



**PROJECT TITLE: IMPROVING LAKE CHAD MANAGEMENT
THROUGH BUILDING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND
REDUCING ECOSYSTEM STRESS THROUGH THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAP**

2021 Annual Report

December 2021

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I. BACKGROUND

The Lake Chad Basin is home to a growing population that urgently needs to combat the effects of climate change on the Basin's water resources and ecosystem. It provides millions of people in Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Niger, and Nigeria with various environmental services such as supply (food and water), support (land and nutrient cycling), regulation (groundwater replenishment, carbon sequestration, air purification) and other ecosystem services (recreation, spirituality, education, ecotourism, etc.).

Thus, environmental resources are essential for the survival of the riparian population of Lake Chad, for its subsistence and development of economic activities.

However, various assessments conducted in the Basin have led to the following observations: (i) there is a progressive degradation of the Lake waters and related ecosystems in the LCB (ii) these degradations are due to the effects of human practices and climate change.

The accelerated degradation of water resources and ecosystems is worsened by the current security situation and the subsequent livestock migration and populations searching for a better life.

In 2008, to address this advanced degradation of ecosystems, LCBC developed a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) based on a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) as part of a project co-funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The UNDP-GEF Project intends to update this SAP based on the 2018 updated TDA with the support of GIZ to address these emerging challenges. The Project's general objective is to support LCBC and its Member States *to achieve a climate-resilient*, integrated and ecosystem-based management of the Lake Chad Basin. It would be achieved by implementing agreed policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments that improve water quality and quantity, protect biodiversity, and sustain livelihoods. The achievement of this objective will also end concerns about the ability of LCBC and its Member States to design and implement sustainable management policies, and unsustainable land and water use practices under the SAP and the Water Charter adopted at the regional level.

The Project will focus on achieving the following six outcomes:

1. **A strengthened LCBC, capable** of (i) Developing and implementing policies, investments, and better-integrated ecosystem management of the Lake through enhanced basin-wide monitoring; and (ii) Developing and managing regional projects following the Basin's priorities as expressed in the Lake Chad SAP and other strategic documents relating to the Basin;
2. **Strengthened and harmonised approaches** to the sustainable implementation of legal and policy instruments in the Lake Chad Basin countries that promote increased water availability through effective management of shared exploitation of surface and groundwater;
3. **Technical capacity and awareness** of national ministries, institutions, and other actors (academics, civil society, etc.) are strengthened to promote sustainable natural resource management practices in the Lake Chad Basin at the national and regional levels;

4. LCBC and the Member States **manage and use data and information** from the information management system for the effective and sustainable management of land, water, and biodiversity resources;
5. LCBC, national governments, and local communities gain practical experience and scale up the validation and **sustainable management of ecosystems and alternative livelihoods**.
6. The assessment of the **stress reduction and livelihood improvement activities** identified in the SAP led to a significant investment programme to support the SAP implementation better.

The Project was officially launched on 11 November 2019 with an official inception workshop. Staff recruitment for the Project Management Unit (PMU) was conducted from September to December 2019. The official launch of project activities took place in 2019. There was a slight delay compared to initial expectations. As a result, the operational implementation only started effectively in 2020.

The report provides (i) an assessment of activities implemented in 2021 and the implementation status by component; (ii) challenges encountered and alternative strategies adopted; and (iii) partnerships developed. It comprises two main parts: Part one presents activities achieved and some outcomes obtained during the aforementioned period. Part two presents the prospects envisaged by the component for 2022.

II. OUTCOMES

A. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS MADE IN ACHIEVING OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS AND INDICATORS

Expected Outcomes	Planned Activities	Activities Implemented	Achievement Rate of Outcomes	Baseline	Targets Attained in 2021
Component 1: Effective management of the transboundary watershed of the Lake through a strengthened LCBC;	OUTPUT 1.1: Updated 2008 SAP based on the revised¹ TDA				
	Complete the updating of the SAP-based on the revised TDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions were conducted with national stakeholders and LCBC partners; - An internal review and pre-validation workshop of the first draft was organised - National review workshops of the draft document were held in the 5 Member States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review workshops of the draft were conducted in the five (5) LCBC Member States - A third draft of the strategy document is available - Areas of intervention and components were discussed at a regional workshop - The SAP was technically received 	2008 SAP and 2018 TDA	85%
	Output 1.2: LCBC Biodiversity Protocol is developed and adopted by all Parties				
	Completion of the Regional Strategic Action Programme on Biodiversity (RSAPB) that will define the strategic actions and a capacity development plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation missions were conducted with national structures and LCBC partners involved in biodiversity preservation - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review workshops of the document were conducted in the five (5) LCBC Member States - The third draft of the 	A Regional Protected Area Management Strategy	75%

¹ The TDA was updated in 2017-2018 by LCBC and member States, with the support of GIZ.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National review workshops of the draft document in the 5 Member States An internal review and pre-validation workshop of the first draft was organised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> biodiversity diagnostic analysis in LCB States is available. - A third draft of the RSAPB with comments from LCBC Member States is available; - A third draft of the capacity development and biodiversity financing plans are available and pending validation 		
Output 1.3 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) response plans are developed					
	Completion of a gender-sensitive framework document on DRR/ACC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review workshops in the 5 Member States - An internal review and pre-validation workshop of the first draft was organised. - A regional validation workshop was organised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review workshops were held in the 5 Member States - A regional validation of the DRR/ACC strategic framework document, including the diagnostic analysis and the capacity development plan, was organised 	0	100%

	Output 1.4: LCBC coordination and monitoring capacities are strengthened with effective performance reporting to the Council of Ministers				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Completion of the institutional, organisational, and material diagnostic analysis of LCBC; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of a capacity development plan for LCBC and the Member States for the implementation of its mandate - Conduct capacity building activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection missions were conducted with LCBC and all its partners - An internal workshop was organised with 30 LCBC executives to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of LCBC in line with its mandate - An internal review and pre-validation workshop of the first draft were organised, and recommendations were made. - A validation workshop of the final document was organised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The institutional, organisational, and material diagnostic analysis of LCBC is available and validated - The LCBC capacity development plan is available and validated; 	0	100%
Component 2: Establishment of effective and sustainable national governance structures to support the SAP and	Output 2.1: National legal and policy frameworks are harmonised for effective joint management of surface and groundwater based on the relevant provisions of the Water Charter				
	<p>They completed the analysis of national policy and legal frameworks to develop a guidance note for their harmonisation. The note will help develop national plans for implementing the Lake</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection missions were conducted with LCBC, Member States, and all LCBC partners; - National discussion workshops of outcomes of the analysis of the national 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports (5) of the national discussions of preliminary outcomes were prepared - The analysis report of the national instruments is available and validated 	0	70%

