



The World Bank

Lake Chad Region Recovery and Development Project (P161706)

Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 02-Apr-2020 | Report No: PIDISDSA27593

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Africa	Project ID P161706	Project Name Lake Chad Region Recovery and Development Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 27-Mar-2020	Estimated Board Date 26-May-2020	Practice Area (Lead) Social
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Cameroon - Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Republic of Chad - Ministry of Economy and Planning, Republic of Niger - Office of the Prime Minister, Lake Chad Basin Commission	Implementing Agency PROLAC PIU (to be set-up), Republic of Niger - Executive Secretariat for the SDS Sahel Niger (SE/SDS Sahel-Niger), PROLAC PIU (to be set-up)	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To contribute to the recovery of the Lake Chad Region through supporting regional coordination, knowledge and monitoring, connectivity and rural mobility, and agricultural livelihoods in selected provinces of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Components

- Component 1: Regional and National Coordination Platform and Local Capacity Building
- Component 2: Restoring Sustainable Rural Mobility and Connectivity
- Component 3: Strengthening the Recovery of Agricultural Livelihoods
- Component 4: Project Management
- Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	170.00
Total Financing	170.00



of which IBRD/IDA	170.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS**World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	170.00
IDA Credit	60.00
IDA Grant	110.00

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Regional Context



1. **Lake Chad is a large transboundary lake located in the Sahel as well as in the West and the Central Africa subregions.** It is shared between Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria and a total of 49 million people benefit from its rich natural resources (fishing, livestock farming, agriculture, hunting and gathering). The Lake Chad system has been characterized by its strong cross-border dynamics rooted in history and strong cultural and language connections. A net exporter of food and a provider of seasonal jobs, the Lake Chad region previously also contributed to the food and job security of its residents including those in the two regional metropolises, Ndjameena and Maiduguri, as well as the regions of the lake's Sahelian hinterlands (Borno Adamawa and Yobe States in Nigeria; Diffa and Zinder in Niger, the Far North Province in Cameroon and the regions of Lac, Kanem, Hadjer Lamis, and Chari Baguirmi in Chad). If the lake area represents such a food production hub, it is because it offers a relatively secure source of water, fodder, and fertile land. Moreover, those mostly family fishing and farming systems are labor intensive and generate significant indirect employment (processing, trade, crafts, and transport). Finally, the ecological value of Lake Chad has been recognized by the Ramsar convention.

Figure 1. The Lake Chad



2. **The Lake Chad Region faces a combination of multidimensional risk factors which deepen the vulnerability and create a vicious circle of fragility that is difficult to break.** From 2014 onward, Boko Haram's violent activity spread from Nigeria. Cameroon, Chad, and Niger became the target of Boko Haram terrorist attacks in mid-2015 which led to a humanitarian crisis influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees within the Lake Chad Region. The Boko Haram campaign and the insurgency of the Islamic State in West Africa Province, an offshoot of Boko Haram, have led to a counter-insurgency response and to the deaths of approximately 30,000 people between 2009 and 2016. The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), created under the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in 1998 to address cross-border security issues in the Lake Chad Region, was reactivated by the LCBC in 2012 with an expanded mandate to encompass counter-terrorism operations. As a result, Boko Haram was pushed further into the Far North region of Cameroon, the Lac region in Chad, and the southeastern Diffa region in Niger. Since the beginning of the outbreak, over 2.5 million people, half of them children have been forcibly displaced. The Lake Chad region is now Africa's largest forced displacement crisis, the second globally after Syria.¹

3. **However, even before the Boko Haram crisis, the areas represented the poorest and most marginalized part of each respective country.** The region has, to varying degrees, been neglected by the four adjacent countries' central governments. With the exception of Chad, the regions are physically and symbolically remote from their capitals. In spite of differences among the four countries due to their respective colonial legacy and post-independence political development, they share a number of characteristics including poor governance capacity, weak state-society relations, and a lack of resilience to both domestic and external shocks.² Delivery of basic social services (including water, education, health, infrastructure, and electricity) in the vicinity of the Lake Chad is poor, especially in the rural areas. Since

¹ Plan International, Lake Chad Snapshot, February 15, 2018.

² Human Development Index (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP]) rankings are Cameroun 151, Nigeria 157, Chad 186, and Niger 189/189.



the Boko Haram insurgency, the functioning of government institutions has been even more disrupted.

4. While the drivers of fragility and obstacles to growth existed before the insurgency, the ongoing conflict has compounded the region's difficulties, further degrading already difficult living conditions.

The four riparian countries of Lake Chad are categorized by fragility, conflict, or violence (FCV) under the World Bank methodology. The Lake Chad Region experiences several arenas of contestation feeding the ongoing conflict.³ In the first place, the competition for natural resources is exacerbated in a context of rapidly growing population. Second, constituted of both borderlands and remote regions, the control of the water flows around the lake and across borders is an ancient stake for competing groups. Third, in a context of limited state presence and weak governance, the population of the region is deprived of access to basic services and economic opportunities for the very young population are scarce. Fourth, the absence of effective conflict resolution and reintegration mechanisms for former armed groups, fighters, and road blockers limit the chances of rapid de-escalation of the ongoing conflict.

5. Since 2009, the Boko Haram regional conflict has triggered an acute humanitarian and forced displacement crisis, with devastating social and economic impacts on the population, further deepening poverty and fragility.

The crisis has affected the entire cross-border system of the Lake Chad Region. Violent acts perpetrated by Boko Haram include coercion, abduction, forced recruitment, indoctrination, human rights violations and violent extremism. In addition to causing immense psychological trauma and weakening social networks, these acts have also disrupted livelihoods and productivity and destroyed existing assets. In addition to direct losses in productive assets, agricultural trade has also been significantly impaired by damages to the road network and the closure of borders. The French Agency for Development (*Agence Française de Développement*, AFD)/*Institut de recherche pour le Développement* (IRD) study ‘Crisis and Development: The Lake Chad Region and Boko Haram’ (2018) highlights that the Lake Chad Region was a highly complex and interlinked regional system before 2013 when the country’s borders did not represent real boundaries. Acts of violence by Boko Haram have destabilized the former regional system and have compromised productive activities in the rural areas around Lake Chad. As a consequence of the Boko Haram conflict, the Lake Chad Region is also Africa’s largest forced displacement crisis⁴, which has increased pressure on host communities that are already food insecure.

6. Vulnerable groups, in particular women and youth, have been mostly affected by the consequences of the Boko Haram crisis. The region has one of the highest demographic growth rates and youngest populations in Africa, and therefore in the world. While this could be a potential driver for economic growth, youth face the highest rates of unemployment and the lowest levels of formal education and vocational training in the respective countries.⁵ As a result, the youth in the Lake Chad Region are vulnerable to recruitment into criminal activity or armed violence. Young women and men who have been recruited and used by armed groups are especially vulnerable as they are marginalized and stigmatized by their communities (when and if they return), thus facing many barriers to their reintegration.

7. Inequalities in terms of gender. Especially young women have been negatively impacted and this in a region where all four countries already rank amongst the lowest on the Gender Inequality Index. In

³ World Bank. 2020. *Risk and Resilience Assessment for the Sahel Region*.

⁴ Plan International. February 15, 2018. Lake Chad Snapshot.

⁵ IRD/AFD. 2020. *Crisis and Development: The Lake Chad Region and Boko Haram*.



addition, common to many young women in the Region has been and is the experience of survival sex, early marriage and childbirth and the resulting health risks. Gender inequality as well as violent acts, including Gender Based Violence (GBV), however, have significantly increased since the beginning of the Boko Haram crisis across the region. Women and girls have been targeted, abducted and held hostage by Boko Haram, with 7,000 estimated to have been abducted, raped or forced into marriage in Nigeria. When women and girls have managed to flee Boko Haram, they often faced stigma upon return to their community. Furthermore, in the context of stark gendered inequalities, reports show that sexual exploitation and abuse has been perpetrated by those in positions of power. While there are commonalities across the region, it is important to pay attention to specific country circumstances.

8. Socio-economic and human development indicators in Cameroon are poor and gender disparities flagrant, particularly in the Northern regions of the country where the project will be implemented. In 2015, the Human Development Index rates Cameroon among the countries with the lowest rates of human development equality between women and men. Maternal mortality rate is high at 596 per 100,000 live births and adolescent birth rates are reported to be 104.6 per 1,000 births. Women's attainment in secondary and higher education is 32 percent compared with men's 38 percent. According to 2018 ILO estimates, women are less than half as likely as men to participate in wage and salaried employment (14 percent female employment versus 31.1 percent for men) and labour force participation is 71 percent for women and 81 percent for men. The share of parliamentary seats held by women is 27 percent. These gendered inequalities drive various forms of GBV across the country. The prevalence of physical or sexual violence committed by husband or partner is 51 percent according to the 2011 Demographic Health Study (DHS). Overall, the study estimates that more than half (55 percent) of Cameroonian women older than 15 have experienced some form of violence. This prevalence is not only much higher than the 39 percent average for Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) but also the highest amongst SSA countries.

