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Women and Water in the Lake Chad Area

Participation and Influence in Water Management Processes

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Abstract

The riparian countries of Lake Chad River Basin – Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad – suffer from environmental degradation as the lakes surface water has decreased with 90 percent since the 1960's. This has put pressure on the population around the lake as the livelihood for many of them is dependent of the lake's water. The area has during the last decade also been characterized by increased violent conflict. The water scarcity is assumed to aggravate an already intractable conflict, where women are an especially vulnerable group. Women are also disproportionately affected by a decreasing lake as they are recognized to be main collectors and guardians of water. Women are important agents in finding a solution to the many challenges the Lake Chad area faces. This paper has used a theory on women's inclusion and influence in peace processes to investigate women's participation in and influence on water management processes, as it is an integrated strategy toward sustaining peace and stabilization around the Lake Chad Basin. The main findings of this paper is that women to some extent both participate in and have influence on water management processes.

Keywords: Women, Lake Chad River Basin, Women Participation, Women Influence, Shared Water Resources, Water Resource Management
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1 Introduction

> "*There now exists a strong evidence base that women's participation in peace and security processes is core to their operational effectiveness* […] *The contribution of women and girls to peacebuilding continues to go undervalued and under-resourced, leaving untapped an incredible tool for transformative change and sustainable peace*" (UN Women 1)

1.1 Purpose and Research Question

The four riparian countries of Lake Chad River Basin, hereafter Lake Chad, have over the last half century suffered environmental degradation as the lakes surface water has decreased with 90 percent. This has put pressure on the population around the lake, as they are dependent on the lakes' water for their livelihoods. The area has over the last ten years also been characterized by violent conflict, since the rise of Boko Haram in 2009 (Globalis 1; UN Environment). Women in the Lake Chad area face different kinds of security threats. As for all people in the area, women suffer from structural threats, such as poverty, famine, lack of medical care and environmental degradation. Women are often referred to as the main collectors and guardians of water. With water being a scarce resource in the area, women are especially affected by the decreasing lake. Further, women are disproportionally affected by the conflict in the area, which constitute direct physical threats such as sexual violence, abduction and harassments. Examples of these threats are the abduction of 276 Chibok schoolgirls in April 2014 and the reports on women being forced to conduct attacks of suicide bombing (Agarwal et al. 2000; LCBC 2018 15-16; Plan International 2018: 1-3; Security Council Report).

The hypothesis of this paper is that women's participation and influence on water management processes is important for reaching peace and sustainability in the Lake Chad area. The hypothesis is based on an idea that have sprung from the acknowledgement of women's importance for the safeguarding and management of water, as main user and collectors of it. The hypothesis is further based on a recognition that water management between countries in the majority of cases has led to cooperation rather than conflict and that it therefore could be a useful tool also in the case of Lake Chad (Agarwal et al. 2000: 18; MacQuarrie and Wolf 2013: 177). The purpose of this paper is to investigate if and how women participate in water management processes and if women have the ability to

exercise influence on such processes. This paper wants to contribute to a cumulative development of the theoretical field of Women, Peace and Security, more specific to the recent theoretical debate on "Making Women Count – Not Just Counting Women", which theorize women's inclusion in peace and security processes (Paffenholz et al. 2016).

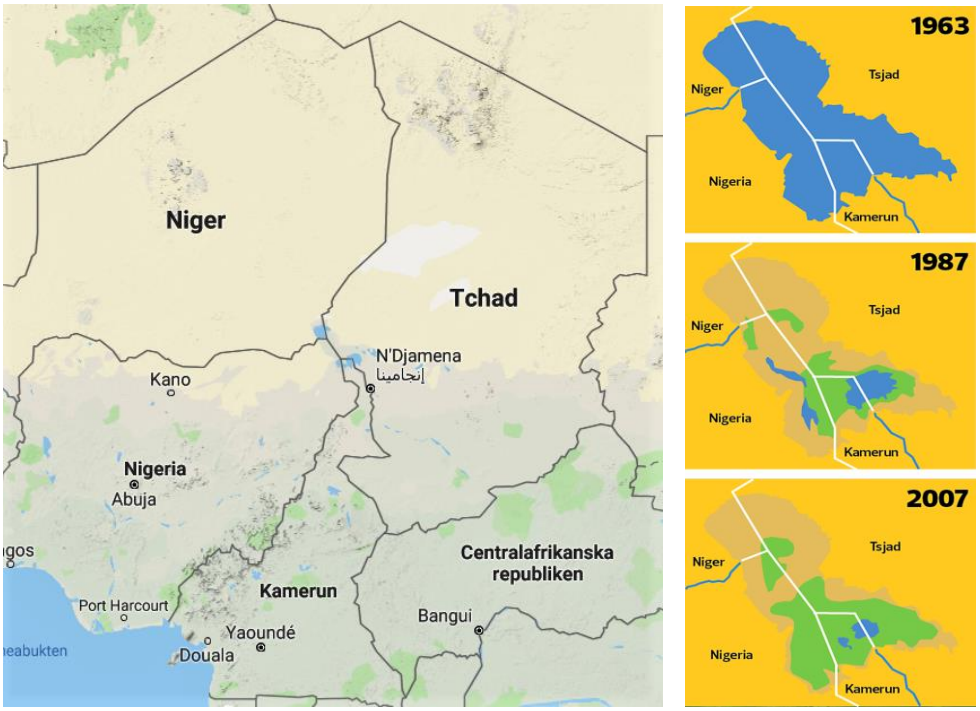
The research question is:

Do women participate in, and do they have the ability to influence water management processes in the Lake Chad River Basin area?

For the purpose of this paper, *water management processes* are regarded as policies, program and project that has the goal to support cooperation and sustainable use of shared water resources.

1.2 Lake Chad River Basin – Background

Lake Chad is part of the Sahel region in western-central Africa and the four riparian countries are Chad, Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon.



The picture to the left are a map of the Lake Chad area, accessed via google maps (Google Maps). The picture to the right is a map by Tom Harding, based on satellite images/map from NASA/UNEP (Tom Harding cited by Biståndsaktuellt), that shows the decrease of surface water between 1963 and 2007.

The region around Lake Chad have historically suffered from both environmental and development challenges. The environmental challenges of cyclical flooding's have been present for generations, with the lakes average depth of only three meters. The intra-annually variation of the depth can be up to one meter, which mean that the surface area varies enormously between the summer and winter seasons. Until late 20th century it has made the population rather resilient to climate volatility. Over the last five decades however, the water both in volume and surface has shrunk with 90 percent. Together with a demographic change where the population has quadrupled, this has put enormous pressure on the lake areas of the four riparian countries (LCBC 2018: 15-16; Nagarajan et al. 2018: 18; UN Environment).