Water Charter	Chad Basin Water Charter.	instruments were held in 5 Member States - A regional validation workshop was held	- The guidance note aimed at developing national plans for implementing the Water Charter. It includes a roadmap. A regional validation was organised, and the document is available.		
Component 3: Capacity building of national ministries, institutions, and other actors (academics, civil society) to support policy harmonisation and improved monitoring and management of the Lake Chad Basin	Output 3.1: Training national authorities on technical and environmental management				
	Capacity building of national executives on Integrated Management of Water Resources (IWRM)	- Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on IWRM in a Context of Climate Change for the 5 LCBC Member States and LCBC Experts - National training workshops for national and elected officials on IWRM in the context of climate change - Regional training workshop on post-covid recovery needs assessment (CRNA) methodologies.	- 30 trainers (including 10 women) from the LCBC Member States were trained on IWRM. - 120 national executives, including 40 women from four LCBC Member States (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Chad), were trained on IWRM. - 27 National experts, including 9 women from 4 Member States, were trained (online) on post-covid recovery needs assessment (CRNA) methodologies	0	90%

ecosystem			to undertake a mission to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID in the LCB		
	Output 3.2: The capacities of national research and higher education institutions in the basin countries are improved to conduct studies on emerging issues in the Lake Chad Basin and to make policy and management recommendations				
	Support scientific research on emerging issues in the LCB and formulate recommendations on policies and management	Support a Research Centre to finance a pilot project to manage domestic waste in the city of N'Djamena.	- Effective launch of the Project, identification of target areas and population	0	20%
	Output 3.3 Develop participation capacities and provide environmental awareness training of basin users				
	Selection of a liable party responsible for the implementation of this output	- ToR was developed for the recruitment of an NGO/CSO in each Member State - Calls for proposals were published in the 5 Member States	The selection process is underway	0	10%
Component 4: Monitoring, modelling, and database/information for integrated management of water	Output 4.1: A transnational monitoring system for the Lake Chad Basin is designed and approved by all Member States				
	Conduct an inventory, data analysis, and strengthening of the transboundary monitoring Support the functioning of the Regional Working Group	- Discussions with GIZ and BGR to set up a regional working group - Procurement of 10 hydrometeorological stations to facilitate data collection. Brainstorming workshop on	- 40 people from the Logone sub-basin (Chad & Cameroon) were trained on cooperation and benefit-sharing tools related to the	0	20%

resources, land, and biodiversity in the Basin	The organisation of technical committees and steering committees	preventing conflicts related to access to water resources in the Logone sub-basin.	management of the shared river		
	Output 4.2: Contribution to information sharing and knowledge management				
	Support the participation of LCBC experts in the regional/international forum on water	Support the participation of LCBC in the 26 th CoP on Climate Change	Two from LCBC staff members participated in the 26 th CoP on Climate Change with the support of the Project	N/A	50%
Component 5: The implementation of targeted community-based pilot projects to demonstrate the local, national, and regional benefits of stress reduction in support of SAP implementation	Output 5.1: Regional/National pilot projects to control invasive plant species				
	Complete the mapping of invasive plants and technology assessment for eradication/control and use by communities Implementation of at least 10 community-based projects for invasive species control	- Regional validation workshop to map invasive plants - Intervention sites and beneficiary communities were identified - Microprojects on invasive plants were selected in the 5 Member States	- The report on invasive plants on the LCB is available; - 9 micro-projects were selected in the 5 countries - 5 local NGOs/CSOs selected in the 5 Member States for the implementation of microprojects	0	20%
	Output 5.2: Promote ecosystem-based income-generating activities through sustainable financing schemes established at the national/local levels				
	Identification of at least 10 communities and appropriate funding	- Selection criteria were discussed and validated - Selection and monitoring committees were set up at	- 15 micro-projects were selected (Waza & Am-Timan) for a total budget of	0	10%

	<p>mechanisms Identification and establishment of a partnership between local microfinance organisations</p>	<p>the community level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The capacities of communities were strengthened during workshops to prepare them to formulate their proposals- Calls for proposals were published for Cameroon (Waza) and Chad (Zakouma)-A call for proposals for the identification of MFIs has been published	<p>approximately XAF 107,151,714</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-2 Microfinance Institutions were identified in the same areas, and agreements were signed with MFIs		
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B. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT, OUTCOMES OBTAINED & OUTLOOK BY COMPONENTS

This section briefly reviews the objectives sought by each of the Project components, highlighting significant activities carried out in 2021, the outcomes obtained, and the outlook by 2022.

Generally, components whose implementation started in 2020 are discussed herewith, particularly Components 1, 5 and 7.

1. Component 1:

Summary of Component 1

The following **outcomes** are expected at the end of this component:

A strengthened LCBC, capable of (i) Developing and implementing policies, investments, and better-integrated ecosystem management of the Lake through enhanced basin-wide monitoring; and (ii) Developing and managing regional projects per the Basin's priorities as expressed in the Lake Chad SAP and other strategic documents relating to the Lake Chad Basin.

They will be carried out through five (5) key outputs: **Output 1.1:** Updated 2008 SAP based on the revised² TDA; **Output 1.2** LCBC Biodiversity Protocol is developed and adopted by all Parties; **Output 1.3** Disaster risk reduction response plans developed to ensure the safety of people, the environment and water resources; **Output 1.4:** LCBC coordination and monitoring capacities are strengthened with effective performance reporting to the Council of Ministers; **Output 1.5:** Capacity building of LCBC to develop and manage programmes and projects

The Strategic Action Programme (SAP), Biodiversity Protocol, and Disaster Risk Reduction Response Plans are vital documents for the overall planning and management of the Lake Chad Basin.

For this reason, in 2020, consultants/consulting firms were recruited. In addition, an internal focal point was designated at LCBC for each of the documents to ensure ownership of the various documents, and follow-up/supervise the consultants.

The progress made towards the significant outcomes and prospects envisaged under Component 1 are as follows:

a) **Output 1.1:** Update of the SAP-based on the revised TDA

The Project recruited an international consulting firm to steer the process of revising the 2008 SAP considering emerging issues of transnational interest, such as climate change and gender. IT was conducted based on the updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) (with the support of GIZ). In addition to updating the SAP, the Consulting Firm will produce:

² The TDA was updated in 2017-2018 by LCBC and member States, with the support of GIZ.

