

National Report to the Fourth Session of  
the United Nation Forum on Forests

Republic of the Sudan  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Forests National Corporation

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## **II. Progress and Issues Related to Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action**

### **General:**

1. **The** information on initiatives taken and lessons learned since 1997 and historical background about Forestry Sector in Sudan can be found in the following reports which have been submitted to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO):
    - One. Country report about forestry sector in Sudan as part of the process of the Forestry Outlook Study in Africa (FOSA), July 2001. The report contains the following issues:
      - o Country background: reflect the current status of forestry sector.
      - o The change drivers, which identify and discuss those factors that are likely to influence the forestry sector in the coming two decades (2000-2020).
      - o Forestry sector in 2020: This addresses the outlook to forest resources production potential and projected demand that would be placed on resources.
      - o The change facilitation: changes within the forestry sector, changes outside the sector and who will do what.
    - Two. Country Case Study of Sudan on Implementation of National Forest Programme (nfp): which discusses assessment of the development and implementation of nfp of Sudan that include the nfp in the past and the future programme, the legislation, institution and policies.
    - Three. Country report (Arabic) submitted to the Near East Commission of FAO, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> sessions. The reports cover the following:
      - ? Introduction: historical background and current status.
      - ? Main issues and its progress: Comprehensive National Strategy (1992-2002), FOSA, legislation and reforms.
      - ? Conservation and sustainable management of forestry.
      - ? Trade.
      - ? Role of stakeholders in forestry sector.
      - ? Regional and International Cooperation and Support.
      - ? Forestry issues in International Conventions.
    - Four. Concept Note: Presented to National Forest Programme Facility, FAO – October 2003.

The following is the summary of the report:  
The ongoing National Forest Programme (nfp) of Sudan is based on the forest sector review conducted by the World Bank and other Co-financiers in 1984/1986. That review was adopted as the country's nfp because its outcome concurred with basic principles of the nfp even before the final concept and purpose of the nfp was evolved by the IPF/IFF process. Towards the implementation of the review recommendations several important achievements were realised including:

      - ? Reorganisation of the administrative set-up of the forestry sector through the establishment of a parastatal semi-independent Forests National Corporation (FNC) to replace the old Forests Administration (1989).
      - ? Forest Policy revision (1986).
      - ? Enactment of a New Forest Legislation (1989).
      - ? Forest Products Consumption Study (1995) and National Inventory of The forest resources (1998).
      - ? Increased levels of forest reservation, protection and reforestation.
- However, several important changes have occurred since the adoption of the nfp that prompted its updating and these include:

- ? The adoption of a new National Constitution (1998) that emphasised the importance of forestry in environmental conservation and as a source of goods and services for the country as a whole.
- ? Administrative reorganisation that opted for more decentralisation through the adoption of a federal system of governance where 26 semi-autonomous states were created.
- ? Increased international commitments that resulted from the country's endorsement of agreements and conventions emanating from UNCED and other fora.
- ? Social, economic and environmental changes that took place in the country.
- ? The need to realise the participation of all stakeholders and sectors related to forestry in the formulation and implementation of the nfp and ensure its development in line with the Guidelines issued by FAO (1996).
- ? The request for partnership with the Facility is needed to advance the nfp process in the following:
  1. Help to launch the nfp process through participatory approaches and training of actors involved in the process through staging of awareness campaigns on forestry in general and participatory issues in particular.
  2. Open up the debate on forestry to the wide public and provide a platform for review, learning and conflict resolution.
  3. Help integrate the ongoing process of forest policy revision, legislative reform and institutional reorganisation currently conducted under a FAO/TCP into the new updated nfp.
  4. Help co-ordinate the nfp with related strategies of environmental conservation, land use planning and water resources management.
  5. Help categorise new nfp as an integral part of the National development Plan.
  6. Define means and ways of meeting regional and international commitments.

**For** the assessment of the IPF/IFF proposal for action in the national context, FNC formed technical committees, which illustrated the linkages between the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action and the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators and discussed the relevance, priority and status of implementation.

