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# ANALYSIS OF AN ABSENCE OF GOVERNANCE & MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

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A Review of the Lake Chad Basin Development Countries (LCBDC) and  
The Nile River Basin (NRB) : Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

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# PROBLEM STATEMENT

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- Managing natural resources is an essential part of national governance.
- Some resources, such as water, span national boundaries.
- These resources require regional collaboration.
- Climate change and acceleration of impact on natural resources complicates the collaboration but makes it more essential.

# THE GRAND ETHIOPIAN RENAISSANCE DAM (GERD)



© Minasse Wondimu Hailu/AA/picture alliance

Ethiopia's mega project GERD will boost the country's electricity output, but the dam is still opposed by Egypt

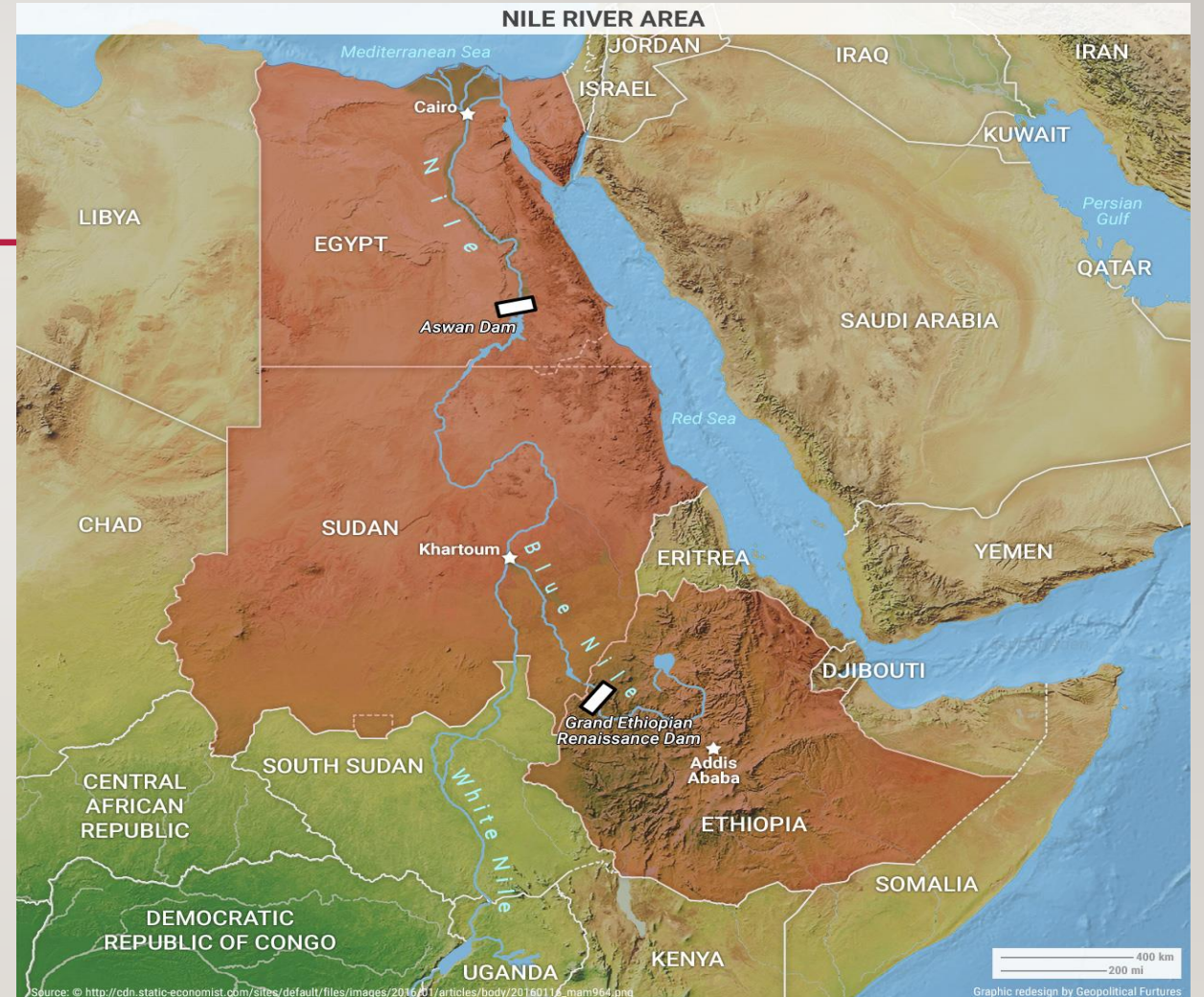
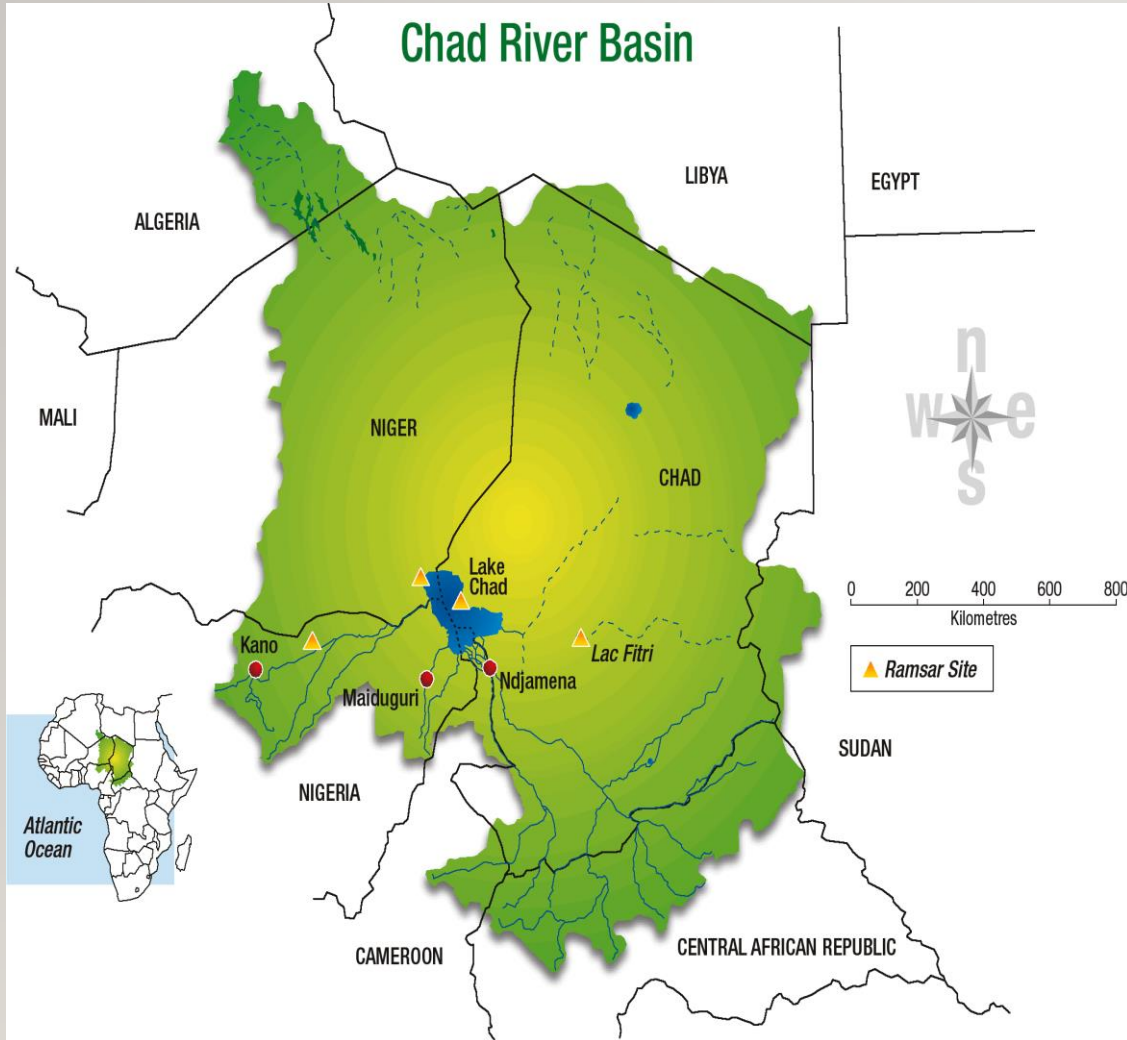
Image: Minasse Wondimu Hailu/AA/picture alliance

