

Multi-Jurisdictional Issues In International Water Quality Monitoring: The Case of Lake Chad Basin of West Africa

Dr. Edmund Merem

Department of Urban and Regional Planning Jackson State University Mississippi,
3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

Biographical Sketch of Author

Dr Edmund is an assistant professor with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University. He has nearly 10 years of experience in the areas of Global environmental planning, national and regional environmental accounting for oil and gas and agricultural land use change, Hydro-politics of the Middle East and Africa. Edmund is an experienced researcher, scholar, writer, analyst, and teacher on a variety of domains such as natural resources management, rural planning and development, sustainability, plan implementation and international development. He has been quite active in environmental ethics; corporate social responsibility, ecological economics, growth management, environmental analysis and assessment, as well as community based environmental initiatives. He is very fluent in a number of European and African languages.

Abstract

In the last decades of the twentieth century when countries of Sub-Saharan Africa were busy forming their respective economic blocks under the aegis of globalization, trans-boundary water quality monitoring emerged as a key regional issue. Accordingly, the degradation of water quality continues to erode the integrity of valuable ecosystems and the well being of local communities in Sub-Saharan Africa along the Lake Chad Basin. With the Chad Basin agreement entering its fourth decade, signatories to the accord who pledged to meet the water needs of their local population are today faced with unprecedented water quality related problems.

Considering that several attempts have been made to remedy these concerns over the years, coordinated monitoring of water quality across the various political boundaries remains elusive. The current state of affairs remain compounded due to a wide range of multi-jurisdictional/international factors that are predicated upon politics, environment, technology, demography, social-cultural setting and economy. To address these issues, the paper suggests the adoption of strategies based upon ecosystem approach for water protection, coherent policy objectives, effective monitoring program, consultation among stakeholders, financial consideration in water management and capacity building. This paper examines the multi-jurisdictional and international issues embedded in trans-boundary water quality monitoring with a synthesis of the situation in the Lake Chad Basin of West Africa. Several strategies for dealing with the problem are also provided.