



# THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH AND THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

*“If you only look at  
what is in the calabash,  
you won’t notice  
when the granary  
burns.”*

[ Murum proverb from Chad ]

INTRODUCTION

THE 12 PRINCIPLES OF ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

# THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH AND THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

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NEAR BOL, CHAD



THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN NEED AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR OBJECTIVES AND ASSISTANCE IN USING THEIR RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

## INTRODUCTION

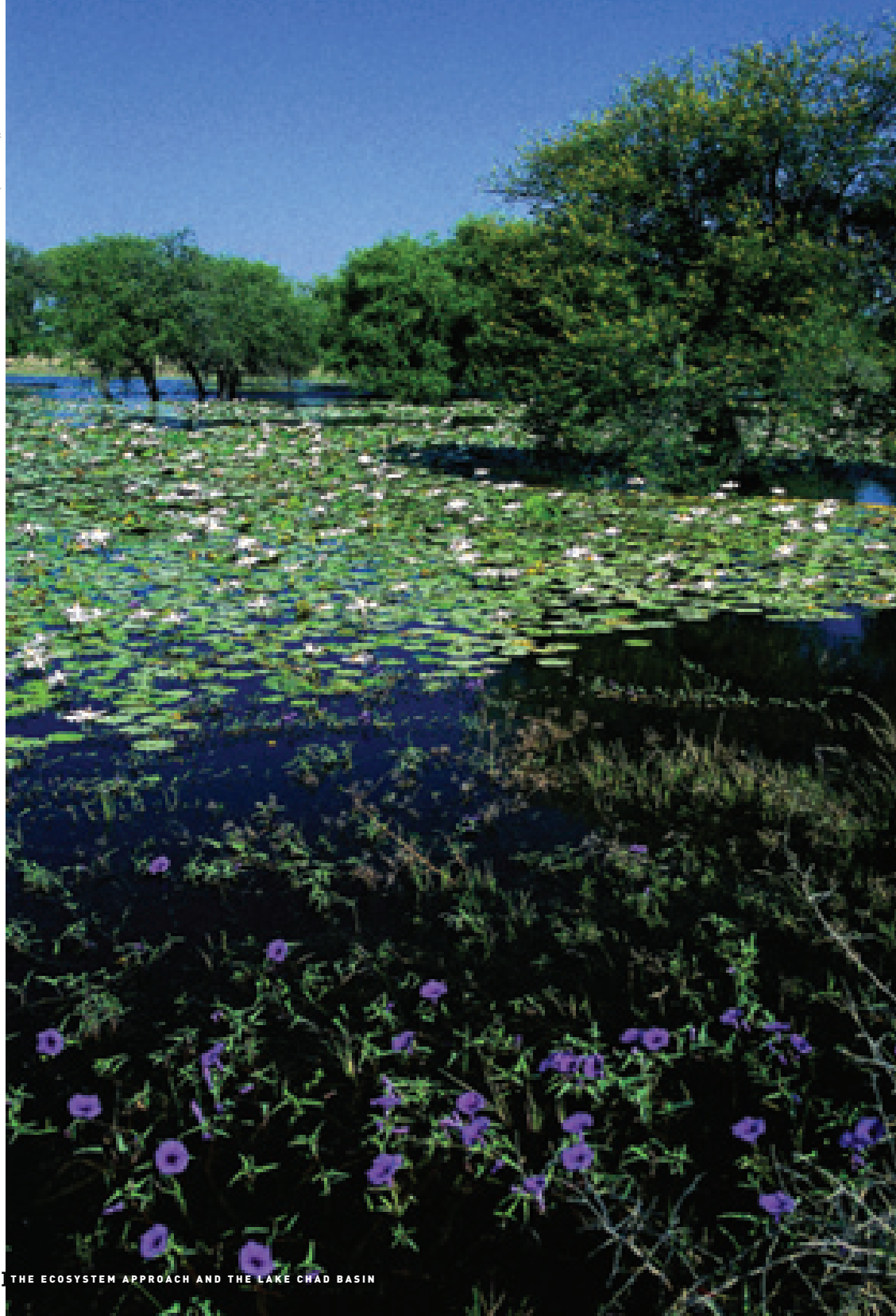
Many traditional practices described in the previous chapters have survived the harsh tests of recent increased human pressures and intensification of agriculture. These practices are important because they provide the basis upon which new forms of agricultural, pastoral and fish production can evolve. There is a close relationship between such practices and the ecosystem approach, as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Thus, application will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the CBD, namely:

1. Conservation
2. Sustainable use
3. Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources



NEAR BOL, CHAD





NEAR DIFFA, THE NIGER

ABOVE AND LEFT: WET AND DRY ECOSYSTEMS OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO EACH OTHER

## The Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity

### Extract from CBD COP Decision V/6 Ecosystem Approach <sup>[10.1]</sup>

The Conference of the Parties,

1. Endorses the description of the ecosystem approach and operational guidance contained in sections A and C of the annex to Decision V/6, and

- recommends the application of the twelve principles below, as reflecting the present level of common understanding, and encourages further conceptual elaboration, and practical verification;
2. Calls upon Parties, other Governments, and international organizations, to apply, as appropriate, the ecosystem approach;
  3. Invites Parties, other Governments and relevant bodies to identify case-studies and implement pilot projects, and to organize, as appropriate, regional, national and local

- workshops and consultations aiming to enhance awareness, share experiences, and strengthen regional, national, and local capacities on the ecosystem approach;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to collect, analyse and compare the case-studies referred to in paragraph 3 above and prepare a synthesis of case-studies and lessons learned for presentation to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice ...

## THE 12 PRINCIPLES OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

The ecosystem approach is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on the level of biological organization, which encompasses the essential structure, process, functions and interactions of organisms and their

environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, form an integral component of many ecosystems. The Convention on Biological Diversity has developed 12 principles of the ecosystem approach. In the following text, each of

these principles is stated and then related to examples taken from this book in order to demonstrate their relevance and potential in the design of new policies for a sustainable use of the Lake Chad Basin resources.