research institutions,
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- Propose recommendations to improve student mobility, the pooling and shared use of equipment, and their effective management.

### 3. Expected Outcomes

At the end of the assignment, the following outcomes are expected:

- A detailed presentation of the equipment and skills available at universities and research institutions in the Lake Chad region,
- A detailed presentation of the technical facilities of universities and research institutions in the Lake Chad region,
- A geo-referenced mapping of research equipment and access conditions is produced,
- A detailed presentation of the gap in research equipment in line with the needs of universities and students,
- An analytical report including recommendations for optimising the use of research equipment is available,
- An action plan for the pooling of resources, capacity building and improvement of equipment management to facilitate student and researcher mobility is proposed.

### 4. Methodology and Approach

The consultant will adopt a participatory and inclusive approach, involving key stakeholders, including LCBC, PROLAC/MCRP Project Implementation Units in the four countries, members of the Lake Chad Research Group (LCRG), and the concerned universities and research institutions ((University of Maiduguri, University of Maroua, University of N'Djamena, University of Diffa, Modibo Adama University, Yola, Chadian Institute of Agronomic Research for Development (ITRAD), Livestock Research Institute for Development (IRED), Cameroon Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD), Niger National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRAN)). The methodology will include:

- Collecting primary and secondary data through surveys and interviews,

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- Analysing existing databases and relevant documents,
  - Mapping of research equipment using GIS (Geographic Information Systems),
  - Validating findings with the stakeholders involved.

## **5. Profile of Consultant**

The Consultant will have the following qualifications:

- A Master's or PhD in sciences, engineering, economics, research equipment management, project management, or any other relevant field,
- Proven experience (at least 5 years) in project evaluation, data collection, mapping of scientific equipment, or management of research infrastructures,
- Proficiency in mapping and data analysis tools (GIS, databases, etc.),
- Excellent writing and analytical skills,
- Knowledge of the context of universities in the Lake Chad Basin would be an advantage.

## **6. Duration and Place**

The mission will take place over two (2) months and will cover the leading universities and research institutions in the Lake Chad Basin (Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria).

## **7. Deliverables**

The consultant will deliver the following outputs:

- A report outlining the methodology and work plan including the various data collection tools developed,
- A diagnostic report of research equipment available in universities and research institutions with the associated database,
- A draft final report including the available equipment identified, access conditions, functionality and recommendations for increasing the density of the technical facilities. The final database will be attached to this report.
- A final report incorporating remarks and comments of the LCBC.

## **8. Submission Guidelines**

Interested candidates are invited to submit:

- A detailed CV of the consultant and, if applicable, of the entire team to be mobilized,
- A methodological note explaining their approach for conducting the assignment,
- References for similar assignments completed,

- A technical and financial proposal.

**9. Selection Criteria**

Consultants will be evaluated based on their technical and financial offers by the selection method based on consultants' qualifications (CQ) as stipulated in the PROLAC-LCBC Procedures Manual.

**10. Method of Payment**

Payment will be made according to the following tentative schedule, with the payment amount corresponding to each step:

Stages	Percentages of the total payment amount
During the submission of the inception report (approved and validated by LCBC and the World Bank)	30%
During the submission of the deliverables (Payments will be made after approval of these products by LCBC)	50%
After validation of the final report of the Consultant by LCBC	20%

**11. Submission of Files**

The application file shall be sent to the following address: [cbt.lcbc@gmail.com](mailto:cbt.lcbc@gmail.com), [cab@cbt.org](mailto:cab@cbt.org) by copying [a.alio@cbt.org](mailto:a.alio@cbt.org) and [c.nodjimbaye@cbt.org](mailto:c.nodjimbaye@cbt.org) or submitted directly to the LCBC Headquarters upon receipt **latest ..../..../2025 at 15h00 (GMT+1).**

The application file must be labelled: "Application for the Recruitment of a Consultant for the Mapping of Research Equipment in Universities and Research Institutions of the Lake Chad Basin."