



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS,
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION

NORTH-EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

LAKE CHAD REGIONAL RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (PROLAC)

FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAKE CHAD REGION



Final Report

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BACKGROUND

This forum on the development of the Lake Chad Region was put together by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Governments of the Republics of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria via the Lake Chad Regional Recovery and Development Project (PROLAC) and the Multi-Sectoral Crisis Recovery Project for North- Eastern Nigeria (MCRP).

The core objective of the PROLAC is to contribute to the recovery of the Lake Chad region through its support for regional coordination and crisis monitoring, connectivity and agricultural livelihoods.

The aim of this first annual international forum on the development of the Lake Chad basin is to provide a suitable platform where practitioners, local, regional, and international actors can dialogue and proffer solutions to identified challenges in the Lake Chad region around climate change and conflict, economic recovery, repairing social contract, and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people especially women and youths.

In summary the objectives of the forum include the following:

- To convene development practitioners to a regional dialogue on climate resilience, local governance, and social cohesion in the Lake Chad region.
- Exchange on lessons learned and operational solution.
- Formulate recommendations for a more resilient and more cohesive Lake Chad region.

The forum focused on the following themes for dialogue: Climate change and natural resource management; Peace and Security; and Local governance and social cohesion. The day-2 of the forum hosted smaller groups of technical workshops to promote in-depth discussions on the themes above and development practitioners shared lessons learned from past and ongoing operations. Recommendations were then developed based on the outputs of these technical workshops and will contribute to a better integrated development strategy for the region.

KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE 2-DAY FORUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

1. Support to Multinational Joint Task Forces military response.
2. Support farmers with access to finance.
3. Support women and youth with alternative means of livelihood within the Lake Chad basin.
4. Investment in local capacity development in region.
5. Involvement of traditional rulers in dispute resolution.
6. Adoption of a systematic approach to climate change in the region.
7. Review activities and build local/national institutions to address the climate change and environmental degradation in the region.
8. Involve universities and research institutions in data collection activities across the region.
9. Establishment of social cohesion activities among members nations to foster peace.
10. Provision of critical infrastructure such as road and access to water.
11. Promote free movement of people across the region.
12. Review and harmonization of different political and administrative structures across member states.
13. Bridge the gap for the lack of consistent and adequate biophysical and socioeconomical data to guide decision making and policies.
14. There is need for the utilization of satellite imageries in the analysis of spatiotemporal dynamics of the Lake Chad basin.
15. There is need to adapt the strategies developed by the local population to the Lake Chad hydrological variabilities, especially mobility, multifunctional space and usage.
16. Conducting in-depth studies is vital to determine the environmental and associated impacts of the water transfer from Congo-oubangui-Sangha to Lake Chad.
17. There is a connection between climate indicators and the water recharge of the lake.
18. There is need to transform research conducted into concrete development actions which would be implemented at all levels.
19. Media plays a vital role in crisis management within the Lake Chad basin.
20. Women and youth should be involved in the recovery and stabilization strategies of the Lake Chad basin.

DAY 1

SESSION 1 : OPENING CEREMONY

This session was moderated by Ms Inya Ode, journalist and the anchor for the event. The session began with the arrival and registration of all guests and the National anthem was sung. Immediately after, welcome remarks were taken by key guests at the event.

MR. MOHAMMED G. ALKALI, MANAGING DIRECTOR/CEO, NEDC

Mr Mohammed alkali stated that there is a great challenge of displaced persons around the Lake Chad basin and an even greater challenge of having about 70% as children. The speaker mentioned that Nigeria's request in 2019 to become a member state of the PROLAC discussion has put a lot of engagement and encouraged most of the other actors like World Bank to put a budget of \$179 million to this project.

The Speaker also mentioned that Nigeria has been a great participant in making sure that the Lake Chad basin is recharged and since the country has also been affected by the insecurity in the region, it would be of benefit to ensure these challenges are tackled to restore peace and security in the 4 member states which have been affected by the Boko Haram menace. The speaker stated that the BAY states (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) have already started discussions on, and implementing the plans for a similar project they have for social cohesion and better livelihood in those states.

The speaker urged the participants to focus on the aims and objectives of the forum so as to have quick and important decisions taken by the end of the forum. The Speaker highlighted the format in which the forum was going take place which entailed three sessions bordering on: Climate change, natural resources and livelihood in the region; Peace, security and development; local governance, social cohesion and resilience, and the use of a workshop methodology which will end in a press conference led by the organising committee of the conference.

AMBASSADOR MAMMAN NUHU EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF LCBC

Ambassador Mamman Nuhu explained the essence of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, stating its aims and objectives, expressing his gratitude for the organisations that have stayed true to ensuring the recharging of the Lake Chad basin. The speaker mentioned that it has been a difficult task and it was not going to get easier but the fact that there were participating organisations coupled with the proactive nature of decision makers, it will be able to fast-track and intently execute the commission's goals.

The speaker emphasized and thanked the World Bank for working on at least six pillars out of the nine pillars for the Lake Chad Basin Commission. The speaker also stated that the World Bank's involvement and the other financial and technical actors in the Lake Chad Basin Commission have been able to fast-track and enable them to carry out certain smaller projects that is being spearheaded by the Lake Chad Basin Commission. The speaker also stated that with the insecurity affecting the four regions, including the COVID 19 pandemic, which has stopped some of the actors from coming down to Abuja, the Lake Chad Basin Commission had found it necessary to improve the technological aspect of this forum, ensuring that participants were able to join proceedings from wherever they were. The speaker stated that the forum be a valuable and its deliberations will be action oriented.

HIS EXCELLENCY, MR MIDJIYAWA BAKARI. GOVERNOR OF THE FAR NORTH REGION CAMEROUN.

Mr Bakari was quite pleased to engage and present at the first international annual forum on the way forward on reviving the development of the Lake Chad Basin which has been truly affected by the Boko Haram.

The Speaker went ahead to extend greetings of the President of Cameroon Paul Biya, to the President of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari, through the Vice President who was present at the occasion. The speaker thanked the President for his hospitality from the already successful important meeting which addressed the problems and prognosis of the Lake Chad basin plagued by multiple security, social and environmental challenges.

Mr Bakari mentioned that in a bid to restructure and restore the Lake Chad basin, it is important to note the appropriation and regional strategy for the stabilization of the Lake Chad basin and of course its operation which is gradually translated into concrete actions. This includes the development and validation of territorial action plans under the guide of the Executive Secretary of the LCBC, overall satisfactory implementation of the regional facility stabilisation through different windows under the watch of the United Nations development programme, the effectiveness of the institutional framework in the dynamics of lasting civilization with the establishment of the national and local steering bodies.

These actions will further be strengthened with firstly the increase in the resolute political determination of the heads of states for a successful implementation of the reference strategy. Secondly, the scaling up of the regional stabilization facility for the Lake Chad Basin which has already passed its second phase, and the gradual implementation of the recommendations and resolutions from the recent session of the governor's forum held in Yaoundé in October 2021.

The speaker further stated that the cross-border dynamic was favourable to the search for concerted solutions for these challenges, and reiterated that the results were quite

eloquent to overshadow the few difficulties encountered in the implementation of the cross-border dynamic, concerning in particular: the change in the modus operandi of the violent extremist group depending on the response mechanism taken by the states; the diversity of security risk in the region; and the progressive and persistent scarcity of natural resources.

In commending the first annual international forum for the development of the Lake Chad region, the speaker stated that it was an opportunity to build recovery corporation and cooperation in good intelligence. The speaker also stated that it was an avenue to develop and improve resilience in a safe space and at the same time bring together the communities which has been built over time through history, geography, culture, and religious interchanges.

The speaker emphasized on the need to live together in fraternity, solidarity, cohesion and harmony and is deeply convinced that regional integration remains an inescapable imperative means in this era of insecurity and threats. The speaker believes the annual forum is an avenue for other actors and partners like the World Bank, Lake Chad Basin Commission, PROLAC, to create a strong, stable, united and resilient Lake Chad Basin. This would also improve the four countries who are affected by the Boko Haram crisis.

The speaker also recommended that the stabilization of recovery and resilience was a crucial stage in the life of a sub-region of the Lake Chad Basin Commission who have affirmed their vision and mission, and must at all times bring people together to help find innovative and new solutions for each of the major challenges currently facing the inhabitants of the Lake Chad region. The speaker emphasized on the ability to regionally pool efforts and energies for better connectivity and productivity because these factors were important in dealing with the threats. The speaker convincingly stated that by doing so in harmony and mutual respect, there would be every chance to give a new basis of hope by integrating all the social demographics in particular the women and the young people.

SHUBHAM CHAUDHURI, COUNTRY DIRECTOR, WORLD BANK

The country director of the World Bank started his remarks by stating the Bank's global mission which is to help member-countries eliminate extreme poverty. This mission is in line with the goals and the ambition of the Nigerian government to raise 100 million Nigerians out of poverty. Nigeria, he stated factually, cannot on its own achieve its goals and the Bank would not succeed in its global mission unless they work together and succeed in bringing durable peace to the Lake Chad region and basically restoring not only basic services and livelihoods, but restoring economic opportunities and ultimately hope.

The speaker made it known that the World Bank was supporting a suite of programmes designed to support basic services and agroclimatic resilience totalling over \$1 billion

across the BAY states. Even though the Bank is a development organisation in terms of their mandate, but in the Northeast and increasingly in other parts of Nigeria, it is confronted with the intertwined challenge of security, conflict, climate change and development. However, in the Northeast, restoring basic security has to come first, but unless it is approached holistically durable peace will not happen.

The speaker reminded the participants that conflicts and climate change do not recognize borders and affects all involved, and how historically, the region has been a hub of inter-regional commerce and trade flows. He stated that durable peace in the region will require inter-regional cross-international cross-border cooperation, but will also require building working relationships among principals in all the member countries that will lead to operational coordination from the bottom up.

