



United Nations  
Environment Programme

## UNEP Sudan fact sheet



## Supporting sustainable development in Sudan

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is assisting the people of Sudan to achieve and maintain peace, recovery and development on an environmentally sustainable basis.

Sudan faces complex environmental challenges. These range from desertification and regional climate change to severe deforestation, the effects of environmental degradation on pastoral livelihoods and the need for improved waste management in the face of rapid urbanization.

Since completing the major report *Sudan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment* in 2007, UNEP has established an active country presence and developed the Sudan Integrated Environment Programme.

UNEP is working with Sudanese national, state and local leaders, civil society and the international community to improve sustainable and equitable governance and the management and use of natural resources. By brokering relations between decision makers and encouraging community participation, UNEP is also aiming to contribute to Millennium Development Goal 7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability) and to setting Sudan on a Green Economy path.

Sudan's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development is UNEP's government counterpart. UNEP's principal donor is UKaid from the Department for International Development. Italian Development Cooperation and USAID also provide valued support.

UNEP's work in Sudan centres on the following seven areas:

**Environment policy** – As part of influencing long-term change in environmental management, UNEP encourages the integration of environmental issues into the policies of national and state authorities, the UN and civil society. For example, in 2010, UNEP assisted the Government of Southern Sudan to draft the *South Sudan Environment Act 2010* and a forest policy. UNEP was also instrumental in establishing environment ministries in 16 states across Sudan.

**Environmental mainstreaming** – As the United Nations focal point for environment, UNEP has a responsibility to ensure international interventions in Sudan promote environmental sustainability. Mainstreaming the environment involves project implementation and policy considerations within the humanitarian, recovery and development aid architecture. It includes leveraging resources and integrating early recovery approaches and “do no harm” principles into all humanitarian programming.

**Forests** – Deforestation continues at alarming levels in many areas due principally to the unmanaged demand for timber for firewood, charcoal and brick-making. Yet the timber industry is an important development opportunity for Sudan, particularly in the south. Better livelihood practices for pastoralists and in the agricultural sector will also help to ensure better management of forest resources. UNEP has a range of projects aimed at introducing sustainable forest management into policies, processes and improved practices. UNEP is also helping to explore alternative energy options, such as greater uptake of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, to offset the use of wood fuels.

**Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)** – IWRM is a participatory process that promotes management of the whole resource on a catchment-by-catchment basis that embraces domestic, agricultural, industrial and environmental considerations. In 2010, a knowledge exchange between Sudanese and South African water engineers and decision makers, arranged by UNEP, resulted in significant government support in Sudan for an integrated approach to managing water resources.

In cooperation with the government, UNEP is leading a broad range of IWRM activities, for example small dams for water supply, ground water recharge and capacity building to support drought contingency planning in camps and cities. UNEP helped broker a US\$12 million investment in urban water supply augmentation in Darfur (funded by UKaid) which, when completed in 2012, will ultimately benefit more than 1.5 million people.

**Community environment management** – UNEP is partnering with the Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency to develop Community Environmental Action Plans (CEAPs) for engaging communities in a broad range of sustainable environmental activities. Initially, communities in seven villages near El Fasher in North Darfur are participating in a pilot project. It is part of a wider programme encouraging the formation of a CEAP network of government and NGOs to support the continuation of community-driven plans across Darfur and in other parts of Sudan.

**Livelihoods** – Pastoralism can contribute significantly to the sustainable use of land as well as to national economies. UNEP, through its support to Tufts University, is strengthening the understanding of pastoralist livelihoods in the context of fragile environments and protracted crises. Key elements of this work include promoting in-depth understanding of pastoralist livelihoods among decision makers in Sudan, and strengthening the capacity of pastoralist leaders, professionals and other advocates to articulate the rationale of pastoralism and argue for its inclusion in national policies, programmes and peace processes.

UNEP is also improving monitoring and analysis of trade and markets in Darfur to understand how conflict affects livelihoods and is undertaking demand-driven action research to identify how best to support livelihoods, economic recovery and peace-building.

**Waste management** – The concentration of population in cities, towns and camps in Sudan requires appropriate resources, infrastructure and services to treat solid and liquid waste. As Sudan seeks to expand its economy, the treatment of industrial waste has also become more critical. UNEP is liaising with government authorities at all levels to identify waste management infrastructure challenges and develop solutions. UNEP's work is widespread and ranges from technical assessments to the preparation of infrastructure development plans to address waste management needs. After a highly successful clean-up campaign in Juba, UNEP is also leading a Waste Management Forum in the south.

## More information

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