

The Transaqua Project: Beginning of an African Rebirth

by Portia Tarumbwa-Strid

Africa is dying! Everything the media is saying about an economic recovery in Africa, is not merely false, but a fraud. Africa *can* be developed, but only in the context of global financial reform and the World Land-Bridge program presented in this report.

The paradox lies in the fact that some of the world's greatest reserves of mineral resources lie in Africa. So why is Africa still so poor? The answer is simple: British colonialism and its prohibition of any infrastructure programs, especially water management, which would raise the population's productivity. If the problem had been a mere lack of money, then the contributions from Europe would have developed Africa long ago. Money is only worth as much as the objective for which it is spent. I would like to preempt anyone inclined to blame this on the corruption of all Africa's heads of state: The cause of the crisis is not corruption, but the folly of a system based on so-called "investments" in fictitious assets, as well as the faulty design inherent in the euro system itself.

Africa has the potential to become the breadbasket of the world, if we could but overcome the problem that there is too much water in the equatorial region, lying unused in swampy areas, breeding mosquitoes faster than humans, whereas to the north and south, the deserts are encroaching further and further into the dry steppe regions.

Water for a 'Blue Revolution'!

The Transaqua Project has been lying on the shelf for more than 20 years, when it was officially tasked to the engineering firm Bonifica by the Italian government. The project foresees the transfer of water from Congo to Chad, and should function, like the Tennessee Valley Authority of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, as a pilot project for jump-starting the economy of the entire continent.

Lake Chad has shrunk to one tenth of its original size in the last four decades. This is a tragedy which affects Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon. Between sandstorms and the great reduction of irrigation and fishing, this lack of water is a matter of life and death.

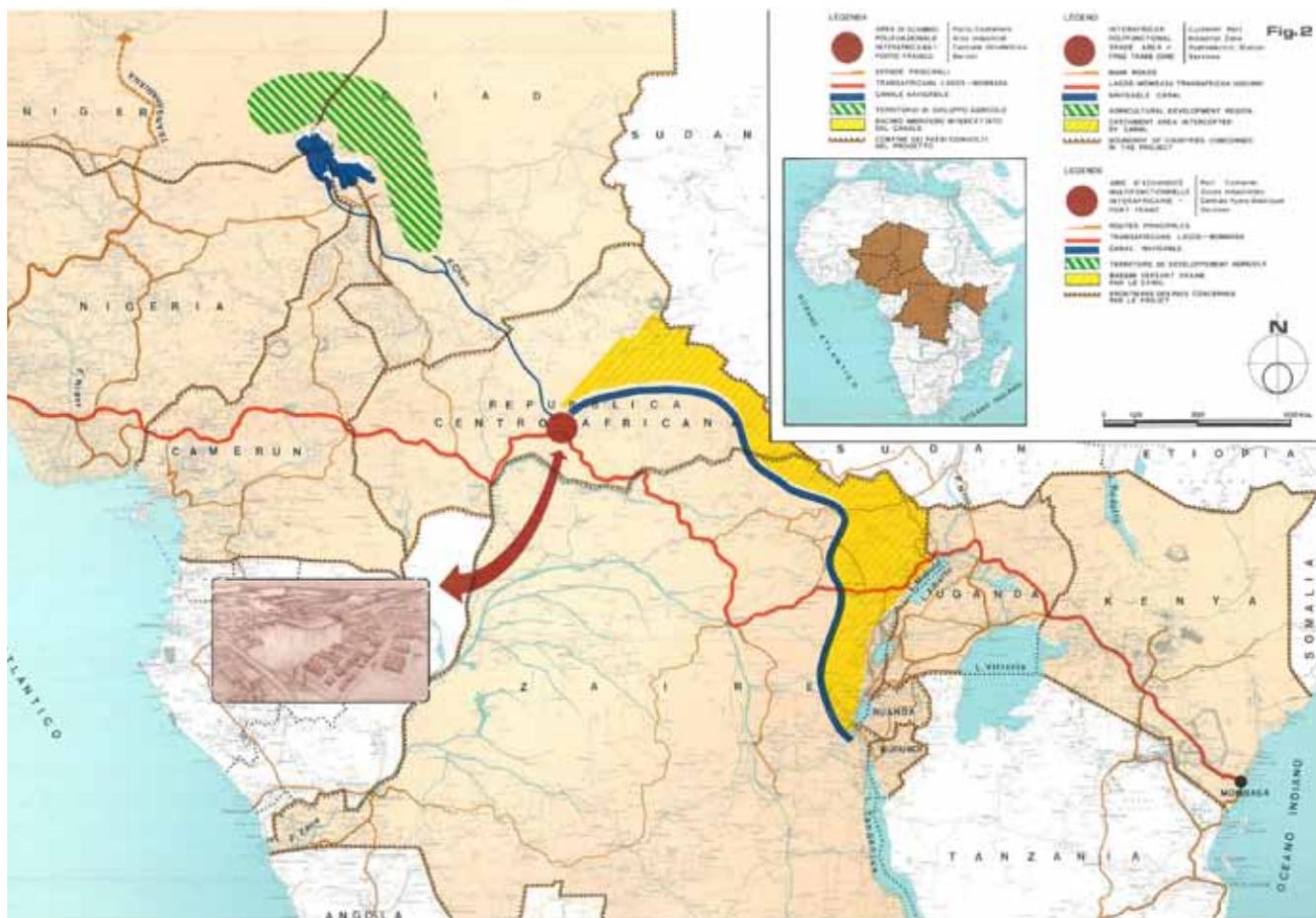
Through the Transaqua Project, 100,000 million cubic meters per year of freshwater would be diverted from the Congo River to fill up Lake Chad. That is around 5% of the freshwater of the entire Congo basin, which now flows unused into the Atlantic Ocean. The wild Congo River itself, second in flow only to the mighty Amazon, will be tamed by 2,800 km of navigable canals—equivalent to the distance between Paris and Moscow—with an average depth of 25 meters and width of 100 meters.

The project is based on the natural geographical conditions of Central Africa and runs from the watershed between Congo and Chad, where the flow turns westward in the Central African Republic, until it meets the Chari River.

Africa's first inland port will be constructed at the very location that has seen a 60% reduction of water levels over the last few decades. A further blessing deriving from the project will be a constant supply of electricity, to be generated from the estimated 3,200 m³ of water flowing down the Chari River, which is about double that of the Nile north of Aswan. A series of hydropower plants would generate about 4 gigawatts of electrical power.

Even with the water flow topping that of the Nile, Transaqua would remain only a partial solution if it were not integrated into a transcontinental African railway network. The development of continental Europe took place in not very different terms. The construction of canals and, later, railway trunk-lines, was indispensable to the growth of an educated middle class in Europe, and made possible the first financially viable

FIGURE 1
The Transaqua Plan for Water Infrastructure Development



www.transaquaproject.com

The development of the Lake Chad basin is only part of the huge Transaqua project. Lake Chad is in the northwest on this map, straddling the borders of four countries, Niger, Chad, Central African Republic, and Nigeria.

social welfare state under German Chancellor Bismarck.

Coming to Chad itself, the southward expansion of the Sahara Desert will be halted by directing the water into the regions of Chad and Niger north of Lake Chad, partially by means of the Chari riverbed in the Central African Republic. These parts of the Sahel Region would thus see 5-7 million hectares of irrigated land—an area where today up to 20 million Africans are threatened with starvation, if nothing is done to stop it.

