



Feinstein
International Center

Strengthening the humanity and dignity of people in crisis through knowledge and practice

Pastoralism in Practice:

Livestock Mobility in Contemporary Sudan

Helen Young and Hussein Sulieman



PARTNERSHIP:



National NGOS

- SOS Sahel Sudan
- DRA
- El Massar

International Organizations

- UNEP Sudan



Research

- National Academics
- Tufts University
- IIED

Government

- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Range
- Nomad Development Council

Why this study now? Lack of evidence for informing policy and practice

Current policy issues:

- *Increasing profile and importance of livestock – the contribution to the national economy and exports, also livestock as a mainstay of local livelihoods*
- *Post secession – issues of falling oil revenues, and also challenges of cross border mobility for pastoralists*
- *Conflict - natural resource conflict – linked with livelihoods*

National policy context: *Modernising drive – new breeds, privatization, settlement of pastoralists*

Challenges to undertaking research:

- *Pastoralists scattered & hard to reach*
- *Protracted insecurity and conflict*
- *Strained relationships & mistrust*
- *Limitations of existing methods*

Aims

- To design and test new methods to investigate pastoralist livestock mobility;
- To monitor livestock movements, herd management and factors that influence this (resilience)
- To improve policy makers & practitioners understanding of the pastoralist system and the externalities that influence it.

