



PROJECT OUTLOOK

The project ‘Water Diplomacy and Culture of Sustainability: Lake Chad Basin’ is promoted by the Centro Piemontese di Studi Africani (CSA) in collaboration with MAECI, CeSPI, IAI, the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Hydroaid, Incontro fra i Popoli and CoopI, with the aim to address the crucial issues relevant to the lake Chad area: water management, international cooperation, development projects, climate change and the related environmental human migrations.

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, all activities related to the project (i.e. international conference, film screening, concert, etc.) organized for the 29th of May 2020, have been rescheduled for mid-November 2020. In light of the new social-distancing norms and restrictions, it has been decided by the CSA, under the advice of the scientific coordinator, Dr. Emanuele Fantini (IHE), and in agreement with the project partners, to change the format of the overall project into an online event. De facto, the CSA and its partners acknowledge the difficulties in organising one single online event, particularly in keeping the public active and involved for a long period of time. Thus, the one-day conference has now been envisioned as a series of different online events throughout the week, devoting each day to a specific aspect (see below) related to lake Chad crisis, selected by the scientific coordinator, alongside with the project partners’. Events will include: live webinars of around 1h maximum each, dedicated to discussions among experts on the field; short pre-recorded interviews (10-20 minutes maximum), which would allow an higher degree of flexibility in terms of professionals’ availability; short position papers, literature reviews and journal summaries on specific topics related to the event as well as live film screening and live photographic exhibitions.

On one side, this new format, sustained by an increased communication campaign, focuses on engaging, informing and creating awareness among the larger public over the lake Chad crisis. In order to do so, the CSA adopts a multidisciplinary approach, promoting various activities that can convey scientific facts and socio-economic and political information through a ‘contemporary

language' and cultural exchange. On the other side, the CSA aims at renewing international attention around the lake Chad by fostering a dialogue among key decision makers and stakeholders, experts on the subject, Diaspora's representatives and crucial international organizations, for example the European Union. The ultimate goal of this project is to launch a discussion among the neighbouring countries of the lake Chad basin, the competent authorities and other international players about the worsening crisis around the lake.

In this context, the scientific coordinator has identified seven pillars of research, surrounding the lake Chad crisis, which, consequently, will be at the heart of every specific event during the week. This is a first draft of the programme of experts to invite for the week of events. The CSA is starting to contact all the experts listed below for each session:

Governance of lake Chad and the role that the EU and other international organizations play.

This research stream analyses the relationship between the transnational cooperation among the four bordering countries and their national interests in managing the water source. It also highlights the role of Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in managing the Lake Chad and in promoting cooperation and security in the area. Furthermore, the research focuses on the cooperation between the EU and the LCBC as well as the impact that the EU has on the overall *governance* of the shared water resource.

The outcomes of this research will be summarised in a paper written by IAI and they will be presented through a short interview and a live event on the institutional dialogue among key stakeholders: for example, the Embassies of the four countries around the lake Chad (and others); the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC); the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other EU-UN agencies.

In particular, three events are organised within this stream of research:

International Organizations and the Lake: An Interview.

(recorded)

Dr. Chiara Danese (CSA) and Dr. Simone Rancati (CSA) interview Dr. Francesca Di Mauro (EU) and (yet to confirm Dr. Sonja Koeppel, UNECE).

Live Roundtable on the Lake Chad: The diplomatic dialogue.

Introductory remarks:

- President Romano Prodi (**recorded**)

Facilitator:

- H. E. Luigi Guidobono Cavalchini Garofoli, Presidente Hydroaid.

Speakers: (yet to confirm)

- H.E. Sig.re Mariam Ali Moussa, (Republic of Chad), Berlin.
- H.E. Dominique Awono Essama, (Republic of Cameroon), Rome.
- H.E. Yusuf Jonga Hinna, (Federal Republic of Nigeria), Rome.
- H.E Aoukar Abdoulaje Diori, (Republic of Niger), Rome.
- Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of Mission, Multinational Joint Task Force.

Concluding remarks:

- Giuseppe Mistretta, Vice Director General/Central Director for Sub-Saharan countries.

Environmental Migrations and Lake Chad.

This introductory study has been carried out by a CSA collaborator, and it seeks to outline the links between climate change, related economic issues and migrations towards other African countries and towards the EU. The study, with an introduction by CeSPI, will be used as an overview of the issues discussed in the following panel:

Live Webinar in Italian: “Environmental Migrations and Lake Chad”

Speakers:

- Nouhoum Traoré, CSA/Hydoraid.
- Dr. Anna Ferro, CeSPI.
- Dr. Marco Zupi, CeSPI.
- Dr. Valeria de Paoli, ACRA.
- Grammenos Mastrojeni, Deputy Secretary General for Energy and Climate Action at Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

Water, Physical and Social Geography.

The research's aim is to study the connection between the physical characteristics of the area and the impact that water levels or soil composition changes, among others, may have on the communities living in the area. Moreover, this research also focuses on the links between draughts and other catastrophic events, caused by erratic rain patterns and rise in temperatures, the intensification of economic and political instability (linked to the loss of sources of livelihood) and the growth of terrorist groups in the area. In this context, particular attention will be paid to the effects that terroristic activities around the lake may have on the overall population. The outcomes of this research will be

presented in position papers and live webinars. The sessions of the conference dedicated to this theme are:

1) Live webinar in Italian: “Lake Chad: a perspective from different disciplines”

Facilitator:

- Dr. Colette Meffire Njiasse, Journalist. (CSA).

