



*Au service
des peuples
et des nations*

LCBC SUPPORT PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

2020 Regional Operational Planning Workshop

19 - 20 February 2020

Venue: Ledger Piazza - N'Djamena (Chad)

I. BACKGROUND

Lake Chad is the fourth largest lake in Africa (in terms of surface area), behind Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa. Located in the eastern Sahel region, on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert, the Lake and its basin are a vast freshwater resource shared by Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Libya. It provides the 47 million people living in its basin with various environmental services, such as supply (food and water), support (land and nutrient cycling), regulation (groundwater replenishment, carbon sequestration, air purification) and culture (recreation, spirituality, education). It provides supply and support services through economic diversification (cultivation of sorghum and hydrophilic millet varieties, seasonal hunting and fishing, intensive livestock farming, etc.).

In recent decades, under the growing influence of environmental and climate change and inappropriate practices, the Lake shrunk from 25,000 to 2,500 km² (or more than 90 per cent), with a marked impact on the quantity and quality of water resources, related ecosystems, economic activities and food security in the basin, endangering the lives of more than 47 million people who live there and derive most of their livelihood from activities such as fishing, agriculture and livestock.

In 2008, as part of the project titled: “Reversal of Land and Water Degradation Trends in the Lake Chad” UNDP, with financial support of GEF and other partners, provided support to LCBC in formulating the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Lake Chad Basin based on a list of interrelated transboundary problems and challenges identified through a “Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis”.

In May 2017, in order to support the survival of Lake Chad and its rich biodiversity by taking into account emerging challenges (climate change, insecurity...), the GEF Executive Secretariat approved the regional project titled “Improving the management of Lake Chad by strengthening resilience to climate change and reducing ecosystem stress through the implementation of the Lake Chad Basin Strategic Action Programme (SAP)”.

The overall objective is to achieve climate resilient, integrated ecosystem-based management of Lake Chad Basin through implementation of agreed policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments that improve water quality and quantity, protect biodiversity, and sustain livelihoods.

Achieving this objective will end concerns about the ability of LCBC and its Member States to design and implement sustainable management policies and to put an end to unsustainable land and water use practices, in accordance with the SAP and the Water Charter adopted at regional level.

In order to achieve this, the project intends to deploy an approach based on achieving six (6) main results:

1. A strengthened LCBC, capable of: (i) Developing and implementing policies, investments and better integrated ecosystem management of the Lake through enhanced basin-wide monitoring; and (ii) Developing and managing regional projects in accordance with the Basin's priorities as expressed in the Lake Chad SAP and other strategic documents relating to the Lake Chad Basin;
2. Strengthened and harmonized approaches to the sustainable implementation of legal and policy instruments in the Lake Chad Basin countries that promote increased water availability through effective management of joint exploitation of surface and groundwater;
3. Technical capacity and awareness of national ministries, institutions and other actors (academics, civil society, etc.) are strengthened to promote sustainable natural resource management practices in the Lake Chad Basin at the national and regional levels;
4. LCBC and Member States manage and use data and information from the information management system for the effective and sustainable management of land, water and biodiversity resources;
5. LCBC, national governments and local communities gain practical experience and scale up the validation of the sustainable management of ecosystems and alternative livelihoods;
6. An assessment of the stress reduction and livelihood improvement activities identified in the SAP leading to a large investment programme to better support the implementation of the SAP.

The first meeting of the steering committee, which took place on 11 November 2019 in N'Djamena, Chad, approved the 2020 Annual Work Plan (AWP) of the project. Subsequently, and on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, the Steering Committee authorized the Project Management Unit to conduct a series of trips to LCBC member states to present the project to national stakeholders and discuss their involvement in its implementation. At the end of this mission, it was strongly recommended the organization of a regional operational planning workshop that will bring together the National Focal Points of LCBC, the "Environment" programme officers of the UNDP country offices and the implementing partners.

In order to ensure an optimal implementation of the programme activities for 2020, a detailed planning workshop was organized from 19 - 20 February 2020, extended to the different partners. With the latter, it was also a question of discussing the intervention strategy that the project intends to implement with the partners during the year 2020 so that LCBC can ensure an effective coordination of the multiple interventions.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this workshop was to discuss and validate the detailed annual planning of the project activities to be carried out for 2020 by component and translated into a draft 2020 OP.

