

**A DELAYED RESPONSE**  
**DISCOURSES TRENDING ON THE LAKE CHAD BASIN**



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# **A DELAYED RESPONSE**

## **DISCOURSES TRENDING ON THE LAKE CHAD BASIN**

This document is a Master Thesis for the completion of the Master Environment and Society Studies at the Radboud University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

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## **Preface and acknowledgement**

A few years ago, I decided I will research the Lake Chad Basin. At that time, I was not sure what kind of study it was going to be, but the opportunity presented itself for me to do this now. I must say, the past seven months have been a period of learning, growth and development of new insights on a research process that will turn out to be very enriching; and a period of learning about a region with such uniqueness, yet so much complexity in its social character and development. This entire study process has only been possible with the support and encouragement of some individuals.

I am very thankful to my supervisor, Dr Maria Kaufmann whose guidance and critical feedback always put me in the right direction to develop this research at every stage.

I so much appreciate my parents for their love and support in all my endeavours, they always encouraged me to dream and to keep soaring. I am also grateful to my prayer meeting group in Nijmegen, you all made me feel so welcome amongst you. Our time together was wonderful and are moments that I will always treasure; Adriaan, Chris, Mike, Noor and Adrienne - thank you for the love, prayers and encouragement.

Most importantly, my gratitude is to God Almighty for giving me the strength to always forge ahead in all that He enables me to do.

Saratu Labbo

Nijmegen, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020

A quote....

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*Governance occurs on a global scale through both the co-ordination of states and the activities of a vast array of rule systems that exercise authority in the pursuit of goals that function outside normal national jurisdictions. (Rosenau, 2000:172).*

## Summary

The Lake Chad Basin has had a very turbulent history on its path to exist and remain productive. For almost six decades, the history of the drying lake has survived as a discourse practice, but not a lot has been achieved in terms of the development of communities living around its shores. Decades of discourse production has had its share of influence on the region's social construction through the LCBC's management processes - the institution mandated to manage the resources of the region. The region's stagnant development shows there is a need to strategize on future discourse communication.

This is a qualitative single case-study research which employs the analytical approach of critical discourse analysis (CDA) as a method of investigation. The research analyses developing dominant discourses that have been trending the Lake Chad Basin discourse practice. The objective was to identify who the major discourse actors are and to understand how their discourses have been influencing management decisions of the LCBC. The study looks into some policy documents produced by the LCBC and other influential discourse actors, as well as some peer-reviewed documents.

The dominant discourse subjects are highlighted and organized into an order of discourse based on their period of emergence, showcasing discourse the contribution of discourse towards social construction. This process was made possible with the application of some principles of Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) of Critical Discourse Analysis since LCB has a discourse history. Also, the way dominant discourses have been influencing each other through interdiscursivity is highlighted to show a trend of broadening of discourses. Consequently, the research is an attempt to contribute to the research gap that underscores the need to be strategic in discourse production, especially for regions where a governance deficit is experienced. In the end, certain trends are identified with regards to the research objectives; they are explained and recommendations are provided.

**Keywords:** Lake Chad Basin, Lake Chad Basin Commission, discourse, critical discourse analysis, management decisions, dominant discourses, order of discourse.

## Contents

Preface and acknowledgement.....	ii
Summary.....	iii
List of figures.....	vi
List of tables.....	vi
List of abbreviations and acronyms.....	vii
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Problem statement.....	2
1.2 Research aim and question.....	3
1.3 Scientific relevance.....	4
1.4 Societal relevance.....	5
2.0 Literature Review.....	6
2.1. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).....	6
2.2 Aims and challenges of CDA.....	9
2.3. CDA approaches.....	10
2.4 Dislocation events and order of discourse.....	14
2.5 Intertextuality, Interdiscursivity and Recontextualization.....	16
2.6 Discourses, actors and institutions.....	17
2.7 Conceptual framework.....	18
3.0 Methodology.....	20
3.1 Research philosophy.....	20
3.2 Research design.....	20
3.3 Case selection.....	21
3.3 Data collection.....	22
3.4 Data Analysis.....	23
3.5 Validity and Reliability.....	24
4.0 Lake Chad Basin background.....	27
4.1 Lake Chad Basin dynamics in historical context.....	27
4.2 Understanding the LCBC.....	29
5.0 Empirical analysis.....	31
5.1 Characterising the LCB discourse practice actors.....	31
5.1.1 Some early partnerships.....	33
5.1.2. Illustrating an influencing discourse.....	34
5.2 Commencement of the LCB discourse practice with hydro-technical discourses.....	35

5.3	Dominant discourses and dislocation events .....	37
5.4	Order of discourse explained .....	47
5.5	Interdiscursivity of dominant discourses .....	49
6.0	Conclusion and recommendations .....	55
	References .....	60
	Annexe 1: List of interviewees .....	66
	Annexe 2: Interview guide .....	67

## **List of figures**

Figure 1.1: Lake Chad Basin .....	3
Figure 2.1: Fairclough's model of CDA .....	11
Figure 2.2: Conceptual framework .....	19
Figure 3.1: Research steps .....	25
Figure 4.1: Lake Chad Basin dynamics .....	29
Figure 5.1: Lake Chad satellite images as seen by NASA 2001 .....	35
Figure 5.2: Order of discourse .....	45
Figure 5.3: Inter-connection between dominant discourses .....	51

## **List of tables**

Table 3.1: Units of analysis - documents, year of publication and authors.....	26
Table 5.1: Dominant discourses identified in each policy document.....	37

## List of abbreviations and acronyms

ACF	Agence Francaise de Developpment
ADB	African Development Bank
BMZ	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CDA	Critical Discourse Analysis
CIWA	Cooperation in International Waters in Africa
DFID	Department for International Development
DHA	Discourse Historical Approach
ECDPM	European Centre for Development Policy Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIWA	Global International Waters Assessment
ICID	International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
IDDDRA	IntServ Over Diffserv with Dynamic Resource Allocation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LC	Lake Chad
LCB	Lake Chad Basin
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PRODEBALT	Multinational: Lake Chad Basin Sustainable Development Programme
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN-OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNSO	United Nations Statistical Office
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WBG	World Bank Group
WFP	World Food Programme

## 1.0 Introduction

The Lake Chad Basin (LCB) straddles four countries: the northern part of Cameroon, western Chad, south-east Niger and the north-east of Nigeria. At a period in time, the lake and its waterways covered an area of around 50,000 square kilometres (Dami, Adesina & Garba, 2011). For many years, the lake and its shores have been a source of economic opportunities for the communities of about 30 million people living around there: its freshwater resource provides for fishing and trade and fertile land for crop farming and animal grazing (Onuoha, 2008). In the last 50 to 60 years, the lake has lost about 90% of its total surface area due to climate variability and human activities. Changes in climate have threatened the livelihood of the various communities and have further accelerated their vulnerability by triggering conflict between social groups due to competition for the remaining water resource. From a population of about 7 million across the region in the 1970s, to about 30 million 30 to 40 years later, environmental degradation has worsened poverty for the marginalised local population, which is now in an increasingly insecure situation due to the presence of Islamist terrorist organisation called Boko Haram (LCBC, 2010-2016).

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) was created on 22 May 1964 in the N'Djamena convention of that year and was mandated to manage the shared water resource to enhance regional cooperation and development. The founding members were Chad, Cameroun, Niger and Nigeria, but The Central African Republic and Libya later joined in 1994 and 2008 respectively. Although Sudan joined in the year 2000, it is yet to ratify. Algeria, Egypt, The Republic of Congo and The Democratic Republic of Congo are also members, but with observer status (LCBC, 2010-2016). The secretariat is located at N'Djamena in the Republic of Chad while it maintains liaison offices in all the other member states. Figure 1.1 shows the boundary of the basin, most of which cuts across parts of the four founding member states.

The member states signed a collective 'Water Charter' in April 2012, a vision aiming to achieve a strategic action plan by 2025. Its main objective requires that it leverages enhanced planning and communication capacities to strengthen cooperation among its member states (LCBC, 2010-2016). Stronger cooperation between all member states is no doubt a necessary tool that will reinforce the needed commitment to foster development in the region. Without total engagement from all, the long-term goals of sustainable development within the region cannot be fully realized. In the last decade, the discourses have revealed a push from the international community to support the LCBC to replenish the ecological landscape, advance development

and improve the quality of life of the region through sustainable natural resource development, climate change adaptation strategies and improved food security and nutrition (UN-FAO, 2017).

## **1.1 Problem statement**

The LCB has for several years been a subject on the table of policymakers and researchers concerned with sustainable development. Its discourse practice (the practice of the production, distribution and consumption of texts), (Fairclough, 1992, p. 72) has thrived through a variety of constructs in different discursive subjects, which initially emanated from fluctuations in climatic variability. Across time, some discourses have emerged to be dominant in the LCB discourse practice. Very often, they weakened previous discourses, causing them to lose their dominance but remaining relevant as part of other discursive subjects. There are always multiple discourses of influence, sometimes their influence is felt at the same time. What is important is that discourses, in general, ought to be a means of communication that can bring about positive social change, no matter how frequent they change.

In the decades of the 1970s to 1990s, most discourses focused on climate variability, the hydrology of the lake, but discourses have continued to change since then. These changing discourses could have influenced the commitment of the LCBC in managing the basin's resources. The role discourse has played in shaping the management process of the LCB is evident in literature, but there are deficiencies in analytical thought on how discourses have transitioned through the discourse practice. The region has attracted different types of interventions to improve the livelihoods of the growing communities living around the basin's shores, especially after the insurgent group of 'Boko haram' infiltrated parts of the region (HPN, 2017), and discourse plays a role in these interventions.

The LC discourse actors who partake in its discourse practice have exerted a lot of influence on the developmental phases the region has experienced, and their discourses have been matched with other forms of support that have helped the LCBC in its management decisions. Consequently, there is a need to critically analyse the effects of discourses on the management practices for this empirical case that has continued to experience developmental deficit for decades despite global intervention.



**Figure 1. 1 Lake Chad Basin**

Retrieved from [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/faowater/docs/ChadWWW09.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faowater/docs/ChadWWW09.pdf) (FAO, 2009)

## **1.2 Research aim and question**

Social practices imply dialectical relationships - the relationship between discursive events, institutions and the social structures that shape them (Wodak, 2014). Dialectical implies a relationship between critique, explanation and action. This relationship suggests that discourses establish positions, situations or events and are objects of knowledge. Therefore, the reality is viewed as socially constructed, and it is important to analyse meanings attached to discourses, and the effect they have on institutions and their contribution to society at large (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005). This study intends to explore discourses in past and current debates within the social context surrounding developments of the LCB. It will highlight dominant actors within the institutional practice, to understand their partnering objectives, as well as critically highlighting some interdiscursive lines of these actors found within discourses. Consequently, the research aims to unmask dominant discourses and dislocation events that have contributed to the normative justification which have continued to linger and impede the basin's development. The study will also address how these discourses have influenced management

decisions of the LCBC, in its bid to bring about positive change to the region. These objectives will be brought into focus and guided through the central question formulated as:

- ***To what extent has the management of the Lake Chad Basin been affected by changing discourses?***

*Which will be answered through the sub-questions:*

- *Who are the major actors involved in the management of the LCB and how have their discourses been affecting the LCBC decision-making processes?*
- *What are the dominant discourses, and how have they influenced the order of discourse of the LCB discourse practice?*
- *To what extent are dominant discourses connected through interdiscursivity?*

### **1.3 Scientific relevance**

There have been in-depth studies for decades on the LCB, (Kolawole, 1988; Hamsyapelay, 1989; Coe & Foley, 2001; Musa, 2008; FAO, 2009; Lemoalle et al., 2012; Magrin, 2016; Okpara et al., 2018; Adelphi, 2019). Some of these studies have been on lake hydrology, climate change and variability, community vulnerability, conflict and fragility, to name a few, but there are several other potential research areas yet to be explored. This single case-study explores one of the many possible research areas - on its discourse practice, which to the researcher's opinion, is understudied, and also not from the vantage point of CDA.

For many years, discourses on the LCB have mostly taken the hydrological and ecological angle, focusing on climate variability and water abstraction for irrigation and fisheries (Durand, 1982; Kolawole, 1988; Ngatcha, 1993; Olivry, 1996; Coe & Foley, 2001; Lemoalle, 2003; Gao et al., 2011; Lemoalle et al., 2012; Magrin, 1996, 2016; Tsesmelis et al., 2018 ). Some studies (Onuoha, 2008, FAO, 2017, Galeazzi et al., 2017, IOM, 2019) link the deficiencies in the management of the LCB to the non-commitment from the member states, stating the humanitarian crisis there today is the result of marginalisation, poor governance and insecurity, factors that have loomed over the basin for a prolonged period (HPN, 2017). While such a statement could be factual, the LCB discourse practice does not revolve around political contexts only, but around physical and socio-economic contexts as well. Consequently, discourses began to diverge into other angles when it became obvious that the ecosystem of Lake Chad was degrading, and livelihoods were being threatened, hence, opening up other potential discourse subjects.

The LCB's discourse practice is an area of study that in the researcher's opinion, has yet to be explored. The effects of global discourses on regional, national or local contexts are generally acknowledged. But unless a critical lens is applied on situations, and especially on empirical cases, the dynamics between discourse and management strategies may not be properly understood. This study contributes to this research gap by critically analysing further such dynamics, and in the process, will make an empirical contribution to the LCB historical development in a way that has not been attempted before. Such critical analyses can help restrain or eliminate oppressive practices such as marginalisation of certain groups of society (Miles, 2010). Although critique alone from an academic stance cannot bring the required societal change, it will encourage more of such endeavours and contribute to discourse theory, which definitely can sensitize political action for positive decision-making.

#### **1.4 Societal relevance**

Social realities have adaptable attributes and these realities are seen, represented, interpreted and conceptualized by individuals (Fairclough 2003, p.12). The LCB discourse has had conflicting statements issued in different publications This case study research focuses on the contribution of discourses to policy formulation and actor's engagement in bringing social change. Therefore, its societal contribution brings to light the need to actualize discourses void of practical analysis or based on recontextualised non-proven productions. This aims towards helping the LCBC as a management institution reflect more on their management strategies, by being mindful of the institutionally driven policy initiatives they design. In other words, discourses without factual data, that are based on non-scientific evidence or outdated sources and publications are harmful to societal growth because management decisions can be guided and/or misguided through discourses. The LCBC needs to ensure that appropriate data collection is ensured for proper guidance to the formulation of new policies, so those appropriate strategies are implemented for the sustenance of societal development. Consequently, the LCBC and other water and environmental management institutions can draw lessons from this research, which will enable them to understand the effects of discourse practices on management decisions, especially in regions where a governance deficit is experienced.

## 2.0 Literature Review

The literature review will shine the spotlight on critical discourse analysis (CDA) due to the dual role it will take in this study as the central theory and conceptual tool for analysing the ways discourses of the LCB have been changing. Also, three methods of CDA and the promoters of these methods will be showcased, as well as some elements of CDA that are applied in the analysis of empirical cases, or any other type of study. The literature review also highlights the link between discourses, actors and institutions.

### 2.1. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

The LCB has a discourse history spanning over five decades, and CDA is a method that ought to draw from history, which is why CDA is the appropriate method of analysis for this study. Taking a *critical* position enables the historical analysis to translate into a method that can show a change in social structure (Fairclough, 1992). Since the LCB is a unique case with a unique discourse history, a critical analysis of its historical transitioning will elaborate on the types of discourse structures that have been emerging. In that regard, CDA has been utilised as a means to improve management strategies in all kinds of institutional practices, which is why this research hopes to contribute to change of future-related discourse communication of the LCBC.

For several decades, discourse has been a term used in scientific literature and policy debates, and it comes with different meanings in diverse contexts (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p. 1). According to (Cambridge dictionary of English, 2008), *a discourse* is a speech or piece of writing about a particularly serious subject. Michel Foucault, one of the notable early researchers of discourse analysis, sees discourse as everything that the use of language encompasses, which includes the construction of thoughts and identities. Generally, discourses present the idea that language is structured in diverse patterns as they appear in various domains of social life (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p.1). Wodak (2014), posits that ‘discourse is anything from a historical monument, a policy, a political strategy, narratives in a restricted or broad sense of the term, text, talk, a speech, or topic-related conversations to language.’ To analyse patterns in discourses is what is known as *discourse analysis*.

