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SAVING LAKE CHAD

VIDEO

MUSTAPHA FISHING

MUSTAPHA ON CAMERA

MUSTAPHA'S BROTHERS

LAKE CHAD

AUDIO

NARRATION

Mustapha Adamou depends on Lake Chad for his livelihood. But recently he has noticed changes in the lake – the water level has fallen dramatically. (12)

MUSTAPHA: (Hausa) **M**

"When the water is low, we can still catch fish, but then we have a problem because it is harder to row the boat." (6)

NARRATION

It's not only Mustapha who's found it more difficult to fish on this side of the lake. His brothers are feeling the squeeze too. They used to get larger hauls – ten times as much as today's catch. (14)

Once the sixth largest freshwater lake in the world, Lake Chad used to cover more than 10,000 square miles. These satellite images capture the extent to which it has shrunk over the last four decades. Today, it is one-fifth of its original size.

(17)

PACHAURI ON CAMERA

PACHAURI: (English) **M**

"This is happening on lakes all over the world." (2)

INTRO TO PACHAURI

NARRATION

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, is the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (4)

PACHAURI ON CAMERA

PACHAURI: (English) **M**

"...Lake Aral in Central Asia is shrinking as well. We know glaciers are melting rapidly throughout the world. So some of the rivers are going to see a decline in flows over a period of time." (10)

SMOKE STACKS

NARRATION

Rainfall patterns have changed and extremely warm temperatures are accelerating evaporation of the lake's water. (6)

FISHING

As the water recedes, fewer fish are coming here and many species are lost. (5)

MARSHES/BOAT

Besides fewer fish, the lake is now covered with thick vegetation. As this grass is dislodged it forms masses of floating islands – tangling everything from fishing nets to boat motors. (13.5)

MUSTAPHA ON CAMERA

MUSTAPHA: (Hausa) **M**

"The grass in the water drags the nets and then we have to replace them." (4)

ANIMATION

NARRATION

Lake Chad gets its water supply from the Logone-Chari river system. But the amount of water it gets has been cut in half. A project to replenish the lake is underway, but it would cost around six million dollars. Secretary-General of Lake Chad region, Ngana Djekila. (19)

DJEKILA ON CAMERA

DJEKILA: (French) **M**

“This project could bring enough water to Lake Chad. I believe that it will revive economic activities...and agriculture will expand.” (12)

FARMING SEQUENCE

NARRATION

It's not only fishermen who are feeling the strain – farmers are suffering too. (5)

SHUCKING CORN

This year, Musa and his family are lucky...their harvest has been good. But they've seen water reserves drop so much that they've had to ration it with their neighbours. (10)

MUSA ON CAMERA

MUSA: (Kanembou) **M**

“Between farmers – one will say I will take water Friday, and the other will say, no, today is my day and I will take it. The problem is among the farmers.” (10)

WORKING IN FIELDS

NARRATION

Farmers like Musa once engaged in poor irrigation methods. This combined with the slash and burn method of agriculture are partly to blame for the demise of Lake Chad. (11)

HERDERS/CATTLE

Also hurt: Nomadic herders who now have to travel further for their water. (5)

ADAM ON CAMERA

ADAM: (Arabic) **M**

“When I was young I saw many things. The water was gone completely – there was none for animals or farmers and people left and went to another place. The cows’ belly was full of sand.”
(12)

NOMADS ON THE MOVE

NARRATION

While on the journey to Bol, a major city in the region, Adams’ group stumbled on a wadi – or watering hole – a feast for cattle. (8)

DESERT

Sand and marshes have filled in the spaces once covered by water – a sign that the Sahara desert to the North is spreading towards Lake Chad. (10)

VILLAGE/TREE PLANTING

People now fear they may go hungry if the desert continues to expand. In a bid to stop it, families are planting trees with support from the World Food Programme. Food analyst, Ibrahim Diop.
(13)

DIOP ON CAMERA

DIOP: (French) **M**

“We distribute hot meals while the population works...so they don’t have to go looking for jobs, or to find something to eat. By the end of the year, they will have enough food to eat from their own crops.” (15)

PEOPLE IN VILLAGE

NARRATION

By the year 2020, an estimated 35 million people will depend on Lake Chad for their survival. For them, the disappearance of Lake Chad could be a terrible blow. (12)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations.