

Notes on Text

Presentation of the Mega-Chad Network

Mega-Chad is an international network of multidisciplinary research on the history and development of societies in the Lake Chad Basin. The hydrological basin of Lake Chad extends over five countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria, Chad), bordering Sudan, Libya and Algeria. This vast area is culturally heterogeneous but is linked together by common ways of life and by economic, cultural and linguistic exchanges.

After its founding meeting in Paris in 1984, Mega-Chad gradually grew and now, thirty-nine years later in 2023, includes around five hundred members in some twenty countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Niger, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, United States, etc.).

The aim of the network is to promote and support multidisciplinary research on the present and past societies as well as on environmental issues in the Lake Chad Basin and to disseminate the results. To this end, it has a mailing and discussion forum, hosts relevant scientific information on its website (<https://www.cepam.cnrs.fr/megatchad/mega-tchad.html>) and organizes international colloquia which are published; the network also produces book reviews, and compiles and publishes a yearly bibliography.

To date, eighteen colloquia have been held in various countries in Europe (France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy) and Africa (Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad). For each conference, a small team of network members is in charge of organization and publication, the latter after a rigorous selection of the papers presented. By early 2023, these publications totalled 7,752 pages. Crucial in these conferences is the North–South dialogue, in which the participation of African researchers, among others, is stimulated and facilitated.

Publications of the Mega-Chad Network

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- Barreteau, Daniel, and Henry Tourneux (eds). 1988. *Le milieu et les hommes: Recherches comparatives et historiques dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 2nd colloquium of Mega-Chad, Bondy, 3–4 October 1985. Paris: ORSTOM, 355 pp.
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- Monino, Yves (ed.). 1991. *Forge et forgerons*. Proceedings of the 4th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Paris, 14–16 September 1988. Paris: CNRS/ORSTOM, 385 pp. (vol. 1).
- Echard, Nicole (ed.). 1991. *Les relations hommes-femmes dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 4th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Paris, 14–16 September 1988. Paris: CNRS/ORSTOM, 329 pp. (vol. 2).
- Boutrais, Jean (ed.). 1991. *Du politique à l'économique: Études historiques dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 4th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Paris, 14–16 September 1988. Paris: CNRS/ORSTOM, 380 pp. (vol. 3).
- Barreteau, Daniel, and Charlotte von Graffenried (eds). 1993. *Datation et chronologie dans le bassin du lac Tchad. Dating and Chronology in the Lake Chad Basin*. Proceedings of the 5th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Bondy, 11–12 September 1989. Paris: ORSTOM, 291 pp.
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- Jungraithmayr, Herrmann, Daniel Barreteau and Uwe Seibert (eds). 1997. *L'homme et l'eau dans le bassin du lac Tchad. Man and Water in the Lake Chad Basin*. Proceedings of the 8th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Frankfurt-am-Main, 13–14 May 1993. Paris: ORSTOM, 487 pp.

- Baroin, Catherine, and Jean Boutrais (eds). 1999. *L'homme et l'animal dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 9th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Orléans, 15–17 October 1997. Paris: IRD, 705 pp.
- Van Beek, Walter, Jeanne-Françoise Vincent, Catherine Baroin and Paulette Roulon-Doko (eds). 2002. *L'enfant dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 10th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Leyde, 9–11 June 1999. Special Issue *Journal des Africanistes* 72 (1): 1–288.
- Raimond, Christine, Eric Garine and Olivier Langlois (eds). 2005. *Ressources vivrières et choix alimentaires dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 11th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Nanterre, 20–22 November 2002. Paris: IRD, 772 pp.
- Baroin, Catherine, Gisela Seidensticker-Brikay and Kyari Tijani (eds). 2005. *Man and the Lake*. Proceedings of the 12th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Maiduguri, 2–9 December 2003. Maiduguri: Centre for Trans-Saharan Studies, University of Maiduguri, 477 pp.
- Tourneux, Henry, and Noé Woïn (eds). 2009. *Migration et mobilité dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 13th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Maroua, 31 October–3 November 2005. Marseille: IRD, 672 pp.
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- Chauvin, Emmanuel, Olivier Langlois, Christian Seignobos and Catherine Baroin (eds). 2020. *Conflits et violences dans le bassin du lac Tchad*. Proceedings of the 17th colloquium of Mega-Chad, Nice, 14–16 June 2017. Marseille: IRD, Collection Synthèses, 360 pp.