

THE EUROPEAN UNION EMERGENCY TRUST FUND FOR STABILITY AND ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

Action Document for the implementation of the Horn of Africa Window T05-EUTF-HoA-SD-37

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Wadi El Ku Integrated Catchment Management Project (Phase 2)		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 11,000,000 Total amount from the EU Trust Fund: EUR 10,000,000		
Aidmethod / Method of implementation	Project approach Indirect management with the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)		
DAC-code	14010	Sector	Water sector policy and administrative management

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1 Summary of the Action and its Objectives

The Wadi El Ku Integrated Catchment Management Project (Phase 2) (hereafter the project) contributes to **EU Trust Fund objective (2)**, strengthening resilience of most vulnerable communities; it is also aligned with the **Valletta Action Plan priority domain (1)**, development benefits of migration and addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. The project is also based on the objectives and indicative intervention priorities of the Short Term Strategy 2016/17 for the implementation of a special support measure in favour of the people of the Republic of Sudan, implemented under the EU Trust Fund.

The **geographical scope** of the project focuses on the Wadi El Ku catchment in North Darfur, which is a seasonal river on which around 700,000 people depend. The project will directly target 80,000 smallholder producers (farmers and pastoralists), and will indirectly benefit the 700,000 people dependent on the catchment. This project will build on the previously implemented project worth EUR 6.8 million "The Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Project" (also referred to as Phase 1), funded by the EU in partnership with UNEP; activities under the proposed project will be carried out in the upstream and downstream sections of the Phase 1 project area.

The **intervention logic** is that by strengthening and enabling rural livelihoods through the cooperative, inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources in Wadi El Ku – particularly of water resources – i) the wadi ecosystem will become a more stable, climate resilient lifeline for North Darfur's capital El Fasher and for rural livelihoods in the state; ii) reduced vulnerability and increased agricultural productivity will provide direct and indirect project beneficiaries with alternatives to forced migration and displacement because of loss of assets and destitution; and (iii) tensions and conflict caused by competition over natural resources will diminish as a result of the role that water and natural resources can play as agents for stability, prosperity and growth, enabling in turn the wadi's social and human capital to become sources of resilience rather than of vulnerability.

Particular attention will be paid to women and vulnerable groups. The gender strategy developed for the project under Phase 1, considered a model field-based gender programming by UN Environment, will continue to be applied and refined. The strategy emphasises analysis, awareness raising, promoting women's voices, and sex disaggregated data and indicators.

The **overall objective** of the project is to establish climate resilient livelihoods and reduce natural resource conflicts in North Darfur, and reduce displacement due to loss of livelihoods.

The **specific objective** of the project is to further improve natural resource use and management in Wadi El Ku.

2.2 Context

2.2.1 Country Context

With an area of approximately 1.9 million km² (almost half the size of the EU), Sudan is the third largest country in Africa. An estimated population of 40 million inhabitants is growing rapidly. It is estimated that 40% of the population is below 14 years old.

Sudan is a low middle-income country categorised as a fragile country (OECD, World Bank). About 46.5% of the population lives below the poverty line, while 8% lives in extreme poverty. Socio-economic indicators remain low in a context of economic hardship, with reduced revenues after the independence of South Sudan, low oil prices and insufficient economic diversification. In the global Human Development Index rankings, Sudan was placed at 165 out of 188 countries in 2015. It is estimated that 20% of the active population is unemployed, with women's unemployment nearly doubling that of men. Agriculture remains the main source of employment, although the urban informal sector is reported to account for more than 60% of GDP. Poverty is heightened by inefficient development plans and strategies, reduced public expenditure on basic services, and erosion of land and natural resources. An Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) and the Five Year Program for Economic Reforms were approved by the Sudan parliament in December 2014.

Sudan has borders with some of the most unstable countries in Africa: Central African Republic, South Sudan, Libya, Eritrea and Chad. Sudan is at the centre of the Eastern African migration route, towards North Africa and Europe, and is an important country of transit and origin of migration along that route. Traffickers and smugglers are operating in the country. Sudan also has the largest population of displaced people in Africa, with 3.1 million internally displaced people. Only in Darfur, some 1.6 million displaced people are registered as living in camps. For unregistered Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), i.e. displaced people living in rural settlements and urban areas, estimates vary considerably, especially as there is no systematic registration of displacement outside camps. In addition to this, there are approximately 367,000 refugees and asylum seekers hosted in refugee camps in East Sudan and White Nile State; or residing in urban areas such as Khartoum, originating mainly from South Sudan and Eritrea, but also from Yemen or Syria. In recent months, an increased influx of West African migrants have been observed using Darfur as a route to reach Libya; furthermore, Darfuri are increasingly leaving following the deterioration of living conditions.

