



November 2009

United Nations Mission

In SUDAN

DIVING THE
**RED
SEA**

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DIARY

2 October: Fighting erupted between armed elements loyal to Gen. Paulino Matiep and State Governor Taban Deng Gai in Bentiu, Unity State. Some 15 soldiers and three civilians reportedly died, while 31 others were injured.

4 October: A reconciliation agreement was signed between the Jebel al Nuba and Misseriya Zurug tribes in Kadugli, Southern Kordofan, putting an end to a three-year conflict.

5 October: The National Elections Commission (NEC) issued the final revised report of geographical constituencies after reviewing some 885 complaints, out of which 400 were accepted.

5 October: During a conference in Muglad, the Misseriya reportedly announced their rejection of the ruling made in July by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on Abyei area boundaries.

7 October: At least 42 people were reportedly killed and 70 others injured following a week of fighting between the Mundari and Dinka-Bor in the vicinity of Juba-Bor road.

15 October: The Juba-Bor road was reopened after about two weeks of closure due to the Mundari and Dinka-Bor tribal conflict. Forces from the Sudan People's Liberation Army and Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) were jointly deployed along the road to ensure security.

18 October: The two kidnapped international GOAL aid workers -- Sharon Commins and Hilda Kawuki -- were released after being held in Darfur for three months. Less than a week after their release, another international aid worker of the International Committee of the Red Cross was kidnapped in West Darfur.

19 October: The SPLM reportedly started a one-week boycott of parliament in an attempt to put pressure on the National Congress Party to adopt outstanding bills on national security and the referendum.

23 October: The airlift operation of some 300 SPLA soldiers loyal to Gen. Paulino Matiep from Bentiu to Juba was completed. The operation was undertaken by UNMIS after an agreement with the SPLA in an attempt to de-escalate tensions in the area.

27 October: UNICEF warned of the high mortality rate among women during child birth during a press conference at UNMIS Headquarters in Khartoum. Agency representative Nils Kastberg told the media that 26,000 women die annually during childbirth.

1 November: Voter registration began countrywide, with UNMIS and the UN Development Programme embarking on what has been termed the country's largest ever delivery of voter registration materials. The mission is assisting with the operational planning and final delivery of 117,880 kilos of materials to 53 remote areas in Southern Kordofan State, Southern Sudan and Darfur, as identified by the NEC.

3 November: Speaking at the concluding session of a symposium on unity and self-determination in Khartoum, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ashraf Qazi pointed out that the parties could still make unity attractive, despite the late hour. The two-day symposium, organized jointly by UNMIS and Future Trends Foundation, brought together foreign experts as well as some 60 Sudanese intellectuals, opinion leaders and academics.

6 November: The UN Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Francis Deng, an Abyei native, visited Abyei town. He held meetings with the area administration as well as Misseriya and Dinka traditional leaders, urging all parties to work together to settle differences.



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In SUDAN

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FRONT COVER: Outdoor restaurant at the Sudan Red Sea Divers Resort, Red Sea Coast. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka.
BACK COVER: Ruins of a Nubian city.. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka.

POLLS AND REFERENDA KEY CPA CHALLENGES, SAYS BAN

The elections and referenda were among key Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) milestones yet to be reached, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his latest report on Sudan.

Calling on the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to enhance their partnership, Mr. Ban said outstanding CPA issues were "highly sensitive and will have the greatest impact on Sudanese political life".

"The Agreement must be implemented in spirit as well as the letter if the immense work undertaken is to be sustainable," he stressed in the report, issued on 21 October.

Next year's elections, the first multi-party polls in decades, must be seen as part of a larger process of democratic transformation, requiring a long-term commitment by all parties, the Secretary-General said.

Noting the importance of credible polls in the eyes of the Sudanese people, Mr. Ban said that substantial preparatory work remained to ensure free and fair national elections.

He also noted that the National Elections Commission had completed constituency delimitation based on the census results, but the NCP and the SPLM continued to disagree over using the census results for elections, and had failed to reach final agreement on the Referendum Act, now 27 months behind schedule.

The report congratulated the parties on the successful completion of the Abyei boundary arbitration process, but raised concerns about possible further disputes over land, water and other resources, with an increase in returns to the area, between the Dinka Ngok and Misseriya.

In an effort to diffuse tension, UNMIS and the UN Development Programme had assisted with a Dinka-Misseriya peace conference on 1 July, which adopted a resolution acknowledging UNMIS' role in fostering inter-tribal reconciliation, the report noted.

Another concern was the

targeting of unarmed civilians during tribal attacks and counter-attacks, as well as reports of widespread arms proliferation in Southern Sudan.

From mid-July to mid-October, there were as many as 54 clashes in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Lakes States, resulting in the deaths of at least 316 people, stated Mr. Ban, urging the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to bolster efforts to end recurring (revengeful) justice and hold those behind the attacks accountable.

"The situation faced by communities affected by inter-tribal fighting in Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria, Warrap, Jonglei and Northern Bahr El-Ghazal has been further aggravated by high cereal and low livestock prices and poor rainfall during the rainy season," the report stated, concluding that 1.5 million people were facing severe

food insecurity between August and December.

Inter-tribal violence and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army in Western Equatoria State and neighbouring countries had resulted in the displacement of about 250,000 people, including 25,000 refugees who fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic since January 2009, worsening the humanitarian situation.

"A humanitarian crisis, as a result of growing insecurity, risks undermining the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and reversing gains achieved in the south," the Secretary-General stressed.

He acknowledged that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme (DDR) had reached a key

milestone on 9 August, when the first demobilization exercise in Blue Nile State concluded, during which 5,443 participants left the military. By the end of August, a total of 12,650 participants had been demobilized across the country.

