



Date: 15/03/2007

Dear Mr. Skuratowicz,

Land degradation is one of the most serious development issues in Sudan with direct negative impact on economic growth, food security and environmental sustainability of the country. The CPA has also recognized the prominent role sustainable natural resource management plays in conflict prevention.

Eastern Sudan typifies areas where vulnerability, decreasing resilience to drought, food insecurity and conflict over access to natural resources are essential realities of everyday life, especially among pastoralists and small farmers.

Land degradation is caused by lack of appropriate land management policies, poor environmental governance, neglect of indigenous knowledge, weakening of traditional institutions; in addition, prime focus on humanitarian support is largely responsible for the sufferings of people.

Following consultations with the UNCCD focal point, we hereby endorse the project proposal entitled "Sustainable land management for sustainable livelihoods in Toker area of East Sudan". The overall objective of this project, "to promote sustainable land management practices for improved livelihood conditions and promotion of social peace in East Sudan", corresponds to the priority areas identified in the CPA and guiding development action in the Sudan. The approach foreseen by the project supports the decentralization processes initiated in the Sudan and will pilot local land use planning and resource management which can be replicated in other regions of the country.

Building on the continuous support UNDP has been providing to the Sudan in building its capacity to meet global environmental commitments, we, the Higher Council for Environment and Natural resources as the operational focal point; and the Political Focal Point for GEF in Sudan confirm, on behalf of the Government of Sudan, Sudan's interest to engage in partnership with the TerrAfrica, and the desire to access resources from the GEF-SIP through the UNDP.

It is worth mentioning here that, in accordance with the principles of TerrAfrica, the Sudan is engaging in a programmatic approach to which donor support will be aligned. Any such future engagement of development partners will be facilitated by UNDP.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Saadeldin Ibrahim,
GEF Operational Focal Point

Yassin Eisa Mohamed
GEF political Focal Point

Mr. Jerzy Skuratowicz
UNDP Country Director

CC: GEF CEO