2.2.2 Sector Context: policies and challenges

Darfur covers around 26% of Sudan's area (493,000 km²) and is home to nearly one quarter of Sudan's population, 62% of whom live below the national poverty line (reaching nearly 70% in North Darfur). Livelihood practices among pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, sedentary farmers and urbanites are inter-dependent, with farmers owning livestock, pastoralists engaged in cultivation, rural families receiving remittances from urban centres, and urban

families employed as labour in rural farms. Trade among these groups is considered the lifeblood of Darfur's economy. Even through the conflict, pastoralists continue to rely on the sales of grain by farmers, with whom they exchange animals, which are then used as a safety net, particularly after poor agricultural seasons. The ownership of animals also provides financial security, allowing the owners to hire farm labour to help increase agricultural production. The traditional rain fed, subsistence agriculture practiced across Darfur is inextricably linked to environmental factors and the health of the ecosystem. When poorly managed, smallholder crop production systems have a low productivity as a result of declining soil fertility and inability to cope with increasing climatic variability, particularly droughts. Livestock production also suffers due to restrictions on mobility and land use conversion.

Most of North Darfur is arid and semi-arid, with a climate characterised by low and variable rainfall patterns. The major source of crop production is concentrated on the fertile clay soils of the surface watercourses (wadis), where seasonal water flows ensure more reliable production than in the surrounding sandy soils. Livestock production systems, on the other hand, rely on pastures predominantly in sandy soils but also complement and to an extent depend on farming systems within the wadi.

Degradation of natural resources and agricultural land has become more evident in recent years, including the loss of arable soil and reduced soil fertility. Combined with a critical shortage of water and volatility due to conflict, large numbers of rural producers have concentrated in the proximity of Wadi El Ku, generating a massive need for cash income. Wadi El Ku is the most important of North Darfur's watercourses; a large inland seasonal river running through the state with a catchment area of approximately 27,000 km². Even though its waters are seasonal, Wadi El Ku provides surface water for drinking and for agriculture, which safeguards food security in the state; it also replenishes groundwater resources and supports forests and rangelands, which are critical for the state's livestock production and for maintaining ecosystem integrity. It is estimated that the wadi ecosystem directly supports more than 700,000 people, and indirectly the entire population of the state (about 1.8 million people).

The Wadi El Ku catchment area includes a part of the Jebel Marra mountains to the west, the Kutum uplands to the north, and extends into South Darfur where it terminates in an inland delta. As other wadis, it often has flowing water in part of the rainy season. It is characterised by heavy clay and alluvial soils within the wadi itself, and lighter, sandy soils (qoz) in the surrounding area. The wadi runs through a (semi) arid zone, with very unreliable and variable rainfall; between 100 and 350 mm per year. The largest population concentration along the wadi is El Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur, with a population of over 400,000 and an additional population of 190,000 encamped Internally Displaced Persons.

Despite more reliable water supply in the wadi, the effects of low and variable rainfall are very much felt. The poor rainy season in 2015 had a significant negative impact on livelihoods in the wadi and on food security in North Darfur. In spite of the poor rains, however, livelihoods and harvests were protected around the Seil Gideim water spreading weir, which is an environmentally friendly rainwater harvesting structure established under the preceding project "The Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Project".

The conflict in Darfur, together with an increased population, a lack of economic opportunities and eroded governance mechanisms has led to maladaptive dependency on fuelwood and charcoal extraction as an alternative livelihoods strategy for both farmers and for pastoralists, resulting in the rapid depletion of woodlands over extensive areas and the almost total destruction of forest reserves.

The local authorities recognise the gravity of the problems faced, but have little technical or financial capacity to address them. The rural population is aware of the conflict of interests between upstream and downstream, as well as their responsibility over continued de-vegetation and poor land management resulting in very poor agricultural productivity across the project area.

The proposed project is aligned with, and will help realise, the objectives of the Sudan Twenty-Five Year National Strategy (2007-2031), where methods to expand water catchments and to provide drinking water for society and livestock are identified as a key means for promoting agricultural and rural growth and improving food security. It is also aligned with the Darfur Development Strategy (DDS), which is a component part of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). The project is also in line with and will support the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000) promoting river basin management as the best model for water resources management, and with the UN Environment's five-year Freshwater Strategy (2017-2021) advancing the integrated water resources management approach at both national and basin levels.

2.3 Lessons Learnt

Below are a number of key lessons learnt from the implementation of the preceding project "The Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Project", upon which the proposed project will build.

Seil Gideim, the environmentally friendly rainwater harvesting structure established under the project's Phase 1, has encouraged people to return to the area to farm and has **promoted local stability**. Despite the fact that the rainy season in 2016 was cumulatively almost as poor as the previous one in 2015¹, crop production was protected and sustained by the three water spreading weirs established by the project. The water spreading structure at Seil Mayit had the most noticeable impact on encouraging farmers to return from urban centres to cultivate their lands. The poor rainy seasons in 2015 and 2016 were a unique opportunity to observe the benefits of improved rainwater harvesting in action to protect people and livelihoods against the vagaries of climate and **to improve their resilience**.

Given North Darfur's acute dependence on the state's low and increasingly variable rainfall, supporting climate resilient livelihoods strategies that are able to cope with low rainfall and drought is much needed. Particularly given that small scale farming and livestock production are responsible for food security in the state, and that North Darfur is one of the five high-risk states of Sudan in food security terms.

The first phase of the Wadi El Ku project gained recognition as a **promising model** for catchment-based Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in Darfur and elsewhere, and played a role in promoting uptake of IWRM approaches by other actors. It has shown that **development work is possible** in what is largely still considered a humanitarian context. In addition, government as well as communities have shown that they are willing and able to contribute to natural resource management. This is demonstrated by the significant traction that the IWRM model has gained at state level among government and communities. A Catchment Management Forum with political support from the state government was established and now provides a platform for dialogue across stakeholder groups to improve natural resource management. A vision, constitution and programme of action were also developed in a participatory manner by the members of the Forum.

¹ Average total rainfall in El Fasher meteorological station at end of August was: 248.3mm (2014); 113.9mm (2015); and 118mm (2016).

As demonstrated by the first phase of the project, **farm productivity can be increased**, particularly in areas where improved water harvesting was implemented and crop diversification adopted. A flagship intervention of the project is the construction of a series of water spreading weirs in a participatory manner with local communities to rehabilitate degraded valleys, increase agricultural yields and enhance resilience during dry spells and heavy rainfalls. The spill-over benefits from the increased land area brought under flood irrigation has also helped landless groups, including youth and women, and contributed to boosting the local economy.

According to the Mid Term Review, sorghum yields have doubled on many of the farms that have benefitted from improved water harvesting, and most farmers surveyed in a random sample of 200 households across the project area have reported a general increase in production from below 10% to as much as 70% as a result of project interventions. Interventions that have had a clear positive impact can therefore be expanded upstream and downstream in order to incrementally and consistently improve conditions in the wadi.

In addition, **more attention needs to be paid to pastoralist communities** given limited activities specific to pastoralists in North Darfur. Alongside this, the value of increased community and government competency in natural resource management and in improved agricultural and extension techniques are a key component for a successful implementation. Government and communities highlighted constructive relationships around natural resources as a critical success factor under Phase 1 of the project. Positive relationships established through this collaborative approach should continue to be nurtured and expanded to continue to build trust and partnership for development, stability and sustainable natural resource management in the wadi. As a result of hands-on demonstration and awareness raising, communities and government are also actively making the connection between improved natural resource management (particularly of water) and sustainable livelihoods. There is a need to continue highlighting the critical link between resilient livelihoods and well managed natural resources.

Installation of meteorological stations and equipping and training the Groundwater and Wadis Directorate (GWWD) to measure wadi discharge has improved scientific understanding of the wadi regime and enabled preliminary catchment mode levelling. Nevertheless, more emphasis is needed under the proposed project on science, information, and information management with regards to water, land and other natural resources to ensure robust and informed planning and decision-making. Community-based approaches to data collection should also be explored, given access and transport challenges faced by government and El Fasher based stakeholders.

Stronger advocacy is needed with the federal government to bolster the state government's ability to actively drive development efforts; and existing programming must dovetail with existing government plans and programmes to maximise the government's contribution.

