



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**DERIBA CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

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# FORWARD FROM THE CEO

## Strategic Highlights

As we embark on another year of dedicated environmental advocacy, it brings me immense pleasure to highlight the strategic achievements and progress we have made as an organization. Our commitment to protecting our environment and promoting sustainable solutions has been untiring, and I am thrilled to share with you the significant milestones we have reached.

## Operating Highlights

Throughout the past year, our team has worked tirelessly to advance our mission, focusing on key strategic areas that have yielded tangible results. From raising awareness on pressing environmental issues to implementing impactful initiatives, we have made substantial strides towards a more sustainable future.

One of our primary achievements has been our successful advocacy campaigns, which have garnered widespread attention and support. Through targeted outreach efforts and innovative storytelling, we have effectively communicated the urgency of addressing environmental challenges and mobilized individuals and communities to act.

Furthermore, our collaborative partnerships have been instrumental in amplifying our impact

***Remember, every small action counts in the fight for our planet.***

and extending our reach. By forging alliances with like-minded organizations, government agencies, and corporate entities, we have been able to leverage resources and expertise to drive meaningful change on a larger scale. I am also delighted to announce that our organization has attained prestigious UNEP accreditation, underscoring our commitment to excellence and accountability. This recognition serves as a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team, as well as our unwavering adherence to the highest standards of environmental stewardship.

## Looking Ahead

We are committed to advocating for a sustainable planet and are confident that with our partners and supporters, we can achieve greater strides towards this vision. Together, let's remain dedicated in our commitment to environmental advocacy and work tirelessly for a brighter, more sustainable future for all generations.

Kind regards,

Alaaeldein Abdelrahman Yousif, CEO, DCES

# HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES

## 1.1 Promoting Peace through Natural Resources Management (February 2023)

### Introduction

The depletion of natural resources in Sudan which resulted from overusing, and mismanagement of the resources led to the competition over natural resources in different areas in the conflict zones, Central Darfur State is one of the vulnerable areas in Sudan and suffers greatly from massive degradation of the environmental resources. Moreover, DCES conducted several assessments on the natural resource's situation during the last three-years where we found a significant gap in the knowledge of local communities about the relation between natural resources and the concept of peace building in conflict and post-conflict areas where Central Darfur State was included in the survey.

The issue of transition from conflict to peace in fragile conflict and post-conflict societies requires careful consideration of natural resource management. That's why unresolved issues surrounding natural resources can reignite tensions. In addition to eliminating potential obstacles to peace, natural resource management can also provide opportunities for confidence-building measures as well as models for more effective and equitable governance.

From a wider perspective and by looking at the analytical results. It is a solid fact that the continuous rise of the global population, and the continuous growth in demand for resources will cause a significant potential for conflicts over natural resources to intensify in the coming decades. In addition, the potential

The impacts of climate change on the water availability, food security, the prevalence of the disease, coastal boundaries, and population growth and distribution may aggravate existing tensions and generate new conflicts. Here we can see the importance of preparing and building the resilience of the local communities.

### Goal of the workshop

The aim of the workshop was to provide the participants with basic principles, skills, applicable knowledge, on best practices of management and strategic plans about building and maintaining peace through the management of natural resources to reduce competition and tension over natural resources.

## Objectives

The workshop achieved the following objectives:

- To enhance peace building capacity through the management of the natural resources to achieve environmental sustainability.
- To address the importance of the integration approach of natural resources management for sustainability and development.
- To activate the role of young people in leading the conservative of the environmental resource.
- To promote the capabilities and skills of young farmers association, native administrations, and community-based organizations (CBOs).
- To address the grassroots of low agricultural and livestock production and productivity on food security.
- To provide basic principles on the impact of pollution growth in environmental degradation.
- To secure food by integrating and improving natural resources and increasing the resilience of local communities considering the circumstances surrounding them, through sustainable management of natural resources.
- To provide knowledge on the restoration of biodiversity through water harvesting techniques.
- Understand the link between social peace and natural resource management.