During the 1960's all four riparian countries were decolonized and gained their independence as states. Nigeria and Chad suffered from civil war for many years and it was first during the 1990's the two countries went through with democratization processes, although not that successful. Niger were until the 1990's ruled by a single party, which forbid other parties. For Niger the 1990's was a decade of political chaos with a lot of conflicts between different local groups in the society over water resources, access to food and arable land. Cameroon might be the country which have undergone the most 'stable' development since its independence. Cameroon have at several occasions been regarded as the country with the highest rates of corruption in the world. The three other countries have also had to deal with corruption (Globalis 1; Globalis 2; Globalis 3; Globalis 4). The tensions in the area during the 1990's has since the beginning of the 21st century been aggravated by violent extremist groups, which has contributed to a slowdown of the development in the area. In 2002 the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lida'awati Wal Jihad, known as Boko Haram, emerged as an oppositional party in northeast Nigeria. Their purpose was from the beginning to protest against the corruption in Nigeria and to propagate for a purer Islamic way of living. They have since 2009 fast developed violent tactics. In Nigeria, this has led to large refugee movements of Nigerian people to both Niger and Cameroon. Boko Haram has also targeted civilians on the Nigerian and Cameroonian sides of the boarders (ibid.).

The harsh environmental situation together with Boko Harams insurgencies has led to the recognition of the situation in the lake area of the four countries to be one of conflict and humanitarian crisis. The lack of development and the neglect of investments and development plans have resulted in a marginalization of the Boko Haram affected areas of the four riparian countries. In a downward spiraling set of events, due to corruption, ineffective governance, mistrust toward security forces, isolation and lack of basic infrastructure, the area around Lake Chad have fallen far behind other areas of the four riparian countries. Furthermore, the area is geographically located far away from the political centers of the countries, which makes the areas uninteresting for ruling parties. The underdevelopment and isolation from power has led to an inability among the population to respond to emerging environmental crisis. Many people have therefore chosen to seek alternative livelihood such as joining violent groups

when the traditional rural way of living no longer are possible (LCBC 2018: 15-16; Nagarajan et al. 2018: 13-15).

1.3 Previous Research

1.3.1 Water Wars

Water wars are a debated branch of the academia on resource conflicts, the theories are divided. There are theories which argue that water scarcity is a matter of national security and therefore could be understood as a cause of conflict. Then there are theories which theorize water scarcity as a situation that foster innovation, adaption and cooperation. The majority of the literature fall in between the two and recognizes shared water resources neither as a cause of conflict nor a cause of cooperation. What these theories have in common, is that they recognize water scarcity as factor that can fuel and aggravate conflict, making the conflict more intractable. The statistics suggests that the number of cases of conflict over water are outweighed by the number of cases of cooperation (Brochmann and Gleditsch 2012; Gleditsch et al. 2006; Gleick 1993; MacQuarrie and Wolf 2013; Swain 2001). The debate on water conflicts has got a new spur, as climate change increases the pressure on international river basins. Drylands are getting drier and wet areas wetter, weather variations are expected to increase as a result of climate change induced weather events. Even if there have been warnings of this potential impact of climate change, there are few studies that link the impact of climate change on transboundary river basins and environmental vulnerability to conflicts. With climate change taking its place on top of the international agenda of security issues there is a need for further research because water is impartial toward political and territory boundaries. It out rules legal generalizations and institutional classifications. The demand is increasing, supplies is decreasing and there is an ongoing degradation of the surface-water quality around the world. The people most affected are the ones living in poor, rural areas in the developing world, especially women (Floyd and Matthew 2013; Goulden, Conway and Persechino 2009; MacQuarrie and Wolf 2013).

1.3.2 Women and Water

With climate change rising on the international agenda, early research has shown that there is a gender difference in the impacts of climate change. Women are demonstrated to be a particularly vulnerable group, especially in the global South. That is because women there do not have the same political, economic and social capabilities as men. Women who are highly dependent on natural resources are especially vulnerable, those who faces the greatest challenge are those who are

responsible for gathering water, food and fuel as a livelihood. Due to women's local knowledge the participation of women in the development of climate adaption strategies are important (Alston 2013a; Alston 2013b; Singh, Svensson and Kalyanpur 2010). With regard to water, women are widely acknowledged as the guardians and collectors, both for domestic and agricultural use. Although women are the protectors of water, they have a much less influential role than men when it comes to decision making, management and problem analysis (Agarwal et al. 2000: 18).

1.3.3 Women, Peace and Security

Since the adoption of the United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325, *on women and peace and security* (2000), the inclusion of women in peace and security processes have been thought of as important for the operational effectiveness and the ability to achieve sustainable peace. Yet, there is strong evidence that women still are underrepresented in all aspects of peace and security processes (UN Women 1). One main challenge has been the lack of empirical based knowledge about what the inclusion of women actually contributes with to peace and security processes. In Paffenholz et al. (2016) "*Making Women Count – Not just Counting Women*", the authors have done forty in-depth case studies on women's participation and influence on peace and security processes. The result of their research shows that it is rather the influence of women that makes a difference than the direct inclusion of women per se. The case studies resulted in six key findings. First, women have made substantial contribution to peacemaking and constitution-making. Second, there is a positive correlation between the strength of women's influence and reaching an agreement that are implemented. Third, the peace processes do not weaken due to involvement of women. Fourth, women's inclusion is not limited to direct participation at the negotiation table. Fifth, the ability of women to participate and exercise influence depends on a specific set of processes and contextual factors. Sixth, women were found to be more influential in multi-stakeholder negotiation processes when they pushed for more concrete and fundamental reforms (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 2-10).

2 Theory – Participation and Influence

Paffenholz et al. (2016: 5-10) presents a framework of analysis which focus on seven different modalities of participation and influence. This framework will be used to analyze the case of Lake Chad. Here after the theory is referred to as *participation and influence*. The theory originally has the purpose to analyze women's inclusion in peace and, to some extent, security negotiations. It has done so through looking at which modalities that have allowed for women to exercise influence and under which conditions.

With scare water resource being an integrated part of the conflict in the Lake Chad area, and women's general importance for water management, this paper argue that the concepts of participation and influence can be used to look at women's inclusion in water management processes. That is because women and water could be an important part of the crisis and conflict solution. By using the theory on a new kind of case it could contribute with insights on women's role in the stabilization of the area through a new perspective.