(Fairclough, 2003, p. 2) explains discourse that analysis takes language as an inherent aspect of social life linked with other diverse social elements such as research and social analysis, and

they take into account the use of language. This means that discourses produce statements about a subject and provide structure to the way the subject is discussed, how it is described and how it provides rules for social and individual actions that the subject could potentially enable (Fairclough, 1995, p. 6). Taking it further, (Jager & Maier, 2009, p. 25) describe discourse analysis as coordinated institutionalized patterns of communicating that induce action due to the prolonged flow of knowledge on a subject, thereby exerting its power. Therefore, partaking in a discourse practice enables actors to position themselves and to allow others to follow in their discursive categories to draw meanings and interpretations in its analysis (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005).

CDA became a well-established social science field in the 1980s as an interdisciplinary research approach involving different theoretical approaches and different methods and agendas (Wodak, 2014). What is common to all approaches however, is their focus on dimensions of injustices, power and socio-cultural changes in society (Fairclough, 1992; Van Dijk, 1995; Wodak, 1999). Being ‘critical’ in CDA as (Wodak, 2007), explains, means not taking things for granted, but opening up complexity, ‘critical’ does not imply the common-sense meaning of ‘being negative – it is rather sceptical.’ As (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p. 61) explain, CDA looks into types of actions that are not only socially situated, but also, historically form a dialectical relationship with various aspects of social life.

CDA is not known to have a specific direction of approach or framework, it is rather willing to look at its research aims from different perspectives. However, it encompasses some generalized contexts that enable the analyst to identify links between the theoretical and conceptual models (Van Dijk, 1998; Wodak, 1999). For (Fairclough, 1992), any critical discourse approach to social change, should be “a method for historical analysis”, and it should operate at the level of intertextual relations that can be demonstrated to show changes in social structure. He further explains that CDA ought to draw from history to the present discourse practices because changes in domains of social life are important for social experiences. For him, these changes are to an extent, established through discourses, and change is inherent in the understanding of contemporary discourse practices (Fairclough, 1995, p. 19).

All events can be described as entrenched in discourse, especially if they emerge on the media or political scene intensively for some time, thus establishing the social reality of these events (Jager and Maier 2009, p.48). Since discursive events usually have a past, present and future that help establish changes, conflicts and recurrences of traits, it is fundamental to analyse

discourse through timescales, especially if the object of study provides such an opportunity. In that regard, Jager & Maier, (2009, p. 47) explain that discourse construes series of positive accounts that can be communicated, at the same time, constraining statements that cannot be communicated. So, there are opposite sides of discourses, and the objects of investigation need not be particularly severe socio-political events before an undertaking of CDA is attempted, they can also be an event within a small context, such as a small organisation. Fairclough, (1992) explains that CDA's priority in our contemporary world is to understand the evolving practices of the use of language and how it connects with broader social and cultural processes. Therefore, with knowledge flowing through time in any societal practice, discourse shapes society's interpretation of reality and such patterns of practices can be understood through CDA - an array of interdisciplinary methods capable of exploring several social domains in diverse contexts (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002).

According to Wodak & Meyer (2008, p. 4), CDA 'has become an established discipline, institutionalized across the globe in many departments and curricula,' and utilized in all kinds of studies to understand contemporary society. Consequently, an empirical case is a perfect fit for applying discourse analysis due to its potential to enable discourse interpretations and contextualize policy strategies, which can be showcased at all levels of societal practices. This is realisable through the study of single cases and projects, from which reliable knowledge can be built (Jager and Maier 2009, p.51), but every object under investigation will be given its approach. Which is why Wodak (1999, p.186) posited, 'CDA is not a homogenous theory with a set of clear and defined tools; it is rather a research program with many facets and numerous different theoretical and methodological approaches.' In other words, it is a paradigm which is bound together by a research agenda and programme rather than by some common theory or methodology. Two important elements of CDA that aid in the analytical process, as outlined by (Fairclough, 2003) are: dislocation events—which are moments when discourses can be broken and redirected; and the order of discourse—this is the composition of all the discourse types, genres and styles that are found within social fields and social institutions. CDA is a research methodology that has its focus and challenges, which will be discussed next.

## 2.2 Aims and challenges of CDA

As stated earlier, the main aim of CDA is to critically reveal ways in which discourse practices contribute to the maintenance of the social world; to bring social change by revealing oppressive power relations, aiming towards positive change in society (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p. 63). Like Wodak, Van Dijk, (1998) also explains that CDA does not follow a specified pattern of approach nor a specified framework, but it is rather willing to look at its research aims from different perspectives. Nevertheless, it encompasses some generalized contexts that enable one to identify links between the theoretical and conceptual aspects (Krzyzanowski & Forchtner 2016). In a study, Van Dijk, (1995) states that CDA can generally be defined by (but is not limited to) the following characteristics:

- It is issue-oriented not paradigm oriented i.e. any methodological and theoretical approach is applicable, so long as it studies societal problems.
- CDA does not define a school but rather takes a critical position to study text and talk.
- Its work is inter-disciplinary and focuses on relations between discourse and society.
- It is systematically part of a broad range of critical studies in humanities and social sciences.
- It focuses on all dimensions and levels of discourse, such as verbal; style, grammar, rhetoric, speeches etc; and semiotics such as signs and symbols, pictures, films, sounds, music, gestures etc., (although most of these dimensions are not studied here).
- CDA studies relations between power, dominance and inequalities and the ideologies behind the ways they are reproduced, distributed, consumed and resisted by social groups.
- It focuses on ways of manipulation and legitimization of discursive ways to influence the minds of groups and individuals in the interest of power, implying an oppositional position against the elites and those who abuse power.
- In the long run, CDA tries to sustain solidarity with dominant groups by devising strategic programs to develop counter-power practices for resistance.

These criteria provide the main patterns that distinguish CDA from other methods of discourse analysis, such as Foucault's study on society's relationships of power, which is communicated through language and practices (Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p. 314). Again, due to the non-specificity of its methods, once an approach is arrived at, sometimes, certain factors could pose challenges in its application. (Fleming, Vanclay, Hiller & Wilson, 2014) identified three

indicative discourse examples that could potentially constrain any CDA approach and therefore need critical attention before a CDA task is undertaken. They relate to:

- a problem of a lack of sufficient information;
- a problem of a lack of clear science; and
- a problem created by a consumerist society or the ways discourses are consumed.

In addition, they also state that being aware of potential multiple discourses in a domain is important because it helps make the intended application less of a challenge. Therefore, being aware of constraints helps the analyst know what to aim for. One can then say the advantages of CDA outweigh its challenges; so long as a social practice poses a need for research in this regard, CDA is a possible approach. Three known approaches by notable authors are highlighted in the next section.

### **2.3. CDA approaches**

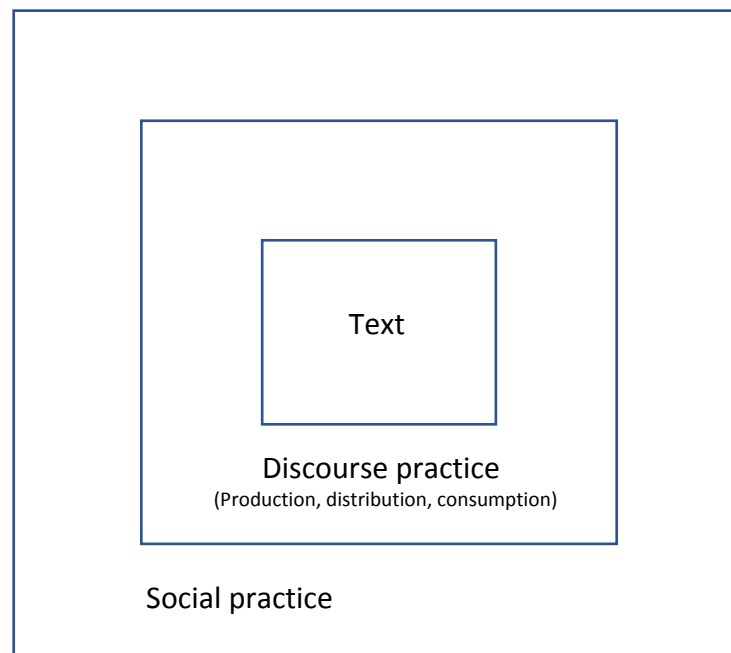
CDA scholars make their interests and positions known on different approaches while maintaining their methodologies (Wodak & Meyer, 2008). With possibilities for diverse approaches, this section will highlight approaches of three notable CDA methods.

➤ *Norman Fairclough and the 'dialectical approach' Discourse as a social practice.*

Fairclough became one of the most prominent figures in the development of CDA. His approach (Fairclough, 2018, p.14) 'combines critique of discourse and explanation, to showcase how discourse is positioned in existing social reality as a basis for action to change reality.' His approach lies between the emphasis on structure and emphasis on action, to focus on the marginalized or the losers in society with regards to social life. In (Wodak, 2014)'s explanation, 'Fairclough suggests CDA should have emancipatory objectives.' This approach presents a three-dimensional framework that separates three types of analysis from each other; language texts analysis (written or spoken), discourse practice analysis (text production, distribution and consumption), and analysis of discursive events in social practices (Fairclough, 1995, p.2).

He further explains that the model's aim is not to isolate text analysis from institutional and discursive practices where texts are ingrained (Fairclough, 1995, p.9), but rather to focus on the entire process. For example, an analysis on climate change discourse should not only focus on the text in the discourse but also on how it is produced as well as on the perception and understanding of the consuming public regarding the phenomenon. This means that the analysis

should be a dialectical process between the elements in the text and the interpretation or perception that bears on the minds of the consumers of the texts (Fairclough, 1995, p.9). He illustrates his framework in the figure below. In the framework, there are three interrelated levels of analysis placed in three dimensions. In the first dimension called text (which could be speech, writing....), the analysis is at the word level. The second dimension, called discourse practice, is the level of text production. Here the analysis is at text level, while the third dimension of social practice is about norms or standards of society or organisations.



**Figure 2. 1 Fairclough's model of CDA (source Fairclough 1992, p. 73)**

In Fairclough's view, CDA ought to consider paying attention to history within a changing discourse practice as part of the process for social change. He adds that changes in social domains are elements of contemporary social experiences, and discourse practices contribute to those changes (Fairclough, 1995, p.19). Discourses, orders of discourse and intertextual analysis are crucial to this framework because they mediate between the text and the sociocultural practice. The order of discourse entails the facets of the historical discourse of a social practice that has been built by various discursive events, which have in turn been drawn from text features (Fairclough, 1995, p.10).

➤ *Teun van Dijk and the Socio-cognitive approach (SCA).*

This approach has its focus on social cognition as the mediating part between human relationships in the social environment and linking this to text, context and social practices (Fairclough, 1992). Although he does not discredit other methods of CDA, he states that societal structures are linked to discourses through the minds of actors. The SCA approach generally sees CDA from the mental point of view and also shows that discourse elements can be explained in terms of cognitive assumptions of one's beliefs, information or awareness (Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p.28). While some CDA methods explain discourse and social contexts as being in direct relation, SCA takes it a step further by the inclusion of a cognitive link between discourse and society. Van Dijk propagates this further with the addition of micro and macro levels in social practices; where he places discourse, use of language and communication at the micro-level, while dominance, power and inequality are the macro-level (Van Dijk, 2001). This is with the view that text and speech can only be effective to social practices through the minds of users of language (Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p.28). Meaning, social situations and interactions can influence text and dialogue only through the interpretations that people can give to social practices. This approach is inclined to the philosophical theory of social constructionism which stems from the premise that social and political reality are constructs of social members (Burr, 2003, as cited in Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p.29).

Fahmi Al Khazraji, (2018) states that van Dijk explains discourses as being complex communicative events involving participants and the social environment and the production and consumption of communication types and that they should not be taken as only text and talk. He further explains that van Dijk's description of text production is an event involving practices done at the institutional level that are strongly linked to economic and social factors with strong relations to social practices.

➤ *Ruth Wodak & Martin Reisigl and the Discourse-historical approach (DHA).*

In addition to a method of analysing language, this approach sees CDA as a multidimensional activity involving theory as well as empirical and methodological directional research processes that deliver substantial social applications (Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p.48). DHA, therefore, aims to combine diverse knowledge of discourses that are embedded in historical backgrounds of social and political domains. Besides the historical dimension, DHA is also interested in a broad range of discourse subjects such as; discrimination, politics, climate

change, media and so on (Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p.48). For many years, Ruth Wodak has promoted the application of DHA in CDA. She explains that the emphasis is the focus on interdisciplinary and implementing interdisciplinarity' in its application (Wodak, 2014), which for her is one of the most important tenets of DHA. In the many years of the application of DHA in CDA, it has developed certain principles to its methods which are outlined as follows:

- It has an interdisciplinary approach involving theory, methods and research applications.
- Its approach is problem- based.
- In order to adequately understand and explain the research objective, it is able to combine different theories and methods.
- Its research circulates between empirical data and theory.
- DHA studies genres as well as intertextual and interdiscursive relationships.
- In interpreting discourses and texts, the historical context plays a key role as it enables the recontextualization of discursual elements found within discursive events.
- Tools and categories for DHA are not rigid, but there is a need to elaborate them based on the research objective.
- Very often, they are rooted in ground theories but are however open to middle-range theories for better understanding of the theoretical basis.
- Its final results need to be made available to experts and communicated to the consuming public (Wodak, 2014).

Several principles of DHA are valid in other types of CDA analysis. Even if the contexts of those CDA types have developed their own devices, the approaches can benefit from each other to develop familiar conceptual models, while they find individual directions (Wodak, 2015). One basic principle of DHA is its ability to triangulate, which helps the analyst reduce a high risk of subjectivity. This is made possible by its effort to draw from different types of background information, variety of data, theories and methods. (Wodak, 2015, p. 15). In addition to social critique, DHA combines three elements in its analysis, they are:

- Text or discourse focus on drawing inconsistencies, contradictions and internal issues within discourse structures.
- Socio-diagnostic critique makes use of contextual knowledge from theories to diffuse rhetoric elements of discourses to interpret discursive events.
- The process aims to contribute to change in future-related communication.

This suggests that critique in DHA needs to make transparent, both the object of investigation and the position of the analyst, to theoretically justify the validity of interpretations (Wodak, 2015).

Out of the three approaches, the DHA approach is best suited to the goal of this study because the LCB has a discourse history that draws from different discourse subjects. According to one of the principles of DHA discussed above, the historical aspect of discourse is important for it plays a key role in the interpretation of discourses.

Next, two elements that contribute to the CDA process and are normally found in discourse practices; which will be useful in this research analysis are discussed in the next segment.

## **2.4 Dislocation events and order of discourse**

CDA offers different sets of concepts that can be applied in its analysis, and this study has selected dislocation events and order of discourse as part of its tools for the analysis of the LC empirical case. They form part of the research sub-questions and are further explained below.

*Dislocation events* happen very often in discourse practices. There are occasions when discursive patterns are fragmented (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005), which Jorgensen & Phillips, (2002, p. 56) explain are interrupted by external constructions that were partially or not even part of the discourses of the moment. They are periods when some discourses become less dominating due to developmental reasons in society (Torfing, 1999). They denote a series of discourses which are in conflict, and also discourses that try to establish themselves within the same social domain or institution. Consequently, they sum up as texts, discourse practices and societal practices, for some time before a discursive struggle occurs, thus leading to new discourses (Torfing, 1999). One can identify the connection between a dislocation of an event, which happens when an emerging event tries to establish within a discourse and cannot be represented, or an event that becomes disrupted by another (Biglieri & Perelo, 2011). Those disruptive moments when subjects engage in discourse struggle are moments of discursive power, and the performance of power is in the way actors can organize subjects and restore previous discourses (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005). Dislocation events very often bring continuity to a discourse practice, and in some cases, are not easily placed within discourse subjects, nonetheless, are influential in discourse production (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005). The continuity they bring establishes the order of discourse through their production and interpretation of text,

therefore, they shape both language use and order of discourse and vice versa (Fairclough, 1995, p.10).

