

USING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO ALLEVIATE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON POVERTY IN SOUTH SUDAN: THE CASE OF THE SUDD.

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The Sudd is the largest and most expansive fresh water swamp in the African continent. Traditional knowledge had been adapted in the Sudd to control flooding of fields that are used to produce grain like sorghum by the pastoral communities... The technology consisted of water channels and embankments constructed to transfer flood waters away from crop growing fields. With the advent of Climate change, the rainfall and floods heavier, resulting in the channels bursting their banks and destroying growing crops each year. It is proposed that a pilot management of the excess water be established by the pastoral communities at the Boma (a group of villages) and Payam (district) levels by constructing narrow shallow channels at the household farm level, medium size channels at the Boma level and large deep channels at the Payam level. These channels will convey the excess flood waters at the household farm fields and Boma fields slowly to the Payam channels, which in turn will drain the water faster from the fields leading it to ground dams. The ground dams are excavated at strategic locations between Payams for storing the excess flood waters. The ground dams will be used for watering livestock and growing high value enterprises such as vegetables, fruits, fish and toads to alleviate poverty.

Key words: Sudd, traditional knowledge, Climate change, control flooding, pastoral communities, rebuilding channels at Boma and Payams, high value enterprises, alleviate poverty.