The two concepts will in this paper be presented and then analyzed separately, because the theory will be used on a new type of case. To be able to understand if women count, first there must be established if there are any women participating. Further, there is a need to understand what constitutes, and if there is any influence exercised by women with regard to water management processes. The consequences of these changes to the original theory will be discussed in section 5 (this paper).

2.1 Participation

Previously, those pushing for the inclusion of women have mostly focused on the negotiating table as the main track of the peace process. "However […] the negotiation table is neither the only modality for participation nor should it be seen as a single entry point for women's participation" (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 23).

Participation is defined as women's ability to participate in the negotiation process through one or several of the seven modalities being described more in depth below (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 13-16). For the purpose of this paper it is the number of women that is of interest with regard to the participation concept, or rather if women have been participating in the different modalities.

2.1.1 Direct representation at the negotiation table

The direct representation at the negotiation table refers to women's participation in official delegations, in a women-only delegation or in a transitional government. This modality most often take place during the negotiation phase. In cases were a women-only delegation have been in place, the exercising of influence has been more effective than in cases were women merely been represented in a delegation. A condition for this modality's effectiveness is that women needs to be part of the decision making bodies (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 24-26). For the purpose of this paper, *Official delegations* are defined as representatives for the four riparian countries, including both regional and national representatives. The following will be analyzed:

1. If women are participating as representatives in an official delegation.
2. If there is a women-only delegation represented.

2.1.2 Observer status

The observer status refers to persons with a non-official role in negotiations who are present at the negotiation, often as support to the mediators with local knowledge and acting as critical watchdogs. Women do have the ability to participate through this modality but do not take part in any decision making. This modality mostly take place during the negotiation phase and allows women to put normative and political pressure on the negotiating parties, as well as for lobbying for new issues to be taken on to the agenda (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 24, 26). For the purpose of this paper, *Observer status* is defined as persons that are present and part of official delegation but that does not have the authority to participate in decision-making. The following will be analyzed:

1. If women are participating in official delegations as observers.

2.1.3 Consultation

Consultation refers to the collection of opinions in a non-official manner. This modality can occur in all three phases of the negotiation, it allows for a broad set of perspectives to be included and it is representative. The consultation can be used in three different ways. First, official consultation has the aim to channel the demands and worries of the local people. This type of consultation is used when there is a need for public support. Second, semi-official consultation has the aim to get the different parties to start talking and are being used when the parties do not want an official negotiation. Third, public consultation has the aim to create local ownership and thereby promote long term sustainability for the agreement. This type of consultation is being used to disseminate the results of the negotiation and to get proposals on changes of the negotiated agreement

(Paffenholz et al. 2016: 24, 26-27) Limitations with this modality is that it is distanced from the negotiation table, and there is a risk that the consultations are being co-opted by the negotiators by using civil society for their own agenda (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 27). For the purpose of this paper *Official consultation* is defined as consultations of experts or representatives that speak for the civil society on the matter of water management processes. *Public consultation* is defined as direct consultation and inclusion of the local population with regard to water management. The following will be analyzed:

1. If women have been participating in official consultation.
2. If women have been participating in public consultation.

2.1.4 Inclusive commissions

Inclusive commissions refer to groups which has the purpose to prepare, supervise, as well as be part of the implementation of an agreement. This modality most commonly take place in the post agreement phase, but it could also take place prior to and during the negotiations. A condition for this modality's effectiveness is that women participate from as early on as possible. With explicit quota systems, this modality has showed that women have had the possibility to exercise influence. Inclusive commissions could either be post-agreement commissions which has the purpose of preparing or implement a negotiated agreement, or it could be permanent commissions which has a long term purpose. An example of permanent commissions is the establishment of a constitutional body (Paffenholz 2016: 24, 28). For the purpose of this paper *Post-agreement commissions* are defined as commissions, working with water management processes, that were created with a stated time frame for the commission to execute its work. *Permanent commissions* are defined as commissions, working with water management processes, where the commission does not have a stated termination date. The following will be analyzed:

1. If women have been participating in post-agreement commissions that are preparing or supervising the implementation of a negotiated agreement.
2. If women have been participating in permanent commissions that are working with the terms agreed upon by the negotiating parties.

2.1.5 High-level problem-solving workshops

High-level problem-solving workshops refer to unofficial meetings were representatives, close to the leaders of the conflicting parties, come together for a discussion without the pressure of reaching an agreement. This modality can take place in all three phases of a negotiation process. A limitation with this modality is that these discussions generally does not get publicized. What is known though is that workshops designed especially for women has sometime served as means

for women to resolve grievances and overcome tensions among different groups of women to find a joint position (Paffenholz et al. 2018: 24, 28). For the purpose of this paper *High-level problem-solving workshops* is defined as unofficial meetings on water management processes, attended by experts and representatives to the state parties, with the purpose to discuss the situation and possible solutions in the Lake Chad area. The following will be analyzed:

1. If women have been participating in high-level problem-solving workshops.

2.1.6 Public decision-making

Public decision-making refers to the ratification of an agreement, or establishment of a new constitution, by the population. This modality serves to protect the negotiated agreement, to give it democratic legitimacy and a public endorsement, as well as for protecting the sustainability of the agreement. This modality takes place after the negotiation phase. A limitation with this modality is that it is often hard to find gender-disaggregated data from referendums and elections more generally (Paffenholz 2016: 28-29). For the purpose of this paper *Public decision making* are acknowledged as referendum or elections. The following will be analyzed:

1. If women have been participating in referendum or elections that regard the water resources of Lake Chad.

2.1.7 Mass Action

Mass action refer to public demonstrations. Women as a group are often the ones that have put pressure on conflicting parties to start a negotiation. Women have also been a group that have put pressure on negotiating parties to sign an agreement. In a few cases women mass-action have led to granting women greater formal participation in the negotiation process. This modality can take place before, during and after a negotiation (Paffenholz 2016: 24, 30). For the purpose of this paper *Mass action* is defined as demonstrations by women or to support women, with the goal to impact water management processes. The following will be analyzed:

1. If there have been a women mass-action.
2. If there have been a mass-action to support women interests.

2.2 Influence

In the original theory, *influence* of included women groups and networks is defined as their ability to push for their preferences. Preferences which can relate to the ability to bring issues onto the negotiation and implementation agenda. To put issues into the substance of the agreement, taking part in the implementation of an agreement or being able to demand for negotiations to begin, to resume, or for an agreement to be signed. (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 15-16).