9. In Chad women and girls are disproportionately exposed to economic and social vulnerabilities driven by social and cultural norms. Child marriage is a widespread practice in Chad, with 7 out of 10 girls married before age 18. This practice is deeply rooted in cultural and traditional beliefs and often driven by families' financial constraints. In 2017, UNICEF reported that 38 percent of girls and women between 15 and 49 years old underwent female genital mutilation (FGM). Chad's fertility rate is also among the highest in the world, with an average of 6.4 children per woman. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is also widespread with 29 percent of women aged 15-49 years reporting having experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. With regards to education, male literacy is almost double compared to female one (40.7% of youth male compared to 22.4% of youth female) and girls are lagging in primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment and completion. Only 1 percent of women are employed in waged and salaried jobs compared to 11.4 percent of men. Access to productive assets is also lower among women, including opportunities for paid labour, valuable land and chemical inputs. Women are underrepresented in public life and decision-making spaces, holding 14.9 of sets in national parliaments and 14.3 at ministerial level positions.

10. Gender-based inequality is pronounced in Niger with a range of socioeconomic, health, and education factors driving poor Human Development Indicators for women, including the highest prevalence of child marriage and the highest fertility rate in the world. In Niger, only 2.5 percent of women over 25 have achieved secondary education, resulting in one of the lowest literacy rates in the world (as of 2015, 11 percent of women over 15 are literate as compared to 27.3 percent for men).



Health indicators are equally dire for women in Niger, with high rates of maternal mortality and shortage of women healthcare services. In 2018, only 8.1 percent of women were employed in salaried or waged work, as compared to 11.4 percent of men. Women are also underrepresented in decision-making space, with only 15 percent of women parliamentarians. According to a national study conducted by the Government of Niger in 2015, 53 percent of those interviewed indicated that they had experienced at least one form of violence in their lives, with 33.5 percent of women reporting that they had experienced some form of GBV over the past 12 months.

B. Institutional and Sectoral Context

(a) Institutional Context

11. **The Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS) is a foundational element for coordinated efforts by national and local authorities across the four countries to tackle the fragility drivers of the Lake Chad region.** The Africa Union/LCBC Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS), adopted at a ministerial level on August 31, 2018, offers a common framework for the engagement of humanitarian and development partners in the region. It entails nine pillars covering the humanitarian-development-security nexus as shown in Figure 2, many of which will be addressed by the proposed operation. The associated establishment of the Governors' Forum for regional cooperation on stabilization, peace building, and sustainable development interventions in the region affected by Boko Haram ('Governors' Forum' or 'the Forum') also aims at ensuring close coordination with local authorities.



Figure 2. Pillars and Strategic Objectives of the RSS that PROLAC Will Support (in orange)



12. **Given the magnitude of both the needs and the challenges to be addressed, notably difficult security conditions, a sequenced and flexible approach, close coordination with coordinated with development partners engaged in the region is required warranted.** While disentangling and prioritizing among the many fragility drivers at play is not an easy task, the project will primarily support an intensification of the regional dialogue through the LCBC as it constitutes a precondition to the development of regionally owned and shared answers to the most acute challenges. Because the conflict has significantly affected livelihoods and economic productivity in the Lake Chad Region, which are largely based on farming, pastoralism, and fishing, supporting the restoration of those activities is also an urgent priority. The main impacts of the conflict include inaccessibility and a loss of productive assets and inputs due to human displacement, the disruption of markets due to physical destruction of facilities, and the enforcement of security-related measures such as restrictions of movement and the prohibition to farm or trade in certain areas.⁶ As a result, agricultural production and access to land have declined sharply, resulting in widespread loss of livelihoods and employment. A growth of rural income and livelihood opportunities, combined with connectivity improvements, would enhance the resilience of the population around the Lake Chad and thus help (a) provide the population with viable livelihood options besides joining Boko Haram, (b) restore the communities' trust in the Government and the prospect for development in the region, and (c) reestablish community and local institutions ties.

(b) Sectoral Context

⁶ UNDP, UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). 2018. *Resilience for Sustainable Development in the Lake Chad Basin*.



13. **Perceptions of exclusion spurred by violent extremism have been central to generating grievances that in turn lead to violent mobilization and conflict.** Also, the joint World Bank-United Nations 2018 report on Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict, explains that the root of conflict stems from the mobilization of people's perception of exclusion and injustice, which are rooted in inequalities. The presence of Boko Haram has further sparked new or already existing intra- and inter- community conflicts. A recent study carried out by the State and Peacebuilding Fund Project, Cross-border Collaboration in the Lake Chad Region Project, showed that the social fabric between and within different ethnic/faith groups has been damaged and latent (or overt) mistrust between groups mistrust has grown. At the same time, there is a high level of mistrust toward the security forces.. A focus on restoring and enhancing resilience is therefore needed to support the transition from humanitarian to development activities in the region. This project will aim to contribute to restoring and enhancing resilience in the Lake Chad Region by (a) promoting social cohesion, (b) strengthening social inclusion of all groups affected by the crisis, and (c) reinforcing trust in local and national institutions by underpinning their response/listening capacity as well as citizen engagement. Furthermore, a focus on social inclusion at community levels ensures that the resilience of the most exposed to the crisis impacts, notably the women and the youth, is strengthened.

14. **Transport and connectivity continue to pose a significant challenge for the Lake Chad Region.** The levels of infrastructure and access to services (water, health, and education) are among the lowest at the national level in all the three countries and this in countries with indicators that are already among the lowest in the world. Aside from a paved road in Chad from N'Djamena to Karal that is in bad condition, access to Lake Chad is at best poor. The conditions of travel within and between the areas surrounding the lake are also difficult because of invasive water vegetation on the water body that obstructs navigable channels and the lack of maintenance of rural roads. The northern basin and the northeast archipelago are landlocked, and this slows down the diversification and intensification of the farming economy. Better connectivity and mobility within the Lake Chad Region and also between the region and other areas of the countries will enhance the natural and human potential of the Lake Chad Region and will lead to a catalytic effect where development benefits in other sectors, such as basic services and livelihoods, can be maximized.

15. **Agriculture remains a key engine of economic growth and poverty reduction in the Lake Chad Region.** Local agricultural systems have been disrupted following the destruction of farming and irrigations facilities. Households throughout the Lake Chad Basin rely largely on subsistence activities from fishing, herding, and farming. Agriculture is the main livelihood for 80 percent to 90 percent of rural households in the Lake Chad Region, which can contribute to food security, increased employment throughout the region, and the return of IDPs. Damage to agriculture caused by the conflict includes profound loss of fisheries, livestock, and agricultural production; ruined irrigation and farming facilities; and the collapse of extension services.⁷ The current conflict has reduced access to farming and regional trade activities, which consequently led to a sharp increase in food insecurity in affected areas. The crisis is exacerbating the existing challenges faced by vulnerable farmers who were already facing devastating natural hazards including cyclical droughts and floods over the past decade. The concentration of herds due to changes in transhumance flows because of these climatic conditions is putting pastoral resources

⁷ FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) Regional Office for Africa. June 23, 2016. *Food Insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin.*



under extreme pressure and threatening animal health.⁸ A significant economic potential exists in the region, but it requires critical support for producers (extension, credit, quality control of plant protection products, and improvement of the post-harvest chain) and improved land ownership and management legal frameworks. The project will support farmers restoring basic assets to improve their agriculture production and then rebuild their resilience.

16. Climate change further poses a considerable threat to development gains and future opportunities in the region. Many studies have highlighted the importance to tackle the impacts of climate change as part of peacebuilding efforts.⁹ Indeed, climate change is having profound adverse impacts on the security crisis, intensifying existing dynamics and creating new risks. The impacts of climate change in the Lake Chad Region can especially be seen in the timing and amount of rainfall which leads to the loss of productivity of the rain-dependent agricultural areas. The population in the Lake Chad Region is caught in a conflict-climate risk trap, where violent conflict between state security forces and armed opposition groups, poor governance, endemic corruption, serious environmental mismanagement, and poverty have ruined their livelihoods and where climate change is compounding these challenges.

17. Giving excluded groups, in particular women and youth more voice and increased economic opportunities will be an integral element for the sustainable and peaceful development of the Lake Chad Region. Despite the challenges they face, women in the Lake Chad Basin demonstrate resilience, entrepreneurial skills, a commitment to hard work, a desire to help others, optimism for the future, and insightfulness—attributes essential for any society if it hopes to transition toward a peaceful, prosperous, and secure future.

