

# FAO IN SUDAN



AN UPDATE FROM THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS APRIL 2012

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Sudan's new land cover atlas
- Assisting returnees in Abyei
- Protecting livestock in Blue Nile
- Why cluster coordination is important

## WHAT DOES FAO DO?

FAO recognizes that the structural solution to hunger lies in improving agricultural productivity in countries prone to food shortages. In Sudan, FAO helps farmers, herders, fishers and other vulnerable groups recover from crisis and improve their food security. FAO also works with all levels of government to prepare for and respond to food and agriculture threats and emergencies

## CONTACT US

FAO Sudan  
PO Box 1117 K  
Osman Digna Street  
Khartoum, Sudan  
Phone: +249 1  
83779367/8  
Email: [fao-sd@fao.org](mailto:fao-sd@fao.org)

## EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-Chief  
MaiMoussa Abari  
FAO Representative

Editor  
Zoie Jones  
Communications Officer  
[Zoie.Jones@FAO.org](mailto:Zoie.Jones@FAO.org)

## MARHABA

Welcome to the latest update from FAO Sudan. It has been a busy time for the agency as we prepare for the coming planting season. We have also just completed a restructure of our Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit. Some of our field operations are now smaller and more efficient, and I would like to take this opportunity to reassure our stakeholders that the unit is still operating in the same field locations (in North, West and South Darfur, Abyei/Agok, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Kassala).

Our SIFSIA team (Sudan Integrated Food Security Information for Action) has successfully launched a new land cover database and atlas that will greatly help decision-makers at all levels (government, donors, other UN agencies, implementing partners etc) with their planning and understanding of Sudan's natural resources. You can read more about the atlas in this update.

This month Sudan also saw the launch of a regional project for increased fish trade and marketing - more on that in this update too.

Mr MaiMoussa Abari  
FAO Representative  
Sudan

## MAPPING SUDAN'S LAND COVER

A new FAO land cover atlas of Sudan has sparked interest within the country and further afield because of its value as a planning and decision-making tool. The atlas and an accompanying database were launched at a high-profile event in Khartoum this month. The atlas was produced by FAO's SIFSIA (Sudan Integrated Food Security Information for Action) programme which is funded by the European Commission. SIFSIA worked in partnership with the Government of Sudan's Food Security Technical Secretariat, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Remote Sensing Authority and the Forests National Corporation.

The atlas reveals that less than 13 percent of Sudan's land is used for agriculture, while more than 50 percent is desert. Ten percent is covered by trees and less than 1 percent is covered by water.

The atlas was produced using a new database of high-resolution satellite images that have been analyzed and categorized by FAO experts and SIFSIA-trained government specialists. The yellow sections on the maps indicate agriculture, the green represents trees, the grey is the vast desert and dots of red are urban areas.

*“It is an information-rich database which will significantly assist planning and environmental policy decision making in Sudan”*

**SIFSIA’s Chief Technical Adviser Alemu Asfaw**

SIFSIA is funded by the European Commission and is implemented in partnership with the Government of Sudan.



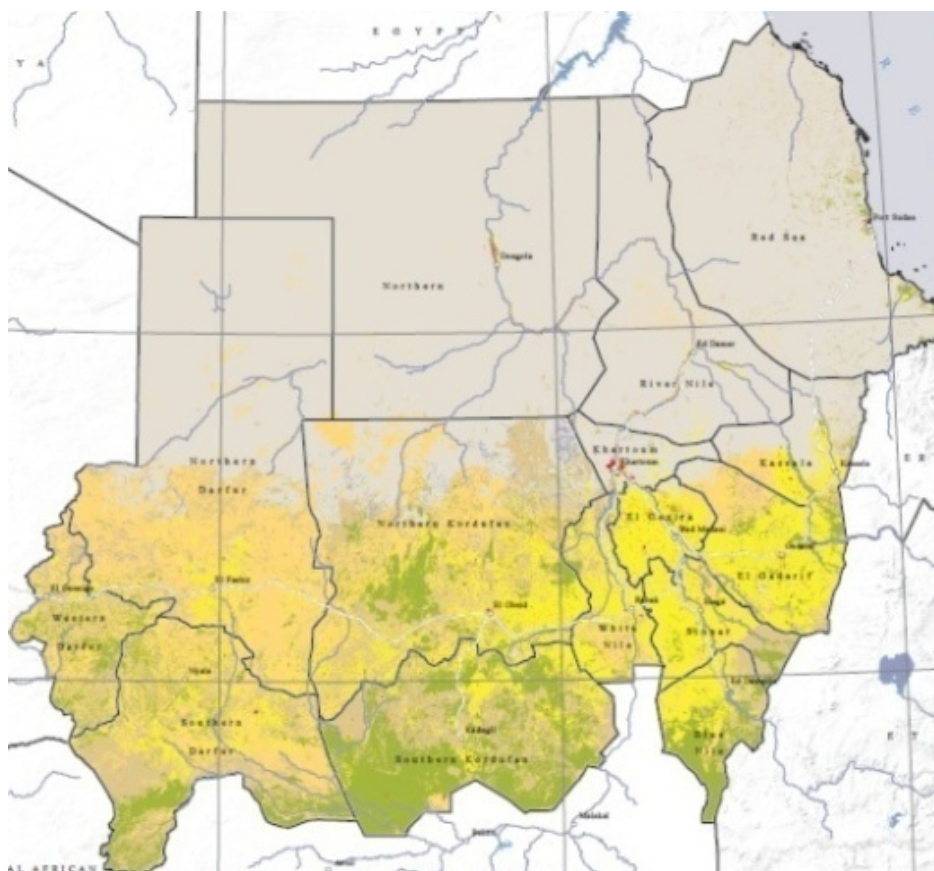
SIFSIA is already using the atlas to create a ‘change map’ for Gedarf which compares the current satellite images with similar data from 2000 and will reveal how the land cover has changed. The atlas is also being used for a SIFSIA study of the supply of wood fuels in Sudan, called WISDOM (Woodfuel Integrated Supply and Demand Overview Mapping), that will help in sustainably managing the renewable natural resource.