The original theory is aiming to look at peace and security processes. To understand what constitutes women's exercised influence in water management processes four analytical units have been added to the theoretical framework for the purpose of this paper. Three of the units for analyzing if women have the ability to exercise influence in water management will be based on the Dublin-Rio Principles as presented by the Global Water Partnership (GWP 2). The principle regard women's importance for water management processes. The Global Water Partnership is a global action network for water resource management. With over 3000 partner organisations in 183 countries, 65 accredited country water partnerships and 13 regional water partnerships it aims to mobilize governments, civil-society and the commercial sector to solve water related issues (GWP 1).

In this paragraph the Dublin-Rio Principle which acknowledge women's central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water will be presented and then specified for the purpose of this paper. First, the principle claims that the development of sustainable water management cannot be maximized without the recognition that women and men are affected differently by all policies, programs and projects. Second, the principle claims that women's needs, interests and views must take as much part of the development agenda as men's. It supports the progress toward a more equal relationship between women and men. Third, the principle claim that gender needs should be part of overall policy frameworks that can ensure that differences in experiences and situation among and between men and women are being addressed in policies, programs and projects. (GWP 2).

The fourth analytical unit is based on the way that Paffenholz et al. divides a negotiation process into three phases, *before*, *during*, and *after*, which can affect the modalities effectiveness. The earlier that the women are able to participate the more likely is it for women to have a continued influence on the negotiating process (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 15, 37). For the purpose of this paper, the importance of women's early inclusion recognized in a project, program or policy therefore will be used as an analytical unit to investigate if women have influence over a water management process.

For the purpose of this paper the following will be analyzed:

1. If there is a recognition of women being differently affected, stated in policies, programs and projects.
2. If an equal relationship between women and men are supported in policies, programs and projects.
3. If there is an overarching policy which calls upon policies, programs and projects to address differences between women and men.
4. If there is a recognition of the importance of women's early inclusion in policies, programs and projects.

2.3 Theoretical limitations

Paffenholz et al. (2016: 9-10) present numerous contextual factors such as: elite support or resistance; public buy-in; regional and international actor's influence on a peace process; presence of strong women's groups; preparedness of women; heterogeneity of women's identities; societal and political attitudes and expectations surrounding gender roles; regional and international women's networks and the existence of prior commitments to gender sensitivity and women's inclusion. These factors can both contribute to enable as well as constrain women's participation and influence. They could also shape the very course of the negotiation process as such. Due to the limited scope of this paper, these factors will not be given the same amount of attention as the modalities themselves. Although, they may occur in the discussion as a natural and integrated part of the modalities. This limitation could affect the internal validity of this paper as it constrains the theory's explanatory potential (Halperin and Heath 2017: 149).

The original theory asses the influence of women on a four-level ordinal scale ranging from 'no influence' to 'very strong positive influence'. Weak influence of women is defined as bringing only some items onto the negotiation agenda, while strong influence of women is defined as bringing several significant issues onto the agenda and proposals for an agreement (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 16). Because of the purpose of this paper, to investigate if and in which modalities women participate and if women have the ability to exercise influence, there will not be an assessment of how much influence women exercise. This will not affect the results of this paper with reference to the stated purpose and research question presented in section 1.1 (this paper).

3 Method

The research question is descriptive in its character (section 1.1 this paper), aiming to understand if women participate and what influence they have in water management processes in the Lake Chad area. The study will therefore be conducted as a descriptive case study, to get an in-depth understanding of the situation in the Lake Chad area (Halperin and Heath 2017: 156, 214). The theoretical framework of choice, *influence and participation,* contributes with analytical units that will be used in analysis of the chosen case.

3.1 Case selection

To do a case study has the great advantage of enabling an intensive examination of the selected case. Although only one case is examined it is still seen as comparative research as case studies almost always are situated in a comparative situation by addressing theories or issues with a wider intellectual relevance (Halperin and Heath 2017: 214). The selection of Lake Chad is made due to its uniqueness. It could be understood as a deviant case as it does not fit to the generalization that water, in the majority of cases, should lead to cooperation rather than conflict (Halperin and Heath 2017: 215).

A good case study is characterized by two important criteria. First, it should say something of value about the case that is being studied, which strengthens the internal validity of the study (Halperin and Heath 2017:214). This criterion is met as the purpose of this paper being to describe women's participation and influence in water management processes in the Lake Chad area. Second, to strengthen the external validity the study should say something of value in more general terms, to engage in the academic debate by at least hypothetically contribute with theoretical knowledge that can be generalized to other cases (ibid.). With regard to the case selected this study recognizes its limitation when it comes to draw general conclusions applicable to other cases. However, by applying a theory which originally are targeting a different set of cases, this study could contribute with insights of the theory's universalism (Halperin and Heath 2017: 214-215).

3.2 Material

To answer the research question which is interested in understanding women's participation and influence in water management processes, the material used in this study consist of qualitative data that is relevant to answer the research question (Halperin and Heath 2017: 178-184). The material consist of both primary and secondary sources, such as information from commission websites, commission charters, water management strategy plans, evaluations and reports and reports on high-level workshop meetings.

The scope of material has been limited by time of publication, looking at sources from 2009 until March 2019. Choosing 2009 as starting point is because it was then Boko Harams violent tactics increased and the situation was recognized as one of conflict and humanitarian crisis. The decision of March 2019 as ending point for the chosen period is due to the research start of this paper. This study is not interested in investigating changes over time, but rather the vast timespan has to do with getting access to a relevant amount of data to analyze.

Another note on the choice of material is that the majority is retrieved from Lake Chad Basin Commissions website. The reason for that is that most organisations that are active in the area refers back to the Commission in their project plans and reports. Another reason is that the commission is the primary agent for the water management in the region (UNDP; UN Environment).

With regard to the prerequisites presented above, the following material have been used to analyze the participation and influence of women:

Source 1 – *64th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of LCBC* (LCBC 1). This is a report on the 64th ordinary session of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission, held 7th of February 2019.

Source 2 – *Consultative Meeting in Preparation for the Implementation of the Regional Stabilisation Strategy* (LCBC 2). This is a report on a consultative meeting in the preparation for the implementation of the Regional Strategy of the Stabilization, Rehabilitation and Resilience of the Areas of the Lake Chad Basin affected by the Boko Haram crisis.

Source 3 – *DOUALA: Statutory meeting on fisheries, aquaculture and pastoralism* (LCBC 3). This is a report from a statutory meeting on fisheries, aquaculture and pastoralism.

Source 4 – *Programme for the Rehabilitation and Strengthening of the Resilience of Socio-ecologic Systems of the Lake Chad Basin (PRESIBALT): National Coordination of Cameroon commissioned* (LCBC 4). This is a report from the commissioning ceremony of the PRESIBALT.

