

# Restoration of Logone River (Cameroon)

Waza-Logone Floodplain ranges over 8000 km<sup>2</sup>. It has the people with various businesses who base their lives there, and has rich biodiversity. However, after a dam to support the local economy and living was constructed, the natural functions of the floodplain were lost. The social and economic impacts of the lost floodplain were serious, losing over 50 million dollars of basis for human life in the twenty years after the dam construction. Approximately 8000 households suffered from the direct economic damages of over two million dollars a year, caused by the decreased dry-season grazing, fishing, yields of natural resource, and surface water supply. The suffered were mostly stock farmers, fishers, and dry-land farmers who represented the poorest and the weakest group in the region.

## ◆ Key to Restoration

### ➤ Waza-Logone Program

(1) Ecosystem's evaluation and monitoring (2) Resource management (3) Biodiversity conservation (4) Ability building and authority delegation

## ◆ Overview of the River

Logone Floodplain locates in the northernmost state in Cameroon, in Sahel Strip in West and Central Africa. The area has great social and economic values, and provides the base of living to 100 thousand people with fishing and stock farming. A plain that has taken in water is a quite valuable spawning bed for fish that are very important for fishing. As the flood water is gone from the plain in dry-season, rich meadows appear, which support nomads and seminomadic stock farmers as well as stock farmers. In Logone Floodplain, as far as the eye can reach, everything has depended on the yearly floods.



## ◆ Project Efforts for Restoration

### [Waza-Logone Program]

It aims at restoring the ecological and hydrologic functions of the floodplain to contribute to the welfare of the local society. The whole stakeholders including women and nomads are participating in this program, composed of four major elements.

#### (1) Ecosystem's evaluation and monitoring

The social, economic, ecological, and hydrologic data are used in establishing partnership, and in confirming and evaluating alternative management scenario. For example, a hydrodynamic model to cause a flood again in the area of one million ha was developed.

#### (2) Resource management

The water management plan discharges water from Logone River to restore the floodplain. The preceding program succeeded in restoring 20 % (300 km<sup>2</sup>) of the floodplain. Development of the local society is supported through this program in the fields of, for example, farming, forestry, and fishing.

#### (3) Biodiversity conservation

Conservation of Waza National Park has been assured by a management plan on conserving the central area and the peripheral zones. The local people can access the resources, and they are engaged in ecotourism work in three places.

#### (4) Ability building and authority delegation

The project representatives, the government's technical service staffs, the resource users, and the local society have been trained for the comprehensive management methods. In the program, the community and women manage together the activities like health management activity. The interested groups contribute to the decision process through a number of advisory or management committees.

Source: Case examples in "River Restoration." 2003.3. Supervised by Steering Committee on River Restoration.