
Terrorism Interacted Environmental Change, a Non-traditional Threat in Africa: Case of the Lake Chad Basin LBC

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Abstract:

Enter Recently, terrorism insurgency in Lake Chad Basin region LCB (comprises of countries such as Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria and Niger) has adversely affected security, socio-political and humanitarian situations in the region which previously has experienced regular drought and climatic hazards. This work aims at explaining how terrorist interacted environmental change worsen already vulnerable human security and stability in the region, moreover, seeking means that may help to curb this phenomenon and address environmental change challenges. It uses a qualitative method, mainly interpretative content technique, which closely suites this work. Data are largely collected form secondary sources mainly literature interesting in environmental hazard, terrorist insurgency in the Lake Chad basin. It reaches that efforts may excreted by national, regional and international partners is possible means combat terrorist insurgency, restore security and address environmental challenges in the region. This paper shall probably be able to close the visible academic gap, by expanding debate and deepening understanding on such issue.

Keywords: Environmental Change; Terrorism; Insecurity; Human Security.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Lake Chad Basin (LBC) is a region which comprises of countries such as Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger have political, socio-economically value to its varied nearly 30 million inhabitants in the region. Over the last five decades the region is gravely affected by ecological damages, due to drought, decreasing in rain falling and resource scarcity which have adversely affected livelihood conditions of its people and mass relocation, this in addition to unstable political condition in the countries of the region and their neighbors (i.e. Central Africa Republic, Sudan and Libya). Lately, the region witnessing terrorist activities in wide forms which couple with other environmental hazards to cause a serious damage to its people, moreover, corrupting fragile situation in the region. This paper aims at making a link between environmental changes and serves terrorist activities in the region; likewise, it tends to show how terrorist activities carrying out by Boko Haram worsen the situation and threatening security in the region. Finally, it aims at seeking means that may help to curb this phenomenon. However, this work contributes to the knowledge as deepening understanding and expands debate on the linkage between environmental change and non-traditional threat (terrorist insurgency) which defined as non-direct impact of environmental change (e.g. displacement, scarcity and rivalry over resources) in Lake Chad basin and Sahel Region.

Methodology:

This paper uses a qualitative method, mainly interpretative content technique, which closely suites this work. Data are largely collected form secondary sources mainly literature interested in environmental hazard, terrorist insurgency in the lake Chad basin, synthesis of review identified reason gaps, whereby it noticed that almost no much-direct work was done in the area of relationship between environmental change and non-traditional threat and its effects (i.e. terrorism) in the region, probably because of little work in this area. However, work has been done in some related elements (e.g. migration, food insecurity and violence). This paper shall probably be able to close the visible academic gap, by expanding debate and deepening understanding on such issue.

Some Literature Review:

Since the end of Cold war, and Globally, relationship among environmental change, water security and insecurity threats are well reviewed by authors. Recently, there is a growing body of literature which has been determined that climate change is growing to be a security issue at both international and national levels, as it is always associates with resources rival, conflicts and migrations as

well as human insecurity. This well demonstrates work for example: (Garrett and Piccinni 2012; Trombetta 2012; Dorr et al. 2013). Regarding relationship among climate change, water stress and development, some state that “climate change affects water resource variability in different locations is of critical importance to sustainable development in different parts of the world” (Yingkui and Urban 2016). Most interestingly, Kreamer (2012) demonstrates that, “increasing water scarcity and stress can induce regional and local tension, trans-boundary water dispute and cross-border terrorism”. On the other research area, some work makes a link among environmental change, resource depletion and human insecurity. This for example illustrates Hoffiman and Grigera 2013 and Mason, M. 2015. In Africa, the authors pay much attention to the relationship between environmental change, resource scarcity, migration and intra-ethnic enmity, they conclude that: drought, inconsistent agricultural policies and overgrazing result in reduced land capacity; and thus, cause rivalry over land usage in Sahel region in Africa. In addition, Obioha (2008) states that, “drought is the principal factor that leads to scarcity competition over natural resources and violence among Africa rural groups”. Following this, Eriksen and Lind (2008) spell out that drought plays a role in violent conflict between ethnic groups over scare resources, this often takes place in dry land of Africa, and the situation in Kitui and Turkana districts in Kenya confirmed this reality.

