



From Practitioner-to-Practitioner: how to use the two global
Water Conventions to promote cooperation on the ground.
Geneva, Switzerland 3rd to 4th JULY, 2023

*The Role of LCBC in promoting accessions
to the Conventions -Experience Sharing.*

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Presentation outline

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Brief note on Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

- ❖ The Lake Chad Basin Commission was established on 22nd day of May, 1964 by the four riparian countries of the Lake Chad (Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad).
- ❖ The Central African Republic joined the organization in 1996, and the Arab Jamahiriya of Libya was admitted in 2008.
- ❖ The Sudan, Egypt, Republic of Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have observer status.
- ❖ The headquarters of the commission situated at N'Djamena, Chad Republic.

LCBC's Mandate

- ❑ Sustainable and equitable management of Lake Chad Waters and other transboundary water resources of the Conventional Basin of Lake Chad.
- ❑ Preserve and conserve the ecosystems of the Conventional Basin.
- ❑ Promote regional integration, safeguard peace and security in the Conventional Basin.

The Lake Chad Basin

- The surface area of the Lake Chad **Hydrological Basin** is estimated at 2,500,000 km² (about 8% of the surface area of the African continent)
- The "**Conventional Basin**", which is the area of jurisdiction of the LCBC, covers a surface area estimated at 967,000 km², i.e. about 40% of the surface area of the hydrological Basin.



LCBC Basic Documents

- ❑ Convention and Statute (Fort Lamy Convention of 22nd May, 1964)
- ❑ LCBC Headquarters agreement of 15th April, 1977
- ❑ LCBC Revised Convention and Statute of December 1990
- ❑ Lake Chad Basin Water Charter, of 12th April, 2012

LCBC Working Documents

- ❑ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2023-2037
- ❑ Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS)

Lake Chad Basin Water Charter and the accessions to the Conventions

- The Lake Chad Basin Water Charter is a supranational conventional instrument and a fundamental tool for the sustainable management of the natural resources in the basin.
- The Lake Chad Basin Water Charter (LCB WC) was adopted on 12th April 2012 in Ndjamena, Chad.
<https://cblt.org/download/policy-document/>
- The Water Charter falls under the framework set by the Convention for the creation of the LCBC and the Statute of the Commission signed on 22 May 1964 at Fort Lamy, which it refines and supplements.
- The Water Charter constitutes a binding framework the global purpose of which is the sustainable development of the Lake Chad Basin by means of integrated, equitable, coordinated management of the Basin's shared water resources and environment.
- The Lake Chad and the watercourses, aquifers and aquatic ecosystems contained in its hydrographic basin, are hereby declared international waters. They are common heritage belonging to the member States of the LCBC.
- In its preamble, the Water Charter refers to the two UN Global Water Conventions, which are fully aligned and complementary. The LCBWC specifies general provisions to the basin
- The LCBWC defines Principles and Obligations for transboundary cooperation in the Lake Chad Basin

Lake Chad Basin Water Charter and the accessions to the Conventions

- ❑ Although, the Water Charter has not yet entered into force, there is consensus on its contents among the Lake Chad Basin member states (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, and Libya).
- ❑ Ratification and transmission of the ratification documents to the LCBC headquarters by the member states is well advanced and will soon enter into force:
 - Niger Republic ratified on 19th August, 2013
 - Chad Republic ratified on 21st July, 2014
 - Nigeria ratified on 24th August, 2017
 - Cameroun ratified on 3rd February, 2020
- ❑ The Central African Republic and Libya have not yet ratified the Water Charter.
- ❑ Therefore, accession of member states to global water Conventions can support the implementation of the Water Charter, and contribute to environmental changes in line with integrated, equitable and concerted management of the basin's shared water resources.
- ❑ Currently, Cameroun, Nigeria and Chad Republic have ratified the 1992 Water Convention, while Niger and CAR have started the process of the ratification.

Principles and Obligations of LCBWC in promoting the accessions



Principles and Obligations of LCBWC in promoting the accessions

Water Convention establishes the principles and rules which form the foundation on which Lake Chad Basin Water Charter(LCBWC) was developed. Thus, LCBC sees the implementation of the two global Water Conventions to be in line with implementation of the Water Charter.

Generally, the contents of the LCBWC reflect the main principles and obligations of the two global Water Conventions in promoting transboundary cooperation and the equitable utilization and management of the shared water resources in accordance with LCBC mandate and Lake Chad Basin Water Charter:

Article 1. The status of Lake Chad

Lake Chad and the watercourses, aquifers and aquatic ecosystems contained in its hydrographic basin, are hereby declared international waters.

They are common heritage belonging to the member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

The State Parties shall cooperate to achieve the sustainable management and development of Lake Chad in compliance with the rules and principles governing international lakes and watercourses.

Principles and Obligations of LCBWC in promoting the accessions

- **Article 7.** Guiding Principles on the implementation of the Water Charter.
- **Article 8.** General obligation to Cooperate,
- **Article 10.** Obligation to Utilize Water in an Equitable and Reasonable manner,
- **Article 21.** General obligation to prevent pollution,
- **Article 52.** Obligation to issue prior notification and authorization,
- **Article 53.** Obligation of prior declaration,
- **Article 58.** Obligations during the notice period,
- **Article 64.** Obligation to collect data and information,
- **Article 65.** Obligation to exchange data and information

Therefore, the LCBWC promotes cooperation and prevents conflict over transboundary waters in the basin, in line with principles and obligations of the Water Convention.

Benefits derived by LCBC and member states from the accessions

The Water Convention as an international framework, provides a unique international legal instrument and intergovernmental platform for transboundary cooperation.

The LCBC and its member states have benefitted from the Water Convention in the following ways:

- ***Capacity building (and trainings)***
- ***Knowledge sharing and learning***
- ***Fundraising and strategic positioning***

Conclusion

- Although the LCB Water Charter **has not yet “come into force”**, there is a general consensus on its contents from State Parties. The ratification and deposition of instruments by the State Parties is very advanced and will come into force soon;
- The Water Charter will assist Member States achieve their shared vision and successfully implement the LCBC mandate;
- Consensus and ensuring that all stakeholders are on board (**“leaving no one behind”**) is very important for the implementation of the Water Charter ;
- The decision for state parties to be bound by an international agreement should be based **not only on an in-depth analysis and assessment of the benefits** to be derived from such commitment, but **also on the constraints** it imposes;
- Global conventions play a critical role in **harmonizing applicable rules**, particularly with basins spread between different economic regions (ECCAS & ECOWAS for LCBC)
- Continued support from Global mechanisms to member states through the R/LBO will be critical.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

