

COMMISSION DU BASSIN DU LAC TCHAD



LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION

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

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recruitment of a consultant to conduct socio-economic feasibility studies on the vulnerability of women and men, agrosilvopastoral and fisheries production systems, and the role of the private sector in the Lake Chad Basin.

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1. Context and Justification

The Lake Chad Basin, shared by Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, is a strategic cross-border region for food security, socioeconomic stability, and climate resilience in Central Africa and the Sahel. The basin's population is currently estimated at over 45 million people, representing nearly 20% of the total population of the six riparian countries. For local communities, agriculture, livestock production and fishing are the primary economic activities in the basin. These have traditionally developed in response to the lake's rising and falling water levels and are often endogenous, placing the lake at the center of urban, rural, and regional market dynamics. Droughts in recent decades have given way to fertile land, benefiting the agricultural sector, which has been boosted by strong demand linked to the region's population growth. Agriculture and livestock farming are practiced mainly along the lake and its tributaries, while fishing takes place in the lake and its associated waterways, in the floodplains, and on the islands. In addition to agricultural and pastoral production, the harvesting of certain wild products is also significant and generates additional income for local populations. These include plant-based products such as spirulina, a highly nutritious algae, fruits and seeds (palm, balanites, jujube, tamarind, doum palm, date palm, acacia, shea, cashew, ...), woody and non-woody plant parts (gum arabic), as well as honey, processed fishery products, and other animal-derived products (from hunting). Depending on the context, these products are used in services, human (or livestock) food, pharmaceuticals, or soil improvement. In the basin, food and cash crops are the essential components of agriculture. Pastoral activities therefore rely mainly on mobility, with transhumance and pastoral nomadism predominating. Fishing is one of the most common activities in the basin. It represents a significant source of income for households and contributes to the food self-sufficiency of national economies. Despite this economic potential, the basin faces complex and interconnected challenges, notably:

- **Socioeconomic and Demographic pressures:** The rapid population growth in the Lake Chad basin is primarily due to the opportunities offered by trade and services, which are a result of the region's economic expansion. The areas surrounding Lake Chad, extending up to 30 to 40 km from the lake's shore, are home to populations that are often of very diverse nationalities. In addition to indigenous people and nationals of the countries bordering Lake Chad, there are also Malians, Senegalese, Ghanaians, and Liberians, drawn largely by fishing activities. The population growth around Lake Chad, particularly on the southern shore, is primarily linked to the lake's agricultural, fishing, and pastoral potential. Fishing is indeed the region's main economic resource. Despite a decline in agricultural production beginning in the 1970s—due, among other factors, to climate variability and insecurity in certain areas—and despite growth in other sectors, particularly the oil sector, the agricultural sector still contributes significantly to the national GDPs of the Lake

Chad Basin countries. The agricultural sector is, however, a major source of employment in the basin's countries. Furthermore, underinvestment in the region has exacerbated local grievances. This pressure accentuates the marginalization of women and youth in accessing arable land, as they are often relegated to the least fertile plots.

- **Climate vulnerabilities:** Increased rainfall variability, recurring droughts, floods, and the degradation of land and natural resources—all exacerbated by climate change—are increasing climate vulnerability in the basin. The Lake Chad basin is among the regions most affected by climate change, characterized by extreme variability in rainfall and hydrological patterns. Scientific models agree on long-term temperature increase projections, but not on precipitation forecasts, which could vary in either direction. Indeed, it has been observed that the average temperature in the basin has risen by 1 to 1.5°C from 1950 to the present. The duration of the rainy season is now shorter. The flow of the Komadougou-Yobé River, which used to last nine months a year, is now reduced to four, considering the extent of water withdrawals along its course, infiltration into aquifers, and their exploitation. The Chari River has lost half of its inflow into Lake Chad, and the lake's surface area has decreased from 25,000 km² in the 1960s to 2,500 km² in the 1970s and 1980s, before rising to approximately 14,000 km² today. Hydrological variability and freshwater availability represent the primary natural cause of the degradation of the Lake Chad basin ecosystem. This is mainly due to the sharp decline in rainfall during the 1970s and 1980s, characterized by a prolonged drought. This drought, which persisted until 2008, particularly affected Lake Chad via the Chari River, which supplies between 85% and 90% of its total inflow. Hydrological variability primarily impacts women responsible for water collection and small-scale fish processing. The surface area of Lake Chad, the surface water regime, and the groundwater level have consequently decreased drastically. Water and forest resources are the two sectors most vulnerable to climate change. Due to a heavy reliance on natural resources for economic stability, food security, and health, the populations of the basin are directly threatened.
- **Conflicts over access to resources:** The migration of herders and their livestock due to droughts have driven them to wetlands near or sometimes far from Lake Chad. These adverse climatic conditions have increased pressure on the lake's resources and led to conflicts over water sources. Fluctuations in Lake Chad's water level have caused fishermen to migrate from the northern basin to the southern basin, as well as leading to the establishment of new villages within the lake on land exposed by receding waters and along its shores. In addition, many herders have moved south, particularly to the neighboring Ubangi basin, in search of pastures and water, causing social tensions between them and other indigenous communities. The study must include a detailed analysis of land and inter-community conflicts