The speaker wished the participants a successful deliberation which will bring fruitful action plans in the nearest future.

ENGR. SULEIMAN H. ADAMU, HONORABLE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

The Honourable Minister of Water Resources of the Federal Republic of Nigeria called this forum an opportunity for dialogue on the revitalization of the Lake Chad Basin to discuss key issues that plagued the region. The minister encouraged the participation of scientists and researchers as it gives them the opportunity to discuss and dialogue with practitioners, planners and civil society who play key roles in addressing the complex challenges in the region such as the volatile insecurity, endemic poverty, and health pandemics among others.

The minister stressed that the aforementioned challenges were not country-specific but boundary specific. The minister further stated that the regional cooperation and integration theme of the annual forum is about synergizing and finding solutions to regional problems, and the minister charged the participants that there should be precision in solutions proffered as they will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the revitalization of the Lake Chad Basin which has been shrinking for the past 50 years.

The minister affirmed that the office of the Federal Minister for Water Resources was open to collaboration on this project as they had gotten approval from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, to initiate the start of the water transfer inter-regional project. The project seeks to harness water for specific locations, and also to the South Chad irrigation project. The minister expressed his pleasure over the involvement of the international community and is convinced that peace, stability, unity, community and a shared path towards a better future is assured.

Muhammad Musa Bello, Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

The minister started by thanking everyone for attending the prestigious event and thanked the Commission (LCBC) for hosting the maiden annual international conference on the development of the Lake Chad region in the FCT, Abuja, Nigeria. The minister declared his keen interest in the objectives of the forum which aims to address the challenges of climate change and conflict, economic recovery and meeting the needs of women, youths and the most vulnerable in the Lake Chad region.

The minister further stated that the Lake Chad Basin is a practical example of the devastating effects of climate change as statistics indicate that the lake surface area in the past 50 years has reduced drastically from the original size of about 25,000m² to 10% as a result of the water drying up.

The activities of insurgents in this region have further heightened insecurity leading to internal displacement and migration of huge chunks of the population with the resulting consequences of poverty, misery and insecurity.

On this basis, the minister hoped that the solutions proffered at the forum will be something to benefit the bordering States of the Lake Chad Basin. The minister wished the participants a fruitful deliberation.

His Excellency, The Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON

The vice-president started with giving a brief history of the Lake Chad and how it has shrunk disastrously due to climate change, insecurity and has resulted in economic instability and the violent contest for food and other amenities. PROLAC is an inspiration to curbing regional crisis, disaster management and social development. Collaboration, cooperation and synergy is needed to build strong ties for long and short-term sustainability. The Vice President requested that the recommendations at the end of the forum should be sent to all the parties involved especially the governors, to enable them to include it in their policy draft and development.

The Vice President stated that the time has come to relisten to the shocking and despairing story of one of the grandest monuments and historical landmarks of our time, to grasp from it motivation, vigour and inspiration, in order to speed up the reclamation of our borders from the hands of terrorists and insurgents.

The Vice President laid emphasis on the need for continuous dialogue, cooperation and collaboration for information sharing, border strengthening and security around the borders. Social cohesion was also encouraged as it is vital in promoting inter border relationship.

On this note, the Vice President expressed Nigeria's profound commitment to stay the course of this mission and work hand in hand towards the realisation of restoring the Lake Chad border. The Vice President expressed his profound gratitude to the LCBC, NEDC, MRCP, PROLAC, the World Bank, Minister of humanitarian affairs, Disaster management and social development, the governors and ministers present for their time and investment in ensuring that the Lake Chad Border was recovered.

Lastly, the Vice President declared open the first annual international forum on the development of the Lake Chad region and requested all parties involved to forge ahead in proffering solutions to any identified challenges and also assured them of the full support of the Federal government of Nigeria.

SESSION 2: CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND LIVELIHOODS IN THE REGION

This panel discussion reviewed climate change, natural resources and livelihoods in the Lake Chad Region and was moderated by Prof. Zakaria Ousmane Ramadane of the Chadian Centre for Strategic Studies and Prospective analysis.

The first topic of discussion was presented by Mr. Hycinth Banseka, the Technical Director of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

A. Opportunities and challenges of the Lake Chad Region, the role of LCBC and Objectives of the Annual Forum on the Development of the Lake Chad Region by Mr. Hycinth Banseka, Technical Director, LCBC.

Mr. Hycinth, began his presentation with a brief background of the Lake Chad Basin Commission. The following highlights were mentioned:

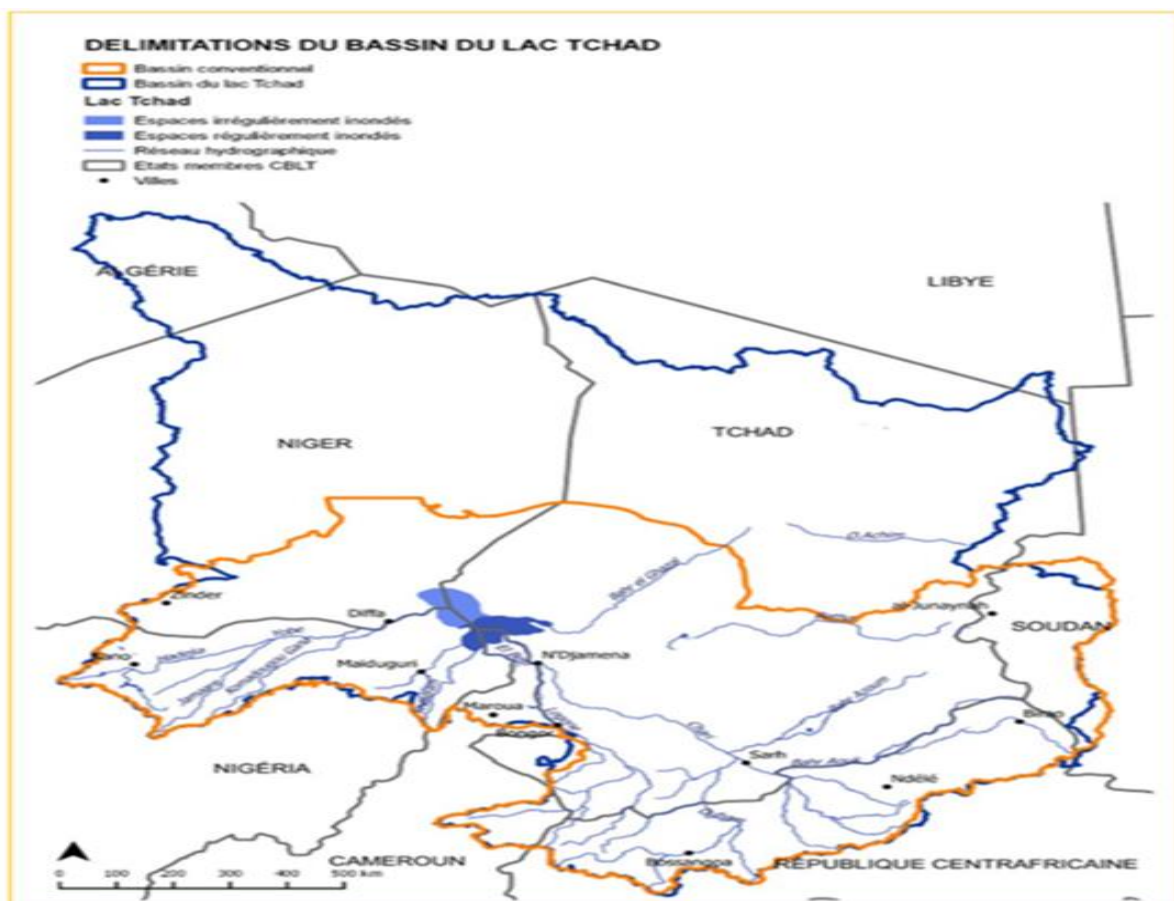
- The Lake Chad Basin Commission was formed on the 22nd of May 1964 and would be celebrating its 58th anniversary on the 22nd of May, 2022.
- The commission was established by four riparian countries, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad, through the Fort Lamy Convention.
- The Central African Republic, a major contributor to the water resources in the Basin joined the commission in 1996, while Libya became a member in 2008. Therefore, as of present, the Lake Chad Basin Commission is made up of 6 member countries.
- Some countries with observer status include Sudan, Egypt, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The headquarters of the Commission resides in N'Djamena in Chad.
- This Basin is referred to as a “common heritage” among the member countries, with the aim to sustain it at the desired levels for the economic security of the

freshwater resources and to serve the needs of the population in an equitable manner.

- The mandate of the commission entailed managing the waters of the Lake Chad and the transboundary water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner; to conserve the ecosystems of the conventional basin; and to promote regional integration and safeguard peace and security in the conventional basin.
- The Lake Chad Basin Commission is unique because it is the only commission that has the mandate of promoting peace and security and regional integration.

He further highlighted the difference between the “Lake Chad Hydrological Basin” and the “Conventional Basin.” The Hydrological basin is estimated at 2,500,000km² (about 8% of the surface area of the African continent), while the Conventional Basin which is under the mandate of the LCBC covers a surface area of about 967000km² (about 40% of the surface area of the hydrological Basin). These areas have high environmental potential and bask in agricultural services (fishing, farming, and livestock).

The Hydrological Basin represent the boundaries in blue on the map below, while the Conventional Basin represents the area in orange.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Common challenges within this basin includes;

- **Conflict:** This entails the inter- communal conflicts over natural resources, the spread of violence by varied armed groups from Nigeria to neighbouring countries, and the disruption of livelihoods.
- **Displacement:** The high complex displacement crisis to have undermined Africa.
- **Climate Variability and Change:** The effects of climate change in the region have led to conflicts over the access to natural resources across the region.