Image: Courtesy of DW News

## LAKE CHAD BASIN (LCB)



Image: Courtesy of Vice.com



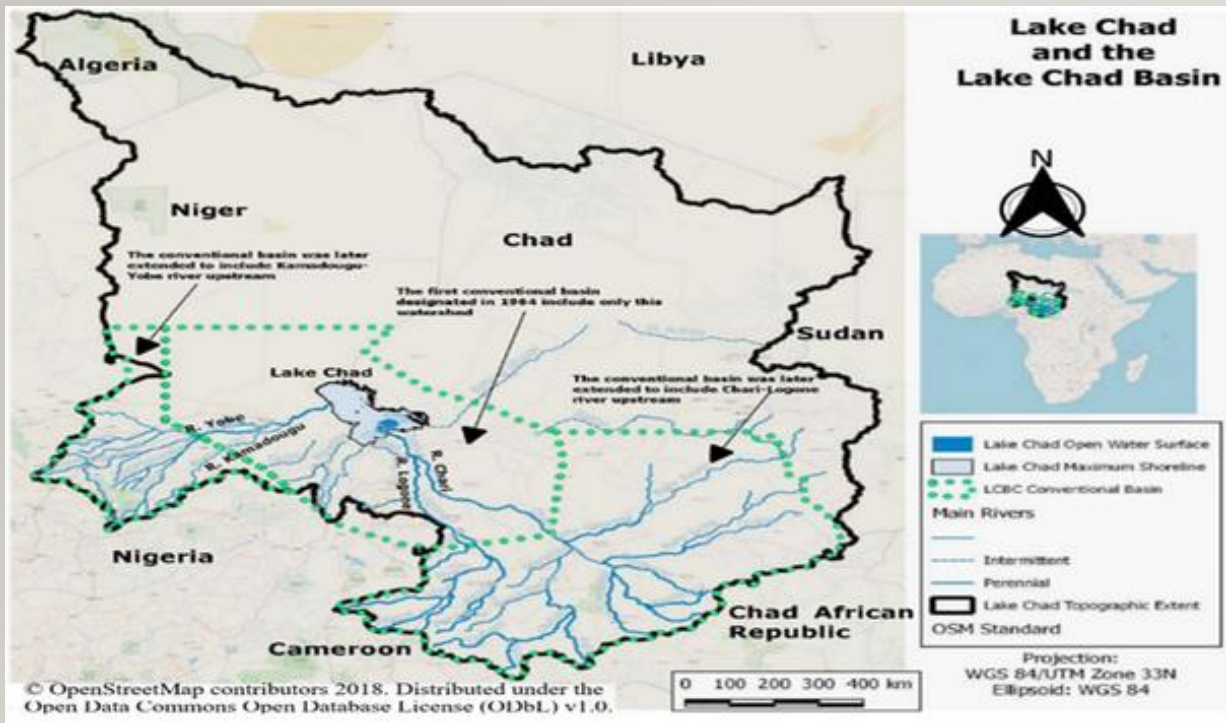
# LAKE CHAD AND ITS BASIN

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- Climate change has affected the health of the lake and its resources.
- The lake is situated among 4 countries which presents need for collaboration.
- Balancing needs of local community and governments.
- Impact of economic hardship on community and the influence of Boko Haram

## LEARNINGS:

Though cooperation can be patchy, the LCB has been able to work out a collaborative strategy for the management of water resources. INTERCONNECTIONS = INTERESTS + NEGOTIATIONS + COMPROMISE



## LAKE CHAD AND LAKE CHAD BASIN

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*(HOINATHY R. & TAYO T., 2022). LAKE CHAD BASIN, SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN THE SHADOW OF BOKO HARAM. INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES (ISS), WEST AFRICA REPORT 38, MARCH 2022*

## NILE RIVER BASIN AND GRAND RENAISSANCE DAM

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- Project of Ethiopian Government on a tributary of the Nile River beginning in 2011
- Problems developing during third stage of the project in 2022 between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt.
- Border skirmishes and increased tension as Dam got closer to completion.
- Does it differ from Egypt's Aswan Dam built between 1960 and 1970

### LEARNINGS:

Clarke-Santher et. al.(2017) :‘A Shift in the Geopolitics of the Anthropocene’

Is Ethiopia's decision to forge ahead on the GERD one of those ‘shifts’ in the ‘Global Environmental System’ (Crutzen, 2002)



Nile River watershed

**The Nile's path and the location of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam**



## 2 DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO GOVERNANCE

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### **Internationalist approach**

- Unite across nations by focusing on common interests
- Regional benefits outweigh individual nation benefits

Cascao and Nicol (2017); Zawahri and Hensengerth, (2012)

### **Constructivist approach**

- Interests are not self-evident
- Interests emerge from actions and can change with circumstances

Mirumachi Naho, 2015. A 'realist's perception of the abrogation/negation of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) by Ethiopia ??



## PROPOSED SOLUTION

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- Proactive thinking
- Balancing national and regional interests
- Being mindful of national culture and history (including colonialism)
- Being data driven

## CONCLUSIONS

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1. Regional collaboration is going to be more important than ever.
2. Continual communication is important
3. Continual revisiting of agreements
4. Leadership qualities

# THANK YOU !

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