***Order of discourse***—a term coined by Michel Foucault, is the composition of all discourse types in a domain, found within social fields and social institutions. Fairclough, (1993, p.138) s' definition of 'order of discourse' is; 'the totality of discourse practices of an institution and relationships between them, they are social patterns of relationships between various forms of making meaning.' He explains, that they are elements of discourse, genres and styles that make use of language variability to define aspects of social life (Fairclough,1992, p.24), and it is through the order of discourse that genres, styles and discourses are networked together (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p. 72). Discourses, as stated earlier, are ways of representing the physical or social reality from different perspectives. Genres are ways of acting discursively within the course of social events, for example, reports and interviews. They are identified due to the ways they have been represented in styles; and styles are ways of identity or being in discourses (Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p.15).

The order of discourse is a structure that frames and is framed by instances of the use of language. The use of discourses as a means of communication is controlled by the order of discourse, because the order of discourse establishes the available discourses, therefore, it determines the limit of what can be communicated (Jorgensen & Philips, 2002, p. 72). Orders of discourse are linked to institutions or domains of social life, like climate change or gender in leadership or media. The order of discourse reflects the changes in the socio-political struggle for power, and this power struggle is in turn reflected in developments in the order of discourse, which indicate the dominating discourses of the moment. Consequently, the order of discourse has a strong character that tends to dominate discourse in its bid to give meaning, although dominance could also take an oppositional stance in discourse (Fairclough, 2012). In empirical research, the order of discourse helps to reveal both positions; those that are generally acceptable, and objects of discursive conflict (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p. 161). It also creates a social space where various discourses that belong to the same terrain are placed to compete to provide their meanings.

In determining orders of discourse, one is concerned with identifying both strong and weak boundaries between discourse types and how they change as a broader process of social change (Fairclough, 1992). Fairclough, (1992, p. 116) explains the relationship between the two concepts as dialectical (the relationship between critique, explanation and action), where

dislocation events enable the formulation of the order of discourse and then alter them through use of language. This can be done by the creative use of new genres and styles or introducing new discourses existing in other orders of discourse; this potentially gives the order of discourse some reflexivity because they are open to change (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002).

## **2.5 Intertextuality, Interdiscursivity and Recontextualization**

In addition to the two concepts explained above, intertextuality, interdiscursivity and recontextualization are another set of useful tools to this study and are very often used in CDS literature due to their connection to interdisciplinary historical discourse approaches (Wodak & Meyer, 2008).

*Intertextuality* refers to how texts draw on discourses and components of other texts, combining them with dominant language use and thereby changing individual discourses and ultimately, the social practice (Jorgensen & Phillips 2002, p.7). Simply put, it is the appearance of textual features from one text to another, it is, therefore, a practice where emerging discourses draw from previous discourses. Through intertextuality, one can examine the reproduction of discourses and the discursive change (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p.7). It is a general practice in literature writing, as it is not an easy task to avoid using words and phrases previously used by others, even if only to cite them, but of course, it goes beyond citation. Fairclough (1992, p.117) explains intertextuality using two terms; ‘manifest intertextuality,’ and ‘constitutive intertextuality’ - the first refers to using citations, paraphrases and quotes, while the second takes a generic position that leaves little or no traces to its use. This means a text may not be examined without the consideration of earlier texts that relate to it and this shows the influence of history on texts and vice versa; where one is eminent in the other.

*Interdiscursivity* was coined by Fairclough when he sought for a more basic concept of intertextuality. It is a combination of different discourses, genres, or styles connected to institutional and social meanings found in a single text (Jian-guo, 2012), so it relates to the complete system of language found in a text. In other words, interdiscursivity concerns the description of interactions among distinct discourses within given texts or talks (Mullet, 2018). Therefore, it is that aspect of discourse that relates to other discourses; implying that discourses are imported from other discourses. It is concerned with analysing the way genres, styles and discourses are expressed and the ways these expressions are found in discursive events connected within an order of discourse (Fairclough, 2012). Fairclough’s articulation of both

intertextuality and interdiscursivity demonstrates that discourse practices depend on and interfere with previous patterns (Jorgensen & Phillips 2002, p.140). In addition, discourses are open and not closed systems, and new subjects can be constituted through intertextuality and interdiscursivity (Wodak & Meyer, 2001, p. 66). These two concepts; intertextuality and interdiscursivity are inherently connected to multidisciplinary discourse historical approaches (Wodak, 2014), and are very suitable for analysing empirical cases. In Fairclough's view, both concepts are potential tools for change, and their application in CDA makes it open to the application of different elements of discourse to alter or change text (Wodak & Meyer, 2001, p. 66).

There is also *recontextualization*; which is when elements of a text are revised and given new meaning, this is a product of the first two concepts (Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p.166), and although it is not very much discussed, it is an inherent part of discourse production. Fairclough, (2012) explains that interdiscursive analysis allows the incorporation of contextual elements into text analysis to reveal the relationship between events and social practices. It enables one to identify the links in changes of texts that belong to certain social change processes on a wider scale. Analysing texts interdiscursively has potential to enhance research, based on the different discourses, genres and styles that these elements can articulate together, even if minimal like a word or phrase, thereby enabling detailed analysis that other methods are not able to achieve (Fairclough, 2003, p.3,35). An advantage of interdiscursivity in CDA is its capacity to describe how and why interdiscursivity takes place and the societal changes it aims to reflect. It also acknowledges that communication is complex, and uses data strongly connected to actual language use (Jian-guo, 2012).

## **2.6 Discourses, actors and institutions**

Adger, Benjaminsen, Brown & Svarstad (2001) posit that 'management debates are closely linked to their promoters.' These promoters can be actors from different levels of society trying to establish what they find to be the most practical solutions to societal problems. Debates in climate change and other environmental issues are increasingly taking place on the transnational level and discourse analysis has become part of actor's decisions (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005), as it helps to interpret the beliefs behind those decisions. Solutions to environmental issues are not necessarily found within the nation-states that embody them, which is why established institutions are involved in the governance of these issues through transnational networks that disperse power (*ibid*). Within transnational networks, there are

strategic actors whose theories can target audiences and mobilize action that aligns with institutional values. It is assumed that institutional dynamics evolve from the development of new ideas, theories and accounts that enable their institutionalization into policies and social outcomes (Arts & Buizer, 2009).

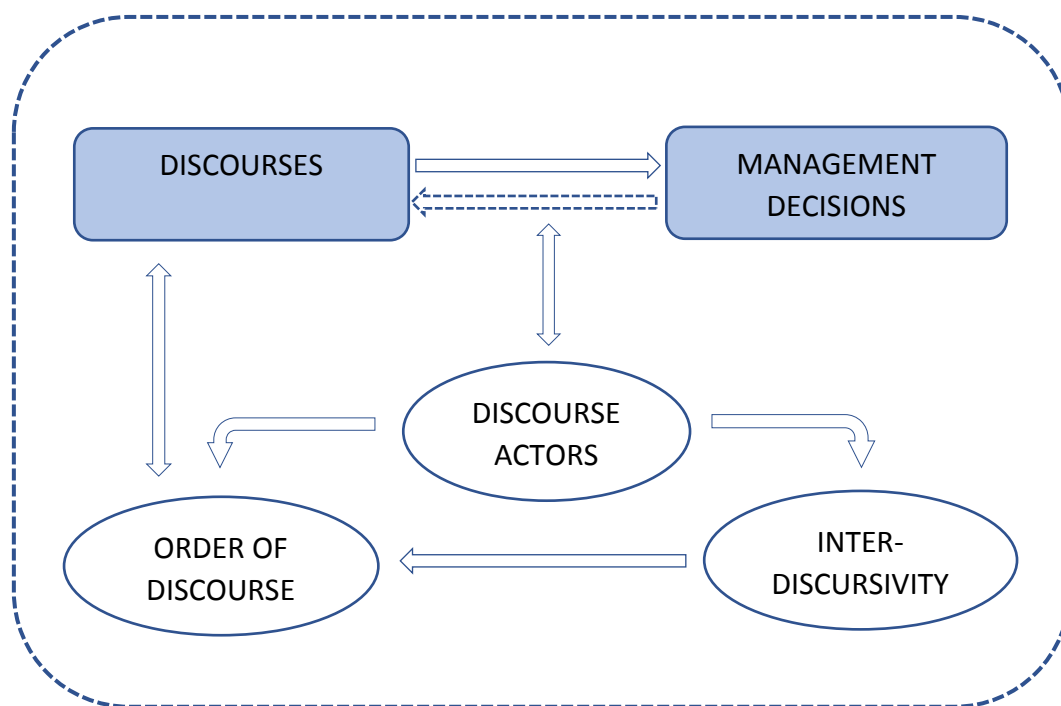
While new discourses evolve all the time, they sometimes come with new meanings still connected to old concepts, and these have continued to shape policy and management practices, especially in the last four decades (Arts & Buizer, 2009). Environmental discourses of nation-states have continued to be complemented with studies of global discourses from individuals and groups, thereby shifting the focus from global to transnational discourses (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005). And the actions of these individuals and groups that translate into text and talk, re/constitute discourses that enable or hinder action. When they are written by authoritative authors, they end up drawing well-established discourses that are likely to materialize into institutions (Arts & Buizer, 2009). Examples of authoritative authors are global established institutions like the UN and the World Bank Group.

Very often, actors can exercise dominance by trying to determine how to define a problem through discourse and then try to establish their discursive positions into debates (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005). Actor influence can further change the direction of discourse when they are able to get their planned interventions embedded in science, media and politics. Actors go as far as seeking to maximize their influence on their preferred intentions; that way, they aim to change perceptions of nation-states and other societal actors by establishing new discursive positions (Keck & Sikkink, 1999). And when their positions are threatened by emerging discourses, they can overturn developments at discourse level (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005). Although discursive positions of actors may not carry mutual understanding between them, even when they come together under the same platform and with similar ideas, they can nonetheless provide political interventions that are meaningful (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005).

## **2.7 Conceptual framework**

The conceptual model below shows an interactive effect between the five variables/concepts. There is a reciprocal effect between discourses and management decisions but this effect does not take place on equal terms. Although management decisions can influence discourses, it is not with the same degree of intensity that discourses can influence management decisions because management decisions can be influenced by several other factors. More so, discourses

and management decisions are directly influenced by discourse actors (as producers of discourse) but the influence is not on equal terms in the reverse situation. Similarly, discourse actors also exert a direct influence on discourses and management decision as well as the order of discourse and interdiscursivity. Since discourses emanate from discourse actors. Interdiscursivity as an aspect of discourse influences the order of discourse directly because it draws from discourse elements to give new discourses social meaning through text. In general, without discourses, the order of discourse will not be in effect and it is the order of discourse that networks discourse together. Hence, the reason for a direct and reciprocal effect on each other as demonstrated below.



**Figure 2. 2. Conceptual framework**

### **3.0 Methodology**

The process that will be employed in this research will be highlighted in this chapter. It contains five sections that entail explaining the various steps involved including; research philosophy, research design, case selection and the approach to data collection and analysis.

#### **3.1 Research philosophy**

The research philosophy underpinning this study is a constructivist approach. This approach recognises the crucial role that the observer and society play in the construction of patterns studied by social scientists; constructivists, therefore, believe there can be value in understanding and there is more than one way to understand reality (Moses & Knutsen, 2012). People can perceive the same object differently; therefore, this study stems from the notion that different realities do exist and their meanings can be socially constructed through discursive practices of social actors, using mediums like text, talk, images and so on (Smith & Bell, 2008).

The ontological assumption of CDA is that a relationship exists between society and the mode of communication to the consumer; which in effect, is the language of society. The constructivists recognise the existence of ontological diversity, and therefore draw from diverse sources and evidence. On the epistemological assumption - facts and values are seen to be connected; the investigator and the investigated are integral parts of each other, therefore research is value-bound (Dieronitou, 2014). A wide range of epistemological devices such as perceptions, authority and empathy can be applied to enable the formation of interpretations for an object (Moses & Knutsen, 2012). The CDA analyst, as posited by Dieronitou, (2014) is encouraged to make epistemological claims from other paradigms because research should investigate meanings and understanding while being able to anticipate, manage and question. In line with this, the research will develop relationships between evolving themes and categories which will make the process of analysis interpretive as it aligns with constructivism.

#### **3.2 Research design**

This research design takes the CDA approach as the method of analysis. This, to the researcher, is the natural way to follow based on the objectives of the study. As Van Thiel, (2014, p. 55) explains, the choice of methods and techniques for analysis needs to reflect the research aim, scientific knowledge available and nature of study object under investigation. Therefore, the theoretical framework highlights some CDA concepts utilized in the formulation of the

research questions. The research is a single case study for which a qualitative approach is most suitable for, and it is carried out through desk research. It follows an inductive orientation where existing data sources were derived from official policy documents of the LCBC and some of its influential development partners. Ultimately, the LCBC case follows the discourse historical approach (DHA) of CDA. Since the research analyses changing discourses of several decades, some of the characteristics of DHA align with the goal of this study, and the research process oscillates between theory and empirical data.

### **3.3 Case selection**

Since discourse practices encompass all aspects of social life, it is important that they are studied in relation to their discourse environment (Mullet, 2018). The discourse practice of the LCB is a unique case of a social practice that has not only continued to evolve but has also given a platform for various forms of interpretations of its changing climate and the dominant discourses that have continued to emerge. As explained by UN-FAO (2011, p. 29), ‘the LCB is unique in the sense that nowhere else in the world is such a large freshwater reservoir found so far from seas and oceans and in such a hot and arid climate.’ Its geographical uniqueness is what makes its discourse development unanticipated and complex.

Single-case studies are known to enable the development of theory and provide the researcher with deep theoretical insights on the phenomenon under study (Willis, 2014). They can also challenge known theoretical relationships and explore new ones by conducting a more detailed analysis (Gustafsson, 2017). They are able to establish theory into several details of a specific case (Mariotto, Zanni & Marcondes De Morales, 2014). That is if the particulars of the case have opportunities for adjustments that will enable a further understanding of social reality. Some specific single-case studies, function as theory-testing processes and through qualitative and/or quantitative research analysis, they can empirically provide enriching, nuanced and comprehensive accounts of a particular phenomenon (Willis, 2014). For the case of the LC, its location within different nations gives opportunities for different types of studies that can lead to an understanding of new facts and circumstances. Single-case studies also enable one to make a cross-case analysis, that is; analysing data within and between the case analysis, which means analysing embedded units found within the larger case (Gustafsson, 2017). For example, in the case of the LCB, one can choose to study the basin command of one or two of the member countries only or to study individual communities within the basin. But this study takes a holistic point of view of the entire basin’s activities and development because the LC region is

managed by one decision-making institution, therefore it has one recognised discourse practice with several discourse actors involved.

However, single-case studies have some drawbacks; mainly, their inability to enable generalising conclusions. Especially when the cases are rare, generalisation is a difficult task, but when it is achievable, it is derived from theory and not from population data (Zainal, 2007). Incorporating construct validity is also a limitation of single-case studies as it concerns reliability and replicability which is critiqued in connection to general qualitative research methods (Willis, 2014). But for this study, the specific selection of the LBC case and linking it to the main objective of the research (analysing the effects of changing discourses on LCBC management decisions) is aligned with Yin, (2009, p. 35)'s recommendation to test construct validity through these considerations.

### **3.3 Data collection**

The data for this study were collected from both primary and secondary sources; they were derived from policy documents, in the form of reports, and there were also four semi-structured interviews conducted for this study. Some of the policy documents are reports and publications of the LCBC and other actors are documents published by their development partners like the FAO, WFP, UNEP, UNCCD, World Bank Group, Adelphi etc. The intention was to collect policy documents from the time of the inauguration of the LCBC in 1964, but not much was documented for availability online in the first two decades after 1964. Consequently, documents were sourced from the period after the first two drought periods of the region (the 1970s and 1980s). Data sourced are thus for a chosen timeline, starting from the year 1989 to 2020, based on their online availability. A total of twenty-five policy documents were collected (see table 3.1). As the LCBC has a comprehensive library at the headquarters in N'Djamena, several of their policy documents are found there, and can only be obtained in person. However, most of the policy documents found online, are sponsored by partners of the LCBC, and they have been made readily available for public consumption.

In total, eight experts/organisations were contacted for prospective interviews, but only four responded. Those available were, (i) a representative of the LCBC, (ii) an independent researcher who has scholarly publications carried out on the LCB and whose publications are listed on the UNCCD website, (iii) a representative of one of the water agencies of the basin states (that are called commissions of the LCBC), (iv) and the head of an indigenous LCB local

NGO. From the LCBC, the researcher attempted to interview at least two experts, but only one expert (who happened to be the most experienced) was available to speak, and the interviews carried out provided different perspectives of the situation in the LCB and its management.