SHARED OPPORTUNITIES

The shared opportunities open to the basin includes:

- A Shared resource for the region with about fifty million beneficiaries across five countries benefiting from its natural resources.
- Strong regional interdependencies and cross-border dynamics as a result of its cultural and linguistic linkages, and regular seasonal mobility.
- Young and vibrant youth which can act as a strong driver of economic growth.
- The LCBC which serves as a consultative platform for political and cross border discussion with the member states.

LCBC INTERVENTIONS

In managing the challenges, the LCBC have developed two strategic documents:

1. **Strategic Action Programme (SAP)**

- This programme was adopted in 2008 and its aim was to set the agenda for an enhanced regional environmental cooperation among member states. This was set for 15 years, meaning by 2023, the commission should be adopting another Strategic Action Programme.
- This document further states the principles of environmental management and cooperation and sets a long-term vision for the development of the Lake Chad Basin.
- This document also presents the key challenges to the sustainable integrated management of the Lake Chad Basin.

SAP: Ongoing Projects and Programmes.

- Priority Development Emergency Program for youth and vulnerable groups in the Lake Chad Basin (PURDEP - LCBC)
- Program to rehabilitate and strengthen the resilience of socio-ecological systems in the Lake Chad basin (PRESIBALT - AfDB)
- Improving the Lake Chad Management through building Climate Change Resilience and reducing Ecosystem Stress through Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Lake Chad Basin (GEF/UNDP)
- Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Lake Chad Basin (GIZ/BGR/CBLT)
- Inter-Basin Water Transfer Project (IBWT)

2. **Regional Strategy for the Stabilization Document: Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS).**

- Endorsed and adopted in 2019.
- Based on nine strategic objectives, with the aim to address the short, medium, and long-term needs of the region for stabilization, resilience, and recovery of affected areas.
- Facilitate the transition from intense military engagement to tackling the root causes of the crisis.

RSS: Ongoing Projects and Programmes.

- Lake Chad Regional Stabilisation Facility (RSF) - established during the Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum.
- Project to Support the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Vulnerable Groups in the Lake Chad Basin (PARSEBALT) - Funded by the world Bank.
- Lake Chad Region Recovery and Development Project (PROLAC) And Multi-Sectoral Crisis Recovery Project (MCRP) - This programme contributes to six pillars of the Regional Stabilization Strategy.

B. Climate change and the Lake Chad: analysis of environmental risks by Dr. Garba Sambo.

The presenter began the presentation by introducing the participants to a background of recent happenings with regards to climate change and the Lake Chad as follows:

- Lack of consistent adequate Basin-scale monitoring of water related cycle components in the Lake Chad Environment.
- Poor estimates of the rate of recession and where it occurs.
- LCBC – TDA/SAP (2007) identified “Variability of hydrological resources; water pollution; loss of biodiversity & modification of ecosystems.....” as the major Transboundary problems.
- There is also critical lack of knowledge for the unique environment.
- Present estimates of the lake’s hydro-regime rely on scarce observations.
- In-situ (Weather Station) observations data from Member States are inadequate and cannot provide the required accuracy for quantification of impacts, development of adaptation and mitigation measures.
- The Lake Chad Watershed makes up 8% of the entire of Africa. It is estimated to cover 2.4 million Km².
- The boundary on the Map of the Lake Chad Watershed around Libya needs to be adjusted, to represent its true boundary.

- 10-Year Average Vegetation variations over Lake Chad Basin (2010-2020): The Vegetation cover showed differing correlations between regions and climate variables, highest in 11th August and least in 11th March (for the Period).
- Vegetations in Mao is stagnated and the highest is 0.2 which is poor.
- Maiduguri has witnessed some increase in its vegetation while Sahr, Chad is witnessing a decrease in its vegetation.
- Satellite observations is recommended in monitoring the vegetation growth in the Lake Chad basin.

LAKE CHAD ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ANALYSIS

Water Quality: Hydro-Climatic Variables

With the use of satellite observations, it is possible to attain the following;

- Open Water Surface variability.
- Water level variability.
- Surface Water Temperature.
- Suspended Solids.
- Harmful Algae Blooms.
- Chlorophyll-a for photosynthesis in aquatic ecosystem.
- Dissolve Organic Matters.

CONCLUSION

- Satellite images are useful and would be critically enhanced if validated with in-situ and high-resolution data;
- Vegetation cover is strongly correlated with Rainfall in the Basin, where by: growth stagnates in the North, increases in the Middle part and decreases in the Southern part of the Basin;
- Analysis from images show gradual degradation of the Lake Chad in Water Quality, especially from SPM and HAB;
- Increase in open water surfaces (5,895 km²) as at 5th March 2022;
- Water levels of the Lake can be used to determine the Lake's open water surface extent through Hydrological Model;
- Analysis also shows the growing Algae and fluctuation of Water Temperature is leading to excessive algal growth in the water Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB);
- HAB harms people, animals and aquatic organisms;
- Satellite observations data in the Lake Chad Basin are critical for quantifying climatic impacts.

Recommendation

- Strongly endorse Universities in the Basin to explore advantage of Satellite Earth Observation System and in Sharing of Knowledge based for sustainable Monitoring Platform;
- LCBC to create dedicated monitoring Team(s) for in-depth studies that will address the problems identified in Strategic Action Programmes (SAP);

- Satellite observations data need to be integrated and validated with the few in-situ reference observations data;
- Data sharing is badly needed: One of the five Components of the PROLAC to effectively contribute to regional recovery;
- Modelling results need to be verified at locations before conclusions about climatic impacts are made;
- Existing studies need to be analyzed in detail; and
- Studies on BIOPALT (UNESCO) need to be made available to Member States for field verifications before conclusions;

C. Problems of the exploitation of natural resources of the Lake Chad Basin Dr. Hadiza Kiari Fougou, University of Diffa

This topic discussed the challenges encountered as a result of the exploitation of natural resources of the Lake Chad basin. In explaining the challenges that may arise due to the exploitation of the natural resources in the LCB, the presenter stated that there may be a link between climate change and poverty within this region.

The presenter further stated that the Lake Chad which is known as an oasis in the Sahara region has not witnessed any particular droughts and the resources have always been abundant. Nevertheless, there has been an inconsistent rise in the lake and it has been noticed that the Lake Chad provides direct surface area water supply not minding the thickness around it.

In the year 1973 until 2013, there were 3 extremes in which the lake took shape; the medium lake, the small dry lake and the small lake. Nevertheless, this diversity of the Lake Chad helps it maintain an ecological balance. The presenter further stated that in-between these years the lake had not witnessed any strong dryness and the natural resources were also still abundant.

The inhabitants of the Lake Chad region were able to adapt to the situations that came in between. An example in a case of humidity is a longer season of fishing because there is no total dryness of the lake, although this is plagued by some other factors like longer duration of the fishing practice particular to only the north and Niger. The instability of the fish in the Lake Chad is because of the inconsistent rise and fall of the Lake Chad.

The population around the Lake Chad region devised 3 adaptation strategies;

- Mobility; the ability to move within the Lake Chad region
- Multi-functionality of space and water; the different uses of space and water
- The multiple means of existence or multi activity; the different activities during the different changes in the region.

The insecurity in 2015 became a two-edged sword for the fishermen when fishing; firstly, the invasion and fear of the insurgents and secondly, the state of emergency put on the region. For this, there were dress restrictions, where to be and at what time, how to dry your fish and where to dry your fish. Having to dry your fish under a tree to avoid getting noticed by the insurgents or task force.

The speaker recommended that the government should also look at using the climate change to their advantage to encourage better livelihood, stating that the success of either livestock, fishing or agriculture is largely dependent on the period of humidity especially if the people adapt perfectly to the environment.

D. Climate change and agricultural production in the Lake Chad Basin Dr Amadou Idrissa Bokoye, Physician environmental sciences and climate, Quebec, Canada.

Dr. Amadou explained to participants how climate change contributes to increasing vulnerabilities and extremism. These extremisms contribute to climate change due to the fact that it leads to socio-economic disturbances which fuel climate change and leads to different internal migration.

The key highlights of his presentation are:

- The Lac Chad regional instability which impacts agricultural production is ruled by climate change (CC) and adverse human behaviour and they feed each other.
- The science of climate change has demonstrated through the analysis of biophysical variables that it is a reality in the Lake Chad basin both in the historical period and in the future.
- CC negatively influences agricultural production in the Lake Chad Basin through the soil-vegetation-atmosphere interaction well established by science and modellable within the basin for various crops.
- The negative influence of climate change on agricultural production systems in the Lake Chad basin can be transformed into an opportunity with the use of agro-ecology, smart agriculture and all this through a multidimensional approach in a perspective of sustainable development centered on the needs of the region.
- Research and development (R&D) in the academic world (Universities) as well as multi-institutional cooperation can constitute a powerful lever for the implementation of an integrated program of resilience face to CC based on knowledge, know-how and good manners which should have a positive influence not only on agricultural production but also on other sectors, in particular safety,

The next session on climate change and water resources was presented by Prof. Florence Sylvester, Paleo-Climatologist and director of research, IRD-University of N'Djamena-Chad.

E. Climate Change and Water Resources by Prof Florence Sylvestre, Paleo-climatologist, Director of Research IRD-University of N'Djamena, Chad

Prof Sylvestre presented data on climate change and water resources. The key highlights of his presentation are:

- Is the lake growing, shrinking or stable? Stable in the South, increasing in the North since 2017
- How does rainfall affect the lake level? Lake Chad is highly variable in response to Chari-Logone River inflow which is in a strong link with the variability of annual rainfall over the basin. Rainfall varies at different time scale, seasonal, annual and decadal, and are increasing since 2012
- What are future projections for the Lake? According to climate modelling prediction, the lake should stay in the same state except if vegetation still continues to grow and impact strongly evapotranspiration.
- What do these future climate change risks mean for the people living around the lake? People are highly impacted by the interannual variability that is one of the main characteristics of the current climate changes and by the vegetation cover.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS FOR THE SESSION 2 PRESENTATION.