**Mechanisms** to facilitate stakeholders' participation (which includes related governmental institutions, civil society and local communities) in forest sector planning, decision-making and forests management can be summarized in the following:

Forest policy and legislation clearly gives the right, allows for community participation, and encourages stakeholders to invest and take part in forest development.

Forest Law (1989) and Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources Law (2002) stated clearly the right to own community and private forests and facilitated the declaration of private lands as reserved forests. The law also stated that private and community forests are to be managed by their owners.

According to FNC investment policy, partnerships were initiated with the private sector whereby private owners are involved in planning and management of certain areas of lands as private forests.

Awareness campaigns and the ongoing extension programmes remarkably contributed to stakeholders' participation.

The National Arbor Day celebrations are annually organized during August at both the state and national levels. Activities carried out include: seedlings distribution; tree planting on roads, houses, institutions, private and community forests; open public meetings; exhibitions; field visits and seminars. The celebrations were successfully implemented with the active

involvement of relevant ministries, governmental executive bureau, schools, NGOs, private sector, village committees, community based organizations, local leaders, media and the public. The Tree Day celebrations received the attention of the state and national government and were honored by the attendance of federal and state ministers, state governors and the presidency of the republic at the national level. Three prizes were given annually to the winners after a national and state level competition. The Prize of the Presidency of the republic for the winning state, the prize of the ministry of agriculture for three winning community woodlots and the FNC prize for private owners, schools and institutions.

The National School Drawing Competition was announced and implemented this year and showed a great success in involving a wide sector of schools, pupils, teachers, families, primary education authorities and extension agents. Prizes were given to three winners.

There is a noticeable increase in the number and areas of community and private forests and an increase in areas planted with trees within the national agricultural schemes. The implementation of 10% and 5% rates of shelterbelts in rainfed and irrigated agricultural schemes had also witnessed a high level.

In 2001, the forest service of the Sudan celebrated its Hundredth Anniversary with the aim of revising and updating Forest Policies and Legislation; Honorary those who contributed to the promotion of the forestry sector in the Sudan. Stakeholders were involved in a number of activities, these included:

- ? Hosting the fifteenth session of the Near East Forestry Commission for the first time after 26 years with active participation of international, regional and national organizations and institutions.
- ? Regional workshop on the role of private sector in forest policy.
- ? Opening of the Forestry Permanent Exhibition at FNC headquarters to serve the interests of researchers, students, visitors, delegations, institutions and the public.
- ? During the period a number of workshops, seminars and training courses were implemented and targeted some stakeholders.

Of the most effective mechanisms was the intensive involvement of the media in all the activities of FNC. The weekly 15 minutes' programme in the National Radio continued to attract listeners interested in forestry and environmental issues. The level of participation was raised by a monthly competition for listeners and prizes for winners. Other programmes in Radio and TV also played an important role. The peak is reached during the annual National Tree Day Celebrations when all the media are involved.

Constraints encountered include lack of appropriate training; weak participation in some areas; inadequate budgets, vehicles and equipments.

#### **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4**

##### *Social and cultural Aspects of the forests*

#### 2. Benefits from utilization of forests genetic resources:

The importance of management of forest genetic resources has only recently been recognized in the Sudan as well as in many other developing countries. Since 1997 FAO in collaboration with regional forestry commissions and related countries organized a number of regional and sub-regional workshops in forest genetic resources issues. Sudan was represented in two workshops organized for North, East and Central Africa. Still the whole issue of forest genetic resources has not yet been reflected in the policy and the legislations of each of these individual countries. Also issues related to access, transfer and benefit sharing of forest genetic resources has not been fully realized.

A sub-regional forum on management and utilization of forest genetic resources for Sub-Saharan Africa was established in 1999. Sudan joined this forum as a member in the year 2000. This was followed by the establishment of the National Steering Committee for the Conservation and Utilization of Forest Genetic Resources. The committee was formed, following the Minister of Agriculture and Forest Degree No. 2 (2000), from all relevant national institutions. The role of the committee is:

1. To give general directives and guidance for a national plan for the conservation and utilization of forest genetic resources.
2. To co-ordinate research work related to the development and improvement of indigenous tree species as a source food, wood, medicine and fodder.
3. To assess training needs in the field of conservation and utilization of forest genetic resources.
4. Establish forest genetic resources protocols.