Non-responsive NGOs were:

- UNEP, (United Nations Environmental Program)
- OXFAM (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)
- ADELPHI, Germany
- CARE (Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere).

Apart from UNEP; OXFAM, ADELPHI and CARE were selected based on their involvement with the LCBC as donors and for other developmental initiatives provided by them for the basin's communities.

(Van Thiel, 2014, p. 94) explained that interviews not only help to triangulate data but also aim to obtain non-factual knowledge and information such as perceptions, opinions and relationships. In line with this, (Mullet, 2018) states that a qualitative approach of this nature with different data sources will further elaborate the credibility of each type of data source. The interviews carried out were recorded, transcribed and combined with other data sources. The entire selection resulted in a combined database of thirty-four units of policy documents and interviews.

### **3.4 Data Analysis**

In the software analysis, open coding was used with the aid of Atlas-Ti, to identify the discourse elements in the policy documents. Codes identified were derived from phrases, sentences and paragraphs, and depending on the content of interdiscursive lines, some lines and phrases were assigned to more than one code. The codes came to a total of seventeen, and the quotations from all units of analysis, assigned to these codes were one thousand and forty-eight. A code can be defined as the summary of the contents of a particular concept, and it can be compared with an operationalization, (Van Thiel, 2014, p. 110). But for this research, the codes shall be translated as *themes*. To define a theme - it is a concept that encapsulates the principal aspect of a piece of information in an organized way, whether the theme can capture most of the activity or not (Braun & Clarke, 2008, as cited in Scharp & Sanders, 2018). In other words, it is the subject of discussion or description in a storyline. The choice to utilize themes was made because the LCB case is a combination of developmental storylines, and because Scharp &

Sanders, (2018) describe the use of themes as ‘a qualitative method for identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns within a data corpus.’

In the next stage of the analysis, the themes found in each document were recorded in a table, to ascertain the time/period of the emergence of each theme in the discourse practice. This was done by noting down the various themes assigned in each document, (see table 3.1). The procedure also enabled the deduction of the frequency of appearance of each theme, within the time frame selected for the analysis of the discourse practice. Consequently, the procedure provided an overview of changing discourses and dislocation events to showcase different phases of policy developments. This process provides better guidance to the answers to the research questions because it demonstrates the historical dynamics of the LCB and the interconnectedness of the contextual factors.

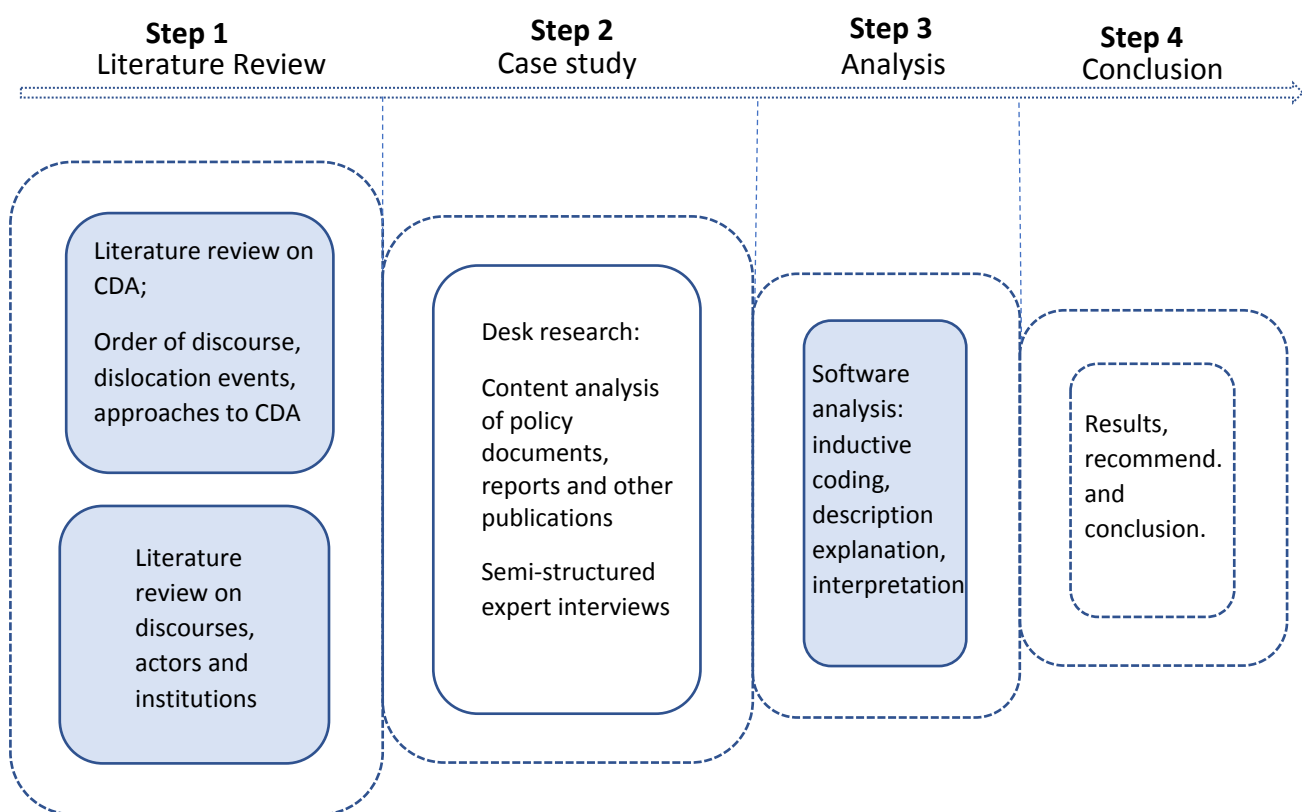
### **3.5 Validity and Reliability**

According to Van Thiel, (2014, p. 89), the validity of a single case study research, can only be considered high for the specific case under study, but its findings can be considered valid for similar research areas even if those studies have not been undertaken. External and internal validity for case studies takes different dimensions. Achieving *external validity* aims for testable generalisations, and for single case studies, this will be limited because findings cannot be generalised. Analytical conclusions can, however, be drawn for single-case studies, by explaining how analysis can arrive at its results; this can provide a clearer understanding of a phenomenon and its outcomes (Yin, 2013). The findings can then be used to explain the gaps in the literature, and by so doing, the generalizations of a single case study can be drawn with more meaning, which invariably can add to cumulative knowledge (Yin, 2013).

However, on *internal validity*, the uniqueness of the case potentially makes its data sources credible since an abundance of information is collected. Yin, (2003, p. 376) stated, to achieve high *construct validity*, the operationalisation needs to match the concepts used, to establish a series of evidence during data collection. These two conditions are already included in the research methodology.

Some authors suggest that *reliability* on its own may face challenges because of the legitimization of interpretive analysis in CDA (Mullet, 2018). Triangulation is a process that can demonstrate reliability. For this study, it was achieved through theoretical and methodical

triangulation, as well as through triangulation of data sources (Mullet, 2018), as already explained in the data collection section. Reliability was strengthened through the development of a database during data collection that reference can be made to. Having an initial substantial representative sample also reduces potential bias in text extraction, thereby strengthening the reliability of the analysis (Sriwimon & Zilli, 2017). Consequently, to increase the rigour of a single case study, it is important to adopt various procedures and techniques to legitimize its findings (Mariotto et. al, 2014). Which was why it was also important to keep the research as transparent as possible, by noting down any modifications and adjustments for reliability. Figure 3.1 shows the different research steps of the study in one overview.



**Figure 3. 1: Research steps**

**Table 3. 1: Units of analysis - documents, year of publication and authors**

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Author</b>
<b>D1</b>	1989	Drought chronology dating in the Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria Command)	Thamsyapelay, G. G.
<b>D2</b>	1992	LCBC Master plan	LCBC, UNEP, UNSO, UN-FAO
<b>D3</b>	1994	Chad; Country Environmental Strategy paper	World Bank Group
<b>D4</b>	2001	Human and natural impacts on the water resources of the Lake Chad basin	Coe, M. T. and Foley, J. A.
<b>D5</b>	2004	Global International Waters Assessment; Regional Assessment 43 LCB (GIWA)	LCBC, UNEP, USGS, UNESCO, WWF, GEF
<b>D6</b>	2004	Incorporating Fish Market and Trade Information into Policy-Making for Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction: Methods and Lessons from the Lake Chad Basin	DFID & UN-FAO
<b>D7</b>	2008	High-level Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The challenges of climate change	LCBC
<b>D8</b>	2008	Multinational: Lake Chad Basin Sustainable Development Programme (PRODEBALT). Appraisal Report	(ADB) African Development Bank
<b>D9</b>	2009	Adaptive Water Management in the Lake Chad Basin	UN-FAO, LCBC
<b>D10</b>	2011	Land, Water and Forest: Assets for Climate Resilient Development in Africa	(GEF) Global Environment Facility-World Bank Group
<b>D11</b>	2011	Climate change implications for fishing communities in the Lake Chad Basin	LCBC, UN-FAO
<b>D12</b>	2012	Recent changes in Lake Chad: Observations, simulations and management options (1973–2011)	Lemoalle, J., Bader, J. C., Leblanc, M. and Sedick, A.
<b>D13</b>	2015	Lake Chad Development and Climate Resilience Action Plan	ACF, LCBC, CIWA, World Bank Group
<b>D14</b>	2016	Lake Chad Basin; Desk Review	World Food Program
<b>D15</b>	2016	Lake Chad Basin Themes	LCBC
<b>D16</b>	2017	The Sahel Refugees: The Human Face of a Regional Crisis	World Bank Group
<b>D17</b>	2017	Crisis and Development around Lake Chad	UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
<b>D18</b>	2017	The Lake Chad Basin: An Overlooked Crisis?	Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN)
<b>D19</b>	2017	Lake Chad Crisis: Response Strategy (2017-2019)	UN-FAO
<b>D20</b>	2017	Understanding the Lake Chad Basin Commission	European Centre for Development Policy Management (ecdpm)
<b>D21</b>	2017-18	Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) of the Lake Chad Basin Hydrological year 2017-2018	German Corporation/LCBC Deutsche Zusammenarbeit
<b>D22</b>	2018	Resilience for Sustainable Development in the LCB	UNDP/UNOCHA
<b>D23</b>	2018	Climate-Fragility Profile: Lake Chad Basin	Adelphi
<b>D24</b>	2018	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Lake Chad Basin	German Corporation/LCBC Deutsche Zusammenarbeit
<b>D25</b>	2018	Integrating climate adaptation, water governance and conflict management policies in lake riparian zones: Insights from African drylands	UNCCD: Okpara, U. T., Stringer, L. C. and Dougill, A. J.
<b>D26</b>	2019	Droughts in the Anthropocene	UNESCO
<b>D27</b>	2019	Within and Beyond Borders: Tracking Displacement in the Lake Chad Basin	UN-IOM,
<b>D28</b>	2019	Second Regional Governors' Forum Meeting on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development for the Lake Chad Basin	World Bank Group
<b>D29</b>	2019	Shoring up Stability	Adelphi
<b>D30</b>	2020	The Lake Chad Chronology under current Climate Change	Pham-Duc, B. Sylvestre, F., Papa, F., Frappart, F., Camille Bouchez, C. and Crétaux, J.F.
<b>D31</b>	2020	Interview with Bila, M. (Expert Hydrologist)	LCBC
<b>D32</b>	2020	Interview with Okpara, U. T. (Researcher on LCB)	UNCCD/Uni Leeds UK
<b>D33</b>	2020	Interview with M. Odu, first commissioner Nigeria (a member of the council of ministers of LCBC)	Fed Ministry of Water Resources, Nigeria.
<b>D34</b>	2020	Interview with H. Oumar, coordinator of an indigenous local NGO (AFPAT) Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad	AFPAT

- ▣ Policy documents; reports and publications by LCBC and other partners
- ▣ Individual scientific publications cited in policy documents

## **4.0 Lake Chad Basin background**

This chapter contains two sections that provide a brief historical background of the physical, political and socio-economic dynamics of the Lake Chad region as recorded from the 1960s; the characterising changes that have evolved as a result of its resource depletion. It also presents a brief background of the Lake Chad Basin Commission's structure, mandate and vision.

### **4.1 Lake Chad Basin dynamics in historical context**

The LCB consists of eight countries; Algeria, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan. The basin is governed by the LCBC, set up in 1964 to coordinate the access to and use of the basin's resources. The lake takes up only less than 1% of the drainage basin (Coe & Foley, 2001), which is composed of two basins (north and south), and separated by a zone of shallow barrier (Lemoalle & Magrin, 2014, p. 70). In the last five decades, the lake region has experienced new space differentiation with massive mobility of people and the evolution of inter-community conflict, destabilizing the lives of millions of inhabitants (LCBC, 2010-2016).

Before 1964, the lake had been known to have gone through fluctuating climate variability for decades, with low rainfall recorded in the 1940s and an increase of rain in the 1950s which continued to soar and stabilized in the 1960s (Kolawole, 1988). Between 1965 and early 1970s was the first recorded drought period, which caused a drastic decrease of the lake depth causing the lake to split into two pools (northern and southern). Irrigation withdrawals also made a large contribution to the split of the lake (Gao, Bohn, Podest, McDonald & Lettenmaier, 2011). Two other droughts followed, peaking between 1972-1973 and 1982-1984 (Lemoalle et al., 2012). For the decades of the 1970s 1980s and 1990s, a lot was discussed and documented about drought and the hydrology of the lake, specifically with regards to seasonal fluctuations and its effect on the basin's resources, (Azeza, 1977; Durand, 1982; Thambyapillay, 1983; Kolawole, 1988; Hutchinson et al., 1992; Sarch & Birkett, 2000; DFID & FAO, 2004), although a most of the discourse came after the 1980s drought.

By the end of the 1990s, the recession of the lake's water led to a publication of satellite images by Coe and Foley in 2001 derived from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) website. The images showed the lake size to have diminished from over 25,000km<sup>2</sup> in the 1960s to about 2500km<sup>2</sup> in 2000. Invariably, this affected fishing activities reduced

grazing and cultivation areas, as well as contribute to the exacerbation of the general depletion of the natural environment (LCBC, 2010-2016). Naturally, this development began to raise global attention because the economic livelihood patterns of communities within the basin started declining, and access to the lake's resources gradually became a challenge, posing threats to food security and increased poverty. Different groups of farmers, fishermen and pastoralists began to engage in occasional conflicts over access or control of the basin's resources, thereby generating tension within and between communities (Onuoha, 2008).