FDR vs. Churchill

The approach taken by the Transaqua Project is not totally new, however. While at the World War II Casa-

blanca Conference in January 1943, U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke of his inspired vision for this part of the world. The report comes from his son Elliott Roosevelt who accompanied him and gave this report of his father's discussion with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in his 1945 book *As He Saw It*:

“We discussed the great salt flats in southern Tunisia, which must have at one time been a vast inland sea. He reminded us of the rivers that spring up in the Atlas Mountains, to the south, and disappear under the Sahara, to become subterranean rivers. ‘Divert this water flow for irrigation purposes? It’d make the Imperial Valley in California look like a cabbage patch!’ And the salt flats: they were below the level of

the Mediterranean; you could dig a canal straight back to recreate that lake—one hundred and fifty miles long, sixty miles wide. ‘The Sahara would bloom for hundreds of miles!’ It is true. The Sahara is not just sand, it has an amazingly rich potential. Every time there is a rain, there is a consequent riot of flowers for a few days, before the dryness and the sun kill them off. . . .

“‘Wealth!’ he cried. ‘Imperialists don’t realize what they can do, what they can create! They’ve robbed this continent of billions, and all because they were too short-sighted to understand that their billions were pennies, compared to the possibilities! Possibilities that *must* include a better life for the people who inhabit this land. . . .’”

The intention of the British Empire today, to depopulate Africa, lies, among other things, in the self-contradicting pseudo-science of so-called anthropogenic climate change. The argument made, is that man should not be allowed to change the climate, but that he does so anyway, regardless of efforts to the contrary, and always has a negative impact. One could just as well say that it were better we humans didn’t exist at all, as our very presence on this planet, in this very universe, only accelerates its destruction. Physicists have given this belief the title of the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

What does that have to do with the development of Africa? Why, everything!

Developing the Biosphere

All “aid” for Africa is destructive, when guided by this assumption: that man is the plague of the planet. Projects such as Desertec, for example, which would plaster the Sahara with solar panels, ignore the primary principle of development of the planet Earth and of nature—that life is a higher domain than non-life. In other words, photosynthesis uses sunlight much more effectively than photovoltaic processes ever could. This means, that the potential for life is *reduced* by the deployment of photovoltaic devices, not least because arable land is diverted from use for agriculture, and groundwater remains untapped.

It is therefore much more natural for man to imitate nature consciously, intervening into the processes of the biosphere by introducing green into those regions which have become a dried-out brown. For this reason, Transaqua is much more environmentally friendly than

Desertec, because human potential is being drawn upon, in harmony with nature.

Transaqua also promises to affect all aspects of life for the average African. The probability of whether a child born in Congo today will become a chemist or a child soldier, for example, is closely connected to the implementation of this project. Also, the leisure time or free energy to create an orchestra or to build a space program in the Central African Republic, for example—a nation which today is mostly covered by forest—can only be created upon a new economic “platform,” as defined by the physical economist Lyndon LaRouche.

Most politicians depict the billion-dollar bill for Transaqua as impractical, in comparison with the currently fashionable micro-credits. But if you consider the *trillion*-euro bailout packages, which are being carried out almost every other day now, then it becomes apparent which alternative is actually cheaper.

But what one is actually accomplishing with a project like Transaqua lies thus in a different, more important domain than the monetary.

The Italian engineer and originator of Transaqua, Dr. Marcello Vichi, went right to the point when he wrote in 1992:

“The measure of investment costs does not lie in the millions of dollars alone, but also in the liberation from wars, millions of individuals rescued from dying of hunger, social peace, and an international conscience.”

The question of whether Italy or Europe would be in better economic condition today, had the technology transfer for such projects already begun, has been answered by the current crisis in Europe. Transaqua’s immense number of contracts for productive small and medium-sized enterprises would, without doubt, have saved many lost jobs. China, Russia, and India have profited rather well from Europe’s lack of interest in such projects.

The rebirth of the African economy by means of the construction of Transaqua would also mean a new beginning for Europe. The rise of Africa does not at all mean that Europe must fall! Rather, the *Götterdämmerung* of the EU shows that Europe has neglected its actual common mission for much too long: the development of Africa!

This article was translated from German.