III- PROCEEDINGS

Dates	Activities	Presented by	Remarks/Comments
19/02/2020	- Remarks by the UNDP Representative	Mr. Daniel Gbetnkon, Chief Economist	After welcoming the participants and lauding their commitment, the speakers recalled the challenges of the project and the context in which it is being carried out. The speakers outlined the importance of the workshop, emphasizing the participatory nature of this planning and the obligation to have a realistic programming of activities for 2020 given the size of the annual budget. They finally reaffirmed their commitment to the Project in order to provide all the necessary support for its implementation.
	- Remarks by the LCBC Representative	Mr. Boubakary Mana, Director Technical	
	Objectives, agenda and methodology of the meeting	Mr. Steve Essomba, M&E of the PMU	The objectives of the workshop were restated and the agenda presented. The approach used to hold the workshop was based on the following points: - A series of summary presentations to set the stage for the project; - Work in thematic groups by component to enrich the pre-planning, collect opinions, discuss on the conditions of implementation and draw up a summary mapping of the actors; - Restitution of group work in plenary and discussions.
	Presentation of the project (components) & discussions	Mr. Diawoye Konte RC of the PMU	A summary presentation of the project was made and included the following topics - The objectives of each component and the expected results by 2022? - Prospects for 2020: What will be the focus in 2020? What will we focus on? - The intervention strategy: How are we going to go about it? What levers are we going to use? The main point of discussion was the duration of the project. Indeed, in view of

			the delay in the project approval process, the duration of the project implementation has been reduced from 5 to 3 years (2020 to 2022). Although the PMU assured that they would be able to achieve the results within this time frame, participants invited the team to put in place an intervention strategy that would facilitate the strengthening of synergies of action with other interventions in the Lake Chad Basin.
	Presentation of the LBCT portfolio	Mr. Ali Traore, DCP, LCBC	LCBC, given the current context, hosts a set of Projects/Programmes. The projects were presented along with some results already achieved. Participants noted at first glance that, given the prevailing security context, the stabilization programme constitutes a basis for the implementation of the other programmes/projects. Faced with these multiple partners, programmes and projects, the support to be provided to the LCBC was discussed so that it can ensure effective coordination of all these interventions to avoid duplication, communicate on the results achieved in order to share experiences, but have more visibility among beneficiaries, partners and public opinion.
	Budget framework of the 2020 AWP	Mr. Naguerim Solyam, Administrative and Finance Officer, PMU	The budget framework for planning was presented by component, and from an overall perspective the annual budget for 2020 amounts to USD 3,010,320. The stages of development and the process of validation of the AWP were presented: - The excerpt of the project document; - Review by the technical committee; - Validation by the steering committee; - Validation by UNDP senior management; - Integration into the 2020 operational planning of LCBC; - Validation by the Executive Secretariat of LCBC. Finally, issues related to the rephasing of the budget were again addressed. It is clear that the budget initially planned for 5 years has been spread over 3 years (almost half of which in 2020) and that the PMU will have to put in place the

20/02/2020			necessary synergies to achieve the expected results.
	Work of the thematic groups by component	All participants	Participants were divided into groups by component to provide input for improved planning. The groups were mandated to: - Discuss major activities and indicators; - Dematerialize them into tasks (What?) and responsibilities (Who?); - Discuss implementation modalities (How?); - Identify stakeholders (With whom?); - Make a schedule; - Formulate recommendations
	Reporting on Component 1: Improving the Management of the Lake Chad Basin	Group 1	At the end of this presentation the following recommendations were made: - Review the time horizon of the SAP over the period 2020 - 2030 with the possibility of a mid-term review (2025); - Ensure the effective participation of all national stakeholders in this review in order to guarantee not only adherence but also ownership by the member states; - Encourage member states to adopt legislation to internalise the Biodiversity Protocol signed in agreement with the countries of LCBC; - When drawing up the RSAPB, take into account the level of decentralisation of each Member State; - Take into account the interventions of other partners as part of capacity building of LCBC to avoid duplication; - Encourage synergy between UNDP, PMU, LCBC and stakeholders for the timely implementation of these highly strategic activities.
	Feedback of workgroup on Components 2 & 3:	Group 2	At the end of this presentation the following recommendations were made: - Conduct a review of national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks;