(c) Relevance to Higher Level Objectives

18. The Lake Chad region remains a priority area of engagement given the common nature of the challenges faced by the sub-region and the huge potential for regional cooperation. The challenges faced by the region and the opportunities it represents are regional in nature. Historically, Lake Chad has been a shared resource for the population of the region, underpinning a regional subsystem characterized by strong interdependencies due to cultural, linguistic, familial linkages, seasonal mobility and intense trade relations, and dependency on shared natural resources. The region has also faced a set of common challenges. First, as a subset of peripheral regions and borderlands that have been neglected in terms of both attention and investment by national political powers in each country. Consequently, each subregion presents the same feature of lagging development and economic indicators compared to respective national averages, weak governance and significant gap in infrastructure and access to basic services. Second, those difficulties are compounded by the rapidly growing and already very young population, as well as the impact of climate change on natural resources and livelihoods. Third, the conjunction of those common difficulties, felt across the region, has generated resentment towards central powers and a feeling of injustice among the population. Since 2009, an insurrection started in Borno has then spilled over the region and has become regional, with attacks and livelihoods disruptions occurring in the four countries of the region. To be effective in a context where policy action or inaction rapidly spill over neighbouring regions, the answers to those common challenges shall be coordinated at the regional level

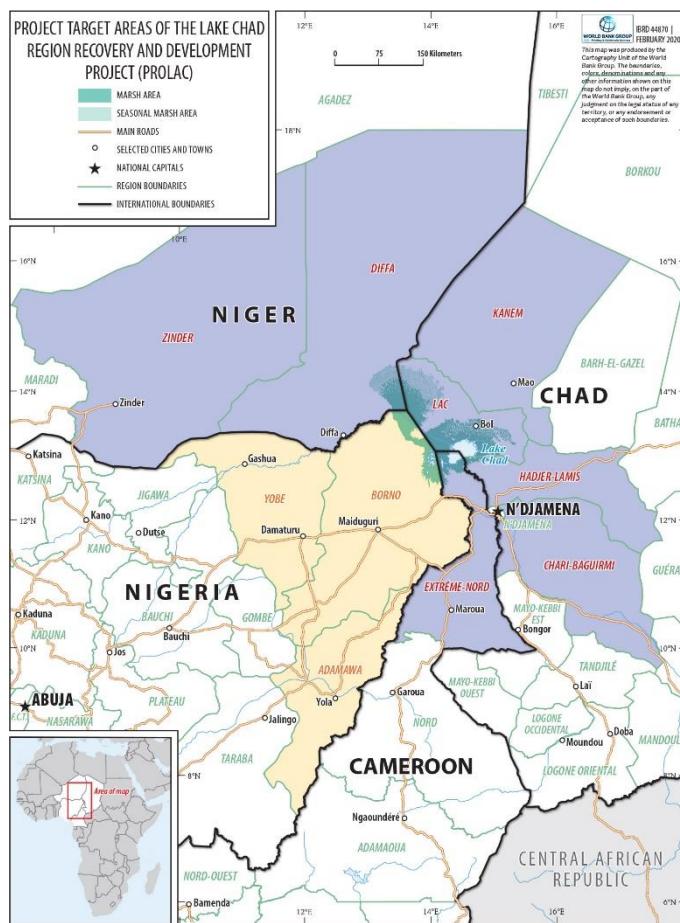
⁸ FAO. September 2016. *Situation Report*.

⁹ Adelphi, Vivekananda et al. 2019. *Shoring up Stability in the Lake Chad Region: Addressing Climate and Fragility Risks*.



and consistent across countries, not only on military and security aspects, but also through an enhanced regional policy dialogue and coordinated development policies to tackle the root-causes of fragility and conflict.

19. **The World Bank is already strongly engaged in the region.** The World Bank supports the four countries concerned (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria) through national programs that cover the riparian regions of Lake Chad and contribute to addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis. In parallel, and consistently with the orientations decided for IDA19, PROLAC and the MCRP (P157891) will together form a comprehensive approach to supporting the recovery of the Lake Chad Region and improving the living conditions of the population in the region. PROLAC will have activities in the project target areas in Cameroon, Chad and Niger (see purple area in figure 3). Nigeria will be fully involved in the governance of PROLAC as a member of the LCBC and through its participation in the PROLAC Project Coordination Committee at the regional level, as well as through Component 1 of PROLAC. Simultaneously, the MCRP in North-East Nigeria (see orange area in figure 3) has been adapted to align its activities with PROLAC's, components through an Additional Financing (AF) and Restructuring operation (P173104). Under IDA19, the framework created by both PROLAC and the MCRP AF will constitute a solid foundation, notably through the support provided to the regional dialogue and the increase of available data on the region, to further develop an integrated approach shared by the four states on the regional dynamics and policy actions to tackle obstacles to development.

**Figure 3. Map of the Target Areas that PROLAC Will Support**

20. **The project is part of the World Bank's Lake Chad Region Program.** The project constitutes the second phase ('stabilization and early recovery') of the World Bank's three-phased Lake Chad Region Program and prepares the transition from a national post-crisis response (Phase 1) to a long-term resilience and sustainable development response (Phase 3) in the Lake Chad Reg, in a scenario where security conditions allows. The overall Lake Chad Region Program development objective is to contribute to the recovery of the Lake Chad Region (that is, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria) through a set of investments aiming at supporting the restoration of the regional subsystem that preexisted the ongoing crisis and at enhancing regional cooperation to tackle common challenges. To do so, it will specifically support investments aiming at enhancing resilience and social cohesion and inclusion, connectivity, as well as trade and development. The project's objectives are also aligned with the World Bank's 'Supporting Africa's Transformation: Regional Integration and Cooperation Assistance Strategy (FY18–FY23)' and, in particular, its strategic priority 4: 'promote collective action to address risks of regional economic contagion, fragility, epidemic and climate hot spots'. This is also consistent with the World Bank Group's Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (2020–2025) with its four pillars of engagement, which are: (a) preventing violent conflict and interpersonal violence; (b) remaining engaged during crises and active conflicts; (c) helping countries transition out of fragility; and (d) mitigating the spillovers of FCV.



C. Proposed Development Objective

Development Objective

21. The development objective of PROLAC is to contribute to the recovery of the Lake Chad Region through supporting regional coordination, knowledge and monitoring, connectivity and rural mobility and agricultural livelihoods in selected provinces of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Key Results

22. **PDO-level Indicators.** The following PDO-level indicators will measure progress toward achievement of the PDO:

- Joint statement and action plan agreed during an annual coordination meeting with participation of the four countries
- Increased access to development information and data on the Lake Region
- Share of hectares in project area covered by effective agricultural, land and water management practices suited to local agro-ecological conditions (at least 50% women)
- Share of beneficiaries of agricultural livelihood support who report an increased quality and/or quantity of the respective product
- Percentage of population within 2kms of an all-weather road
- Percentage of beneficiaries from the three countries that feel project investments reflected their needs (at least 50% women)

D. Project Description

(a) Project Design

23. **Rationale for a regional approach.** The contextual rationale for a regional response is threefold: (a) the Boko Haram insurgency is a regional crisis with significant cross-border spillover effects ("public goods"); it is a consequence and at the same time generator of a complex FCV environment (e.g., conflict, forced displacement, lack of trust between communities and institutions, lagging regions in terms of socio-economic development and services and climate risks); (b) the region is characterized by a web of economic, trade, historical, political, cultural, ethnic, and religious ties, which makes its populations linked and interdependent across borders; events in one country affect others, and the problems of weak community institutions, livelihoods, and connectivity can only be solved through a broader regional response ("public goods"); and (c) the Lake Chad area is a fragile and vulnerable socio-ecosystem that is intrinsically regional in nature. Because of these three factors, the Lake Chad Region is a highly integrated region with strong cross-border spill-over effects.

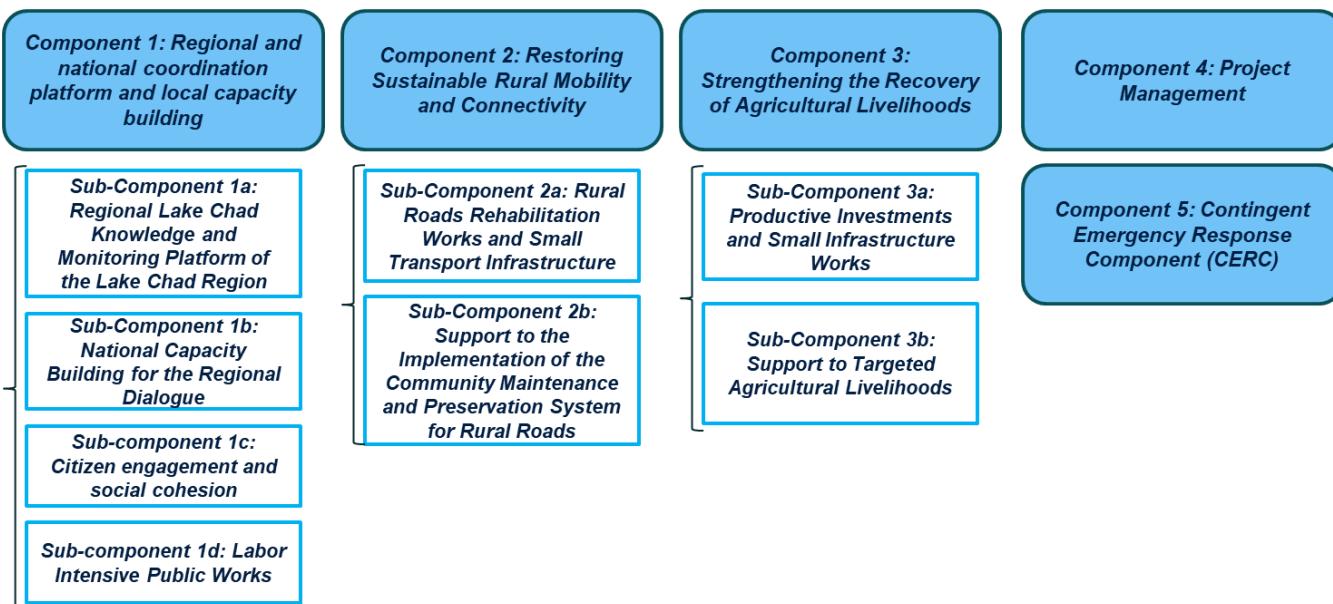
24. **Key design elements.** To restore and enhance resilience in the Lake Chad Region, PROLAC will work along the humanitarian-development-security nexus to: (a) address some of the existing drivers of fragility in the Lake Chad Region, in particular poor regional monitoring and knowledge management, poor connectivity around and on the lake, poor local governance and unemployment (especially youth unemployment) and (b) mitigate negative consequences of the crisis, in particular devastated public productive investments, poor livelihood opportunities, and a weakened agriculture value chain. To show



quick results and ensure the rapid implementation of project investments, an 18-month plan for the implementation of key activities will be developed and further project investments will be confirmed on a rolling basis. The design of the project also takes into account the difficult operational environment of the project intervention areas and the volatile security environment by using a modular, iterative, and incremental process and by learning from successes and failures as the project moves to new sites and faces new challenges. Therefore the selection of the areas where PROLAC will be implemented will be reviewed on a yearly basis taking into account the following criterias: (i) security, (ii) proximity to the Lake and, (iii) level of disbursements of previous year allocation. The details of this process will be further defined in the respective Project Implementation Manuals (PIMs).

