

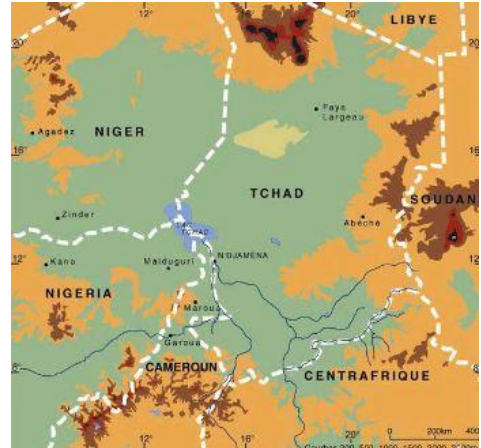


Mega-Chad network

40 years existence
500 correspondents worldwide
Building up knowledge over the long term

Mega-Chad is an **international multidisciplinary research network** on the history and evolution of societies in the Lake Chad Basin.

The Lake Chad catchment area refers to a vast area of shared practices and trade, covering five countries around Lake Chad (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria and Chad), as well as on the borders of Sudan, Libya and Algeria. **The diversity of human and physical situations** makes it an ideal research field for many disciplines. The richness of the comparison of results has not been denied since 1975, when the linguistics, humanities and social sciences departments of the **University of Chad** decided to formalise their collaboration. At a meeting in N'Djamena, Professor H. Jungrathmayr, a German linguist, suggested naming this nascent multi-disciplinary dynamic "**Mega-Chad**", in reference to the mega-lake Chad that flooded the region in ancient times. Mega-Chad is an **international multidisciplinary research network** on the history and evolution of societies in the Lake Chad Basin.



The Lake Chad catchment area refers to a vast area of shared practices and trade, covering five countries around Lake Chad (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria and Chad), as well as on the borders of Sudan, Libya and Algeria. **The diversity of human and physical situations** makes it an ideal research field for many disciplines. The richness of the comparison of results has not been denied since 1975, when the linguistics, humanities and social sciences departments of the **University of Chad** decided to formalise their collaboration. At a meeting in N'Djamena, Professor H. Jungrathmayr, a German linguist, suggested naming this nascent multi-disciplinary dynamic "**Mega-Chad**", in reference to the mega-lake Chad that flooded the region in ancient times.

The first multidisciplinary conference in Paris marked the **creation of the network in 1984**, which has grown progressively denser and now, 40 years later in 2024, includes around **500 correspondents** in some **twenty countries** (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Niger, Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Nigeria, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Chad, Czech Republic, United States, etc.).

Its aims are to promote and support **multidisciplinary research into the societies and environments of the Lake Chad Basin, both past and present**, and to disseminate the results. As such, it disseminates scientific information via a website (<http://www.mega-tchad.net>) and a blog (<https://megatchad.wordpress.com>), a discussion list and a mailing list, publishes book reviews, compiles and edits a bibliography each year, and organises international colloquia, which are the high points of the network's activities.

18 symposia were held in various **European countries** (France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy) and **Africa** (Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad). For each conference, a small team of network members takes charge of the organisation and publication, after a rigorous selection of contributions. These conferences have all been published. The **North-South dialogue** is regularly stimulated in these colloquia, in which African researchers, among others, take part.

The XVIIIth Méga-Tchad international symposium was held for the first time in **N'Djamena**, from 29 to 31 January 2020, on the theme "Times of change. Ruptures and continuity in the Lake Chad Basin". It will be published by IRD Editions.

Website: www.mega-tchad.net

Discussion list: megatchad.net@gmail.com

Mega-Chad publications (in chronological order)

Barreteau D. (dir.), 1987. *Langues et cultures dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du I^{er} colloque Méga-Tchad, Paris, 4-5 septembre 1984. Paris : Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 217 p.

Barreteau D., Tourneux H. (dir.), 1988. *Le milieu et les hommes. Recherches comparatives et historiques dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du II^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Bondy, 3-4 octobre 1985. Paris : Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 355 p.