related to pastoral mobility and the establishment of new fishing villages, to propose prevention mechanisms integrated into the project.

- **Insecurity and instability:** The challenges arise from a combination of underdevelopment and governance dynamics, contributing to feelings of political, social, and economic exclusion among certain communities. This sense of marginalization has made certain communities more vulnerable to extremist influence as an alternative in a landscape marked by the scars of conflicts affecting the Lake Chad region—including terrorism, insecurity, and forced displacement. This has also contributed to disruptions in local markets and value chains. Insecurity leads to forced displacement, which disrupts women’s solidarity networks and exposes young people to recruitment by non-state groups
- **Inadequate involvement of the private sector,** characterized by insufficient infrastructure investment and a lack of incentives for public-private partnerships.
- **Differentiated impacts on women, youth, and displaced populations:** The study will also analyze the differentiated roles of women and men in production systems, access to and control over natural resources, access to markets, domestic and productive workloads, mobility, and participation in decision-making, as well as the differentiated impacts of conflicts and climate shocks on livelihoods.

These combined factors undermine livelihoods and jeopardize the sustainability of interventions. In response, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) has placed socio-economic and climate resilience at the heart of its strategic priorities, in line with:

- **The LCBC Strategic Action Program.**
- **Regional policies, including the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience in Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region.**
- **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships)**

A comprehensive feasibility study is needed to guide future interventions, secure funding, and strengthen community resilience. **This study will also serve as the basis for developing an integrated project aligned with the LCBC’s strategic priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Within this framework, the Technical Assistance Project for the Restoration of the Ecological and Economic Functions of the Lake Chad Basin (PARFEBALT) include several fundamental studies designed to provide the technical, socioeconomic, environmental, and climate-related baseline information necessary for the development of a regional investment program. These studies include, in particular,

technical analyses (preliminary and detailed design) related to improving the hydraulic capacity of the Chari-Logone and Komadougou-Yobe systems and the development of the lake, economic and financial feasibility studies, environmental and social assessments, as well as climate and socioeconomic vulnerability analyses, including gender issues and conflicts related to natural resources). All these studies are complementary in nature, particularly in how they are integrated: biophysical and hydraulic studies help identify viable technical options, while socioeconomic and vulnerability analyses ensure the integration of human, resilience, and inclusion dimensions, thereby guaranteeing the relevance and sustainability of interventions. At the same time, studies on production systems, resource governance, and the private sector help define economic development strategies tailored to the basin's context. All this work is fully aligned with the project's overall objective, which aims to restore Lake Chad, strengthen the resilience of local populations, and sustainably improve livelihoods through the revitalization of the basin's ecological and economic functions, while mobilizing the resources necessary to implement a structured investment program at the regional level.

2. Objective of the Mission

2.1 Overall objective

Conduct technical, economic, environmental, social, and climate feasibility studies to analyze the vulnerability of women and men, understand conflict dynamics, and assess agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production systems, while incorporating the role of the private sector, with a view to formulating an integrated project to strengthen the resilience of the populations and ecosystems of the Lake Chad Basin.

2.2 Specific objectives

Specifically, the following topics will be covered:

Analyze the socioeconomic and climate vulnerability of populations

- Assess the risks faced by women and men, taking into account disparities related to gender, age, and socioeconomic status;
- Identify contributing factors (poverty, limited access to resources, climate and security shocks)

Understanding conflict dynamics and their impact on livelihoods

- Identify the root causes of conflict and insecurity;
- Examine the interplay between insecurity, forced displacement, and disruptions to production systems;