## Target beneficiaries

The workshop targeted various stakeholders involved in utilizing environmental and natural resources in Western Jabel Marra locality, Nertiti. The participants including Farmers' Association Groups, IDPs, pastoralists, government representatives, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), youth activists, resistance committees, and women leaders. There was a total of 16 male and female participants, each receiving a certificate of participation with per day incentives for attending the two-day event.

## Methodology

The facilitators used two approaches to insure delivering and understanding the contents of the workshop to all participants.

- Curriculum training approach.
- Focus group discussion.

## Challenges

The workshop coordinator was faced by some challenges in the implementation of the activity below are some of the challenges:

- Insufficiency of the fund for implementing the activity
- The venue was inadequate.
- Security challenges from Zalingei to Nertiti.



## Recommendations

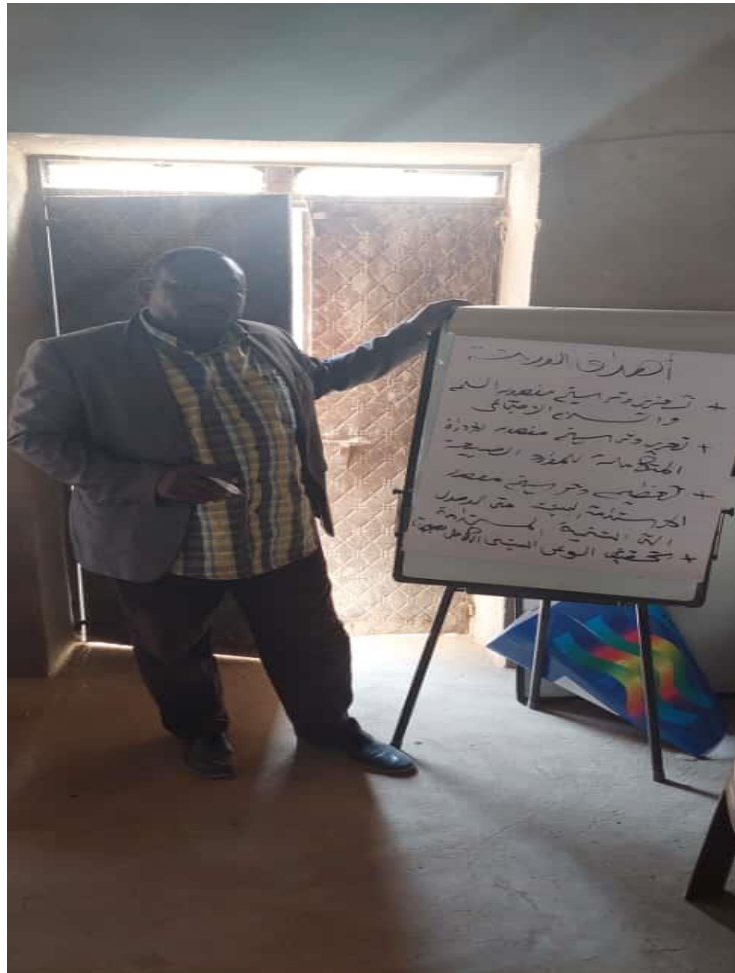
After deep and valuable discussion between the participants the following recommendations were drawn:

- Increasing the peace building capacity for the local communities.
- Including the local communities in the process of peace building.
- Applying and activating the natural resources laws to protect the area.
- Provide water harvesting techniques, to support water availability.
- Provide an alternative source of energy to reduce the consumption of biomass.
- Increase the participation of beneficiaries in the negotiations and peace talks.
- Mapping the natural resources in the area to fill the gap and provide grassroots solutions to the environmental problems.

## Photo Gallery



Participants during the workshop



Dr. Malik Abaker - Facilitator







Participant with workshop coordinator



Facilitator and Workshop coordinator

## 1.2 Promoting Peace Through Natural Resource Management (December 2022)

Within the context of collaboration between Deriba Center for Environmental Studies and People to People Organization, in training members of national and international organizations and youth societies with the goal of increasing their capacities in the environmental awareness project. The twenty trainees (10) females and (10) males were trained to promote peace through natural resource management.

