



Netherlands Commission for  
Environmental Assessment  
Dutch Sustainability Unit

## Climate Change Profile: SOUTH SUDAN

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September 2016

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## Advisory Report by the Dutch Sustainability Unit

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Climate Change Profile: South Sudan</b>
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<b>Reference</b>	7196

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The Dutch Sustainability Unit is hosted by the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The views expressed in this publication are those of the DSU and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Netherlands Government.

*Photo (cover): Mr F. Deodatus*

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# Climate Change Profile: South Sudan

South Sudan is a landlocked country located in the east-central region of Africa with an estimated population of 12.2 million. Nearly 87% of the South Sudanese population depends on agriculture, livestock, and forestry, yet these sectors contribute very little to the national economy. Food imports support most of the urban population. South Sudan is experiencing substantially warmer and drier weather, and the combination of these effects leads to increasing evapotranspiration and more droughts. Since 1980, decreasing rainfall has been accompanied by rapid increases in temperature on the order of more than 1°C. This warming, which is two and a half times greater than the global warming, is making 'normal' years effectively drier. Rapid population growth and the expansion of farming and pastoralism under a more variable climate regime could dramatically increase the number of at-risk people in Sudan over the next 20 years. Climate change will aggravate South Sudan's fragile situation and may contribute to existing tensions and conflict.

## Overall ranking

As one of the world's newest countries, South Sudan is not ranked in the ND-GAIN index<sup>1</sup>. South Sudan is included with Sudan in the ND-GAIN index, and was ranked 177<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries, which is unchanged compared to Sudan's rank in 2013 (also 177). Sudan (including South Sudan) ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> on vulnerability and is the 10<sup>th</sup> least ready country, meaning that it is extremely vulnerable to, yet unready to combat climate change effects. The Verisk Maplecroft Climate Change Vulnerability Index does include South Sudan in its evaluation of the vulnerability of human populations to climate change over the next 30 years. The Vulnerability Index considers the risk of exposure to climate change and the resources of the country to cope with extreme weather events. Out of 186 countries, South Sudan ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the Vulnerability Index<sup>2</sup>.

## Biophysical vulnerability<sup>3</sup>

*Current climate.* Historically, the prevalent **rainfall** pattern shows lowest precipitation in the north-east and highest in the south-west of the country, culminating in the Greenbelt along the border with the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda. However, currently there is considerable variation in rainfall from year to year and from location to location within the same year, due to bimodal and unimodal rainfall regimes. The bimodal areas cover much of Greater Equatoria (Western, Central and Eastern Equatoria), while the rest of the country has a unimodal regime. Consequently, agricultural performance varies markedly depending primarily on latitude, with the possibility of two and even three harvests per annum from the same plots in the Greenbelt in Greater Equatoria, and a single harvest in the unimodal areas further north.

<sup>1</sup> GAIN index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with readiness to improve resilience. <http://index.gain.org>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/analysis/2434699/mapped-populations-most-vulnerable-to-climate-change>

<sup>3</sup> This section draws heavily on:

USGS, Famine Early Warning Systems Network- Informing Climate Change Adaptation Series, FEWS NET (2011): *A Climate Trend Analysis of Sudan* <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3072/pdf/FS2011-3072.pdf>

UNEP Global Environmental Alert Service (2011): *Food Security in the Horn of Africa: The implications of a Drier, Hotter and More Crowded Future* [http://na.unep.net/geas/getUNEPPageWithArticleIDScript.php?article\\_id=72](http://na.unep.net/geas/getUNEPPageWithArticleIDScript.php?article_id=72).

FAO (2014): *Special Report of FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to South Sudan* <http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3652e/i3652e.pdf>

South Sudan receives most of its rain in the 'long-rain' season between June and September, during which relatively heavy and steady rains are usually common. In most years, rainfall totals of more than 500 mm provide enough water across parts of South Sudan for farming and livestock. Average annual **temperatures** are between 18 °C and 30 °C, with the coldest temperatures in elevated areas.

South Sudan experiences both widespread and localized **droughts** and **floods** caused by above or below normal rainfall across the country or in a certain region. Flash floods often occur when the Nile River and its tributaries overflow during the months of August and September.

*Current trends.* According to the climate analysis of the Famine Early Warning Network (FEWS NET), much of South Sudan has experienced a 10–20% decrease in long **rains** since the mid-1970s. The region that received 500 mm or more of rain has contracted, increasingly exposing populations in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria to rainfall deficits. In the Upper Nile, the shift was from approximately 11 degrees to 10 degrees north (see [Map 1](#)). A westward retraction is occurring in Jonglei and East Equatoria, with the 500 mm contour shifting from approximately 33 degrees to 32 degrees east. Due to the reduced rainfall trend between the 1960s and late 2011, the area receiving adequate rainfall to support agro-pastoralist livelihoods (500 mm) has been reduced by 18%. In addition to the 30 years trend of declining precipitation, there is evidence that variability in the amount and timing of rainfall will be increasing from year to year. Smoothed time series (see [Map 2](#)) of 1960–2009 rainfall, extracted from the extended Darfur region in Sudan and South Sudan, show that 1960–2009 rainfall has been, on average, about 20% lower than rainfall between 1960 and 1989.

