

Komadugu-Yobe Integrated Management project

Komadugu Yobe River, Nigeria

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Location: The Komadugu Yobe, a network of rivers and wetlands, covers a total area of 148,000 km² in the Sudan-Sahel zone of northeast Nigeria and southeast Niger. The basin is drained by two main rivers, the Yobe and the Komadugu and sustains the livelihood of almost 15 million people through agriculture, pastoralism, forest use, tourism and fisheries.

Project: The Komadugu-Yobe Integrated Management project started in 2007?2005 when IUCN and other organizations, the federal and state governments and stakeholders, including dam operators and farming, fishing

and herding communities, came together to negotiate a plan for coordinating and investing in restoration and management of the river basin. The project is funded for two years and three months.

Threats: Dams and irrigation development, which started two decades ago, had a devastating impact on the river and led to loss of ecosystem services. As a result of a growing demand for water and regional drying of the climate, river flow has fallen by 35% further impoverishing the local communities, highly dependant on the water resources.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CASE STUDY

Objectives: Enable equitable use and sustainable management of the Komadugu Yobe Basin: develop efficient and sustainable techniques for water use; invest in restoration and management plan and eventually, restore the river's water flow. The project should serve as an example of how to manage river basins and support similar initiatives around the world.

Results: The project led to the drafting of a 'Water Charter', setting the principles for sustainable development of the basin and defining roles and responsibilities of governments and stakeholders. Reform of water governance is enabling transparent coordination of water resources development, including remediation of degraded ecosystems and, eventually, restoration of the river's water flow.

Why it worked: Investing in natural infrastructure and at the same time giving the people the chance to talk and share information, have provided local communities with what they need to make their livelihoods resilient. The Komadugu Yobe River is an example of what happens to both nature and people when the benefits of ecosystem services are not recognized in land use management and strategies for disaster risk reduction, such scenarios

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