

Sudan report for the 9th COP Meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Report Indicators Information

Inventory and assessment:

Action 1-1-1:3

While preparing the RIS, the Scientific Information were updated for the following Ramsar sites

1-Dinder National Park

2-Sunut Forest of Khartoum

3-Mangroves and coral reef site on the Sudanese Red Sea Coast

Policies and Legislation:

Action 2-1.2

Sudan submitted the necessary documents to join the convention by 9,Nov. , 2004, signed by the President and was on force as partner by the 7th of May 2005.

Sudan has a National Strategy and a National Environmental law Some articles consider water resources conservation.

Integrating Wise use into Sustainable Development

Wetlands ecosystems in Sudan have under gone serious ecological degradation with potentially significant impacts on biodiversity . Factors contributing to this situation include generally the Civil war inadequate planning, poor land use policies, ineffective management, law enforcement and a lack of understanding of the role of economic value of wetlands. Wetland conservation and management are most important ecological intervention for the future of Sudan. Some of the on going projects in Sudan e.g. Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) project considering this issue of integrating wise use into Sustainable Development –in Dinder Ramsar site.

Restoration and rehabilitation:

Removal of sediment from two wetland areas in Dinder National Park was made through Dinder Development and Rehabilitation Project (executed by HCENR and Wildlife Conservation General Administration).

Local Communities, indigenous people and culture values:

Awareness campaigns were conducted for local communities surrounding the Dinder Ramsar site by Dinder Development and Rehabilitation Project

Ramsar Site Designation:

The RIS for three, mentioned above, sites were submitted for designation as Ramsar sites . A project proposal was submitted to WWF to review and update the information regarding the Sudd area so as to be designated a Ramsar site. Other areas such as lakes Kundy and El Abid and Wahat El Nokila in Western Sudan are so important to be designated as Ramsar sites.

Ramsar Site management and monitoring:

Through Dinder Development and Rehabilitation Project, rehabilitation of some of the Wetlands in Dinder N. Park is going on as well as the ecological baseline surveys were conducted in support for the management interventions and conservation of the biodiversity that depend on these wetlands. Scientific reports are available

Shared wetland management:-

Sudan is participating to Nile Basin Initiative Project (NBI) . Joint actions are planned.

Collaboration with other institutions:

HCENR had established a National Wetland Committee (NWC) composed of almost all stakeholders, representing :

- Ministry of Environment and Physical Development (HCENR)
- Ministry of Irrigation
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Science and Technology (WRC).
- National Forestry Corporation
- Wildlife Conservation General Administration
- Institute of Environmental Studies (Univ. of Khartoum)
- Hydrology Department
- Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society (SECS)
- National Sudanese Committee for UNESCO

Sharing expertise and information:

***A National Workshop was held on the 5th -6th Sept, 2001, in Khartoum (organized by HCENR and attended by the Ramsar Coordinator for Africa) provide exchange of information and issued recommendations emphasizing Ramsar concept and principles .**

***Sudan was attended Cop 8 as observer.**

***Sudan also attended the preparatory African Regional Meeting for the 9th COP Meeting held during 6-10 April 2005 ,Arusha, Tanzania**

*** The Sudan ratification of RAMSAR Convention was a major event celebrated on the Environment Day (5th June,2005) in Khartoum.**

***A national workshop on Ramsar related issues was held in Khartoum at 5th of June and addressed by the Minister of Environment and Urban Planning who stated the importance of joining the convention and the need to promote national programs in conservation and management of wetlands.**

*** The workshop which was attended by representatives of ministers and agencies related to wetlands discussed three technical reports of Dinder N. Park, the Khartoum Sunut Forest and Mangroves and Coral Reef Sites . The workshop adopted several recommendations to strengthen the national wetlands conservation and management.**

***A news Conference hosted by Sahafa (one of the leading daily papers in Sudan) was convened in Khartoum on the 14th of June,2005 and issues related to Ramsar were covered. The Sahafa published several articles on the issue.**

Financing:

With the assistance of Ramsar Convention and WWF (Water for life Project) Sudan was able to prepare the RIS for the 3 nominated sites. Rehabilitation of some of the Wetlands in Dinder N. Park as well as the ecological baseline surveys were conducted with the support of GEF and UNDP.

Convention Institutional Mechanisms:

HCENR as a focal point for the convention held several meetings for the NWC discussing all issues related to implementation of the convention and management of the sites.

Institutional Capacity of Parties:

HCENR as a focal point of the convention, needs the support and capacity building to facilitate the activities of the NWC and conduct a program of public awareness for the proper implementation of the convention

Training:

The Dinder project held several training programs for the local communities and the game officers and scouts in the Dinder Ramsar Site.