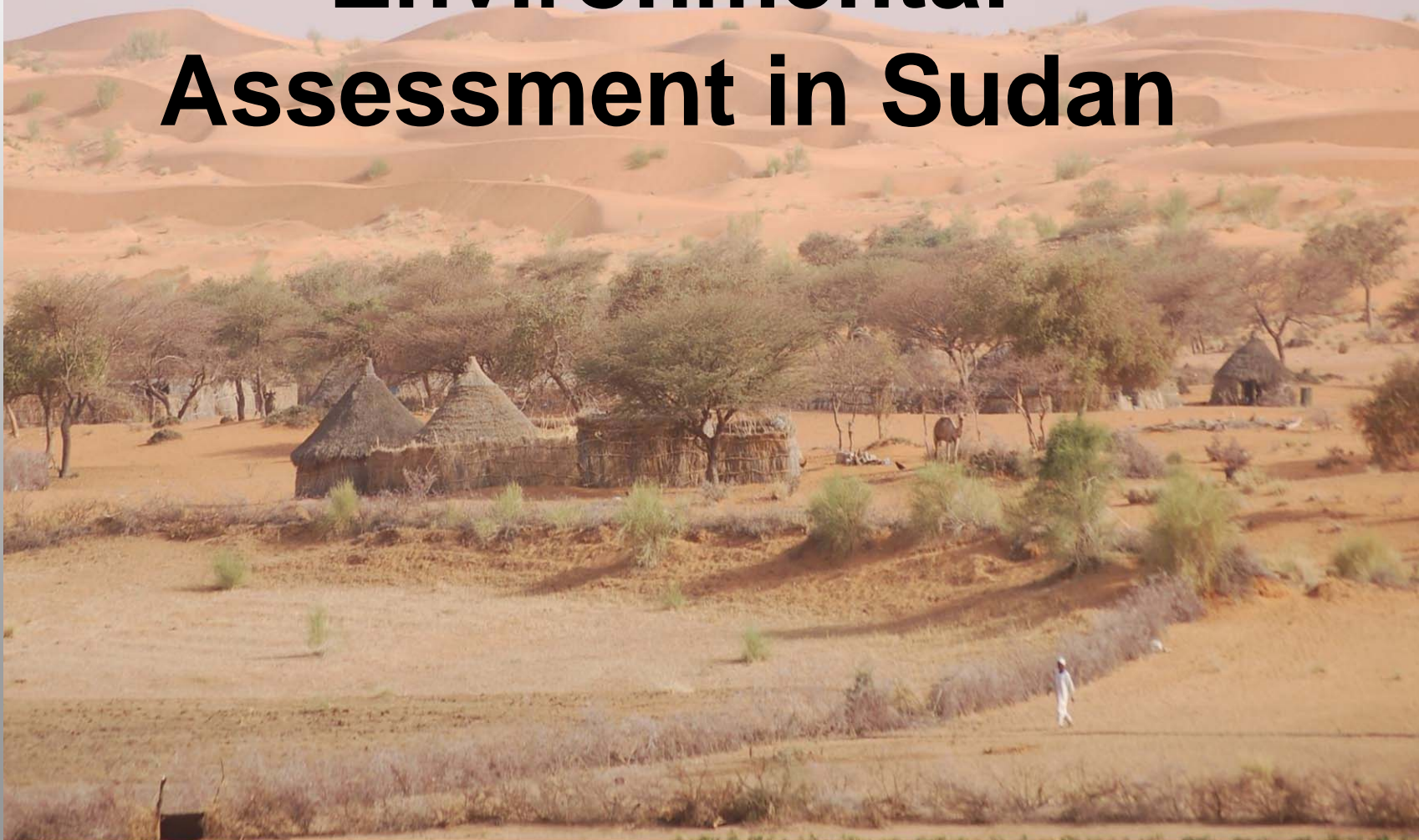


# **UNEP Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment in Sudan**



# Assessment scope and methodology



- Initial desk study followed by fieldwork, remote sensing and analysis
- Fieldwork carried out by a core team of UNEP experts and a wide range of international and national partners
- 10 field missions undertaken between January and August 2006 (approx. 12,000 km covered)
- Extensive consultation on data collection and debate on findings and recommendations – strong buy-in at the national level.