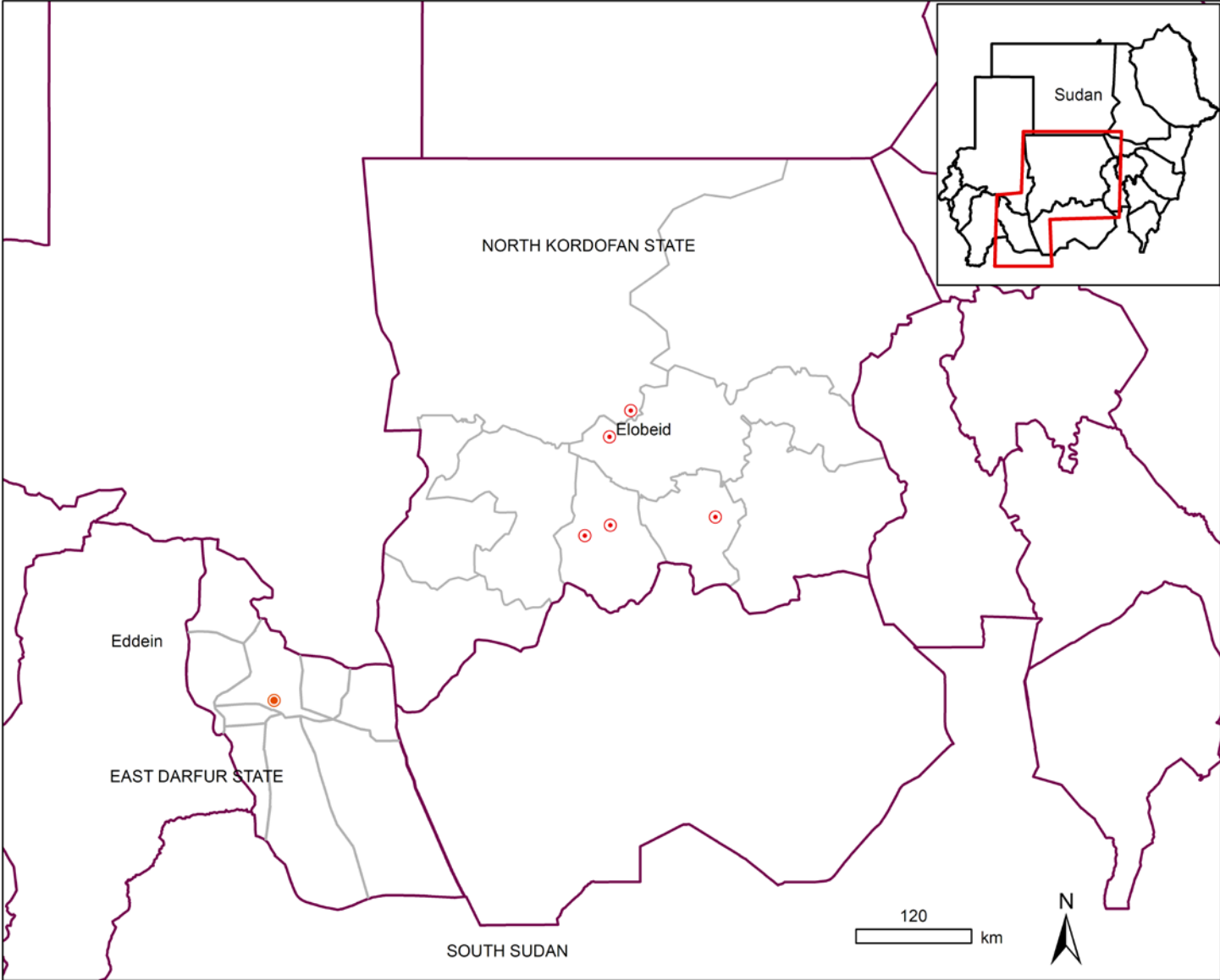


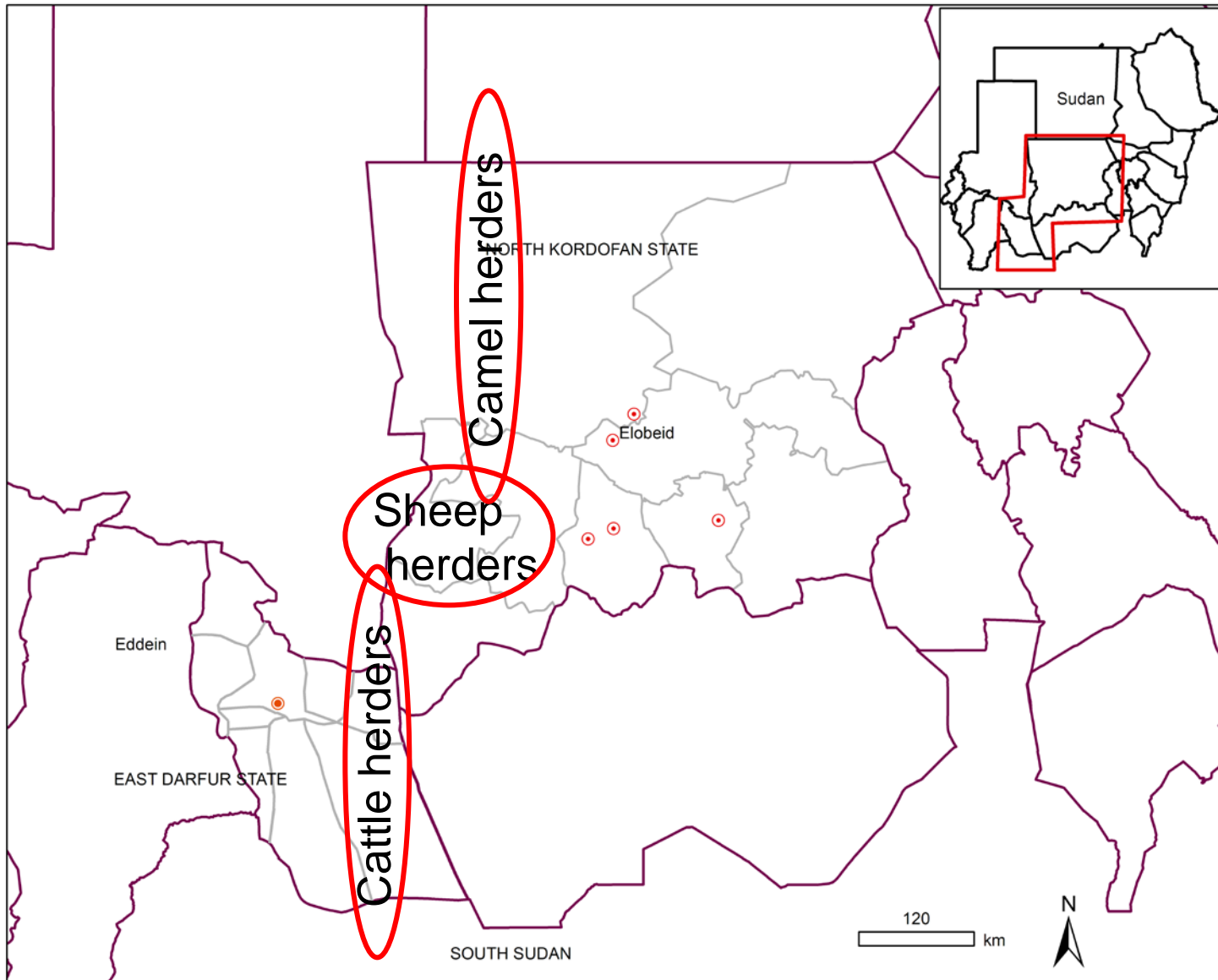
New approaches – mixed methods

- Longitudinal monitoring of seasonal livestock
- Herder “Livelihood Profiles”
- Last years movements
 - *Herder recall*
- Weekly phone interviews
 - *Questionnaire based*
- Regular outreach visits
 - *Qualitative interviews*
- GPS monitoring
 - *Archival GPS devices*

