

Contributions of Remote Sensing for Governance of Natural Resources and Environmental Issues in Darfur, Sudan

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ABSTRACT:

Where dense and regular on-ground mapping and monitoring of natural resources do not exist, remote sensing data play a key role. The Natural Resources Mapping and Land Use Database for Darfur Project for the Nyala based Darfur Land Commission, established in 2007 under the terms of the Darfur Peace Agreement, establishes an extensive database coupling a wealth of previously existing data and information with new systematic multi-temporal mapping and analysis by using a range of remote sensing data, ground reference and measurement programmes for the topics ecology, water resources, land cover and use, geomorphology and soils, geology and mineral resources, as well as by carrying out a socioeconomic and livelihoods assessment. The project shows that earth observations can significantly contribute preparing the ground for an improved natural resources and environmental understanding, help informing cross-cutting issues in strategic plans and enable an integrated, socially and environmentally sound planning and impact assessment in a complex situation of access to natural resources, land tenure, farming and non-farming systems and livelihoods.