This is similar to the case of Lake Chad Basin region; however, relationship among environmental hazard, water security and insecurity condition is visible. Presently, in the region, declining water supply reasoning by environmental change, is barely affects people living around the lake, pastoral, farmers and fishermen have long been vulnerable due to water shortage whom they very depend on to sustain their living (Abubakar 2002). Moreover, water scarcity in the lake region is also become a source of violence mainly in sites where resource scarcity combined with other motivated factors (Okpara, et al. 2015). In this way, “violence continues to displace people in the region. In communities hosting IDPs, refugees, and returnees, the presence of additional families is straining local resources and exacerbating food, relief commodity, shelter, livelihood, and protection needs, among others”. (WFP 2016)

On the other hand, there are a little documents endeavored to make link between climate change and development of terrorism and its activities in some part of the world. They agreed that lacking of access to water, land, food and spreading diseases and migration help both breaking of international conflict, foster terrorism and existing security risks. (Farley 2015 and Worland 2015)

Similar in Lake Chad basin some say that chronic drought, cross border immigration; food insecurity and political turmoil in the region are considered to be sources of thriving of Boko Haram in the Basin. (Darby 2017, Mar Dieye 2017 and Agnew 2017)

Review of literature shows that, relationship between environmental change and rising, activates of terrorist movements is not well debated, much work was done in some related elements mainly negative impacts on the socio-political and economic areas and terrorists financing. In addition to above literature, this also illustrates work, for example (Enobi and Rokou 2016 and king sly et al. 2015). While there is no direct link and final anticipation of association between environmental change and terrorism, the non-traditional threats concern referred to in this paper implies non-traditional threats in spread, insecurity impacts of terrorist activities in the Lake Chad basin region.

2. Setting of the Scene

The LCB, is a geo-political zone sites in the center-west of Africa as a part of Sahel region of Africa, the region covers surface area of 2.300.000 km². (Antimbom 2016), It is almost 8% of the African continent. The lake locates between (lat.12:30N and long. 13:00E to 15:30 E) it shared by Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroun. (Abubakar 2017) and its basin encompasses three climate zones: the Saharan desert climate in the north, the Sahel in central Chad with its wet and dry seasons, and the Sudan zone in the south with a hot, wet-dry tropical climate. This results is marked regional and season variation in rainfall. (BMZ 2018). The basin’s inhabitants are about 30 million, and growing rapidly, ethnically diverse mainly Kanuri, Buduma, Hausa, Fulani, Bagger, Haddad and Kuri.(Antimbom 2016).

Table 1: Surface Area of the Basin among the LCBC Member Countries

State	Size of Basin (Km ²)	%National Territory
Cameron	56,800	12.12
Niger	162,375	12.70
Nigeria	188,000	22.17
Chad	361,980	28.42
CAR	197,800	31.75
Total	967,000	-

Source: Antimbom (2016).

Over decades, and since 1970s, the lake Chad Basin LCB region is one of the most vulnerable regions of climate stress in Africa. The Lake Chad was one the world's largest lake, which is fed by the Chari and Logone rivers. Declining the rainfall rates and water supply caused by ecological change has negatively scare the lake’s water source. Recently, the lake is shrinking, it was approximately 25,000 km² in 1963, decreased to less than 2,500 km² . (Ikusemoran et al. 2018) threatening the natural capital (water, food, land, forest, biodiversity... etc.) and livelihoods (fishing, farming and pastoral) of the 30 million people living in the region. Ongoing alteration of the lake environment quality and water renewal rates due to such change resulted in several traditional threats and difficulties in local communities and governments i.e. mass relocation, food insecurity and violence in which are often considered as serious consequences of climate hazard.