- a multiannual action plan,
- a sustainable M&E framework to help LCBC monitor and report on the implementation status of the SAP, and
- a pre-feasibility study to use for the development of its investment plan.

Consultations were conducted in 2020 with stakeholders in the States and relevant LCBC partners. They:

1. Reviewed and updated the environmental and socio-economic objectives of LCBC;
2. Recommended ideas, opportunities, and innovative solutions to achieve the objectives with appropriate strategies which are gender-sensitive and climatic change suitable for their implementation;
3. According to the causal chain analysis carried out during the TDA update, updated transboundary priorities and activities in terms of investment, capacity building, and awareness-raising.

The consultant produced a preliminary revised SAP document considering information from the updated TDA. It included the effects of climate variability and change, gender, and interactions between groundwater and surface water (and related ecosystems). The latter was the subject of a series of reviews through orientation and review workshops (N'Djamena & Mara). In addition, it brought together Experts from LCBC, PMU, UNDP, and resource persons.

Stakeholder comments and recommendations during the workshops substantially improved the first draft of the document proposed by the consultant. Accordingly, the pre-validation process was initiated by national review and validation workshops in each Member State, given its strategic, participatory, and inclusive nature. The objectives sought in these workshops were to discuss and amend the LCBC Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

These workshops were held in the 5 Member States. They also provided input and recommendations to improve the quality of the document. The compilation of these elements enabled the production of an improved draft document that proposed actions and components. They were discussed and validated during a regional meeting. Recommendations were made, and a roadmap outlining the adoption process of the SAP was proposed.

In 2021, the final version of the SAP was technically approved, subject to additional work.

b) **Output 1.2:** Development of an LCBC Biodiversity Protocol

All LCBC Member States are signatories to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Project recruited an international consultant to develop a Strategic Action Programme on Biodiversity (SAPB) for LCBC. It aimed to preserve biodiversity in the Lake Chad Basin not only from human pressures and the effects of climate change but also to support national actions for implementing the CBD.

The support comprised analysing biodiversity at the regional and country-level (including analysis of challenges and governance related to biodiversity management). It developed a strategic framework with a shared vision, a statement of principles, priorities for action, concise short, medium, and long-term objectives, and a set of targets to guide local implementation.

The consultant provided preliminary documents of the diagnostic analysis. The documents include the strategic framework and funding plan for biodiversity in the LCB, reviewed by LCBC experts. They made comments and recommendations.

The validation process was initiated by a review and pre-validation workshop in each Member State. It is the result of its strategic, participatory, and inclusive nature. The objectives of these workshops were to discuss and amend the draft RSAPB.

In 2021, these workshops took place in the 5 Member States that provided input and recommendations to improve the document's quality. An internal review by LCBC experts followed it. They also made comments. The compilation of these elements led to the production of an improved draft. As a result, it can be submitted for regional validation.

c) **Output 1.3:** Transboundary Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change

Riparian countries of Lake Chad are exposed to several natural hazards. They are particularly vulnerable to food, pastoral, and nutritional crises, floods, bush fires, and locust invasions.

All LCBC Member States adopted the Sendai Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Each of these states also has a national DRM and ACC strategy. However, these national strategies take little account of the transboundary aspects of the adverse effects of climate change and disasters in the LCB. The current disaster management system is based on national agencies. It has a broad scope of intervention and little interest in correcting the weaknesses noted in the Lake Chad Basin.

An integrated transboundary approach to DRM and ACC, sustainable use of water and natural resources, and the development of local communities are of crucial importance in the Lake Chad Basin in a context of high community vulnerability.

As part of its support to LCBC, an international consultant was recruited to develop a Transboundary Strategic Framework for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

The assignment consisted of conducting an in-depth analysis of the disaster risk profiles and existing disaster management mechanisms in Lake Chad Basin states to develop a framework for a Transboundary Strategy.

The outcomes of these analyses were:

- An amended document by executives of LCBC and UNDP during an internal information and sharing workshop at LCBC;

- The Strategy was discussed and enriched by representatives of national DRM structures from the five (5) LCBC Member States during a regional workshop held in Niamey (Niger) in November 2020;
- The production of a second draft by the consultant. It was also subject to a review workshop;
- The consultant who prepared the third draft considered comments and recommendations to be submitted for validation by the Member States.

Given its strategic participatory and inclusive nature, the validation process was initiated during review and pre-validation workshops in each Member State. The objective of these national workshops was to discuss, amend and improve the preliminary DRR/ACC Strategy Framework document.

The workshops took place in the 5 Member States. They provided input and made recommendations to improve the quality of the document. The compilation of these elements enabled the production of an improved draft.

The draft was validated during a regional workshop that brought together experts from LCBC and the 5 LCBC Member States.

d) Output 1.4:

The need for capacity building: (i) supervise the regional management of the Lake Chad Basin, (ii) coordinate and monitor the support of the various partners, and (iii) choose priority target areas for LCBC interventions were identified by various institutional analyses carried out. In addition, the need for LCBC to improve its capacities to develop and manage projects and programmes to apply policies recommended by the Council of Ministers for the implementation of the Water Charter was cited.

Project support consisted of recruiting an International Consultant to support capacity-building activities undertaken by all LCBC partners. The support included carrying out a diagnostic analysis of the institutional and organisational frameworks of the Commission and developing a capacity-development plan.

In operational terms, the aim is to improve the management of projects and programmes implemented by LCBC by strengthening financial management (such as facilitating the development of a financial management manual), project management/implementation, procurement, recruitment, M&E, etc. As such, the following activities were implemented.

1- LCBC Capacity Development Plan

The Commission has to address the many challenges it faces, including improving human resources' technical and material capacities and its organisational framework to carry out its missions successfully. Therefore, with the support of the Project, a consultant was recruited to i) conduct a structural, organisational, and operational diagnostic analysis of the Commission and ii) develop a capacity development plan for LCBC based on the analysis.

After the scoping meeting, the methodology and inception report were validated. Data collection and exchanges with the various departments of LCBC made it

possible to streamline the assignment. The organisation of a workshop to carry out the institutional and organisational diagnostic analysis of LCBC organised in 2020 in Mara, which brought together Directors, Heads of Divisions of LCBC, and some experts further streamlined the assignment.

The workshop allowed the production of the first drafts of the institutional and organisational diagnostic analysis and the capacity development plan.