The first objective of the project was to strengthen and raise the capacities of the communities in facing crisis related to the degradation of the natural resources. By providing the basic knowledge about the definitions, categorizations related to the natural resources. The facilitator was instrumental in setting the ground for discussions about the causes of conflict over natural resources. The second objective was to Know the concept of culture of peace to create an environment of peaceful coexistence between individuals and groups in a community.

The fruitful discussion sessions culminated with the following recommendations:

- Planting specialized trees to stabilize sand dunes, as well as sowing and producing pasture seeds.
- Diversifying crop composition and expanding horticulture and income-generating projects for the communities.
- Rationalizing the consumption of live mass and supporting alternative energy projects.
- Facilitating agricultural land registration procedures, encouraging the establishment of professional associations, and activating financing funds.
- The necessity of establishing research laboratories concerned with studies of soil and agriculture, both plant and animal, water, and health, to develop the state's natural resources.
- Enacting legislation related to all natural resources, activating laws and resolving problems related to farmer-herder relations.
- Seriously striving to make the most of rainwater by expanding water harvesting, improving sources, and introducing an integrated water management system.
- Early preparation for the agricultural season by raising awareness, providing production inputs, and introducing appropriate technologies.
- The necessity of addressing food and fodder gaps, combating poverty, reducing its effects, and reducing disasters by activating the early warning system.
- Increasing experimental fields in the regions to extract species adapted to the local environment.

## Photo Gallery



The facilitator and the trainee during the training sessions.



Group discussions during the training sessions.





The facilitators awarded the completion certificates to the trainees.

### 1.3 Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) (October 2022)

The United Nations Local Youth Conference is one of the important conferences to support and empower youth. In 2015, the idea and interest of youth in climate action began. In 2017, there was an official process to support youth. As well as youth organizations for regional and local organization, the local United Nations Youth Conference must be organized before or during the global conference (COY).

LCOY serves the purpose of training youth and raising their capacities. The first LCOY Sudan (2021) was conducted in partnership with the British Council's Youth Climate Dialogue Forum under the theme Peace and Climate Security with Youth Empowerment. This topic was specifically chosen to address, discuss and raise awareness of the most important climate change issues in Sudan. This includes ongoing tribal wars and conflicts due to food insecurity, which are direct contributors to climate change.

#### LCOY- Sudan 2022

DCES represented the basic pillar of the conference, as the idea, initial and final coordination were led by the CEO of the center and others, and the participation of the rest of the members played a major role in the success of the conference.

The conference was held at the Grand Hotel - Khartoum and lasted for two days, 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> of October, in the attendance of 56 delegates, as well as the presence of several representatives of the organizations coordinating the conference, on the first day. On the second day, the number of attendees was much larger than the target number, as the number of attendees was more than expected, about 95 people.

The LCOY team contributed to youth climate dialogues by facilitating sessions on climate change and compiling recommendations from young people regarding policy engagement, community volunteering and personal action. The organizing team also held a public

discussion on climate in partnership with Sudan, a discussion that engaged young people in the topic and allowed them to think critically about the context of Sudan and climate change. Participants from LCOY had the opportunity to network, were introduced to different initiatives concerned with the environment and climate change and continued to collaborate and innovate their own initiatives. Despite the small size of the event, it was a great success.

### **Conference sponsors**

- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Forest National Corporation
- The Supreme Council for Environment
- DAL Food Industries
- CTC Group
- Haggar Group

### **Conference organizers**

- Sudan Youth Organization on Climate Change (SYOCC)
- African Youth Initiative on Climate Change - Sudan (AYICC)
- ECONILE
- AWAFE Sudanese Organization
- Action for Peace and Development Organization (APDO)

### **Photo Gallery**



Volunteers of the organizing committee





Participants at the end of the LCOY2022

Images source: <https://www.facebook.com/LCOY.SD>

#### 1.4 The Second Climate Arts Café (October 2022)

DCES Center, in cooperation with the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)-Sudan, held the second environmental arts café in the state of Central Darfur, Zalingei, on Saturday 10/1/2022. The café included music, theatre and drawing to advocate for environmental and climate change issues through the arts.