- A participant stated that rainfall in the millennium has increased considerably which has led to increase in food production. The participant further stated that the positive impacts in the region is largely because of the increase in rainfall rather than the effect of the security issues and that efforts should be made to conserve resources, and harmonise the data which will birth a long-term database which will help in predicting the trend of current occurrences.
- Another participant stated that the water transfer issue is a priority for the commission. It is vital that the capacity of the river channels must be improved upon to be able to receive the water. Also, there should be improvement for the lake and it needs to be drenched so that a reservoir can be developed. The participant further stated that before the water transfer can be done, there must be improvement in hydraulicity especially of the Chari-Logone system which contributes the most to the lake. Also, there is the need for the Commission to consider a study on finding ways to improving the hydraulicity and development of the Lake Chad.
- Another participant stated the lack of consistent and adequate biophysical and socioeconomical data to guide decision making and policies. The participant

further laid emphasis for the use of satellite imageries in the analysis of spatiotemporal dynamics of the Lake Chad basin.

- Another participant highlighted the relationship between climate indicators and water recharge of the Lake, and the need for exhaustive studies to determine the environmental and associated impacts of the water transfer from Congo-oubangui-Sangha to Lake Chad.

SESSION 3: PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS IN THE REGION

The session on peace, security and development in the Lake Chad region was moderated by Prof Maikorema Zakari from University Abdou MouMouni, Niamey. The speaker in his opening remarks stated that four papers will be presented by different authors. The presentations will be aimed at providing detailed information on the peace building, social cohesion, security and development in Lake Chad basin. Below are the key highlights from the different presentations.

[Genesis, expansion and causes of persistence of violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin \(Prof. Ibrahim Umara, University of Maiduguri Nigeria - Presenter, Dr. Zakinet Dangbet, Pastoralist. Director of Research and Innovation/MESRI – Co-author\)](#)

The genesis and expansion of violent extremism in the Lake Chad basin is caused by a combination of socio-economic factors most especially the recession of water from the lake which has deprived over 10 million people their means of livelihood and access to water.

The countries around the Lake Chad basin have long been governed under military rule and they have continuously felt marginalized. The quest for democracy and democratization of the world promoted by the west and its democratic values seems to reimpose inequality, deprivation, subjugation and blatant disregard to Islamic values.

These factors led to the disenchantment of the underprivileged youth to mobilise themselves into groups to carry out reading competitions and engagement in other means of livelihood such as riding motorbikes and establishment of farms and fortification of their tentacles.

Consequently, the federal and state governments did not understand the full extent of the problem in the region and their decision on the blockage of the weekly rotational markets was considered a strategy of deprivation for those whose means of livelihood are directly tied to it and thus led to the expansion of the persistence of violent

extremism and the displacement of very fertile and productive communities such as Malam Fatori, Abadam, Gashigar, Ngala, Kerenowa, Damasak, Banki among others were strategic mistakes that reinforces the expansion of the extremist activities in the region.

The presenter concluded that:

- Relocation drive of the government should be sustained as a catalyst for denying the insurgents an outlet for new members.
- The non military approach of persuading the insurgents to lay down their arms are excellent approach and have been yielding positive results considering mass surrender of these insurgents, should continue.
- Community engagements on the reintegration projects should be intensified through enhanced transitional justice system.
- Sustained pressure by the armed forces from within and collaboratively across the lake chad basin when sustained would definitely bring an end to the persistence of violent extremism to an end.
- There should be deliberate effort toward enhancing community governance with a view to proper state citizens relationship.

[Regional Strategy for the Stabilization \(RSS\), Recovery and Resilience of the Areas of Lake Chad Basin Affected by Boko Haram presented by Dr. Chika Charles Aniekwe, Coordinator, Regional Stabilisation Strategy Secretariat \(RSS/LCBC\)](#)

Key highlights: The regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of areas affected by Boko Haram is aimed at providing a regional approach in countering Boko Haram crisis with the objective of aligning a political strategy on the state of insecurity in the affected areas, facilitate transition from military engagement, articulate measure to address the root causes of the crisis, generate short medium- and long-term stabilization, development and peace programmes.

Millions of people have been displaced within the region due to the crisis with 1.9 million people in North East Nigeria, 436,200 in Cameroon, 312,600 in Chad and 229,200 in Niger respectively.

In order to address this crisis, the Multinational Joint Task Force has established four military response team in each of the affected country. The locations for various sectors include; Sector 1 (Cameroon HQ in Mora); Sector 2 (Chad HQ in Bagassola); Sector 3 (Nigeria (HQ in Mongunu) and Sector 4 (Niger HQ in Diffa) respectively.

Despite the military response mechanisms put in place, the RSS is designed to bring about a lasting solution to the stabilization within the region and it is made up of nine pillars which includes: Political cooperation, Security and Human rights, Disarmament, Demonization, Rehabilitation, Reinsertion and Reintegration, Humanitarian assistance,

governance & social contract, socio-economic recovery and environmental sustainability, Education, learning and skills, prevalence of extremism, and peace building, empowerment and inclusion of women.

In view of all these, the regional enablers were established to provide the governance structure for the implementation of the RSS across the four-member state and it made up of the Steering committee, Governor's forum, regional CSO platform and civil military cooperation cells and a regional monitoring and evaluation framework.

[Post-security Management of the crisis by Member Countries of the Lake Chad Basin: surrender and insertion of ex-combatants and vigilantes committee members by Prof. Issa Saibou, University of Maroua, Cameroon.](#)

The presenter focused on the issue of crisis management in the region and made the following key recommendations during the presentation:

- An articulate peacebuilding approach is needed to protect the victims' rights.
- Addressing the challenges of radicalization should be determined by category and area or localities.
- There is the need to break the link between insurgency and economic crime source of the armed group resilience.
- Ensure the efficiency of community reintegration mechanisms, involve the CTDs in the definition and management of DDR approaches, among others.
- An assessment of the numbers of enlisted and other associates for more regional strategic planning.
- The need to inform the crisis affected community in a bid to identify new conflicts and embrace peacebuilding policies.
- Explain clearly the stand of the community in the implementation of the CBR and harmonise rehabilitation and reintegration practices.
- Supporting the expansion of emerging conflicts, and setting up an observatory of regional dynamics.
- Better financing stabilization for greater coordination between development, security and lasting peace in the region.
- Build reintegration around the development/modernization of traditional sectors.
- Ensuring the communities take part in the construction of the future with well-defined roles for them.

[Key discussion points during the session on Peace Security and Development efforts in the region includes:](#)

- Issues of governance in relation to societal crises and poverty.
- The question of social reintegration of the ex-combatants of Boko Haram.
- Endogenous responses based on an inclusive and participatory approach.
- The need to transform studies/researches into concrete development actions.

SESSION 4: LOCAL GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL COHESION AND AGENTS OF RESILIENCE.

This session was moderated by Dr. Maurice Vunobolki, the Adamawa State MCRP Coordinator. The first topic for discussion was presented by Mr Mansour Adam Djibrine, President National Youth Council of Logone and Chari Division in Cameroon and Mercy Corp, Nigeria.

A). Role of women and youth in development and peace research in the Lake Chad basin: experience of member states, Nigeria and Cameroon

The speaker began this topic by informing participants that the presentation will cover experiences from Cameroun. Using a map of the Lake Chad region the speaker outlined that some of the factors responsible for the conflict in the area include: -

- Exposure to climate change.
- Lack of basic amenities.
- Violence by Boko Haram.
- Youth unemployment.
- Food insecurity.
- Inter-communal clashes (2010 and 2011).
- Declining natural resources.
- Deterring economic tissue.
- Mobilization of women don't have access to fertile land.

He stated that in mitigating these conflicts women and youths have created initiatives voluntarily, these initiatives include the establishment of youth networks and associations for cultural and economic purposes; some of the activities of these networks and associations include advocacy campaigns and sensitization. He cited that there is a Civil Society Organization (CSO) meeting (across different communities and neighbourhoods) every fortnight with village heads and community members on peacebuilding, community cohesion, creation of cooperatives, independent revenue generation activities, sporting/cultural activities, etc.

These initiatives have yielded action on the part of the government through the institutionalization of youth and women needs by creating specialized agencies such as: -

- Establishment of a Youth Council in 2009 with national and regional offices across the country. This council has become the agency in charge of national programs for the participation and development of youths, its activities include National Volunteer Program, Chad Basin National Youth network, etc.
- Network of Women Mediators for Peace in Cameroon
- Centre for Women and Family Promotion under the ministry of Family affairs
- Youth Institute – a specialized organ of the Ministry of youth, they have trained 540 weavers for peace in the far North

On the activities of PROLAC in strengthening the role of youth and women involved in decision making and search for peace, he stated that PROLAC is in partnership with stakeholders such as CSOs in designing training curricula that are in tune with the economic and social realities of beneficiaries. Below are some of the project achievements:

- Sponsored 30 Ph.D. and 50 M.sc Students at the University of Marua; 30% of the students are women.
- Provided short training for 600 youths.
- High-intensity Manpower training to mobilize 4,000 youths for production, strengthening citizen participation in social creation.
- Establishment of stations for the provision of birth certifications.
- Community support for psycho-socio activities.

B). The mission of the traditional rulers in the search and maintenance of peace in the Lake Chad basin: experience of member states, Niger, and Chad.

This topic was presented by Mr Katiellou Gasso Abdou, the traditional ruler of Maine Soroa, Niger.

He began his presentation by stating that "Lake Chad is our pride because it feeds us." On traditional administration, the speaker stated that aside from a few differences in approach there is not enough difference between Niger and Chad in terms of operations.

The speaker stated that since the emergence of Boko Haram and the resultant declaration of a State of Emergency in the country, life has become unbearable, people stigmatized and there has been a loss of trust in government. Villages have been razed down, lives lost and most devastatingly, the evacuation of Lake Chad which has affected economic activities (Fishing and Farming) and created enhanced vulnerability for the people of the region. He cited an example in an area with 77 administrative

villages and only one village survived the evacuation and recently a second village is being revived through the efforts of the president.

