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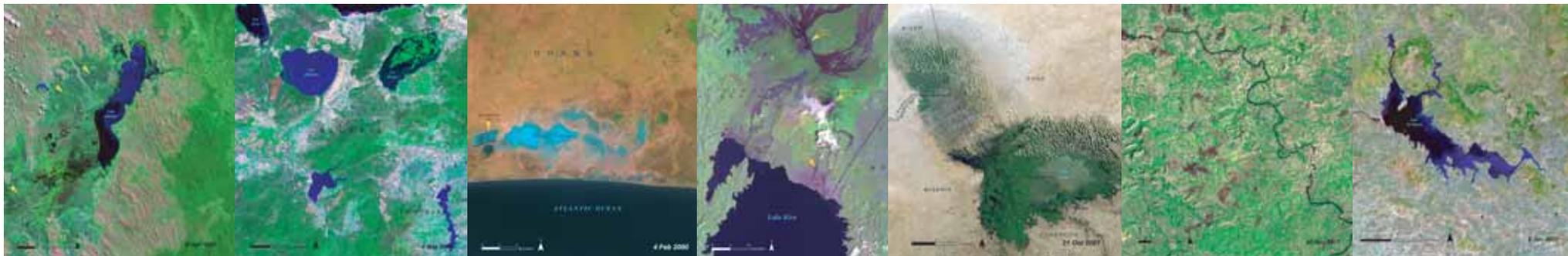
Increasing concern as to how human activities impact Africa's lakes has led to documentation and quantification of the lakes and the environmental changes taking place. Through a combination of ground photographs, current and historical satellite images, and narrative based on extensive scientific evidence, this publication illustrates how humans have altered their surroundings and continue to make observable and measurable changes to Africa's lakes and their environment.

This atlas underscores the importance of developing, harnessing and sharing technologies that help provide deeper understanding of the dynamics of the changes. The words and pictures within these pages also serve as a vivid reminder that Africa's lakes are a source of livelihoods for many African communities, contribute significantly to socio-economic development of the continent, and sound policy decisions and positive actions by societies and individuals are needed to sustain the lakes and the well-being of its inhabitants. The information provided will not only be useful in the context of the selected locations, but will also underscore the intrinsic value of the harnessing, visualizing and communicating technologies to gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics and impacts for Africa's lakes and their environmental changes.

AFRICA'S LAKES

Atlas of Our Changing Environment





Africa's Lakes: Atlas of Our Changing Environment

Produced by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in cooperation with the Belgian Development Cooperation, Africa's Lakes: Atlas of Our Changing Environment compares and contrasts spectacular satellite images of the past few decades with contemporary images. The dramatic and in some cases damaging environmental changes sweeping African lakes are brought into sharp focus in the Atlas, involving the input of 42 contributors from 16 organizations in 11 countries including Cameroon, Canada, China, Ethiopia, India,

Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

Africa is the second largest and second most populous continent in the world (Asia is the first). It covers approximately 20.3 percent of the total land area on earth, and its 800 million people account for about 14.3 percent of the earth's population.

Africa's Lakes Atlas is an effort to increase local and international awareness of some natural and some human-made changes. This

comprehensive collection of 60 images, 40 photos and 15 environmental maps demonstrates rapid shrinking of Lake Songor in Ghana, the extraordinary changes in the Zambezi river system beside more familiar images of the near 90 per cent shrinkage of Lake Chad. Other impacts, as seen from space, include the extensive deforestation around Lake Nakuru in Kenya, dramatic rejuvenation of the Djoudj Sanctuary wetlands in Senegal and farming of scorching hot desert in Toshka, Egypt.

Africa's Lakes Atlas underscores the importance of developing,

harnessing and sharing technologies that help provide deeper understanding of the dynamics of changes in Africa's lakes. The words and pictures within these pages also serve as a vivid reminder that Africa's 677 lakes are a source of livelihoods for many African communities, and contribute significantly to socio-economic development of the continent, and that sound policy decisions and positive actions by societies and individuals are needed to sustain the lakes and the well-being of its inhabitants.

Citation: UNEP 2006. Africa's Lakes: Atlas of Our Changing Environment. Nairobi, Kenya: United Nations Environment Programme, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) 90p.



Hardcopy of the book can be purchased at
www.Earthprint.com.

For free downloads of satellite images visit
www.na.unep.net/AfricaLakes.



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