

Preface

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) has been the Focal Point for the regional GIWA Assessment of the Lake Chad Basin. Established by the Fort Lamy (now N'Djamena) Convention signed on 22 May 1964 by the Heads of States of the four countries that share the Lake Chad, LCBC now represents five member States, namely: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Sudan was admitted in 2000 but is yet to ratify the convention. LCBC has its executive secretariat based in N'Djamena, Chad, and is governed by the Summit of Heads of States that meets every two years, and the Council of Ministers (two Commissioners represent each member State) that meets at least once every year.

The report presents the results of two workshops, desk research, information development and policy analysis. The GIWA Methodology examines the environmental concerns of Freshwater shortage, Pollution, Habitat and community modification, the Unsustainable exploitation of fish and other living resources, and Global change. During the GIWA workshops, hosted by the LCBC in N'Djamena, Chad, for the Scaling and Scoping (28 to 31 January 2002) and the Causal chain and Policy option analyses (26 to 28 September 2003), the transboundary issues of these concerns were ranked, the priority concerns were traced back to their root causes, and a policy analysis was performed.

The scoring procedure for the assessment, as well as Causal chain analysis and Policy options analysis was based on:

(i) expert opinion obtained during the workshops, where experts from the Lake Chad Basin participated, with different specialist backgrounds from several institutions and geographical regions of the Lake Chad Basin; (ii) expert advice from individuals, and regional, national and international organisations; and (iii) information and data gathered from different sources. The review of the preliminary scores (detailed assessment) was based on information collected from local, regional, national and international documentation and scientific publications.

The final scores presented in this report resulted from a revision of the preliminary scores, based on further scientific justification collected during a detailed assessment.

The GIWA region 43 Task team, consisted of experts from the LCBC member states, such as from SODELAC in Chad, Chad Basin Development Authority in Nigeria, Government of Cameroon, Government of Niger, Government of the Republic of Chad, ONU-SIDA and IRAD, a research institute based in Cameroon. One of the two workshops was also attended by representatives of the GEF project and UNECA. The LCBC coordinator for the GIWA Assessment, Dr. Johnson Oguntola and an external consultant, Matthew Fortnam, compiled the Detailed Assessment component of the GIWA Assessment.

The assessment makes use of the work of others throughout the report, drawing on the expertise of regional and international organisations, and individuals with experience and interest in the region. The organisations included the LCBC, WWF International, WWF-US, the IUCN West Africa Bureau, EU-INCO Project, USGS and UNEP.

The information herein is believed to be reliable, but the assessors and their institutions do not guarantee its completeness or accuracy. Opinions and estimates are the judgements of the work team. The sole purpose of this work is to provide information to the many stakeholders of the region regarding issues, strategic planning choices and their possible consequences related to the sharing of international waters.

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