Source 5 – *Meeting of the Regional Parliamentary Committee on the Lake Chad Basin (RPC): MPs are strongly committed to saving Lake Chad!* (LCBC 5). This is a report on the meeting between ministers of parliament who are included in a Regional Parliamentary Committee. The report is from a meeting that was held 3rd to 5th October 2016.

Source 6 – *60th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of LCBC* (LCBC 6). This is a report on the 60th ordinary session of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission, held 4th of December 2014.

Source 7 – *61th Ordinary Session of the Council Ministers of LCBC* (LCBC 7). This is the report on the 61st ordinary session of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission, held 21st of January 2016.

Source 8 – *Water Charter for Lake Chad Basin* (LCBC 2011).

Source 9 – *Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery & Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad River Basin* (LCBC 2018).

Source 10 – *Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum* (High Level Conference). This is a report from the inaugural meeting of the Governors' Forum between the governors from the areas most affected by Boko Haram in the riparian countries, which is located around Lake Chad. The meeting was held 8th to 9th of May 2018, and apart from the governors' delegation there were representatives from Unites Nation, Civil Society and Regional Organisations.

3.3 Analytical tool

3.3.1 Participation

To structure the analysis of *participation* this paper uses a protocol which divides the different modalities (section 2.1 this paper) into categories and tags. The protocol is created with inspiration from the content analysis method presented in Halperin and Heath (2017: 347-353), note however that the purpose is not to make a content analysis.

Table 1: Protocol for analyzing Participation

Modality	Category	Tags
Direct representation at the negotiation table	*Official delegation, women participating*	"Women names recognized as member of a delegation", "women recognized in a photo as participant of a delegation"
	Official women-only delegation	"women-only delegation"
Observer status	*Observer status*	"women names recognized as observer"
Consultation	*Official consultation*	"women's name recognized as being part in a consultation", "women recognized in a photo of participants of a consultation"
	Public consultation	"women civil society representation", "women public representation", "women represented in civil-society segments"
Inclusive commissions	*Post-agreement commission*	"women names recognized as member of a commission", "women recognized in a photo of participants of a commission"
	Permanent commissions	"women names recognized as member of a commission", "women recognized in a photo of participants of a commission"
High-level problem-solving workshop	*High-level problem solving workshops*	"women names recognized as participant of a workshop", "workshops that address women", "women recognized in a photo of participants of a workshop"
Public decision making	*Referendum/ Elections*	"referendum results", "gender disaggregated data"
Mass action	*Mass-action for women*	"demonstration for women", "mass action for women"
	Mass-action by women	"women mass-action", "women demonstration"

A protocol of the theoretical modalities, divided into categories and what represent the categories divided into tags.

With regard to the tags that involve the recognition of a women in photos, this paper has chosen to look for persons with women characteristics. This paper dose however recognize that it is as a subjective evaluation and cannot say anything about these persons own gender identification. This constitutes a limitation for the reliability of this paper. The photos are attached in Annex 1 (this paper).

With regard to the tags that involve the recognition of women by name this paper has acknowledged participant who are titled as Ms. and Mrs. as women. When there were no titles before the names the majority of the participants were recognized as either women or men by using an internet search engine (www.google.se).

3.3.2 Influence

The analysis of women's *influence* will be done by examine policies, project and programs that regard water management through the units of analysis presented in section 2.2 (this paper):

1. If there is a recognition of the importance of women's early inclusion in policies, programs and projects.
2. If there is a recognition of women being differently affected, stated in policies, programs and projects.
3. If an equal relationship between women and men are supported in policies, programs and projects.
4. If there is an overarching policy which calls upon policies, programs and projects to address differences between women and men.

4 Analysis

4.1 Participation

After processing the ten sources presented in section 3.2 (this paper), the following were found. Source eight and nine did not say anything about participation, as there were no participants to be found in the sources. Source one and ten included two groups of participants recognized as belonging to different categories, the participants and categories in these two sources are analyzed separately. In total ten different groups of participants have been analyzed.

This paper did not find any relevant sources that could enable an analysis of the categories *Official women-only delegation, Public consultation, Referendum/Election, Mass-action for women* or *Mass-action by women.*

4.1.1 Direct representation at the negotiation table

Participants in the category *Official delegations* were found in source number five and ten. In source five, the participants were part of the meeting of a Regional Parliamentary Committee (LCBC 5). The attendees were ministers from the four riparian countries. Due to the ministers' official representation of a country, and the purpose of the meeting being to support the Lake Chad Basin Commission in facing the challenges of the vanishing lake, the participants belongs to the category official delegations, according to the theory, as presented in section 2.1.1 (this paper). The participants were recognized via a photo. In total there were twenty persons observed, four of them was women, fourteen was men and two persons was unidentifiable (LCBC 5). In source ten the participants were part of the inaugural meeting of the Governors' Forum. The attendees were governors from the areas most affected by Boko Haram in the riparian countries. Apart from the governors' delegation there were also representatives from the United Nations, Civil Society and Regional Organisations, they will however be accounted for in a different category (High Level Conference). Due to the governor's official role in society the participants of the delegations are acknowledged as belonging to the category official delegation, according to the theory presented in section 2.1.1 (this paper). The participants of the Governor's Forum were recognized via a list of names which included all participants of the meeting. There were in total 56 people included in the governor's delegations, 8 of them were women, 46 were men and 2 persons were unidentifiable (High Level Conference).

4.1.2 Inclusive commissions

Participants in the category *Permanent commissions* were found in source number one, six and seven. All three of the sources regard the reoccurring ordinary session of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission. They are from different years and with different representatives and participants. What they have in common is the participation of ministers. With their role as representatives for the riparian countries in the commission, established in 1964 (LCBC 2018), they are acknowledged by this paper as participants included in the category permanent commission according to the theory presented in section 2.1.4 (this paper).

In source one the participants were part of the 64th ordinary session of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission. In the report the ministers who attended were addressed in a list of names. There were a total of six participants, one of them was one woman and five were men (LCBC 1).

In source six the participants were part of the 60th ordinary session of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission. In the report the ministers who attended were addressed in a list of names. There were a total of nine participants, none of them were women (LCBC 6).

In source seven the participants were part of the 61st ordinary session of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission. In the report the ministers who attended were addressed in a list of names. There were a total of eight participants, two of them were women and six were men (LCBC 7).

Participants in the category *Post-agreement commissions* were found in source number four, the report from the commissioning ceremony of PRESIBALT. Because the program was created by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and had a five-year financial plan at its infancy, this paper acknowledges the participants as belonging to a post-agreement commission due to the programs limited operational length, with reference to section 2.1.4 (this paper). The participants were observed via a photo attached to the report, of the total of 26 participants, 1 was woman, 22 were men and 3 persons were unidentifiable (LCBC 4).