On wealth- and power-sharing, the report noted that oil revenues were \$787.01 million in the first half of 2009, and all revenues owed to the GoSS for the same period had been settled. However, only 1,000 positions in the Government of National Unity had been filled by southerners, approximately half of the CPA-mandated number, the report said.

"The coming 18 months will pose enormous challenges for the people of the Sudan, and how those challenges are met will largely determine the future of the country," concluded the Secretary-General.

He appealed to the Security Council along with the international community to step up efforts to ensure CPA implementation, so that Sudanese people "can take a critical step toward the realization of political equality, economic development and human rights".



World Food Programme recipient in Sobat River Corridor, Southern Sudan, where tribal clashes and drought have recently created food insecurity. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka.

EXPLORING JEBEL BARKAL

Sitting on the west bank of the Nile about 350 kilometres north of Khartoum, Jebel Barkal (Barkal mountain) hosts internationally renowned archaeological findings dating back almost 3,000 years.

Excavations have mainly focused on the ancient city of Napata, established in about 750-590 BC as the capital of the Kush kingdom. Major work was carried out there between 1916 and 1920 by American archaeologist A. G. Reisner under a Boston Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) concession, revealing the great Amun temple and pyramid tombs of the 25th Nubian dynasty (about 747-656 BC).

Rome University resumed excavating at Napata in 1972, exposing Meroitic house plans and small temples as well as the ruins of enormous palaces. In 1986, Boston's MFA renewed its concession for the site, to be joined by a Spanish party funded by the Clos Foundation in 1995.

The Spanish team discovered two unknown royal tombs of the Napatan period, bringing the total number of pyramids in the area to 12.

Treasures unearthed in the royal tombs included seals, furniture, weapons, horse

riding implements like trappings, jewelry and perfume pots. Pottery and ceramics of the finest types were also found, as were materials from abroad, such as silk from Central Asia.

Royal stelae (slabs generally decorated with names) found at Napata, written in old Egyptian, revealed that it was the primary sanctuary and coronation centre of the Kushite kingdom. The area was called "pure mountain" until the decline of the Meroitic kingdom in about 400 AD, when it was captured by Ethiopia.

Napata became a Christian city in about 600 AD, after Nubian kings were believed to be converted to the religion by Coptic missionaries from Egypt. The area continued to be inhabited after Islam established a foothold in the region during the ninth century.

Jebel Barkal is still considered a holy place, as the tomb of a local Muslim Shiehk – Faki -- stands beside it.

Just downstream from the fourth Nile cataract, the Jebel Barkal region also boasts stunning views of the Nile banks and its numerous date palms. Recent

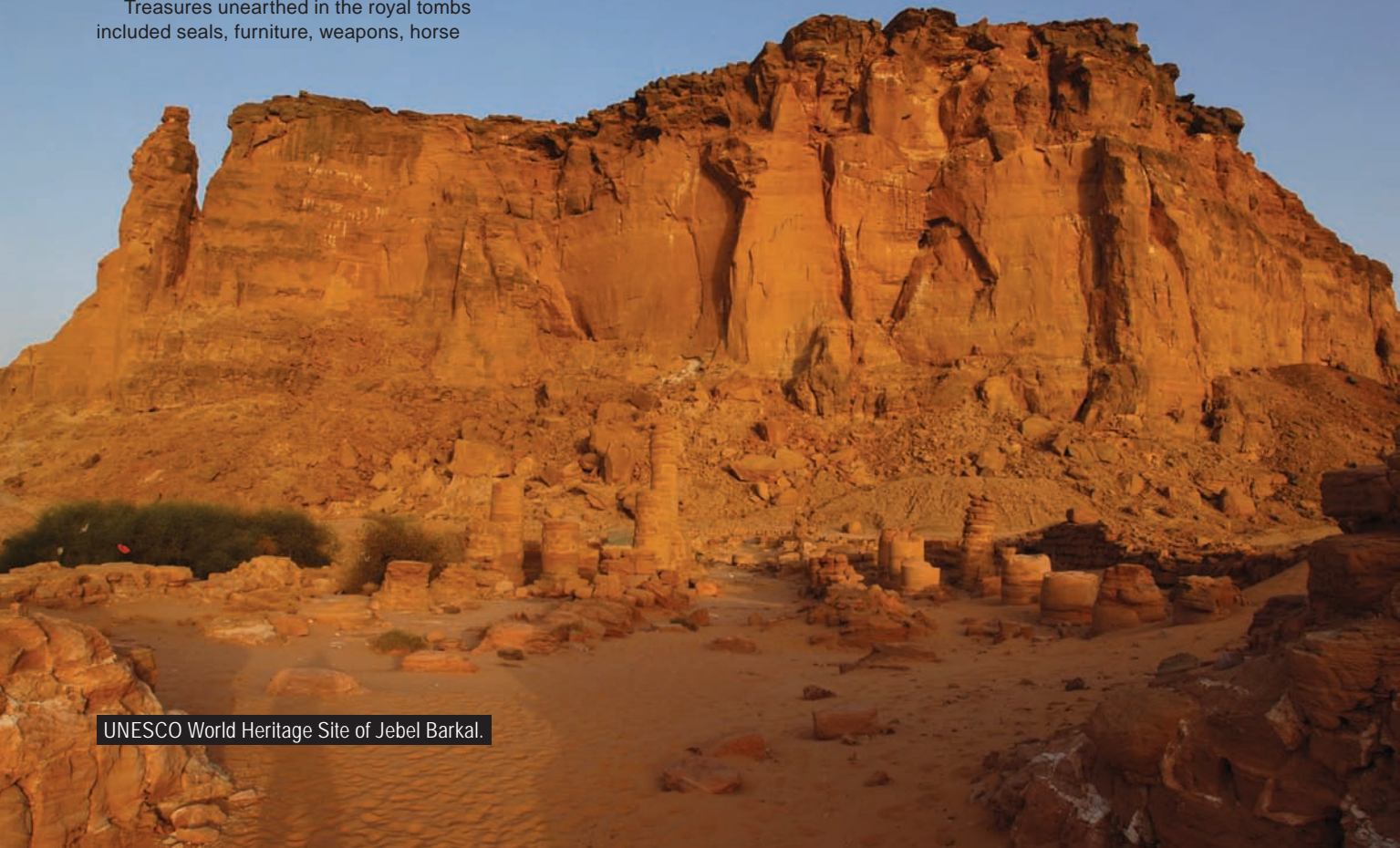
construction of the Merowe Dam created a large lake nearby (170 kilometres long and four kilometres wide) as well as several islands downstream.

