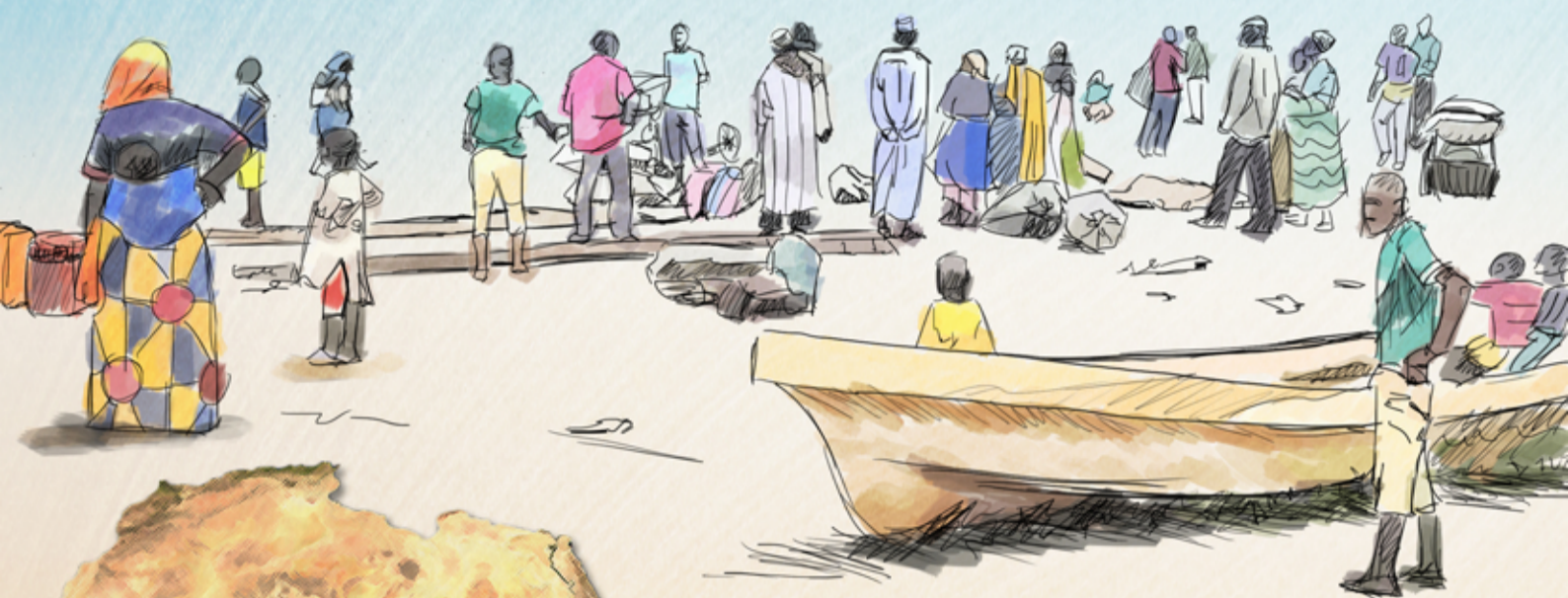


FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN



The Lake Chad Basin is of vital importance both economically and ecologically. Located at the crossroads of Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, Niger and Nigeria, **it provides water to more than 40 million people** living in the surrounding area. Its diverse ecosystems shelter a high diversity of wildlife.

THE DRAMATIC REDUCTION OF THE LAKE

Once one of the largest water bodies in Africa, **Lake Chad shrank by a massive 90% in less than 30 years (1960-1985)** while its surface area decreased from a peak of 20,000 km² to approximately 1,350 km² in 1985. The current average is 8,000 km².

(Source: IRD)

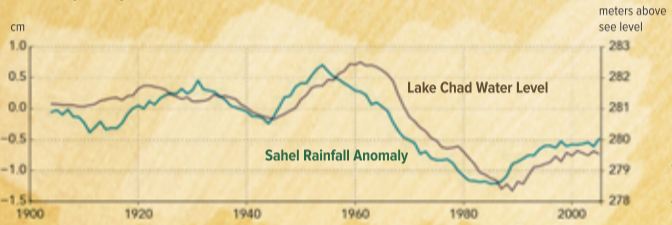


THIS SPOT OF GREEN AT THE LIMIT OF THE DESERT IS THE REMNANT OF LAKE CHAD

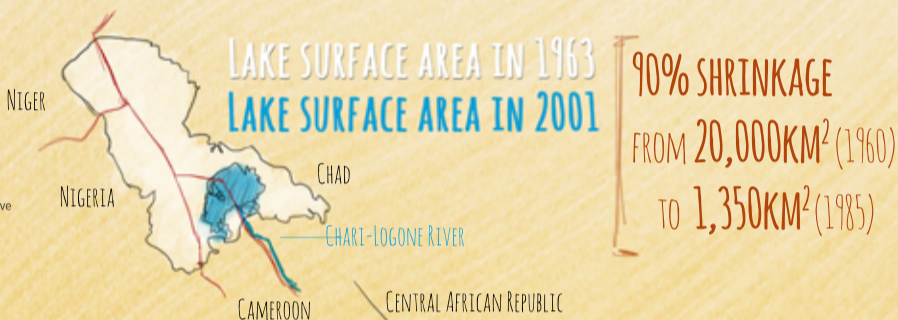
Satellite Image by NASA

HYDROLOGY

Lake Chad is a variable water body. Its measured surface area typically fluctuates seasonally, peaking in late October or early November, then shrinking by more than half by late April or early May



NASA Earth Observatory charts by Joshua Stevens, using data provided by Churchill Okonkwo



The volume of the lake reflects precipitation levels occurred within the Lake Chad Basin, which have diminished over the years. The lake is fed chiefly by the Chari (Shari)-Logone river system, which accounts for about four-fifths of the inflow.

THE VICIOUS VIRCLE OF THE LAKE WATER SHORTAGE

Desertification, due to low annual rainfall and human activities



Population displacement, due to the scarcity of resources, scarcity and conflict



Overgrazing, damaging ecosystems and leading to deforestation



Water pollution from the use of fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides



The drought of the 70s and 80s, and the creation of sub-regional routes from 2008 to 2010, leading to the expansion of trade, prompted the large scale migration of farmers southwards and other movements of migrants from the West, resulting in a high spatial concentration of people, likely to breed social tensions, particularly over the use and sharing of natural resources.

Land degradation exacerbating desertification



Decline of aquatic wildlife, with major changes in the quantity and variety of fish in the region



Deforestation for firewood, nomad agriculture and from overgrazing



Conflicts over resources



IMPROVING LIFE SUSTAINABLY IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

The **BIOPALT project** bring solutions to the challenges that are the protection of biodiversity and loss of natural ecosystems and aims at closing the gaps in production and transmission of scientific knowledge.

UNESCO aims to provide the knowledge and methods developed over the years through the management of biosphere reserves and world heritage sites, to promote peace and sustainable management of the resources in the Lake Chad Basin.

The project's activities focus on 4 aspects:

1. GATHERING INFORMATION

To update and improve knowledge on hydrologic resources, natural resources, socio-economic and cultural data of the region.



2. INFORMING, ADVOCATING & TRAINING

To reinforce management and protection of natural and cultural resources of Lake Chad.



3. SUSTAINABLE REHABILITATION

Launch of pilot project for the rehabilitation of ecosystems and the promotion of a green economy.



4. MONITORING & EVALUATION

To capitalize and learn from the projects and disseminate results and best practices.

