

UN official calls to fund peacebuilding efforts in Darfur

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UN official calls to fund peacebuilding efforts in Darfur - Sudan Tribune: Plural news and views on Sudan

A UN report issued in May 2008, on the role of natural resources and environment on the conflicts and peace-building says that "environmental stress and the exploitation of natural resources can increase the severity and duration of conflict, and complicate its resolution".

Citing the case of Darfur, the same UNDP report points that around one-third of the region's population has been displaced in or close to cities or in large camps, as a consequence of the conflict in Darfur.

This has caused a dramatic increase in population in the internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, compounding pressures on water, wood and land resources.

The groundwater resources, according to the report, appear to be under severe stress. "Of the 66 boreholes drilled in Abu Shouk and Al Salaam camps, 12 to 15 boreholes have already run dry," the report said.

It also points that where IDPs have settled on the outskirts of towns, farmland and sheltering tree belts have been damaged or removed entirely.

The UN official didn't specify plans that the UN can fund, but the UN Environment Programme has called desertification "Sudan's greatest environmental problem" that has driven the social, political and economic systems of Darfur to violent conflict.

Even if there is no new displacement in Darfur recently, Lacroix said there are 2.7 million people displaced, out of which 2.1 million are in need of assistance across Darfur, and 1.6 million living in a range of camps and settlements.

He mentioned the recent return of refugees from neighbouring countries particularly the Central African Republic adding "The lack of security, basic services and sustainable livelihoods in return areas, as well as issues related to land ownership, have become major impediments to return," he stressed.

(ST)

Sudan Tribune

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