Barreteau D., Tourneux H. (dir.), 1990. *Relations interethniques et culture matérielle dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du III^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Paris, 11-12 septembre 1986. Paris : Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 266 p.

Moñino Y. (dir.), 1991. *Forge et forgerons*. Actes du IV^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Paris, 14-16 septembre 1988. Paris : CNRS, Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 385 p. (vol. 1.).

Echard N. (dir.), 1991. *Les relations hommes-femmes dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du IV^e colloque Méga Tchad, Paris, 14-16 septembre 1988. Paris : CNRS, Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 329 p. (vol. 2.).

Boutrais J. (dir.), 1991. *Du politique à l'économique. Études historiques dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du IV^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Paris, 14-16 septembre 1988. Paris : CNRS, Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 380 p. (vol. 3.).

Barreteau D., Graffenried von C. (dir.), 1993. *Datation et chronologie dans le bassin du lac Tchad. Dating and chronology in the Lake Chad basin*. Actes du V^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Bondy, 11-12 septembre 1989. Paris : Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 291 p.

Baroin C., Barretau D., Graffenried von C. (dir.), 1995. *Mort et rites funéraires dans le bassin du lac Tchad. Death and funeral rites in the Lake Chad basin*. Actes du VI^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Bondy, 12-14 septembre 1990. Paris : Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 296 p.

Barreteau D., Dognin R., Graffenried von C. (dir.), 1997. *L'homme et le milieu végétal dans le bassin du lac Tchad. Man and vegetation in the Lake Chad basin*. Actes du VII^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Sèvres, 18-20 septembre 1991. Paris : Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 394 p.

Jungrauthmayr H., Barreteau D., Seibert U. (dir.), 1997. *L'homme et l'eau dans le bassin du lac Tchad. Man and water in the Lake Chad basin*. Actes du

VIII^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Francfort-sur-le-Main, 13-14 mai 1993. Paris : Éditions de l'ORSTOM. 487 p.

Baroin C., Boutrais J. (dir.), 1999. *L'homme et l'animal dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du IX^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Orléans, 15-17 octobre 1997. Paris : IRD Éditions. 705 p.

Beek van W., Vincent J.-F., Baroin C., Roulon-Doko P. (dir.), 2002. *L'enfant dans le bassin du lac Tchad*, Actes du X^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Leyde, 9-11 juin 1999, Journal des africanistes, tome 72, fascicule 1, p. 1-288.

Raimond C., Garine E., Langlois O. (dir.), 2005. *Ressources vivrières et les choix alimentaires dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du XI^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Nanterre, 20-22 novembre 2002. Paris : IRD Éditions. 772 p.

Baroin C., Seidensticker-Brikay G., Tijani K. (dir.), 2005. *Man and the Lake*. Proceedings of the 12th Mega Chad Conference, Maiduguri, 2-9 December 2003. Maiduguri : Centre for Trans-Saharan Studies, University of Maiduguri. 477 p.

Tourneux H., Woïn N. (dir.), 2009. *Migration et mobilité dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du XIII^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Maroua, 31 octobre-3 novembre 2005. IRD Éditions. Marseille : 672 p.

Rothmaler E., Tchokothe R., Tourneux H. (dir.), 2012. *Man and Health in the Lake Chad Basin. L'homme et la santé dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 14th Mega Chad Conference, Bayreuth, 15-17 April 2010. Cologne : Rüdiger Köppe Verlag. 202 p.

Baldi S., Magrin G. (dir.), 2014. *Les échanges et la communication dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du XV^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Naples, 13-15 septembre 2012. Naples : Université L'Orientale. 573 p.

Guitard E., Beek van W. (dir.), 2017. *Rites et religions dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du XVI^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Tilburg, 25-26 septembre 2014. Paris, Leyde : Karthala, Afrika-Studiecentrum. 296 p.

Chauvin E., Langlois O., Seignobos C., Baroin C. (dir.), 2020, *Conflits et violences dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Actes du XVII^e colloque Méga-Tchad, Paris, IRD Editions. Une traduction en anglais de cet ouvrage est prévue à Berghahn Editions.