25. Overview of project components. PROLAC seeks to address regional development challenges in the Lake Chad Region and contribute to the region's recovery through five project components. An overview of the component and subcomponents is shown in figure 4.

Figure 4. Overview of PROLAC's Project Components



26. Maximizing regionals spill-overs through a strengthened and coordinated regional dialogue. A functioning regional platform, holding regular meetings and able to provide guidance based on robust knowledge and data is warranted to insert the investments to be realized under the components 2 and 3 in a broader regional approach. Such a platform is required to coordinate the implementation of the activities enhancing rural connectiveness (Component 2) and supporting resilient agriculture livelihoods (Component 3), as well as to support the emergence of a common vision for the future development of the region. In order to ensure a close articulation with the RSS, the regional platform will be located within the LCBC, which capacity will be supported, and the platform will support the local authorities' dialogue held within the Governors' Forum. The regional platform will be formed of:

- The **PROLAC PIU hosted by the LCBC** that will (a) lead the development, operationalization and follow-up of a common vision for the development of the Lake Chad Region; (b) facilitate the creation of knowledge in partnership with the LCBC, the think tanks and universities involved in



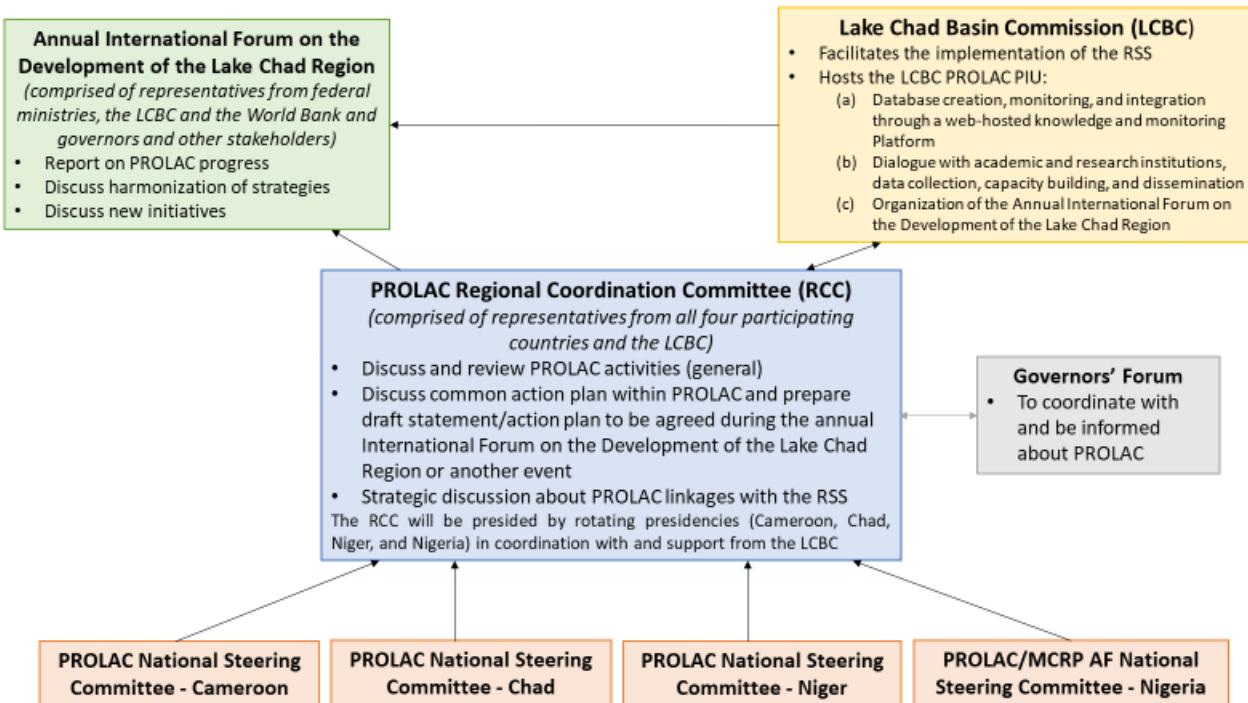
the Project countries and lessons learned from the implementation of PROLAC and other development in the Region; (c) provide regular learning and development, monitoring and vision-sharing workshops for countries in the Lake Chad Region to assess and review the implementation of the mission and coordinate and agree on next steps; and (d) contribute to a better understanding of the interdependent system in the Lake Chad Region by commissioning studies on business models or lessons learned from project implementation.

- The **Knowledge and Monitoring platform**, also hosted by the LCBC, will support the database creation, monitoring, integration through a web-hosted platform.
- The **Annual International Forum on the Development of the Lake Chad Region** that will be organized by the LCBC PROLAC PIU that will bring together, on an annual basis, high-level local and international actors and decision makers, which includes, amongst others, representatives from federal ministries of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Niger, the LCBC and the World Bank and governors and other stakeholders. This forum will allow to (i) report on the progress of PROLAC, (ii) discuss existing national and regional initiatives and harmonization of these strategies, (iii) discuss and plan new initiatives and possible closer cooperation to strengthen the impact of stabilization in the Lake Chad Region.

27. In addition, the **Regional Coordination Committee (RCC)** of this project that will be established will provide oversight of implementation of the regional program; guide, advice, and support knowledge generation and learning as well as regional policy dialogue and harmonization. This will include regular discussions and a review of (a) PROLAC activities (at a general level), (b) the common action plan within PROLAC, and (c) PROLAC linkages with the RSS (at a strategic level). The RCC will also be responsible for preparing the draft statement/action plan to be agreed during the annual International Forum on the Development of the Lake Chad Region or another event (see as well the PDO indicator on this). Figure 5 provides an overview of the regional links and regional institutional arrangements of PROLAC. The RCC will be supported through the various workstreams under the Subcomponent 1a.



Figure 5. Regional links and institutional arrangements of PROLAC



28. Expected immediate and longer-term regional spillovers. Through its five components, PROLAC aims to: (i) improve the enabling environment for mitigating risks, preventing conflict and reducing poverty around the Lake Chad through a regional coordination and knowledge/monitoring platform; (ii) improve the connectivity of the remote and underprivileged areas through sustainable investments in rural roads rehabilitation works and small transport infrastructure; (iii) support the recovery of agricultural livelihoods with the help of targeted productive and agriculture investments (polders, oasis and ponds); and (iv) strengthen community empowerment through citizen engagement, social cohesion activities and Labor-Intensive Public Works. By focusing on (a) a selected number of key investments which are very pertinent to the Lake Chad region context; and (b) strengthening the regional dialogue, coordination and data as well as monitoring systems and stakeholders in these four countries, the project lays the foundation for future regional and coordinated investments to come, in particular investments which are expected to have significant regional spill-over effects. Longer term spill-over effects are in particular expected through (a) improved access to regional markets, and (b) the revival of the cross-border and regional economy in the Lake Chad Region. Expected future investments that could build upon the results and the operational mechanism created by this project are likely to include investments in the area of cross-border and regional trade, value-chain development, large-scale regional infrastructure, basic socio-economic services and energy.

29. Participatory and socially inclusive selection of investments. Targeted social inclusion is ensured by using community-led processes and community engagement activities to identify and reach vulnerable and systematically excluded people. The project integrates a gender-sensitive lens to ensure women's full participation in citizen engagement and livelihoods activities. The project will embed essential features for ensuring citizen participation in prioritizing developmental needs including livelihoods opportunities to



improve self-reliance of communities and social cohesion and greater demand for social accountability. The project strengthens community institutions by ensuring that all project investments are in line with local development plans (LDPs) and by supporting the elaboration of new and update of the already existing LDPs in the communes in the project area. In addition, activities and project investments will be selected in a participatory way through the consultation with communities in each country. This will be done through three phases: (a) identification, prioritization, and integration of activities in the LDPs; (b) support for the implementation of the selected activities; and (c) participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Activities in each local councils proposed will be selected on the basis of four criteria: (i) ensure inclusion of the activity in local development plans; (ii) regional aspects of the proposed activity; (iii) activity whose implementation is complementary with other development activities in the zone (national budget and/or other projects); and (iv) activity within a defined amount. The details of this process will be further defined in the respective PIM.

30. **Gender-sensitivity.** To address these stark gendered inequalities, PROLAC has integrated gender-sensitive interventions into the project's key components focusing on promoting women and girls' economic opportunities and on fostering their agency. These activities will be adapted to the specific countries contexts per the gaps identified above. In response to gender-based disparities in economic opportunities, PROLAC will target women through a multi-faceted approach of livelihood, agribusiness, and labour intensive activities (through rural road rehabilitation) under project Components 2 and 3. Increasing women's roles in public life and decision making will be supported by women's participation in local development committees as well as in the regional platform created under Subcomponent 1a. Finally, gaps in women's agency will be addressed through the promotion of GBV prevention and mitigation measures and response mechanisms.