Over the past 30 years, South Sudan has been among the most rapidly warming locations on the globe, with **temperatures** increasing as much as 0.53 °C per decade<sup>4</sup>. Temperatures have increased by more than 1 °C across large parts of South Sudan. [Map 1](#) (right panel) shows warming in Sudan and South Sudan as successive southward advances of the average temperatures. The spatial pattern of warming corresponds (broadly) with the areas associated with reduced precipitation. South Sudan and western Sudan are becoming drier and hotter.

*Climate change.* Actual rainfall records of East Africa since 1970s indicate that **precipitation** has declined and a recent study predicts continued declines in the future. If present rainfall trends continue, by 2025 the drying impacts which are currently experienced in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria will likely reach into West and North Bahr al-Ghazal, Warrap, Unity, Al Buhairat (Lakes) and Central Equatoria. **Temperature** impacts will be amplifying the effects of drought: observed warming of more than 1°C is equivalent to another 10–20% reduction in rainfall.

Climate change will affect **water availability** in the country. Most of South Sudan is covered by the Bahr el Ghazal, Nile and Sobat River catchments that join at their confluents near Malakal to form the White Nile. In contrast to the Nile, the Sobat River and the Bahr el Ghazal river catchments have a strong seasonal character. Research on the Equatorial lakes and Bahr El Ghazal sub-basins suggest that an increase of 2°C in temperature might cause the natural flow to fall to 50% of the current average in these two sub-basins. The rising temperatures and uncertain rainfall could also impact on the Sudd, which is not only an important source of fish and products, but also a wetland of global biodiversity importance.

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<sup>4</sup> Climate Service Center Germany (2015). Climate-fact-sheet-South-Sudan, updated version 2015.

Temperature increase, in regions with very high average air temperature, can amplify the impact of water shortages on agriculture. These warming effects can combine with decreases in rainfall to reduce evapotranspiration and crop yields. This transition to an even warmer climate has strong **food security** implications, reducing crop harvests and pasture availability, and it can amplify the impact of droughts. The shrinking of the area receiving more than 500 mm of rainfall will leave a large number of people exposed to increased food insecurity, and will strongly impact crop production in the south-eastern part of the country.

### Socio-economic vulnerability

#### Key facts<sup>5</sup>:

GDP (PPP) per capita (2015) <sup>6</sup> :	USD 1,850
Population (July 2016) <sup>7</sup> :	12,736,355
Projected population (2050) <sup>8</sup> :	25,855,170
Population density per km <sup>2</sup> (2015) <sup>9</sup> :	20,2
Human Development Index (2014) <sup>10</sup> :	169 out of 188 countries
Corruption Perceptions Index (2015) <sup>11</sup> :	163 of 168 countries
Gender Inequality Index (2014) <sup>12</sup> :	169 out of 188 countries
Adult literacy (2015) <sup>13</sup> :	27% (male 40%; female 16%)

South Sudan continues to face a food security crisis. The UN estimates that 2.5 million people face food insecurity and the number is expected to rise to 3.5 million during the lean season starting in May<sup>14</sup>. Due to South Sudan's instability, poverty, low literacy rates and persistent food insecurity the country (and its people) are very vulnerable to climate change. Through its heavy dependence on rain-fed agriculture, its livelihoods and food security are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The UN have declared South Sudan a level-3 emergency, which represents the highest level of humanitarian crisis. South Sudan ranks second in the European Commission's Global Vulnerability and Crisis Assessment index (after the Central African Republic) and is the world's second most fragile state<sup>15</sup>. An estimated 50.6% of South Sudanese live below the poverty line. Women are particularly disadvantaged. Women are seen as inferior to men, and there are stark inequalities in access to education (as illustrated by the much lower literacy rates for women) and resources (e.g. women's rights to own property and inheritance are strongly limited by customary law).

<sup>5</sup> As a new country, disaggregated statistics (from the Sudan) are unavailable for some variables.

<sup>6</sup> World Bank Data – GDP per capita, PPP (2015): <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD>

<sup>7</sup> World Population Review (2014): *South Sudan*, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/south-sudan-population/>

<sup>8</sup> UNDESA (2015): *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, <http://esa.un.org/wpp>

<sup>9</sup> UNDESA (2015). *World Population Prospects. The 2015 revision*, <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>

<sup>10</sup> UNDP (2015): <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

<sup>11</sup> Transparency International (2015): <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2015#results-table>

<sup>12</sup> UNDP (2015): <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-4-gender-inequality-index>

<sup>13</sup> CIA (2015). *The World Factbook – South Sudan*. Available via <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

<sup>14</sup> European Commission (2015): *South Sudan crisis*, ECHO Factsheet. [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/sub-saharan-africa/south-sudan\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/sub-saharan-africa/south-sudan_en)

<sup>15</sup> Fragile States Index (2016). Available via <http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/rankings-2016>,

The economy of South Sudan is characterized by a high dependency on oil, limited domestic production and a high reliance on imports. The non-oil economy is dominated by subsistence farming and livestock. During the same period that the previously described trends in temperature and rainfall have made rain-fed agriculture less secure, the population of South Sudan has roughly tripled. For the past five years, at least 10% of the population has been experiencing severe seasonal food insecurity every year.