On the role played by traditional rulers, he expressed his appreciation for the government's support and recognition of traditional rulers in the country by creating enabling environment for the search for local solutions. The government implored that they deploy weapons which included praying for peace and helping security and military forces with useful information to help in the fight against insecurity. Some other roles mentioned include;

- Concerning sensitization for Lake Chad, he submitted that the traditional rulers were saddled with sensitizing the people however while in Chad a Security Committee was established, it was not replicated in Niger.
- The traditional rulers initiated the reintegration of repentant fighters who were drafted into Boko Haram as children. The government accepted the initiative with the addition of a 6 months training for all repentant fighters; the traditional rulers spearheaded the process of reconciliation with all hurt parties and communities affected by the attacks. The project was largely successful, the former fighters acted as intelligence resources for Security and Defence forces; the project was replicated in Chad. However, one of the challenges faced in the implementation was a deviation from 6 months of training to 3 years; this took a toll on the project as other Boko Haram fighters were reluctant to join the scheme.
- The traditional rulers were also tasked with the provision of qur'anic teachings.

Recommendations

- Most of the repentant combatants before joining the sect were fishermen and farmers upon repenting the government trained them in artisan skills that were not useful to them and they ended up selling the tools provided to them. He recommended that the government ask the repentant fighters what they want to acquire instead of choosing for them.
- He thanked the government for the provision of social infrastructure that has resulted in people returning to their homes however more needs to be done in the provision of schools and health centres. Most areas are without basic social infrastructure.
- He recommended that where peace has returned the government should provide permanent military barracks and there be constant security personnel.
- The government can help provide resources for fishing and farming, and he advised that security officials should also participate in buying on market days.

The second speaker, Moussa Mbodomi, Traditional Ruler of Amerom, Doudoum Local Government, Ngouri, Tchad, shared that the experience in Niger is very similar to Chad, stating that the "inexistence of basic amenities is the reason why people freely identify

with Boko Haram....Those involved have been deprived of all means of living with dignity”, and thanked the partners and organizers for this timely conversation.

C). Media coverage of the security situation in the Lake Chad basin: challenges of remote coverage to the challenge of access to sources

This topic was presented by Dr Seidik Abba, Journalist-writer, analyst of African news on several media, France.

The speaker informed the participants about the role the media has played in the conflict along the Lake Chad basin. Giving insight into the growth of Boko Haram from 2002 – 2009, he opined that the lack of publicity and investigation into the activities of the sect created a ground for the sect to thrive without the state security forces' involvement.

In 2010, when the sect gained international notoriety and made headlines on national dailies, African journalists struggled to grapple with covering the events which led to the propagation of several theories, prominent among which was the narrative by the international media that the crisis was fuelled by religious reasons, with Muslims and Christians fighting, ignoring the fact that Boko Haram has a 90% Muslim makeup.

The speaker reported that some of the weaknesses of the media coverage on security issues in the Lake Chad basin include:

- International Press – Due to the lack of reportage on the growing insecurity threats and its actors, there was an initial misinterpretation and misinformation publicized by international and western media on the attacks being a religious clash.
- National media coverage gap – there was a general lack of understanding of the phenomenon from both print and electronic media between 2002 -2009. The activities of the sect were not headlines on national dailies, no in-depth interviews investigating the issue, hence there was public ignorance and misgivings on its reports.
- Gap in information and public relation services in terms of communication strategies – there was a gap in the capacity to cover news around defence and security forces, with security personnel accusing journalists of irresponsible journalism and sabotaging efforts which led to the denial of access and information to the media.

In closing, the speaker emphasized the need for a better work synergy between journalists, and Defence and Security forces and stated that in October 2020, a media learning exchange session was held between journalists and security forces organized by the Multinational Joint Forces in N'Djamena-Chad. He proposed that more similar

sessions be held and replicated in other LCBC countries as the media are partners for social cohesion and peacebuilding.

D). Improving the resilience of the populations to climate change effects

This virtual session was presented by Prof. Koussoumna Libaa of University of Maroua.

He spoke on the context of climate change in the Sahel and the implication of rapid change with little research done in measure or forecasting. He acknowledged that around the world, major research has been done in combating climate change in the 21st Century and the countries in the LCBC have to increase their efforts in creating some resilience to the problem. He presented some solutions to creating resilience as:

- Addressing the historical lack of information – improving forecasting for climate change through the collection of historical data.
- Promotion of sub-regional collaboration in establishing and exploiting data on climate change, identification and harmonization of all data collection networks, and strengthening of organizations that collect and process data on climate change.
- Opportunity for exchange of data among experts for improvement of capacity and better understanding and forecast of climate.
- Identification and promotion of technology and appropriate practices for better adaptation to climate change; such as the identification of indigenous resilience of people, species, and variety to climate, soil, and predators; also, the restoration and preservation of soil by maintaining a strong organic tenure that will favour soil fertility.
- Zoning within the Sahel, trainings on how to store rainwater in villages.
- Provision of support for climate migrants.
- Overhauling of rural infrastructure to address water scarcity.
- Improvement of animal feed and modification of trans-human calendar in regards to natural pasture.
- Improvement of health infrastructure to respond to old and emerging diseases.
- Address animal immunity to disease.
- Overexploitation and degradation of land in rural areas.

- Work on logic to improve means of subsistence for people, and create access to credit for people to develop and adapt to the system.
- Create upstream and downstream markets as well as an information system.
- Provision of trainings for women and youth.
- Sensitizing and creating grants for people to access new sources of energy.

In closing this presentation, the speaker opined that climate change requires that there is a deeper dive into research, with the creation of new technologies to investigate. The difficulty in forecasting changes is caused by a lack of data, and the speaker called on policymakers to get sensitized on the issues of climate change to formulate proactive legislation that strengthens people's resilience to climate change and alleviates poverty.

Key discussion points during session 4 includes:

- The government missed an opportunity at the beginning of the crisis to curtail the local spread of terrorism with local knowledge; traditional rulers had to get involved when the security forces were overwhelmed. The participant expressed that it is not late now for the traditional rulers to be engaged on higher levels.
- This participant expressed her disappointment as there was no female on the panel that discussed the role of women and youths in the development of peace research in the Lake Chad basin. The participant referred to the Resolution 13:25 (United Nations) which talks about the participation, partnership, and inclusion of women in the development and the impact of armed conflict.
- The roles for media houses such as radio and print need to be defined better to improve their effectiveness in reporting.
- The youths must be involved in the process of governance and decision making.
- The repentant combatants need to be consulted on what vocational skill they would be interested in learning rather than imposing the skills on them.
- There should be focus and action plans developed for the number of kids orphaned by Boko Haram, who are roaming the streets and could pose a security threat in the near future if not managed properly.
- The problem of unemployment for the youths should be tackled and adequate training provided to improve their capacity to assist them in being independent.
- There is need to bridge the gap between civilians and the military in the face of conflict especially, to improve the trust gap and the sharing of vital information between both parties.

- There should be more collaboration between PROLAC and the government in identifying the basic needs of the vulnerable people within the region and training should be provided to improve the standard of living for these individuals.

DAY 2

The second day of the conference commenced with a recap of day 1 activities moderated by Dr. Mohammed Danjuma and Mr. Hycinth Banseka. This was followed by a session outlining the expectation for day 2 of the conference and was moderated by Prof Umar Bobboi & Mr. Nicolas Perrin. The following were major highlights from Day 1 of the Forum.

- The different challenges faced by the population in the Lake Chad Basin, specifically, socioeconomic, environmental, insecurity challenges and those related to climate change.
- The persistence of insecurity in some localities of the basin.
- The relevance of the forum in boosting development in the basin.
- Efforts made by states and governments in the management of the crisis (more than 10 years' crisis in some countries).
- The relevance of states for the adoption of the regional stabilization strategy.
- Exemplary cooperation between government/ technical and financial partners, among others, the World Bank with the PROLAC project.
- Multiple efforts of the LCBC in resources mobilisation and partnership to improve changes in the Lake Chad Basin.
- The commitment and involvement of the political leaders in the search of solutions to the insecurity and the relaunch of the development process.

Operational Workshops – Technical Sessions

This session entailed a three parallel 2-hour workshops in separate rooms. Within these rooms, practitioners shared lessons learned from past and ongoing operations and exchanged on challenges and solutions with regards to Climate Resilience, Local Governance and Citizen Engagement, and Social Cohesion in the Lake Chad region.

Room A Workshop 1

Solutions for climate resilience in the Lake Chad region

The moderator for this technical session was Prof. Brice Sinsin of the University of d'Abomey Calavi, Benin.

The first presentation on the “Climate change adaptation measure, the experience of the GIZ/LCBC project,” was presented by Dr Chetima Boukar, an Expert in Climate change adaptation, TGIZ/LCBC Project “Applied Water Resources Management in the Lake Chad Basin.”

The speaker began his presentation by providing a brief background of the Applied Water Resources project in Lake Chad:

- A three-year project (with a 6 months extension) funded by the Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung in tune of 5 million Euro.
- The project covers 25 villages in Cameroon and 24 villages along the Waza-Logone wetland and surrounding plain.

He outlined some of the observed impact of climate change on the area as:

- Rising temperatures leading to higher evapotranspiration and early drying of water bodies, pond or reservoirs.
- Fluctuation of the start and end dates of the rainy season accompanied by a shortening of the agronomic season (useful season)
- More frequent intra- and inter-seasonal droughts with abrupt alternations between wet and dry years.
- Increased extreme events (heavy rainfall causing floods).
- Southward shift of the mean position of the “120–day-line” (growing period) with a significant loss of fertile land and pasture in the central part of the LTB
- Southward descent of nomadic pastoralists with early arrival sometimes before harvest and late departure after planting.
- Shrinking of wetlands with proliferation of invasive aquatic plants, degradation of aquatic habitats and reduction in fish production and fish diversity.
- Pressure on wetlands with recourse to prohibited practices (construction of fishing channels, chemical pesticides, use of creels, etc.)

