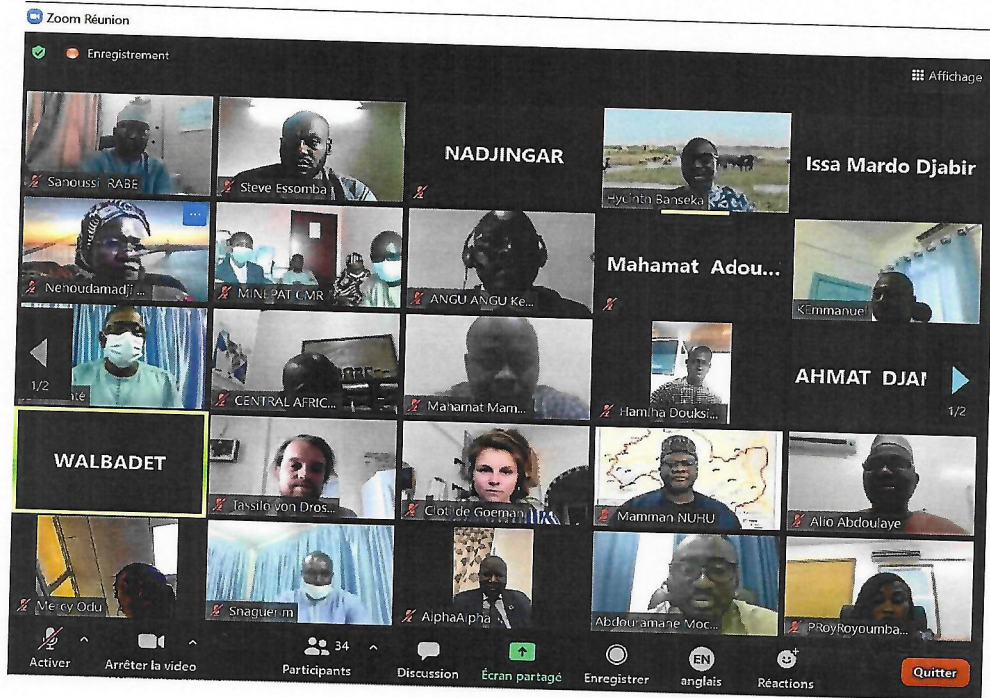




Minutes of the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the Project: Improving the Management of the Lake Chad Basin



14 April 2021 by video conference

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Programme/Project	Improving the management of the Lake Chad Basin by implementing the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Lake Chad Basin to strengthen climate change resilience and reduce stress on the ecosystem
Objective	Collectively develop a 2021 roadmap for the effective implementation by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and other partners of all the components of the Regional Project to Improve the Management of the Lake Chad Basin in a Covid-19 context.
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adoption of the agenda, 2. Monitoring of recommendations of the July 2020 Steering Committee & Review of the implementation of the 2020 AWP, 3. Presentation of the 2021 AWP and the mitigation strategy of Covid-19 effects on the implementation of the Project, 4. Presentation of the concept note of the support in the fight against Covid-19 5. Steering Committee organisation in connection with a country representation, 6. Recommendations.
Date and Time	14/04/2021 from 09:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Venue:	Video Conferencing (Zoom Platform)
Participants	See list of participants in the annex:
Secretary	PMU

I. Proceedings and Discussion Points

Mrs TAHANI MAHAMAT HASSANE, Minister of Urban and Rural Hydraulics, First Commissioner of Chad to LCBC and current Chairperson of the Steering Committee, chaired the meeting on Wednesday, 14 April 2021, by video conference. Also in attendance was the Executive Secretary of LCBC, Amb. Mamman NUHU, the Mr Kamil Kamaluddeen, Resident Representative of UNDP, National Focal Points of LCBC to member countries, and other members of the Steering Committee of the Project to "Improve the Management of the Lake Chad Basin".

After adopting the agenda (see annexe 1) by participants, an individual introduction of the participants made it possible to confirm the quorum reached for the holding of the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.

The event took place in two stages: the opening ceremony and presentations.

1. Three remarks were delivered during the opening ceremony:

1.1. Welcome Remarks by the Executive Secretary of LCBC:

In his welcome remarks, he recalled the problematic context of implementing the Project characterised by the restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic. He also underscored the negative impact of the latter on the disbursement of resources and the achievement of project results. Amb. NUHU also stated the need for LCBC member states to pool their efforts to strengthen transboundary

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coordination to manage the effects of Covid 19 in the already ecologically fragile Lake Chad Basin, which is affected by poverty and burdened by the effects of climate change and conflict. Finally, he highlighted the significant progress the Project made towards achieving results:

- Developing important regional strategic documents such as the Strategic Action Programme (2020-2030), the Transboundary Strategic Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, and the Regional Biodiversity Protection Strategy,
- Developing a Guidance Note to support member states in the harmonisation of policy, legal and economic instruments for the development of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Water Charter,
- Developing a Capacity Development Plan for LCBC based on an organisational and institutional diagnostic analysis,
- Signing of an agreement with IUCN for implementing income-generating community actions as an alternative to the abusive use of natural resources in the Lake Chad Basin,
- Organising capacity building for 17 LCBC executives on project management and 50 executives from member states on innovative financing mechanisms for biodiversity and climate change.

