

Relationships and Resources

Environmental governance for peacebuilding and resilient livelihoods in Sudan







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Acronyms

CBNRM	.Community Based Natural Resource Management
	.Community Based Organisation
	.Community Environment Action Plan
	.Comprehensive Peace Agreement
	•
	Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund
	. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
	.Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency
	.Doha Document for Peace in Darfur
	.Department for International Development (UK)
	.Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation
	.Darfur Joint Assessment Mission
DPA	
DRA	.Darfur Regional Authority
EC	.European Commission
GDP	.Gross Domestic Product
GWWD	.Groundwater and Wadis Department (Now GWWU)
	.Groundwater and Wadis Unit (part of MWRE)
ICRAF	
IDP	
	Integrated Water Resource Management
П	The state of the s
	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
	Liberation and Justice Movement
LPG	
	. Ministry of the Environment, Forests and Physical Development
	. Millennium Development Goal
	. Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity
	.Memorandum of Understanding
	.Non-Governmental Organisation
	.Natural Resource Management
	.Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
	.Overseas Development Institute (UK)
OECD	.The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCEA	.Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment
	.Policies, institutions and processes
RRR	.Return, reintegration and recovery
	.Sudan Integrated Environment Programme
UK	
UN	
	.African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNCT	.United Nations country team
	.United Nations Development Programme
	.United Nations Environment Programme
	.United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
	.United Nations Interim Force in Abyei
	.United States Agency for International Development
	.Village Development Committee
	. Water Sanitation and Hygiene
VVEO	.Water and Environmental Sanitation Project

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About Relational Research

UNEP has drawn on the identification of five dimensions of a relationship first published in 'The R Factor' (Schluter and Lee, 1993). This laid the foundation for the Relational Proximity model which has been used by Relationships Foundation to assess relationships in both the public and private sectors in the UK, Australia and South Africa. It provided the framework for analysis of new primary care organisations established as part of the British National Health Service reforms in the 1990s. The approach also was the subject of a UK Cabinet Office strategy unit seminar in 2009.1 The Relational Proximity model is now the focus of a project to develop new ways of reporting on stakeholder relationships in the context of the new corporate governance code in South Africa, More information on Relational Research can be found on their website.

http://www.relationalresearch.org/

Executive summary

The links between natural resources and violent conflict are complex. This is particularly true for Darfur where any one episode of violence may relate to a number of grievances operating at different levels. These can be politically motivated, such as the conflict between rebel groups and the government at the national level or may occur more at the local level relating to control of land and natural resources. Regardless of the driver, violent conflict has a fundamental impact on natural resources as well as systems of environmental governance.

These impacts have important implications for stability and peace in Darfur. Indeed, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur calls for a new "framework for equitable access for various users of land and water resources". Based on this need, the report argues that developing such a framework requires an approach that includes both technical work to restore degraded natural resources and rebuild new forms of environmental governance and political work capable of establishing a shared vision, resolving conflicts and advancing new forms of governance. This report describes practical experiences undertaken by UNEP and numerous partners in government and civil society between 2007 and 2014 to support Darfur's own efforts to develop new inclusive and participatory approaches to environmental governance.

The approach is anchored in the idea that building and restoring cooperation over natural resources and the environment is important for both peace-building and governance. This approach requires rebuilding trust and relationships between stakeholders and communities that have been impacted by violence. It also calls for improving technical capacity of decision-makers and communities to advance new approaches for environmental governance and views local ownership and innovation as foundational to such efforts. Over time, improving cooperation over natural resources can have important "spill over" effects, often leading to cooperation in other domains and establishing a basis of trust for continued joint action.

At the core of this report is the idea that rebuilding good resource governance requires practical steps to restore collaborative relationships amongst communities, institutions of government, civil society and the private sector, with each group pursuing their respective objectives in an equitable manner. In Darfur, many of these relationships have been destroyed by conflict and peace cannot be rebuilt until trust is re-established between these groups and with their governing institutions. This report demonstrates how relationships of three types need to be restored as a prerequisite to rebuilding good governance: (A) institution to institution; (B) institution to community; and (C) community to community.

Adapting and strengthening environmental governance is an essential agenda for Darfur, not just to end cycles of violence, but also to support resilient livelihoods given the numerous environmental and social changes Darfuri communities are facing.

This report is the third in a series of reports addressing the development of new forms of environmental governance in Darfur and Sudan more broadly. The first report, "Environmental Governance in Sudan: an Expert Review" was a self-diagnostic on the current situation. The second report "Governance for Peace over Natural Resources" considers how environmental governance is changing across Africa and provides a range of new approaches for practitioners in Darfur.

This third report focuses on the process by which governance and peacebuilding may be promoted using natural resources as the basis for rebuilding key relationships and trust. This was achieved through vision building followed up with collaborative project planning and implementation. The attention given to these elements of the project demanded a new approach to describing these "softer" project outcomes, alongside more tangible results (such as construction of water harvesting structures etc.). To achieve this, the report defines five main dimensions of a relationship together with a measured pathway for monitoring progress. The five relationship dimensions cover: Directness (good communication); Commonality (shared purpose); Continuity (time together and a shared history); Multiplexity (mutual understanding and breadth); and Parity (fairness).

Based on these five dimensions, the report introduces a theory of change for integrated environmental programming based on the following interventions:

- Direct implementation of improved environmental practices
- Capacity building of government institutions
- Improving institutional collaboration across government, civil society and the private sector
- Mainstreaming and advocacy to increase the uptake of environmental best practices by other organisations
- Awareness raising across all environmental stakeholders and communities

The application of relationships thinking is useful to a variety of different disciplines covering governance, community resilience, climate change adaptation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, precisely because these agendas all rely on improved relationships. The relationships perspective also enables analysis of development interventions intended to have an impact on improving collaboration over natural resource use and management.

The report concludes with a series of recommendations for practitioners in Darfur as well as a broader set of recommendations for the wider international aid and peacebuilding community. These include the following:

- Pursue a holistic and long-term strategy with both a technical and political tracks to end conflict over land and natural resources in Darfur. This strategy should ensure coordination and dialogue between political and technical tracks on resolving conflict over natural resources and should be informed by other forms of environmental governance in similar contexts.
- e Ensure environmental governance is included as a long-term goal for peacebuilding and conflict mitigation in situations where there is conflict over natural resources. Environmental Governance should therefore be an important theme in work on livelihood resilience in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. The "Integrated Environment Project" concept may inform this approach.
- Use the techniques and indicators developed in this report to enhance capacity building components of programme delivery and improve their overall quality. This particularly applies to programmes that aim to enhance part or all of a sector – such as water, forestry, livestock, agriculture etc.
- Support further research and development of the relationships based approach. This may include the establishment of a community of practice with development and peacebuilding practitioners.

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