He opined that the project was focused on the empowerment of women and this has been achieved by farm campaigns such as Support to 218 households, where 89% of enrolled households were headed by a woman (2020-2021); Support to 100

households, where 99% of the enrolled households were headed by a woman (2021). Other adaptation measures adopted in implementing the project are:

- Introduction of short-cycle, drought-resistant sorghum, cowpea and maize varieties with better yield characteristics for human and animal consumption.
- Practice of flood recession agriculture of cereals (early maturing and more resistant to drought) and market gardening (small irrigation).
- Production and sustainable storage of fodder for animals from crop residues (sorghum and cowpea).
- Introduction of new crops: watermelon and melon in addition to sorghum (flood recession system) in order to diversify agricultural production.
- Education on good practices on water and soil conservation, better knowledge of the agricultural calendar, use of bio-pesticides and manure.
- Pond management, food production, monitoring and control of pond water quality.
- Promotion of good post-capture practices and production of green coal.
- Pockets of 10-15 cm in diameter dug before the rains and filled with organic manure.
- Sowing after a heavy rain when the monsoon is established.
- Half-moon shaped dikes following the contour lines mounted for runoff retention.
- 565 households, 43% of which are headed by women in Chad (sorghum, cowpea, maize crops).
- 600 households in 17 villages, 77% of which are headed by a woman in Cameroon (sorghum, maize and cowpea crops).
- 207 households in 7 villages in Chad (sorghum, cowpea, rice).
- Support to 464 households, 4% of which are headed by a woman (414 households growing sorghum and 50 households growing watermelon and melon) Chad.
- Support to 300 households, growing sorghum, watermelon and melon, Cameroon.

On the sustainability and scaling plans, the speaker opined that the project has made some outcomes in the region which includes:

- Farmer Field schools.
- Promoting local leaders as farming-trainers.
- Transboundary workshops: Exchange between farmers from different regions and countries (Chad and Cameroon).
- Creation of WhatsApp groups to support farmers.
- Radio: Cooperation with local radio stations to broadcast best practices and raise awareness about climate change.

- Fact sheets: Showcasing results and best practices for technical experts at national and international organizations.
- Video: Increasing public awareness about climate change, results and best practices.

Lessons learned and Recommendations

- The season is getting shorter and shorter with a high risk of drought: the cultivation of short-cycle and drought-resistant varieties and the adoption of water conservation practices guarantee a harvest for producers.
- The date of the end of the rainy season is imprecise: the establishment of 2 or 3 generations of flood recession sorghum nurseries reassures producers of the flood recession system.
- Diversification (rainfed, flood recession and off-season farming) strengthens the adaptive capacities of the population
- Capacity building of farmers in agroforestry, use of manure and compost, fish farming, rice-fish farming.

PRESIBALT, an intervention to strengthen the resilience of socio-ecological systems in the Lake Chad basin.

This session was presented by Na'Andi Maman Taher, Regional Coordinator of PRESIBALT.

The speaker stated that the concentration of populations around the lake has exacerbated the pressure on natural resources and the exploitation of which has generated recurring social conflicts. The spread of insecurity around the region and across borders is caused by socio-ecological, economic and institutional fragilities.

Efforts have been made by the African Development Bank (AFBDB), GEF and other partners to promote inclusive development and sustainable resilience of vulnerable groups to curb the scourge.

One of the efforts is the commissioning of the project Multinational Programme to Rehabilitate and Strengthen the Resilience of Lake Chad Basin Socio-Ecological Systems. The 5 years project funded by the African Development Bank (AFDB) in tune of 37 billion Franc is aimed at improving resilience of population that depend on Lake Chad.

The project was structured in three components:

1. the preservation and enhancement of water resources;
2. the development of resources, ecological services and value chains; and
3. institutional strengthening and program management.

Improving the management of Lake Chad through the implementation of the strategic action plan (SAP)

This topic was presented by Mr Diawoye Konte, Coordinator of GEF/UNDP/LCBC/Project.

The speaker began his presentation by outlining the project core goals, which are:

- Strengthening the management of the Lake Chad basin.
- Assessment of potential investments based on SAP recommendations.
- Harmonization of approaches for the implementation of sustainable legal and policy instruments.
- Community-based demonstration project.
- Technical capacity building - Enabling environment for SAP implementation improving national governance (universities, civil society).
- Management of information system.
- Improving the availability and accessibility of data and information on the water resources and ecosystems of Lake Chad.

The speaker then presented on the project's results and progress towards targets, which include:

- A guidance notes on the harmonization of national political, legal and financial instruments of the LCBC for the implementation of the water charter validated at the regional level.
- 130 Experts (including 45 women) from States and SE/LCBC trained in IWRM in transboundary basins and in the context of climate change.
- 30 executives (including 10 women) from the States and the SE/LCBC trained in methodologies for assessing post-Covid recovery needs.
- 50 executives (including 17 women) from the States and the ES/LCBC trained on innovative mechanisms for financing biodiversity and climate change.
- Mapping of invasive plants in the BLT.
- Launching for the benefit of 09 groups of women and young people of 09 pilot micro-projects related to the promotion of invasive plants in the 5 States.
- Launch of 30 pilot micro-projects related to the exploitation of natural resources in the 5 States.
- Strengthened partnerships: Other LCBC projects, NGOs/CSOs, Research centres/academies.

The speaker then shared some of the challenges encountered in implementation of the project which include:

- Difficulties in deploying project activities due to restrictive measures imposed by States as part of the fight against Covid-19.
- Security issues.
- Difficulties in recruiting a “responsible party” at the regional level for the implementation of Component 3 (Output 3.3).
- Fair validation process of sites/communities for the implementation of component.

Some of the next steps identified by the speaker include:

- Support for the development/strengthening of a BLT ecological monitoring system.
- Strengthening of national capacities for the adaptation of national strategies to regional strategic documents and development of Political and Legal Frameworks.
- Strengthening awareness and participation of local actors in the sustainable management of natural resources of the BLT.
- Strengthening the involvement of universities and research centres in the management of BLT resources.
- Strengthening cross-border cooperation mechanisms on NRM.
- Strengthening incentive mechanisms for the valuation of ecosystem services for sustainable management of ecosystems and livelihoods.
- Development of partnerships and mobilization of resources for structuring projects.

Key summary of the Speaker’s Presentation

- The sustainable development of the BLT will be based on the preservation of ecosystems with consideration of CC and the gender aspect.
- A harmonization of the political, institutional and legal instruments of the Member States is necessary for the implementation of the water charter.
- Capacity building of all stakeholders on IWRM is an important means of restoration and sustainable development of BLT.
- Mainstreaming CC and ecosystem services in development policies is an important factor in community resilience.
- The development of an information and ecological monitoring system is the basis for the restoration of BLT ecosystems.

Small group discussions

Discussion topic: What are some climate change adaptation measures and strategies that have proved successful in the LC region, and could be replicated or scaled up? What are approaches that have failed and why?

Conclusions:

- Farmer managed natural regeneration of vegetable - farmers are encouraged to plant trees.
- Tree planting activities and campaign focused on economic trees that can provide food and shades so that people are encouraged to plant them.
- Creating shelter belt to reduce the effect of desertification.
- Sand dunes fixation and Oases development in Northern Yobe State.
- International fund for agriculture development (IFAD) tree planting project especially soil Nitrogen fixation like Acacia in Jigawa state.
- Plant of drought resistant trees – it was a success in rural areas.
- The Great Green Wall (GGW) project was a success because of community inclusion strategy.
- FAO experimentation with Action Against Desertification in Gamawa LGA of Bauchi state.

What are approaches that have failed and why?

- Lack of proper management.
- Lack of community engagement – there was no consultation with community hence the needs assessment was wrong and the communities did not own projects.
- Lack of sensitization of the end users.

Discussion topic: What are the main challenges to an adequate integration of climate adaptation into local governance priorities? What approaches, tools and instruments exist to integrate climate considerations into local development planning?

Conclusions:

- Livelihood support, integrated with climate adoption initiatives.
- Community members need to be sensitized on the nature and effects of climate change.
- Education of local government authorities and sub-national entities.
- Many states now have environmental departments and agencies.
- Sensitization of the dangers of farming activities along river banks and sand mining.

Discussion topic: What information and data are needed to support climate adaptation in the Lake Chad region? What are possible solutions to address information gaps?

Conclusion:

- Hydro-metrological data collection.
- Soil data and characterization.

- Modern equipment for data collection.
- Population data such as socio-economic activities.
- Communities need.
- Creation of spatial data information.
- Universities to have a role to play to provide empirical data on climate change and adaptation.
- Invest in research and capacity building.
- Introduction of sub-skill behavioral change communication.
- Clear linkage and collaboration between research institutes and decision makers.
- Data and research should be linked to political and development priorities citing the Borno State 25 years development plan as an example.
- Development of data generation, storage, retrieval and utilization mechanisms by decision makers especially data from research.
- Development of new technology and techniques to collect quality data.

Room C Workshop3

Engaging citizens, women and youth and building social cohesion in the Lake Chad region

This technical workshop focused on engaging citizens, particularly women and youth in building social cohesion in the Lake Chad Region. The moderator for this technical session was Prof. Maikorema Zakari. The first presentation looked at “Citizen engagement and social inclusion: lessons from the Lake Chad Inclusive Economic and Social Recovery Project (RESILAC). The topic was presented by Helene Ronceray, the Regional Coordinator of the RESILAC project.

She began by highlighting some key impacts of the project which includes:

- Over 120,000 people have been reached, where about 48% are women and 74% are young people.
- About 46,000 plus people engaged on social cohesion activities.
- 35 plus consultation frameworks and 110 plus conflict resolution forums supported.
- 13 territories supported.
- Concentration of activities in 132 villages and about 254 villages affected.

