



European Commission

Cross-Border Relations Project

A Partnership between Concordis International and the Centre for Peace and Development Studies, University of Juba

The Cross-Border Relations Project

Concordis International is working in Sudan in partnership with the Centre for Peace and Development Studies (CPDS) of the University of Juba to facilitate a **research-based dialogue project** aiming to inform local and national peace and development processes, supporting cooperative, secure and economically viable relations across Sudan's North-South border beyond 2011.

The project involves engaging border communities and authorities in the states along the North-South border as well as decision makers and opinion leaders in Khartoum and Juba.

A round of workshops are being facilitated in the border states, informed by a team comprising Concordis staff, CPDS researchers, and senior African experts. After these state-level meetings, the project will bring workshop participants and additional policy makers together in a series of regional cross-border workshops, conferences, and briefings.

Rationale

The borderland between Northern and Southern Sudan is the locus for a number of conflict triggers which could undermine security for border communities, national peace processes, and in turn regional security. Whether the 2011 referendum on Southern Sudanese self-determination delivers unity or secession, there are significant risks of escalating tensions and renewed violence in both scenarios.

In either scenario, the way in which social, economic and security relations across the border are managed could determine whether conflicts resume or peace is sustained. The needs and interests of border communities, as well as those of state elites, should be reflected. If either condition fails, sources of instability may outweigh sources of calm.

2010 will see high level negotiations between the parties to the CPA on post-2011 arrangements. The Cross Border Relations Project is working to support border populations to consider, agree and articulate what kind of arrangements would meet their needs and provide a basis for a viable and peaceful future.

Core Aims and Objectives

- *Build trust and understanding between border communities within and across border states;*
- *Develop consensus on principles for how the border should be managed peacefully;*
- *Develop proposals on development initiatives to support peaceful coexistence at the border;*
- *Introduce principles and proposals to relevant national and local peace processes, such as negotiations on post-2011 arrangements, and to inform donor policy to reflect local needs.*

Activity Summary	The Team
<p>December-February 2010 Initial engagements in border states and development of methodology</p>	<p>Concordis International A British NGO that works to support peace processes by facilitating dialogue. Concordis is registered in northern and southern Sudan.</p>
<p>March-August 2010 State workshops in Unity, Upper Nile, Abyei, South Kordofan, White Nile, and Blue Nile.</p>	<p>Centre for Peace and Development Studies (CPDS) University of Juba CPDS, based in Khartoum and Juba, produces high quality research with a view to inform the resolution of tensions in Sudanese society.</p>
<p>September-October 2010 Regional workshops bringing together communities from both sides of the border.</p>	<p>Experts and Partners Including international expert consultants with experience of diverse inter-governmental and grass-roots community cross-border security and development initiatives from across Africa.</p>
<p>July—November 2010 Policy briefings and national level conferences.</p>	

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