Farther away down the Nile in the city of Dongola, a cathedral decorated with wall paintings gives testament to a history of Christianity in Sudan. Also in the area is a Muslim cemetery of varying grave types, including dome-shaped "gobbas".

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife has encouraged the private sector and associate companies to establish tourism facilities for interested travelers in the area. One company has built a tourist village using Nubian designs to harmonize with the exotic surrounds.

Another company has established a compound with accommodation, restaurants, a museum portraying the region's history, handicraft centre and water wheel or "Sagya", a traditional means of irrigation.

Continued on pages 6-7





Ancient cemetery on plains above Old Dongola.



Royal cemetery at Nuri, opposite Jebel Barkal.



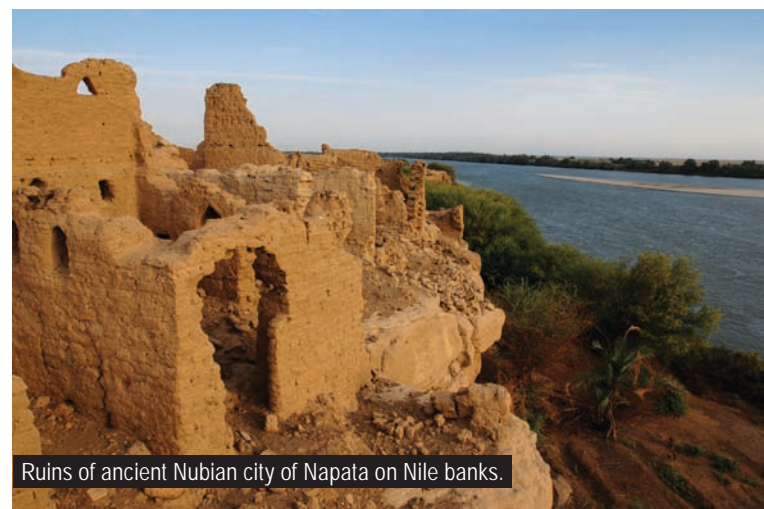
Pyramids on plains of UNESCO World Heritage Site, Jebel Barkal.



Stone carvings on inside of royal burial chamber inside Jebel Barkal.



Traditionally painted Nubian home.



Ruins of ancient Nubian city of Napata on Nile banks.

DIVING THE RED SEA



Outdoor restaurant at Sudan Red Sea Divers Resort, Red Sea Coast.

Traveling due east of Jebel Barkal, one eventually reaches the unspoiled, crystal clear waters of the 740-kilometre-long Red Sea coast.

Previously a well-kept secret, Sudan's Red Sea coast is rapidly becoming a key diving destination, with increasing numbers of enthusiasts arriving over the past three years.

Famous for its coral reefs, which extend more than 1,000 metres in parts, the Red Sea is rich in colourful and widely varied marine life.

Plentiful within the coastal area, reefs are also to be found offshore at Sanganeb, Shaab Rumi and Dongonab, which offer protected areas with shallow water

surrounded by sea several hundred metres deep.

As in the archeological areas, an increase in Red Sea tourists interested in diving and underwater photography

has encouraged the federal and state governments to grant concessions to the private sector to build accommodation facilities offering scuba diving equipment.

Two resorts currently exist in the coastal area – Red Sea Divers Resort and Arous Beach Resort – that are complemented by several hotels in the region's main city, Port Sudan.

For tourists more interested in land-bound activities, the coastline offers the historical ruins of Old Swakin and its traditional local handicraft. Of interest is the superb leather work, mainly used to decorate camels, especially during races.

Photos: UNMIS/Tim McKulka



Fishermen preparing boats in harbour of Old Suakin.



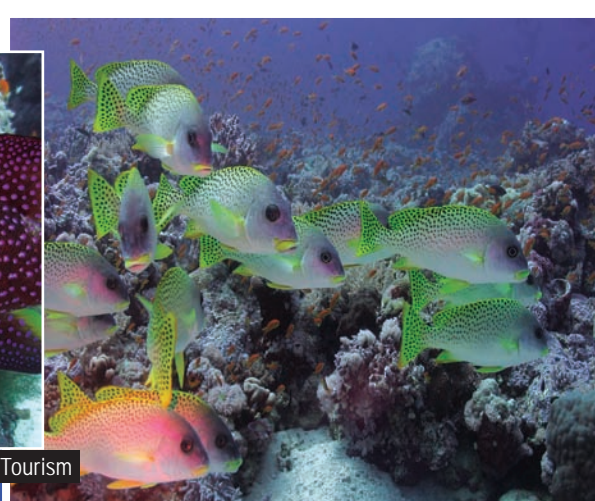
Restaurant inside Sudan Red Sea Divers Resort, Red Sea Coast.



Nile River, North Sudan.



Beach at Arous, Red Sea Coast.