At the operational level, the project is confronted with a difficult security environment, and implementation of field activities often relies on protection provided by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) police and military forces. In specific circumstances, UNAMID may also be called upon to provide logistical support and heavy equipment in implementing project activities.

2.4 Complementary Actions

The proposed project will build on the strong foundation established under the preceding Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Project, and will continue to cultivate synergies and collaboration with other development partners, in particular with the following initiatives:

The ADAPT project (£10 million from 2015 to 2019), funded by DFID and implemented by UN Environment, which aims at partnerships in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), natural resource management (NRM), and climate change to improve nationwide delivery, information management and policy reform.

The JICA-funded Project for Enhancement of Integrated Water Resources Management (running from August 2016 to June 2019). Concrete opportunities for coordination and linkages are currently being explored, particularly on supporting IWRM in water governance reform.

NGO and UN projects in Darfur. The Wadi El Ku project will engage directly with other relevant actors, to coordinate, share lessons and tools, encourage information and experience exchange, as well as to encourage the adoption of key concepts and good practices.

2.5 Donor Coordination

Donor coordination is fragmented and as yet unstructured. A Development Partners Group (DPG) was established in 2015 following preparatory work by the UK (DFID) and the EU. The DPG convenes active development partners in the country on a semi-regular basis, acting as an umbrella for thematic sector groups. A meeting to consider a future modus operandi for the DPG was held in June 2016. The UNDP acts as a secretariat to the DPG. In Sudan, only a few sectors have groups of this nature. The Government participates in these groups.

At the EU level, donor coordination takes place through the EU Heads of Cooperation meetings, held also on a regular basis, as well as the EU+ (Switzerland and Norway) Migration working group also held on a regular basis.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1 Objectives

The **overall objective** of the project is to establish climate resilient livelihoods and reduce natural resource conflicts in North Darfur, and reduce displacement due to loss of livelihoods.

The **specific objective** of the project is to further improve natural resource use and management in Wadi El Ku.

3.2 Expected Results and Main Activities

Result 1: A participatory, **community-based catchment management system** is expanded and strengthened in Wadi El Ku.

The aim is to promote the role of the already established Catchment Management Forum as an effective and trusted institutional platform through which government and communities combine efforts to enable sustainable natural resource management in the wadi. It will be achieved through technical assistance and capacity support to the Forum as well as to partner institutions at community level, and by promoting equal participation of women in decision-making processes.

Activities to strengthen the Forum as an institution will include a review of its institutional structure; assisting the forum to develop catchment plans and tools needed for sustainable water and natural resource management; and promoting cooperation over water and natural resources at community level.

Result 2: Resilient community livelihoods and local natural resource management practices are improved.

This result focuses on rolling out successful natural resource management and agriculture practices, techniques and skills demonstrated under Phase 1 to upstream and downstream communities. Activities under this result will be coordinated and implemented under the oversight of the Catchment Management Forum. They will promote climate resilient agriculture, and will be based on gender sensitive programming.

Activities will include strengthening agricultural practice as well as soil, water and forest management at community level, promoting sustainable water harvesting for livelihoods, expanding the Farmer Field School approach, village extension agent training in agriculture, livestock and natural resource management, as well as forestry activities, improving market links and adding value to production and facilitating continued dialogue around migratory routes and grazing areas.

Result 3: Scientific and technical information is expanded and strengthened.

This result will involve understanding the new project area’s surface and sub-surface water hydrology (by improving and expanding data collection and analysis). This will enable the project to model water availability and to define the multiple needs and uses for better water resource decision making.

Activities will include developing and implementing modelling plans to guide definition of the water balance and wadi hydraulics within selected project areas; building and strengthening drought and flood early warning systems to improve response capacity on food security risks; strengthening capacity of local institutions and universities; and understanding catchment problems and opportunities through targeted research.

Result 4: Awareness and application of IWRM in the rest of Darfur / Sudan.

This result will be achieved through activities that will focus on effective communication, lessons learning, sharing and exchange, and leveraging partnerships for action. They may include: documenting and communicating key processes, concepts, and lessons learnt; establishing the Wadi El Ku as a living model of IWRM; organising learning exchanges to and from the catchment; and promoting scale up and standardisation of data collection and analysis.