Approximately 90% of South Sudanese households depend on crop farming, animal husbandry, fishing or forestry for their livelihoods. Livelihood strategies include a combination of cattle rearing, crop production, fishing, wild food collection and trade – with the combination determined by the agro-ecological conditions as well as culture and traditions of the communities in a given region. In the far south-east corner of South Sudan (see [Map 3](#)), arid conditions make cattle rearing the most viable livelihood option, and therefore the majority of the people are pastoralists. The Greenbelt area is inhabited mostly by agriculturalists, whereas cattle rearing is rare due to the presence of the tsetse fly. Mountains and hills livelihood zones are home to both agriculturalists and agro-pastoralists. In difficult years they depend on cattle, trade, and root crops. In the Western flood plains, households supplement their agricultural products with fish and wild food. Eastern flood plains are similar to the Western flood plains with an added advantage of game hunting. In Iron Stone Plateau, people depend on crop production and trade in surplus production from the Greenbelt. People in the Nile and Sobat zone depend on wild foods and fish in addition to crops and livestock. For most households in South Sudan, cattle rearing is the preferred option as it is a basis for wealth and status. In contrast, although producing crops does play an important complementary role, it is considered an inferior activity.

Much of the country's agricultural production comes from small, rain-fed, hand cultivated plots. A significant portion is farmed by women-headed households belonging to larger (polygamous) family aggregations. Sorghum is the main crop (70% of area cultivated), followed by maize (27%, including double cropping in the Greenbelt) and other cereals (including bulrush, finger millet, and rice) make up the remaining 3%. Most households do not produce enough to provide for year-round household consumption (i.e. until the next harvest) and depend on markets (for purchase/access). Some states are more dependent on market supplies than others. Jonglei and Unity, for example, show very high market dependency very soon after the harvest period, whereas in Upper Nile households are almost exclusively dependent on market supplies throughout the year. West Bahr el Ghazal households are also heavily dependent (up to 79%), while North Bahr el Ghazal and to a lesser degree Warrap state show seasonality in market supply. These are the most vulnerable states to price shocks during the lean season.

Looking to the future climate in South Sudan, the country's inherent vulnerability will increase with the expected changes in rainfall and temperature. Agricultural production, livestock, and forest resources are also expected to be impacted by higher temperatures, while both drought and flooding also contribute negative implications to these activities (see [Map 4](#) for projected influences on sorghum yield). Some of the states that currently face high, persistent food insecurity will be experiencing rising temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns that will further impact crops and pasture.

Currently, the coping strategies of households are primarily to eat less preferred foods, eat fewer meals, and limit portion size. The coping strategies of the last resort are the sale or

consumption of resources such as animals and seed stock. Climate change will exacerbate existing household vulnerability and may exceed the capacity of current coping strategies. Of special concern are states such as North Bahr el Ghazai, Warrap, Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei that currently have limited coping strategies. These states will be experiencing changes in precipitation and temperature that are likely to result in decreased crop yields. Especially children are affected: inside South Sudan, an estimated 27.6% of the children under 5 years are underweight<sup>16</sup> and 70% of the South Sudanese refugees in the region are children and youth under 18 years old<sup>17</sup>. In addition, it is likely that climate change will affect investments in transport infrastructure that facilitate trade, potentially disrupting markets and trade on which South Sudanese households are highly dependent.

To increase adaptive capacity and resilience to the increasingly frequent droughts and higher temperatures, improved water and agricultural management practices could contribute to offsetting climate induced changes. Adaptation strategies that focus on raising yields in wetter areas may be a more viable option than extending agriculture into more marginal areas. However, rapid population growth may make it difficult to slow the process of agricultural expansion.

There is concern that the impact of climate change may exacerbate South Sudan's existing instability – nationally, regionally, and locally. If as likely to occur, climate change results in longer dry seasons and more prone to drought, it may exacerbate the factors that drive conflicts over access to resources. For example, the heightened competition for increasingly scarce pasture and water can lead to further conflict among pastoralists. One of the current adaptive practices of pastoralists is to start moving from high to lower ground in search of pasture, but if this quest will begin earlier in the year due to climate change effects (e.g. one to two months earlier than usual) it may lead to more conflicts as others act likewise. Actions that contribute to the resilience of one group may undermine the resilience of another. In 2014 this concern was expressed by South Sudan's Minister of Environment Deng Deng Hoc Yai who proclaimed that climate change is *"exacerbating the civil war in South Sudan, and the environmental damage caused by global warming increased the suffering that war already caused in the strife-ridden country, worsening food shortages and building pressure on urban areas"*<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> CIA (2015). The World Factbook – South Sudan. Available via <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

<sup>17</sup> European Commission (2015)

<sup>18</sup> Responding to Climate Change (RTCC) (2014): *South Sudan*, <http://www.rtcc.org/2014/05/30/climate-impacts-fuelling-south-sudan-war-says-minister/>

### National government strategies and policies<sup>19</sup>

The South Sudan National Environmental Policy (2015–2025) was endorsed by Parliament in April 2016. In general, the National Environmental Policy calls for the development of a national strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation; the formulation of a climate change policy for South Sudan; and support to efforts to reduce community vulnerability to climate variability and change<sup>20</sup>. South Sudan has not yet developed its climate change policy and strategies; however, adaptation strategies or plans have been incorporated in its development plans. Some of these adaptation strategies are in the process of being implemented. Priority sectors for adaptation strategies include agriculture and forestry, livestock, health, water and (cross-cutting) disaster risk management. Energy policies, including on the petroleum and electricity sectors, do not have direct measures to address climate change (e.g. reducing greenhouse gas emissions), although environmental and social impact assessment and environmental baseline assessment are required before the development of each energy project.