Red Sea marine life. Photos: Sudanese Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism



GETAWAYS ALONG THE NILE

After passing barren hills and scuffed shacks selling car-parts along the road about 100 kilometres north-east of Khartoum, a green area on the Nile opens up to the weekend picnicker.

Sabaloga, a favourite getaway among the local population, is a perfect spot for a day-trip. Located right on the Nile, it offers fresh fish for the hungry, short hikes in the surrounding hillocks and cruises on small motorboats.

Although commercial domestic tourism "is not yet abundant in Sudan", according to Blue Sky Expeditions General Manager Abo Bakar Mageed, many Sudanese organize day trips on their own.

"But most of them don't go far," added the company manager, who organizes trips largely for European and Asian tourists.

On weekends, dozens of families and groups of friends lounge on the grass near the river or under tents waiting for fish freshly-caught and fried by Sabaloga residents catering to domestic tourists.

Some picnickers also take meat with them for the grill, or according to Sudanese customs, slaughter a goat on the spot for the gathering to feed on.

Another popular picnic spot is Jebel Awlia along the White Nile. About a 45-minute drive south of the capital, this area is "a classical fisherman and bird-spotting area", said the tourism professional.

Walking or driving across Jebel Awlia's dam, which was completed in 1937, one can enjoy the sunset in a tranquil setting spiced up by barbecue smells floating from the shore.

"We have tremendous tourism potential in Sudan ... (that could) satisfy the taste of many tourists," Mr. Mageed noted, adding that those acquainted with Meroitic culture would enjoy visiting pyramids in the north. There are also plenty of Islamic heritage sites as well as vivid tribal life with a potential for ecotourism – more and more in global demand.

One of the reasons why the tourism business had not yet developed in Sudan, however, was lacking finances and good infrastructure, Mr. Mageed said. "The government does not give priority to tourism," he stated, leading to scarce tourism establishments.

While lodging facilities exist in main tourist areas, the owner must provide water and electricity, as the municipality fails to do so in many cases.

Another reason for the slow pace of tourism development is security and stability, to which "the industry is highly sensitive", Mr. Mageed said.

Speaking about the potential of tourism now hindered by security issues, he mentioned a Nile cruise from Kosti (White Nile State) down to Juba (Central Equatoria State). "Everything could be seen -- wildlife, people's life, riverine fauna. It would be unique."

However, no one in the industry had offered this service yet, Mr. Mageed added, also because of governmental procedures requiring much paperwork and clearances.

"Tourism is impression and memory ... good impression means a continuation of business," while bad memory is a deterrent, he concluded. ■



Sudanese weekenders dancing to traditional music at Sabaloga.

Story and photos: Eszter Farkas

Sudanese families waiting for a boat ride on the Nile at Sabaloga.

SPOILS OF WAR

Gunfire, game hunting and plundered habitats depleted much of Sudan's previously abundant wildlife during the country's two-decade long civil war.

Former Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldier Lt. Jacob Alier Ayuen told In Sudan that his comrades, living and fighting in the bush around Bor, Jonglei State, relied on wildlife to survive.

"I hunted game like tiang and antelope when I was hungry," said the 28-year-old veteran, now an administrative officer in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism.

Animals were also a source of food for the SPLA's rival, the Sudan Armed Forces, noted GoSS Wildlife Conservation and Tourism Undersecretary Fraser Tong.

Other wildlife fled to neighbouring countries to escape the constant rattle of gunfire or perished in the war-damaged environment, Mr. Tong said. "The destruction of the natural habitat (providing food and security) caused death to many wildlife species in Southern Sudan."

Some thought that southern wildlife was totally extinguished by the long-standing conflict. "Even international experts believed wildlife in Southern Sudan was highly affected and that some animal species were totally wiped out," said Paul Elkan, Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Southern Sudan programme.

But while the war cut down on wildlife in the region, a surprising number have survived. A 2007 survey carried out by Mr. Elkan's office and the GoSS wildlife ministry revealed over a million animals of various species, including elephants, buffalo, giraffes, hartebeest, white-eared kob and topis.

"It was really miraculous to see that much wildlife ... The 2007 survey gave us great hope regarding the wildlife reserve," said undersecretary Tong.

Animals endured in abandoned areas like Bor and Malakal or those inaccessible to the warring troops, Mr. Elkan said. Their numbers were also helped along by the quick recovery of some species and the SPLA's wise approach to conserving wildlife.

"They (the SPLA) used wildlife as food, but they also protected them," noted Minister of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism Agnes Lokudu, speaking during an October workshop to launch the wildlife conservation and national parks draft bill at Oasis Hotel in Juba.

According to Lt. Ayuen, the SPLA was

"We are still in a war, fighting against poachers. It is like you kill them or they kill you, as they consider you an enemy depriving them of survival"

conscious of the danger of extinction for some animals, hunting males rather than females as well as those in more abundance. "We mainly hunted smaller animals, not the big ones like elephants, rhinos and giraffes."



Lt. Jacob Alier Ayuen.

Still endangered

But experts agree that wildlife who survived the war still face challenges, unless integrated efforts are made to conserve them.

"A lot of firearms fell into the hands of communities due to the conflict, who use them to hunt game, even carnivorous wildlife like lions, leopards, hyenas and wild African hunting dogs, to protect their livestock," said Mr. Tong.

The widespread use of illegal arms has also made protection of wildlife from poachers difficult. "We are still in a war, fighting against poachers. It is like you kill them or they kill you, as they consider you an enemy depriving them of survival," said Lt. Ayuen.

Besides poaching, Mr. Elkan noted other potential hazards. "Commercial hunting for the bush meat trade, oil pollution expanding in the Sudd (wetland stretching from Malakal to Bor) and illegal logging in Western Equatoria are also among the threats."