Project results and activities are further described in an indicative logical framework (see Annex) which will be revised during the project’s inception phase and will count on advisory support through UN Environment’s internal due diligence processes led by its Quality Assurance Section. The findings of the final evaluation of the preceding project will provide further inputs to this.

3.3 Risks and Assumptions

Risk	Level	Impact	Mitigation
Safety and security conditions in the project area prevent minimum levels of access required for successful project implementation	Medium – High	Significant	Select project areas based on conditions of access and security and obtain government and community commitment to assure access and security to selected areas. Engagement with public authorities

Government participation and support weakened through frequent changes in government	High	Moderate	Ensure that senior technical government staff play a strong advocacy role to ensure continuity in participation and political support
Poor rainfall reduces agricultural productivity in spite of project interventions	Medium – High	Moderate - Significant	Design of project interventions takes into consideration likelihood of poor rainfall
Inflation and rising local prices significantly raise costs or affect local component	Medium – High	Moderate - Significant	Inflation and economic trends to be taken into account in planning and budgeting
Uncertainty and scarcity of hydrological data affect technical design	Medium	Moderate	Expansion of water monitoring and working with state actors to enable access to required data.
Delays in recruitment and procurement impact activity implementation	High	Significant	Act early on procurement and recruitment
Poor performance of project partners in terms of delivery and/or compliance	High	Significant	Partner assessment and mentoring. Ensure strong internal granting & contracting procedures
Assumptions		Impact	Observations
Government and population are committed to and agree to the implementation of the project and endorse outputs and outcomes.		Significant	There is widespread support for the project among government and communities.
Implementation in North Darfur is not delayed due to access restrictions and delays in processing visas or Darfur travel permits.		Moderate - Significant	Overall security has improved in North Darfur and there has been improvement in turnaround time for visa and Darfur travel permit processing, as well as facilitation support from the focal ministry at state level (State Ministry of North Darfur). Continued engagement with the government.
The Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation process continues to encourage dialogue and agreement on natural resource management in upstream and downstream areas of the wadi.		Significant	Natural resources management is one of the areas of intervention of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation
Land tenure issues do not arise during and/or after implementation		Significant	Community arbitration methods are in place.
Conflicts do not arise between downstream and upstream water users		Moderate - Significant	Water management committees are in place as well as inter-community discussion fora.

3.4 Cross-cutting issues

Gender: The gender strategy developed under the project’s Phase 1 is upheld as a model for mainstreaming gender in field programming by UN Environment. It responds to SDGs 5.1 and 5.5 (‘achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls’ and ‘ensuring

women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life' respectively) and also reflects the building blocks of the EU's gender mainstreaming policy, namely: strategic planning for gender equality; sex disaggregated data and gender indicators; gender analysis; implementation, monitoring and accountability structures; and awareness raising and capacity building. As per the strategy:

- A gender analysis will be conducted at the outset of the proposed project in order to understand men's and women's roles, priorities and concerns, and local gender dynamics in the new project area.
- Raising awareness on gender will be conducted and gender will be mainstreamed in consultations, meetings, presentations, and various other fora to provide food for thought and fuel for action.
- Women's voices in decision-making will be promoted. For example through disaggregated consultations to ensure activities respond to specific roles and priorities of women and vulnerable groups – which would otherwise not emerge in mixed consultations.
- Consultations, planning, monitoring and impact evaluation will be disaggregated by gender to guarantee that the project ensures gender equity.

Particular issues that will be emphasised in the proposed project are:

- Women's heavy workload. While women already do most of the work on farms and at home, they are also expected to contribute most of the manual labour in development activities while participating very little in decisions that affect their lives. Although efforts have been made in this direction under Phase 1 of the project, more needs to be done to address this under the proposed project.
- Particularly disadvantaged women who are still unable to engage through the regular methods of participation, and other vulnerable groups who may not be able to take part in project activities. Specific focus group discussions will be held targeting these groups, the outcomes of which will help guide appropriate activities. Men and women champions identified under Phase 1 of the project will also be mobilised to help empower acutely vulnerable groups.

Climate change: the approaches and techniques that will be applied by the project are intrinsically designed to use natural resource management as a means to reduce risks associated with climate variability and the increased incidence of drought and floods (project activities and approaches apply the principles of Ecosystems-based Disaster Risk Reduction). This responds specifically to SDGs 13.1 (on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries) and 13.3 (on improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning).

