



# AfDB and Climate Change

## Lake Chad Sustainable Development Support Program

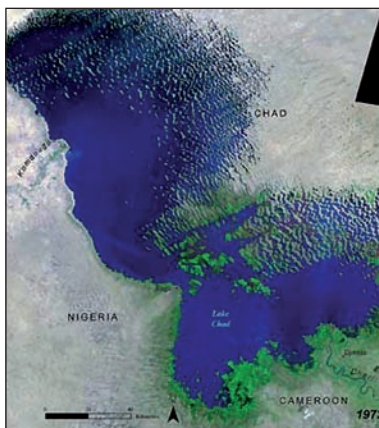
The vast Lake Chad Basin covers nearly 1 million square kilometers. Five countries -- Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, and Chad -- share the lake and use its waters, fish, and ecosystem. Lake Chad is drying up. In the 1960s, this fresh water lake covered 25,000 square kilometers; today, it covers only approximately 2500 square kilometers and is about half as deep as it once was at 3 feet rather than 6 feet. Fishing and farming have been badly affected.

The nearly 30 million people living in the Lake Chad Basin are mainly farmers, grazers and fishermen who depend on the basin's ecosystem and natural resources. Their depletion is caused in part by climate change which, for several decades, has been creating widespread degradation among the productive ecosystems and natural resources which has led to a shrinking lake.

To promote sustainable development in the Lake Chad Basin, the African Development Bank provided a grant for about half the funding of a 6-year \$95 million Lake Chad Sustainable Development Support Program that began in 2009. The project will do several things: clean out the Vrick canal to augment the volume of water flowing into the lake; undertake feasibility and implementation studies on transferring waters from the Oubangui River in the Central African Republic to the

lake and undertake studies to reduce the water losses provoked by the many small dams built on the waterways feeding the lake. The program will also try to restore the productivity of the lake's ecosystems by fixing sand dunes over 8000 hectares and attempting to combat erosion over 27000 hectares, and also trying to stop the proliferating vegetation that is choking the lake.

Judicious, integrated management of the basin's natural resources is expected to increase the incomes of the target populations, particularly women, by 67% on average, and to improve food security.



Lake Chad 1972 and 2001

