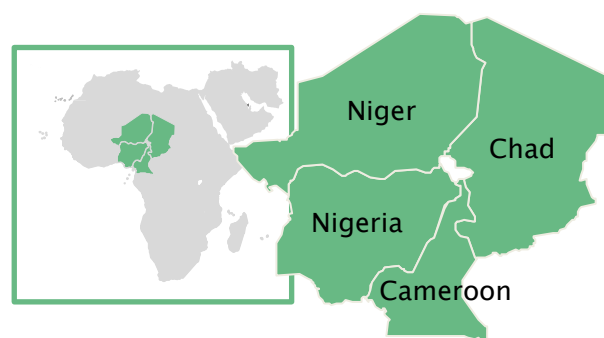


Peaceful Transhumance and Development of Pastoral Economy in the Lake Chad Region

Project name	Support for the pastoral economy in the Lake Chad region – Peaceful and inclusive Transhumance (PRADEP-LT-PETRA)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU)
Project region	Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria
Implementing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	05/2023 – 04/2028
Partners	Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Nigerian Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning (FMBNP), Economic Commission for Livestock, Meat and Fishery (CEBEVIRHA)

able to maximise the seasonal characteristics of the territory and, consequently, successfully maintain diversified livestock systems.



Introduction to the region

Lake Chad is located at the core of the Sahel and represents the most important water basin in the region. The lake depends on the waters of the Chari and Logone rivers. The climate around the lake is mostly dry, with some rainfall in summer. However, the basin is characterised by a variety of climatic zones, ranging from dry, desertic zones to humid and wet ones rich in precipitation. Moreover, the area is home to a rich biodiversity, and a wide variety of cultures and livelihoods. One major occupation in the Lake Chad Region is livestock-breeding, which holds a considerable economic importance. Around 80% of the livestock breeding in the region involves mobile pastoral systems, including transhumance. This type of pastoralism is characterised by the constant mobility of the herders and their livestock.

Transhumant pastoralism is crucial for the livelihood of a large portion of the population living in the Lake Chad region. Through transhumance, pastoral groups are

Regional challenges

For centuries, transhumance maintained a largely peaceful coexistence with sedentary farmers, aided by traditional mediation systems and low population densities. However, in recent years several challenges have put this practice under considerable strain. Firstly, climate change and its consequences are having a negative impact on transhumance-related activities, with more scarce and unpredictable precipitations and degradation of natural resources. In addition, the rapid growth of both human and animal population in the region has reduced the availability of grazing areas and increased the competition for available resources.

In addition, the area's fragile security situation often accounts for difficulties in the access of livestock trails and pastures and complicates the crossing of national borders. The lack of widespread cooperation between national, regional, and local actors on transhumance



issues further exacerbates the problem. These factors combined have led to a rise in conflicts linked to transhumance in recent years.

In the context of transhumance, the lack of health services is another problem. Zoonoses can be transmitted between humans and animals and may cross borders through mobile husbandry. Herdsmen can lose part of their herd to livestock diseases or end up herding weak animals.

This also has a negative impact on pastoral economies. Despite their enormous potential, pastoral value chains remain underdeveloped. In some cases, animal feed and veterinary products are difficult to access, and the processing of animal products – milk, meat, hides and leather – is limited.

Opportunities

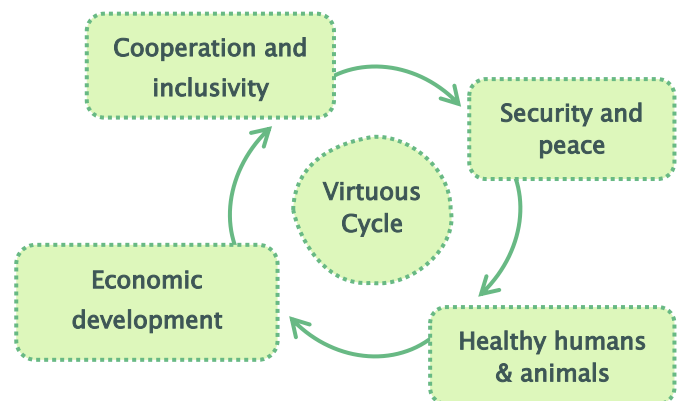
At the same time, transhumance offers multiple opportunities. From an environmental point of view, transhumance plays a key role in the natural fertilisation of the soil, and transhumance corridors maintain diverse ecosystems and preserve native plant species.

In terms of food security, transhumance ensures sustainable production by providing animal protein through traditional and environmentally friendly methods, using natural pastures according to seasonal cycles. Economically, transhumance plays a central role in creating trade opportunities along the routes and in activating local economies through the sale of pastoral products.

Mobile pastoralism fosters diverse economic activities and supplies transit markets and economies, while contributing to food and nutrition security. In fact, mobile pastoralism holds a significant economic potential for the whole region and can be a powerful vector for ensuring food security for a large population. Transhumance can also provide a solid basis for region-wide cooperation on the subject.