Conflict mitigation: A conflict sensitive approach shall be applied from the outset of the proposed project. Inclusive community based catchment planning will facilitate community agreement on land use and dialogue will continue to be facilitated around migratory routes to diffuse tensions between pastoralists and farmers. Community Environmental Action Plans will be defined in all participating village councils to ensure that project activities respond to community determined priorities. Extensive local consultations will take place ahead of all major interventions to ensure that all stakeholder groups understand and agree to the proposed activities.

Good governance: Result 1 of the proposed project specifically promotes good governance, as it focuses on establishing an inclusive and integrated system for sustainable catchment management in the Wadi El Ku catchment. This system brings together government actors

from across line ministries as well as communities from across the catchment to jointly improve the management of common natural resources in the wadi, particularly water. The ultimate objective is to advance equitable access and sharing of benefits from natural resources, particularly of water, as an essential element in realising human rights. This is in line with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and is linked to SDGs 6.4, 6.5, 6b, and 12.2; namely:

SDG 6.4 –Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity;

SDG 6.5 –Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate;

SDG 6b - Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management;

SDG 12.2 - Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

3.5 Stakeholders

Partners under this project include:

- NGO implementing partners, including Practical Action, its three community based organisations (CBO) networks, and other NGO actors in the state;
- State and regional government institutions, including the Groundwater and Wadis Directorate (GWWD), the State Ministry of Environment (SMOE), the Forestry National Corporation (FNC), the State Ministry of Agriculture (SMOA), the State Ministry of Animal Resources (SMOAR), and the State Water Corporation (SWC);
- Private sector contractors; and
- Other institutions with expertise important to the project, including the University of El Fasher and the Agricultural Research Centre.

The Government is fully and constructively engaged with the project, and vested in the successful realisation of its outcome. The Government is part of the catchment management forum, and will play a role as technical and institutional counterpart to the project implementing partners. The complexity of this intervention is reflected in the range of government bodies that have a role to play in project implementation.

Community partners: ‘beneficiaries’ of the project are key project stakeholders. They are represented through community based institutions. They will play an active role in guiding the project to ensure it responds to community needs and priorities, will participate in and contribute to project implementation (contributions will be in kind and in cash), and will be the agents of project sustainability.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1 Financing Agreement

It is not foreseen to conclude a Financing Agreement with the partner country for the implementation of the action.

4.2 Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months (48 months as execution period and a closing phase of no more than 24 months) from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

4.3 Implementation components and modules

The envisaged implementation modality is indirect management with UN Environment. The European Commission will sign a Delegation Agreement with the organisation. UN Environment, which has been present in Sudan since 2007, has successfully implemented the first phase of the project, establishing structures (physical and institutional) and contacts upon which the second phase will build. Based on the results obtained, the agency remains the most suitable to implement the project, considering its core mandate in relation to the main objective of the project, which is to improve rural livelihoods by means of supporting the integrated management of natural resources in conjunction with the improvement of agricultural productivity.

The implementation of the project will be coordinated and led by UN Environment's Sudan Office under the supervision of its Ecosystems Division. The Project Advisory Committee established by state decree under Phase 1 of the project will continue to provide high level oversight of the project. The membership of the Advisory Committee will be reviewed in Phase 2 and will include representatives from the EU, UN Environment, state government, local communities, and independent experts. While not exercising executive authority over the project, the Advisory Committee will review and make recommendation on project progress and ensure alignment with government policy. The Technical Committee established in Phase 1 will also continue to facilitate coordination between project stakeholders, provide technical guidance and support implementation.

4.4 Indicative Budget

The total budget of this Action will be EUR 11 000 000, including a contribution from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for EUR 10 000 000 and co-financing from UN Environment for EUR 1 000 000.

Depending on the results of the inception phase, the budget might have to be revised in consultation with the contracting authority.

Categories	EU contribution	UN Environment co-financing	Total
Result 1: Community-based catchment management	3,200,000		3,200,000
Result 2: Resilient community livelihoods	4,500,000		4,500,000
Result 3: Scientific and technical information	1,200,000	300,000	1,500,000
Result 4: Awareness and Application of IWRM	500,000	700,000	1,200,000
Communication and visibility	250,000		250,000

Audit and Evaluation	350,000		350,000
TOTAL	10,000,000	1,000,000	11,000,000

4.5 Monitoring, Evaluation and Audit

Ad hoc audits or expenditure verification assignments could be contracted by the European Commission. Audits and expenditure verification assignments will be carried out in conformity with the risk analysis in the frame of the yearly Audit Plan exercise conducted by the European Commission. Evaluation and audit assignments will be implemented through service contracts; making use of one of the Commission's dedicated framework contracts or alternatively through the competitive negotiated procedure or the single tender procedure.