South Sudan ratified the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and as noted above is currently working on a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)<sup>21</sup>. South Sudan also ratified the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) but has not yet elaborated on a National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Sudan has drafted a National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), which is now awaiting final review and submission to the UNFCCC. South Sudan received support from GEF, which finances implementation of, and development of action plans for the three conventions.

South Sudan is working on its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Also in progress with support from UNEP is the Initial National Communication (INC) which is needed to fulfill South Sudan's commitments and obligations under the UNFCCC and the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for environmental management which was launched in late 2015 and is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2106<sup>22</sup>.

South Sudan has not yet completed enabling activities to qualify for forest based carbon climate change related funds. South Sudan became a partner country to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forests Degradation (REDD), which works to enable countries that preserve forests to assess forests and estimate forest based carbon which can potentially be marketed for carbon-offsets. UNEP is providing technical support for a REDD+ Country Needs Assessment (CNA) which when completed will assist South Sudan to move towards REDD+ readiness and implementation<sup>23</sup> and The Ministry of Environment is the operational focal point for the UNFCCC and UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) while the Ministry of Agriculture,

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<sup>19</sup> This section draws heavily on Tiitmamer, N., The SUDD Institute (2015): *Assessment of Policy and Institutional Responses to Climate Change and Environmental Disaster Risks in South Sudan* <http://suddinstitute.org/assets/Publications/climate-changeTiitmamer.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> FAO (2013): *Workshop on sustainable ecosystem management for adaptation to climate change and improved livelihoods in the Nile Basin*, <http://www.fao.org/forestry/39595-0d29aa96b994d11cc6fd6a7b8f68cd2f2.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/CountryOperations/SouthSudan/News/NBSAPworkshop/ta-bid/1061054/Default.aspx>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/CountryOperations/southsudan/EnvironmentalGovernance/ta-bid/105737/default.aspx> Accessed on Sept 20, 2016

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/countryoperations/southsudan/CommunityForestry/ta-bid/79281/Default.aspx> Accessed on Sept 20, 2016.

Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources and Fisheries is the operational focal point for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)<sup>24</sup>. So far, no National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) have been developed.

A 2014 report by The SUDD Institute<sup>25</sup> focused on the policy and institutional framework of climate change related matters in South Sudan. Among its findings was the identification of the biggest challenges facing the nascent institutions tasked with climate change included the lack of technical know-how, financial resources, and the low priority of the environment and climate change issues on the agenda of the government. The Ministry of Environment has established a climate change unit but it is not operational due to lack of financial and human resources.

### **Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)**

South Sudan submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in September 2015<sup>26</sup>. Taking into consideration the 50 years of conflict that destroyed the little infrastructure and governance structure that existed prior to the conflict, South Sudan presents itself as being highly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, mainly due to the dependence of its population on climate-sensitive natural resources for their livelihoods, limited institutional and technical capacity, appropriate technologies and financial resources to support the implementation of intervention for climate adaptation. The INDC notes that in South Sudan climate change is already occurring – particularly as unpredictable rain patterns, recurrent droughts flash flooding and excessive heat that result in food insecurity and famine. Implementation costs of adaptation and mitigation actions up to 2030, is estimated at over **USD 50 billion** and is conditional upon international support.

*Mitigation.* South Sudan is working to employ clean technologies to realize low-carbon, climate-resilient development. Current GHG-emission estimates are not available; in its INDC the country commits to undertake a national GHG-inventory to allow assessment for mitigation potential and to quantify emission reductions. South Sudan prioritizes three sectors for low carbon development and puts forward several options per sector:

- Energy generation and energy use:
  - increase the use of clean and carbon-neutral energy;
  - construct hydro-electricity at the Fulla rapids;
  - increase solar and wind energy;
  - increase efficiency for biomass use in the informal sector (fuel wood and charcoal);
  - increase electricity use in the formal sector.
- Reforestation and Deforestation:
  - declare 20% of the country's natural forest as reserve forests to protect it from deforestation;
  - reforestation and afforestation efforts: planting of 20 million trees over the next 10 years.
- Transport:
  - establish emission standards for vehicles;

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<sup>24</sup> Titmamer (2015)

<sup>25</sup> Titmamer (2015)

<sup>26</sup> UNFCCC (2015). <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/south-sudan-submits-its-climate-action-plan-ahead-of-2015-paris-agreement/>

- establish exhaust test centres, repair/improve vehicles that score above allowable emission levels;
- restrict importing vehicles that do not meet allowable emission levels.

*Adaptation.* A sectoral approach was adopted for the INDC with priority actions based on observed adverse effects of climate change on the sectors:

- Agriculture and livestock: building upon traditional knowledge and supporting community based adaptation to improve climate resilience in agriculture (climate smart agriculture, livestock improvement, enhancing productivity of fishery sector and soil erosion control); promoting the harvesting and retention of water for different uses through community based watershed management.
- Health: conduct comprehensive vulnerability assessments to inform actions on improving early warning systems for climate related disease outbreaks (e.g. malaria) and establishing contingency plans for climate-resilience health systems, building public hospitals.
- Adapting vulnerable communities to climate change: among the actions to achieve this are improving access to water, enhancing food security through the introduction of climate-smart agriculture and irrigation, inclusive participation in national and subnational climate change planning,, gender inclusive adaptation interventions, hydro-meteorological monitoring network, increase investments in disaster mechanisms, and creating buffer zones and relocating vulnerable communities from flood-prone areas.
- Forests, biodiversity and ecosystems, among actions for this sector are: promoting agro-forestry practices; afforestation of degraded landscape (e.g. planting 20 million trees over a ten year period)s; reducing deforestation by establishing, forest reserves, conservancies and protected areas; enforcing environmental regulations; establish water points for wild-life; and increasing awareness of local communities on climate change and environmental protection.
- Infrastructure: improving waste water treatment; incorporation of adaptation criteria into development plans. And ensure that land-use plans and building codes reflect the expected impacts of climate change.
- Institutional and policy actions: capacity building and the mainstreaming climate change concerns into all sectors; providing decision makers with relevant data and information to develop early warning systems and inform appropriate responses to climatic events.

*Capacity building and transfer of technology.* Areas identified which would benefit mitigation and adaptation include renewable energy technologies, climate information systems, water technologies (e.g. waters savings, recycling, harvesting and irrigation), methods and tools to assess climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and transportation technologies that are climate resilient.

## Climate finance

No figures are available on the total contribution of the South Sudanese government to climate change related actions. South Sudan joined the GEF in April 2013 and was to engage in working on GEF enabling activities (to fully qualify for funding from GEF), including a NAPA, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and country self-assessment. In total, it was allocated USD 3,700,000 for climate change projects, USD 2,220,000 for biodiversity, and USD 1,000,000 for land degradation (management).<sup>27</sup> As described above, the Ministry of Environment and relevant institutions are working on enabling activities with technical assistance from UNEP. As soon as these are ready and there is political stability and a functioning government in place South Sudan could receive significant (e.g. between USD 40 and 70 million) in climate change financing in the coming years. Also, after fulfilling the UNFCCC requirements, South Sudan will have access to a number of key funds within the GEF, the GEF 6 allocation, the LDCF (on climate change adaptation), the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund)<sup>28</sup>.

According to the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), South Sudan, considered a fragile state with lower and middle incomes, received USD 700,000 in climate funds between 2004 and 2014. This is placing the country at nr. 133 of the climate finance approved ranking list composed of 135 countries<sup>29</sup>. Being a fragile state with on-going conflict, the country received much smaller sums respective to richer countries such as e.g. Mexico and South Africa that received over half a billion dollars in the same period.

## Climate change projects

Relatively little information is available on climate change actions underway in South Sudan by donors, although South Sudan is involved in a handful of regional projects. As stated above, conflicts are likely to influence the progress since priority is often given to immediate conflict resolution, and because it is more difficult (for international organizations) to work in conflict areas.

UNEP has provided critical policy guidance to the government of South Sudan and key ministries on new environmental policies and regulations and on compliance with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)<sup>30</sup>. Future UNEP projects in South Sudan are to focus on among others wildlife conservation, integrated water resources management (IWRM) and wetlands management, forest resource management, and urban waste management – all vital areas for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Climate change projects with a link to water and/or food security that are being implemented in the country (either bilaterally or through donors or international climate funds) include:

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<sup>27</sup> GEF: *Country profile South Sudan*. <https://www.thegef.org/gef/south-sudan>

<sup>28</sup> Titmamer (2015)

<sup>29</sup> Nakhooda, S.; Norman, M. (2014): *Climate Finance: Is it making a difference? A review of the effectiveness of Multilateral Climate Funds*. ODI. <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9359.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> UNEP (2015): *Disasters and Conflicts, South Sudan*. <http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/CountryOperations/southsudan/FutureProjects/tabid/105738/Default.aspx>

- '2SCALE'<sup>31</sup> funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2012–2017) aiming to improve rural livelihoods and food and nutrition security in Africa by creating partnerships to enable farmers and entrepreneurs to grow together in their agribusiness<sup>32</sup>;
- 'Food Security and Development of Agricultural Markets' (2013–2015) executed by GIZ, a project that aims to increase access to and availability of food for households in rural areas and near towns (NB: GIZ projects in South Sudan are currently being assessed and in part redesigned due to the political crisis, activities are redirected towards improving the overall food situation in the country and the conditions for internally displaced persons)<sup>33</sup>;
- the African Water Facility (AWF) recently offered a €1.97 million grant to the 'Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program' (NELSAP) to increase water availability for food production, fisheries, electricity generation, and sanitation as well as the prevention of flooding and droughts in the Nyimur region of Uganda and South Sudan<sup>34</sup>;
- the European Commission is making available more than €173 million since 2014 to respond to the humanitarian crisis in the country<sup>35</sup>, covering among others the provision of food aid, clean water, and sanitation – with the aim of reducing mortality due to water-borne diseases;
- IMPACT Initiatives, a Geneva-based organization, is currently conducting research to map vulnerability to flooding in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states, as part of the Building Resilience to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) programme<sup>36</sup>;
- DFID estimated budget for 2016–2017 for South Sudan is £163,339,191 of which almost 60% was for humanitarian response and strengthening resilience, particularly in the areas of food security.<sup>37</sup>

For a list of climate related projects in South Sudan funded through multilateral climate funds, see the [Annex](#).