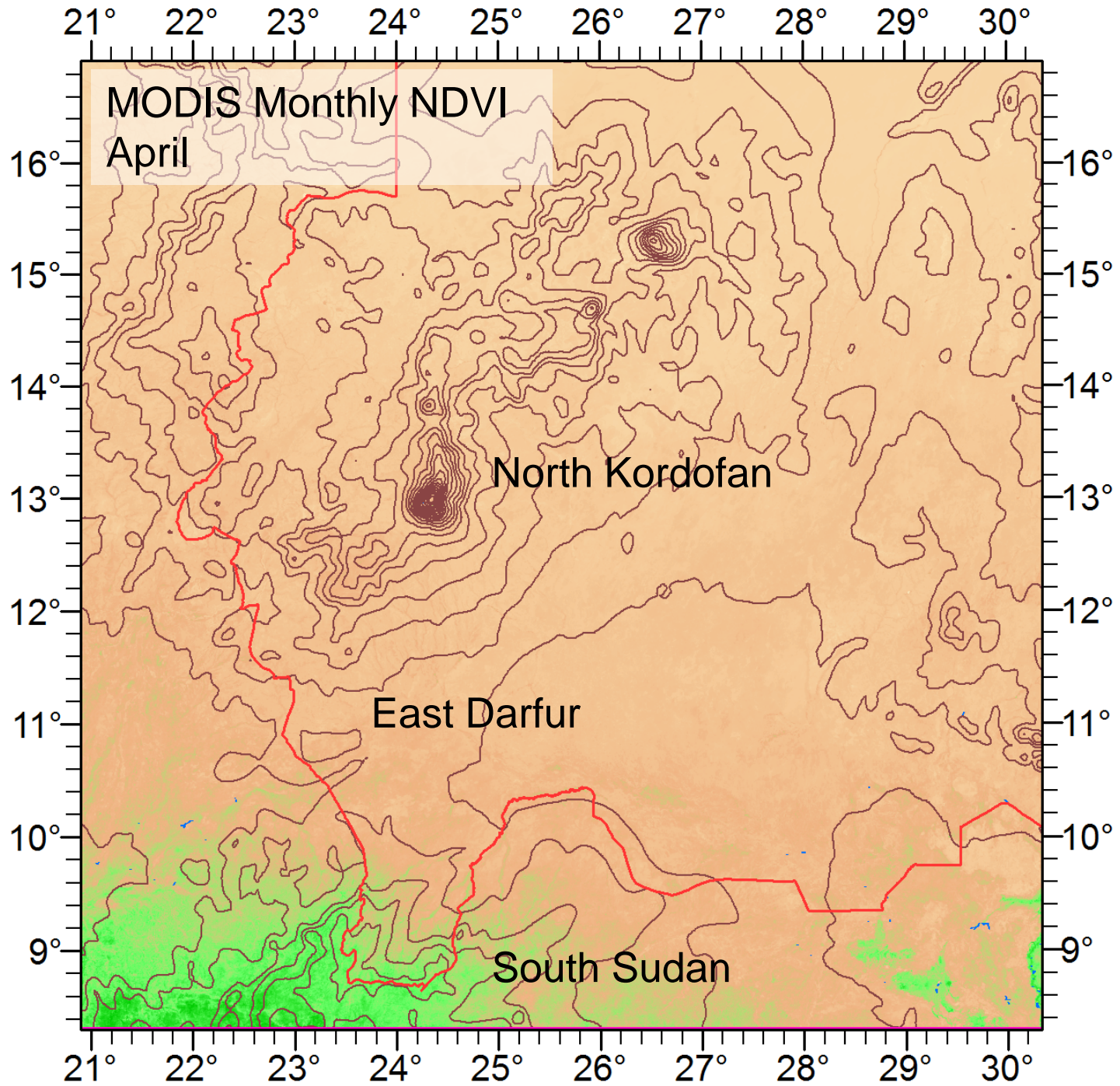


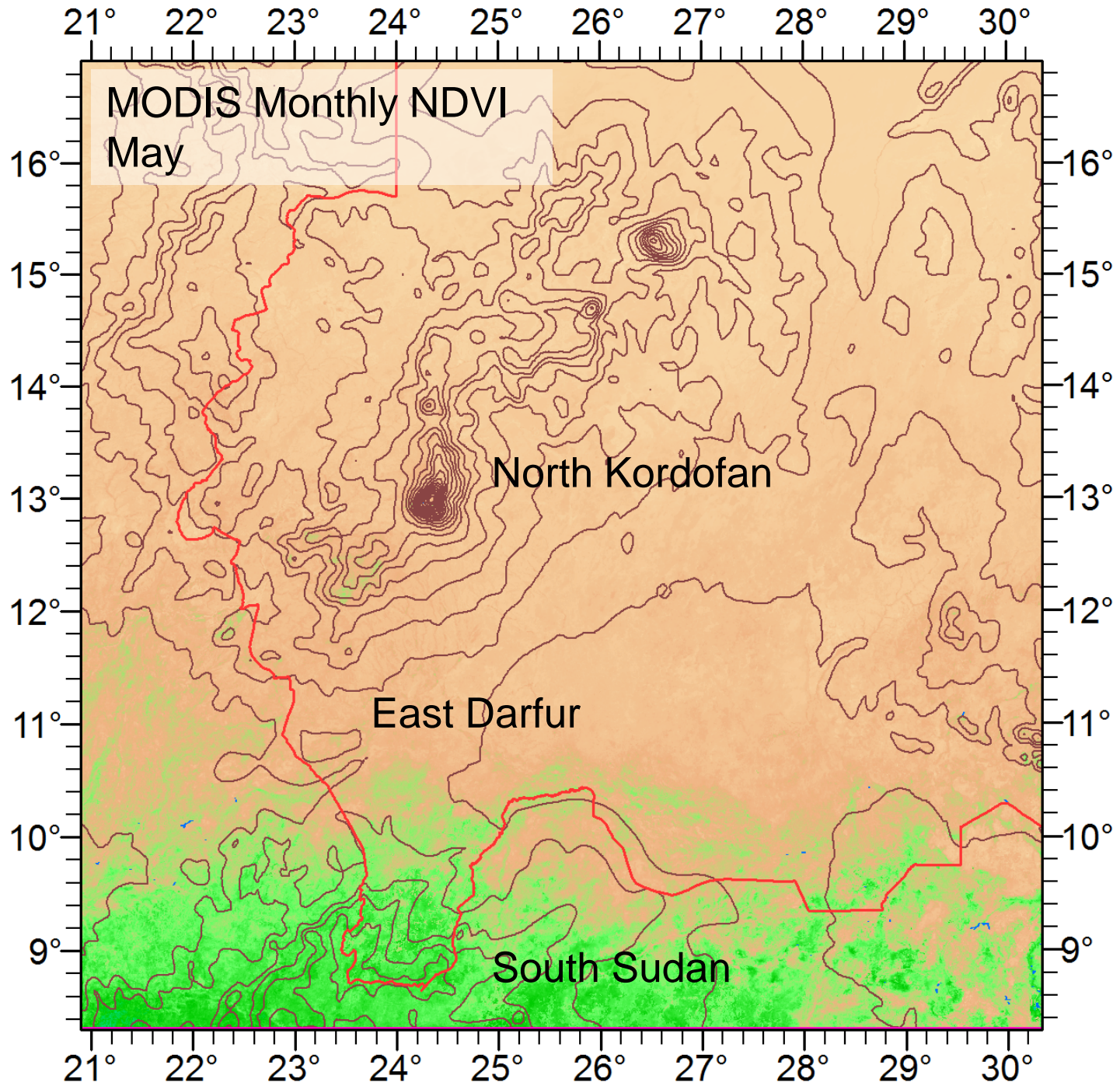
Study area

