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Project Title  
Water, Peace, and Shared Prosperity in the Sahel:  
From Threat Multiplier to Cooperation Catalyst



Abstract

Water stress in the Sahel amplifies food insecurity, displacement, and local conflict. Yet water can also catalyze cooperation when three areas work together: **ecosystem restoration** (e.g., Great Green Wall), **smart infrastructure** (context-tested transfers and irrigation), and **good governance (IWRM at basin scale with credible MRV)**. This project synthesizes scholarship, policy sources, and practitioner insights to map risks and actionable pathways. Using **Lake Chad** as a lens, it compares ecosystem-first and infrastructure-heavy approaches, arguing for robust transboundary institutions, women-led community initiatives, and next-generation monitoring to convert hydro-insecurity into **peace dividends**.

Research Questions

- How does hydro-insecurity shape local conflict and cooperation?
- Which approaches deliver the most reliable peace & livelihood gains?
- What governance/MRV settings enable fair, basin-scale deals?

Methodology and/or Research Used

- Desk review and targeted content analysis.
- Comparative cases: **GGW** (ecosystem), **Transaqua** (infrastructure), **LCBC/IWRM** (governance).
- Practitioner insights: public talks, reports, semi-structured notes.
- Framing: risk pathways → levers → expected peace/livelihood effects.

Findings from Research

- Weak rules → tensions at wells, pumps, pasture calendars.
- Upstream restoration lowers water stress and opens youth jobs.
- Mega-transfers need strong governance and **credible MRV**.
- Basin institutions + open data build trust, cut incidents.
- Women-led stewardship scales resilience and cohesion.

Conclusions / Next Steps

1. **Deploy next-gen MRV:** low-cost sensors + open satellite dashboards.
2. **Strengthen LCBC:** binding-yet-flexible accords; basin funds rewarding restoration/efficiency.
3. **Scale low-cost solutions:** rainwater harvesting, small-scale irrigation, local maintenance, continuous training—aligned with **SDGs**.