Despite the declining volume of water and the gradual increase of environmental challenges, communities continued to adopt different drought coping strategies to survive; some migrate from the hinterlands to more fertile areas of the lake, thereby increasing its population, while others resort to migrating to bigger cities to find alternative means to livelihoods (Nwanegbo et al., 2017)). Another extreme dry season in 2008 re-kindled claims about the diminishing of the lake, prompting new investigations by the LCBC together with some of its partners on the possibility of an inter-basin water transfer from the Ubangui River in the Congo/Zaire basin to Lake Chad (Lemaolle et al., 2012). At the same time, the LCBC and development partners had started to introduce other adaptation strategies to enable communities to cope with the effects of drought and climate change (LCBC & FAO, 2009). At that time the FAO issued a statement to get the attention of the global community:

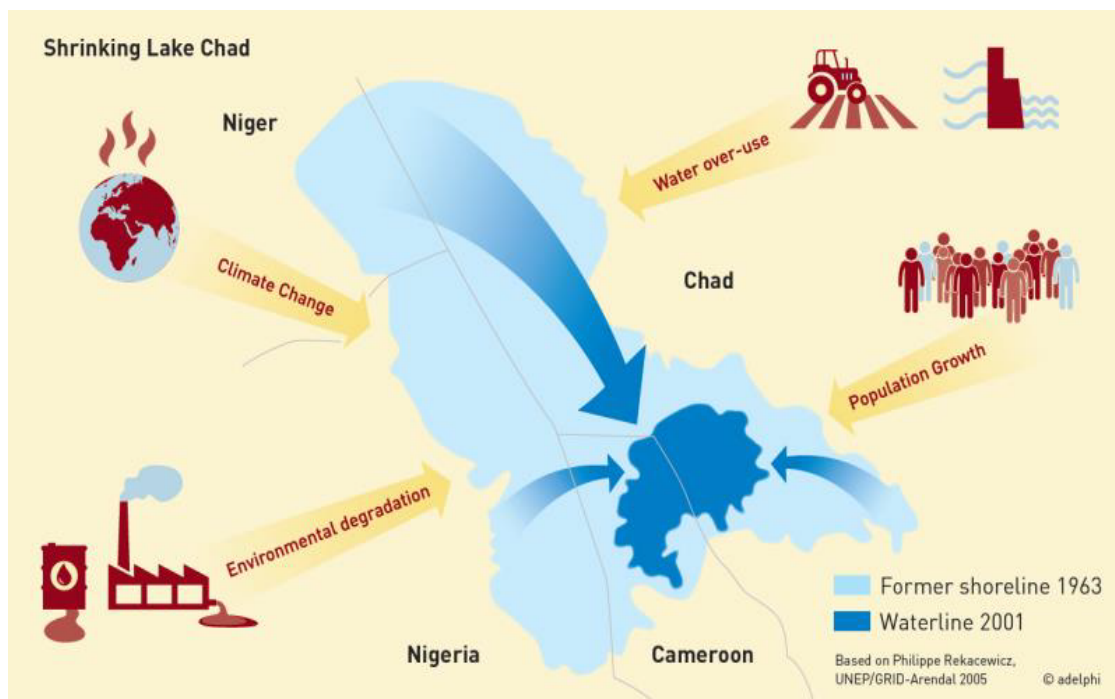
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*"The humanitarian disaster that could follow the ecological catastrophe needs urgent interventions. The tragic disappearance of the Lake Chad has to be stopped and the livelihoods of millions of people living in this vast area should be safeguarded." FAO, Rome, 15 October 2009. (Source: Magrin, 2016).*

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With the region being politically and economically marginalized with very little government presence from the individual states, some groups began to take advantage of the occasional conflicts and environmental vulnerability of communities, and in 2009 established themselves as an Islamist terrorist group which later became known as Boko haram (Okpara, Stringer & Dougill, 2016). With time, insecurity was looming in specific sections of the basin, and by 2014, violent conflict had spread to several parts of the basin. This eventually caused massive displacement of the inhabitants who were then, unable to partake in their normal livelihood activities, plunging the region into a humanitarian crisis. With increasing debates on the LCB situation, attention started being drawn to the plight of communities that had been displaced by Boko haram, and the need for humanitarian aid was highlighted (HPN, 2017).

With an increasing number of people becoming displaced from their homes, fleeing from violent conflict, and some becoming refugees, these situations intensified the pre-existing hardships of climate influences even further. In recent years, the role of climate change has been included as a driver to the ongoing conflict around the basin, which is why some stakeholders believe the replenishing of the lake should be a top priority (UNDP/OCHA, 2018), as this is expected to tackle several of the underlying issues in the basin. At a humanitarian conference for collective action on the LCB in 2017 at Oslo Norway between the LCBC, UN actors, NGOs and regional governments, a response plan was set up with pledges for donations (which was not the first of its kind) (HPN, 2017). Today the LCB is an array of challenges of displacement, food insecurity and malnutrition, absence of health care, violence and conflict, amongst others. Figure 4.1 below demonstrates some of the dynamics existing within the basin.



**Figure 4. 1: Lake Chad Basin dynamics**

Retrieved from “*Insurgency, Terrorism and Organised Crime in a Warming Climate*” from K. Nett & L. Rüttinger, 2016, p. 12. Copyright 2016, Adelphi. <https://wcaro.unfpa.org/en/publications/demographic-dynamics-and-crisis-countries-around-lake-chad>

## 4.2 Understanding the LCBC

The LCB began a new chapter of management when on May 22, 1964, at the Fort Lamy convention, the LCBC was set up. A basin organisation that connects the basin states started

with four members on inception: Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, then later joined by the Central African Republic and Libya in 1996 and 2008 respectively (LCBC, 2010-2016). Of the eight bordering countries, membership of the commission began with only four: Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, who all joined at the Fort Lamy convention. It later increased to six when the Central African Republic and Libya acceded in 1996 and 2008 respectively (LCBC, 2010-2016). Egypt, Sudan, Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo are also part of the commission, but they maintain only observer status (LCBC, 2010-2016).

The LCBC's mandate is to coordinate access and use of the basin's resources through shared sustainable and equitable management to preserve the ecosystem and to promote integration while securing cross-border peace and security (LCBC, 2010-016). The commission adopted 'a long-term vision and strategic action plan (SAP) in 2008 and a Water Charter in April 2012' (Galeazzi et. al 2017). This water charter was influenced by the principles of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) as a treaty instrument aimed at achieving a Vision 2025 Strategic Action Plan because collective management of water resources in the basin is central due to growing human activities and demographic movement throughout the region (Galeazzi et. al 2017).

The LCBC is made up of three categories of governing bodies: the summit of heads of state of member countries; the council of ministers, made up of two commissioners per state (who control and supervise the commission); and the executive secretariat, which is the executive body for the decisions of the Summits of Heads of State and resolutions of the Council of Ministers (LCBC, 2010-2016). It has undergone a series of challenges in its management processes, especially in the last decade where the region has faced insecurity due to violent terrorist activities exacerbating the climatic and environmental degradation. As part of its mandate, the LCBC is empowered to collect necessary data and information of the evolving environmental contentions within the basin's riparian states and receives support from them as well as from development partners to promote and integrate developmental objectives, (Okpara et al.,2018).

From its inception, the commission has always worked in collaboration with other international development partners that have helped steer its intended activities (Galeazzi et al., 2017). Although it has in the past been described as only being able to partially fulfil its mandate because member states were initially not investing resources for joint management but were rather implementing their initiatives. The last two decades have witnessed regional corporation

between the member states more than in the decades before (Galeazzi et al., 2017). The level of cooperation is such that decisions taken by the commission are usually endorsed by all the member states before actions are taken. According to (M. Bila, personal communication, May 16, 2020), “decisions from meetings are taken by consensus, all must agree on what must be done and the heads of states will sign, and this becomes what the LCBC implements, so in this area, we have great success.”

## **5.0 Empirical analysis**

This chapter presents the results collected from the software analysis and extensive readings done on the policy documents, addressing each of the research sub-questions. In the first section, the main discourse actors are identified, and instances of the types of influence they exert through discourses, as well as the types of partnership activities they are involved in, are presented. The second section covers the subjects of discourse at the onset of the LCB discourse practice, are elaborated on, as the first set of dominant discourses. In the third section are highlighted other dominant discourses and dislocation events - they are explained according to their emergence in the discourse practice history; then the order of discourse follows in the fourth section. The fifth section discusses the role of interdiscursivity on the broadening of discourses, and the ways it has kept dominant discourses interconnected are discussed, while the last section gives a summary of deductions from the whole chapter and presents them in the answers to the sub-questions.

### **5.1 Characterising the LCB discourse practice actors**

For a region that was often characterized as lacking government presence for a prolonged period, and experiencing the adverse effects of climate change (Adelphi, 2017; HPN, 2017), it is not surprising that the management of the LCB is not left to the discretion of the LCBC alone. Its development partners range from the UN and its organs - through GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNOCHA; the World Bank Group through FAO, WFP; Africa Development Bank (ADB); African Union (AU); the European Union; the American government through the Department for International Development (DFID); the French government’s Agence Francaise De Developpement (AFC) and the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) and so on. Looking at the range of policy documents highlighted in table 3.1, on page 26, one will find that early partnerships and collaborations with the LCBC, at the

initial stage, started with globally established institutions like the UN and the World Bank Group, in the 1970s. Early discourses on management and regional governance of the LCB, often emphasized marginalisation of the region by the riparian states, as well as lack of cooperation between these member states, as hindrances to enhancing water and natural resource management in the region. This type of discourse, for example, is found in a report by DFID & FAO in 2004 on the state of fish production in the basin, (see D6 of table 3.1).

*'The five riparian countries are relatively weak states (i.e. they exhibit weak governance) and are placed low on the Human Development Index,' DFID & FAO (2004).*

Similarly, years after, in 2017 for example, similar discourses are still found in newer publications, because the root causes of the basin's decline will always be linked to these governance factors and to new circumstances that evolve with time; as illustrated by the following quotation by HPN in 2007, (see D18 of table 3.1).

*'These three factors – **marginalisation, governance and insecurity** – have combined with the deepening poverty, environmental degradation and a population explosion that eclipses almost anywhere else on earth. The 7 million living across the region in the early 1970s had grown to some 30 million just over 40 years later.'* HPN (2017).

The three factors highlighted in the quotations were issues that loomed in and around the region for years and grew with intensity as time passed. Consequently, this early lack of commitment from states, and low management capacity of the LCBC in the 1970s resulted in poor data collection and documentation of the basins environmental evolution. Some even believed the operational cost of decreasing the degradation of the region was far beyond the capacity of the LCBC member nations (UNDP-OCHA, 2018) because human development indicators around the region have for a long time been below global averages (WFP, 2016). Similarly, a UNEP coordinated water assessment report of the LC back in 2004, also identified a lack of freshwater management as one of the main concerns that needed to be addressed. This management deficiency stalled some meaningful developments that could have taken place then (DFID & FAO, 2004), but by the 1990s, it was evident that regional cooperation between the member states had been established. This was mainly due to a framework that was developed with the support of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through a funding mechanism. The

framework was designed to foster collaboration between partners towards a common vision. As (M. Bila, personal communication, May 16, 2020), put it, “this is an area today, where we have the most success, the extent of solidarity between the member states is very great.”

Between the late 1980s into 1990s, transnational network involvement through established institutions brought in funding at different periods for more diagnostic studies and analyses, which were needed for better management decisions. These established institutions (such as UNEP, GEF, DFID, UNESCO and some agencies of the French and German governments), influenced the LCB discourse practice and elevated it to the transnational level. The key attraction for the international community was mainly the effects of the drought years in the region and in the Sahel, which the LC was part of. Although these global actors collaborated with the LCBC, they brought in suggestions and solutions to tackle the basin’s declining ecosystem, and in the process promoted their ideas and objectives.

There were periods when some funding partners did not support certain decisions taken by the LCBC and other actors. For instance, at a donor conference in Nigeria in 2005, the inter-basin water transfer from the Congo basin into the Chad basin (mentioned at the beginning of this chapter) was suggested as the main LC project in need of funding. The World Bank, the French government and some other partners opposed this, claiming it would be a wasted investment, as huge projects like these might not be sustained years after completion (M. Bila, personal communication, May 16, 2020). Naturally, those partners did not commit to that project but rather committed to the Strategic Action Plan designed by GEF in 2004, that was aimed to reverse the degrading ecosystem of the basin. This shows the understanding of why analysing discourses of environmental issues helps to interpret the ideologies behind actors’ decisions, especially at the transnational level (Hajer & Versteeg, 2005). This helps society understand the reasons for certain types of developments. Therefore, the actor’s cooperation has been key to facilitating collective management decisions for the development of the region. It is apparent that global actors who come with funding and expertise come with suggestions and ideas about what management strategies can be applied in specific circumstances. The next section will showcase examples of some types of collaborations between the LCBC and some of the discourse actors.

### **5.1.1 Some early partnerships**

This section will provide an overview of some partnerships that evolved specifically after the second drought of the 1980s. In 1989, a diagnostic study of environmental degradation in the

basin was undertaken, with funding from UNEP. It was carried out by specialist consultants in collaboration with the LCBC (LCBC/UNEP,2004). Another study was financed by the UNDP between 1990-1993, aimed at improving management services through data collection, model simulations and formulation of development strategies (ibid). Again between 1992-1993, and funded by the French Cooperation, there was a project initiated to produce a model for monitoring and management of groundwater resources, but this was not taken to conclusion due to logistics reasons of funding (LCBC/UNEP, 2004). By 1998, a strategic action plan (SAP) was drawn and expedited by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNO-DESA). It provided a framework designed to protect and preserve the basin's sustainable use of resources (LCBC/UNEP, 2004). From an LCBC conference report in 2008, the following quotation gives an impression of the types of partnerships between the LCBC and other actors.

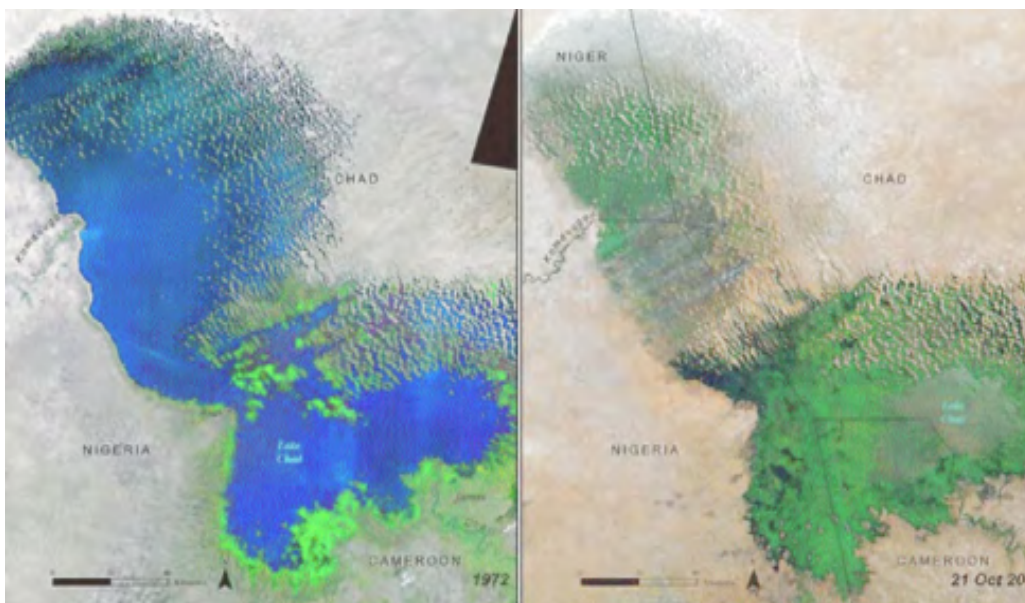
*'The Strategic Action Plan (SAP), developed within the framework of GEF project was adopted in June 2008 by the LCBC Council of Ministers and its now being transformed into an Investment Programme which will be available by the end of 2008, to reverse general ecosystem degradation trends in the Lake Chad Conventional Basin, if funding is obtained,' LCBC (2008).*

This empirical illustration reveals that LCBC partnerships with agencies, organisations and governments, to a large extent depend on funding and expertise. And because the LCBC was for many years deficient in the expertise of water resource management (LCBC/UNEP, 2004), certain actions could only be taken in partnerships and collaborations. Therefore, partnerships were needed, and naturally, initiatives that attract partnerships with other actors need to align with the objectives and modalities of funding bodies as well as with the LCBC. As funding partners, their discourses resonate with the consuming public and materialize as valid and accurate, and may eventually be institutionalised. Very often when that happens, actions and developments will follow. This is a typical example of the influence of actors and institutions and such established global institutions are likely to have the backing of other actors in promoting their development ideas through discourses. Oftentimes, some discourses produced by influential actors are well received and interpreted as authentic, (this does not mean they are not). But when discourse consumers are in doubt of certain discourses and do not have the means to refute them, they may be obliged to also authenticate such discourses. The next section gives an example of such a discourse of influence.

### 5.1.2. Illustrating an influencing discourse

The shrinking and replenishing of the lake is one discourse that has been repeated in reports and publications (FAO, 2009; ECDPM, 2017; German Corporation, 2018; Lemoalle, 2012; Magrin, 2016). The shrinking, in particular, has been debated since 2001, after the publication of Coe & Foley was released, where they published a set of satellite images from NASA's website (Magrin, 2016), see figure 5.1. This resonated in several other reports and publications by researchers and institutions who authenticated the idea of the unrelenting disappearing of the lake, and it was also documented in an FAO publication in 2009. This 'so-called' continued shrinking beyond 1,500km<sup>2</sup> is yet to materialise. It was later debunked by newer LCB partners, like Adelphi, who showed that the lake had replenished up to 14,000km<sup>2</sup> in 2013 (Adelphi, 2017). Its endorsement by the FAO and other LCB influential actors made it a discourse of reference, and the discourse motivated LCBC and other actors to respond in terms of re-strategizing to new management approaches (FAO, 2009). This exemplifies actors influence on discourses and strategies for further action, for it is mainly through discourse that information about needed action is generally distributed and eventually comes to influence the collaboration of others.