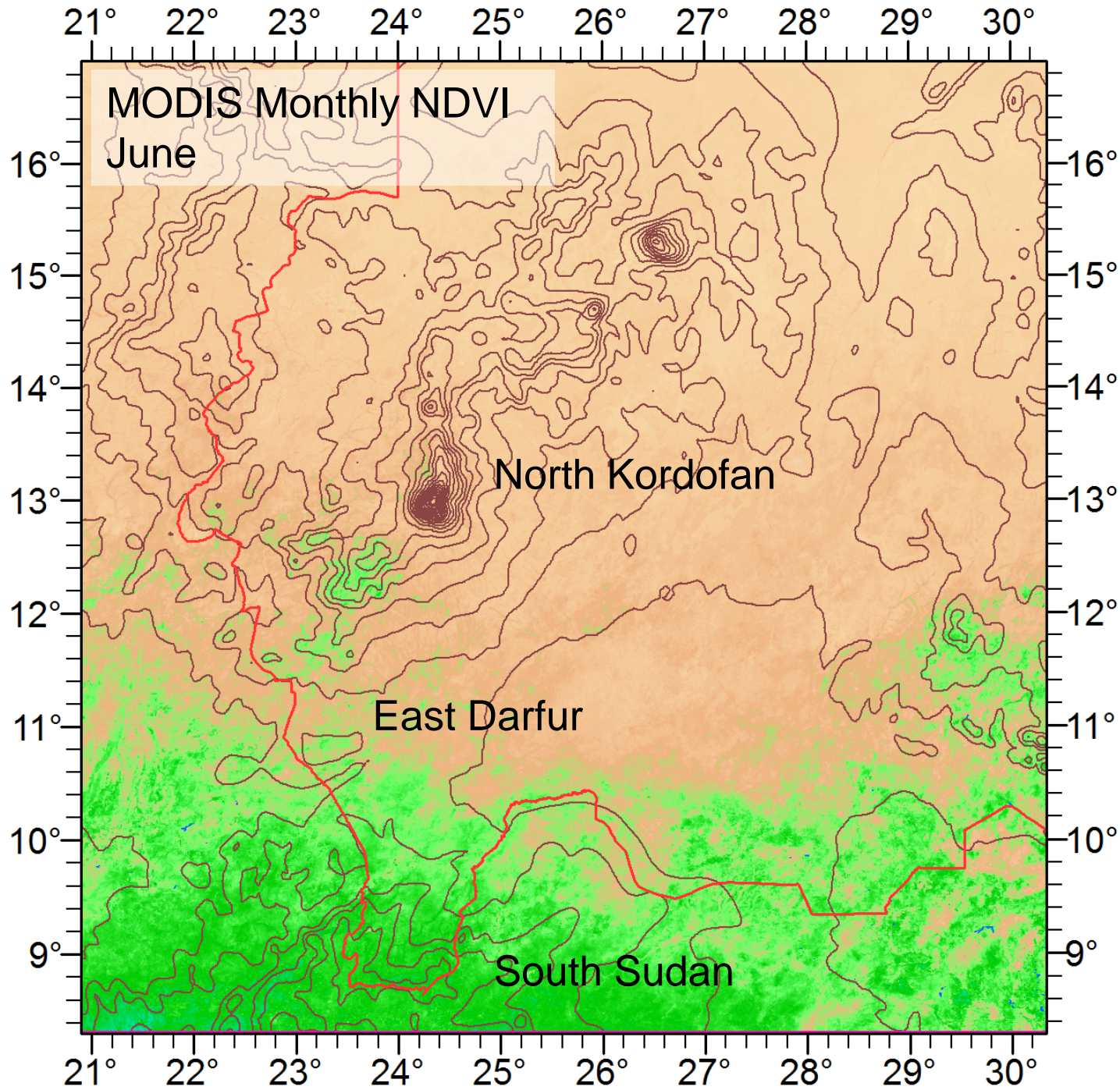


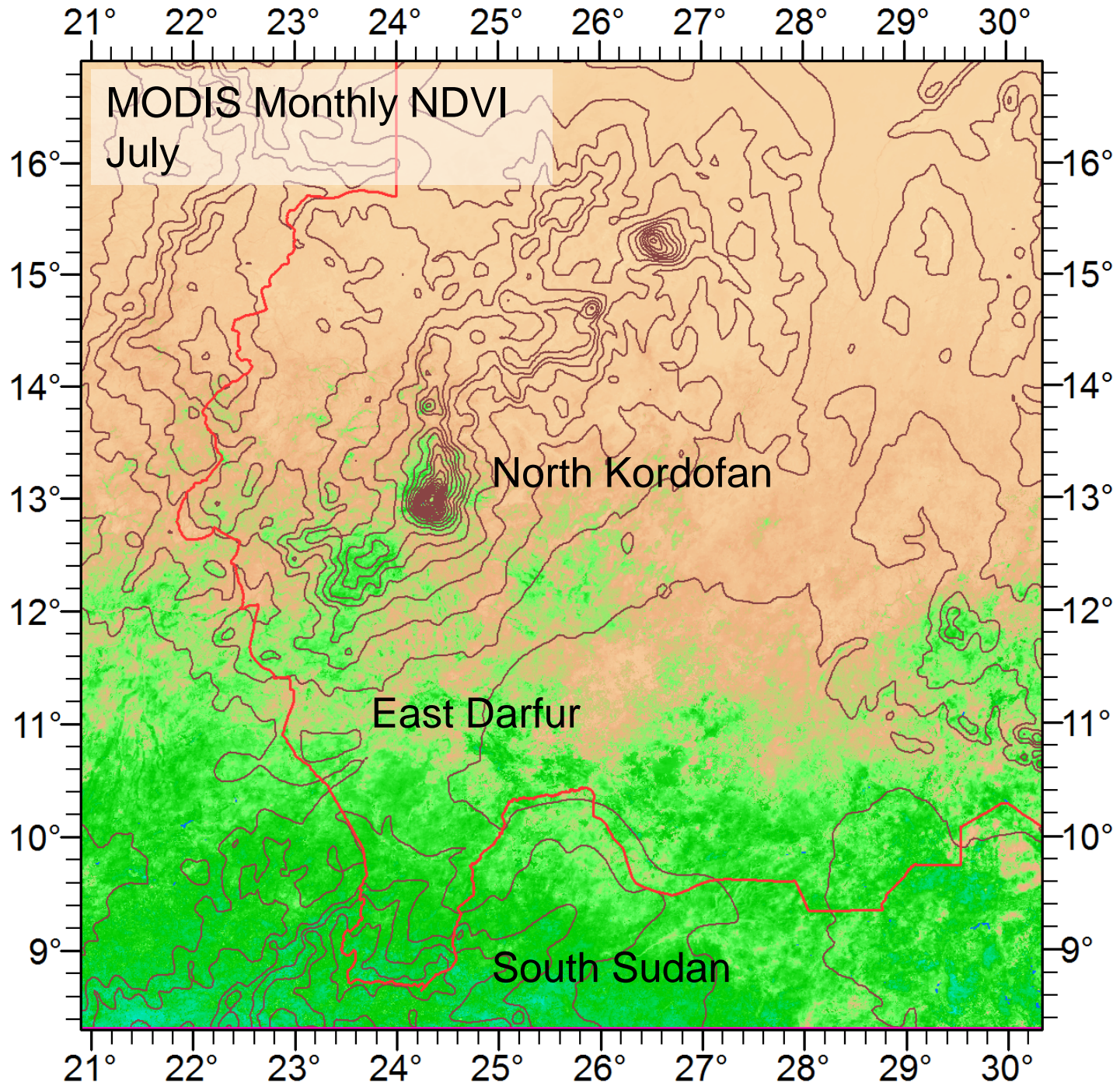