A review and discussion workshop improved the first draft through comments and recommendations during the first semester. As a result, a second draft was produced and submitted for validation by LCBC in the second semester.

However, during this workshop, the Executive Secretariat again formulated recommendations that the consultant considered.

The final and validated version is available.



National Workshops to review the SAP, RSAPB, and DRR (Cameroon, CAR)



National Workshops to review the SAP, RSAPB, and DRR (Nigeria, Chad)



Regional Validation Workshop of the Transboundary DRR/ACC Strategy Framework

Prospects

Output 1.1:

- ✓ *Support the regional validation of the SAP;*
- ✓ *Support the approval of the revised SAP by the Council of Ministers;*
- ✓ *Support the ownership and dissemination of the SAP by member states.*

Output 1.2:

- ✓ *Complete the validation process of the RSAPB by the Member States and partners;*
- ✓ *Ensure that the RSAPB is translated into Strategic Territorial Action Plans for Biodiversity (STAPB) at the local or provincial levels and aligned with the NSAPB of each country;*
- ✓ *Draw up the LCBC Biodiversity Protocol based on the validated RSAPB and submit it to the Council of Ministers for approval.*

Output 1.3:

- ✓ *Support the ownership and dissemination of the Transboundary DRR/ACC Strategic Framework by the LCBC Member States and partners;*
- ✓ *Support the development of risk area mapping in the LCB;*
- ✓ *Support the implementation of DRR plans based on measures identified and planned with broad participation of stakeholders from riparian countries.*

Output 1.4:

- ✓ *Strengthen the coordination and monitoring capacities of LCBC in administrative and reporting techniques based on the training identified in the capacity development plan;*

- ✓ *Support the LCBC Donor Advisory Committee (attached to the Executive Secretariat). It includes updating the "donor mapping" (see Annex 3) based on priorities of the SAP, the Lake Chad Climate Resilience Strategy, and the Five-Year Investment Plan of LCBC.*

Output 1.5:

- ✓ *Ensure the sharing and dissemination of the LCBC Capacity Development Plan both internally and at the partner level;*
- ✓ *Strengthen the capacities of LCBC and national partners in administrative and Project management in support of the SAP and in conjunction with other TFPs (RSS, GIZ, AfDB, World Bank, etc.).*

2. Component 2:

Summary of Component 2

This component expects the following outcomes: *Strengthened and harmonised approaches to sustainable legal and policy instruments in the Lake Chad Basin countries. The approaches should promote increased water availability through effective management of joint exploitation of surface and groundwater*

They will be carried out through two (2) key outputs: ***Output 2.1: Harmonised national legal and policy frameworks for effective joint management of surface and groundwater based on the relevant provisions of the Water Charter;*** and ***Output 2.2: Operationalise national inter-ministerial committees to improve coordination and support the process of national policy integration***

Component 2 aims to create an enabling environment for implementing the SAP, improve national/regional governance, harmonise policies and practices, strengthen the capacity of institutions and other actors, and strengthen widespread involvement to address the problems identified in the Lake Chad Basin.

a) **Output 2.1:** Harmonisation of national legal and policy instruments

The Project planned to assist member states in harmonising their legal, policy and financial instruments to facilitate the implementation of the Water Charter. Accordingly, it was based on the premise that national institutional and policy capacity building is essential for effectively implementing the Water Charter in the region. Therefore, the Project will also identify policy gaps and recommend adopting national policies required to strengthen the countries' institutional, legal, and financial capacities.

After the scoping meeting, the methodology and the inception report were validated. The PMU and LCBC were in attendance. The international consultant mobilised national consultants in the Member States. Data collection was carried

out with the support of LCBC national focal points. The mandate of these national consultants was extended to supporting national institutions in harmonising their policies.

The draft Guidance Note was shared and discussed by the 5 Member States during national discussion workshops. In addition, the amendment made was captured by the consultant.



National discussion workshops: Chad and Cameroon



National discussion workshops: Chad and Cameroon

The international consultant compiled all the comments and prepared a second draft of the Guidance Note. It was reviewed by LCBC and submitted for validation at a regional workshop. Comments and recommendations were made.

The final version of the Guidance Note, considering all these elements, is available and validated.



REGIONAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE GUIDANCE NOTE

Prospects

Output 2.1:

- ✓ *Strengthen national structures for the development and implementation of national plans for the implementation of the Water Charter;*
- ✓ *Support LCBC member states to adopt sound approaches to natural resource management;*
- ✓ *Initiate discussions with the LCBC national focal points in collaboration with UNDP country offices to build member state administrations on implementing the Water Charter and SAP at the national level.*

Output 2.2:

- ✓ *Support member states to operationalise national inter-ministerial committees to improve coordination*

3. Component 3:

Summary of Component 3

The following **outcomes** are expected of this Component: *Technical capacity and awareness of national ministries, institutions, and other actors (academics, civil society, etc.) are strengthened to contribute to sustainable natural resource management practices in the Lake Chad Basin at the national and regional levels*

It will be carried out through three (3) key outputs: **Output 3.1:** *Training national*

*authorities on technical and environmental management; **Output 3.2:** The capacities of national research and higher education institutions in the basin countries are improved to conduct studies on emerging issues in the Lake Chad Basin and to make policy and management recommendations, and **Output 3.3:** Develop participation capacities and provide environmental awareness training of basin users*

a) **Outputs 3.1 and 3.3:** Capacity building

❖ **Recruitment of "liable parties."**

In the light of the problems identified in the revised TDA, the priority objective of Component 3 includes training national experts to enable close cooperation with LCBC experts and help harmonise monitoring and management approaches in the Lake Chad Basin.

As such, after validation by the Technical Committee, a call for proposals to all non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, or organisations specialised in capacity building, community awareness, and environmental education was republished;

Unfortunately, the call for proposals was again unsuccessful. After consultation between the PMU and LCBC, it was agreed to adopt a national approach. Indeed, it was agreed that each Member State should recruit an NGO/CSO present in the riparian areas of Lake Chad.

They shall be responsible for implementing capacity building activities for national structures and other actors to improve the monitoring and management of the Lake Basin ecosystem as part of the Project.

Calls for proposals were published in Member State, and to date, the recruitment process is ongoing.

❖ **Capacity building on Post-covid recovery needs assessment methodologies**

In March 2020, COVID-19 was declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a global pandemic. The pandemic has taken a heavy human, social and economic toll worldwide. It has had unprecedented effects on nations, communities, and individuals' economies, lives, and livelihoods.