(b) Project Components

Component 1: Regional and National Coordination Platform and Local Capacity Building (US\$21.3 million)

31. This component has the overall aim to reinforce regional dialogue and data monitoring and dissemination, citizen engagement and social cohesion, and the LIPW approach. This will be done through four subcomponents.

Subcomponent 1a: Regional Lake Chad Knowledge and Monitoring Platform of the Lake Chad Region (US\$5 million)

32. This subcomponent will ensure (a) the establishment of the LCBC PROLAC PIU that will provide overall support for coordination, improving capacity of regional and national actors, and a policy and operational dialogue for the Lake Chad Region and (b) the operation and maintenance of a strategic, analytical, and monitoring platform to foster knowledge exchange, collaboration, and partnerships. The project will ensure that women's needs are represented and that their participation can contribute to their overall development. To support women's inclusion, the project will facilitate ad hoc training to provide women with the needed skills and knowledge to undertake these positions. This subcomponent will be implemented by the LCBC.

33. The main objectives of the LCBC PROLAC PIU will be the following: (a) spearhead the development, operationalization, and monitoring of a common development vision for the Lake Chad Region; (b)



facilitate knowledge creation in partnership with the LCBC, relevant think tanks, and universities in the three countries and lessons learned that have emerged from the implementation of the Lake Chad Region Recovery and Development Project and other development programs under implementation in the Lake Chad Region; (c) ensure regular learning and vision building/monitoring and sharing workshops for the Lake Chad Region countries to assess and review the implementation of the mission and coordinate and agree on next steps; and (d) contribute to a better understanding of the interlinked system of the Lake Chad Region by commissioning studies on operational models or on lessons learned from project implementation.

34. In alignment with the abovementioned main objectives of this component, key focus areas for the Knowledge and Monitoring Data Platform will include (a) initiating dialogues with academic and research institutions on the Lake Chad Region, in particular a dialogue on how to transition from a humanitarian response to a development response in the region; (b) informing decision makers in the region on investment decisions and guiding the vision for a sustainable development in the Lake Chad Region; (c) generating evidence through research for innovative operational solutions in the Lake Chad Region (such as information and communication technology [ICT]); (d) building capacity of countries and institutions in data collection, including geospatial data collection and data collation and dissemination; (d) providing knowledge management and M&E for the Lake Chad Region and the Lake Chad Region Program; (e) forging partnerships between humanitarian and development actors; and (e) consolidating and increasing capacity of the LCBC to be a strong ‘knowledge think tank’ on issues and discussions regarding the Lake Chad Region, beyond water and resource management issues. The main functions of the platform are outlined in more detail as follows:

- **Database creation, monitoring, and integration through a web-hosted platform.** The platform (including supporting ICT hardware, software, connectivity, datasets, access to expertise, and training) will facilitate data computerization and collation of comprehensive spatial (for example, Geographic Information System [GIS] and remote sensing) and temporal datasets from global, regional, and local sources, including in real time (for example, including from earth observation and crowdsourcing information).
- **Dialogue with academic and research institutions, data collection, capacity building, and dissemination.** The Knowledge Platform will have strong links with universities in each country bordering Lake Chad and will support research and studies of strategic importance for the Lake Chad Region. This will be done through the organization of regular knowledge sharing events, conferences, forums, and study tours. In addition, the platform will support the collection of data in the sectors’ natural resources and climate change, service delivery and governance, justice and land, economic development, and security and power. The platform may also commission studies regarding the Lake Chad Region on agreed upon priorities in one or more of the following thematic areas: land and water management (including climate change and research on climate financing), service delivery, power and governance, security and justice, and economic development, studies on the platform’s scope and reach, studies on gender-based disparities within each of these areas, and studies on regional monitoring and data validation. The platform will also organize training and workshops for countries and institutions to build their capacity in data collection, including geospatial data collection and data collation and dissemination. A list of workshops that will be offered will be included in the PIM.



- **Organization of an Annual International Forum on the Development of the Lake Chad Region.** Based on the model of other existing international events (Dakar Forum, Munich Security Conference and so on), the LCBC will organize an annual conference which aims to set up a discussion platform for active stakeholders in the Lake Chad Region. The conference will bring together, on an annual basis, high-level local and international actors and decision makers, which includes, amongst others, representatives from federal ministries of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Niger, the LCBC and the World Bank and governors and other stakeholders. This forum will allow to (i) report on the progress of PROLAC, (ii) discuss existing national and regional initiatives and harmonization of these strategies, (iii) discuss and plan new initiatives and possible closer cooperation to strengthen the impact of stabilization. This will also include a discussion on how to increase climate resilience in the Lake Chad Region. Beyond the discussions and debates, the forum will also be used as an informal platform for high-level exchanges among the LCBC member states and between member states and technical and financial partners (TFPs). The forum will be organized back-to-back with the Governors' Forum.

35. The platform will have a section on research and mobilization of climate financing (such as international performance-based financing in sequestering greenhouse gases and more specifically carbon - Bio Carbon Fund, Private Sector, amnd so on). These funds could then enable them to scale up investments and ensure sustainability of the project's activities in the area.

Subcomponent 1b: National Capacity Building for the Regional Dialogue (US\$10 million)

36. This subcomponent will reinforce institutional capacity at the national level to allow, for example, research institutes and universities to participate in the regional activities on conflict prevention and the development of the Lake Chad Region carried out under Subcomponent 1a. The subcomponent will be implemented by the national-level PIUs).

37. The main objectives of this subcomponent are to strengthen national agencies, research institutes, and universities with an aim of facilitating their participation in the regional dialogue and to promote and enforce their engagement and coordination with the regional knowledge platform and dialogue coordinated by the LCBC. Main activities of this subcomponent will include (a) financial and technical assistance to national agencies, research institutes, and universities to participate in the regional database, in collaboration with international agencies; (b) study tours and participation in the regional knowledge platform discussions, including pre-events at the national level; (c) field trips and workshops for knowledge exchange and cross-learning, with a special focus on cross-sectoral and cross-regional learning; (d) research grants to students for research on a subject of interest that is related to the Lake Chad region (given on a competitive basis) for young scholars and young professionals to work together in developing the knowledge platform as well as knowledge and communication products on selected topics relevant for the Lake Chad Region with a focus on promoting adolescent girls and young women's (AGYW) participation (this could include an annual call for proposals on Lake Chad-relevant topics); (e) targeted learning programs and hands-on courses on, for example, data collection, data sources, using GIS, models, online services and apps delivered on a regular basis; and (f) support to the building of academic networks, including global networks. *Ad hoc* strategies will be designed and implemented to ensure AGYW participation and contribution in scholarships and learning programs and academic networks.

*Subcomponent 1c: Citizen engagement and social cohesion (US\$4.7 million)*

38. In line with the project's overall approach that activities financed under PROLAC will be (a) identified and prioritized through local development plans, and (b) updated annually by local institutions and communities, this sub-component will focus on strengthening citizen engagement and social cohesion activities. It has as main objective to strengthen trust and dialogue among citizens and between the state and citizens in the Lake Chad Region. Key principles will be to (a) integrate territorial planning processes as described in the RSS, (b) ensure that all project investments are included in a participatory and inclusive way, particularly ensuring women's active participation, in local development plans (LDPs) in the communes of the project area, (c) use the existing committees by integrating national systems and avoid multiplication of committees, to ensure the sustainability of project interventions; (d) have a single committee, fulfilling different functions (the tasks can be divided among several members of the same committee); and (e) promote civic engagement, cohesion, and social inclusion of local communities, women, and youth.

39. Activities supported by the project will be as follows:

- Integrate territorial planning processes as described in the RSS and ensure that all project investments are in line with local development plans (LDPs)
- Support local development committees to strengthen the local-level identification, prioritization, the meaningful participation of women in the committees' decision-making positions, and monitoring of investments financed by the project through capacity building and training;
- Establish national grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) and committees to allow for real-time feedback from project beneficiaries. The GRM committees will be composed by at least one women and or/girls;
- Community-based psychosocial support activities, including support for survivors of GBV;
- Sensitization sessions and formation/training campaigns on nonviolent methods of resolving conflicts, violence prevention, and de-stigmatization and prevention of accidents in difficult and fragile areas (such as the explosion of mines);
- Cultural and sports events to promote collaboration, team spirit, and a positive identity of the people living in the Lake Chad Region; and
- A community monitoring system of project activities.

Subcomponent 1d: Labor-intensive Public Works (US\$1.6 million)

40. This subcomponent will finance the promotion of LIPW and preparatory studies. Subcomponent 1d will directly support the implementation of LIPW of activities under Components 2 and 3. The LIPW beneficiaries will be selected through a public lottery selection system. The lottery will be segregated by sex to ensure that at least 50 percent of the LIPW beneficiaries will be women. These activities will be accompanied by men's sensitization and engagement interventions to ensure the broader understanding and encouragement of women's participation in these activities, and so as not to create conflicts at the household level. This will promote a transparent, fair, and equal chance for all citizens to benefit from the project, which is especially important in a context where trust in the Government is low and social capital has been weakened. Using the LIPW method will contribute to social inclusion and cohesion as it (a) demonstrates that a large variety of works can be done by the community (even if unskilled most of the



time) and (b) is based on a fair and transparent selection system and allows workers from different social backgrounds and different genders, and so on to work together. In addition, it will also avoid the influx of external workers, which in FCV contexts can be highly problematic and possibly more dangerous for local communities.