### Climate contribution of the Netherlands Embassy: Pitch & Bid

Beginning in 2014, embassies with development programs are annually preparing a climate *Pitch and Bid*. The *Pitch* communicates the embassy's climate-smart actions that will address climate change. Based on the actions described in the Pitch, assignment of the Rio Markers and budget information, the embassy prepares a *Bid* which is an estimate of how much of its budget is likely to be spent on climate-smart projects in the coming three years. In 2016, the Netherlands Embassy in South Sudan in its BID estimated a climate for 2016–2018 of € 7.992,578 [2016: € 6,352,578; 2017: € 1,640,000]. Currently there is not an allocation of funds for 2018. All of the projects are contributing to *adaptation*.

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<sup>31</sup> 2SCALE is a consortium of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), BoP Innovation Center (BoPInc.), and the International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA)

<sup>32</sup> 2SCALE consortium (2013): *Business as unusual, the 2SCALE project – highlights 2013*. <http://ifdc.org/south-sudan/>

<sup>33</sup> GIZ (2015): *South Sudan*. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/313.html>

<sup>34</sup> African Development Bank (2015): *African Water Facility to help tackle food insecurity, flooding and droughts in Uganda and South Sudan*. <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/african-water-facility-to-help-tackle-food-insecurity-flooding-and-droughts-in-uganda-and-south-sudan-13892/>

<sup>35</sup> European Commission (2015)

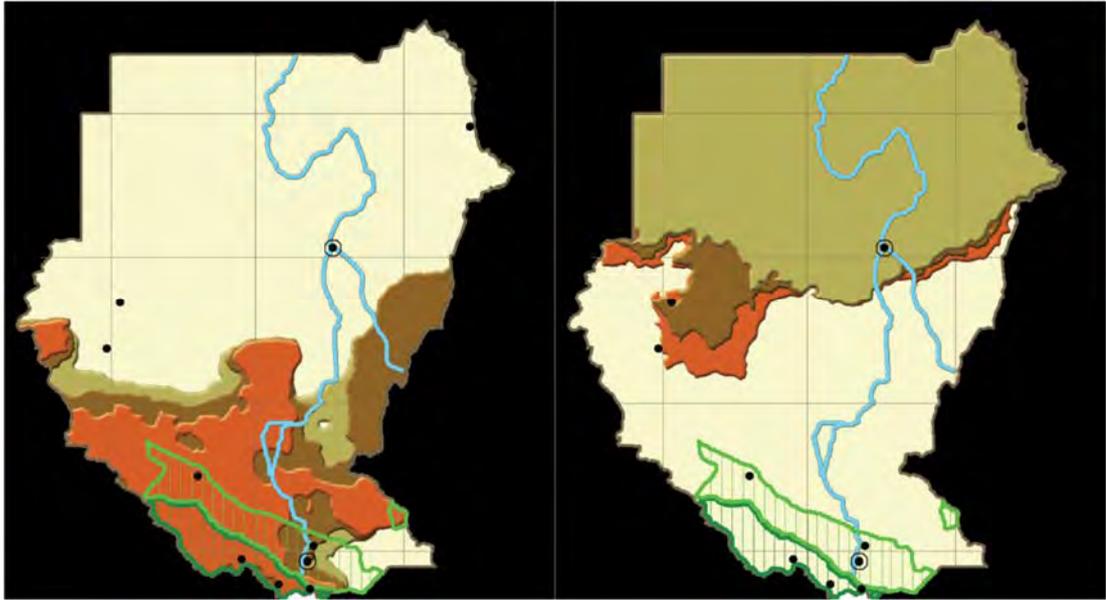
<sup>36</sup> <http://www.braced.org/news/i/?id=77f24aa1-63aa-4224-a69f-b5aa50d449b0>

<sup>37</sup> <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/countries/SS/>

The Embassy's Pitch indicates the following climate-smart actions for its climate contribution:

- **Sustainable and equitable access to water**. Developing systems which focus on sustainable and equitable access to water for people, agriculture and livestock through construction of (deeper) boreholes, rain water harvesting structures and the restoring of the natural drainage systems to adapt to prolonged dry spells and decreasing rainfall; enlarging water storage capacity.
- **Operationalizing an IWRM approach** to water resources management with focus on social, economic and ecological aspects which would enable to build resilience against climate change shocks.
- **Developing IWRM capacity** at all levels to support and boost equitable and sustainable use of the available resources, targeting the most vulnerable groups for decision making.
- **Introducing diversified cropping and farming systems**, horticulture and access to (better quality) seeds of drought resistant varieties and species to reduce the climate change impact on agriculture production.
- **Developing value chains and marketing** of agricultural, livestock and fishery products to stimulate economic development and build resilience and enhance possibilities to adapt to climate change.
- **Developing the seeds sector**, resulting in increases in agricultural productivity through access to improved inputs and better farming practices. This includes seeds that will be adapted to current and future weather patterns: early maturing, disease resistant, drought tolerant and adapted to local agro-ecological zone will all contribute to climate resilience;
- **Enhancing** food security of local communities.
- **Rehabilitating feeder roads resulting** in increased access to markets for (farming) communities, stimulating agricultural production and improved services to communities, as well to reducing disaster risks by enabling access by emergency services.

