

2001 Lake Nyos degassing started

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The gas disasters at Lakes Nyos and Monoun in 1980s were unprecedented natural disasters. The follow-up studies revealed that a tremendous amount of CO₂ exists at the depths of these crater lakes and that the concentration of CO₂ is increasing at an alarming rate, resulting in a high possibility of future recurrence of gas explosion. We have proposed the Nyos-Monoun Degassing Project (NMDP) to mitigate the gas disasters at these lakes. Financially supported by USAID/OFDA, the government of Cameroon started a degassing project at Lake Nyos in January 2001 as part of NMDP. The project was done by a Cameroon-France-Japan-USA team. Currently carbon dioxide is being removed from a degassing pipe from a depth of 203 m. We made a detailed geochemical survey of the lake prior to the degassing.