

The State of Climate Action in Sudan

Institutional Barriers and Pathways for Collaborative Solutions — the research behind why the Sudan Climate Collective exists.

22 voices on why Sudan's climate sector stays fragmented — and what could change that.

22 SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS	5 SECTORS REPRESENTED	5 KEY ANALYTICAL THEMES	6 PATHWAYS TO COLLABORATION
---	---	---	---

A sector held back not by lack of will, but by fragmentation.

This study draws on 22 in-depth interviews with stakeholders across civil society, government, the private sector, academia, and the Sudanese diaspora — people working in advocacy, community engagement, renewable energy, finance, and law. The goal wasn't only to document what's broken. It was to find what's already working, and the pathways toward real collaboration.

What emerged is a sector shaped by legacies of securitized governance, bureaucratic opacity, and mistrust between actors — compounded by capacity gaps, unstable donor-driven funding, and an absence of long-term institutional vision. And yet, inside that difficult context: youth-led initiatives experimenting with new models of collaboration, diaspora actors extending knowledge and resources, and community-rooted organizations building trust where institutions fall short.

This report is part of SCC's broader journey toward the Collective Space — a growing, living directory that maps and verifies climate actors across Sudan and the diaspora, so fragmented efforts can find each other and compound their impact.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Sudanese talent, innovation, and commitment to climate justice are everywhere — yet fragmented, isolated, and disconnected from the support that could help them grow. This research is the evidence base for closing that gap.

22 voices, purposively and organically found.

Participants were selected through purposive sampling, then expanded through snowball referrals — each interview lasting one to two hours, transcribed, and analyzed through a three-stage thematic process: initial coding, theme development, and narrative synthesis.

BY SECTOR



BY GENDER



BY LOCATION



WHAT "SNOWBALL REFERRALS" MEANS

Early participants recommended other practitioners in their networks — letting the sample grow organically along real relationships of trust, the same fragmented-but-connectable networks this report is about.



A land whose people have always found ways to build, adapt, and endure.

Five patterns, echoed across every sector we spoke with.

01

Systemic Constraints

Decades of securitized governance under the Al-Bashir regime (1989–2019) prioritized control over civic partnership — a legacy of bureaucratic opacity that predates the current war and shapes it still.

"The 2006 Organization of Humanitarian and Voluntary Work Act does not provide manuals — it does not provide instructions."

STUDY PARTICIPANT

02

Fragmentation and Mistrust

Mistrust runs between government and civil society, between private actors and NGOs, and even within organizations — undermining coordination.

"The biggest problem here in Sudan is the lack of communication and coordination between initiatives, organizations, and individuals working on climate."

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVIST

03

Lack of Awareness, Capacity, and Skills

Technical expertise and knowledge-sharing platforms remain scarce, and weak documentation means institutional knowledge is rarely passed on.

"We're not good at documentation. You might find stories that should be captured and shared — but no broker brings these actors together."

NGO LEAD

04

Funding and Economic Barriers

Donor-driven funding cycles push organizations to chase whatever fund is currently open, rather than build toward a coherent long-term mission — and high staff turnover follows the money.

"As soon as the mitigation fund is over, they will hear there's a fund for loss and damage."

STUDY PARTICIPANT

05

Short-Term Thinking, Lack of Strategic Vision

Reactionary, crisis-driven work leaves many organizations without specialization or a track record — weakening donor confidence and the ability to scale beyond isolated projects.

"They're all over the place. They're after donor funding. There's no sustainability, no focus."

ABDEL-RAHMAN EL MAHDI

RECOMMENDATIONS

A sequenced, interlinked path out of fragmentation.

Trust comes first — it's what makes transparency and long-term support possible. Everything else builds from there.

6.1

Accountability & Transparency

Open reporting, independent M&E, and progress-tracking build the trust everything else depends on.

6.2

Community-Centered Approaches

Locally led design and long-term presence embed real ownership at the grassroots.

6.3

Cross-Sectoral Networks

Structured partnerships across government, civil society, and diaspora overcome siloed effort.

6.4

Diversified Funding

Participatory grantmaking and social enterprise models break dependency on single-donor cycles.

6.5

Capacity Building

Investment in technical expertise institutionalizes progress instead of losing it to crisis.

6.6

Data & Documentation

Open, shared documentation keeps hard-won institutional knowledge from disappearing.

WHERE THIS LEADS

These six recommendations are the design brief for the Collective Space — the living directory now mapping and connecting the organizations behind Sudan's climate resilience.

Produced by

SCC Research Unit

Edited by

SCC Founding Team

Status

Pre-publication brief · full report launching alongside the Collective Space, 2026