- Propose measures to reduce conflict and strengthen peace and social cohesion.
- **Assessing Agroforestry, livestock, and fisheries production systems**
 - Conduct a technical and economic analysis of the agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries sectors.
 - Identify major constraints (infrastructure, inputs, technologies, market access),
 - Identify opportunities for sustainable development in these sectors
 - Specifically identify the needs of women’s cooperatives for sustainable preservation and processing equipment (refrigeration kits, improved smoking facilities) to reduce post-harvest and post-catch losses.
- **The differentiated impact on women, youth, and displaced populations**
 - Analyze the different roles of women and men in production systems,
 - Access to and control of natural resources, access to markets, and the burden of domestic and productive work,
 - Mobility and participation in decision-making,
 - The differential impacts of conflicts and climate shocks on livelihoods.
- **Assessing the role of the private sector in local development**
 - Analyze value chains and barriers to private investment.
 - Identify mechanisms and opportunities to foster public-private partnerships and attract investors
- **Conduct an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA)**
 - Assess the potential impacts of interventions on ecosystems, biodiversity, and local communities.
 - Propose mitigation measures and environmental and social management plans.
- **Propose action plans and strategic recommendations**
 - Develop scenarios based on economic and climate models to anticipate impacts.
 - Define priority strategies to strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems.
 - Create a baseline database that includes socioeconomic indicators disaggregated by sex and age, enabling the measurement of the project’s future impact on women’s economic empowerment;
- **Develop an integrated regional plan to strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems in the Lake Chad Basin**
 - Develop a concept note that includes the logical framework, specific objectives, components, a subcomponent dedicated to women’s economic empowerment

- (including gender-specific outcome indicators), priority activities, an indicative budget, a timeline, etc.
- Define implementation mechanisms and the strategy for fundraising and identify potential donors.

3. Expected Results

The assignment should produce tangible and actionable results to guide future interventions in the Lake Chad Basin. The main expected outcomes are:

- **A comprehensive analysis of socioeconomic and climate vulnerabilities is being conducted**
 - Identification of the groups most exposed to climate, socioeconomic, and security risks.
 - Mapping of highly vulnerable areas, taking into account disparities based on gender, age, and socioeconomic status.
 - Highly vulnerable areas are mapped and include a proposal for mechanisms to ensure a quota of at least 30% women in decision-making and natural resource management bodies
- **An assessment of the situation of youth, employment needs in the identified sectors, and proposals for addressing youth issues are developed, and strategic and operational recommendations are formulated**
 - The specific challenges youth face in the agro-silvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors;
 - Their access to economic opportunities, vocational training, financing, and markets;
 - Their vulnerability to climate change, conflict, and forced displacement;
 - Their potential for entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation;
 - Gaps in employment (both temporary and permanent) are identified, and proposals are made to address them;
 - Mechanisms to promote their economic and social inclusion as well as their participation in decision-making
- **A study of conflict dynamics and their impacts is being conducted**
 - Identification of the root causes of conflict and insecurity;
 - Detailed report on the interplay between insecurity, forced displacement, and disruptions to production systems.

- Recommendations for reducing conflict and strengthening peace and social cohesion.
- **A comprehensive assessment of agro-silvo-pastoral and fisheries production systems is being conducted**
 - Technical and economic assessment of agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries sectors by country.
 - Summary table of constraints and opportunities for strengthening resilience and productivity.
- **An analysis of the private sector's role is being conducted**
 - Study of local and regional value chains, including the identification of barriers to investment.
 - Identification of mechanisms and opportunities to strengthen public-private partnerships and attract investors.
 - Identify concrete opportunities for public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the maintenance of production infrastructure, while promoting the integration of young local entrepreneurs.
- **An environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) is being conducted**
 - Assessment of the potential impacts of interventions on ecosystems, biodiversity, and local communities.
 - Environmental and social management plan in accordance with international standards, including mitigation measures.
- **Des Intervention scenarios are developed and strategic recommendations are formulated**
 - Development of scenarios based on economic and climate models to anticipate impacts.
 - Priority strategies to strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems.
- **An integrated project to strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems in the Lake Chad Basin has been developed**
 - Preparation of the project concept note, including logical framework, specific objectives, components, priority activities, indicative budget, and timeline;
 - Definition of implementation mechanisms and a strategy for mobilizing funding.
- **Tools and resources for decision-making are being developed**
 - Detailed reports and executive summaries.
 - Thematic maps and geospatial databases to support planning.

