

BIOPALT in a few figures

\$US 6.456.000 : financed by the African Development Bank

3 million beneficiaries in 5 countries: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic and Chad

Duration : 36 months (2017-2020)

Some 50 partners, including :

Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme, International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and World Heritage National Committees

African MAB Network (AfriMAB)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)

SOS éléphants Chad

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

CRAterre

Local NGOs, universities, etc.

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Logos at the top of the image include: UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Sustainable Development Goals, African Development Bank Group (GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT), and the African Development Bank Group logo.

BIOPALT

BIOSPHERE AND HERITAGE OF LAKE CHAD

AN INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES OF SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING PEACE IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

The Lake Chad Basin is an important source of freshwater that provides livelihoods to 40 million people. It holds great potential in terms of biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage. It includes World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

Between 1960 and 1985, the area of Lake Chad was reduced by 95% due to reduced rainfall. This has led to significant imbalances and weakened ecosystems not yet compensated by the rise of water levels that has been witnessed since the 2000s. The area is also plagued by conflicts over access to natural and water resources, leading to a significant rise in population migrations, which have been exacerbated in recent years by insecurity provoked by the violent extremism of Boko Haram. The area now faces numerous challenges including conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem management and rehabilitation, participatory planning and inclusive governance.

In response to this situation, UNESCO and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) have signed a partnership agreement to implement the project 'Applying the Model of Trans-boundary biosphere reserves and World Heritage Sites to promote peace in the Lake Chad Basin through the sustainable management of its natural resources'. This project, known as BIOPALT, is a sub-component of the Programme to Rehabilitate and Strengthen the Resilience of Socio-ecological Systems in the Lake Chad Basin.

This project concerns five countries in the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria). It offers an opportunity for cooperation and sub-regional integration on which the BIOPALT project will build to **promote peace and safeguard and enhance natural and cultural resources, in order to improve the sources of income for local communities and, thereby, contribute to reducing poverty.**



AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT BASED ON MULTIDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION

BIOPALT has developed a multi-disciplinary approach that mobilizes UNESCO's expertise in the natural sciences, culture, education and communication. Its main activities and interventions can be grouped into the following four categories:



Gathering Information: Updating and improving knowledge of Lake Chad's hydrological, natural, socio-economic and cultural resources, and facilitating the exploitation, provision and appreciation of these data among the member states of the LCBC;

Informing, Advocating and Training: capacity-building for the management and protection of Lake Chad's natural and cultural resources for states, technical training and biodiversity conservation institutions and site managers, to facilitate the preparation of nomination files for submission to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and the World Heritage List;

Rehabilitate and use sustainably: implementing pilot actions to rehabilitate ecosystems and promote green economies

Monitoring and Promoting: monitoring and evaluating the project, promoting and disseminating the results.

A COORDINATION FOCUSED ON PROXIMITY AND APPRECIATION OF LOCAL EXPERTISE

The BIOPALT Coordination Unit is based in N'Djamena. It will mobilize field experts and work closely with local communities.

As part of the coordination of the project, an annual steering committee, two semi-annual scientific and technical monitoring committees and monthly information and consultation meetings will be organized.