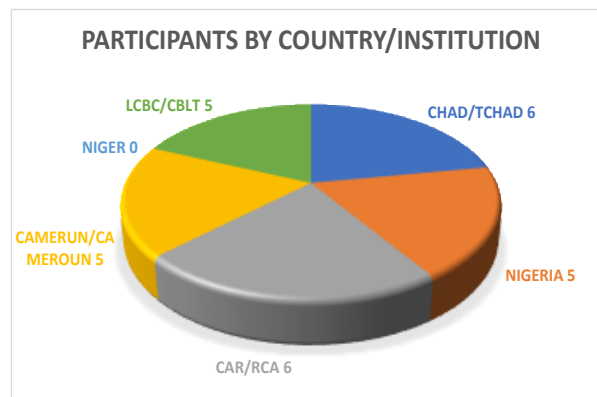
In the Lake Chad Basin, the impact of the pandemic and the measures taken by governments to mitigate or contain the spread of the virus were not limited to public health but extended far and wide to all economic and social sectors. The impact was felt at national, community, and family levels on livelihoods (highly dependent on natural resources) with medium- to long-term effects on economic growth and human development. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic directly impacts the degradation of ecosystems in the Lake Chad Basin.

Many countries in Africa face the challenge of balancing COVID-19 needs with other crises, given the multiple risks to which people are exposed. For example, desert locust infestation, floods, food crises, epidemics, and conflicts pose severe threats to food security and sustainable development.

In this context, the Project planned to strengthen the capacities of national experts in assessing the impact of Covid 19 and restrictions taken by States. It is done in the fight against the spread of the virus on LCB ecosystems and local cross-border economies in general and regional development.

A flexible and simplified methodology note was developed in 2020. It was developed for the Covid 19 context and assessed and planned a rapid response to the pandemic. The guideline of post-crisis needs assessment inspired it, post-crisis needs assessment, peacebuilding planning methodologies (PDNA and Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments, RPBA). It includes the need for continued readiness and measures to reduce the risk of transmission with the resumption of production and service delivery. This approach complemented and capitalised on assessments already undertaken or underway in countries.

This online training strengthened the capacities of 27 experts from LCB Member States (4 out of 5), LCBC, technical and financial partners and civil society organisations on the PDNA approach. In addition, it established a group of professionals capable of conducting needs assessments on the ground and guiding other stakeholders in using this methodology.



❖ **Capacity building on IWRM**

The ToR of the training of trainers on the transboundary IWRM in the context of climate change was validated. The activity was implemented.

The overall objective of the training was to provide capacity building to Member States and LCBC Experts for better management of water resources and ecosystems. The focus was on improving the shared management of surface and groundwater resources.

At the end of this workshop, the capacities of 30 National and LCBC experts (**1/3 of whom are women**) were strengthened. These experts can train national executives on innovative IWRM techniques in transboundary basins in the context of climate change.



Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on IWRM

Finally, one of the strong recommendations of this training was implementing the same training for experts from national structures. In this context, the Project facilitated a series of national training. The training was organised in 4 out of 5 Member States to date. They include Chad, CAR, Nigeria, and Cameroon. In addition, this training strengthened the capacities of 120 national executives from the four Member States mentioned above on IWRM.



National Training Workshop on IWRM in Nigeria (Bauchi) and CAR (Boali)



National Training Workshop on IWRM in Chad (Mara) and Cameroon (Garoua)

Prospects

Outputs 3.1 and 3.3:

- ✓ *Contract the structures selected as "liable party" in each of the Member States;*
- ✓ *Ensure the harmonisation and monitoring of NGO/CSO interventions in communities;*
- ✓ *Conduct post-training of trainers on IWRM*
- ✓ *Facilitate the national IWRM training in Niger;*
- ✓ *Support the identification of needs and provide training for stakeholders at LCBC and member states to strengthen environmental protection and improve livelihoods in the Lake Chad Basin;*
- ✓ *Inform critical stakeholders (riparian communities, private sector exploiting the resources of the Basin, CSOs, academics, etc.) of the decisions relating to the policy instruments of LCBC and the Water Charter. In addition, it will harmonise its policy, legislation, and resource exploitation practices with the Lake Chad Basin Water Charter.*

Output 3.2:

- ✓ *Support national research and higher education institutions with the support of the Development Acceleration Laboratory.*

4. Component 4:

Summary of Component 4:

The following **outcomes** are expected of this Component: *LCBC and member states manage and use data and information from the information management system for the effective and sustainable management of land, water, and biodiversity*

They will be carried out through two (2) key outputs: **Output 4.1:** *Transnational monitoring system for the Lake is designed and approved by the Member States;* and **Output 4.2:** *Contribution to the information sharing and knowledge management activities of the IW network: GEF LEARN.*

In 2021, discussions were initiated, and hydro meteorological equipment was procured to operationalise the stations. They focused on mechanisms for strengthening transboundary cooperation instruments and managing resource exploitation-related conflicts in the sub-basins.

In this context, LCBC, the PMU, IUCN through its BRIDGE4 and PREE projects. It focused on implementing transboundary cooperation instruments, resources, and conflict management in the Logone basin.

The outcomes obtained at the end of this workshop, which brought together stakeholders from Cameroon and Chad, are as follows:

- The ownership of cooperation and benefit-sharing tools related to shared river management;

- The typology and mapping of conflicts and problems of access to resources of the Logone basin is carried out;
- A summary table analysing cooperation and conflict management instruments of natural resources of the Logone River is available;
- Mechanisms and stakeholders for the revision and strengthening of specific instruments and cooperation and management of the Logone River are identified;
- An organisation and “mapping” of critical stakeholders in cooperation and management of the natural resources of the Logone River is carried out;
- Mechanisms for sharing information and managing resources in partnership with partners are identified.