3. Climate Change: Traditional Insecurity Threats in LCB

In recent years, the LCB region challenges by series climate change effects appear in greatest humanitarian crisis, food insecurity and ethnic tension. Before and during the golden age in the 1960s for the livestock keepers “the lake hosted about 135 species of fish and fishermen captured 200,000 metric tons of fish every year, providing an important source of food security and income to the basin’s populace and beyond, and the grazing was good, and conflicts between herders and farmers were rare. (UN Environmental program 2018) Today, environmental change and degradation worsen the situation and cause severe humanitarian challenges in vulnerable livelihood, access to natural resources, freshwater, grazing land, the entire risk human, food security and living condition in the basin. However, in addition to the flee of herders due to drought over years, it reported that 2.350.578 Million people are internally displaced and about 177.966 were immigrated this in addition to more than 4.5million people in the basin severely food insecure. (UNHCR 2015 and UN Environmental program 2018)

Table 2: account of IDPs and Immigrants in LCB countries 2015

Immigrants	
Cameron	58.220
Chad	14.163
Niger	105.583
Total	
IDPs	
Nigeria	2.150.451
Cameron	81.693

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Chad	68.434
Niger	50.000
<i>Total</i>	

Source: United Nation High Commission for Refugees.2015. UNHCR-Nigeria

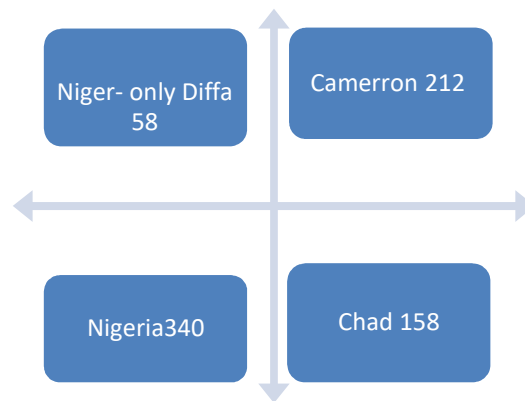
Situation Report: High-Level Side Event on the Lake Chad Basin, 70th session of United Nation General Assembly.25 September, 2015. New York: United Nation.

Besides, food insecurity and displacement, the region witnesses some ethnic disputes over land and grazing. However, water scarcity, decrease of fresh water for irrigation, nutrition, and rivalry over limited resources, is creating hostility and risk of ethnic unrest, this same to rising tension and violence between nomadic Fulani herdsmen and member of Buduma ethnic group and between settled group (e.g. Kuri) and mobile tribes (e.g. Burnu and Tunjur), those shared the lake water. (Shaaeldin 2015), this in addition to protracted dispute between Chadians, Cameroonians and Nigerian over regional -water border, this same to the dispute between citizens of Cameroon and Nigeria over historical possession of Darak area. (Shaaeldin 2015). All these risks, and challenges have vulnerable people's livestock, food security and ethnic relationship in the basin region.

4. Terrorism Interacted Environmental Change and Insecurity in LCB

In recent years, the environmental changes, degradation has been intricate by Boko Haram insurgency, which began in 2009, and worsen already vulnerable situations in the region, used hundred displaced, poor people and who effected by environmental change in its troops (Agnew 2018) Boko Haram interrelated violence in northeastern Nigeria has spilled over areas of neighboring Sahlean countries in the Lake Chad Basin-specially Cameroon, Chad and Niger devastating effect on food security and livelihood. The violence has driven million from their homes and hampered access to agricultural lands and assets, creating massive humanitarian needs in an area already characterized by food insecurity, poverty and environmental degradation. Recently, the violence is continuing and focusing on suicide bombing and attack aiming at civilian and security forces and resulting in loss of lives, destructing infrastructure, disruption of trade communications, and potentially destabilizing inter—community relations. (FAO 2017).

Shape 1: Number of Boko Haram-related Incidents per-country in 2016



Source: Food and Agricultural Program FAO (2017).

These violent accidents resulted in a great humanitarian emergency. In number, terrorist interacted environmental change causes massive displacement, food insecurity and acute malnutrition. It is reported that 2.4 million people are displaced; about 6.9 million people in the Basin being severely food insecure and nearly 11 million people in the region require humanitarian assistance including 7.7 million people in northeastern Nigeria's three most affected states- Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, (USAID 2017), this in addition to kidnaping accidents, however, it also reported that 270 school girls were abducted in in Chibok, Borno state, while some of them were released by militants 112 of them are still missing. (Crisis Group Africa 2018). Evidentially, these challenges have proven a fact that; the LCB region facing a serious security threats, risk both life and stability in the region, given that the four counties of the region are suffering from severe internal problems i.e. political instability, poverty and corruption, intra-ethnic disputes as well as insecurity conditions in neighboring countries- especially Libya, Sudan and Central Africa Republic* . This situation lead in many ways particularly, negative impacts of climate hazard i.e. displacement, food insecurity and resource scarcity to hindering fighting against terrorism in the Basin, and making the LCB catching in conflict and insecurity trap, to make it in need to much efforts to be excreted by regional and international bodies to curb