She further stated that the project utilizes a territorial approach based on 4 pillars viz: Strengthening human capital and social cohesion; Economic recovery; Support to local institutional capacities; and Knowledge production and management.

The driving forces for this approach are mainly young people and women, local actors who animate the life of the territories, and local associations as agents of positive change.

Next, the presenter then introduced the participants to the “Actions directly targeting Social Cohesion.” These actions include:

- Territorial diagnoses – keys to understanding the territory and factors of inclusion of communities.
- The creation of spaces for dialogue within communities and with local authorities.
- Provision of support to community-based organizations.
- Utilisation of psychosocial support as a tool for building trust and social links.
- An important intervention pillar at the service of the other multiform supports in the project.

In this same vein, the presenter introduced the participants to complimentary actions contributing to social cohesion:

- The use of natural resource management is vital in this context.
- Integrating economic activities in the region as a factor of cohesion and social inclusion.

Also, the Inclusion of territorial actors and support for the management of their localities was vital and involved:

- Utilising technical services in the supervision of activities including that of the authorities.
- Provision of support for the creation and the update of participatory development plans and its financing.
- Creating an Economic and Social Development Concertation Framework within communes (Cameroon).
- Sharing of experiences through exchange visits to other territories and ensuring that good practices are replicated.

The presenter further stated that in having a project that listened and learnt within varied territories the following should be established:

- The creation of a feedback mechanism the project beneficiaries can use to complement the complaints management mechanism.
- The creation of knowledge products to reflect the impact of the project’s intervention: social cohesion, mental health, access to land, etc.
- The creation of a monitoring and evaluation system to monitor the project’s process, and to capture its flexibility within a changing context and its agility.

She also presented the challenges ahead for the project, which included:

- The participatory approach should be strengthened.
- Operationalise a complex territorial approach.

- Non-sustainable multitude of actors and exogenous mechanisms for dialogue.
- The complex nature of measuring the effects of social inclusion and collective commitment.
- Social cohesion cannot be based solely on the community dimension.
- A resilience/development approach within a complex context which is limited to secure areas.
- Little or lack of the vulnerable people and those displaced in the project's territorial approach.

The followings are the recommendations proffered:

- Empowering and strengthening the representation of the local consultation committee members.
- Encourage activities that promote citizen participation and debate.
- Improve social cohesion by valuing the methods promoted by actors with proven expertise.
- Encouraging a more localised methodology.
- Encourage and support knowledge production.
- Support and improve the capacity of local authorities to deliver basic services and promote positive partnerships.
- To strengthen the inclusion of the national level in social cohesion.
- For effective social inclusion, support for all in targeted territories are vital.
- Improving the consideration of NGO concerns on the PEACE component of the triple nexus.

SESSION 6: DATA, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The session on data, research and development was moderated by Prof Ibrahim Baba Goni from University of Maiduguri in his opening remarks he mentioned that 3 presentations will be made by different authors and the overall aim of the session was to understand role of data and research as a key driver in the development of Lake Chad basin.

Fragility risks and resilience factors in the Lake Chad region – presented by Catherine Defontaine, World Bank

The presenter laid emphasis on the assessment conducted by the World Bank on the risk and resilience factors in the Lake Chad basin with the aim of:

- Strengthening WBG's understanding of fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) drivers and resilience factors in the Lake Chad region, focusing on the 10 regions most severely impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency and related displacement crisis.

- Informing strategic, operational, and policy approaches with the objective to preventing further conflict spillovers, the Lake Chad region being one of the four hot spots under IDA19.
- Exploring the potential role of the WBG in addressing these drivers and building on resilience factors.

Key highlights: The Lake Chad region remains economically marginalized and it has one of the largest concentrations of extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and strong regional inequalities.

The region is also characterized by political isolation and marginalization, with incomplete decentralization processes and limited avenues for citizen engagement, despite efforts for better representation. The war against Boko Haram has led to critical security and humanitarian costs (1% of GDP annually between 2014 and 2016 in Cameroon; more than 10% of GDP in Niger).

This crisis has eventually changed the role of women as they have completely lost all means of livelihood, they have now assumed decision making roles due to the loss of their husband as a result of the crisis and they are majorly used by terrorist as spies, messengers, recruiters and smugglers of arms and hard drugs.

The key drivers of FCV and Risk includes, country specific vulnerability, climate change and self-reinforcing cycle of violence. However, the resilience in the region has continued to grow despite the extent of insecurity and communities have changed activities and livelihoods means from nomadism to sedentary livestock herding using new spaces, circuits, and products.

The crisis has also changed gender roles, mobility remains a hallmark of Lake Chad communities, with the crisis, new trade routes and hubs have emerged and citizens, civil society organizations and the private sector increasingly mobilize to demand better governance and inclusion. However, customary and religious leaders can also help diffuse tensions and manage conflicts especially at the community level and there is growing realization by the four countries on the need to improve cross-border cooperation.

The key policy option that are needed to address these challenges in the Lake Chad Basin includes Trade, Infrastructure, Governance and Natural Resources Management.

Using big data to develop climate/conflict fragility profiles in the Sahel region – presented by Manuel Figueredo Thomson, World Bank

The presentation on using big data to develop climate/conflict fragility profiles in the Sahel region was aimed at strengthening the evidence base on the relationship between climate change and socio-institutional fragility, violence, and conflict in West Africa (via predictive modeling and case studies) and development of an operationally relevant vulnerability data to enable clustering of locations with similar profiles

regarding their exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity to climate and conflict risks.

Vulnerability was defined by the presenter as the extent to which a community will be exposed to a hazard, how sensitive the community is to the hazard, and its capacity for coping with the hazard. He stated that a common approach to operationalize the concept of vulnerability is to use spatial data to create vulnerability indexes. This method uses machine learning to generate clusters using different scales and variables (administrative and spatial grids).

However, the key vulnerability clusters in west Africa includes Unique climate/conflict clusters which includes Sahel (19 clusters), Lake Chad region (15 clusters), Westernmost Africa (9 clusters) and Gulf of Guinea (12 clusters). The rural clusters covering inland region are characterized by high level of conflict, increase in temperature, decrease in precipitation and lack of water infrastructure.

In order to address vulnerability challenges across different clusters within the Lake Chad region, a web-based app had been developed to make cluster and vulnerability data more accessible. Similarly regional knowledge management platform had been developed with the support of the World Bank, to enhance data collection and knowledge generation within the region. Additionally, plans were also in place to develop a data catalogue for the region and a vulnerability cluster dataset that will generate data that will meet country specific needs.

Key discussion points during the session on data, research and development

- Involvement of university and research institutions in the region to lead and manage data collection activities.
- To build capacity of students and locals on data collection across the region using different tools and techniques presented by various presenters during the conference.
- Review of Land Use Act to address the challenges of access to land for farming and pastoralist activities.

Drafting of the Forum Declaration

This session was moderated by Mr. M. Abicho Mahamat, and in agreement with all participants, having observed the necessity for this forum, concluded with this series of recommendations:

- To continue efforts to support the multinational joint force in order to win the fight against terrorism and ensure the return of peace and security to the areas affected by the crisis.
- To invest in the capacity of local communities still playing a major role in implementing the region's development.

- To hold exchanges of experiences and support regarding the implementation of development projects in areas that are difficult to access and most exposed to insecurity.
- To support traditional leaders during the restoration of trust between the populations and the government.
- To support and build the capacity of civil society and communities to ensure better citizen engagement in governance.
- Guarantee to involve women and youths in the decision-making process;
- To detail the most systematic measure of practice and adaptive approach that will produce success in the region to address the challenges of climate change.
- Improve access to data and information on adaptive climate change by developing the capacity of the local, national and regional institutions.
- Support the local community with tools and technical skills to integrate more systematically into government planning.
- Associate universities and research centers that collect and manage data to ensure sustainability.
- To strengthen collaborations and cooperation between university and research institutions.
- To take into considerations practices that have not been fruitful in the region.
- Mandate the Lake Chad research group to consolidate the forum report and submit it to the president or to the governor of the Lake Chad Basin before the next forum is held.

Closing Session

In his closing remarks, Mr. Mohammed Alkali, MD/CEO NEDC, expressed his satisfaction on the progress of the forum and quality of the discussions held, and thanked all respective parties that attended the forum, urging them not to relent in their quest for a peaceful Lake Chad basin.

Similarly, Dr Mohammed Danjuma, the Coordinator of MCRP, in his vote of thanks, thanked the dignitaries and participants who played key roles in organising this first annual international forum on the development of the Lake Chad region. He expressed his gratitude to the MCRP team for the efforts geared towards a successful forum, and also to the dignitaries and traditional rulers who travelled from their countries to participate in this key program for the betterment of the four countries in the Lake Chad region.

Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, the Executive Secretary of the LCBC, closed the forum by expressing his gratitude to all the participants across the world who participated in this first annual international forum on the development of the Lake Chad Basin, and

urged the participants not to relent in the betterment of the livelihood of the people who depend on the region.

The Draft adoption by all the participants of the forum and a charge to Niger Republic to host the next annual international forum for the Lake Chad region, brought the forum to a close.