**The difference in lake hydrology between 1972 and 2007.**



**Figure 5. 1: Lake Chad satellite images as seen by NASA 2001**

Retrieved from [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/faowater/docs/ChadWWW09.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faowater/docs/ChadWWW09.pdf) (LCBC & FAO, 2009)

## **5.2 Commencement of the LCB discourse practice with hydro-technical discourses.**

When the LCB discourse practice began to gain momentum in studies, it was long after the first drought of the 1970s. At that time, it could not have been known that the region would transition into various phases of degeneration to the extent it has today. Research on the lake in those early periods was dominated by discourses on rainfall fluctuations, which were leading to periods of drought, and their effect on the lake hydrology. In those years (the 1970s and 1980s), the LC region provided limited subjects that could be investigated; hence, discourses then were of a hydrological nature, mostly technical, and were carried out by experts in such fields. However, these two discourses on *climate variability/drought and lake hydrology* became dominant in the discourse practice of LCB, and their dominance anchored them as discourses that reference will always be made to in this empirical case.

The lake Chad is served by the Chari River, which in turn is fed by the River Logone tributary, both from the Central African Republic, so it responds to flows from annual seasonal rainfall events for its freshwater levels (UNEP, 2004). Climate variability discourses were therefore initially dominated by records of annual rainfall patterns and events of high temperature due to evapotranspiration- which is a combination of evaporation from land surfaces and transpiration from plants. The dramatic lake level fluctuations were not recorded in detail, and this lack of extensive information restricted political action. These climate variability/drought discourses continue to resonate in the lake's empirical discourse practice as the root cause of its historical hydrological regimes.

The hydrological regimes of surface water fluctuations of the lake attracted the attention of hydrologists and other experts around the globe. Those initial discourses from studies of the 1970s and 1980s evolved from partnerships between the LCBC and their early development partners. In an interview with (M. Bila, personal communication, May 16, 2020), he explained; “one of the first partnerships we had was with UNESCO, which was in the 1960s. They produced a major report designed to take stock of the availability of water resources in the region.” Through such reports, the nature of the changing physical environment was gradually being understood. Later on, discourses about the causes of the region's decline began to shift and include new discourses. Consequently, in addition to the effects of drought, dam construction and irrigation schemes carried out in Nigeria and Cameroun especially, were later reported by some, as contributing factors to the water surface reduction (Coe & Foley, 2001;

UNEP, 2004; Musa, et. al, 2008; LCBC-FAO, 2009). Gradually, more actors started to get involved, and the reports from those periods provided a platform for the discourse practice to take off, and others built upon what was available, in addition to what time revealed.

**Table 5. 1: Dominant discourses identified in each policy document**

	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DOMINANT DISCOURSES</b>
D1	1989	Climate variability (drought); Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management
D2	1992	Climate variability; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Food insecurity;
D3	1994	Climate variability; Environ discourse; Actors/management
D4	2001	Environ discourse
D5	2004	Climate variability(drought); Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Vulnerability; Livelihoods; Food insecurity; Sustainable development
D6	2004	Lake hydrology; Lake dynamics
D7	2008	Environ discourse; Actors/management
D8	2008	Climate Change; Environ discourse; Actors/management; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Food insecurity; Sustainable development
D9	2009	Climate variability(drought); Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Resilience; Livelihoods; Food insecurity; Conflict; Sustainable development; Vulnerability
D10	2011	Actors/management; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Conflict; Sustainable development;
D11	2011	Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Food security; Vulnerability; Conflict
D12	2012	Climate variability(drought); Environ discourse; Actors/management;
D13	2015	Climate Change; Environ discourse; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Vulnerability; Livelihoods; Conflict
D14	2016	Climate variability(drought); Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Vulnerability; Food insecurity; Conflict; Displacement/refugees; Humanitarian crisis; Sustainable development
D15	2016	Climate variability(drought); Environ discourse; Actors/management;
D16	2017	Lake dynamics; Vulnerability; Conflict; Displacement/refugees; Sustainable development
D17	2017	Environ discourse; Governance; Lake dynamics; Sustainable development
D18	2017	Lake dynamics; Governance; Food insecurity; Conflict; Displacement/refugees; Humanitarian crisis
D19	2017	Lake dynamics; Vulnerability; Food insecurity; Displacement/refugees; Conflict
D20	2017	Actors/management; Governance; Conflict
D21	2017-2018	Climate variability (drought); Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Resilience; Vulnerability; Livelihoods; Food insecurity; Conflict; Displacement/refugees; Humanitarian crisis
D22	2018	Climate variability (drought); Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Resilience; Vulnerability; Livelihoods; Food insecurity; Conflict; Displacement/refugees; Humanitarian crisis; Sustainable development;
D23	2018	Climate Change; Vulnerability; Livelihoods; Conflict; Displacement/refugees
D24	2018	Climate variability (drought); Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Resilience; Vulnerability; Livelihoods; Food insecurity; Displacement/refugees; Humanitarian crisis; Conflict; Sustainable development
D25	2018	Actors/management; Adaptation/adaptive capacity; Conflict
D26	2019	Climate variability (drought); Lake dynamics; Sustainable development
D27	2019	Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake dynamics; Livelihoods; Food insecurity; Displacement/refugees; Humanitarian crisis; Conflict; Sustainable development;
D28	2019	Climate Change; Environ discourse; conflict; Humanitarian crisis; Displacement/refugees
D29	2019	Climate variability(drought); Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Conflict
D30	2020	Climate variability(drought); Lake hydrology; Actors/management; Sustainable development
D31	2020	Climate variability(drought); Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Livelihoods; Food insecurity; Conflict; Humanitarian crisis
D32	2020	Climate variability(drought); Climate Change; Lake hydrology; Actors/management; Lake dynamics; Livelihoods; Humanitarian crisis
D33	2020	Climate variability (drought); Environ discourse; Actors/management; Livelihood; Conflict;
D34	2020	Climate variability (drought); Climate Change; Environ discourse; Lake hydrology; Governance; Actors/management; Livelihood; Food insecurity; Conflict; Sustainable development

### 5.3 Dominant discourses and dislocation events

In the last section, two dominant discourse subjects were elaborated on, as the initial discourse subjects of the LC discourse practice. This section will highlight the remaining dominant discourses identified in the policy documents of table 3. 1. Table 5.1 shows the year/period which these dominant discourses were noted to have emerged, based on the publication year of the policy documents they were identified in. Also, their time/period of dominance will be explained. This aims to give a better understanding of the structure of the emergence of these discourses.

One cannot say that enough has been done since the LCBC came into existence in 1964. This was confirmed by an indigenous inhabitant of the LCB and head of a local NGO called Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad (AFPAT) (H. Oumar, personal communication, June 11, 2020), when she said: “if for 60 years the commission gives the right advice on the governance level, on the political level, and they are drawing good projects for communities, we would not be as bad as we are.” This statement is evidence of the gradual development around the LCB for obvious reasons of inadequate capacity by the LCBC on basin management, insufficient funding for interventions and the need for the right management decisions to be taken. Nonetheless, the LCB discourse practice has generally been revolving around actors and their reports, proposals and several other publications, which mainly developed from a series of partnerships.

As previously mentioned, initial LCB discourses were centred around two dominant technical discourses; *climate variability (drought) and lake hydrology* from the 1970s. But discourses can thrive through *actors*. Discourses about management strategies/decisions started to emerge after the second drought of the 1980s. This was around 1989, and their development was important because they supported the first two technical discourses, by giving them a bigger platform to act. Also, the *governance* of the basin through the LCBC and its member states was strengthened from the 1980s, as the riparian states began to show their willingness to cooperate. This development henceforth ushered in discourses about the governance of the region. By 1992, the LCBC had come up with a master plan on how to manage the natural resource of the basin. That master plan covered different aspects of management proposals, which were written with the assistance of UNEP, UNSO and FAO (LCBC, 1992). Since *actors* happen to be the enablers of discourses and are in some way drivers of *management decisions*,

their prominence in upcoming publications became apparent. By that year, the LCBC had started taking charge of executing its mandate, and it included other actors in the process.

In the master plan of 1992, *environmental discourses* also emerged as dominant discourses, and because the strategy in the master plan was mainly about managing the degrading ecosystem, the state of decline had to be discussed. These environmental discourses covered a combination of characteristics - the drying of the lake and surroundings, desert encroachment - which had all started to affect agricultural produce, had reduced livestock and fish production, and so on (LCBC,1992). The following quotation is a typical example of an environmental discourse by the LCBC.

*'For instance, sheet erosion, wind erosion and deposition of top soil, fertility reduction and salinization can be observed. Formation of barriers in the lake between the two ponds as well as the multiplication of sand dunes all around the lake can also be noticed. Perennial plant species have disappeared, particularly leguminous plants, and have been replaced by annual species. In general, a decrease of vegetal species variety is noticed. In the field of livestock, herds have been decimated and the Kouri breed of cow is disappearing,' LCBC (1992).*

Naturally, this ecosystem degradation began to influence the social and economic well-being of some inhabitants and made them vulnerable to food shortage. Hence, from 1992, *food security* was a discourse for a short period, but this discourse soon diminished afterwards because the rainfall pattern in the region improved, and the vulnerability to food shortages was no more seen as a concern. With the emergence of environmental discourses, it was realised that climate variability and lake hydrology could not be separated from the environmental discourses of the ecosystem. Also, the general condition of the environment was usually brought into focus when new discourses were produced about the LCB– thus, environmental discourses have remained in the order of discourse since then.

Some years had passed when in 2004, the stock was taken on the basin's degrading situation, and a Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) comprehensive UN report was put together in collaboration with other partners (LCBC, UNEP, USGS, UNESCO, WWF, GEF). The report was an assessment of the basin's degradation and proposals for policy options on needed interventions. In that report, the LC situation was portrayed as a causal chain reaction, between different factors, which included discourses on *vulnerability to livelihood losses*.

Generally, contextual factors of physical, political and socio-economic developments were characterizing the basin's situation into new dimensions, for the basin had, and was deteriorating further. This cumulation of different deteriorating factors the communities were experiencing, were being combined into a single discourse, which I framed as, *lake dynamics discourses*. The dynamics began as a result of the continued governance deficit, and environmental complexities. Therefore, in lake dynamics discourses, one will find factors such as droughts, inequalities, social injustices, poverty, lack of infrastructure, management, amongst others; all combined and showcased as a sequence of causal relationships. Two examples of lake dynamics discourse are found in a 2009 FAO/LCBC report on adaptive water management for the LCB, and another from a UNDP/UNOCHA 2018 report on resilience for sustainable development, see table 3.1.

*'Unfortunately, with increasing population, poverty, illiteracy coupled with rapid preponderance of climate related risks in recent decades and the resulting patterns of loss, there seems to be a breakdown in the effectiveness of spontaneous adaptation and coping strategies,' FAO/LCBC (2009). AND.....*

*'The underlying causes of the LCB crisis include high inequality, perceived social injustice, a lack of social service provision, historic marginalisation, inadequate economic opportunities, high levels of poverty, rapid demographic growth and the impacts of climate change and land degradation,' UNDP/UNOCHA, (2018).*

One can see that even though the reports are about nine years apart; both discourses highlight the dynamics in the LCB in a different manner, and they include similar elements in their production. This discourse summarises the situation of the LCB, as it defines the historical developments of the LCB. In the Global International Waters Assessment report (GIWA) of 2004, *sustainable development* was mentioned in some discourses about the introduction of sustainable fisheries through adaptation interventions for the basin's communities. Even though it was during the early years of the adoption of the MDGs, sustainable development of the basin was not prominent in discourses, and therefore it diminished soon afterwards. But it resurfaced again in a 2008 appraisal report for the sustainable development of the basin by the African Development Bank (ADB).

In 2008, the region experienced extreme dryness, and that year was recorded by the LCBC as another drought year (M. Bila, personal communication, May 16, 2020). Water was scarce,

tensions were rising due to clashes between social groups of farmers and pastoralists - both competing for moist land - and people were becoming frustrated as a result of hardships. Then, in 2009, FAO/LCBC published a report on adaptive water management aimed at addressing current challenges in the LCB. The report presented the reality of the current situation at that time; as well as a new range of new dominant discourses. In this report, *adaptation/adaptive capacity* and *resilience strategies* dominated discourses as approaches to long-term measures. These solutions were designed to be sustainable, and as a result, *sustainable development* started to find a footing in discourses again in the same 2009 report. In social contexts, the lake population started being described as vulnerable to food shortages. Thus, this time, *food security* discourse had returned, and together with *vulnerability* as a consequence of loss of *livelihoods*, the three became dominant in discourses that would be defined in connection with each other. The three re-emerged to be dominant in the 2009 FAO/LCBC report. As multiple households were not able to farm or graze their animals due to drylands; nor were fishermen able to fish as they did before. Many were now facing losses in livelihoods and having very little to survive on; hence the reasons for the emergence of adaptation and resilience discourses.

These six new dominant discourses (adaptation/adaptive capacity, resilience, sustainable development, food security, vulnerability and livelihoods) that emerged about the same period, showed the causal linkages between discourses. Although they emerged to establish themselves, they did not do so as individual discourses, but as a kind of causal chain reaction where it will be difficult to discuss one without the other. Some of these discourses are illustrated in the following quotations, (see D9 in table 3.1).

Discourse on sustainable development

*'The provision of climate information and predictions will greatly improve economic and social decision-making and support sustainable development,'*  
*FAO/LCBC (2009).*

Similarly, a discourse on livelihoods and food security

*'There is a large untapped potential to improve food production and livelihoods in spate-irrigated areas,'* *FAO/LCBC (2009).*

and another on vulnerability and adaptive capacity

*'The vulnerability is due to several factors such as: over exploitation of natural resources, widespread poverty, poor infrastructure, high illiteracy rates, conflicts and dependence of a large share of its economies on climate-sensitive sectors.....these factors, coupled with limited institutional technological capabilities, have contributed to the region's low adaptive capacity,' FAO/LCBC (2009).*

In, the earlier report of 2008; on the appraisal for the sustainable development of the basin by African Development Bank (ADB), **climate change** discourses emerged and would continue in that light until 2009, when it was again included in the FAO/LCBC report. Since its initial appearance in the GIWA Assessment report of 2004, it seemed it was going to dominate the order of discourse in the coming years due to its global popularity. It became a dominant discourse after LCB discourse actors realised it was the driver to the decline of the basin. The FAO & LCBC, (2009) report stated that 'the role of anthropogenic climate change in the recent episode of freshwater shortage is undetermined.' This was confirmed by (M. Bila, personal communication, 16 May 2020), when he posited "the issue of climate change was something we omitted in the past, but we have realized it is the main driver of the LCB problem."

Consequently, climate change discourses diminished after 2009, when in that year, growing tensions due to governance shortfall in some parts of Nigeria, especially in its north-east, saw the emergence of the insurgency group called Boko haram (World Bank, 2017; HPN, 2017). The same report by FAO/LCBC produced the discourses on **violent conflict** in 2009. As Boko haram gradually spread their control in the north-east, they eventually reached the basin and took control of parts of it through violent means. This was in addition to the communal conflicts that were already taking place around the basin from time to time (Okpara et al., 2018). The (WFP, 2016) also stated that since the 1970s, armed conflicts and rebel activity have escalated on the Lake's islands, creating tension between social groups.

New reports and publications from the year 2011 by LCBC & FOA and GEF/WB were now discussing violent conflict. As a security issue, its discourses were so dominant, it became a dislocation event. As its discourses advanced, **climate change** returned in 2015 when a climate resilience action plan report was produced by ACF, LCBC, CIWA and the World Bank Group. In the report, a major way to improve *livelihoods* was being considered through a transfer of surface water recharge system, from the Oubangui basin in the Congo to the Lake Chad

(FAO/LCBC, 2009). It would seem as if progress had been made with regards to climate change effects in the region. But by 2015, a World Food Program publication still reported that the effects of climate change in the long-term were not yet known, although the amount of water flowing into the lake may be reduced in coming years due to temperature rise and increased consumption of water (WFP, 2015). Eventually, from 2015, climate change discourses became established to become a dislocation event that new management decisions can revolve around. And while climate discourses were calling for action, and interventions were being sought, the insurgency was advancing.