Performance monitoring will be under the overall responsibility of UN Environment based on indicators that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-based. Under Phase 1, a baseline, annual qualitative and quantitative assessments, as well as an independent mid-point review were undertaken. In Phase 2, a baseline study will be carried out for the new areas during the inception phase of the project, to be able to track progress over time, and UN Environment and partners will undertake annual assessments to monitor progress and impact. The project will submit annual progress reports and a completion report.

An external mid-term review will assess progress towards delivering the proposed outputs, and whether or not adjustments are needed in activities and/or budgetary allocations. A final impact and evaluation study will be performed at the end of the project and will show to what extent the baseline data has changed and whether this was in accordance with the targets set, so that relevant conclusions can be obtained with regards to the performance of the project, indicating if future actions are needed to assure sustainability of project activities.

4.6 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU. This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be entered into the Agreements concluded by the Commission with the entrusted entities and the partner countries.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

EU Trust Fund Strategy	Valletta Action Plan	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
Four main areas of intervention	Five priority domains, and 16 initiatives	17 goals
<p>1) Greater economic and employment opportunities</p> <p>2) Strengthening resilience of communities and in particular the most vulnerable, as well as refugees and displaced people</p> <p>3) Improved migration management in countries of origin and transit</p> <p>4) Improved governance and conflict prevention, and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration</p>	<p>1) Development benefits of migration and addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. enhance employment opportunities and revenue-generating activities 2. link relief, rehabilitation and development in peripheral and most vulnerable areas 3. operationalise the African Institute on Remittances 4. facilitate responsible private investment and boost trade <p>2) Legal migration and mobility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. double the number of Erasmus scholarships 6. pool offers for legal migration 7. organise workshops on visa facilitation <p>3) Protection and asylum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Regional Development and Protection Programmes 9. improve the quality of the asylum process 10. improve resilience, safety and self-reliance of refugees in camps and host communities <p>4) Prevention of and fight against irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. national and regional anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking legislation, policies and action plans 12. strengthen institutional capacity to fight smuggling and trafficking 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls 6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all 8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts 14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">13. pilot project in Niger14. information campaigns <p>5) Return, readmission and reintegration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">15. strengthen capacity of countries of origin to respond to readmission applications16. support reintegration of returnees into their communities	
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INDICATIVE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the action document. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

Please note that baselines and indicators will be further defined during the inception phase.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Current value	Targets	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Establish climate resilient livelihoods and reduce natural resource conflicts in North Darfur, and reduce displacement due to loss of livelihoods	<p><i>Contribute to extended agricultural season and increased yields at local level</i></p> <p><i>Contribute to a reduction in reported natural resource related conflict events in the project area</i></p>	<p>TBD during inception phase</p> <p>TBD during inception phase</p>	<p>TBD during inception phase</p> <p>TBD during inception phase</p>	<p>% increase in yield</p> <p>Evidence produced for North Darfur</p>	<p>Progress reports and annual assessments</p> <p>Progress reports and annual assessments</p>	<p>Government, community, and development institutions continue to demonstrate interest in sound water resource management through Phase 2</p>

Specific objective: Outcome(s)	Improve natural resource use and management in Wadi El Ku	<i>OC 1.1 Integrated Water Resources Management formally adopted as a means to improve livelihoods in North Darfur</i>	No formal recognition	0	1 government IWRM position document	Government position document	
		<i>OC 1.2 Evidence of key NRM concepts and practice informing other implementing bodies across Darfur and Sudan, and intention to apply concepts and replicate practice demonstrated</i>	TBD during inception phase	TBD during inception phase	Evidence produced for Darfur and Sudan	Project influencing matrix	
		<i>OC 1.3. Farming and pastoralist households in Phase 2 project area adopt new or improved techniques that increase agricultural productivity and/or promote environmental conservation</i>	No new or improved techniques taken up	0	3,500 HH adopt new or improved techniques	Annual assessment	
		<i>OC 1.4. 50% increase in agricultural productivity for 3,500 households that have benefited from new or rehabilitated water spreading interventions in Phase 2 project area</i>	None	TBD during inception phase	50% increase in productivity for 3,500 HH	Annual assessment	