Major sources used in conducting research

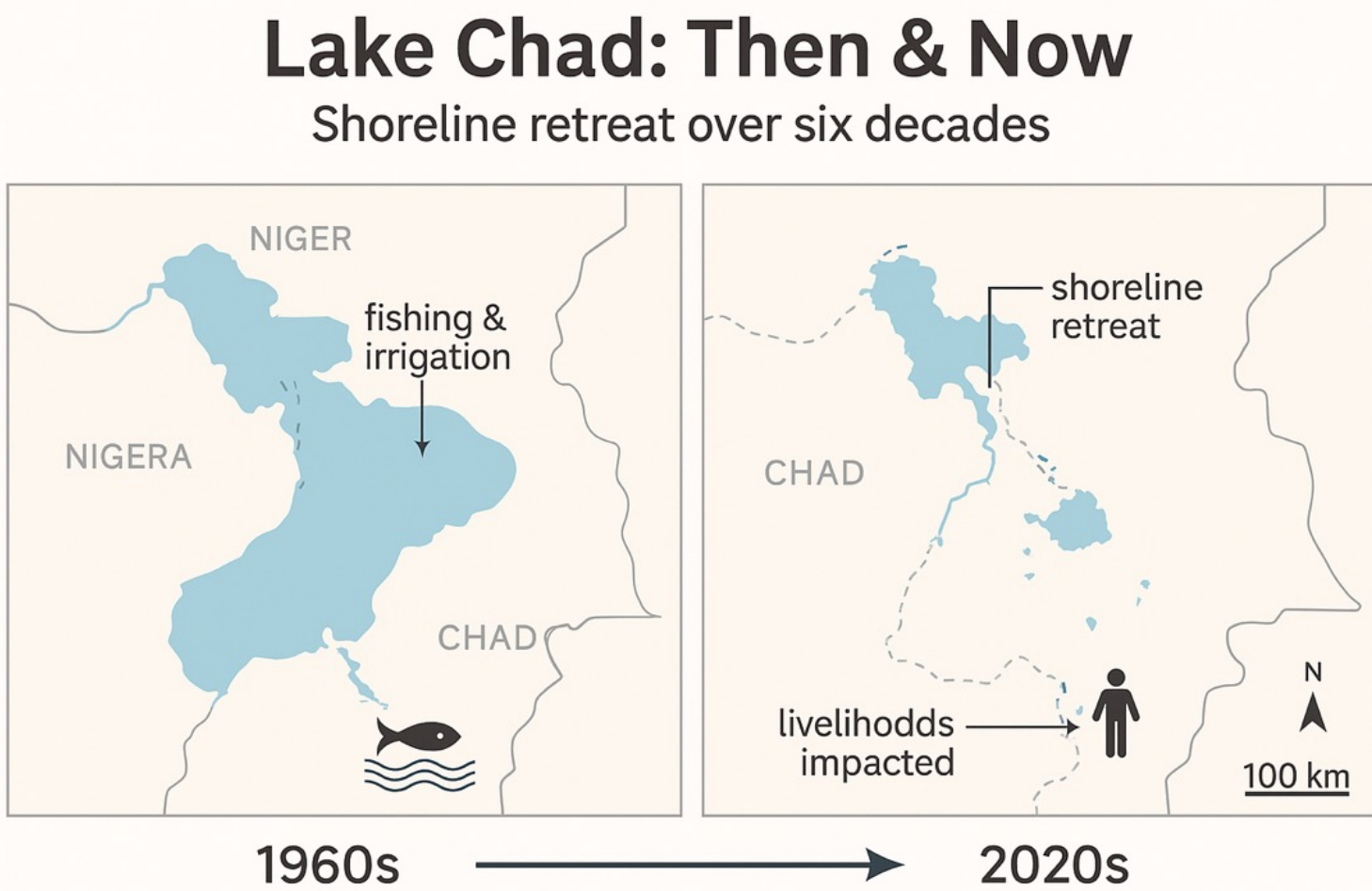
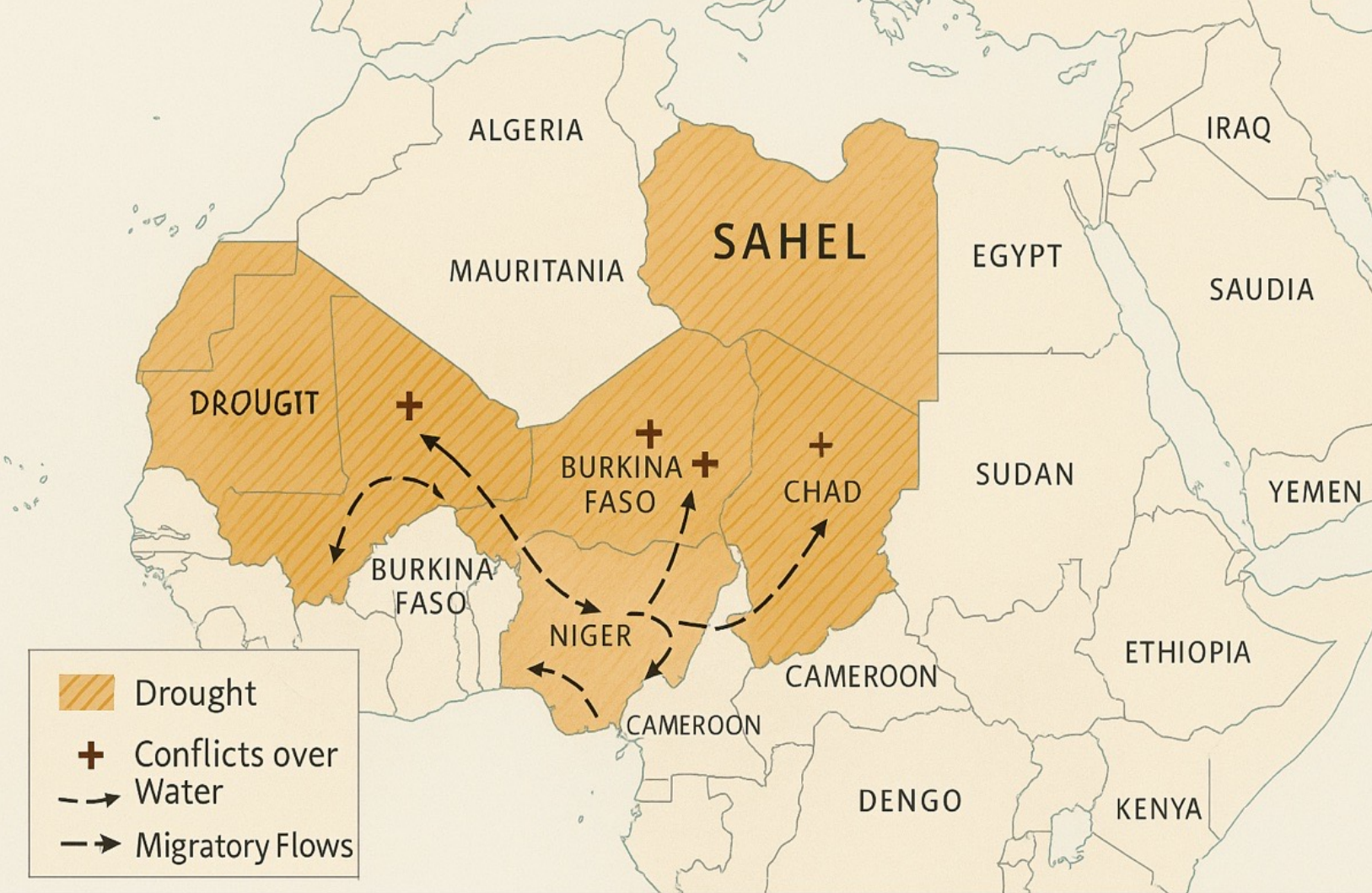
1. **UN General Assembly (2010)** — Human Right to Water & Sanitation, A/RES/64/292. <https://www.refworld.org/legal/resolution/unga/2010/en/76535>
2. **LCBC** — Lake Chad Basin Commission (mandate, countries, basin facts). <https://cblt.org/>
3. **WRI / AFR100** — African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (100 Mha by 2030). <https://afr100.org/>
4. **WAHARA (FP7)** — Water Harvesting for Rainfed Africa (methods & results hub). <https://wahara.wur.nl/>
5. **Med-Or Foundation** (Climate & Security report). Link: [https://www.med-or.org/volumes/news/01\\_medor\\_-\\_quaderno\\_clima\\_ebook.pdf](https://www.med-or.org/volumes/news/01_medor_-_quaderno_clima_ebook.pdf)  
<https://www.med-or.org/volumes/news/Report-acqua.pdf>

Publications or planned publications resulting from research

“Quando l’acqua manca: il volto umano della crisi climatica nel Sahel,” *Voci di Pace*.

Link: <https://www.vocidipace.it/2025/08/quando-lacqua-manca-il-volto-umano.html>

- Planned policy brief: “**Water & Peace in the Sahel: Basin-Scale Governance and Community Solutions.**”



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Terms used in the presentation: Great Green Wall; basin-wide water governance; public monitoring; Lake Chad Basin Commission (Also integrated water resources management).