The attendees expressed their interaction in the café, and their thanks and gratitude to the organizers for providing these important opportunities to show interest in environmental issues and climate change. These activities are distinguished opportunities for environmental awareness for young children and tomorrow's generations. Ms. Tayseer Suleiman the center's Program Manager pointed out in the café that environmental issues and climate change are among the most important issues facing the world at the present time, given the clear and increasing effects of climate change on water and food resources around the world and the rise in sea levels, in addition to the extreme and unprecedented

weather phenomena such as heavy rains and severe flash floods that struck various areas of the states.

## Challenges

- Budget
- Applying via the link is not available for all young people.
- Difficulty in understanding the concept of the environment for children.

## Recommendations

- Expanding the circle of participation with concerned parties interested in environmental issues.
- Training of teachers at the primary and intermediate levels. (TOT)
- Participation in displacement camps and engage IDPs to understand and raise the awareness about the importance of the environment.

## Photo Gallery











### 1.5 Celebrating the International Youth Day (August 2022)

Deriba Center for Environmental Studies, in cooperation with its partners, the Sudanese AWAFE Organization, Al-Mashish Organization for Peace and Development, the Darfur Youth Governance Network Organization, the Asham Bakir Center for Enlightenment, the Abdu Kuyuka Center for Culture and Humanitarian Studies, and Al-jobraka Cultural Forum, held a joint event to celebrate International Youth Day. The event was attended by representatives of community organizations. Civil society organizations, international organizations, government institutions and many of the local community on Saturday, 8/13/2022, where the event was held in the Salheen Hall - Zalingei, which came under the slogan (Culture between peoples and generations). The event opened with a welcome to the honourable audience and a speech by the program coordinator, who He talked about



International Youth Day, the importance of celebrating it, and the necessity of encouraging young people to work towards achieving sustainable development goals.

The event included cultural segments and presentation of scientific papers, in addition to an exhibition on drugs, their effects and types, presented by the State Narcotics Control Department. DCES representative presented an overview of the center explained the center's goals, vision, and mission, and then presented working paper, which was entitled "The Role of Youth in Climate Change", where it appealed to young people to work on reducing climate change and called on them to the necessity of preserving the environment. Then the representative of the Abdo Kyoka Center presented her working paper, which was entitled "Drugs and their Effects". representative also spoke. The Asham Bakr Forum representative talked about the importance of education in building societies, explaining the necessity of raising the educational level. Al-jobraka Cultural Forum participated in the cultural aspect, which contained music, singing and poetry. The representative of the Sudanese AWAFE Organization also spoke about transitional justice, and the representative of Al-Mashish Organization for Peace and Development spoke about the roles of youth in changing their communities. Zalingei University Institute of Peace Studies also shared a working paper on violence and peacebuilding.

## Photo Gallery





## 1.6 The second Schools' Tree Planting Project (August 2022)

The center began its second schools' trees planting project on August 26 and ended on September 23. The project included 13 schools in addition to one Khalwa, and the National Forestry Authority supported the center with 80 seedlings in addition to 30 seedlings



produced by the center. These seedlings are classified as fruit trees, shade trees and windbreaks. This project was implemented by several of the center's volunteers.

## Challenges

- Difficulty obtaining school principals' numbers and coordinating with them because of the annual leave.
- Lack of necessary support
- Difficulty in digging in some schools due to the stony soil.

## Recommendations

- Some school principals and deputies recommended introducing environmental culture to the pupils in the classroom and the school extracurricular activities.
- Introducing the environmental curriculum into academic curricula.
- Increasing the expansion of the school tree planting process until it covers localities and administrative units.
- Conducting training workshops for communities and alleviate their sense of environmental responsibility.

The table below highlights the complete schedule of the project and the designated schools.