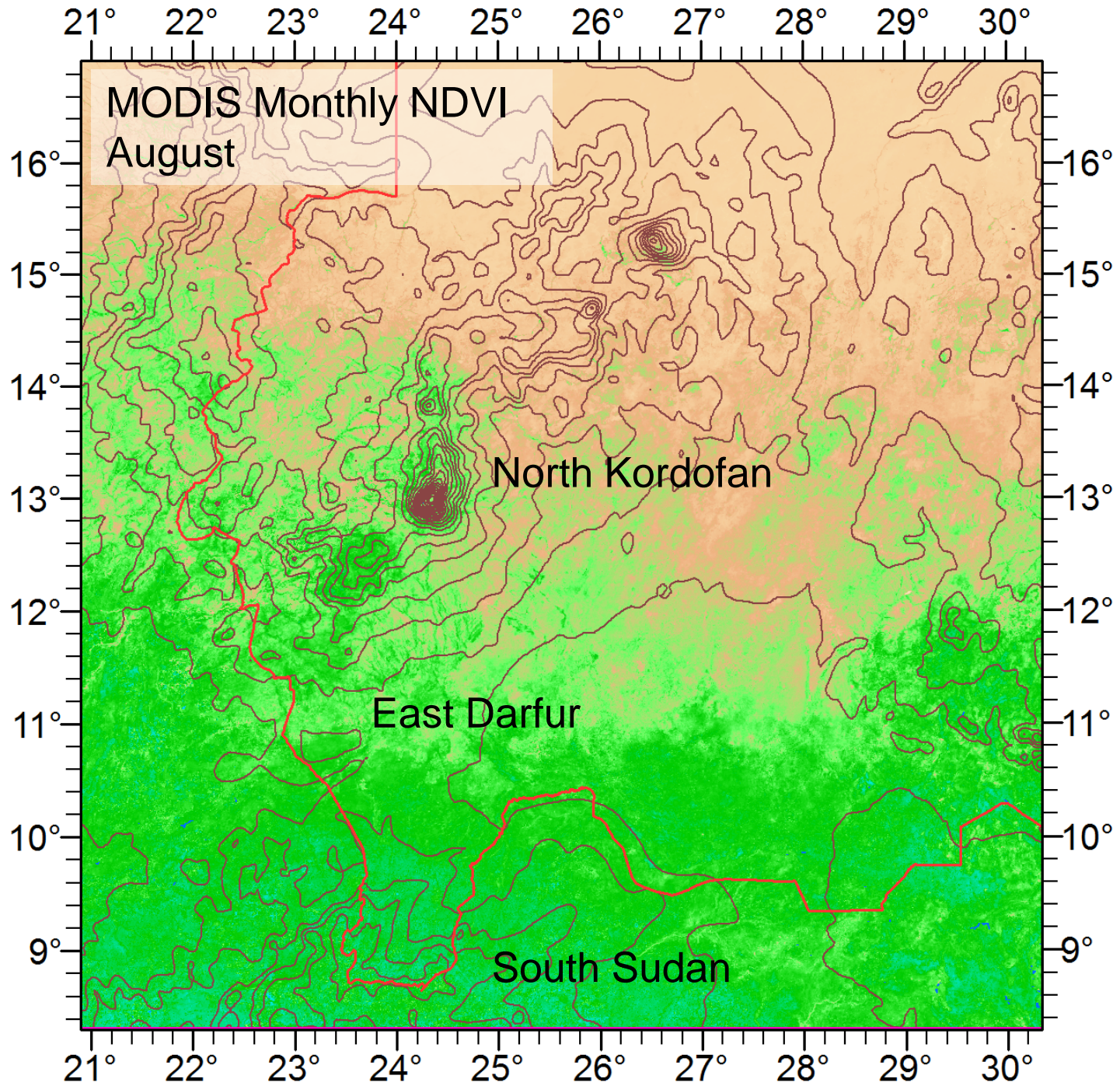
Seasonal vegetation dynamics

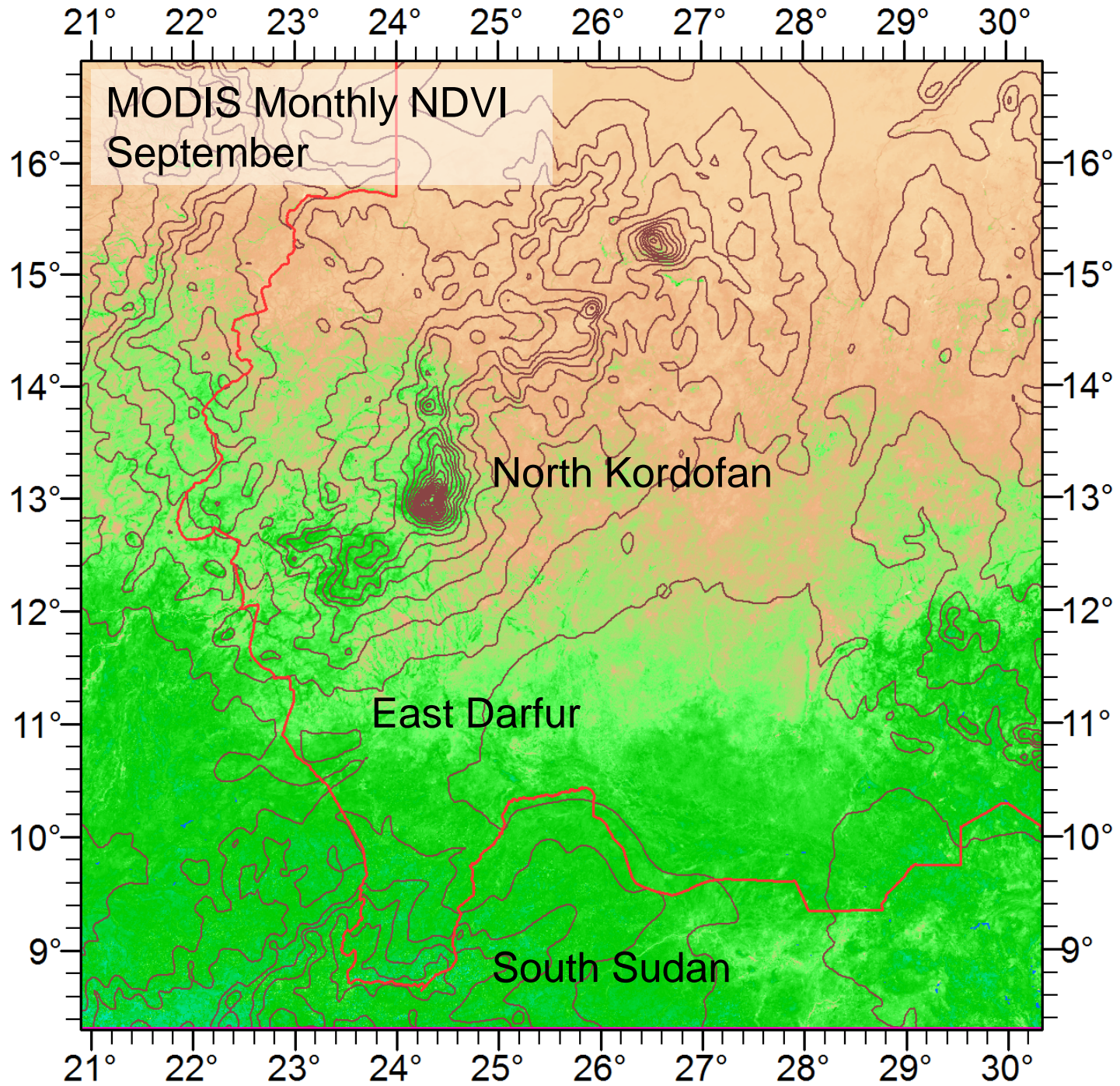