Finally, he expressed his optimism and confidence in the decisions that could be taken at the end of the Steering Committee meeting to facilitate the effective implementation of the Project.

1.2. Remarks by the Resident Representative of UNDP Chad

In his remarks, Mr Kamil Kamaluddeen reviewed the context of the Lake Chad Basin about the challenges of the Project and the priorities of UNDP. He also reviewed the progress already achieved in the development of strategic documents and capacity building. Furthermore, the RR announced that a mid-term review of the Project shall take place this year and that an effort shall be made to improve the performance of the Project based on the recommendations made by the review. Finally, he reaffirmed the commitment of UNDP to work with the LCBC and all its partners for the success of joint initiatives despite the problematic context imposed by COVID 19.

1.3. Opening Remarks by the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Hydraulics, 1st Commissioner of Chad to LCBC

In her opening remarks, Mrs TAHANI Mahamat Hassane emphasised the specific objective of the meeting and presented, in a succinct manner, the situation in Lake Chad by outlining the response measures initiated as part of the Project with the support of other partners. Like his predecessors, the challenging context created by the pandemic was raised. Finally, participants were invited to participate actively and responsibly in the deliberations of this workshop to make the most of this opportunity.

The three remarks are presented in Annex 3 of this report.

2. Presentations:

They focused on the following:

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2.1 Monitoring of recommendations of the July 2020 Steering Committee & 2020 AWP:

Presented by Mr Steve Essomba, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert of the Project Management Unit. The presentation focused on the following points:

- The monitoring of the implementation of recommendations of the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting: in general, the recommendations were all carried out,
- Implementation of the 2020 AWPB: It emerged that the Project is behind schedule in the implementation of activities due to the Covid 19 pandemic. With 55 activities included in the AWP, only 16 (or 30%) were implemented, of which half were completed. The budget execution rate is 65%,
- The outlook by component, lessons learned from implementation in the context of the pandemic, and the challenges encountered and identified.

2.1.1 Discussion points: Discussions focused on:

- Considerable delay in the implementation of the Project due to the health crisis and the restrictive measures thereof;
- Adequacy between the level of technical implementation and the level of disbursement of the Project;
- Impact of delays on the Project duration: the first meeting of the steering committee decided to reduce the duration of the Project from 5 to 3.5 years. However, this change has not yet been registered with the GEF.

2.2 Presentation of the 2021 AWP:

Mr Diawoye Konté, the Regional Coordinator of the Project, made the presentation. The presentation focused on the following points:

- Priority activities of the 2021 AWP:
 - Completion and validation of regional strategic documents (SAP, SAPB, SRGRCC...)
 - National capacity development for the adaptation to these national strategies to the regional documents
 - Strengthen awareness-raising of stakeholders in the sustainable management of natural resources of the Lake Chad Basin
 - Close monitoring of Components 3 & 5 and the implementation of activities at the community level
- The overall budget of the 2021 AWP is USD 2,097,000, of which 45% is allocated to components 3 and 5 of the Project;
- The implementation strategy of the 2021 AWP considers the context of the pandemic: delegation of activities to the Partners and close monitoring of the implementation of agreements signed with these partners; programming of the major parts of activities over the first half of 2021, use of national consultants, mobilisation, and empowerment of LCBC National Focal Points.

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2.2.1 Discussion Points:

- Provision of support to focal points in implementing the 2021 AWP through the deployment of activities at the national level;
- Accelerate the implementation of activities at the community level;
- The process of finalising and validating LCBC strategic documents through national workshops.

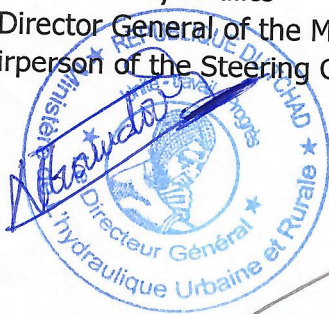
II. Outcomes and Recommendations

1. Strategic guidelines were formulated for the implementation of the Project by the PMU and all stakeholders;
2. The 2021 AWP was adopted;
3. Relevant recommendations were made for the further implementation of the Project, including:
 - Accelerating the implementation of activities at the community level through the mobilisation of local NGOs and CSOs;
 - Sharing activity reports with LCBC Focal Points in member states;
 - Carrying out the mid-term review of the Project and capitalising on all its recommendations to make technical and financial adjustments in the project document.

SIGNATURES

Dr. NGOLONA GOUNDOUL

For the Minister of Urban and Rural
Hydraulics
Director General of the Ministry
Chairperson of the Steering Committee



Amr MAMMAN NUHU

Executive Secretary of LCBC

Mr. Kamil Kamaluddeen

Resident Representative of UNDP



ANNEXES

- List of participants
- Remarks