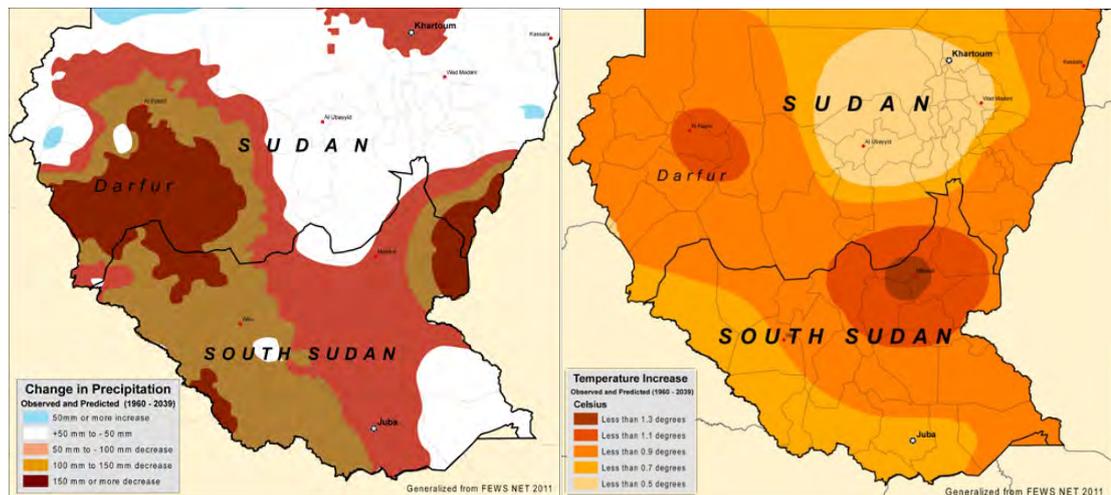
Map 1: Climate change in Sudan



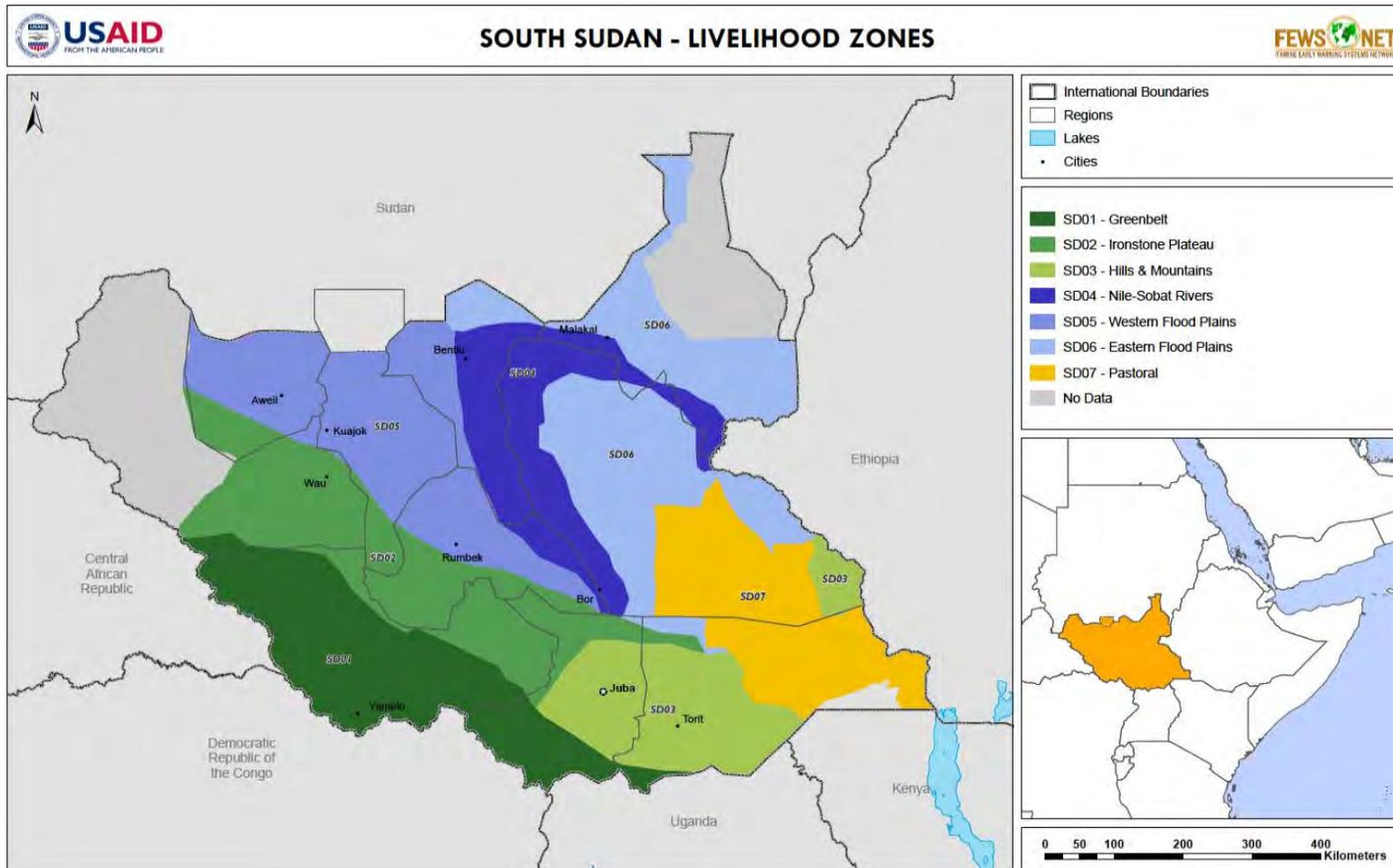
Left: Average location of the 500–millimeter rainfall isohyets for the years 1960–1989 (light brown), 1990– 2009 (dark brown), and 2010–2039 (predicted, orange). The green polygons in the foreground show the main crop surplus region (the Greenbelt livelihood zone) and the agro–pastoral Ironstone Plateau and Hills and Mountains livelihood zones.