eeppp	<p>Op 1.1 participatory, community-based catchment management system is expanded and strengthened in Wadi El Ku</p>	<p>Op In 1.1.1 <i>The Catchment Management Forum (CMF) develops a catchment plan in collaboration with wider communities and government. The plan responds to the needs of farmers and pastoralists as well as men and women, and includes conflict resolution mechanisms</i></p>	No catchment plan in place	0	1 catchment plan developed	Catchment plan document	
		<p>Op In 1.1.2 <i>The CMF develops a protocol for water harvesting interventions that provides guidance for establishing water infrastructure for irrigation in the wadi</i></p>	No protocol in place	0	1 protocol developed and endorsed	Protocol document	
		<p>Op 1.2 Improved agricultural and natural resource management approaches and extension packages are demonstrated and promoted for uptake at community level and cooperation</p>	<p>Op In 1.2.1 <i>Number of new or improved agricultural and NRM extension packages promoted in the Phase 2 project area through effective means of demonstration and communication, responding to the needs of both men and women</i></p> <p>Op In 1.2.2. <i>Number of government technical specialists and village extension workers (crop, livestock and NRM) from or responsible for the Phase 2 project area trained in the delivery of new or improved NRM and livelihoods extension packages is</i></p>	TBD during inception phase	TBD during inception phase	9 extension packages promoted as per catchment management plan defined above	Annual assessment
		<p>Op In 1.2.2. <i>Number of government technical specialists and village extension workers (crop, livestock and NRM) from or responsible for the Phase 2 project area trained in the delivery of new or improved NRM and livelihoods extension packages is</i></p>	None	0	220 people trained	Progress reports and annual assessment	

	over water and natural resources promoted.	<p><i>increased, targeting sedentary farmers and pastoralists.</i></p> <p>Op In 1.2.3. <i>Construction and rehabilitation community water harvesting structures in the Phase 2 project area with participation from communities and government</i></p>	TBD during inception phase	TBD during inception phase	3 new water harvesting interventions developed; at least 1 hafir upgraded; at least 40 small water harvesting initiatives supported	Site visits	
		<p>Op In 1.2.4. <i>Number of farmer families taking up forestry practices for stabilising soils and increasing soil productivity is increased in the Phase 2 project area – including agro-forestry, community forestry, soil stabilisation, and natural regeneration forests</i></p>	TBD during inception phase	TBD during inception phase	At least 3,500 HH adopt new or improved forestry practices	Progress reports and annual assessment	
		<p>Op In 1.2.5. <i>Relationships over natural resources improved between pastoralists and farmers along migratory routes through pastoralist extension support and shared water use</i></p>	TBD during inception phase	TBD during inception phase	At least 5 pastoralist specific interventions implemented TBD based on outcomes of Community Action Plans	Progress reports and annual assessment	

	<p>Op 1.3 Scientific and technical information is expanded and strengthened for improved water and natural resource management and early warning.</p>	<p>Op In 1.3.1. Modelling plans developed and implemented for the Phase 2 project area</p> <p>Op In 1.3.2. Targeted research undertaken to understand problems and opportunities within the catchment</p>	<p>None</p> <p>TBD during inception phase</p>	<p>0</p> <p>TBD during inception phase</p> <p>TBD at final evaluation of Phase 1</p>	<p>Modelling plans developed and implemented</p> <p>3 studies completed and findings disseminated</p> <p>Guidance notes and documents developed and shared</p>	<p>Modelling plans</p> <p>Study reports</p> <p>Guidance notes ; Documents; Presentations</p>	
	<p>Op 1.4 Government and non-government actors supported to take up and apply IWRM approaches to achieve sustainable growth and stability in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan.</p>	<p>Op In 1.4.1. Key processes, concepts, and lessons documented and shared to help donors, government, UN and NGOs take up and apply IWRM in other areas in Sudan</p> <p>Op In 1.4.2. Bi-annual learning visits organised for the benefit of communities, NGOs, UN, donors and government wishing to apply IWRM in the broader WEK catchment and elsewhere</p>		<p>0</p>	<p>8 learning visits/events take place</p>	<p>Reports</p>	