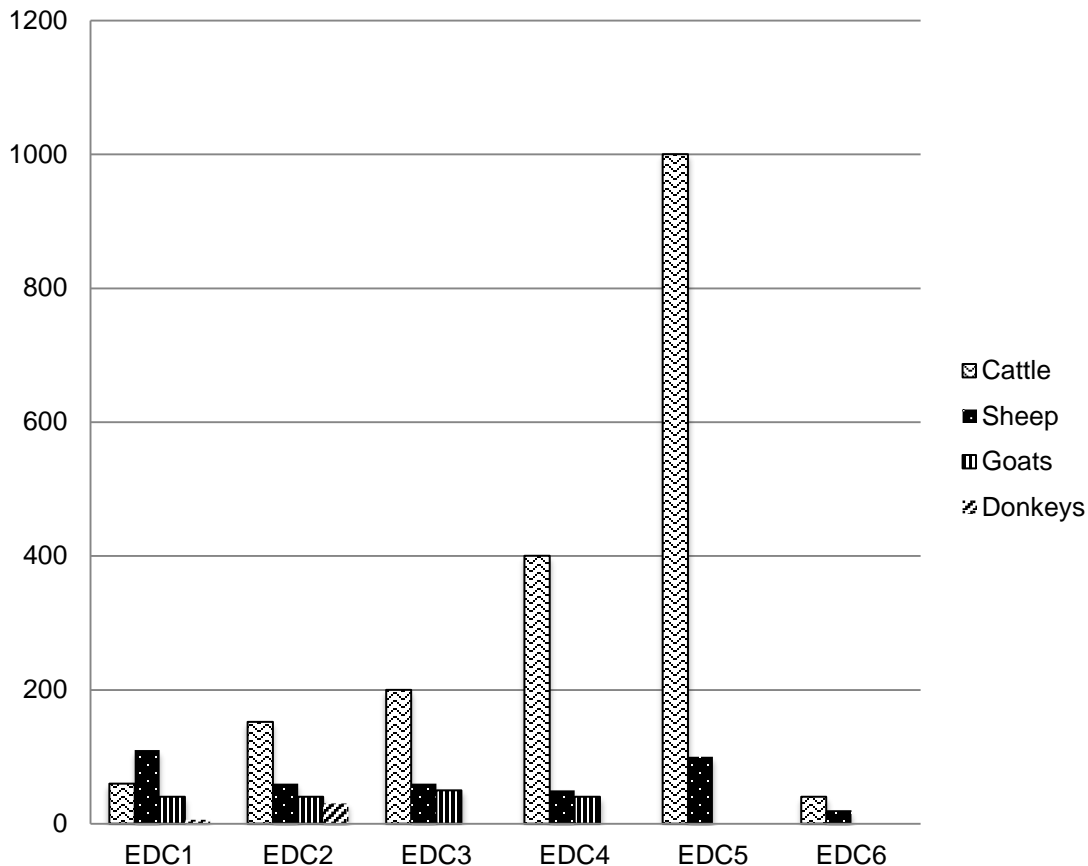




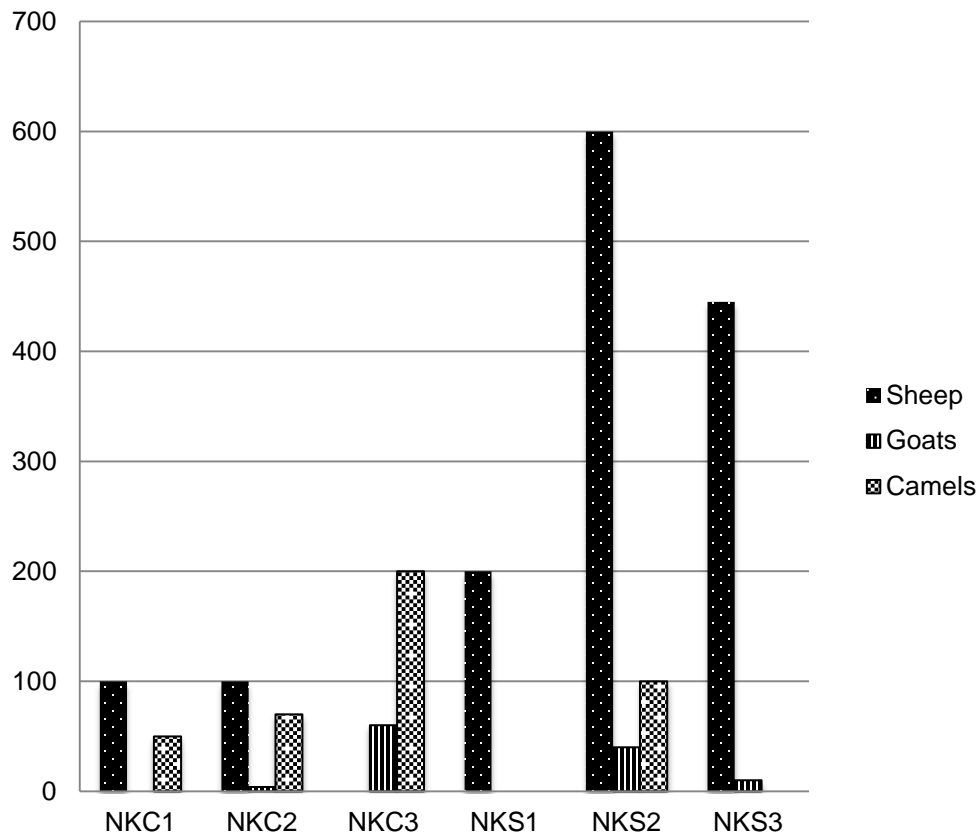


