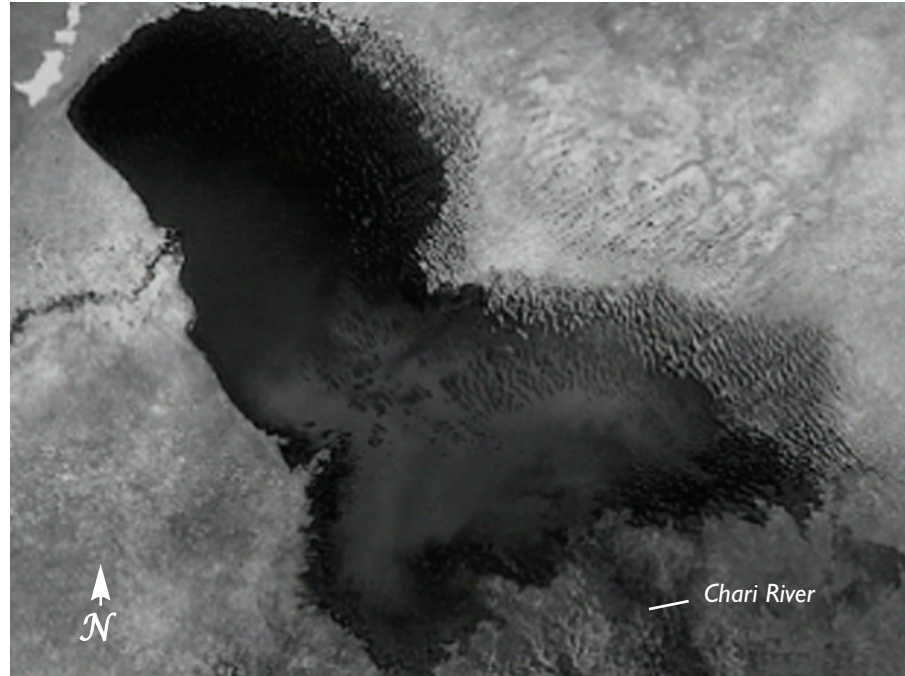


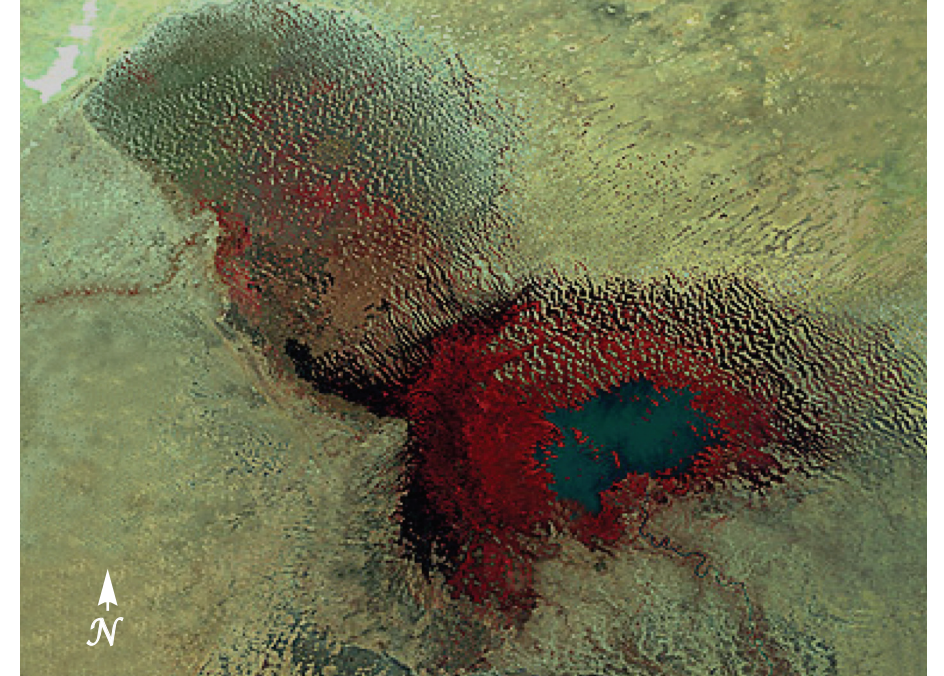
October 31, 1963



December 1972 and January 1973



January 24, 31, and February 7, 1987



Satellite images of Lake Chad for October 31, 1963 (left), December 1972 and January 1973 (middle, a combined image from several dates in December and January), and January 24 and 31 and February 7, 1987 (right, a mosaic image). The large decrease in lake area can be seen clearly in these images, with the open water (shown in gray and black in the 1963 image) reduced in 1987 to the small blue area in the southern portion of the basin. The regions colored red in the middle and rightmost images are the seasonal vegetated wetlands that fluctuate greatly in area each year. The ancient sand dunes that have emerged from the lake can be seen along the northeast shore. (Data for 1963 from a single-frame camera on the United States photo-reconnaissance Argon satellite; data for 1972/1973 from the MSS instrument, bands 4, 2, and 1, on the Landsat 1 satellite; data for 1987 from the ETM instrument on the Landsat 5 satellite.)