4.1.3 Observer status

Participants in the category *Observer status* were found in source number one. The source is the report from the 64th ordinary session of Council of Ministers of Lake Chad Basin Commission. In the report the ministers who attended were addressed in a list of names, there was also a photo of the participants, which besides from the ministers also included diplomatic representatives, ambassadors of Lake Chad Basin Commission, international organisations accredited to Chad and the commissions technical and financial partners who were attending the meeting (LCBC 1). As they are unofficial participants to the meeting, they are acknowledged by this paper as participants in the category observer status, according to the theory presented in section 2.1.2 (this paper). Based on the number of people observed in the photo, minus the 8 ministers recognized via names in the report, the total number of participants recognized with observer

status were 59, 4 of them were women, 53 were men and 2 persons were unidentifiable (LCBC 1).

4.1.4 Consultation

Participants in the category *Official consultation* were found in source number two and ten. In source number two the participants were part of a consultative meeting on the preparation for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (LCBC 2). As the report title states, it was a consultative meeting and therefor the participants are recognized as being part of a consultation according to the theory presented in section 2.1.3 (this paper). Further, as the participants are recognized as representatives of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, African Union and United Nations the consultation are acknowledged as official, and the participants therefore are included in the category of official consultation. A total number of 21 participants were observed via a photo attached to the report, there were no women (LCBC 2). In source number ten the participants were part of the inaugural meeting of the Governors' Forum. Apart from the governors' delegation, presented above, there were representatives from the United Nations, Civil Society and Regional Organisations, of which the majority of the participant came from the United Nations. Prior to the meeting the United Nations Development Program had consulted 1100 people from the local societies of the affected area. The input they got from the people were brought to the inaugural meeting and used as a base for discussions during the meeting (High Level Conference: iii, 22-29). Due to the official capacity of the involved actors and the adherence to local interests, the participants are recognized as belonging to the category official consultation according to the theory presented in section 2.1.3 (this paper). The participants were recognized via a list of names on the participants attached to the report. There were a total of 81 participants, of them 16 were women and 65 were men (High Level Conference: iii, 22-29).

4.1.5 High-level problem-solving workshops

Participants in the category *High-level problem-solving workshops* were found in source number three. The participants of the statutory meeting on fisheries, aquaculture and pastoralism were experts from the member countries of Lake Chad Basin Commission, who met for a review of policies, legislative and regulatory frameworks regarding fisheries, aquaculture and pastoralism in the Lake Chad area (LCBC 3). As the participants were experts and not decision makers they are understood by this paper as having an unofficial role. Although, they did meet in the name of their respective countries and are therefore recognized as participants in the category high-level problem-solving workshop according to the theory presented in section 2.1.5 (this paper). The participants were observed via a photo attached to the report. There were a total of 21 participants, 4 of them were woman and 17 were men (LCBC 3).

4.1.6 Total Participation

For the modalities where participation could be measured the results have been summarized in the table below. The results will further be discussed in section 5 (this paper).

Table 2:

Modality	Women	Men	Unknown	Total	%
Direct representation at the negotiation table	12	62	2	76	16
Inclusive commissions	4	42	3	49	8
Observer status	4	53	2	59	7
Consultation	16	86	0	102	16
High-level problem-solving workshops	4	17	0	21	19
Total	**40**	**260**	**7**	**307**	**13**

The table show the result of the observed participation where the columns *women*, *men*, *unknown* and *total* are counted in individuals. The column *%* (per cent) represent the share of the total participants being women for each modality, as well as for the overall total.

4.2 Influence

Of the material presented in section 3.2 (this paper), source eight, nine and ten are relevant for the analysis of women's influence on transnational project, programs and policies on water management in the Lake Chad area. The sources are analyzed separately.

4.2.1 Water Charter for Lake Chad Basin

An indicator on women's influence is if there is an overarching policy which calls upon policies, programs and projects to address differences between women and men, according to the theory presented in section 2.2 (this paper). The *Water Charter for Lake Chad Basin* is an agreement between Cameroon, Central African Republic, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and Chad presented as the State Parties of the Charter. The charter, which considers several international charter and treaties such as the Charter of the United Nations Organisation of 1945, the Constitutive Act of the African Union of 2000 and the Treaty of the Community of Central African States signed 1983, are by this paper acknowledged as an overarching policy which has the ability to call upon project programs and policies to address the differences between women and men (LCBC 2011). In the analysis of the charter three main findings were made.

In Chapter 1, which states the general provisions, Article 7 lists fundamental principles by which the State Parties shall be guided. One of the principles is *the*

principle on gender consideration, which urges program and projects to "take into account the benefits and contributions of men, women, youths and vulnerable groups" in their formulation, execution and monitoring (LCBC 2011). Although this principle mentions that women shall be accounted for, it focuses on what benefits and contribution that women can make rather than acknowledging how women are affected differently. The principle further states that the special needs of women shall be taken into account in the formulation of project, programs and policies, which suggests that the Water Charter does meet the theoretical criterion of women's influence by recognizing the importance of women's early inclusion, stated in section 2.2 (this paper).

In Chapter 12 the rights of the basin population are stated and Article 74 in that chapter urges *special attention to gender*. The article states that State Parties shall "undertake to pay special attention to the needs of women […] regarding the management of water resources". In this article, women's special needs are recognized. However, they are not so in a way that oblige project and programs to do so, as the article are directed toward the State Parties. With regard to the theoretical criterion stated in section 2.2 (this paper), the article could however be thought of as supporting the need to recognize women being differently affected, by calling upon the State Parties to do so when they establish new water management policies.

In Chapter 13 Promotional actions are presented, and Article 79 which regards *capacity building* urges the State Parties that special attention shall be paid to women. That is with regard to the development and implementation of training programmes with the purpose to strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders, in the sustainable management of water (LCBC 2011). This article is acknowledged by this paper to meet the theoretical criterion, stated in section 2.2 (this paper), of pushing for programmes to address the differences between women and men in the way that it urges special attention to women's needs. The principle also aligns with the theoretical criterion which regard the recognition to support the equal relationship between men and women.

Although none of the three articles explicitly says that policies, projects and programs should address the differences between women and men, this paper argue that the Water Charter, which does comprise an overarching policy, strives for the equivalent cause. That is by recognizing women's needs to be included and paid special attention to in policies, projects and programs created by the state parties. Further, as a policy document itself, the Water Charter does meet the theoretical criteria, stated in section 2.2 (this paper), that suggest that women have had the possibility to exercise influence.