The atlas is being distributed on CD and in hard copy to government line ministries, research institutes, UN

agencies and Non-Government Organizations for their use. If you are interested in finding out more about the atlas you can email the communications officer Zoie Jones at: [Zoie.Jones@fao.org](mailto:Zoie.Jones@fao.org)

## FIRST RETURNS TO ABYEI

Figures collected at the start of April by the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) reveal that more than 5,000 IDPs have voluntarily returned to locations north of the Kiir River including Abyei town. It comes as FAO’s Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit field



SIFSIA’s national land cover map. State maps are also included in the new land cover atlas.

staff working in Abyei and Agok report that farmers are starting to cultivate land for the coming planting season. Improved seeds and quality tools have been distributed to 2,000 vulnerable farming households, and FAO and its implementing partners are installing grinding mills and greenhouses, and distributing watering cans, treadle pumps and 400kgs of vegetable seeds.

## PROTECTING LIVELIHOOD ASSETS IN BLUE NILE



Community Animal Health Workers in action in Tadamon, Blue Nile.

FAO in partnership with USAID and the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries in Blue Nile has completed a vaccination and treatment campaign of livestock in Demazine, Rosaires and Tadamon. Community Animal Health Workers carried out the vaccinations. Some of the livestock show poor body condition because they've been unable to continue their traditional migration south, across the new international border, to reach richer pastures. Many of the animals are concentrated in small pockets, thereby increasing overgrazing and the risk of animal diseases spreading.

## SHARING EXPERTISE

FAO Sudan has hosted a 3-day Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) training course in Khartoum on the basics of cash transfer programmes in agriculture and livestock. The participants included representatives from national ministries and NGOs. Cash transfers and vouchers are increasingly being used as a way of

helping vulnerable people while stimulating local markets.

FAO also led a training seminar in Khartoum on rolling out Disaster Risk Management in the agriculture-based livelihood sector in Sudan. Thirty people including government line ministry staff took part in the two-day event. A technical network on DRM in the Food Security and Livelihoods cluster has now been established.



## FISHING'S FUTURE

A workshop on promoting formal marketing and trade of fish and fish products has been held in Port Sudan as part of a wider Horn of Africa campaign involving IGAD member countries. The workshop was inaugurated by the FAO Representative Mr MaiMoussa Abari and the Federal Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Faisal Hassan Ibrahim. Stakeholders involved in Sudan's fishing industry attended, including representatives from the private sector, government and fisheries cooperatives. Technical papers were presented on fish trade initiatives and programmes in the Red Sea, private sector involvement in fish trade and improvements in fishing equipment and infrastructure.



## EDITORIAL: WHY CLUSTER COORDINATION IS IMPORTANT

FAO Sudan is the co-lead agency with WFP of Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) clusters across Sudan. In simple terms, a cluster is a group of humanitarian organizations working together in collaboration with the government of the affected country to address needs in a particular sector during a new or protracted emergency. (A cluster is also sometimes called a sector).

The Khartoum-based cluster includes UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and representatives from the Government of Sudan. The cluster approach is therefore a way of coordinating activities of all of these groups to improve the effectiveness of programme delivery and the efficiency of resource allocation. Clusters also strengthen partnerships, enhance accountability and share knowledge.

Cluster coordination is therefore a valuable tool for donors as well. It ensures strategic planning that minimizes gaps and duplication of interventions. This is partly achieved through each cluster's 3Ws mapping: Who does What and Where. The cluster approach could also simply be called good management practice.

An example of clusters at work comes from the earthquake response in

Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2006. There, the Shelter Cluster had to answer this question: If there is only enough plastic sheeting for one per family when the standard calls for two, should half the affected population receive the minimum standard while the other half receive nothing, or should everyone receive half of what is required – thereby more than doubling the distribution costs?

FAO Sudan's Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator Sabine Schenk co-leads the Khartoum-based FSL cluster. "We are more than the sum of our parts when we coordinate and collaborate," Ms Schenk said. The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agrees. Its 2009 global evaluation of the cluster approach found that the benefits of coordination outweigh its costs. Critics of the cluster approach may say that it's become too bureaucratic, but the alternative to coordination is chaos. And coordination may cost, but no coordination may cost lives.

*"We are more  
than the sum  
of our parts  
when we  
coordinate and  
collaborate"*

**Sabine Schenk,  
FAO Sudan  
Senior Emergency  
and Rehabilitation  
Coordinator**



**Children at a community meeting in  
Demazine, Blue Nile.**