From a social perspective, transhumance contributes to the maintenance of ancestral land management practices and the creation of socio-economic links between sedentary and nomadic communities.

Finally, tackling transhumance can have far-reaching implications for gender-inclusive policies and socio-economic development. Recognising the pivotal role of women in livestock value chains fosters broader social and economic progress. Through transhumance, it is possible to create a virtuous cycle in the region.



Our approach

The vicious circle of conflict surrounding transhumance in the Lake Chad region can be transformed into a virtuous cycle of resilience through cooperation, peace, and sustainable practices. The project aims to identify the root causes and links between the issues surrounding transhumance. It operates on three levels – local, national, and regional – in order to foster peaceful and inclusive transhumance as well as the development of pastoral economy in the region. The project approach is holistic, considering both the horizontal issues surrounding mobile pastoralism and their interactions and consequences on the ground as well as the vertical interdependencies between the local communities, the regional authorities, the broader regulatory framework and the (inter)national institutions. The project aims to enhance the potential of transhumance in the Lake Chad region as a vector for a peaceful, sustainable, and inclusive development.

Objectives

Five main objectives will be at the core of our mission:

■ Establish governance instruments for peaceful transboundary transhumance management

Activities focus on advising regional organisations on their strategies and regulations in the context of transhumance, analyzing routes, supporting platforms for the development or improvement of crisis-preventive mechanisms, and training pastoral organisations with emphasis on women's participation.

■ Improve local mechanisms for crisis-preventive transboundary transhumance

Activities involve advising local authorities and pastoral groups on peaceful transhumance governance, facilitating inter-communal networks, and establishing dialogue mechanisms between authorities and communities.

■ Share good practices for crisis-preventive transboundary transhumance

Activities focus on engaging local and regional groups to identify, validate and disseminate tried-and-true practices, and building the capacities for the context-specific application of good practices.

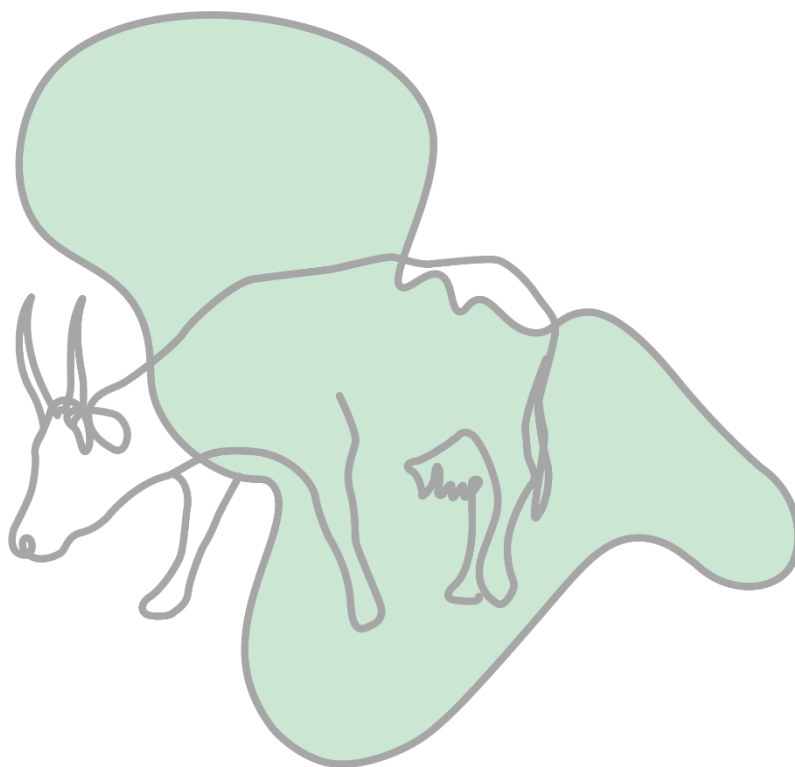
■ Protect pastoral households and herds from transboundary animal diseases

Activities strengthen veterinary services and access to supplies, implementing disease prevention programmes and establishing transboundary health monitoring systems. Human-animal health services are integrated to build crisis resilience.

■ Strengthen pastoral value chains to increase households' revenue and improve livelihoods

Activities improve market access and profitability through quality training, sustainable practices, and infrastructure development. It strengthens value chain connections between producers and markets to ensure fair prices for pastoralists and their customers.





Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany “Support for the pastoral economy in the Lake Chad region – Peaceful and inclusive Transhu- mance” (PRADEP-LT-PETRA) c/o Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH 65760 Eschborn, Germany	Photo credits	GIZ/Frescura; GIZ/Marcon; GIZ/Carrieri
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Last update	January 2025	GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.	
		On behalf of	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) European Union (EU)
		In cooperation with	