Mr. Tong noted that efforts are also being made to conserve wildlife. "We have enough protection forces allocated at the five national parks as well as at other protected and semi-protected areas."

To boost the ministry's capacity, the undersecretary noted that 47 wildlife conservation officers had begun a three-month training course on wildlife conservation and law enforcement in Kenya on 8 October.

Moreover, in cooperation with other partners, the ministry has drafted a new wildlife and national parks bill, which is currently being reviewed by a taskforce for endorsement. The key goal of the new draft bill is to enhance the protection of wildlife resources. ■



(From the left) Undersecretary Fraser Tong, Minister Agnes Lokudu and Paul Elkan at launch of wildlife draft bill, Oasis Hotel, Juba.

Negus Hadera



Paul Elkan. Photo: UNMIS/ Negus Hadera

Paul Elkan is director of the Southern Sudan programme of the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The American conservation biologist moved to Juba at the beginning of 2007 to participate in the first aerial survey of Southern Sudan's animal species in 25 years. Conducted with the support of the Government of Southern Sudan's (GoSS) Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, the survey revealed one of the world's largest populations of migratory animals, with an estimated 1.2 million tiang gazelle, white-eared kob and mongalla gazelle roaming the vast savannah plains of Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria States. To learn about the challenges of protecting such abundant wildlife, *In Sudan* spoke with Mr. Elkan at his offices in Juba.

In Sudan: What was the significance of the 2007 aerial survey?

Paul Elkan: After 25 years of civil war, there was a lot of speculation that some species were wiped out in Southern Sudan. I can remember reading an article about Southern Sudan that was published in 2005 in The East African newspaper that said, "There Are No More Elephants Here."

But the Southern Sudanese Wildlife Forces (law enforcement arm of GoSS Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism) who contacted us about doing the aerial

surveys were saying, "No, that's not true, we've been out in the bush, we've been out fighting, and there still are elephants, there still is wildlife."

It wasn't until the (2005) Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed that we were able to mobilize an aircraft and wildlife experts and, with the cooperation of the ministry, document what was probably the greatest wildlife story of the last 10 or 20 years in terms of the rediscovery of the wildlife resources base in Southern Sudan.

Some species survived the long civil war better than others. Why was that?

Species that could move away from the guns during the war or move away from villages and camps seem to have fared much better than more sedentary species.

The white-eared kob migrates, but a buffalo or hartebeest doesn't really migrate very far. Those animals that are limited in their distribution and their ranging and need to be around permanent water resources tended to be wiped out locally.

Is the abundance of wildlife in the region good news for its people?

It really is a huge windfall for the Southern Sudanese people as a resource base and potential for development of wildlife, in particular tourism activities around this

sector.

But from a technical perspective, we need to be very clear. Southern Sudan could lose this resource base if it doesn't mobilize management schemes to address poaching pressures. Wildlife in some areas is probably under more threat now during the peace than it was during the war.

And why is that?

For a couple of reasons. People are less and less afraid to range out. They're armed to protect their cattle and they come into closer contact with wildlife.

You also have the development of road infrastructure, and of course it's critical to the development of Southern Sudan. The Juba-Bor road, for example, is essential to the development of Jonglei State, but that is a commercial bush meat trading artery right now.

The tiang and reedbuck in that area are being hammered and if that continues, it will endanger some of these migratory herds.

What concrete evidence of poaching is there?

In March, the ministry undertook an anti-poaching operation and seized a truck in a place called Jalle just north of Bor. We were doing a reconnaissance of the area, and here comes a truck filled with animals, and that meat was destined for Bor.



Elephants in Zeraf Reserve of Sudd wetlands, Southern Sudan. Photo: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

WILDLIFE STORY”

The owner of the truck had paid for a commercial hunting operation, and his people went out and shot large quantities of reedbeek and tiang, which were all loaded in this truck. Wildlife Forces seized the truck and brought back the vehicle and the poachers.

Is the development of a robust eco-tourism industry the best way to protect wildlife?

Tourism is a tool, and if it's not regulated and developed properly it can also ruin your resource base and can develop in a way that doesn't benefit local communities.

Right now these areas need a management plan, they need park infrastructure development. You don't want to have tourism driving management, you want to have management dictating to tourism where it should happen and when.

If it's poorly managed from the beginning, you can have more environmental damage and a lot of conflict with local communities.

What are the most endangered species in Southern Sudan today?

In terms of large-bodied mammals, the northern white rhino is top of the list if it still exists. Zebra are definitely in a very precarious position.

Elephant are still very vulnerable even though they have a large population of 4,000 in the Sudd (wetland stretching from Malakal to Bor). In some places, giraffe have been quite reduced.

How would you describe the attitude of Southern Sudanese towards wildlife in general?

People have been living off the land during all these years of struggle and they still have wildlife very much in the forefront of their minds. When you speak with the leaders of the Government of Southern Sudan who were in the bush leading the forces, they will tell you how important the wildlife resource base was to the war effort.

What is the UN doing to promote wildlife conservation, and what more can it do?

I really appreciate that the UN helped move the Lafon airstrip (in Eastern Equatoria State) up on the list for de-mining. It was quickly de-mined because they learned in that sector of the UN that we were interested in using the airstrip for development of Bandingalo National Park.

Whenever there's a development project, whether it be the UN Office for Project Services building a road or UNDP (UN Development Programme) doing a

rural development project, there should be awareness of where the protected areas are and what sensitivities need to be included. We can have a great water programme, but it could be horrible for wildlife.

We have a project coming online through the UNDP from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for some funding which will complement our current funding from the United States Agency for International Development. The GEF will be allocating \$3.8 million to the WCS Southern Sudan program in 2010.