* Niger and Chad are among the most 25 poorest countries in Africa and the world, while Nigeria is among the most 10 corrupted countries in Africa and the world according to the 2018 U.S. News and the world report ranking (World Population Review 2019).

terrorism insurgency and address environmental challenge, as we suggest in line below.

5. Strategic Framework for Peace and Human Security

The paper strategy is use to response to immediate situation in the LCB region focusing solely on addressing environmental hazards, insecurity and conflicts, however, rivalry over limited natural, economic resources, terrorism insurgency and human insecurity risking instability and human- well-being in the region. This reality needs emergency humanitarian support and military action to curb terrorist insurgency and human insecurity. Therefore Lake Chad Basin commission included member states (e.g. Chad, Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Libya), has responsibility with stakeholders across the continent and the world to address sharing, conservation and management of the lake resource and in engaging diplomatic options to resolve conflicts and curb terrorist insurgency. (Okpar et al. 2015)

To put its objectives that aiming to helping and improve socio-economic, Human security in practicing to adders environmental Hazards and maintain security, the LCBC, and its partner in Africa and worldwide , implemented and continue doing several efforts, aiming at recovering vulnerable situations in the region mostly projects made by, for example GIZ, Africa Development Fund during 2015-2015, these projects implemented in the Bain countries to alleviate poverty improve eco-economic situation and preserve the lake's water, such projects as Sustainable Development Program, of the Lake Chad Basin, Sustainable Management of Water Resources of the Lake Chad Basin (Surface and Ground Water) and LCBC Institutional Support Project by the German Cooperation. (LCBC 2015)

Moreover, due to conflict perpetuated by Boko Haram in the LCB countries, and doing complex emergency Humanitarian crisis , the United State Government Development Program USAID has fund millions with its partner for many humanitarian, logistic and agricultural projects aimed at recovering Economic, Health, Food Security, these in addition to Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management in the Basin's affected countries i.e. Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon and Niger, as per see in the table below.

Table3: USG Humanitarian Funding for the a Lake Chad Basin Response in FY 2018-2019

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA			
NIGERIA			
Implementing Partner Yobe	agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market System; Health Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Multipurpose, Cash Assistance ; Nutrition; Risk Management ;Shelter and Settlement , Water Sanitation	Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, and	80,761,820
IOM 10,500,000	ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Health, Protection, shelter, and Settlement, WASH	Adamawa, borno, Bauchi, , Gombe ,Taaba,and Yobe	
OCHA 4,500,000	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	
FAO 1,500,000	agriculture and Food Security	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	
UNHAS 6,500,000	Logistic Support and Relief Commodities	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	
UNICEF 4,745,823	Health	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	
WFP 1,500,000	Logistic Support and Relief Commodities	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	
WHO 2,000,000	Health	Borno	
Program Support Cost			
2,227,293			
Total USAID/OFDA For the Nigeria Response FY 2018-2019 114,234,936			
CAMEROON			
IPs 7,007,719	agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Multipurpose, Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlement , WASH	Far North	
OCHA 1,200,000	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	
UNHAS 500,000	Logistic Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	
Total USAID/OFDA Funding for the Cameroon Response FY 2018-2019 8,707,719			
CHAD			
IPs 4,855,000	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance,	Lac	

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Nutrition, Protection, WASH		
UNHAS 1,000,000	Logistic Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide
Program Support Cost		
1,000		
Total USAID/OFDA Funding for the Chad Response FY 2018-2019		
5,856,000		
<i>To be connected ...</i>		
NIGER		
IPs 8,819,494	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection,	Diffa
Shelter and Settlement , WASH		
OCHA 600,000	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide
UNHAS 1,300,000	Logistic Support and Information Management	Countrywide
Program Support Cost		
772,794		
Total UAID/OFDA Funding for the Niger Response FY 2018-2019		
11,492,288		
Total USAID/OFDA Funding for the Lake Chad Basin Response in FY 2018-2019		
140,290,943		