Date	School	Seedlings No.	Remarks
26/08/2022	Al-Wehda Basic School for Girls	8	Needs more trees such as Ficus and Ebony trees
27/08/2022	Khalid ibn al-Walid for Boys	10	Stony soil that needs neem trees to be planted.
02/09/2022	Al- Khalas Mixed Private school	10	
02/09/2022	Fatima Kurar Mixed school	8	
03/09/2022	Um Al-quraa Basic School	10	
03/09/2022	Um Al-quraa Middle School	5	
03/09/2022	The Secondary School for Girls	7	
09/09/2022	Al-tadamun Mixed school	8	
09/09/2022	Shiek Mohammed Deen Khalwa	10	
09/09/2022	Al-zahra'Secondary School for Girls	7	
10/09/2022	Al-shula'a	5	
16/09/2022	Hira'a Mixed Basic school	5	
16/09/2022	Yara Mixed Middle school	5	
123/09/2022	Al-hamayra Secondary School for Girls	12	Stony soil

# Photo Gallery











## 1.7 DCES and Islamic Relief Organization Common Project (August 2022)

### Introduction

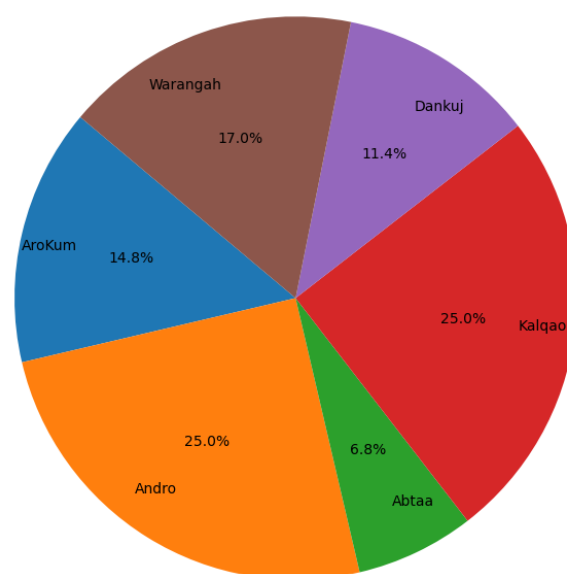
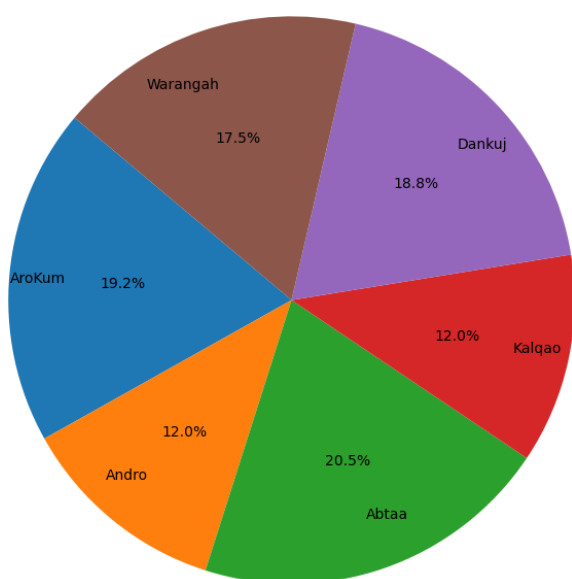
DCES in cooperation with the Islamic Relief Organization engaged in training local communities and raising their ability to earn a living, The center trained 322 participants. The overall objective of the training was to strengthen and raising the capabilities of local communities in the field of forest agriculture and environmental protection.

The participants were trained on the growth and development of forest agriculture, environmental protection, the benefits of afforestation, how to make nurseries, the causes of the deterioration of forest areas, and the role of women in preserving the environment.

The targeted villages were covered by one day per village as shown in the table below.

The chart shows the percentage of the women and men from the participants in each village.

No.	Village Name	Women	Men	Total
1	AroKum	45	13	58
2	Andro	28	22	50
3	Abta'a	48	6	54
4	Kalqao	28	22	50
5	Dankuj	44	10	54
6	Warangah	41	15	56
Total		234	88	322



The percentage of women (Left) and men (Right) among the participants in each village

## Objectives

- Activating the role of women in active participation in protecting the environment and managing natural resources.
- Developing and strengthening the capabilities and skills of young farmers, native administrations, and livelihood groups.
- Knowing the causes of the decline in agricultural and forestry production and productivity and its impact on food security.
- Training of trainers from the Livelihood groups to training targeted communities in selected areas of Central Darfur State.
- Background knowledge of forest degradation as a problem facing local communities, especially small farmers, youth, women, native Administrations, and livelihood groups.
- Securing food by improving livelihoods and increasing the capabilities of local communities to withstand the circumstances surrounding them, through sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.
- How to restore vegetation in degraded areas and use available techniques that have been approved and successfully tested.
- Attention to techniques that can be adopted by small-scale farmers, men, women, youth, native administrations, and livelihood groups.
- Encouraging the use of some intermediate technologies, such as animal-drawn agricultural machinery.