APPENDIX

8.00-10.30 SESSION 1: OPENING CEREMONY [PLENARY] moderator: Ms. Inya Ode, Journalist, Event Anchor		
8.00-9.30	Arrival and Registration	All
9.30-9.35	National Anthem	All
9.35-9.45	Welcome Remarks and Setting of Tone by MD/CEO of North-East Development Commission (NEDC)	Mr. Mohammed G. Alkali, Managing Director/CEO, NEDC
9.45- 9.55	Remarks by the Executive Secretary of LCBC	Ambassador Mamman Nuhu Executive Secretary of LCBC,
9.55-10.00	Remarks by the Country Director of the World Bank for Nigeria	Shubham Chaudhuri Country Director, World Bank
10.00-10.10	INTERLUDE	
10.10-10.15	Remarks by the Chairman, North-East Governors' Forum	His Excellency Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, FNSE, mni, Chairman, North-East Governors' Forum/Executive Governor of Borno State
10.15-10.25	Remarks by the Chairman, Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum	His Excellency Mr. Midjiyawa Bakari, Governor of Far North Region Cameroon
10.25- 10.30	Remark by Chairman of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission.	Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, Honorable Minister of Water Resources of the Federal republic of Nigeria
10.30-10.35	Goodwill message by the Honorable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja	Muhammad Musa Bello Honorable Minister Federal Capital Territory (FCT))

10.35- 10.45	Remark by the Supervising Minister of MCRP/PROLAC, Nigeria	Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouq Honorable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development
10.45- 10.50	Opening Remarks by the Special Guest of Honor	His Excellency, The Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON,
10.50-11.00	Official Photographs of VIPs	
11.00- 11.15	Coffee Break	
11.05-14.35 AND	SESSION 2: CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL RESOURCES LIVELIHOODS IN THE REGION <i>Panel discussion moderated by Prof Zakaria Ousmane Ramadane, from Chadian Center for Strategic Studies and Prospective Analysis: CETES, N'Djamena, Chad</i>	
11.05-11.15	Opportunities and challenges of the Lake Chad Region, the role of LCBC and Objectives of the Annual Forum on the Development of the Lake Chad Region by the Technical Director, LCBC	Mr. Hycinth Banseka Technical Director, Lake Chad Basin Commission
11.15-11.25	<i>Climate change and the Lake Chad: analysis of environmental risks</i>	Presenters: Dr Garba Sambo, Prof Mohammed Mala Daura, University of Maiduguri
11.25-11.35	<i>Problems of the exploitation of natural resources of the Lake Chad Basin</i>	Dr Hadiza Kiari Fougou the University of Diffa
11.35- 11.45	<i>Climate change and agricultural production in the Lake Chad Basin</i>	Dr. AMADOU IDRISSE BOKOYE, Physician environmental sciences and climate, Quebec, Canada
11.45-11.55	<i>Climate Change and Water Resources</i>	Prof Florence Sylvestre, Paleo-climatologist, Director of Research IRD-University of N'Djamena-CHAD
11.55- 12.25	Question-and-Answer Session	All Participants
13.35-14.35	Lunch Break	
14.35-17.10	SESSION 3: PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS IN THE	

REGION		
Panel discussion moderated by Prof. Maikorema Zakari (University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey)		
14.35-14.45	<i>Genesis, expansion, and cause of persistence of violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin</i>	Prof. Ibrahim Umara, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria [Presenter] Dr. ZAKINET DANGBET, Pastoralist, Director of Research and Innovation/MESRI
14.45-14.55	<i>Regional Strategy for the Stabilization (RSS), Recovery and Resilience of the Areas of Lake Chad Basin Affected by Boko Haram</i>	Dr. CHIKA CHARLES ANIEKWE, Coordinator, Regional Stabilisation Strategy Secretariat (RSS/LCBC)
14.55-15.05	<i>Post-security Management of the crisis by Member Countries of the Lake Chad Basin: surrender and insertion of ex-combatants and vigilantes committee members</i>	Prof. Issa Saibou, University of Maroua, Cameroon
15.05-15.15	<i>Crisis and development in the Lake Chad region</i>	Dr. Charline Range, Specialist of the Lake Chad, NGO GRET, Paris, France (In Virtual)
15.15-15.45	Questions and Answers Session	All Participants
15.45-16.00	Coffee Break	
16.00-16.45 SESSION 4: LOCAL GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL COHESION AND AGENTS OF RESILIENCE		
Panel discussion moderated by Dr. Maurice Vunobolki, Adamawa State MCRP Coordinator		
16.00-16.20	<i>Role of Women and Youth in Development and Peace Research in the Lake Chad Basin: Experience of Member States, Nigeria and Cameroon</i>	Mr. Mansour Adam Djibrine President National Youth Council of the Departmental of Logone and Chari, Cameroon And Mercy Corp, Nigeria
16.20-16.40	<i>Mission of the Traditional Rulers in the search and maintenance of peace in the Lake Chad Basin: Experience of Member States, Niger and Chad</i>	Katiellou GASSO ABDOU, Traditional Ruler, MAINE SOROA - Niger And Moussa MBODOMI, Traditional Ruler, Amerom, Doudoum local Government, Ngouri, Tchad

16.40-16.50	<i>Media coverage of the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin: Challenges of remote coverage to the challenge of access to sources</i>	<i>Dr. Seidik Abba, Journalist-Writer, Analyst of African news on several media, France.</i>
16.50-17.00	<i>Improving the resilience of the populations to climate change effects</i>	Prof. Koussoumna Libaa, University of Maroua (Virtual)
17.00-17.30	Questions and Answers Session	All Participants
End of 1st Day		

DAY 2 – TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS		
9.30-9.45	Review of Day 1	Dr Mohammed Danjuma and Mr. Hycinth Banseka
9.45-9.55	Expectations for Day 2	Prof Umar Bobboi & Mr. Nicolas Perrin
9.55-11.55	OPERATIONAL WORKSHOPS	
<i>Three parallel 2-hour workshops in separate rooms. Practitioners will be invited to share lessons learned from past and ongoing operations, and exchange on challenges and solutions related to climate resilience, local governance and citizen engagement and social cohesion in the Lake Chad region</i>		
Room A	Workshop 1. Solutions for climate resilience in the LC region	Moderator: Prof. Brice SINSIN (University of d'Abomey Calavi, Benin)
	<i>Presentation (10 mn): Climate change adaptation measures, the experience of the GIZ/LCBC Project</i>	Dr. Chetima Boukar, Expert in Climate Change Adaptation TGIZ/LCBC Project "Applied Water Resources Management in the Lake Chad Basin (In virtual)
	<i>Presentation (10 mn): PRESIBALT, an intervention to strengthen the resilience of socio-ecological systems in the Lake Chad Basin.</i>	Na'Andi Maman Taher, Regional Coordinator of PRESIBALT

	<p><u>Presentation (10 mn):</u> Improving the management of Lake Chad through the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP),</p>	<p>Mr. Diawoye Konte, Coordinator of GEF/UNDP/LCBC/Project</p>
	<p><u>Small group discussions (90mn):</u> Groups discuss the following points (45 mn), then report back (45 mn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are some climate change adaptation measures and strategies that have proved successful in the LC region, and could be replicated or scaled up? What are approaches that have failed and why?</i> • <i>What are the main challenges to an adequate integration of climate adaptation into local governance priorities? What approaches, tools and instruments exist to integrate climate considerations into local development planning?</i> • <i>What information and data are needed to support climate adaptation in the Lake Chad region? What are possible solutions to address information gaps?</i> 	<p>Workshop 1 Moderator</p> <p>(Lessons learnt)</p> <p>(Limit the discussions @ regional/States and local/Council)</p> <p>(Data, information and services)</p>
<p>Room B</p>	<p>Workshop 2. Supporting local governance in the LC region</p>	<p>Moderator : Pr Alou Mahaman Tidjani (University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey)</p>
	<p>Presentation (10 mn): Lessons and experience in supporting local development in the Lake Chad region</p>	<p>Mr. Almoustapha Soumaila, ABC Ecology (Association for collective well-being and ecology): Niger</p>
	<p><u>Small group discussions (90mn):</u> Groups discuss the following points (45 mn), then report back (45 mn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning development priorities: <i>Lessons on aligning local, national, and regional priorities; government and development partners' agendas</i> • Supporting the capacity of local institutions: <i>what have been successful approaches to building the capacity of local government, community leaders and civil society actors to improve governance in the LC region?</i> 	<p>Workshop 2 moderator</p>

Room C	Workshop 3. Engaging citizens, women and youth and building social cohesion in the LC region	Moderator : Pr. Maikorema Zakari (University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey)
	<u>Presentation (10mn): Citizen engagement and social inclusion: lessons from the Lake Chad Inclusive Economic and Social Recovery Project (RESILAC)</u>	Hélène Ronceray, Regional Coordinator of the RESILAC Project
	<u>Presentation (10 mn): Connectivity and mobility investments and their impact on rural communities in the Lake Chad Basin</u>	Dr Awat HISSEINE MAHAMAT, University of N'Djamena
	<u>Small group discussions (90mn): Groups discuss the following points (45 mn), then report back (45 mn)</u>	Workshop 3 moderator
11.55- 12.10	Coffee Break	All Participants
12:10-13:00	SESSION 6: DATA, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	Moderated by Prof. Ibrahim Baba Goni, University of Maiduguri
12.10 – 12.20	<i>Fragility risks and resilience factors in the Lake Chad Region</i>	Catherine Defontaine World Bank (Virtual)
12.20 – 12.30	<i>Bio-physical indicators for monitoring agro-ecosystems to assess the vulnerability of communities</i>	Prof Brice Sinsin, University of Abomey Calavi-Benin
12.30 – 12.40	<i>Using big data to develop climate/conflict fragility profiles in the Sahel region</i>	Manuel Figueredo Thomson, World Bank (Virtual)
12:40 – 13:00	<i>Questions and Answers</i>	
13.00-13.30	Lunch Break	All Participants
13.30-14.30	Reporting outcome of technical workshops	Moderator: M. Abicho Mahamat Rapporteurs of Technical workshops
	Drafting of the Forum Declaration	
14.30- 17.00	CLOSING SESSION	
15.00- 15.15	Adoption of Forum declaration	All Participants
15.15- 16.25	Votes of Thanks by Host Country	Dr Mohammed Danjuma

16.25-16.55	Closing remark by the Supervising Minister of MCRP/PROLAC, Nigeria	Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouq Honorable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development
16.55-17.00	VIP Photo session	VIP
17.00-17.20	Press Conference by the Forum Organizing Committee	Members of the LOC
17.20- 17.30	Closing ceremony	All Participants