## Key Finding (+)

The combination of peace in the south and significant natural and intellectual resources opens a major window of opportunity for embedding sustainable development principles into the recovery process for Sudan

Sudan is a large, complex and diverse country – outside of Darfur many positive things are happening - including in the environment sector



**Teak Plantation, Southern Sudan**

# Positive indicators

- 75% of the country is at peace
- Major oil revenues now flowing in
- Government in reform process at national level and under development in the south
- Major forest and wildlife resources remain in the south
- Red Sea marine environment in very good condition
- Good local recognition of the importance of environmental issues
- Strong technical capacity in the north
- Growing recognition of environment-climate change - conflict and development issues within the international community



## Key Finding (-)

Desertification, climate change and other forms of environmental degradation strongly contribute to poverty, displacement and conflict in dryland Sudan

A complex and major problem predicted to get worse – a catalyst and root cause for massive social change which could overwhelm development efforts and perpetuate aid dependency



Degraded rangeland in Darfur



# Negative indicators

- A 50 to 200 km southward shift of the boundary between desert and semi-desert has occurred since the 1930s
- Rainfall in Northern Darfur has dropped over 30% over 50 years
- Climate change and crop models forecast a drop of 20-70% in food production capacity in parts of the Sahel Belt by 2030 – home to several million rural Sudanese
- Ongoing deforestation crisis in northern and central Sudan
- Large scale displacement and conflict already directly linked to resource scarcity and environmental degradation
- Efforts to combat these challenges are limited in scale and as yet uncoordinated



# Detailed findings - The impact of conflict on the environment



- The direct impacts from armed conflict were limited
  - Some targeted natural resource destruction (forests in Darfur)
- The indirect impacts were severe:
  - Population displacement
  - Conflict-related resource exploitation
  - Short term survival strategies vs. sustainable development
  - Lack of environmental governance and rule of law

# Environmental degradation and resource scarcity as an underlying cause of conflict in dryland Sudan- including Darfur

- Competition for scarce resources has always been a catalyst for conflict between different rural groups
- Historical reconciliation mechanisms have broken down and pressures are on the increase
- Increased human and livestock population pressures
- Displacement by mechanized agricultural schemes
- Reduced and unreliable rainfall
- Desertification, soil depletion and soil erosion are ongoing
- General trend for displacement to the south and to the cities and increased frequency of local level clashes





# The environmental impact of the provision of international aid to Sudan

- The UN in Sudan oversees nearly US\$2 Billion in expenditure per annum, mostly in the form of humanitarian assistance, but also peacekeeping and development.
- Aid represents at least 2-4% of the national economy
- Environmental safeguards and mitigation measures are considered to be inadequate- this is an issue not just for Sudan
- There are deep and complex issues related to the large scale provision of food aid as an interim measure in the context of a degrading rural environment



# **Other detailed findings provided for population displacement, industry, urban issues, agriculture, forestry ,water, wildlife, marine and governance**



**Kob antelope migration 1983: A very recent WCS survey confirms this population has thrived despite the conflict**

## General recommendations

- **Invest** in environmental management: to support recovery and development and lasting peace in Darfur and to help avoid local conflict over natural resources elsewhere in Sudan
- **Build capacity and awareness** at all levels of government and improve legislation
- All UN relief and development projects in Sudan should **integrate environmental considerations** in order to reduce negative impacts and improve the sustainability of the solutions offered.
- National and regional governments should **assume increasing responsibility for investment** in the environment and sustainable development



# The way forward

- Estimated cost of the 85 detailed recommendations is USD 120 million over 3 to 5 years
- Majority of the funds should be contributed by Sudan government
- UNEP plans to establish a Sudan country programme for at least 2007-2009, to focus on governance, technical assistance and capacity-building, awareness-raising and advocacy
- Further information:  
<http://sudanreport.unep.ch>,  
<http://www.unep.org/sudan>,  
<http://postconflict.unep.ch>

