

Understanding Sudan

A Teaching and Learning Resource



Classroom Debates on Sudan Environmental Issues

1. Have students read an article with two different perspectives on the same issue. Compare this with how the information has been presented in class. Students will undertake an interview process whereby they each represent actors in the Darfur crisis. Each student will represent one of several countries: United States, China, Sudan, France, or Syria. Have an interviewer prepare questions for these different countries and have students represent the point of view of their country.

2. Students should use evidence presented in readings to address the following debates in the Sudan Environment. These debates could be presented by teams of students who are each representing one side of the debate:

- Is population growth responsible for environmental degradation in Sudan?
- Does the conflict in Darfur have environmental causes?
- Will climate change lead to more Darfur-like conflicts?
- Governments versus pastoralists: Who's to blame for land degradation?
- Has the increase of rain-fed agricultural land increased rangeland degradation?
- Is oil a resource curse in Sudan?

3. Here are some other discussion questions that might apply to this topic:

- How do environmental security debates apply to Sudan?
- Discuss the roles of NGOs, Governments and Academic researchers in portraying the desertification debate
- How do competing definitions of desertification have different policy outcomes?

Polgreen, Lydia. 2007. "A Godsend for Darfur, or a Curse?" New York Times (July 22, 2007).

Thomas, David S.G. and Nicholas J. Middleton. 1994. Desertification: Exploding the Myth. Chichester and New York: John Wiley and Sons.

United Nations Environment Programme. 2007. Sudan: Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment, UNEP, Geneva.