It is only recently that attempts have been made to regulate access and transfer of forest genetic resources. The Ministerial decree 8 (2001), issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry is one step in that direction. According to this decree, only national research institutions are allowed to conduct research activities in the field of forest genetic resource and transfer of forest genetic resources outside the country must be approved by Forest National Corporation. It also restricted the exchange of information on indigenous forest genetic resources to the relevant national institutions.

Following the preparation of the country study on biodiversity in 2001 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAB) was prepared and was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2002. The plan identified a number of issues and project proposals. Among these issues identified for studies is the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of Genetic resource in 2003. The “Assessment of the Capacity Building Needs and Country specific priorities in Biodiversity Management and Conservation in Sudan Project“ carried out a study to assess the capacity building needs in relations to managing access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. The study covers all aspects of biological resources including forestry. The study assesses the present situation of access to genetic resource and sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

The study covers the areas of policies, legislation, institutional framework awareness related to access and benefit sharing of forests genetic resources. In each of these areas it identified the weaknesses and strengths. The study suggests specific capacity building needs. It also pointed out areas of policy, legislation and institutional reform required to facilitate access to and transfer of forest genetic resources and benefit sharing

### 3. Strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management

The involvement of women in forestry activities dates back to the late seventies and early eighties. They played an important role in rural areas where women do most of the agricultural practices. They worked in the forest nurseries, village nurseries, extension campaigns, training of trainers and formation of community based organizations. Progress is apparent from the increase in the numbers of women involved in forestry practices.

Recruitment of women graduates for work in forestry started in 1981. They worked in different fields of work at headquarters and states level. Women foresters participated in forestry activities of extension, training, inventory, management, planning, afforestation, utilization and energy. They largely contributed to raising the level of awareness and forest protection. From the amount of the FNC workforce in the headquarter 140 of whom 40% are women.

Community based organizations greatly contributed to strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management. Women joined unions and societies and established women committees. These organizations enabled them to participate effectively. The following are some examples of such successful women organizations:

- ? The Women Union, Belail Community Forest, Southern Darfur State; A total membership of 460 women in a remote area. They succeeded in establishing two women woodlots for productive and protective purposes, digging two wells for provision of water, producing gum arabic and establishing a tree nursery.
- ? Hmadnalla Women Rural Development Project; Sennar State, three phases (1994 – 2000); the project covered areas of illiteracy, awareness in techniques of combating desertification, establishing community forests, social development and training.
- ? Matataib Women Woodlots, Kassala State; Women societies established woodlots for production of building poles and fuel.
- ? Women Forestry Project, River Nile State; Gained experience in involving the women in forests planting and protection in the area. Implemented training courses for women, established home nurseries and disseminated improved cook stoves.
- ? Gum Arabic women societies, Northern Kordofan; increased the production of gum arabic and contributed to the welfare of the community. They also disseminated improved cook stoves.

Constraints encountered included; the increased family burden on women; lack of appropriate training; problems of desertification and its impacts on the agricultural production; access of women to land; shrinkage of international support to women projects; security in some areas and problems of displacement.

#### 4. Integrating local and indigenous communities in sustainable forests management

Integrating local communities in sustainable forest management has been achieved through community forestry programmes namely; tree planting campaigns, Gum Arabic production campaigns; improved cook stoves programmes, alternative energy programmes (LPG and Kerosene).

Forest policy historically recognized the local people's rights, privileges and benefits from the forests. These included rights of water, grazing, wood collection, right to roads and others. Forestry authorities respect local people rights and privileges. During the 80's some forestry projects integrated local communities in sustainable forest management (SFM). To mention some: SOS-Sahel project in Elain forest/ Northern Kordofan; Forestry Development project in Rawashda and WadKabo forests /Eastern Sudan; and Rehabilitation of Gum arabic Belt project /Kordofan. The projects of community forests and village woodlots encouraged the integration of local communities in decision making regarding the management of forests.

Participation of local communities in SFM is encountered by some constraints of disputes on resources like land and water resources. Forestry being a long term investment does not encourage involvement of local communities in production and management.