Source: USAID (2019).Lake Chad Basin-Complex Emergency. Fact Sheet3, Fiscal Year

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On the other hand, and particularly, the military effort by the Basin's and Sahel regions targeting curb terrorist insurgency, it' important to strength the role, strategy of the G5 in this challenge. The group established in February 2014, includes countries of Burkina-Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. (France Diplomatic 2019). It created by the region's leaders as a way to taking their security into their hands, encouraging regional development by coordinating their effort, therefore, it's initially designed as a framework for coordinating, monitoring existing regional cooperation and international initiative- including the African Union, European Union and United Nations Development Program. (Dider 2019). To achieve its goals aiming development, security, and operationalizing a regionalized strategy, the donors and partners of the Sahel alliance have committed to fund millions to initiate many supportive projects and military operations to fight terrorist insurgency in the region and beyond, this including €176 million from EU and its member states, €100 million from African Peace Facility. (European Commission 20018b). More funds are also offered by France €60million, £100 million from Saudi Arabia and £ 30 million

from United Arab Emirates, such funding, merely represents bilateral assistance for the states of the joint force. (Dider 2019)

Table 4: the G5 Sahel Alliance

Member States	Initial Partners	Joint Force	Mission
Burkina-Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Mauritania	African Development Bank, World Bank, European Union, UNDP	5000 Men	Counter-terrorist, Organized cross-border crime, and Human Trafficking

Source: France Diplomatic (2019).

It's important to remember that, the G5, is a regional alliance aims to fight terrorist insurgency and restore security in the region and beyond, it had from start and coupling with Nigerian and France forces launched series of military operation authorized by the African Union and United Nation to reduce Boko Haram violence and retake much territory from the hand of the extremist insurgency to level, may see prior to 2014. (Irish 2017). This in return, brings a relative peace, stability to the region, a matter requires much logistic and finance assistance from the alliance countries and their partners to mitigate terrorist activities.

6. Conclusion and Policy Implication

In the Lake Chad Basin, Environmental Hazards is complicated by rising terrorist insurgency carrying out by Boko Haram since 2009 that worsen already vulnerable situation in the region and risks instability and human security in the area. Though efforts excreted by the Lake Chad Basin Commission, its Stakeholders and G5 to address Humanitarian crisis, water scarcity and people's livelihood, yet, the two bodies and their partners are not in the position to fulfill those wide-range tasks, since the two bodies and the region facing many challenge as follows:

1. The entire region's countries facing growing threat of terrorist, organized crime, climate change, poverty, and demographic growth, and these are leading to institutional fragility in the region.
2. Among the region's countries, there is a lack of political –well and consensus on ratifying relevant climate's laws and policies that serve development and maintaining of the lake's water resources.

3. There is a lack of political stability, as the region and neighboring countries (e.g. Libya and Central Africa Republic), have witnessed waves of violence and political turmoil.
4. In entire countries, there is an absence of investment's plan, laws that related to productive –water projects.
5. Absence of research-technical centers expert in environmental change and security.
6. Lack of economic potentiality, which helps in initiating productive, livelihood schemes.

Lastly, to help addressing these challenges, this paper recommends that:

1. Urge the region's government leaders to put forward concrete pledge and commitment to work hand by hand in order to response, face environmental hazards.
2. Urge donors' government to enhance their fund and founding of relief, investment schemes for those people in need for more protection and humanitarian assistance.
3. Development of integrated-rational water management and use for adequate distribution and use of the lake water by inhabitant those shared the lake water.
4. Founding of Sustainable Management of Water Resources of the Lake Chad Bain (Surface and Ground Water).
5. Building institutional capacity, for efficient water management and use.
6. For combating terrorism, effort must be excreted to mitigate the root causes of terrorist insurgency (poverty, social, political and economic marginalization and illiteracy);
7. Military effort carrying out by individually country or joint effort by G5, must continue to coordinate their work for further security in the region;
8. Fund, logistic assistance offering by donors to a country or to G5 must continue to enable them fighting terrorist insurgency in the region.

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