Is Southern Sudan better off now than it was two years ago in terms of protecting its wildlife?

I think we're at about the same place. There's an improvement in awareness so that's a step in the right direction. But the pressures are greater now than they were two years ago.

The ministry is very well aware of what it needs to do, but what it has to do is very difficult. They have this resource now, but if they don't stop poaching it will be gone and there will be no more opportunities to manage this sector. ■



“A BITTERSWEET

Euphoria filled the air on a hot afternoon in Abyei, as town residents joyously welcomed a world-renowned son making the first visit to his hometown in five years on 6 November.

Visiting Sudan to participate in a roundtable discussion on unity and self-determination in Khartoum, acclaimed academic and author Francis Deng felt he could not depart without a visit to Abyei.

“I felt I should come to Abyei and be candid in my analysis of the situation. Although away, I have never removed myself from the causes of Abyei, and continue to follow events and developments from a distance,” he later said during a visit to the Legislative Assembly.

Also a senior UN official who worked for several years on human rights and displacement issues, Mr. Deng said he needed to strike a balance between his national and international duties on the one hand and his past on the other, when Misseriya and Dinka were able for generations to manage their relations.

“My own grandfather Kuol Arop and my father Deng Majok together with Misseriya leader Babu Nimer were able to make arrangements for their tribes to live together. I inherited this responsibility as co-paramount chief with my brothers.”

The programme for the 71-year-old author was tight, with less than four hours on the ground. His first stop was the graves of his father and grandfather, where a display of strong community spirit was evident.

His uncle, the only remaining son of legendary Kuol Arop, is probably in his early 90s, but steadfastly recited a traditional song for ancestors next to the

tomb of Mr. Deng's grandfather, where a bull was slaughtered.

Older men converged and surrounded Mr. Deng, while one wielded a traditional spear to cut the animal's throat. Hymns and songs chanted by the people reminded Dr. Deng of his childhood. “These are very ancient songs. We had songs for all social occasions. Hearing them today gives me a sense of continuity. Something deep in this culture persists.”

He then drove through the razed town, a stark reminder to any visitor of the Abyei May 2008 clashes between the Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army, forcing the town's population and surrounding villagers to flee.

Of some 50,000 to 60,000 people who left during the May fighting, many are still living in Agok, 30 kilometres south of Abyei town. The scenes of destruction and hastily erected *tukuls* (mud and straw conical huts) made Mr. Deng think of the 1940s and 1950s, when “Abyei used to have harmonious relations (with the Misseriya nomads), to the extent that my grandfather and father decided that Abyei should stay in Kordofan state (in the north).”

Born in Al-na'am village a few kilometres away, Mr. Deng attended primary school in Abyei. Unable to recognize his childhood Abyei, he said, “I had to be told about the places and the houses of so and so. The new huts are poorly built compared to what used to be our neat style of thatching.” With its long contentious history, the area is often referred to as the bridge between north and south, home to the predominately Dinka-Ngok and Misseriya communities, who have traditionally co-existed for centuries.

But the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) made the area's strategic location a decisive factor, as residents will vote in the 2011 referendum on whether to become part of North or Southern Sudan.

Mr. Deng recalls his father saying that “Abyei is the needle and thread that binds the north and south”.

Recently, the area drew international attention when the Abyei Arbitration Tribunal, seated at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in

The Hague, rendered a final decision on delimitation of the Abyei Area boundaries, a sticking point since the CPA was signed in 2005.

Following three years of controversy, the PCA redrew Abyei's eastern and western boundaries, decreasing its land to the east. For the Dinka Ngok, the ruling affirmed Abyei town as the heartland of the tribe's nine chiefdoms.

Reciting an old adage from his father, Mr. Deng said, “Abyei is like an eye, so small, but sees so much. I say ‘Abyei is so small but seen around the world.’”

The author's penultimate stop, a meeting with the Abyei Area Administration (AAA), Dinka community elders and Misseriya leaders, brought home the harsh realities of major obstacles ahead if Abyei is ever to again experience the peace and stability that “Abyei people have not experienced for the last 28 years”, as one elder forlornly put it.

Faced with no budget, a severe void in infrastructure, lack of basic services, and worrying security issues under the newly awarded status of the nine chiefdoms, the AAA has several daunting challenges to overcome.

Addressing a group of Misseriya leaders who had come from Muglad, 220 kilometres north of Abyei, to see him, Mr. Deng said, “I am ashamed that we have acquired all this education and knowledge of modernity since the time of our grandfathers, but (are) unable to resolve inter-tribal problems as amicably as they were.”

He notes that problems in a place like Abyei are compounded when the state intervenes. “If central authorities intervene and take sides, this complicates the conflict and creates imbalances. Instead of using spears ... they now use modern arms. In the past, if 10 people died in a fight, it was a large number. Now the dead are in the hundreds due to the use of modern weaponry in ethnic and tribal clashes. As more people get killed, the hostility deepens and becomes entrenched.”

Mr. Deng said he had spoken with colleagues in New York about the PCA, stating that Abyei needed reconstruction and programming. However, his office can only act as a catalyst to move and mobilize events.

Speaking to Legislative Assembly members, he noted that the international system functioned through government requests and the AAA would need to



Francis Deng (centre) meeting with Abyei Area Administration.

EXPERIENCE”



Francis Deng

Currently holding the position of UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Francis Deng has also authored and edited over 20 books in the fields of law, conflict resolution, forced migration, human rights, history and politics as well as two novels.

Mr. Deng has a distinguished academic and research background as Director of the Sudan Peace Support Projects at the United States Institute for Peace and has worked at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, first as a guest scholar and then a senior research associate. He joined the Brookings Institution as a senior fellow, where he founded and directed the Africa Project for 12 years.