	Enabling environment for the implementation of the SAP and the Water Charter		- Support the revitalization of Interministerial Council through the redefinition of their mandate and the establishment of operating mechanisms; - Capacity building of national authorities to effectively monitor compliance with regulations and standards for sustainable water resource management in the Lake Chad Basin; - Raise awareness of ministries involved in the implementation of the project on integrated water resources management through the production and provision of training materials; - Set up a transparent mechanism for the selection of scientific research projects to be supported, taking into account the scientific interest and the innovative character of the topic addressed; - Ensure the popularisation of the brochure on the main obligations of the Water Charter and translate it into 11 LCB languages at the community level.
	Reporting on Component 4: Availability and accessibility of data and information Landscape of the actors	Group 3	At the end of this presentation the following were recommended: - Harmonize data collection tools in relation to the cross-border monitoring system; - Support the development and use of data at the level of each country; - Hold the first meeting of the regional working group in June; - Ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the approval of the monitoring system and guidelines; - Develop data transmission protocols to ensure the operationalization of the information sharing mechanism through the IW platform: GEF LEARN - Complete the summary mapping by highlighting the links between the various partners. - Create a network (a social platform) for sharing and information at all

			levels.
	Reporting on Component 5: Implementation of community activities	Group 4	At the end of this presentation the following were recommended: - Discuss with the PMU and LCBC the need to extend to areas other than Waza and Zakouma in order to have a regional coverage; - Make a safety assessment of the area before proceeding with the mapping of invasive plants; - Carry out a preliminary identification of all community support partners in the intervention areas as part of the implementation of community micro-projects; - Establish a transparent mechanism for the identification and selection of communities of practice and community micro-projects; - Ensure a progressive capitalization of results of the component; - Put in place mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of community initiatives.
	Working session between the national LCBC focal points, representatives of UNDP country offices and the PMU.	Mr. Diawoye Konte	In order to ensure the implementation of activities at the national level it was agreed that; - The national focal points will be supported by UNDP country offices in the organization of workshops/meetings and the provision of consultants; - Possible support is to be envisaged in terms of recruitment of staff at the national level whose mission will be to provide multifaceted support (administrative, financial, monitoring and evaluation) to the focal point in the implementation of project activities.

Overall recommendations:

- Participants suggested that this type of workshop be held over a period of at least 3 days and organized on a rotating basis in the member states;

- The documentation should be sent to them at least 2 weeks in advance so that they can take ownership of all the elements;
- Invitations to administrations should be sent at least one month before the event.

IV - ACHIEVED RESULTS

At the end of the workshop the following results were achieved:

- Participants harmonized their understanding on the overall intervention strategy of the Project;
- The annual operational planning for each component is available;
- The implementation modalities of the national components are understood by all;
- Synergies of actions with partners and various programmes/projects are strengthened.

V - PARTICIPANTS

Ranks/Positions	Number	Institutions	Country
Chief Economist	1	UNDP Chad Country Office	N'Djamena
Sustainable Development Programme Analyst	1		
Coordinator	1	LCBC-UNDP-GEF	N'Djamena
Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	1		
Administrative and Finance Officer	1		
Admin and Finance Assistant	1		
Coordinator	1	Green Wall Project	N'Djamena
Coordinator	1	UNDP Stabilisation Project	
Coordinator	1	UNDP-PNA	
Representatives	8	LCBC	N'Djamena
representative	1	RSS Secretariat	N'Djamena
LCBC Focal Point	1	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development	Yaounde
LCBC Focal Point	1	Directorate General of Water Resources	Niamey

LCBC Focal Point	1	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources	Abuja
First Commissioner to LCBC	1	Ministry of Water Resources and Forestry	Bangui
Focal Point	1	GEF	N'Djamena
representative	1	UNDP Cameroon Country Office	Yaounde
representative	1	UNDP Niger Country Office	Niamey
representative	1	UNDP Nigeria Country Office	Abuja
representative	1	UNDP CAR Country Office	Bangui
Representatives	2	IUCN	N'Djamena
representative	1	PRESIBALT	N'Djamena
representative	1	GIZ	N'Djamena
representative	1	BGR	N'Djamena
representative	1	Member of Parliament	N'Djamena
representative	1	Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of Chad	N'Djamena
representative	1	FAO	N'Djamena
representative	1	AfDB	N'Djamena
Representative	2	Women's Association	N'Djamena
representative	1	CSO	N'Djamena
representative	2	Research Centre	N'Djamena

VI- ANNEXED DOCUMENTS

- Consolidated AWP;
- Attendance Sheet.

