



Fact Sheet

Cameroon Crater Lakes

800'000 ha

Floodplains and crater lakes make up Cameroon's rich wetlands. Atop volcanoes, the lakes harbour fish which live nowhere else. Mainstay of the local communities, these fish could vanish if improperly planned agriculture continues to expand along the crater rims. The Cameroonian part of Lake Chad, the nearby Waza-Logone floodplain, and the Barombi Mbo crater lake will soon be among the world's important and protected wetlands.



D. Landenbergue/WWF



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Central African Republic Water Towers

1 million ha

The Chari and Logone Rivers start in the Central African Republic. Like a 'water tower', most of the flow feeds the Lake Chad Basin. Because of its pivotal role in the conservation of Lake Chad's biodiversity, the Central African Republic is collecting data to identify hotspots along the Chari-Logone basins and obtain their protected status.

Chad A Shrinking Lake

3.25 million ha

Lake Chad is Africa's fourth largest. The Lake is shallow, has no outlet to the sea and collects water mainly from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Once stretching as far as the Nile, Lake Chad used to be Africa's largest freshwater lake but has shrunk by 80 per cent in 40 years. Climate change and desertification are challenging the way of life and resource reserves for about 22 million people who depend on the Lake. Hundreds of species of terrestrial and water birds migrate to, or live in, the Lake Chad region as well as over 40 species of fish in the lake itself. The countries sharing the Lake have begun to detail plans for jointly managing Lake Chad.

Africa and Madagascar