REGIONAL DISCUSSION WORKSHOP ON MECHANISMS TO STRENGTHEN TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION INSTRUMENTS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS RELATED TO THE EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES IN THE LOGONE SUB-BASIN

Prospects

Output 4.1:

- ✓ *Implement activities that can improve the availability and accessibility of data and information on water resources and ecosystems of Lake Chad;*
- ✓ *Strengthen the technical and material capacities of the DBO (10 hydrological stations and training);*
- ✓ *Develop a strategic partnership with the GIZ, which is also working on an Information System;*
- ✓ *Support the establishment and operationalisation of a Regional Data Management Working Group (under LCBC).*

Output 4.2:

- ✓ *An information-sharing mechanism is established through the FEM Global Platform.*

5. Component 5:

Summary of Component 5:

This component expects the following outcomes: *LCBC, national governments, and local communities gain practical experience and scale up the validation and sustainable management of ecosystems and alternative livelihoods.*

It will be carried out through three (3) key outputs: **Output 5.1:** *Regional/National pilot projects to control invasive plant species;* **Output 5.2:** *Promote ecosystem-based income-generating activities through sustainable financing schemes established at the national/local levels;* and **Output 5.3:** *Development of National Replication sustainability strategies for community-based actions*

This component will be implemented through a convention with IUCN. During this semester, the bases and terms of the collaboration were consolidated. At the end of various discussions, the significant outcomes obtained were as follows:

- The PMU approved a work plan and budget;
- Mapping of invasive plants was completed with a draft already available;
- A strategy for the deployment of activities locally was developed and ongoing validation;
- The implementation team of the component was set up with a Project Manager, 2 facilitators, 1 Administrative and Financial Assistant. However, there is a vacancy (Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant).

An inception workshop was held in Bol Province, presided by the Governor. The UNDP Resident Representative, the LCBC Executive Secretary, and a representative of IUCN were in attendance.

At the end of the workshop:

- Participants were better informed about the content of Component 5;
- The results framework (objectives, outcomes/outputs, indicators, sources of verification, assumptions for implementation) of the component and the budget for its implementation were understood by the stakeholders;
- The 2021 Annual Work Plan was discussed and shared;
- The criteria for identifying intervention sites of the component were discussed;
- The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders were clearly defined.



Inception Workshop of Project Component 5 in Bol

To date, for IGAs based on invasive plants, the selection process of local NGOs/CSOs is underway in the 5 Member States.

Concerning IGAs related to the management of natural resources, selection and monitoring committees were set up, and calls for proposals for micro-projects were published for Cameroon (Waza) and Chad (Zakouma). As a result, 38 micro-projects for the same number of farmers' organisations were selected (20 in Waza & 18 in Am-Timan) for a total budget of about XAF 107,151,714.

Similarly, following a call for expressions of interest, 2 Microfinance Institutions were identified in the same areas. As a result, agreements were signed in consultation with the MFIs.



Prospects

Outputs 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3:

- ✓ *Start an assessment of endogenous technologies/solutions deployed for eradication/control and utilisation by communities;*
- ✓ *Develop and implement community-based micro-projects;*
- ✓ *Promote sustainable funding of ecosystem-based income-generating activities;*
- ✓ *Develop a synergy with the UNDP's "Accelerator Labs" to develop innovative solutions in the Lake Chad Basin.*

6. Component 7: Project Management

Component 7 mainly covers activities related to project management. As part of this component, two major activities were implemented. They include the Steering Committee by video conference and the Project's mid-term review.

a) **Steering Committee**

The main objective of this Steering Committee Meeting was to collectively build the roadmap for the effective implementation by the PMU and other partners of all the components in a Covid-19 context. This roadmap defined priority activities to achieve the development objectives of the Lake Chad Basin in the context of Covid-19. It also ensured the consistency of project interventions with other ongoing programmes in the LCB.

Initially scheduled for February 2021, the Steering Committee Meeting was postponed for the second quarter. A lunch meeting was previously organised with the focal points on the side-lines of the Council of Ministers of LCBC Member States. In addition to preparations of the Steering Committee, participants requested that it focuses on:

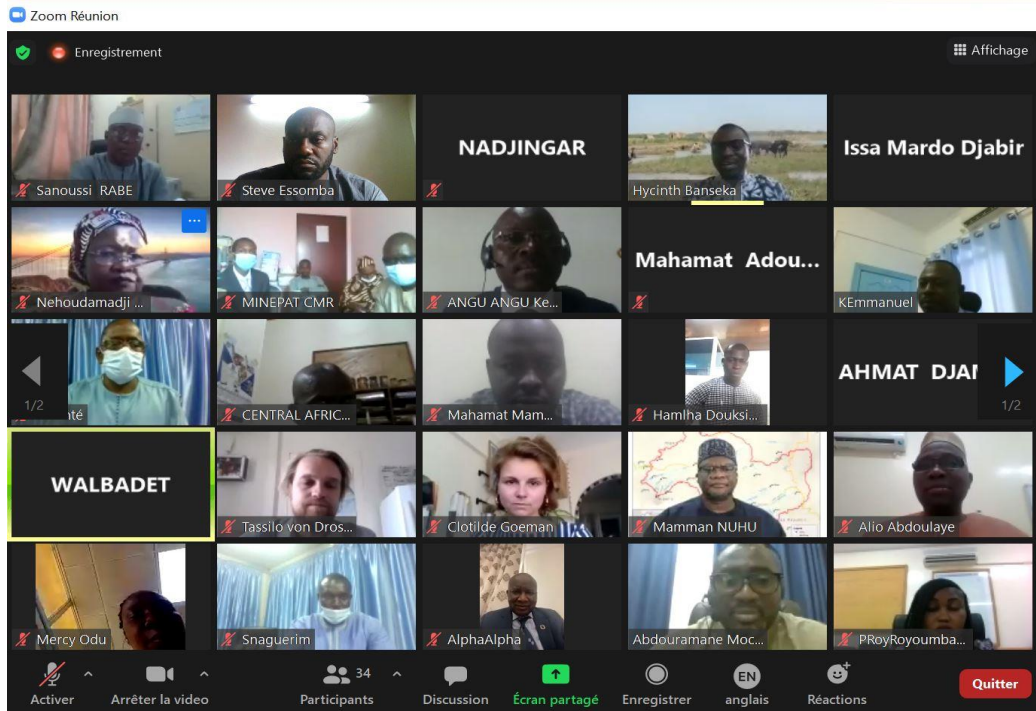
- Annual priorities of the Project and implementation modalities of activities through the support of LCBC Focal Points;
- The level of production of various deliverables and validation processes of strategic documents;
- LCBC Focal Points supported the deployment of activities in Member State.

The Steering Committee was held by video conference on Wednesday, 14 April 2021. It was chaired by Mrs TAHANI MAHAMAT HASSANE, Minister of Urban and Rural Hydraulics, First Commissioner of Chad to LCBC, and Chairman of the Steering Committee. The Executive Secretary of LCBC, Amb. Mamman NUHU, UNDP Resident Representative Kamil Kamaluddeen, LCBC National Focal Points to the Member States, and other committee members were all in attendance.

