



PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN (PARFEBALT)



PRESS BRIEFING

**Kickoff Workshop: 4 - 8 May 2026,
Radisson Hotel, N'Djamena Chad**

1. Background and Context

The Lake Chad Basin is one of Africa's most fragile and strategically important ecosystems, supporting the livelihoods of over 45 million people across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and the Central African Republic. Over the past decades, the basin has experienced severe environmental degradation, driven by climate variability and change, reduced inflows from the Chari–Logone river system, Komadugu-Yobe River system, the unsustainable water use, and increasing demographic pressure, leading to economic decline, food insecurity, population displacement, and heightened insecurity.

To respond to these interconnected challenges, the **Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)**, in partnership with the **African Development Bank Group (AfDB)**, initiated the **Technical Support Project for the Restoration of the Ecological and Economic Functions of the Lake Chad Basin (PARFEBALT)**. The project marks a critical first operational milestone under the **AfDB–LCBC Memorandum of Understanding signed in February 2024**.

2. About PARFEBALT

PARFEBALT is a regional project designed to lay the technical, institutional, and knowledge foundations required for the long-term revitalization of Lake Chad and the strengthening of climate resilience and livelihoods in the basin.

- **Executing Agency:** Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
- **Financing Partner:** African Development Bank Group
- **Beneficiary Countries:** Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic.

2.1. Project Development Objective

The overall development objective of PARFEBALT is to:

Restore the ecological and economic functions of Lake Chad and strengthen the resilience of basin populations by improving water resources management, revitalizing ecosystems, and reinforcing institutional capacities, with particular attention to women and youth.

2.2. Components of PARFEBALT

PARFEBALT is structured around three complementary components:

Component 1: Preparatory Studies for the Regional Lake Chad Revitalization Programme

- Technical, socio-economic, environmental and climate studies
- Identification of feasible scenarios for **lake restoration and improved Chari–Logone and Komadugu-Yobe Rivers flows**
- Preparation of bankable regional investment programs for future mobilisation of funds.

Component 2: Support for the improvement of knowledge of water resources

- Strengthening the water resources and climate resilience
- Technical and institutional capacity-building
- Harmonization of methodologies and information sharing among member states.

Component 3: Project management

- Operation and equipment of the Project Management Unit (PMU)
- Audits, monitoring and evaluation plans.

3. The PARFEBALT Kickoff Workshop: Purpose and Expected Outcomes

The Kickoff Workshop officially marks the start of implementation of PARFEBALT.

Objectives of the Workshop

- Present the objectives, components, expected outcomes, and institutional framework of PARFEBALT,

- Inform participants about the main planned activities and the project's implementation procedures,
- Present and discuss the terms of reference for the main studies to be conducted under PARFEBALT,
- Strengthen the capacities of Project Management Unit (PMU) staff regarding project management procedures, in accordance with the requirements of the African Development Bank,
- Facilitate technical exchanges between member states, the CBLT, and the AfDB,
- Conduct a field visit to illustrate certain challenges related to the project's themes,

Expected Outcomes

- PARFEBALT has been officially launched and is known to all stakeholders,
- Participants share a common understanding of the project's objectives, components, and implementation mechanisms,
- The terms of reference for the project's main studies are presented, discussed, and enriched by contributions from member states,
- PMU staff are trained in key aspects of project management,
- The foundations for effective technical coordination between the CBLT, member states, and the AfDB are strengthened,

4. Key Messages for the Media

- **PARFEBALT is a strategic investment in peace, resilience, and sustainability** for one of Africa's most vulnerable regions.
- The project lays the **technical and institutional groundwork for large-scale restoration of Lake Chad.**
- **AfDB and LCBC reaffirm their long-term commitment** to restoring livelihoods, ecosystems, and stability in the basin.
- **Regional cooperation and scientific knowledge** are central to reversing decades of environmental decline.

5. Implementing and Financing Partners

- **Executing Agency:** Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
- **Financing Partner:** African Development Bank Group

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For Media Enquiries

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