From its initial emergence, violent conflict as a dislocation event became established within the LCB order of discourse, while causing climate change discourses to be slightly disrupted for a short while. It thus seemed as if the two discourses had moments of discursive power, as described by (Hajer &Verstegg, 2005). Consequently, climate change discourse re-established and was linked to the environmental evolution of the basin. Recent studies have shown that there are strong links between climate change/variability and conflict (Adelphi, 2019; Okpara et al., 2016; Pham-Duc et al., 2020). Discourses in the domain of climate and conflict are important for understanding the link between *vulnerability* to human security and climate change concerns (Okpara et al., 2016). *Vulnerability* came in again with a slightly different context in 2017, (while maintaining the previous definition), in a UNFPA report on Crisis and Development around Lake Chad; this time, it was defined in relation to water, climate and conflict, as a variable conceptualising all three concepts in discourses (Okpara et al., 2017). This means that new discourses can evolve with new meanings but connected to old concepts and that these too will shape management practices (Arts & Buizer, 2009). In line with this, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) stated that reasons for conflicts and clashes are complex, in the following quotation; (see D27 in table 3.1)

*'Clashes demonstrate that the reasons for displacement in the lake Chad Basin are very much interlinked. Factors related to climate change are feeding into communal clashes as environmental conditions have driven herders to move southward in the dry season for pasture, and the conflict is severely affecting the relationship between different communities in the region,' IOM (2019).*

With the advancement of violent conflict, the dynamics within the lake region were becoming even more complex, because more discourses were evolving. The conflict was causing *displacement* of inhabitant communities, which was creating *refugee* situations, and many had

nowhere to live and no means of livelihood, thereby *leading to a humanitarian crisis* in need of intervention. By the beginning of 2014, the humanitarian crisis had come to global attention, and with the coordination of United Nations Human Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an LCBC conference was organised to raise awareness and funds for vulnerable populations around the basin (M. Bila, personal communication, 16 May 2020). A World Food Program report in 2016 brought the displacement issue to light, with discourses about the gravity of the situation of the basin. Millions had lost their homes, lost their livelihoods and had been forcefully displaced and needed aid to survive. These new discourses do not take away the dislocations of climate-conflict events. They are still the focus for long-term adaptation and resilience strategies, and displacement happens to be a result of both. So, the continuity of displacement, refugee situations and humanitarian assistance in the order of discourse depends on the direction climate-conflict discourses navigate.

Unfortunately, as the displacement of households and communities intensified, inhabitants were not only running away from violent insurgents but were looking for safe fertile areas to live and adapt. Because they are forcefully displaced, some eventually had no place to go because their homes had been destroyed by insurgents, making them refugees in the process. By 2017, the number of refugees was up to 2.5 million, and the situation of the LCB was described as the second-largest displacement crisis after the Syrian crisis (FAO, 2017-2019). As reasons for the humanitarian crisis will be discussed in connection to its causes, the three discourses are often included in the same social descriptive context. Even though they have their definitions they contribute to the order of discourse by providing it with continuity in their way.

The dominant discourses and dislocation events described above are placed in an order of discourse and they are further elaborated on. The order of discourse is illustrated in figure 5.2 and the order of the emergence of dominant discourses is explained in the pages thereafter.

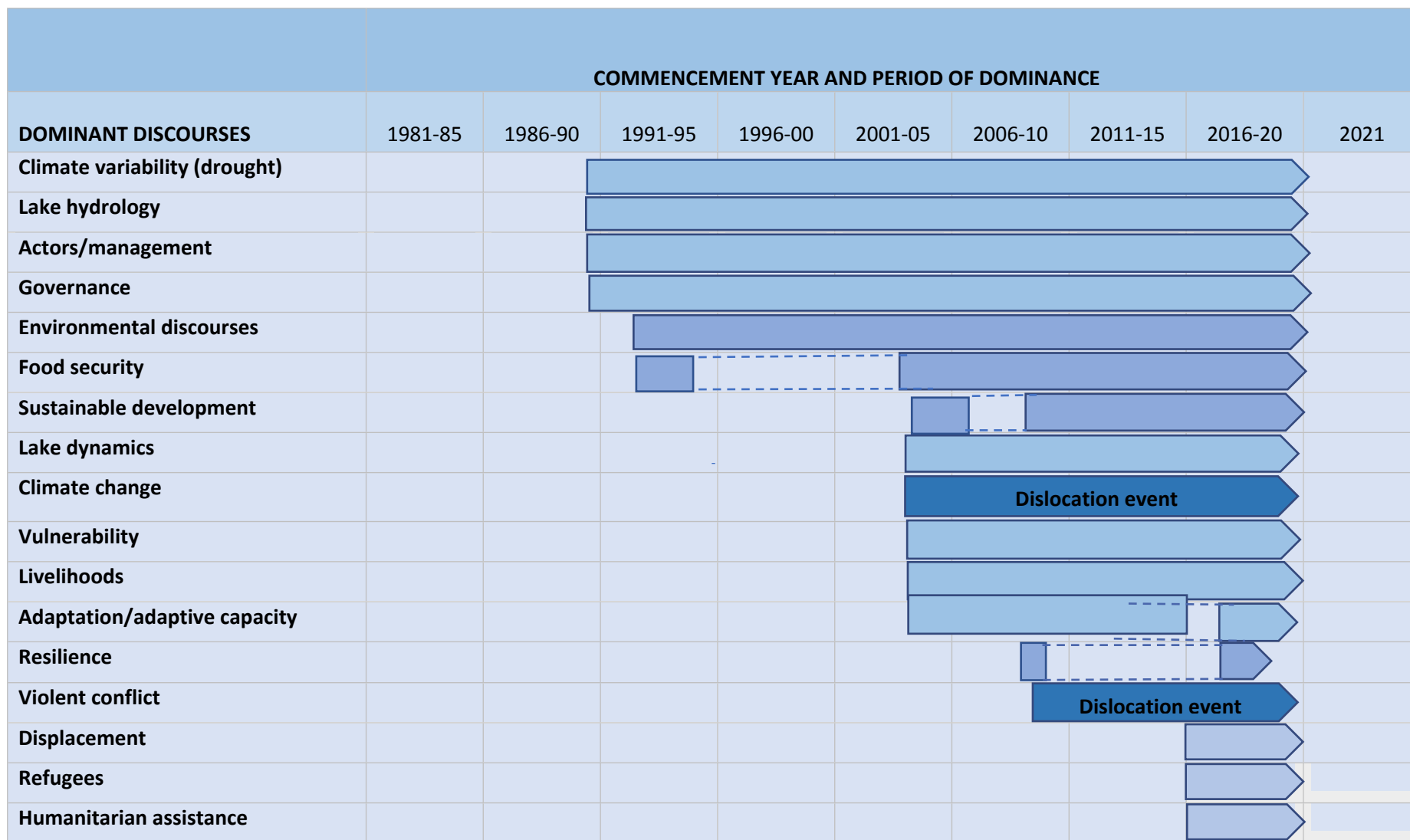


Figure 5. 2: Order of Discourse

## 5.4 Order of discourse explained

In Fairclough's definition of the *order of discourse*, he describes it as social forms of relationships bound by different ways of making meaning within an institution's discourse practice (Fairclough, 1993, p.138). If one takes a look at figure 5.2, one would notice that the order of discourse for this case does not follow a simple pattern. The four dominant discourses that gave the discourse practice a platform to commence (***climate variability-drought; lake hydrology; actors/management and governance***), all emerged around the same time. After the creation of the LCBC – its management and other involving actors enabled the discourse practice to take off with technical discourses on climate variability and lake hydrology. This enablement might not have been initiated without the governments of the riparian states consenting to the formulation of the LCBC. These first four dominant discourses needed each other to build a social institution for the Lake Chad Basin. Based on this dependence, one can say they were dominant on almost equal terms, and they all formed strong boundaries such that new discourses have not been able to silence them.

Adding to the order of discourse, physical changes due to climate factors saw the ecosystem gradually declining. As the water was receding, plants and animals were also being affected, and these changes saw environmental discourses evolve. With their evolution, ***environmental discourses*** provided explanations on the effects of drought due to climate variability and its further effects on lake hydrology. After the second drought period of the 1980s, food security was threatened, and mentions were made on the need to strengthen food production to avoid famine in the Sahel region, which the LCB was part of (LCBC, 1992). But food security was not a threat at that time because, all drought seasons would soon come to pass, and the seasonal flow of rain would increase again. Therefore, ***food security*** made its contribution for a short period around 1992, and would thereafter go silent again, almost as quickly as it evolved. Just like food security, some '***sustainable development***' practices were proposed for the use of the ecosystem resources of the basin. The proposals aimed to introduce sustainable measures to aid in the preservation of the basin's resources (FAO/LCBC, 2009), but this discourse never became popular until it also diminished.

Since new discourses are able to alter the order of discourse through language, (Fairclough, 1992, p.116), ***lake dynamics*** discourses altered the order of discourse again, with their explanation of new complexities manifesting around the basin and its communities. Characteristics of lake dynamics started with a few physical, political and social factors (as

illustrated in the quotations on page 40). But these factors would go on to increase as the years passed, by including new discourses and genres in the process. Then came *climate change, vulnerability, livelihoods and adaptation/adaptive capacity* discourses, all emerging at the same period as lake dynamics. Upon their emergence, they altered the order of discourse with their addition without disrupting previous dominant discourses. Discourses on *resilience*, attributed to changing dynamics within the basin soon followed, but lasted only for about two years, then diminished, only to re-emerge again in later years. The period of the emergence of the resilience discourse also saw *sustainable development* discourses returning. This time, the sustainable development discourse remained in the order of discourse. So far, no new discourse would become so dominant, as to dislocate the order of discourse, so new discourses continued to broaden the order of discourse.

No event was ever strong enough to dislocate the order of discourse of the LCB like *violent conflict* discourses which broke in and took dominance in 2009. Violent conflict was a *dislocation event* that took an oppositional stance, as its evolvment challenged the trending order of discourse, which it did by weakening some of the efforts built by previous discourses, even though other discourses have remained active. It generally became a popular discourse subject, and this was confirmed in an interview with a first commissioner of the LCBC, (2020) who posited, ‘the most discussed event in the discourse history of the LCB is the conflict and insurgency.’ It was widely acknowledged as a security issue and brought into focus, which is why it triumphed in a discursive struggle with other discourses. Naturally, issues of security are sensitive to the core of any nation-state, and its discourses will become a matter of state concern, which is why this particular discourse became popular. The evolution of violent conflict discourses eventually resulted in the *displacement* of communities, the creation of *refugees* and the need for *humanitarian assistance*, which are all trending in the present LC situation.

This historical order of discourse has shown that dominant discourses evolve and remain active; whether as dislocation events or as contributors to discourse; climate change and violent conflict are the dislocation events identified. Some discourses have silenced for a short period, and have evolved again to remain relevant. One of the reasons for this could be because the process for the reversal of the degradation of the LC, has been stagnant. Consequently, these dominant discourses are not materialising into institutions as they probably should. If they can materialize into institutions, they could be fully addressed to the extent that they could become

extinct, and this will reveal signs of positive development. The order of discourse, therefore, shows that all dominant discourses are operative in the discourse practice today. This means that these dominant discourses continue to remain relevant because the stagnant development of the basin enables it. Observations from figure 5.2 will be further discussed at the end of the chapter in the answers to the research sub-question on the order of discourse.

## 5.5 Interdiscursivity of dominant discourses

This section explains the level of interdiscursivity between dominant discourses. This means how discourses are interconnected through discursive means to give meaning to content.

It was observed in the policy documents of table 3.1 that interdiscursive lines are inevitable in the historical production of text and talk in the LCB discourse practice. This type of necessitation was explained by Wodak when she posited that the historical contexts of investigative cases play a key role in the interpretation of discourses because they enable discourse elements to be recontextualised (Wodak, 2014). For the LC, the early decades of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s were periods in which the LCBC had a low level of knowledge and sensitisation on environmental issues (FAO, 2009). Therefore, they lacked the capacity to collect the necessary data that researchers could utilize for further studies. Thus, what was available was utilised in interdiscursive and recontextualised manner. Discourses with similar meanings have appeared in publications for decades, but they are produced and interpreted differently. For example, on the reasons for the decline of the lake, the World Bank once reported in 1994 in a Chad strategic paper report (see D3 in table 3.1).

*'The overall decline of the lake is clearly due to very **long-term evolution of the environment**, rather than human intervention,' World Bank (1994).*

Again, two years later, another report on Climate resilience development plan by the World Bank in 2011, contained a discourse with a similar meaning; (see D10 in table 3.1)

*'Altogether, **climate variability and increased consumption** have caused large changes to the water balance of the Chad drainage basin,' World Bank (2011).*

In the same light, other publications have corroborated human intervention (irrigation activities being one of them), as one of the reasons for the lake's decline, such as the GIWA report of 2004. According to UNEP/LCBC/GEF, (2004, p. 43), 'although the reduction in lake size is

primarily attributed to the reduction in rainfall, in the climatic scenario of the past four decades water use has been unsustainable.’ In the two discourses, *long-term evolution of the environment* and *climate variability* are used separately to describe the decline of water resources and they both describe acts of nature that have affected the water volume of the lake, but they do so in a different manner. Again, in both discourses, *human intervention* and *increased consumption*, describe human activities by the basin’s inhabitants as a driver to the lake’s decline.

Similarly, discourses on *lake dynamics* have continued to be recontextualised and reproduced, as found in the examples below; (extracted from D9 and D22 in table 3.1 respectively).

*This vulnerability is due to several factors such as: over-exploitation of natural resources, widespread poverty, poor infrastructure, high illiteracy rates, conflict, and dependence of a large share of its economies on climate sensitive sector (mainly rainfed agriculture), FAO (2009). AND...*

*The underlying causes of the LCB crisis include high inequality, perceived social injustice, a lack of social service production, historic marginalisation, inadequate economic opportunities, high levels of poverty, rapid demographic growth and the impacts of climate change and land degradation, UNDP-OCHA (2018).*

In Fairclough’s articulation of intertextuality and interdiscursivity; he explained that discourse practices depend on previous patterns of text production (Jorgensen & Phillips 2002, p. 140). In the second discourse, certain elements such as *high levels of poverty* have been recontextualised from ‘*widespread poverty*’ in the first discourse. Also, if we compare *a lack of social service production and historic marginalisation* from the second discourse, with *poor infrastructure* from the first discourse, they make similar meanings, as the former encapsulates the latter. The texts have been altered such that they provide similar interpretations; marginalisation could mean a lack of governance, which invariably means the absence of basic infrastructure and social amenities. This shows how discourses are transferred from other discourses. These illustrations above show interdiscursivity handled in different ways, and no matter how discourses are approached they are linked through the elements contained in them, therefore keeping dominant discourses inter-connected.

Consequently, researchers, have continued to lean towards deriving data from publications of specific actors, like the established institutions (WBG, UN organs) who partner with the LCBC, as their studies are regarded as authentic and accurate. Because the basin size is so large,

standing at about 2,335,000km<sup>2</sup> (FAO, 2009), it is challenging for specific types of technical studies to be undertaken, unless by institutions with capabilities and specific types of expertise, like the internationally established institutions (GEF, UNEP etc). For an empirical case like this, the interdiscursivity needs to align with what has already been studied and produced to provide meaning, because the LC story is one, but can be told in different ways. However, in CDA, interdiscursivity makes it possible to describe why text and talk need to be borrowed from other discourses. It needs to connect the previous discourses to the future, and that gives them some credibility. This is why interdiscursivity also recognises the complexity in communication, and why it tends to utilise data and information that are strongly linked to the use of language (Jian-guo, 2012).

The inter-connection between dominant discourse is demonstrated in figure 5.3 below. The interdiscursivity between dominant discourses, as stated earlier, is inevitable and DHA approach studies the interdiscursive links between discourses. The figure shows that some recent discourses such as climate change and violent conflict are strongly connected to other earlier discourses through interdiscursive lines. For example; climate change - as the main driver to the LCB degradation helps to define several other dominant discourses such as violent conflict and in turn, draws from other dominant discourses like climate variability. In general, their interconnection is not limited.



Figure 5. 3: Inter-connection between dominant discourses

## 5.6 Summarizing results to answer the research sub-questions

In this last section, the sub-questions will be addressed based on the results presented in the various segments of this chapter.