4.2.2 Regional Strategy

The *Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko-Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region* (LCBC 2018), hereafter the Strategy, is a result of the commitment by the riparian countries, the African Union Commission and Lake Chad Basin Commission. The purpose is to

strengthen the cooperation between regional and international actors in the area. The main goal of the strategy is to fight Boko Haram and protect the civilians, which is one of the most pressing issues that the area faces. The Strategy however recognizes that there are three separate but inter-related and mutually reinforcing crises. First, a structural development crisis. Second, a crisis of increasing extremist violence. Third, a crisis of environmental disaster. The Strategy is a first step toward regional response to these crises. The Strategy is built around nine intervention pillars, each one of them target a priority area to be dealt with to resolve these crises (LCBC 2018: 8, 10-14). As the Strategy recognize that environmental degradation, as an integral part of both the challenges and possible solutions to those challenges, this paper has chosen to analyze the Strategy as a water management process, even if the projects primary objective is to end violence and not treat water management issues directly.

The Strategy recognizes women and children as being disproportionally affected by the crises and it states that there is a need for a gender sensitive approach, for gender specific research to be done and for initiatives that aims at empowering women to be designed and implemented in a way that support women's participation in all processes. The Strategy also stresses the need for establishing mechanisms for gender-sensitive monitoring, reporting, analysis and advocacy (LCBC 2018: 13). One section of the Strategy is its territorial action plan for implementation. The action plan describes how the nine pillars should be rooted in research on the riparian states and the region, research on conflict analysis, community perceptions of security and on the effect of climate changes. The section also emphasizes how all studies conducted should be done with an integrated gender lens, to ensure that women and men's different experiences are paid attention to (LCBC 2018: 50-51). The Strategy thereby aligns with the theoretical criterion, as presented in section 2.2 (this paper), that regard if there has been a recognition of women being differently affected by the project. Further, as the project states that its pillars should be based on gender sensitive research, the theoretical criterion that regard if women's early inclusion has been recognized as important is fulfilled.

The Strategy recognizes women, youth and children as being central to a sustainable solution of the crises. It states that because they have been disproportionally affected, it is necessary to improve their protection and welfare through equality and justice, while supporting their empowerment. Further the Strategy states that its own governance structures and consultative mechanisms should strive for equal participation of women on all levels. In the Strategy's pillar on education, learning and skills, one of the objectives is to ensure that women, girls and boys have access to equitable education. A practical effort that is mentioned for empowering women is that there should be targeted support for women who engage productively in the formal economy. The support could be done by promoting their entrepreneurship through increasing their access to capital, financial and legal advice (LCBC 2018: 23-24, 41, 46). The Strategy aligns with the theoretical criterion on women's influence that regard if there is a support for the equal relationship between women and men, as stated in section 2.2 (this paper). The projects goal that there should be equitable education for

women, girls and boys to empower women and youth, implies that there is a recognition of the importance of women's early inclusion that aligns with the theory presented in section 2.2 (this paper).

Overall this paper argues that the Strategy are fulfilling the theoretical criteria stated in section 2.2 (this paper). Therefore, with regard to the Strategy, women in the Lake Chad area does to some extent have the ability to exercise influence on water management processes.

4.2.3 Governors' Forum

The Governors' Forum, here after the Forum, is a coordinated regional approach toward facing the many challenges facing the Lake Chad area. The Forum's main objective is for the area to reach stabilization, peace and a sustainable development. In the report on the Forum's inaugural meeting, environmental degradation due to climate change, together with structural and economic factors are addressed as root causes of the conflict (High Level Conference: iii, 12). As the Forum is a constellation of different agents which through a coordinated approach are aiming at facilitate change, the Forum is acknowledged as a program by this paper, according to the theory presented in section 2.2 (this paper). As with the Strategy analyzed above, the Forum also strive foremost at ending violence. It does however recognize the that there is a need for environmental recovery as part of the solution, which support the choice to analyze the Forum as a program that to some extent regard water management.

The report has a predominant focus on the establishment of an inclusive, bottom-up approach were the local population is to be heard and included in the shaping of the Lake Chad areas future. The Forum recognizes women, together with youth, traditional and religious leaders, as an integral part of the crisis solution. The Forum states that these groups should be consulted and included as a way to embrace the bottom-up approach. The Forum acknowledge that women paradoxically are perceived both as important for the solution and at the same time are recognized as being excluded form important justice mechanisms, such as religious and traditional leader groups that could allow for women to participate (High Level Conference: iii, 35). The fact that the Forum recognizes women as being excluded from important civil society groups and at the same time recognizes the need for women to be integrated in a bottom-up approach, suggest that the Forum meets the theoretical criterion that support equal participation between men and women. The Forum's choice of embracing a bottom-up approach could further be understood as meeting the theoretical criterion that regard the importance of women's early inclusion, as stated in section 2.2 (this paper).

One of the Forum's four objectives is to promote the recovery and sustainable development through initiatives including the revitalizing of livelihood, strengthening good governance and ensuring an inclusive and participatory economic growth. With regard to the latter initiative, there should be a particular focus on the investment in women (High Level Conference: iii, 3-4). This

objective does suggest that the Forum recognizes women's importance for the solution to the crisis through investing in women empowerment. This align with the theoretical criterion that regard if there is support for an equal relationship between men and women, as stated in section 2.2 (this paper).

The Forum recognizes that women are being differently affected by the violence in the area and how they are especially vulnerable to human rights abuse (High Level Conference: 2). Apart from the recognition of women being more and differently affected by violence, the report does however not mention if women are being differently affected with regard to suggested implementations or interventions to be made. This could be understood as if the Forum partially recognizes that women are being differently affected than men with respect to the theoretical criterion presented in section 2.2 (this paper).

Prior to the inaugural meeting, United Nations Development Program, UNDP, conducted 100 focus group discussions, with over 1100 of the local population from the four riparian countries. Although this is the work of UNDP and not the Forum per se, there were a few interesting findings presented in the civil society consultative annex attached to the report on the inaugural meeting. First, there was an argumentation that the division of the focus groups were made based on gender, with regard to women and men's different experiences (High Level Conference: 37). This suggests that women have had the ability to exercise influence on the program according to the theory in section 2.2 (this paper), through the criterion that regard if there has been a recognition of women being differently affected. Second, one of the key findings emphasize how the civil society, both men and women, recognizes women's role in the decision making as limited (High Level Conference: 52), this is an interesting insight for the coming discussion.

