

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

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| Title of case study | COMDEKS Project: Lake Tabalak | | |
| Submitting IPSI member organization(s) | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | | |
| Other contributing organization(s) | Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU | | |
| Author(s) and affiliation(s) | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | | |
| Format of case study | Manuscript | Language | English |
| Keywords | Lake ecosystems, Fisheries management, Sand-dune stabilization, Erosion control | | |
| Date of submission | 6 March 2017 | | |
| Web link | http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6012/comdeks_ii_case_study_publication.pdf#page=168 | | |

Geographical Information

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|---|---|-----------|-------------|------------------|---|---------------|---|---------|--|
| Country | Niger | | Location(s) | Tahoua Region | | | | | |
| Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link | https://www.google.com/maps/@15.0385892,5.0951105,9z | | | | | | | | |
| Ecosystem(s) | | | | | | | | | |
| Forest | | Grassland | | Agricultural | x | In-land water | x | Coastal | |
| Dryland | x | Mountain | | Urban/peri-urban | | Other | | | |
| Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area | | | | | | | | | |
| The landscape contains zones of plateaus, hollows, gentle slopes and sand dunes. Due to its position in the middle of an arid zone, Lake Tabalak is a humid area that plays an important role in maintaining biodiversity. It is home to many species, most notably as migratory birds. It also substantially contributes to the socioeconomic activities of local communities, whose livelihoods depend on agriculture, livestock breeding and fishing. | | | | | | | | | |
| Description of human-nature interactions in the area | | | | | | | | | |
| Fishing, agriculture, and livestock breeding activities are becoming less reliable as agricultural productivity falls with erosion and drought. Poverty is prevalent throughout the region, and competition for land among pastoralists and farmers has led to nonviolent conflicts, due to livestock invading farmlands, or the encroachment of farmlands on passageways for livestock. Fishing has become an important source of income and is contributing to food security. | | | | | | | | | |

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| Status | Ongoing | Period | 06/2011 – |
| Rationale | | | |
| This region is facing threats of accelerated degradation due to pressure from unsustainable agricultural practices and increasing variability in climate, and there is a notable decline in plant and animal biodiversity. The subsistence of local communities in the target landscape heavily depends on the state of the lake and the environment. | | | |
| Objectives | | | |
| Restoration, protection, and sustainable management of the local environment; An increase in fish diversity and fish production in Lake Tabalak; Improvement in the welfare of the community through the creation and diversification of sustainable income-generating activities; Strengthening of the local institutional capacity for rational and sustainable landscape management | | | |
| Activities and/or practices employed | | | |
| Stabilizing shifting sand dunes and removing invasive species; Increasing the availability of pastureland; Empowering women and vulnerable groups; Adopting sustainable fishing practices and restoring local fish stocks | | | |
| Results | | | |
| Planting of seedlings has reduced the movement of sand dunes impacting the lake; Training in dune stabilization techniques has reduced erosion and increased the availability of pastures; Participation of women and youth has contributed to food security and improved livelihoods; Sustainable fishing practices allow fish | | | |

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| populations to recover without interrupting their reproductive cycles; Stocking of fish species that had disappeared, rehabilitating fish populations and improving incomes of fishing communities, particularly women | |
| Lessons learned | |
| Active participation of local and regional governments was an important key to success, as were ensuring accountability of the management committee and the high level of women’s participation; Training community members in simple techniques of environmental protection has helped to increase community awareness; For increased project efficiency and sustained impacts, activities should be extended to a radius of at least 10 km | |
| Key messages | |
| Projects have shifted how people view their landscape and its potential for restoration and increased productivity, particularly among fishers. The fact that a local monitoring mechanism has been established to ensure sound fishing practices shows this new commitment to sustainability. Another indication of increasing landscape governance capacity is the formation of local management committees. | |
| Relationship to other IPSI activities | This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project |
| Funding | Funding of USD 279,487.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Niger. |

Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

| Strategic Goal A | | | | Strategic Goal B | | | | | |
|------------------|---|--|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|---|---|--|
| ● | ■ | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Goal C | | | Strategic Goal D | | | Strategic Goal E | | | |
| ● | | | ● | ● | | | ● | ■ | |
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UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

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