



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

UNEP Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch Sudan Programme Overview June 2008

UNEP mission in Sudan

Our focus is on the role sustainable environmental and natural resources management can play in supporting development for and reducing conflict in Sudan. Our mission is:

“To assist the people of Sudan in achieving peace, recovery and development on an environmentally sustainable basis.”

UNEP Sudan Programme

Following the publication of an extensive Sudan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment (see www.unep.org/sudan) in July 2007, UNEP has established an office in Khartoum with three staff. The purpose of UNEP's Sudan presence is to follow through the 85 recommendations made in this assessment, to support delivery the environmental elements of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreements and other national priorities, and to make progress towards the relevant Millennium Development Goals. As the UN focal point for environmental issues, we work in three main ways:

1. through the delivery of a programme of funded projects, working with UN, government and NGO partners
2. through negotiation and development of new projects reflecting environmental priorities and opportunities as they arise
3. through advocacy, advice, and technical assistance;

These are discussed further in the sections below.

1. Programme delivery – projects underway.

We have four projects that are funded and now operational managed by two project managers based in Sudan.

- **Darfur Timber and Energy.** The project focuses on the unsustainable exploitation of Darfur's limited tree cover and the negative impacts that arise from that. The aim is to reduce stress on forest resources by planting three million trees in Darfur using a community-based forestry model and achieving wider uptake of fuel efficient stoves and alternative energy technologies that would reduce the demand for timber. The project aims to stimulate the uptake of 300,000 fuel efficient stoves. We are working with FAO and the Sudan Forest National Corporation on this project and USAID is the funder.

- ***Darfur Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)***. The project focuses on the role that water stress plays in conflict and its fundamental role in the livelihoods of the poorest. The project includes hydrogeological assessments of groundwater resources, and development of IWRM systems of governance for water resources, including the formation of state water councils. There has been a particular focus on vulnerability of IDP camps to a year of low rainfall in Darfur, including recommendations for improving drought resilience and water security at over twenty vulnerable camp locations. We are working with UNICEF on this project and DFID is the funder.
- ***Aid and environment***. The project enables UNEP to provide technical assistance and undertake environmental mainstreaming activity. It involves wider dissemination of the PCEA, including an Arabic translation, operation of a help-desk and providing advice as required. Under this project we have established 'ENTEC', an environmental technology forum with key Sudanese academics, we are undertaking studies on alternative energy, the market economy for forest products, the available livelihood strategies for pastoralists, alternative construction technologies and other subjects as we decide they are necessary. We are working with several UN bodies on this project, and DFID is the funder.
- ***Darfur natural resource assessment***. This project will create an assessment of the status and the trends in the forest and vegetation cover, and land-use patterns in Darfur. It will draw together existing studies, datasets and maps, and supplement these with remote sensing data and 'ground-truthing'. The purpose is to inform wider development and humanitarian programming by providing an evidence base to support sustainable natural resource management practices.

These projects are valuable in their own right, but the experience and knowledge gained feed back into our advocacy, advice and technical assistance role, (1) above.

2. Programme development – projects in preparation

There are several factors that influence the development of the UNEP programme in Sudan. These include strategic documents such as the Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment report, the UN Workplan, the National Plan for Environmental Management, the 2005 Joint Assessment Mission report and so on. However, we also look for opportunities as they arise and try to address needs as they become apparent.

Resources for UNEP projects in Sudan. We rely entirely on project funding to support our presence in Sudan and have so far received support directly from SIDA, USAID and DFID. We receive no core or project funding from UNEP's global and regional operations. Our more localised funding-base ensures that our programme is formed around Sudanese priorities and scrutinised by donors with in-country experience. Our

approach is therefore to match environmental strategy, support from Sudanese counterparts and donor priorities to create viable project propositions.

At present we are developing four main sub-programmes:

- **Upstream oil sector.** Working closely with the GNU Ministry of Energy and Mining and with support of counterparts in the South, we are designing a package of technical assistance covering disaster risk reduction, produced water, best practice in onshore exploration, contaminated land management and regulatory practice (permitting, monitoring, enforcement etc). The proposal would establish a high level stakeholder forum to provide formulate environmental and social strategy and provide advice to the National Petroleum Commission.
- **Climate change adaptation.** We are developing a package of three proposals to support Sudan's response to the challenge of climate change – focussed primarily on water stress and food security and in partnership with UNDP. The proposals include: an enhanced 'vulnerability and adaptation' assessment for Sudan; the completion of food and water security projects in five distinct ecological regions across Sudan; development of a funding instrument that would support a pipeline of 20-30 medium scale climate change adaptation projects across Sudan. These projects are identified in Sudan's National Adaptation Programme of Action, of 2007.
- **Capacity building and investment cases.** We have provided several capacity building interventions to date, funded by SIDA – focussed on improving access to information, use of the internet and development of information centres. We are now developing the next stage of this programme for both North and South Sudan. We envisage providing some traditional interventions such as training in environmental impact assessment, information resources, visits and support on specific tasks, such as legislative development. Our diagnosis suggests a critical capacity constraint is the means to create credible investment cases that would mobilise government and state resources to support key environmental infrastructure – such as waste management, flood risk management, regulation of pollution etc.

2.1 Other development ideas under consideration

We have a number of concepts at an earlier stage of development:

- **National Integrated Water Resources Management programme.** This programme would support a number of interrelated projects within the governing framework of IWRM, and include Nile waters – in partnership with the existing bodies. These projects are to be defined, but may include:
 - River basin management planning for degraded catchments in the Nile basin
 - Flood risk management strategy
 - Jonglei canal assessment

- 30-year Nile basin assessment in the context of climate change, population growth and development
- **An Environment Fund?** We are in the early stages of discussion with the World Bank about funding for environmental projects – such as waste management infrastructure or climate change adaptation. One option would be to design a ‘portal’ that facilitated access to the several existing funds for environmental projects, adding technical assistance for project building.
- **Pastoralists.** It is clear that it is pastoralists that often the most disadvantaged when there are natural resource constraints or pronounced climate variability. It is often pastoralists that are most readily drawn into conflict or form militias. Our programme is beginning to address the pressures on pastoralist livelihoods, but we foresee a larger programme in this area, working with experts from Tufts University.

3. Advocacy, advice and technical assistance

Environmental and sustainable natural resource management cuts across many aspects of life in Sudan, and there is a high level of interest from government at all levels and civil society. The international community is also an important influence: the UN will spend US\$2.4 billion in Sudan in 2008 and other international bodies will add to that. UNEP has an important catalytic role in persuading and enabling the government and international community to mainstream sustainability into the humanitarian, recovery and development agenda. We have done this, for example, through helping to shape the UN Development Assistance Framework for 2009-11 and through advice to the government on the new National Plan for Environmental Management. We hope to leverage a large impact with modest means through influencing the core activity of others.

Development of the UNEP presence in Sudan

Pending recruitment, we will shortly have a staff of three in Khartoum and one project manager in Darfur, embedded with UNICEF. Our aim is to develop UNEP Sudan to have offices in Khartoum, Juba and El Fasher, with a programme manager in each and overall co-ordination and representation in Khartoum. This would allow us to build a balanced programme and pipeline of projects across Sudan.

Further information or discussion

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