4. Expected Deliverables

The following deliverables are expected from the Consultant:

- **Inception report** includes an updated methodology, a work plan, a schedule for mobilizing key staff, etc. The methodological approach must include single-sex focus groups (women only) to address sociocultural barriers to speaking out, with separate sessions for women, youth, and vulnerable groups, as well as a data collection mechanism that ensures sufficient representation of women among respondents. All quantitative data collected (income, access to inputs, etc.) must be disaggregated by sex, age, and status (indigenous vs. displaced);
- **Preliminary Project Summary Report** including an analysis of socioeconomic and climate vulnerabilities (with mapping), a study of disparities related to gender, age, and socioeconomic status, a technical and economic assessment of agrosilvopastoral and fisheries systems, an analysis of value chains and opportunities for the private sector, a summary of aggravating factors, and recommendations. The Report must include the following elements as specific deliverables:
 - A standalone chapter analyzing structural gender inequalities in access to agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries resources;
 - A comprehensive database (in a usable digital format) disaggregated by sex, age, and socioeconomic status of the surveyed households;
 - A summary of programmatic implications translating the identified vulnerabilities into priority investment areas for the future project;
 - A list of direct, qualified recommendations intended to inform the development of the future Gender Action Plan (GAP).
- **Preliminary Detailed Report** including a detailed description of the options selected following the Preliminary Design Phase, detailed technical studies, design calculations, plans, maps, profiles, technical specifications, preliminary quantity surveys, unit price schedules, bill of quantities and cost estimates, and an updated economic and financial analysis, implementation plan, detailed schedule, operation and maintenance plan, integrated environmental and social measures, monitoring and evaluation mechanism, and tender documents for contractors or service providers.
- **ESIA Report**, including an assessment of environmental and social impacts, identification of risks to biodiversity and ecosystems, an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) with corrective measures and recommendations to minimize negative impacts and enhance sustainability.
- **A Strategic Report** including economic, financial, and climate scenarios to anticipate impacts, priority strategies to strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems, thematic maps, and a geospatial database, accompanied by a Concept Note including the logical framework, objectives, components, priority

activities, the indicative budget, the implementation timeline, financing mechanisms, a list of potential donors, and a resource mobilization strategy.

5. Duration of Assignment

Estimated duration: six (6) months.

6. Profile of the Firm

The firm must demonstrate proven expertise and the technical, organizational, and logistical capabilities to successfully carry out a complex socio-economic study in a cross-border context. The required qualifications are:

- At least 15 years of experience in conducting socio-economic studies, vulnerability analyses, and strategic planning;
- Similar experience in a sub-regional project or institution in Africa;
- Five (5) years of experience in conducting feasibility studies for projects funded by international donors (AfDB, World Bank, EU, UNDP, FAO, Climate Fund, etc.);
- Expertise in agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries systems, including technical and economic assessment;
- Proficiency in participatory analysis approaches, Results-Based Management, cost-benefit analysis, and planning tools;
- Experience in integrating gender and social inclusion approaches into studies and recommendations;

7. Key personnel required

The firm must have a team of experts with the following experience and qualifications:

1. Profile: Head of mission

- **Education:** Minimum of a master's degree in economics, planning, development, geography, engineering, or a related field;
- **General Experience:** At least 15 years of experience conducting strategic studies, evaluations, and/or feasibility studies;
- **Specific Experience:**
 - Have at least five (05) references in socio-economic studies;
 - Have coordinated multidisciplinary teams and led projects funded by international donors (World Bank, African Development Bank, UNDP, EU, etc.);
 - Possess skills in technical leadership, planning, strategic analysis, high-level report writing, and project management;
 - Have experience in the Lake Chad Basin.

2. Profile: Senior Socio-Economist / Rural Development Expert

- **Education:** Minimum of a master's degree in sociology, development economics, agronomy/rural economics, or a related field;
- **General experience:** Minimum of 10 years of experience in socio-economic analysis, household vulnerability, and rural production systems;
- **Specific experience:**
 - Have 5 years of experience in sector studies, Revenue Generation Activities (RGA), food security, and the socioeconomic impacts of projects;
 - Possess skills in quantitative/qualitative surveys, cost-benefit analysis, and the economic and financial evaluation of projects;
 - Have at least three years of experience in agricultural and rural projects funded by Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs);
 - Have a thorough understanding of the rural Sahelian context.

3. Profile: Senior Expert in Gender and Social Inclusion

- **Education:** Minimum of a master's degree in sociology, demography, social development, gender studies, social economics, or a related field (Ph.D. or certification in gender studies: a plus);
- **General Experience:** Minimum of 8 years of experience in gender analysis, social inclusion, and economic empowerment within development projects and programs;
- **Specific Experience:**
 - Proven experience in conducting at least two (02) gender analyses, vulnerability assessments, and gender mainstreaming in projects;
 - At least two (2) leading qualitative and participatory surveys and supporting gender equality policies;
 - Proficiency in gender analysis tools, FGDs/interviews, social inclusion frameworks, gender-sensitive indicators, and the formulation of gender-sensitive actions;
 - Demonstrated expertise in conducting focus groups in rural Sahelian settings and proficiency in gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) tools;
 - Knowledge of the vulnerability dynamics of displaced populations in the Lake Chad Basin is required;
 - Have experience with projects funded by the FTPs.