Among numerous awards he has received in his country and abroad, Mr. Deng is co-recipient of the 2005 Grawemeyer Award for "Ideas Improving World Order" and the 2007 Merage Foundation American Dream Leadership Award. In 2000, Mr. Deng received the Rome Prize for Peace and Humanitarian Action.

coordinate with the Government of Southern Sudan and Government of National Unity. "The Sudanese need to rise above factionalism and invest in development. Abyei needs to have a government that will develop the area, not waste the money."

The last stop on the author's whirlwind visit was the hut of his mother, called Mother Achok, who initially could not



Francis Deng (centre in beige) paying respects at the grave of his grandfather, kuol drop.

Francis Deng Publications

- Talking it Out: Stories in Negotiating Human Relations (Kegan Paul, 2006)
- A Strategic Vision for Africa: The Kampala Movement, with I. William Zartman (2002)
- African Reckoning: A Quest for Good Governance, co-editor with Terrence Lyons (1998)
- Masses in Flight: The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement, with Roberta Cohen (1998)
- The Forsaken People: Case Studies of the Internally Displaced, co-editor with Roberta Cohen (1998)
- War of Visions: Conflicting Identities in the Sudan (1995)
- Human Rights in Africa: Cross-Cultural Perspectives, ed. with Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im (1990)
- Cry of the Owl (Lilian Barber Press, Inc., 1989)

believe that her only boy, Francis, was indeed visiting her. The hut was dark and crowded with relatives and family members all vying to glimpse Francis, touch him and shake his hand.

At the end of his visit, Mr. Deng said, "It is difficult to describe my feelings. It is a bittersweet experience. While it is a pleasure to be back, it is however bitter because those who knew Abyei before knew it did not have modernity, but cohesiveness (and) all grew up with

dignity and identity."

The Abyei native added, "It is great to see how people consider you as a value to the community. This makes me feel satisfied but it poses challenges as well because you know your limits and that you can not deliver all what they expect. This is why it was a bittersweet experience." ■

*Shantal Persaud and Khaled Mansour
Photos: Shantal Persaud*

MUSIC FOR THE SOUL



Paulino Lado Misaka Loro in front of his house, Juba.
Photo: UNMIS/Emmanuel Kenyi.

Despite a severe disability, veteran musician Paulino Lado Misaka Loro devotes his considerable talent to songs of reconciliation, peace, education and the elimination of HIV/AIDS.

Paulino, who sings in his local Bari and Arabic languages, lost his sight to trachoma as a young boy, but he did not let this silence his music. A composer, vocalist, guitarist and pianist, he has three albums to his credit.

"Music is medicine to the soul", says Paulino. "It's a cure for all kinds of ailments. Unfortunately, many people here do not appreciate our local music. But I will work hard and win them over."

Art runs in Paulino's family. His late grandfather was a singer and his elder brother plays music. A younger brother, now deceased, was also a popular musician.

Now 50, Paulino's career is revved up by his unending passion for making music and a love for the guitar. During the interview with In Sudan, the singer interspersed the session with tunes as he occasionally strummed on the instrument.

The guitarist says he is not in music for the money but believes music gives him an opportunity to enlighten people on vital concerns.

Paulino began his career as a choir member of his local Catholic Church in the Central Equatoria State town of Rokon. By the time he was 15, his sight had deteriorated, forcing his family to send him to Khartoum for treatment in 1974.

In the capital, he joined St. Peter's Catholic Church Choir, where he learned how to play the piano. He was then diagnosed with trachoma, an infectious disease that is the world's leading cause of blindness, which eventually worsened until he was pronounced blind.

Paulino dropped out of school at the

age of 17 and channeled all his energies into his music career. Practicing with the Kamal Kela African Band alongside a renowned guitarist, he learned to play the guitar, which came in handy when he was invited by Comboni School in Khartoum to teach music.

After quitting Kela Band at the end of the 1990s, he formed Liku Liku Band, whose members were drawn from Juba, Wau and Malakal. They became popular mostly among Southern Sudanese in Khartoum, and would be hired to perform at social and religious functions.

"I knew Paulino (in Khartoum) during the war,"

says a great fan, Yona Justin, who now lives in Juba. "Although he is blind, God has given him a special talent to educate people through music ... ranging from Gospel songs to others."

Due to tensions at the time, Liku Liku Band was careful not to dwell too much on political themes. It was a difficult time as the war raged on and they mostly relied on support from the church and the students' union at the University of Juba in Khartoum, as well as record sales through hawking.

"I knew him in Khartoum through his music," says another fan, Betty Pita. "He has a natural talent in music and sings songs that are educational to the communities about peace and living together."

With the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, Paulino was invited back home by the newly formed Government of Southern Sudan. He is currently employed by the Ministry of Culture and Social Services as an artist.

As a government employee, Paulino is happy because he is on the payroll, usually assigned to compose songs and

perform during functions, like the recently concluded All Political Parties Conference in Juba.

He now has a band popularly known as Paulino, which performs at religious and social events and does gigs at hotels in Juba.

Through music, Paulino also encourages parents to send their children to school and raises awareness about HIV/AIDS through songs he has written in Bari and Arabic.

Praising Paulino's endeavours, UNMIS Protection Officer Jane Juan says, "I've known him since we were preparing for an occasion of World AIDS Day in Juba ... we have become friends ... he is a great musician". ■

Antonette Miday

Coming events

Painting exhibition Khartoum, through November

The Rashid Diab Arts Center is commemorating painter Ahmed Abd Alal with 22 paintings spanning his career. A successful artist with exhibitions worldwide, Ahmed Abd Alal passed away last year at the age of 62.