Based on the analysis above, this paper argues that the Forum meet the theoretical criteria presented in section 2.2 (this paper). It could therefore be assumed that women have had, to some extent, the possibility to exercise influence on water management processes.

5 Discussion

This paper main findings are on women's participation in modalities which concern participation at a national or transnational level. In total there were 307 participants observed, of them forty were women. That makes for an overall average of 13 percent of the participants being women (Table 2 this paper).

Of the modalities, the highest participation was found for *High-level problem solving workshops*, with 19 percent of the participants being women as presented in Table 2 (this paper). The source that was used to investigate the participation in this modality was also the only source found by this paper that exclusively regarded water management (LCBC 3).

Two other modalities where the participation of women were relative high, compared with the other modalities, were in *Direct representation at the negotiating table* and *Consultation*, both with 16 percent of the participants being women as presented in Table 2 (this paper). Regarding the consultation modality, the fact that women do participate suggest that there is a possibility for local women's concerns to be represented and included, according to the theory presented in section 2.1 (this paper). An interesting insight drawn from the analysis of the direct representation in relation to the theory presented in section 2.1 (this paper), is that women are being able to exercise influence as they are part of a countries' official delegation. More specifically that they take part in the decision-making bodies, which is a theoretical condition for the modality's effectiveness (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 26-27). An interesting thought is that the population themselves, as presented in section 4.2.3 (this paper), recognizes women's role in decision-making as limited. Whether 16 percent participation is to be regarded as limited or not is a question for future research. However, the participation of women in the modalities analyzed above does not fall far behind international average if one is to make a comparison with the number of women participating in national government, or other domains of government. For national governments the average is 24 percent, while it is 19 percent in other government domains (UN Women 2).

The lowest participation of women was found in the modalities of *Inclusive commissions* and *Observer status* with 7 to 8 percent of the participants being women as presented in Table 2 (this paper). According to the theory, as presented in section 2.1 (this paper), this makes for a limitation of the different ways through which women can exercise their influence. With regard to the inclusive commission it means that women's influence on the implementation or supervision of a program, project or policy might be limited. For the modality observer status, it means that women do not have the ability to put pressure on the different parties. This modality however, has in previous case studies shown that

women participating in this modality rarely have had the possibility to exercise influence anyway (Paffenholz et al. 2016: 8).

The Water Charter, as stated above, are acknowledged as an overarching policy which calls upon the inclusion of women. It does also compromise a policy document which through the theoretical framework, presented in section 2.2 (this paper), suggests that women have had the ability to exercise influence. Both the Strategy and the Forum, as a project and program respectively, does also strengthen the conclusion that women have the ability to exercise influence. All three document do, although in different way and not directly, address the importance of women's early inclusion. The Strategy and the Forum do emphasize the importance of empowering women which suggests that there is a recognition to support the equal relationship between men and women. Although the Forum does not address the different experience between men and women to the same extent as the Strategy, they both also recognizes that women are being differently affected by the crisis and by the activities they suggest. Based on the theoretical framework presented in section 2.2 (this paper), women do have the ability to influence with respect to the three sources investigated.

A first limitation with this paper is that it couldn't find any relevant sources to properly investigate women's participation in the modality of *Public decision making* or the modality of *Mass-action.* As resources and time was limited for this paper, neither further analysis of the sexes of participants were possible, nor were infield consultation to complement the missing data. It could also be that this resources do not exist or do exist but is not accessible. Because these modalities are the ones representing women's participation on the local level, it is recognized as a limitation that this paper not has been able to investigate women's participation on the local level.

Second, it should be mentioned that this study did not find any sources which could enable an analysis of the categories *Official women-only delegation* and *Public consultation*. However, the modalities which these categories represent have been analyzed through the other categories of respective modality.

Third, in the participation analysis there were a number of participants that couldn't be recognized as either women or men. As they represent 7 out of the 307 participants they could make a difference of two percent if all of them were either women or men.

Fourth, although there seems to be both participation and influence to some extent in the Lake Chad area, correlation is not causality. However, as this paper limited the original theory, as presented in section 2.3 (this paper), the explanatory capacity of the theoretical framework was restricted. Note however that it was never the intention of this paper to investigate neither the correlation nor the causal relation between the two.

6 Conclusion

To answer the research question:

> *Do women participate in, and do they have the ability to influence water management processes in the Lake Chad River Basin area?*

With respect to the theoretical framework, as presented in section 2 (this paper), the findings of both participation and influence suggests that, although women are underrepresented relative to men, they are participating in and have the ability to exercise influence on water management processes. The participation of women is with regard to the modalities that represent their participation on a national and transnational level in the Lake Chad area. Due to the lack of available data on women's participation at a local level, there is a need for further research before insights or conclusions can be made about local women's possibilities to participate and exercise influence in water management processes. The original theory emphasizes and investigates if the participation of women counts, rather than merely counting women. This paper does recognize that counting women has been a predominant part of this study. However, before knowing how women count in a process, investigating if there are any women is a most necessary matter. The result of this paper compromise a contribution which could be used as a foundation for future research. The correlation and casual relationship between participation and influence is unclear in the case of Lake Chad and needs to be further researched before any robust conclusions can be made regarding if, and if so, how participation and influence relate to one another.

The hypothesis of this paper was that women's participation in, and influence on water management processes is important for reaching peace and sustainability in the Lake Chad area. This case study cannot provide an answer for if that is the case or not. However, the findings of this study suggest that women do participate and to some extent influence water management processes.

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Annex 1

Source 1 – 64th Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers of LCBC
http://www.cblt.org/en/news/64th-ordinary-session-council-ministers-lcbc-0

Source 2 – Consultative meeting in Preparation for the Implementation of the Regional Stabilisation Strategy
http://www.cblt.org/en/news/consultative-meeting-preparation-implementation-regional-stabilisation-strategy

Source 3 – DOUALA: Statutory meeting on fisheries, aquaculture and pastoralism
http://www.cblt.org/en/news/douala-statutory-meeting-fisheries-aquaculture-and-pastoralism

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Source 4 – Programme for Rehabilitation and Strengthening of the Resilience of Socio-ecologic Systems of the Lake Chad Basin (PRESIBALT): National Coordination of Cameroon commission.
http://www.cblt.org/en/news/programme-rehabilitation-and-strengthening-resilience-socio-ecologic-systems-lake-chad-basin

Source 5 – Meeting of the Regional Parliamentary Committee on the Lake Chad Basin (RPC): MPs are strongly committed to saving Lake Chad!
http://www.cblt.org/en/news/meeting-regional-parliamentary-committee-lake-chad-basin-rpc-mps-are-strongly-committed-saving