## Methodology

The training program aims to deliver the knowledge needed to understand the essence of forest farming and its various practices. This was done through extensive training sessions with the targeted participants.

## Recommendations

- Providing improved seeds to increase the production and productivity.
- Providing agricultural inputs and equipment.
- Providing security as essential element for the local communities to practice their acquired knowledge with ease.
- Coordinating with livestock owners to determine appropriate schedule for the release of their livestock for grazing.



## Photo Gallery





## 1.8 Joint Networking Event (July 2022)

Masrajah project initiated by Adeela for culture and art. The project aims to support building a base of active supporters to the democratic transition in Sudan. DCES have collaborated with Adeela for culture and art and various civil societies organizations in organizing a joint networking event that took place on 16/07/2022 in Central Darfur, Zalingei. The event included cultural, artistic, heritage, folk, and traditional songs, in addition to presenting some working papers.

DCES presented a paper on strengthening social peace through natural resources management and a paper on the challenges of democratic transition. The Nirtiti Forum for Awareness and Enlightenment also presented a paper on the roles of youth in societal change, in addition to a paper on the role of culture and arts and their importance in achieving peace, presented by Al-jobraka Cultural Forum. The Darfur Youth Governance Network Forum presented a paper on the prospects for women's contribution to democratic transition. AWAFE Organization also participated with a paper on transitional justice.

### **Success Story**

Overall, the event was successful. Thanks to its organization and being the first of its kind in the state, many people recognized and appreciated the role of the event organizers in uniting diverse cultures harmoniously. Additionally, the psychologist's participation who gave a talk on the psychological aspects of war on the affected societies, emphasizing the importance of addressing this issue.



# Photo Gallery







## 1.9 The First Climate Arts Café (March 2022)

DCES believes in the role of art, therefore; it has created the Climate Art Cafe which brings together different actors in a public space, especially artists to advocate for climate change issues, while helping them to educate the participants and provide them with climate information through arts.

### Overall Objective

The overall goal of Climate Art Café was to address climate change through art and raise awareness through different forms of art with particular focus on music, drawings and comedy sketches as one of the attractive forms of art.

### Objectives

The overall objective of this activity was to raise awareness about climate threats through different art activities. To this end, the activity has utilized some tools which include -

- Used different forms of art (e.g. instant drawing, music, poems...etc.) to raise awareness about the impact of climate change in Sudan.
- Engaged with different actors in the process of fighting climate change through discussions.
- Brought together youth activists, Artists, Environmentalists, singers, and other stockholders to educate them about climate change and its impact to our planet.

### Photo Gallery



Primary School students participated in Climate-art Cafe.

Students from primary schools in Central Darfur State, were invited to be part of the activity; the aim of this is to raise their awareness regarding current environmental degradation and to put the students on the right track of environmental activism.





Artist Painting

Instant art is a quick art drawn within a specific time frame, it can be within minutes, hours, or before a particular event ends. In this activity, the participants were to draw a picture that had a powerful message on climate change, within a given time frame or until the end of the event. The participants need to think creatively and communicate their intended message through art. This was to enhance engagement, creativity and knowledge and further understanding of the concept as this will reach to the participants of the activity and other attendees. The canvases and other art-related materials have been provided at the venue for interested personnel to participate in this activity.



Group Photo of the Event Organizers

## The Activity Outcomes

- Participants had well understood the impact of climate change to their communities through arts.
- The audience had been on the track of knowing the climate threats.
- Artists facilitated the role of art in combating and advocating of climate change issues in Sudan.

## Concluding Remarks

As we look forward, we are determined to keep advocating for a sustainable and resilient planet. With the backing of our partners, stakeholders, and supporters, I believe we can advance further towards our goal of a thriving environment for current and future generations. Let's stay committed to environmental advocacy and strive together for a brighter, more sustainable future.