41. This subcomponent will finance the following:

- **Costs for the promotion and training.** Costs for the recruitment of local laborers, community engagement campaigns, awareness raising and communication, training of beneficiaries, and preparation of beneficiaries for reorientation after public works end. This component will also support inclusive engagement with local stakeholders to support the selection of beneficiaries (through transparent public lottery) and agreement on work sites in the communes.
- **Costs for preparation studies.** This includes the preparatory studies needed for implementing the LIPW approach in a community, including rapid development assessments at the community level. Assessments will gather necessary data for successful development interventions in the targeted communes (for example, governance, security, social dynamics, economy, and logistics).
- **Costs for the execution of public works.** This includes all works-related expenses, such as wages and personal protective equipment (gloves, boots, and so on) and work equipment and management of works, stores, and sites, as well as quality control will be financed by Components 2 and 3, respectively (that is, the component under which the LIPW activity is performed).

Component 2: Restoring Sustainable Rural Mobility and Connectivity (US\$67.5 million)

42. The aim of this component is to improve access to markets and socioeconomic opportunities for targeted communities. This component will consist of civil works which are of regional importance (for example, critical points and small roads that will facilitate access to regional markets corridors) and will focus on small-scale infrastructure to address immediate priority gaps in rural connectivity in selected areas in the Lake Chad Region.¹⁰ The selection of investments will be aligned with the activities under Component 3, in particular with regard to improving the connectivity to areas with high potential for agricultural livelihood opportunities that are supported under Component 3 (for example, wetland areas in Cameroon, oasis areas in Niger, and the polder areas and wadis in Chad) and where the needs and constraints of the population with regard to mobility are the greatest. This will be done through a socio-economic inventory followed by a multi-criteria analysis focusing on the impact on accessibility to agriculture areas and markets (Component 3 activities). This component consists of two subcomponents as shown in the following paragraphs.

43. Where possible, the civil works will use the LIPW approach for rural roads rehabilitation and maintenance. The costs associated with the promotion of the LIPW method for the execution of activities under Components 2 and 3, including costs for the recruitment of local laborers, community engagement campaigns, awareness raising and communication, training of beneficiaries, preparation of beneficiaries for reorientation after public works end, and M&E of beneficiaries, will be financed under Subcomponent

¹⁰ These investments will be climate sensitive, resilient, and environmentally friendly.



1d. Laborers' wages and equipment, however, will be covered by Subcomponents 2a or 2b, depending on the subcomponent under which the work falls. This methodology has been found to help strengthen social cohesion, improve living conditions and livelihoods of local communities, and strengthen participatory processes at the local level. LIPW will (a) provide employment opportunities to project-targeted beneficiaries, ensuring at least 50 percent of women, (b) enable the beneficiaries to acquire skills which will enable them to more easily find work and/or retrain after the completion of the LIPW works, and (c) encourage beneficiaries to save to facilitate their professional installation. Furthermore, the explicit attention to the inclusion of women in this component will help to address identified gaps in women's economic opportunities as well as promote their agency by increasing their access to transportation and mobility. Where not possible due to the required technical and specialized expertise not being available to properly execute some parts of the construction/rehabilitation of small-scale infrastructure, the works will be contracted out to third parties, that is, local firms or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Preference will be given to local firms or local NGOs that recruit local laborer (to a maximum extent) as it will contribute to the revitalization of the local private sector and capacity building of local capacities. The project will make sure that these works will neither cause or exacerbate local tensions or conflict nor have negative impacts on the environment.

44. Regarding climate change, the design of this component has focused on identifying climate co-benefits and climate change adaptation measures to ensure infrastructures sustainability. These include, for example, the creation of water reservoirs or plantations near or at the edges of roads and all erosion control and dune stabilization techniques to prevent their progression and encroachment on roads.

Subcomponent 2a: Rural Roads Rehabilitation Works and Small Transport Infrastructure (US\$51.3 million)

45. This subcomponent will finance all civil works-related expenses for the preparation, execution, and implementation of works which aim to restore rural mobility and connectivity around Lake Chad. This subcomponent will complement productive investments and small infrastructure works under Subcomponent 3a. This includes civil works to rehabilitate the existing rural roads, in particular targeted small rural roads to improve communities' year-round access to agricultural areas, markets, and other socioeconomic facilities. The planned works will also help (a) improve all-weather access, such as to prevent road closures during the rainy season and (b) enhance resilience of rural transport infrastructure to climate change.

46. Activities that are supported under this subcomponent fall in the following categories:

- Studies needed for the preparation of works such as conditions surveys, technical specifications, bills of quantities and cost estimates, and support for adequate environmental and social assessments
- Technical assistance for the implementation of activities (assistance in the review of technical documents, procurement and contract management)
- Treatment of critical points (spot improvements)
- Rehabilitation of roads, including related works (construction or reconstruction of culverts and other drainage structures)
- Construction of ponds and small check dams to enhance resiliency to climate change through water retention over a longer period of time and reduction of flooding
- Construction of rain barriers for road preservation and durability



- Wages and equipment for laborers under the LIPW (if the work they are conducting is under Subcomponent 2b)

Subcomponent 2b: Support to the Implementation of the Community Maintenance and Preservation System for Rural Roads (US\$16.2 million)

47. This subcomponent will support the development of a community maintenance system to promote the sustainability of investments. This includes the development of small associations at the community level that will provide regular and continuous road maintenance and management of rain barriers, assisted by government and/or municipal staff. Activities that are supported under this subcomponent are as follows:

- Sensitization and promotion of community activities
- Community maintenance systems
- Technical support for the development of small community associations
- Skills development training
- Small equipment needed for road maintenance
- Greening solutions, including the plantation of trees on project sites
- Small-scale social infrastructure along the roads that are rehabilitated
- Wages and equipment for laborers under the LIPW (if the work they are conducting is under Subcomponent 2b)

Component 3: Strengthening the Recovery of Agricultural Livelihoods (US\$61 million)

48. This component will promote public productive investments and strengthen the livelihoods of local stakeholders as an input to provide support for targeted livelihoods. In particular, the following activities will be financed: (a) support to small groups of agricultural producers, including producers engaged in subsistence farming to increase productivity and outputs in project areas (training on good practices, such as climate-resilient and environmentally friendly agriculture, integrated agro-sylvopastoral systems and ecological land rehabilitation approaches, acquisition of agricultural inputs, and acquisition of small irrigation systems or water drainage); (b) establishment of product collection areas, small marketing infrastructures, or small processing units; and (c) support for producer organizations to adopt farming approaches to adapt their production to climate change. Specific attention will be devoted to promote women's access to livelihoods opportunities, including strengthening women agricultural producers skills and their competitiveness in the agriculture value chain. It has two subcomponents. The investments will focus on specific areas, such as on polder areas in Chad, the farming of oasis areas¹¹ in Niger, and on areas along the border with Chad in the Far North Cameroon.

49. Activities under this subcomponent will target vulnerable groups, in particular women and female-headed households and youth and will serve both as a means of prevention (that is, reducing women's and youth's vulnerability through addressing gaps in economic empowerment and agency) and as a means of longer-term support for those affected by violence. Activities will be identified, prioritized, implemented, and monitored through a participatory process and in collaboration with local institutions

¹¹ 'oasis areas' or 'cuvettes oasiennes', refers to an area where water is collected/made available in an otherwise dry land and which therefore allows for agricultural activities.



and beneficiary communities.

50. Similar to Component 2, the LIPW method will be used, where possible, for works under Subcomponents 3a and 3b. The costs associated with the promotion of the LIPW method are covered by Subcomponent 1d and the wages of the laborers for works done under Component 3 will be covered by Subcomponents 3a or 3b, respectively. Where not possible due to the required technical and specialized expertise not being available to properly execute the activities under Component 3, the works will be contracted out to third parties, that is, local firms or NGOs. Preference will be given to local firms or local NGOs that recruit local labor from among local communities and have a male/female ration of 1:1.

51. Climate change mitigation and adaptation activities are driving principles that will guide investments. Various techniques and lessons learned from successful past and ongoing projects in the subregion will be capitalized. These include, for example, the CAP BioCF (*BioCarbon Fund*) and CAP Climate Resilience projects in Niger (which have restored a total of 12,000 ha of degraded and deforested land) and the dune stabilization and oasis productivity increase activities funded by UNDP in Niger. The project will upscale innovative climate-smart agricultural techniques such as Zaï and integrated agro-sylvo-pastoral systems in collaboration with local universities.