Speakers:

- Dr. Carlo Semita, University of Turin, Department of Earth Sciences.
- Dr. Alessio Iocchi, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs - Research Group on Peace, Conflict and Development.
- Prof. Andrea Pase, University of Padua, conflict around access to water and irrigation in the Lake Chad Basin

2) Live webinar in English: “Voices and knowledges discuss nature and conflict in the Lake Chad and beyond”

Facilitator:

- Dr. Emanuele Fantini, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Speakers:

- Dr. Mariarosa Jannelli, journalist and co-author of *Atlante Geopolitico dell'acqua* (Hoepli).
- Gen. Brig. (Rtd) Saleh Bala, President of White Ink Institute for Strategy Education and Research.
- Dr. Bernardo Venturi, Senior Fellow at IAI.
- Dr. Jean-Léonard Touadi, Presidente del centro relazioni con l’Africa della Società Geografica Italiana.

The Lake Chad crisis and gender issues.

This research takes as an example the current situation of the Lake Chad to analyse the limitations of women participation in water governance and the absence of gender mainstreaming in this area of policy making. Starting from a conception that sees women as drivers of change rather than as victims, this study inquiries whether and how the political, social and environmental crisis in the Lake Chad basin may be an opportunity for women to have a role in the decision making process regarding the use of water and, in general, be an excuse for a comprehensive social change towards gender equity in the area. Finally, the article focuses on the involvement of a transboundary water management organisation that governs the lake Chad waters, The Lake Chad Basin Commission

(LCBC), in development projects on water, by observing whether women with their values, knowledge and experiences are included in the organisation and whether they play an incisive role in the planning and in the implementation of their projects. The research has produced a position paper that will be discussed in the following session during this session of the series of events:

Women's Voices in Water Governance and Management: The Lake Chad Case (recorded)

Speakers:

Dr. Leonardo Bertero, MA in History and Politics at the University of Dundee and currently MSc in International Development and Humanitarian Crisis at LSE. (CSA external collaborator and co-coordinator of the current project)

Dr. Teresa Quartero, BA in Cross-Cultural Communication at the University of Turin and currently Msc in Human Rights and Multi-level Governance at the University of Padua. (CSA)

(Yet to confirm) **Gender, Water and the Future: A Talk with the Afdb about Lake Chad (recorded)**

Dr. Teresa Quartero (CSA) and Dr. Leonardo Bertero (CSA) interview Dr. Vanessa Mounzar (Director Gender, Women and Civil Society AfDB)

WTMP and International Development Project – *Transacqua*.

This stream of research focuses on big international development projects with a specific focus on *Transacqua*. *Transacqua* has been at the heart of various discussions since its design in the 1980s, due to the environmental, societal and geo-political concerns arising from carrying out such a grand project. In the past years, new attention has been given to this project as the Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection of Italy in partnership with the Chinese corporation *PowerChina* have financed a feasibility study of the project. Therefore, this interview aims at presenting the *Transacqua* project, its impact on the lake's shrinking and consequently positive and/or negative effects it may have on the local population. Moreover, it contextualises *Transacqua* within the larger framework of international development projects in (and for) Africa, highlighting the beneficial aspects as well as the challenges, particularly in terms of international cooperation and the effects on the ecosystems in the area, that large-scale projects may face. This study will be presented in a position paper as well as through pre-recorded interviews. In particular, there is one session dedicated to this theme:

Lake Chad and Infrastructures: between new possibilities and new issues (recorded)

Dr. Leonardo Bertero interview Dr. Andrea Mangano, ex Bonificia's vice-director and Transaqua co-creator and Engr. Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, former Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission

Dr. Leonardo Bertero interview (yet to confirm) Dr. Michele Thieme, Lead Conservation Scientist at WWF and co-author of "Global Water Transfer Megaprojects: A Solution for the Water-Food-Energy Nexus?" and of the book "Freshwater Ecoregions of Africa and Madagascar: A Conservation Assessment"

Dr. Leonardo Bertero interview (yet to confirm) Dr. Alex Mung, Head of Water and Environmental Resilience at World Economic Forum.

Media and representation of the Lake Chad.

This stream of research has analysed the representation of the environmental, social and political crisis around the Lake Chad area by international and local newspapers. In particular, it will explore which aspects of the crisis are most taken into consideration and in relation to which events. The research has been conducted in collaboration with young people of the *Diaspora*. The research has produced a discussion paper that will be discussed at the following session of the Conference:

Media and the Lake Chad: articles reviews

(recorded)

Dr. Colette Meffire and Alexandra Musset (CSA)

Representation of the Lake Chad in Visual Arts.

During the conference, there will be several sessions dedicated to the representations of the Lake Chad in visual arts (including music, photography, filmmaking). In particular, the sessions are the following:

Luca Morino presents the soundtrack of the events "Voices from the Lake".

Incontro tra i popoli presents the photographic exhibition "Contadini resilienti"

Discussing "Contadini resilienti" and Lake Chad with Incontro tra i popoli

(recorded)

Dr. Lisa Canal Brunet (CSA) interview Dr. Michele Guidolin (General Director) and President Dr. Leopoldo Rebellato

Screening of the documentary “Il tropico del caos” (Loy, 2019), with English subtitles. (also online)

Linked to this event there will be two different interviews:

(recorded)

1) Dr. Lisa Canal Brunet (CSA) interview Massimo Salvadori, Area Manager - West Africa (Coopi)

2) Dr. Franca Viganò (CSA) and Lisa Canal Brunet (CSA) interview Angelo Loy

Screening of the movie “Un homme qui crie” (Haroun, 2010), with English subtitles. (also online)