Effect of drought on nomads and the local people dependency on forest to provide fuel and building material are also factors that negatively affect SFM.

Capacity building and technology transfer was achieved through training of trainers and extension campaigns targeted to beneficiaries.

Establishment of Gum arabic producers' Societies largely contributed to strengthening local farmers and served as a key factor in organizing them. This enabled them to play a crucial role in decision-making, crop marketing and technology transfer.

*Traditional forest – related knowledge:*

5. inventorying, cataloging and applying traditional forests related knowledge

No national inventory and cataloging of indigenous forests related knowledge has been conducted in Sudan, expected some adhere inventory made by some government institutions examples.

- ☒ Higher council for environmental and natural resources conducted surveys for assessment of biodiversity resources in some Sudanese states including the local practices for utilization of these species.
- ☒ National center for research, Aromatic and medical center carried out survey's for assessment of folkloric and medical uses of trees by some individuals and communities in certain Sudanese states (Atlas of medical plants in Sudan).
- ☒ Indigenous knowledge of forestry practices is not confined to tribal groups, individual, or the original inhabitants of one specific area. Any community or individuals can admit possession of this knowledge. In the Sudan since longtime, rural communities used to have indigenous methods to rationalize the use of forests resources and minimize risks to their livelihood. This indigenous knowledge is very diverse and examples can be drowning form different parts of Sudan.
- ☒ The traditional rainfed cropping system, using long bush – fallow periods for restoration of soil fertility is an example of traditional management of forestry resources.
- ☒ Pastoralists mobility from north dry areas to the south wetter areas of the semi arid and savanna zones of the Sudan to reduce the pressure on low carrying capacity of the grazing areas.
- ☒ The use of tabaldi tree's stem for storing rainwater to be used during dry periods is an adaptation strategy to cope with extreme weather conditions.
- ☒ The use of Neem tree leaves as a pesticide to protect the stored grain form the bores especially in mechanized rainfed schemes.
- ☒ Soil conservation on sloping areas, (Jebel Marra terraces) to reduce run- off and facilitate precipitation for planting crops. The local indigenous communities in these areas had developed and applied this practice since long time, thus contributed to resources conservation and management.
- ☒ Micro catchment: The manual construction of micro catchment by local communities in El Ain forest, Northern Kordofan State, this increase water infiltration in the heavily compacted insoil (Gardud) predominating the area.
- ☒ Protection of forests form the fires: The local communities in Bahr El Gazal and equatorial area are applying indigenous practices for the drying of weeds in the heavy rainfall areas, in scattered pockets that easy can be burned without the risks of the fire extension to another pockets. The purpose of this technique is to prevent late burring due to increase area of dry weeds.
- ☒ Local forest resources management: The local communities in Eastern Sudan are using local methods for the management of Dom Palm forests by intentionally leaving the female trees, protect them from grazing so as to be used for human and animal feeds. Many examples can be shown which clearly indicated the richness of the local indigenous knowledge in forests resources conservation and management. The research in this field is very weak and a lot of researches can be directed to tap this wealth of national heritage.

6. Supporting the application of intellectual property rights and/ or protection for traditional forest related knowledge

In Sudan, no application of intellectual property rights and other protection regions for traditional forest related knowledge. In recent years some attention was paid to the development and documentation of traditional knowledge, this was reflected in the following:

- Comprehensive National Strategy (CNS) 1992 – 2002 is calls for:
- ? Special consideration was given to the local knowledge for adaptation mechanism related to drought and desertification problem in the Sudan as precautionary measures to be consider when planning for national food security.
- ? Developing traditional knowledge will ensure the adoption of the government of balanced management approaches that cater for the immediate local community needs without compromise the needs of the future generation.
- ? Enable local communities' participation in the developing plans and ensure the integration of their local knowledge with the scientific and applied researches considering sustainable natural resources management.
- ? Also with the help of GEF / UNDP training and IUCN as technical advisor, Sudan was able to develop its strategy and action for biodiversity activities implementation in the country. The strategy was put together after a countrywide assessment of the biodiversity component.
- ? Sudan ratified the following conservation which components related to traditional knowledge.
- ? Conventions: London convention on the presentation of fauna, flora and their natural State 1933 ratified in 1935.
- ? Rome convention for the preservation of flora 1951 ratified in 1971.
- ? African convention on the conservation of Natural Resources 1968 ratified in 1973.
- ? Convention of biological diversity 1992 ratified in 1994.
- ? United nation convention for combating desertification 1994 ratified in 1995.
- ? The national biodiversity strategy deals only with the convention aspect of biodiversity, while those of sustainable use and sharing of benefits seem to have been overlooked and civil society involvement in the process was also limited.
- ? The convention of biological diversity recognizes the value of traditional knowledge in article 8 (1).
- ? Sudan legislation have not taken any measures for the traditional knowledge – Patent Act 1971 and Copy Right Act 197, 1996 do not contain any necessary measure for the respect, preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous and local communities. These laws need to be amended to cope with regional and international changes regarding the rights of ownership and possession of the people concerned with the traditional knowledge.

*Scientific forest – related knowledge*

7. Disseminating scientific knowledge to all interested parties.

. Conduction of extension messages through extension services of the FNC work as a linkage between the research units and different target groups.

Publication of the following three main Journals:

\* Sudan Silva

\*Journal of agricultural Services, University of Khartoum.

\* Journal of natural resources and environmental studies (JONARES), university of Juba.

FNC gives special attention to the organization of the farmer's UNION as a tool for dissemination of scientific knowledge, in this context 80 gum arabic societies were established in different localities at gum belt considering the gender and the equity.

## 8. *Enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy:*

Reciprocal representation of sister departments in Board of Directors of (FNC) to ensure the consistency in the policy formulation and more collaboration in decision making.

-Establishment of joint consultative committee for forestry research, and forest services.

### *Monitoring Assessment and reporting, concept, terminology and definitions*

#### 9. Improving information on national forest resources

Memorandum of Understanding between the different partners for the clear division of responsibilities around well defined principles to ensure collaboration, networking and technology transfer Enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy processes

Collection of information on national forest resources started with the establishment of forestry services in Sudan about the beginning of last century. The first reports depended on observations and limited ground surveys of *Sunt reverian* forest along the Blue Nile River. Jackson undertook the first comprehensive assessment in 1958. This assessment resulted in an ecological classification of the vegetation in the Sudan, which remained as the only reference for quite a long time.

Other works included the forest inventory and market demand survey which covered Southern Blue Nile and North Bahr el Ghagal in 1984. This was followed by woody biomass distribution mapping in 1990, which covered Central and Eastern Sudan.

The most recent survey was done in 1995 – 1998 which has been known as the National Forest Inventory covered nearly 25% of the area of Sudan that was confined between latitudes 10° – 16° N because of security resources. However, the surveyed balk of the agricultural and livestock raising activities. Most of the forests products consumed in urban and suburban areas come from these areas. This survey the forest products consumption survey carried out during the same period indicated a total annual deficit of 11m<sup>3</sup> of wood in the area.

The Africover project produced a digital database of land cover using visual interpretation of TM satellite images. This database and the Africover methodology offer a better chance for monitoring and updating the last National Forest Inventory.

The experiences formed during these surveys are enormous that it will be beneficial to exchange experiences and to participate in such surveys in neighbour countries.

### *Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management*

#### 10. Developing and using criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

At Feb. 2003 the final report of criteria and indicators has been sanctioned by His excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Forests, as an important official document for sustainable forest management in the Sudan.

The criteria and indicators can play a crucial role as a basic backbone for decision making and policy implication in sustainable forest management.

The criteria and indicators report is an outcome of multi – disciplinary team representing the relevant government agencies, civil society organizations and other related stakeholders.

The team followed the same format of the Near – East, FAO Regional Office, with special reference to the present priority and national visions.

### **III. Preparation of the report**

11. This report is the product of consensus and collaboration of different government agencies and stakeholder groups. Normally FNC imply the participatory approach in such kind of work for wide reflection of collective vision in forests.

The process of preparation of this report started by formulating a multi disciplinary team representing research, education, NGOs, civil society and private sector.

The team concentrated in addressing and developing the most appropriate experiences in implementing proposal for action and extraction of the most relevant information.

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