Symposium on multiculturalism Khartoum, 25-26 November

UNMIS and the Goethe-Institute are presenting a two-day symposium at Sharia Hall highlighting questions of cultural diversity and multicultural societies in Sudan. An expert roundtable will discuss current concepts of multiculturalism and how to apply them in Sudan's complexity. The symposium's findings will be presented to the public on the second day.

Sudanese music Khartoum, 26 November

Sudanese favourite Salah Brown and his band is performing at the French Cultural Centre, which describes the group's music as a mixture of modern, western and world sounds, a fusion of diversity.

European Film Festival Juba, 7-11 December

Aiming to showcase contemporary European films in Sudan, several European cultural centres and embassies organized a week-long film festival in Khartoum and Juba. The capital launched the festival in early November with 20 contemporary productions, while Juba will host it in December at the Nyakuron Cultural Center.

Jazz concert Khartoum, 18 December

German band Trio 105 from Berlin is giving a jazz concert at the Blue Nile Sailing Club, organized by the Goethe-Institute and the German embassy.

NEWS BRIEFS

Deputy Force Commander killed in Islamabad

While traveling in a car through Islamabad on 22 October, UNMIS Deputy Force Commander Brig. Gen. Moin-Ud-Din Ahmed was tragically shot and killed by unknown assailants.

The 48-year-old general, who joined UNMIS in June 2009, was described by colleagues as an energetic and vibrant team member, who was heavily committed to Sudan's peace process.

"The tragic death of Brigadier Moin-ud-Din Ahmed is an irreparable loss to UNMIS and to all his military and civilian colleagues, who greatly respected his professional acumen and valued his qualities as a friend and human being," said Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ashraf Qazi.

As Deputy Chairman of the Ceasefire Joint Military Commission, Brig. Gen. Moin developed cordial relations with both the Sudan People's Liberation Army and Sudan Armed Forces, frequently using his negotiation skills to resolve issues with the parties.

Brig. Gen. Moin was instrumental during the Permanent Court of Arbitration decision on Abyei's boundaries, traveling to the area to be present as it was announced. In addition to his duties at Force Headquarters, he voluntarily accompanied the Force Commander on all operational visits to various areas of Southern Sudan as well as Darfur.

"Brig. Gen. Moin was not only my dynamic deputy but also a close friend and associate," said Force Command Maj. Gen. Paban Jung Thapa. "He was a distinguished professional officer with an exceptional clarity of vision and a unique sense of purpose."

Maj. Muhammad Nadeem Aslam said the General was "renowned among his colleagues and subordinates because of his professionalism and vibrancy." According to Maj. Qamar Cheema, Brig. Gen. Moin was a "self-motivated person who possessed unfathomable energies".

Before joining UNMIS in June 2009, Brig. Gen. Moin held several appointments in the Pakistani military, including command of an infantry brigade and the position of Deputy Director General of Military Operations at Pakistani army headquarters in Rawanpindi. He served on UN assignment in Somalia in 1994.

Brig. Gen. Moin is survived by his wife, Raheela Moin, three sons and a daughter.



Over two dozen abducted children freed in Jonglei

Following a successful police operation, 28 abducted children were released on 22 October in Jonglei State.

The children – aged between 2 and 14 years – were freed thanks to a new initiative by the Commissioner of Pibor County, who had vowed to stamp out the scourge of child abduction in Jonglei State.

The group of children, who included nine Ethiopians and eight Southern Sudanese from Eastern and Central Equatoria states, were accommodated temporarily at a Juba centre while their families were being traced.

Deputy Resident Humanitarian Coordinator for Southern Sudan Lise Grande called on the Southern Sudanese authorities to step up the effort and conduct similar campaigns to release all children in captivity.

In May, UNICEF said that thousands of children were estimated to have been displaced from their homes since the start of 2009 due to attacks by the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army in Central and Western Equatoria states, while repeated clashes between tribal groups in Jonglei, Lakes and Warrap states have resulted in the death and abduction of children.

JiUs receive \$600,000 worth of equipment

Sudan's Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) received much needed infrastructure equipment worth more than \$600,000 at UNMIS' logistics base in El Obeid on 2 November, assisted by UNMIS through a Donor Trust Fund.

The equipment, including generators, water tanks and concrete mixers, was funded by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, whose ambassadors attended the handover ceremony, along with representatives from the JIUs, Joint Defense Board (JDB) and UNMIS.

Addressing the ceremony, United Kingdom Ambassador Rosalind Marsden stressed the importance of JIU development, as they were a "symbol of trust and cooperation", essential for realization of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

"(The equipment) will lift the constraints of electricity and water points in areas hard to access," noted Maj. Gen. Salva Chol, chairman of the JDB overseeing the JIUs' development, pointing out that further assistance is needed in training, communications and transport.

"The first project in reinvigorating the JIUs is the handing over of the equipment," UNMIS Force Commander Maj. Gen. Thapa noted, to be followed by support in improving their camps.

UNMIS supports voter registration with material delivery

UNMIS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) completed the delivery of 117,880 kilogrammes of voter registration materials to support Sudan's voter registration exercise, conducted for a month beginning 1 November.

The materials, including registration kits and forms, training kits and books were delivered by air and road to locations identified by the National Elections Commission (NEC), by the end of the first week in November.

An additional 26 generators, office furniture and communications equipment were also delivered to complete the establishment of 25 NEC State High Committee offices.

"We're hopeful that this logistical assistance to NEC will enable the Commission to establish registration centers that enable more people to register and later to vote," UNMIS Chief Electoral Affairs Officer Ray Kennedy said, adding "This will bring the country one step closer to a large-scale democratic polling exercise in 2010."