Subcomponent 3a: Productive Investments and Small Infrastructure Works (US\$41.0 million)

52. This subcomponent will provide investment funds to communities through local planning processes to finance productive investments and small infrastructure works for agriculture activities. Activities that could be supported under this subcomponent are as follows:

- Economic or productive investments including the construction/rehabilitation of rural markets, landing platforms for boats, small bridges and culverts, cleaning of channels, platforms (small commercial/logistics/processing platforms), community storage facilities, the restoration of land quality through dune stabilization, watershed management, irrigation perimeters, protective structures for agricultural fields against floods and enclosures and waterpoints for agriculture and livestock use¹²
- Wages for laborers under LIPW (if the work they are conducting is under Subcomponent 3a)

Subcomponent 3b: Support to Targeted Agricultural Livelihoods (US\$20.0 million)

53. The project will provide support to targeted agricultural livelihoods by using innovative climate-smart agricultural techniques, including targeted support to agriculture production, (pre- and post-harvest) and marketing for selected products along the agriculture value chain (in particular red pepper, livestock, and fish) as well as promoting Zaï or integrated agro-sylvo-pastoral systems and ecological land rehabilitation. The supported activities will have a cross-border potential, and activities that support the production of trading goods will be prioritized, such as red pepper in Niger (which is then exported to Nigeria); livestock/fish support in Niger and Chad, which would be traded with Cameroon and Nigeria; and

¹² The design of the small-scale infrastructure work under this component will take in to account the above identified climate and disaster risks to which the project locations are being exposed.



products along the agriculture value chain that have a regional rationale. The project will facilitate specifically women's access to agricultural livelihood opportunities to support their economic empowerment.

54. Activities under this subcomponent include the following:

- Strengthening and rehabilitation of areas of production and livelihood opportunities (irrigation, soil restoration, agroforestry, pluri-species production systems, material, rehabilitation, and development of selected polders and agricultural basin and horticulture perimeters)
- Revitalizing the extension services in the project area, including piloting of farmer-led extension systems (such as e-extension and e-voucher developed under ProPAD project in Chad)
- Providing targeted support aimed at facilitating and reinforcing selected transborder trade for selected areas (such as markets, storage facilities, and so on).
- Promoting support to women agricultural producers and to women as extension agents.
- Wages for laborers under LIPW (if the work they are conducting is under Subcomponent 3b)

Component 4: Project Management (US\$20.2 million)

55. Project management and implementation will follow a decentralized approach using, as much as possible, the existing government structures at the national, subnational, and local levels and local-level community institutions to be established and/or strengthened. The objectives of this component are to ensure enhanced and effective project management, coordination, and implementation and support the design of the project's M&E system.

56. This component will finance the planning, implementation, and technical oversight of program activities including effective social and environmental safeguards management, financial management, and procurement. The component will finance the three national-level PIUs to carry out day-to-day project management responsibilities for Subcomponents 1b, 1c, and 1d and Components 2 and 3. Relevant government agencies at the regional, national, subnational, and local levels will be involved in the implementation process with adequate capacity-building support. The following activities will be included preparation of work plans and budgets; preparation of regular progress reports; overall oversight of project activities; communication, M&E arrangements, including the set-up of a Management Information System (MIS); and measures for enhanced transparency and accountability.

57. The complicated security situation in each of the three countries will require a layered approach to project management and supervision as the World Bank staff and consultants are unable to travel to many of the subproject sites. This layered approach will include a third-party monitoring (TPM) agency in each country, which may be a local NGO, as well as the creation of digital project monitoring and mapping



platform for subprojects through the Geo-Enabling Initiative for Monitoring and Supervision (GEMS).¹³ Both angles of this approach are outlined in more detail below:

- **TPM:** Each of the PIU will recruit a TPM that may be a local NGO or CSO and which will be tasked with monitoring (i) specific crucial activities under each component, (ii) social and environmental risk management, and (iii) the local context and evolving security situation. The TPM will be expected to undertake at least two field mission by year, if security allows it and to use innovative technology as well as perception surveys to better understand the situation and project implementation results on the ground. The work of the TPM and the issues that they raise will be discussed during implementation support missions. The NGO or CSO that will be implementing the TPM is also expected to cooperate closely with the communities and communities' monitoring system of project activities, where established.
- **GEMS:** To systematically implement the GEMS method, a capacity-building training will be organized for local project coordinators, M&E specialists, and World Bank staff supervising the project. In addition, it will be ensured that contracts for works under this project will include an adequate budget for security costs as part of the contracts.

58. Social risks, including human security, will be monitored on a continuous basis by the PIU using a system that includes monitoring and mitigation mechanisms at the community, project, and national level as well as information technology (IT) and other innovations for remote monitoring. A suspension clause will be included in the Legal Agreement that will allow the World Bank to suspend the project if the security situation deteriorates to a level that would make it difficult, in the estimation of the World Bank, to continue with implementation. Furthermore, a security protocol for the PIU staff and beneficiaries who participate in project activities will be detailed in the PIM.

Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) (US\$0.0)

59. This zero-budget component establishes a disaster contingency fund that could be triggered in the event of a natural or man-made disaster through formal declaration of a national emergency, or upon a formal request from one of the Governments. In the event of such a disaster, funds from the unallocated expenditure category or from other project components could be reallocated to finance emergency response expenditures to meet emergency needs. It will therefore support Cameroon's, Chad's, and Niger's emergency preparedness and response capacity to address the impact of any natural hazards such as drought or floods, including financing of post-disaster critical emergency goods or emergency recovery and associated services, as well as targeted provision of post-disaster support to affected households and

¹³ The GEMS method enables project teams to use open source tools for in-field collection of structured digital data that automatically feeds into a centralized M&E system and MIS. The integrated data can include any kind of indicators, based on tailor-made forms; photos, audio, videos; time and date stamps; and Global Positioning System coordinates that allow for automated geo-mapping of the information. Using these tools systematically allows the project to enhance the transparency and accuracy of project planning as well as M&E and TPM throughout the project cycle. Moreover, GEMS allows to establish a digital platform for remote supervision, real-time safeguards monitoring, and portfolio mapping for coordination across project components as well as with other operations in the region.



individuals. To ensure the proper implementation of this component, the borrower shall prepare and furnish to IDA an operations manual that describes in detail the implementation arrangements for the immediate response mechanism.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

60. At the national level, the project will piggyback on the implementing agencies of other World Bank-financed projects to leverage opportunities, leverage capacity, and reduce transaction costs. Implementing agencies will be supported with embedded technical assistance. In addition to project funds, the national PIUs in each country will be responsible for managing the project at the national level, including financial, procurement, and safeguard management as well as M&E in accordance with World Bank guidelines and procedures and producing national progress reports on the project. The national PIUs will be responsible for the implementation of the Subcomponents 1b, 1c, and 1d and Components 2, 3 and 4 (and 5, when triggered). The respective lead ministries and executing agencies are shown in table 3. Arrangements for Nigeria are covered in the MCRP AF project document.

Table 1. National-level Ministries and Executing Agencies Responsible for the Project

Country	Lead Ministry	Executing Agency
Cameroon	Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Regional Development (MINEPAT)	The PIU PROLAC Cameroon (a new unit that will be set up)
Chad	Ministry of Economy and Development Planning (MEPD)	The PIU PROLAC Chad (a new unit that will be set up)
Niger	Office of the Prime Minister	Executive Secretariat for the Development and Security of Sahelian-Saharan Areas of Niger (SE/SDS Sahel-Niger)

61. The national project implementation teams in the national PIUs will be headed by project coordinators, supported by a core team of specialists in procurement, financial management, and M&E. They will also be supported by a team of technical specialists (for example, in rural development, infrastructure, agriculture livelihoods, and social and environmental safeguards, among others) that will be financed by IDA. Additional specialists will be contracted based on individual country requirements under IDA financing. For project implementation, the PIUs will contract firms, NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), consultants and United Nations agencies (for example, United Nations Office for Project Services) to implement project activities, with contractual arrangements tailored to each component.

62. At the regional level, the LCBC will establish a unit for the implementation of Subcomponent 1a. The team will be headed by a project coordinator, along with a core team of specialists. This includes specialists in procurement and financial management. Additional specialists will be contracted based on individual country requirements under IDA financing.

63. Steering Committees will also be established at the national level. The national-level Steering committees will coordinate closely with the committee at the regional level. New national Steering Committees to guide and oversee PROLAC's implementation will be established in Cameroon, Chad, and



Niger. A regional-level Coordinating Committee will be presided by rotating presidencies (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria) and will be coordinated with and supported by the LCBC, in particular with regard to monitoring, sharing, and collating information through the Knowledge and Monitoring Platform, hosted with the LCBC. Regional coordination sessions are expected to be held every six months. The national PIUs (that is, the national PIUs of PROLAC in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and the Federal PCU of the MCRP in Nigeria) will overtake the secretariat function of the Coordinating Committee in a rotating order following the rotating presidency (that is, if Cameroon is presiding, then the Cameroon PIU will be responsible for the secretariat function). Table 4 details the roles and responsibilities of the RCC and the National Steering Committee.

Table 2. Key Project-related Institutions and Their Roles and Responsibilities

Institution	Membership	Roles and Responsibilities
Project Coordination Committee (at the regional level)	Around 3 representatives of each country (including representatives of the respective line ministries of the project in the countries, the respective project coordinators and one representative of the local authorities by country) and one representative of the LCBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing oversight of implementation of the regional program• Guide, advice, and support knowledge generation and learning as well as regional policy dialogue and harmonization• Conduct regular discussions and a review of (a) PROLAC activities (at a general level), (b) the common action plan within PROLAC, and (c) PROLAC linkages with the RSS (at a strategic level)• The RCC will be responsible for preparing the draft statement/action plan to be agreed during the annual International Forum on the Development of the Lake Chad Region or another event
Steering Committee (at the national levels)	Chaired by a high-level representative of the responsible lead ministry in charge of the project or his/her designee at each level with members from relevant implementing agencies and relevant stakeholders, including development and humanitarian agencies and organizations	Strategic guidance and oversight of project management; coordination; and implementation, including approving the AWPB of the relevant implementation level

64. Detailed PIMs will be prepared for the three participating countries and for the LCBC, with operational details at the national, subnational, and local levels, and with arrangements for the implementation of the investment components, the technical activities, environmental and social safeguard management, M&E, financial management, and procurement procedures. For each participating country, dated legal covenants include the appointment of an internal and an external auditor. The existing MCRP PIM will be updated to also reflect these arrangements.

