



WADI PARTNERS

FOOD SECURITY AND DISASTER RESILIENCE THROUGH
SUSTAINABLE DRYLANDS MANAGEMENT
IN NORTH DARFUR, SUDAN.



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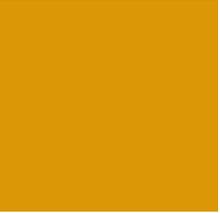
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LIST OF FIGURES	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
1. INTRODUCTION TO THE ECO-DRR PROJECT IN SUDAN	10
1.1 LOCAL CONTEXT	18
2. MAIN HAZARDS, DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE KILIMONDO LOCALITY, NORTH DARFUR	24
2.1 HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE	26
2.2. FOOD INSECURITY AND VULNERABILITY TO DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE	27
2.3. ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND LINKAGE WITH DISASTER RISK	28
2.4. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	28
2.5. CONFLICT AND UNSUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	29
3. MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE ECO-DRR PROJECT IN SUDAN	30
3.1 ECO-DRR FIELD INTERVENTIONS IN THE KILIMONDO LOCALITY AND INITIAL RESULTS	33
3.2 IMPROVING NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE	47
3.3 STRENGTHENING LOCAL AND NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING ECO-DRR IN SUSTAINABLE DRYLANDS MANAGEMENT	52
4. HOW DID THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTE TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION?	58
4.1 IMPROVING FOOD AND WATER SECURITY	60
4.2 ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE	60
5. LESSONS LEARNED	62
5.1 ADAPTING ECO-DRR TO A DRYLANDS CONTEXT	65
5.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	67
5.3 BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS	68
5.4 ENSURING PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY	69
6. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS & REFERENCES	70

MAP 1. The WEK project area (shaded in blue) in relation to the Eco-DRR project activities	17
MAP 2. Wadi El Ku is located in the Kilimondo locality, in the State of North Darfur	19
FIGURE 1. Women and children of the household play an important role in farming and livestock rearing	21
FIGURE 2. The pilot Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) project in North Darfur integrated sustainable drylands management, disaster risk reduction and improved ecosystem management to increase food security and community resilience to water-related hazards	32
TABLE 1. Summary of Eco-DRR field interventions undertaken in selected demonstration sites in the Killimondo locality disasters between 1990 and 2014 categorized by type of hazard	34
MAP 3. Eco-DRR field interventions in the Kilimondo locality, North Darfur	35
TABLE 2. Local and national level trainings and workshops delivered by the project	52



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community tree nursery established
by the Eco-DRR project and managed by the
local women's group.

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In 2012-2015, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Commission (EC) supported a pilot demonstration project on Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) in Sudan. The Eco-DRR project was implemented in partnership with the National Government, the State Government of North Darfur, Practical Action, and local community-based organizations.

It aimed to reduce vulnerability to water-related hazards, in particular droughts and floods, mitigate conflict among pastoralists and farmers, and support community livelihoods through sustainable dryland management in the Kilimondo locality in the State of North Darfur. The pilot demonstration activities covered five villages (Eid El Beida, Abudelik, Waa'dha, Wad Kota and Bahr Omdurman) along a 40 km stretch of a seasonal water body, or *wadi*.

The project had three main components:

1. Undertaking Eco-DRR field interventions in a drylands context, such as improved access to water, community forestry and re-seeding of degraded pastureland;
2. Strengthening sustainable and equitable natural resource governance, such as through the establishment of a water resources management committee, demarcation of a pastoralist migratory route and improving agricultural support services; and
3. Developing local community, state- and national-level capacities for Eco-DRR implementation.

The project promoted ecosystem-based measures to mitigate water-related hazards and address

ecosystem degradation, which is one of the drivers of local conflict and vulnerability. It applied the concept of Eco-DRR in the context of drylands in order to demonstrate the benefits of Eco-DRR for livelihoods, food and water security, and disaster risk reduction. Two key aspects of disaster vulnerability reduction were addressed directly by the Eco-DRR project:

- **improving food and water security** through sustainable drylands management;
- **enhancing water resource governance** through strengthening of local and national capacities (including at state-level) in sustainable drylands management, as well as through mainstreaming Eco-DRR considerations in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Given that Eco-DRR in North Darfur was implemented against a backdrop of protracted, local conflict among various groups, the project aimed to mitigate conflict between pastoralist and farming communities, through consensus-building over the use of land and water.

The project clearly demonstrated that Eco-DRR can be successfully applied in the context of drylands. While ecosystem-based measures are often perceived as exclusively green infrastructure such



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