Strategic guidelines were formulated for implementing the Project by the PMU and all stakeholders in Covid-19. The 2021 AWP was adopted;

Relevant recommendations were made for further implementation of the Project. They include:

- Accelerating the implementation of activities in communities through the mobilisation of local NGOs and CSOs;
- Sharing activity reports with LCBC Focal Points in the Member States;
- Carrying out the Project's mid-term review and capitalising on all recommendations to make technical and financial adjustments in the project document.



SC of 14 April 2021 by video conference




The table below presents the implementation status of recommendations of the Steering Committee of 14 April 2021

No.	Recommendations	Facilitators	Deadlines	Implementation rate	Comments
1	Accelerating the implementation of activities in communities through the mobilisation of local NGOs and CSOs	UGP/IUCN	Immediate		<p>The launching of the activities took place in Bol.</p> <p>The criteria for identifying sites/communities were developed and validated.</p> <p>For IGAs based on invasive plants, 9 micro-projects were selected in the 5 countries.</p> <p>Concerning IGAs related to the management of natural resources, selection and monitoring committees were set up, and calls for proposals for micro-projects were published for Cameroon (Waza) and Chad (Zakouma). As a result, 15 micro-projects for the same number of farmers' organisations were selected (in Waza & in Am-Timan) for a total budget of about XAF 107,151,714.</p> <p>Similarly, 2 Microfinance Institutions were identified in the same areas, and agreements were signed with MFIs.</p>
2	Sharing activity reports with LCBC Focal Points in the Member States	PMU/DT-LCBC	Immediate		Activity reports were shared with the focal points regularly.
3	Capitalise on all recommendations of the mid-term review to make the technical and financial adjustments in the Project	PMU	End of 2021		The mid-term review was conducted, and recommendations were made

document				
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Monitoring Plan of Recommendations of the Steering Committee Meeting of 14 April at the end of 2021

Legend

	Implemented
	In progress
	Not started

Prospects

- ✓ *The organisation of steering committee sessions for the validation of the 2021 AWP;*
- ✓ *The organisation of the mid-term review of the Project;*
- ✓ *Updating monitoring and evaluation data in the Atlas, intranet, and PIMS platform;*
- ✓ *The production of various reports.*

b) Mid-Term Review

This mid-term review was held two years after the launching of activities and between October and December 2021.

The overall objective of this mid-term review was to assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the project documents. It sought to confirm whether the Project was on track, particularly concerning the Project's design, schedule, budget, and sustainability. It also aimed to assess early signs of project success or failure to identify the necessary changes to put the Project on track to achieve the expected outcomes.

It reviewed project activities and outcomes and project governance and management to date. Also, the mid-term reviews summarised lessons to be learned to improve the design and implementation of project activities. The partners' outcomes, efficiency, processes, and performance were also reviewed. It fostered learning and knowledge sharing to fine-tune policies, strategies, programmes, and projects. Recommendations to the Project will improve its performance, sustainability, efficiency, and impact.

The evaluator stated that the Project remains relevant because it is directly related to the needs of the beneficiary countries. They include managing water and combating climate change in the region. In addition, the production of strategic documents is on track, although some are pending validation.

At the end of this review, the following recommendations were made:

#	Recommendations	Priority	Responsibility
1	Quickly organise a UNDP (Chad and NCE) and LCBC meeting to clarify the PMU's mainstay concerning the LCBC Departments/Divisions	High	LCBC-UNDP
2	Develop a business continuity strategy for the Project in the event of a significant crisis for the years 2022 and 2023	High	PMU
3	Update the environmental and social safeguards of the Project	High	PMU
4	Strengthen the thematic and geographical focus of project interventions locally by aligning component 3 activities with component 5 intervention sites	High	LCBC-PMU
5	Submit the developed strategic documents for validation by the Technical Committee pending approval by the Council of Ministers and obtain approval for continuing activities until the SAP validation.	High	Project Steering Committee
8	Quickly reschedule project activities to complete actions before the Project is scheduled to end	High	PMU
9	Recruit a part-time consultant to assist in	Moderate	LCBC-UNDP

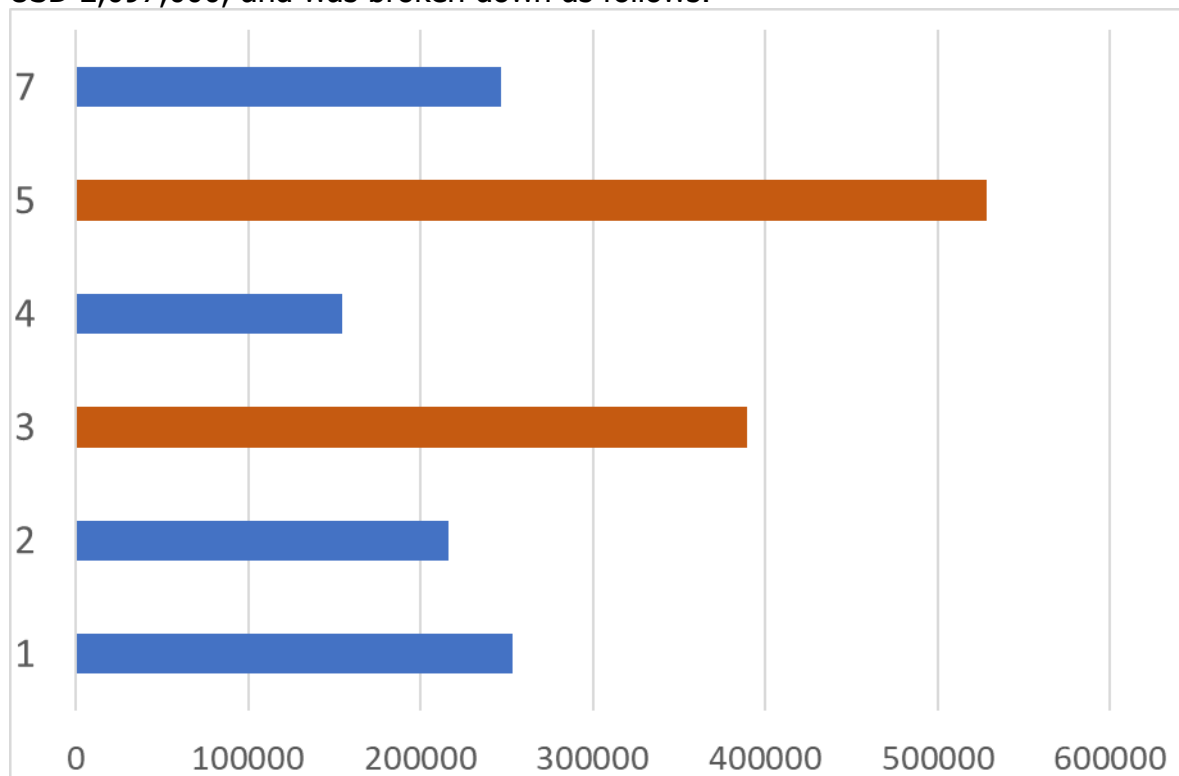
	knowledge management, the development of communication tools, and ensure the communication component of the Project, which will improve communication on the outcomes achieved and the sharing of knowledge		
10	Set up practical and harmonised monitoring and evaluation tools and strengthen the capacities of actors to use them.	High	Project