4. Profile: Expert in the environment and climate change

- **Education:** Minimum of a master's degree in environmental science, climate change, natural resource management, ecology, environmental engineering, or a related field;

- **General Experience:** Ten (10) years of experience in environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, natural resource conservation, and sustainable development;
- **Specific Experience:**
 - Have at least two (02) experiences in developing mitigation and adaptation measures on the effects of climate change, analyzing climate risks, and building resilience;
 - Have at least two (02) experiences in conducting environmental and social impacts assessment,
 - Have one (01) experience in project design or implementation;
 - Have two (02) experiences in integrating environmental sustainability and climate resilience into development programs;
 - Have experience working with technical and financial partners and on projects;
 - Have experience in the Lake Chad Basin.

5. Profile: Expert in Agroforestry, Pastoralism, and Fisheries

- **Education:** Minimum of a master's degree in agronomy, agroforestry, fisheries and aquaculture, animal husbandry, natural resources, or a related field;
- **General experience:** Minimum of 10 years of experience integrated systems combining crop production, livestock, and forestry, or in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries projects;
- **Specific experience:**
 - Possess expertise in assessing production systems and analyzing climate risks;
 - Have at least three (3) experiences in sustainable land management, agroforestry development, livestock production, soil and water conservation, and climate-resilient agriculture;
 - Have at least two (2) experiences in analyzing the vulnerability of agro-silvo-pastoral systems;
 - Have at least two (2) experiences in project planning, farmer training, natural resource management, and stakeholder engagement;
 - Have experience in project evaluation with technical and financial partners;
 - Have experience in the Lake Chad Basin.

6. Profile: Private Sector and Value Chains Specialist

- **Education:** Minimum 5 years of post-secondary education in economics, agricultural economics, finance, management/entrepreneurship, or a related field;

- **General experience:** 5 to 10 years of experience in private sector development, value chain analysis, and public-private partnerships;
- **Specific experience:**
 - Have two (2) experiences in sector analysis, market analysis, structuring agribusinesses and SMEs, access to financing, and developing bankable projects;
 - Have two (2) experience conducting economic and financial analyses, preparing business plans, connecting companies with producers, and facilitating investments;
 - Have experience in agricultural/rural projects and working with PTFs.

7. Profile: Senior Specialist in Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Projects

- **Education:** Minimum of a master's degree in economics, sociology, planning, statistics, evaluation, or a related field;
- **General experience:** Minimum of 10 years of experience in monitoring and evaluating development projects and programs;
- **Specific experience:**
 - Have designed at least two (02) monitoring and evaluation frameworks, results chains, performance indicators, conducted independent evaluations (mid-term, final, impact), and implemented results-based management;
 - Have two (02) experiences in the design, evaluation, or implementation of projects with technical and financial partners;
 - Have experience in the Lake Chad Basin;

8. Profile: Mapping and GIS Specialist

- **Education:** Minimum of a master's degree in geography, geomatics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, or a related field;
- **General experience:** 5 to 10 years of experience in cartography, spatial analysis, and GIS applied to monitoring and evaluation and development projects;
- **Specific experience:**
 - Have implemented spatial information systems for monitoring and evaluating projects and programs; have led spatial data collection efforts; have produced spatial decision-making summaries (thematic maps, atlases, mapping, Geoportal)
 - Hold a drone certification
 - Be proficient in ArcGIS, QGIS, spatial databases, and GPS
 - Have experience in environmental, rural, or agricultural projects

9. Profile: Specialist in fragility and resilience, and conflict analysis

- **Education:** Minimum of a master’s degree in peace and conflict studies, political science, international relations, development studies, sociology, public policy, security studies, law, or a related field.
- **General Experience:** Ten (10) years of experience in assessing conflict dynamics, factors of fragility, resilience capacities, and challenges in complex environments.
- **Specific experience:**
 - Have two (2) experiences in conflict-sensitive programming, political economy analysis, peacebuilding, social cohesion, and risk management;
 - Have experience facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement and developing strategies to build resilience and support sustainable peace;
 - Have experience in identifying opportunities to strengthen resilience, social cohesion, peacebuilding, and sustainable development in a complex and multicultural environment;
 - Have experience working with technical and financial partners and on projects;
 - Have experience in the Lake Chad Basin.

8. Estimated work hours for the experts

The estimated man-hour for key personnel is 34.00 man-months.

9. Intervention Zone

The assignment will take place at the LCBC headquarters, as well as in the capitals and national portions Lake Chad Basin in the LCBC member states—Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, and Chad.