Right: Similar changes for the 30 degrees Celsius isotherm. Areas north of this line are very hot; this intense heat makes plant growth and pastoral livelihoods difficult.

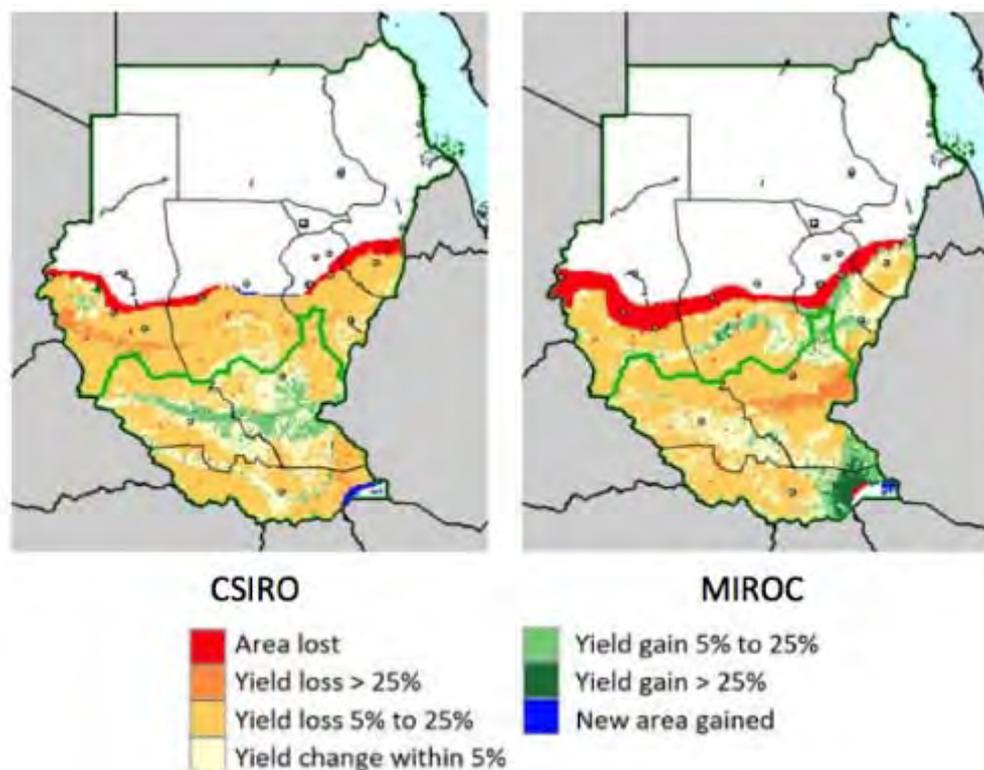
Map 2: Changes in Precipitation and temperature increase: 1960–2039



Map 3: Livelihood zones of South Sudan



Map 4: Changes in yield with climate change: rain fed sorghum



Left: The CSIRO<sup>38</sup> model projects that annual rainfall will remain unchanged through 2050. Right: The MIROC<sup>39</sup> model indicates that most of the southern part of Sudan will get wetter. The maps depict the results of the Decision Support System for Agro technology Transfer (DSSAT) crop modelling software projections for rain fed sorghum, comparing crop yields for 2050 with climate change to yields with 2000 climate. The climate effects from both models result in a yield loss of 5–25 percent between 2000 and 2050 over most of the country’s sorghum harvest area, and, in the marginal cultivated areas of the semi-dry zone, some loss of baseline area. These results would have serious implications for food security, as sorghum is the main staple cereal grain of the rural population. Those same climate models show some limited gain in baseline area that could potentially offset part of the yield loss in the rest of the cropped land.

Source: Taha, A.; T. S. Thomas; M. Waithaka (2012): *East African Agriculture and Climate Change: A Comprehensive Analysis – Sudan*, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/east-african-agriculture-and-climate-change-sudan>

<sup>38</sup> Comprehensive climate system model developed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) including atmosphere, land surface, ocean, and polar ice [http://www.cawcr.gov.au/publications/technicalreports/CTR\\_021.pdf](http://www.cawcr.gov.au/publications/technicalreports/CTR_021.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> Model for Interdisciplinary Research on Climate (MIROC) is a coupled general circulation model and consists of five component models: atmosphere, land, river, sea ice, and ocean [http://ccsr.ori.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~hasumi/mi-roc\\_description.pdf](http://ccsr.ori.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~hasumi/mi-roc_description.pdf)

## Annex: List of projects in South Sudan under multi-lateral climate funds

Source: *Climate Funds Update (2016)*: <http://www.climatefundsupdate.org/data>

Name of Project	Fund	Funding Approved (USD millions)	Disbursed (USD millions)	Fund Type
Preparations of National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) in response to Climate Change	Global Environment Facility (GEF) Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)	0.2		Multilateral
Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC	Global Environment Facility (GEF5)	0.5		Multilateral
National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management in South Sudan	Global Environment Facility (GEF5) [multifocal area which includes climate change]	0.2		Multilateral