C. 2021 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

The 2021 AWP was developed based on the following principles:

- Rephase the 2020 Budget for 2021;
- Implement an accelerated disbursement strategy through the programming of most of the activities in the first half of 2021. In addition, the participation of national consultants and the mobilisation and accountability of LCBC National Focal Points;
- Cross-cutting inclusion of Covid-19.

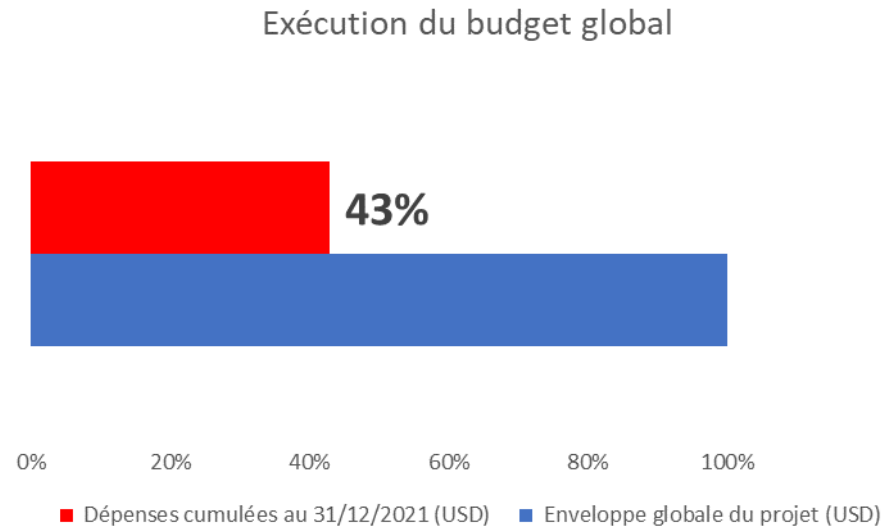
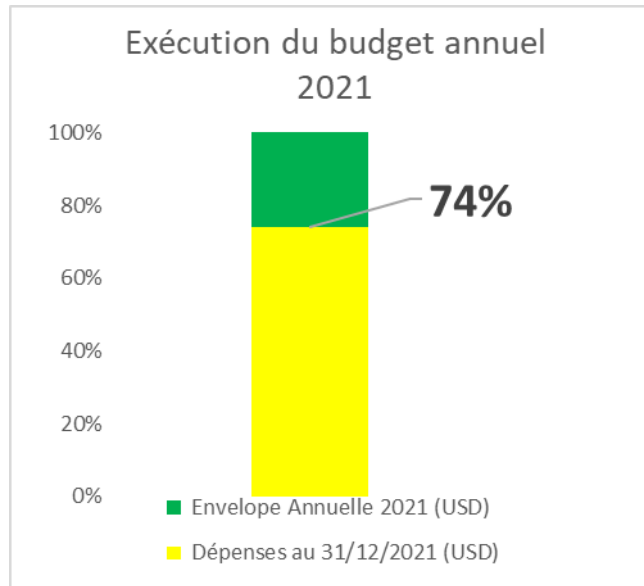
The 2021 budget approved and validated by the Steering Committee was USD 2,097,000, and was broken down as follows:



45% of the annual budget was allocated to implementing components 3 and 5. However, 55% of the budget was allocated to consultancy and workshops. Activities were carried out in an optimal manner, which translates into the cumulative expenditure of **USD 1,541,620**, i.e., a budget implementation rate of 74% for 2021.

Generally, the project budget over its entire period was **USD 6,080,000** and the cumulative expenditure over the project implementation period was **USD 2,614,547**, i.e. **an overall implementation rate of approximately 43%**. (see table below):

Component of the Project	Overall Budget in USD	2021 Budget	2021 Total Expenditures	2021 Commitments in USD	2021 Total Expenditures + Commitments	2021 Budget utilisation rate	Total Accumulated Expenditures	Overall Budget Utilization Rate
		in USD	in USD		in USD		in USD	
Component 1:	905,000	258,486	296,640	550	297,190	115%	836,939	92%
Component 2:	552,381	216,576	246,749		246,749	114%	446,491	81%
Component 3:	1,150,000	450,077	218,626	20,376	239,002	53%	263,877	23%
Component 4:	610,000	179,288	78,281	58,547	136,828	76%	136,828	22%
Component 5:	1,835,000	528,496	276,332		276,332	52%	406,184	22%
Component 6:	500,000	253,619	173,551		173,551	68%	173,551	35%
Component 7:	527,619	202,778	145,423	26,545	171,968	85%	350,677	66%
TOTAL	6,080,000	2,089,320	1,435,602	106,018	1,541,620	74%	2,614,547	43%



Indeed, the first quarter was challenging given the context of the health crisis, marked by a series of restrictive measures taken by member countries both for travel and for regrouping, but also given the political situation:

- deployment in the field for monitoring;
- Mobilise and deploy international and local consultants;
- Organise clusters for meetings and capacity building sessions and workshops.

III. CONCLUSION

In the context of the implementation of activities, there was an increase in the production of strategic documents. However, the major challenge to be considered is the COVID-19 health crisis and the restrictive measures imposed by States. Another challenge was the programming of activities and national workshops, which must be in line with the agenda of the Member States.

However, good practices and lessons learned include holding internal review sessions of strategic documents, which enriched and improved their quality.

In 2022 the Project shall ensure:

- *The implementation of a strategy adapted to the context to achieve the expected outcomes;*
- *Regional validation of the SAP;*
- *National validation of strategic documents;*
- *Harmonisation of interventions between components 3 & 5;*
- *The implementation of most activities in the first half of 2022;*
- *The mobilisation and leadership of LCBC National Focal Points in implementing country-level activities.*