***On the major actors involved in the management of the LCB and how their discourses have been affecting the LCBC decision-making processes.***

The results show that the main partnering actors with the LCBC are at the global level because they are the drivers of its discourse practice. It was evident that the LCBC at inception had limited capacity to manage the LC ecosystem and water resources (FAO, 2009). But the support they have received from the UN and its organs, from the World Bank, as well as from other prominent actors from the 1970s and 1980s has improved their management capacity. With increasing knowledge acquired from emerging events as the years' pass, the LCBC has been developing and advancing in their bid to achieve their mandate. Still, the LCB situation has escalated beyond the capabilities of the riparian states. The involvement of global actors through discourses empowered their influence on LCBC management decisions due to their objectives and resource capacity, for they have been communicating developmental needs of the basin through their reports and publications, which are often well-received by the consuming public. Hence, their discourses attract support from potential actors like NGOs. The resource capacity possessed by these global actors implies that management decisions will be influenced by what these actors intend to achieve, in other words, decision-making processes for the LCB management, are to a large extent influenced by changing discourses, communicated by global actors of influence, such as those found in section 5.1.

***On what the dominant discourses are, and how they have influenced the order of discourse of the LCB discourse practice.***

The dominant discourses have been elaborated on in section 5.4, although dominant discourses showcased in this study are not an overall representation of the LCB discourse practice but are derived from the data sources utilized here. Dominant discourses highlighted are a combination of various discourse subjects from the LC historical development. This is what DHA aims to achieve; to combine diverse knowledge of discourses that are embedded in historical backgrounds of social and political domains. Besides the historical dimension, DHA is also interested in a broad range of discourse subjects such as; inequalities, politics, climate change, media, gender and so on (Flowerdew & Richardson, 2018, p.48). This variance in discourses, and the ways elements in discourses influence each other through their content, are what makes the LC case interesting. Consequently, the influence of dominant discourses in the order of discourse is embedded in the basin's historical development of physical, political and socio-economic contexts. In other words, the evolution of the circumstances that the basin's communities experience (such as climate variability; livelihood losses, violent conflict...),

combined with some potential technical discourse subjects (such as lake hydrology; adaptation; resilience...) capable of driving individual and social action, are structured into concepts guided by language use. Since the order of discourse is a system that frames and is framed by the way language is used which involves structure and processes, it determines what can be said, by establishing the resources (discourses and genres) that are accessible (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p. 72).

***Lastly, on the extent to which dominant discourses are connected through interdiscursivity.***

The reports and publications on the LCB discourse practice analysed here, demonstrate a high level of interdiscursivity of text production. Evident in its discourse production, is the way words and phrases are reproduced; sometimes in similar interdiscursive lines, with different meanings, other times in different interdiscursive lines with the same meanings (such as the example on page 49). Discourses can draw from each other through interdiscursive means, largely because of the prolonged changes in the LC discourse history. Fairclough explained the ways emerging discourses are dependent on previous patterns of text production. Dominant discourses are connected in the sense that some emerging dominant discourses are components derived from other dominant discourses. For example; a World Bank publication in 2011 stated that ‘*essential for any major investment in the area is a focus on increasing adaptive capacity, enhancing **resilience** to climate change, and reducing vulnerability.*’ This shows how resilience as an aspect of discourse in 2011, became a dominant discourse in 2017. When one discourse is imported from another, it shows the extent of connectedness between discourses. This is why DHA involves the study of interdiscursive relationships between discourses. Consequently, for the LCB case, dominant discourses are highly connected through interdiscursive means.

In summary, the main category of the LCB discourse actors have been identified as global actors; the order of discourse has shown a trend in broadening of dominant discourses that have continued to remain active, and dominant discourses are strongly linked through interdiscursivity. These interpretations will now facilitate in the answering of the main research question.

## 6.0 Conclusion and recommendations

As stated in the first chapter, this thesis was designed to bring to light the effect of discourses on management practices of the LCB. By identifying the discourse actors who have influenced the basin's development, and highlighting the dominant discourses that have built up the discourse practice, and invariably, influencing management decisions; I have been able to establish an order of discourse based on the discourse historical developments of the LC region. Also, the ways interdiscursivity connects the dominant discourses are described. In this concluding chapter, the empirical findings are recapitulated, I shall also elaborate and reflect on findings, to answer the research question and finally, limitations and recommendation are presented. The research question stated at the beginning is:

*To what extent has the management of the Lake Chad Basin been affected by changing discourses?*

To answer this question, I find in the results presented in the last section of chapter five, certain traits that are evident in their influence on management decisions, which I will elaborate in the points below:

1. As observed from the policy documents analysed, the LCB discourse practice is mostly relayed at the global level, hence, the policy documents studied for this research are those of global actors, hence this reveals the category of discourse actors involved. One reason for this (as earlier mentioned in the analysis), is that all riparian states are described as weak states that are not able to adequately cater for their fast-growing populations, therefore, global intervention has been necessary to bring exposure to the LC case. The interventions came with the involvement of internationally established institutions like the World Bank and the UN, as well as some specific countries like Germany and France and in the past the USA. This involvement is what has promoted the LC region to be recognised at the global level, hence, the commencement of the discourse practice.

In the past decades, the droughts of the 1970s and 1980s saw a local migration movement between countries of the Sahel region, which prompted an acute humanitarian crisis that sparked the interest of the international community at that time. Both droughts and the migration movement did not last long, and although this was known by some international bodies and was recorded by the LCBC, the gravity of the situation did not attract as much attention as the humanitarian crisis of today. But recent migration and displacements have

become more of global concern due to security threats that are driven by the insurgency of violent conflicts. It is therefore evident that issues of global concern, especially those that pose a direct threat to life; like the insecurity due to violent conflict and the need for humanitarian aid for the LCB displaced persons are repeatedly reflected in discourses as compared with local developments.

2. It is interesting to note, based on this research analysis, no dominant discourse identified here has been completely silenced. In the order of discourse, there are no fixed periods or dates when some discourses began to exist; only the publication year of the policy documents could determine this. Consequently, there are no closed boundaries between discourses either because boundaries between discourses are weak when discourses are articulated differently (Jorgensen & Phillips 2002 p. 73). Some discourses are so complimentary towards others that others cannot be discussed without their input, and vice versa. Also, some discourses have combined into new subjects to support each other, hence enabling a continued broadening of discourses. This is where interdiscursivity is strengthened, in terms of how dominant discourses overlap in new areas of discourse (Wodak & Meyer, 2001, p. 66). For example; the humanitarian crisis today is as a result of the loss of livelihoods of inhabitant communities, which in turn has been exacerbated by violent conflict as well as climate change impacts.

At the same time, violent conflict and climate change impacts are mutually reinforcing each other. How does this happen? Young members of social groups without livelihood sources are recruited into armed groups (Onuoha, 2008). This shows that their vulnerability to climate impact drives them into insurgency, and security threats from insurgency further threaten food security, and the cycle continues. Recent studies linking climate change and violent conflicts are now highlighting this as a cause and effect relationship (Okpara et al., 2016; Adelphi, 2017). This confirms part of my findings on the broadening of the order of discourse and the interconnectedness between dominant discourses.

3. Figure 5.3 shows three stages of the emergence of dominant discourses. The first stage happened after the drought of the 1970s and 1980s when the discourses of climate variability, lake hydrology, environmental discourses and governance issues emerged to become dominant. These discourses were majorly about physical and political contextual factors. What attracted the interest of most researchers was the phenomenon surrounding the depletion of the lake and its ecosystem, and its relation to regional governance. Then came the second stage, after the joint collective and comprehensive report by GIWA, LCBC, UNEP, USGS,

UNESCO, WWF, GEF was released around 2004. This report presented the substantive situation of the basin, and dominant discourses that emerged were on socio-economic factors. By that time, the basin's communities were becoming vulnerable to losses in livelihood; food shortages, as well as the increase in poverty, became concerns that had to be brought into discourse. The third stage was from 2009 after some parts of the basin had been taken over by the Boko haram insurgents' group, through violent conflict – one of the two dislocation events together with climate change. The years after 2009 onwards ushered in a new set of discourses that were a combination of political, physical and socio-economic factors. At the third stage, the discourse practice became a mixture of old and new dominant discourses; a very dynamic situation, although some discourses are more prominent than others. In other words, the LCB discourse practice has thrived through an array of global challenges embedded in evolving discourses that are interconnected, their supporting roles towards each other cannot be overlooked.

4. To a large extent, management decisions have continued to be influenced by changing discourses. Since discourses change often, and there are multiple discourses of influence in any discourse practice. Several dominant discourses do not materialise into institutions, but rather remain rhetoric. When they do not materialise into institutions, they do not get to be implemented and can remain active, and the more discourses are active, the slower the rate of positive development. If their implementation were to happen, such discourses could give room for new discourses to emerge without conflict or opposition, because older discourses are likely to become less dominant upon implementation. Interventions to improve the declining ecosystem, and to reduce the impacts of poverty in the LCB have been entrenched in adaptation and resilience strategies and action plans. They are not sustainable interventions that can sufficiently address the contextual factors communities experience, otherwise livelihoods would have been restored to an extent.

In the first chapter, I stated in the scientific relevance that there is a need for critical analysis of the discourse practices of areas/regions where a governance deficit is experienced. This is important for positive change to happen because no part of a nation-state should be overlooked. Discourse production should reflect true situations of marginalised groups of society so that the right policies can be formulated and implemented, to restrain and eliminate oppressive practices. The LCB situation is a typical example of a marginalised group, caught in the middle of dynamics between discourses and management decisions.

This shows in the fact that the region still suffers from a developmental deficit as the humanitarian crisis today is evidence of that.

This study has been able to critically analyse and showcase the contextualization of management strategies influenced by discourse changes and interpretations. Since the *critical* aspect of CDA does not mean being negative, but rather opening up complexities, (Wodak, 2007), this study aligns with the critical analysis of CDA's intentions of analysing types of social actions derived from a complex discourse practice. This study shows how management decisions have been guided by discourses that have developed from empirical contributions of different aspects of social development in the LCB. Following some principles of CDA, the order of discourse was developed from the physical, political and socio-economic contexts of the LCB situation. This process is to help find the deficiencies in discourse production and suggest recommendations for improvement of management strategies. Since one of the principles of DHA is that it aims to contribute to change in future-related communication. For DHA, this means that the object under investigation should provide a rich collection of empirical data that can be managed for whatever form of investigation, and the LCBC has such a database. Since one of the principles of DHA is that it is problem-based, this study has provided another approach to understand a major hindrance to developmental growth being experienced in the LCB, which justifies the application of DHA as a method of analysis.

The application of CDA in various types of institutional practices has improved management practices all over the globe, especially where the focus is on strategic discourse processes that reflect the reality of the phenomenon under study (Phillips, Jaynes & Sewell, 2007). This approach targets internal concerns with discourse processes to change future discourse production. The trend in the LCB discourse production shows a pattern that is not of a particular strategy but based on the need to address certain issues through discourse or to bring to light certain developments in need of action. In summary, this study concludes that management of the LCB has been highly influenced by changing discourses, which have continued to evolve as a result of stagnant developmental circumstances.

### ***Recommendations***

The LCBC has the opportunity to leverage on strategic discourse planning and communication to create a discourse path that will guide its management decisions to replenish the LC ecosystem in sustainable ways. It needs to work together with its discourse actors to communicate discourses based on common interpretations of reality. Since most of its

discourse actors are of strong global influence, their discourses are likely to appeal to the type of support needed to help restore the LCB ecosystem. The broad range of discourses in the LCB case is an indication of stagnant development; therefore, consideration should be given to the narrowing of discourses by institutionalising them in social policies.

### ***Limitations and opportunities for further studies***

I stated in the methodology that the data sources utilized for this study were based on the online availability of policy documents. Although the LCBC has a rich database in its library collection back in N'Djamena, visiting its office in Chad was not feasible due to the global COVID-19 development. However, a good representation of varied policy documents was collected, and this helped realise the objective of the study.

This research provides a basis from which others can build upon in discourse studies, hence, there is a need for more critical analysis that can be investigated from different research angles, as CDA does not specify a specific pattern of analysis. For example; critical analysis can be done on what discourses have been able to achieve in the Basin's development. In addition, further research in this direction could reveal more ways that the LCB situation can be improved through discourses, irrespective of the scope of the study.

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## Annexe 1: List of interviewees

No	Name	Position	Date interviewed
R1	Mohammed Bila	Expert Hydrologist Lake Chad Basin Commission	16-05-2020
R2	Mercy Odu	First Commissioner (Nigeria) of the Council of Ministers, Lake Chad Basin Commission	10-06-2020
R3	Uche Okpara	Independent researcher Published PhD research on Lake Chad Basin, The University of Leeds.	18-05-2020
R4	Hindou Oumar	Coordinator of an indigenous local NGO. Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad (AFPAT).	11-06-2020

## Annexe 2: Interview guide

*Due to the design of this research, questions slightly vary between interviewees; as interviewees were from different backgrounds with different experiences and perspectives on LCB management practices.*

### Interview questions: R1

<p>Topic 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actors influence</li> <li>• collaborations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Who amongst all your partners has been the most influential and how have they advanced the activities of the LCBC?</li> <li>○ What kinds of collaborations do you undertake with non- engaging actors like the scientific community (NGOs, universities, groups and individuals)?</li> <li>○ How have individual member states influenced the engagements of other member states or the international community?</li> </ul>
<p>Topic 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publications</li> <li>• events</li> <li>• management</li> <li>• reports/projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How have global/local reports and publications on the portrayal of the LCBC and the LCB been affecting the strategic management decisions of the institution?</li> <li>○ Can you give examples of representations in the form of reports, statements and publications made about the LCBC that the management had to clarify to the consuming public?</li> <li>○ In what ways have the portrayal of the LCB in global/local media and politics affected the potential involvement of the international community in the region?</li> <li>○ Which events in the LCB discourse history have been the most discussed and most challenging to manage in the existence of the LCBC since the two drought periods of the 1970s and 80s?</li> <li>○ Of the themes listed on the website (declining viability of bioresources, fishing, freshwater availability, water pollution, strategic financing etc) which projects/actions have been initiated by the involvement of the international community?</li> </ul>
<p>Topic 3: Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What have been the biggest challenges faced by the LCBC in managing the region?</li> </ul>

## Interview questions: R2

<b>Topic 1</b> <b>Actors influence and partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Do you think global/local reports and publications on the LCBC and the LCB have been affecting the strategic management decisions of the institution?</li></ul>
<b>Topic 2</b> <b>Publications, events, and management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Which events in history have been the most discussed and most challenging in the existence of the LCBC following the two drought periods of the 1970s and 80s?</li><li>○ In what ways have the portrayal of the LCB in global/local media and politics affected the potential donations from the international community in the region?</li><li>○ Do you think some of these reports and publications in global/local media and politics hinder potential donations from the international community in the region?</li></ul>

**Interview questions: R3**

<p><b>Topic 1</b> <b>Actors influence and partnerships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When did you first commence research on the LCB and what sparked your interest?</li> <li>○ Have you partnered with them in any of your research undertakings?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Topic 2</b> <b>Publications, events, and management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do you think that global/local reports and publications on the LCB and the LCBC by their partners and the scientific community have any influence on the continued re-strategizing of management decisions taken by the institution?</li> <li>○ Do you think some of these reports and publications in global/local media and politics hinder potential engagement of the international community in the region?</li> <li>○ In the period you have researched on the LCB, which discursive events in history in your opinion have been 1) the most discussed and 2) most challenging to manage since the two drought periods of the 1970s and 80s?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Topic 3</b> <b>Challenges</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do you have an idea of some of the management challenges faced by the LCBC?</li> </ul>

## Interview questions: R4

<b>Topic: Publications, events, and management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It's been written that marginalisation and poor governance are the main causes of the situation on the LCB today. From your point of view, to what extent do you think this to be true?</li> <li>○ If there had been government presence in the LCB at a certain point do you think the basin's resources would have been managed to a reasonable level?</li> <li>○ What prompted you to start an NGO?</li> <li>○ What do you perceive are the management issues the LCBC states face?</li> <li>○ Do you think global/local reports and publications on the LCBC and the LCB have been affecting the strategic management decisions of the institution? Eg shrinking of the lake.</li> <li>○ Do you think these reports and publications hinder potential donations by the international community?</li> <li>○ From the different changes/events you have witnessed the LCB go through, which of them do you think have been the most discussed globally? Lake regimes, CC, conflict, governance/marginalisation, humanitarian assistance etc</li></ul>
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