**F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)**

The project will be implemented in several districts that border Lake Chad, initially in Niger, Cameroon and Chad. The following areas have been pre-identified as potential areas of intervention: (a) In Niger: Clusters of pepper productions along the main corridor of the national road from N'Guimi via Diffa to Zinder, two fishing communities and one cattle area in the North of the Lake Chad ; (b) in Cameroon: communes along the CEMAC corridor in Maroua and Septentrion and communes in the close vicinity to the Lake Chad (here, in particular fisheries); and (c) in Chad: a transport corridor connecting N'Djamena to the South of Cameroon and West via Bol and Baga Sol and polder areas in Tangal and Gueni. These are low density areas in terms of population but represent important transport corridors for goods and produce for the region. They are all in the high threat areas according to the United Nations.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Alexandra C. Bezeredi, Social Specialist

Kristyna Bishop, Social Specialist

Aurelie Marie Simone Monique Rossignol, Environmental Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The proposed project is categorized as category B project under this policy, because activities under Component 2 and 3 are expected to generate potential adverse social and environmental risks and impacts that will be limited in scale. Most of them will be site specific within the target area, few if any of them will be irreversible and in most cases, mitigation measures can be designed. As the identification of sites and works is not yet finalized, an ESMF has been prepared for each country and consulted upon. It has been disclosed both in-country (Cameroon, Chad and Niger) and at the World Bank website on March 26, 27 and 30, respectively. In addition, a GBV risk assessment for each country has been undertaken in order to provide recommendations for how to mainstream



		mitigation measures appropriate for each context into the country components.
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	This policy is not triggered as the activities do not intend to finance private sector activities as described under this policy.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	OP 4.04 is triggered as Lake Chad has been recognized by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (i.e. Lake Chad is a "Ramsar site"). While specific project sites are currently not known, it is likely that some project activities will take place on the shores of Lake Chad. Provisions and further information on appropriate risk mitigation strategies and measures in relation to the site(s) are included in each of the country specific ESMFs.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	This policy is not triggered as it is not anticipated that the project activities will negatively affect the health and quality of forests.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	Although the use of pesticides is not envisaged under the project, it is possible that the activities focused on strengthening agriculture production may lead to an increased use of pesticides. A Pest Management Plan has been prepared for each country, providing appropriate risk mitigation strategies and good practices (i.e. biopesticides). It has been disclosed per the requirements of the policy in each country and on the Bank's website.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	Cameroon, Chad and Niger are all considered to have rich cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. As a result, this policy is triggered as the small civil works that would be financed by this project involve construction and the movement of earth and they may uncover previously unknown cultural heritage in the Lake Chad region. Guidance regarding how to manage these "chance finds" are incorporated into the country specific ESMFs. The ESMFs include clear procedures for the identification, protection and proper treatment of cultural property and these procedures will be included in the standard bidding documents.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	This policy is not triggered as Indigenous peoples meeting the criteria of OP 4.10 are not known to be living in the specific project areas. Due diligence was conducted by the project team during project preparation to make this determination.



Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	This policy is triggered as minor land acquisition, minimal loss of assets and/or temporary access to resources may result from the civil works that will be financed under Components 2 and 3. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for each country has been prepared (or updated in the case of Cameroon), consulted upon, approved and disclosed both in-country and on the World Bank website. However, given the security situation in all three countries, all efforts will be made to avoid any physical displacement or land acquisition as much as possible as these impacts will be difficult to manage given the high insecurity and restricted access to the project sites.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The policy is not triggered as the project activities will not involve the construction of a dam or involve an existing dam.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	The policy is triggered because some of the proposed investments under Component 2.2. (e.g. targeted dredging/navigation channels/rehabilitation and construction of docking pier infrastructure) and possibly also 3.1. (e.g. landing platforms for boats, small bridges and culverts, cleaning of channels) will take place on an international waterway (Lake Chad), as per OP 7.50. All riparian countries have been notified on March 2, 2020.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The policy is not triggered as the project is not implementing any activities in a disputed area.

KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

PROLAC is expected to have positive economic, social and cultural impacts in all three countries as well as contribute to reducing the climate and food insecurity vulnerability of the local populations. The negative impacts on private land, livelihoods local communities and environment as a result of the implementation of project activities are expected to be limited in scope and temporary in nature. However, the contextual risks in the project area are extremely significant and could increase the impact of some of the project activities. The situation is further complicated by the restrictions on Bank staff and consultants who are currently unable to travel to many of the subproject sites due to insecurity in the project area. The current security situation is volatile and unpredictable and it is not possible to predict how it will change during project implementation.



The GBV risk is considered "Moderate" for Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Project activities are not expected to generate any significant labor influx and military forces will not be used to secure the project sites.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

Careful consideration was given to the scale and scope of project activities to ensure that they are practical and reflect the complicated context in which they will be implemented. All project activities are small scale and community driven which has proven to be effective in FCV contexts for improving social inclusion and reducing social conflict. The small scale nature of the civil works in particular will reduce the amount of time that large equipment, materials and contractors are in the insecure areas.

The project also adopted a climate-smart approach for each components to minimize its potential impacts on environment as well as strengthen resilience of local livelihoods.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

As indicated, careful consideration has been given to the scale and scope of the project which is intended to mitigate some of the key risks and minimize impacts. Alternative ways to support project implementation and verify compliance have also been incorporated into the project design. This includes a layered approach that incorporates the use of a TPM in each country (likely a local NGO) as well as a GEMS mapping of the subprojects. Security conditions will be monitored on a continuous basis by the LCBC and national PIUs using a system that includes monitoring and mitigation mechanisms at the community, project and national level as well as IT and other innovations for remote monitoring. The Bank will consider including a suspension clause in the Legal Agreement that will allow the Bank to suspend the project if the security situation deteriorates to a level that would make it difficult, in the estimation of the Bank, to continue with implementation.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

Several consultations were held with potential beneficiaries in the project areas. A social assessment was conducted in each country and project information was widely shared during the process. A functional and effective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is being established in each of the three countries. These GRMs are based on existing local complaint management systems and have been designed to be fully accessible in terms of language and format for local stakeholders. Each GRM will have a complaint and resolution tracking system and efforts will be made to build synergy between the project GRMs and the GRMs for other Bank financed projects in the same project area. This will be complemented by a communication strategy that will be used to provide on going engagement and information sharing with the local communities.

**B. Disclosure Requirements****Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other**

Date of receipt by the Bank 02-Mar-2020	Date of submission for disclosure 27-Mar-2020	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
--	--	--

"In country" Disclosure

Cameroon
27-Mar-2020

Comments

Niger
30-Mar-2020

Comments

Chad
26-Mar-2020

Comments

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank 02-Mar-2020	Date of submission for disclosure 27-Mar-2020
--	--

"In country" Disclosure

Cameroon
27-Mar-2020

Comments

Niger
30-Mar-2020

Comments

Chad
26-Mar-2020



Comments

Pest Management Plan

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?

Yes

Date of receipt by the Bank

02-Mar-2020

Date of submission for disclosure

27-Mar-2020

"In country" Disclosure

Cameroon

27-Mar-2020

Comments

Niger

30-Mar-2020

Comments

Chad

26-Mar-2020

Comments

If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.

If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)**OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment**

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?

No

**OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats**

Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?

No

If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?

Yes

OP 4.09 - Pest Management

Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?

Yes

Is a separate PMP required?

Yes

If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or PM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist?

Yes

OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources

Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?

Yes

Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?

Yes

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

OP 7.50 - Projects on International Waterways

Have the other riparians been notified of the project?

Yes

If the project falls under one of the exceptions to the notification requirement, has this been cleared with the Legal Department, and the memo to the RVP prepared and sent?

NA

Has the RVP approved such an exception?

NA

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information



Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?

Yes

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?

Yes

All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?

Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?

Yes

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Nicolas Perrin

Senior Social Development Specialist

Benjamin Burckhart

Senior Social Development Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Republic of Cameroon - Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development

Republic of Chad - Ministry of Economy and Planning



Republic of Niger - Office of the Prime Minister

Lake Chad Basin Commission

Alio Abdoulaye Abdoulaye

M.

a.alio@cblt.org

Implementing Agencies

PROLAC PIU (to be set-up)

Guy Ronel Guemaleu Guemaleu

M.

guemaleuguy@yahoo.fr

Republic of Niger - Executive Secretariat for the SDS Sahel Niger (SE/SDS Sahel-Niger)

Ada Laoualy

Secrétaire exécutif (Niger Refugee and Host Community Projec

ada.laoualy@yahoo.fr

PROLAC PIU (to be set-up)

Amma Abderahim Ndiaye

Madame

ammabichara@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank

1818 H Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20433

Telephone: (202) 473-1000

Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):

Nicolas Perrin
Benjamin Burckhart

**Approved By**

Safeguards Advisor:	Hanneke Van Tilburg	02-Apr-2020
Practice Manager/Manager:	Aly Zulficar Rahim	02-Apr-2020
Country Director:	Claire Kfouri	03-Apr-2020