Herd Composition for the six producers in EAST DARFUR

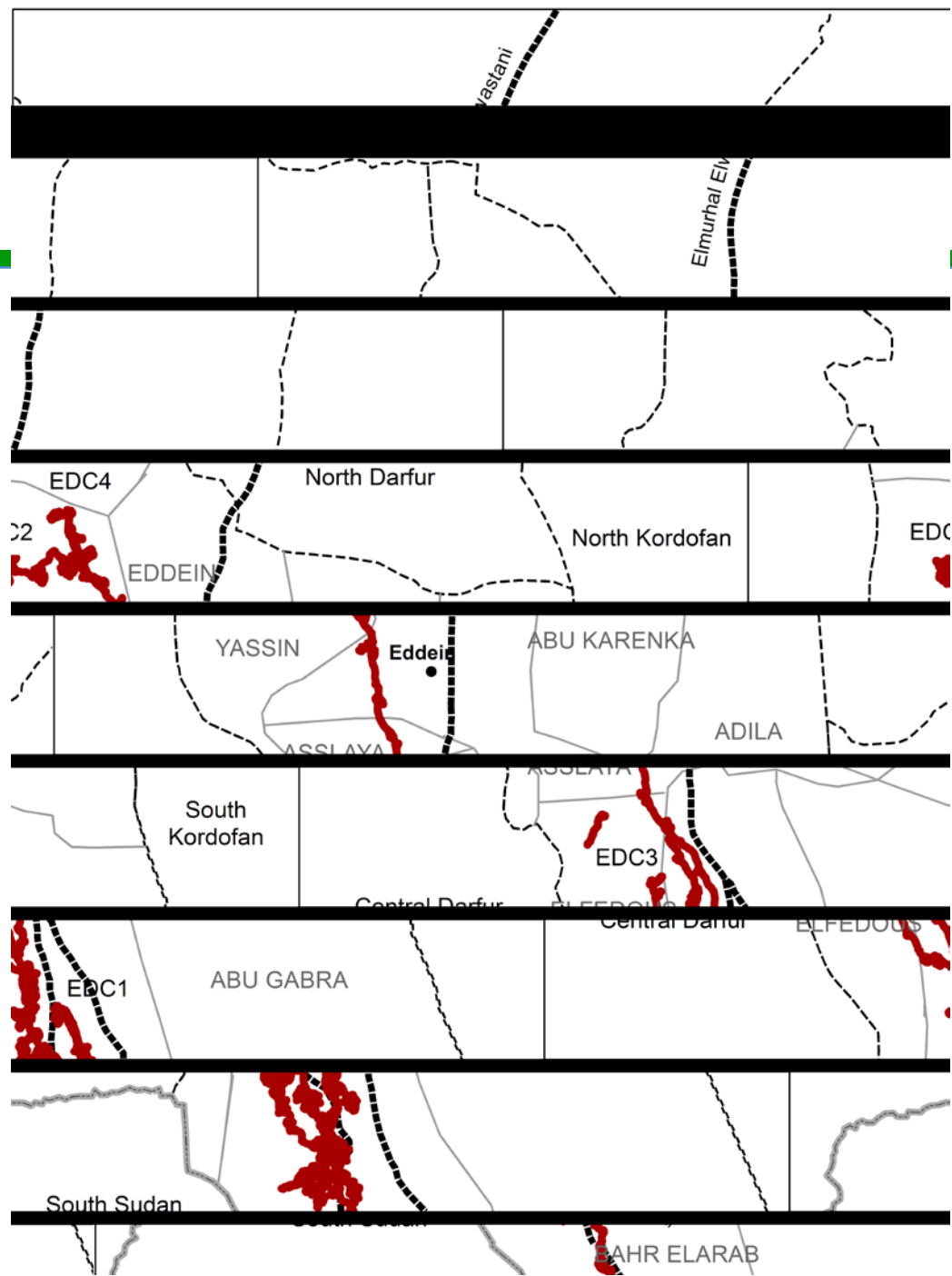
- *Cattle – ‘baggara’*
- *Mixed herds*



Herd composition for the six producers in North Kordofan



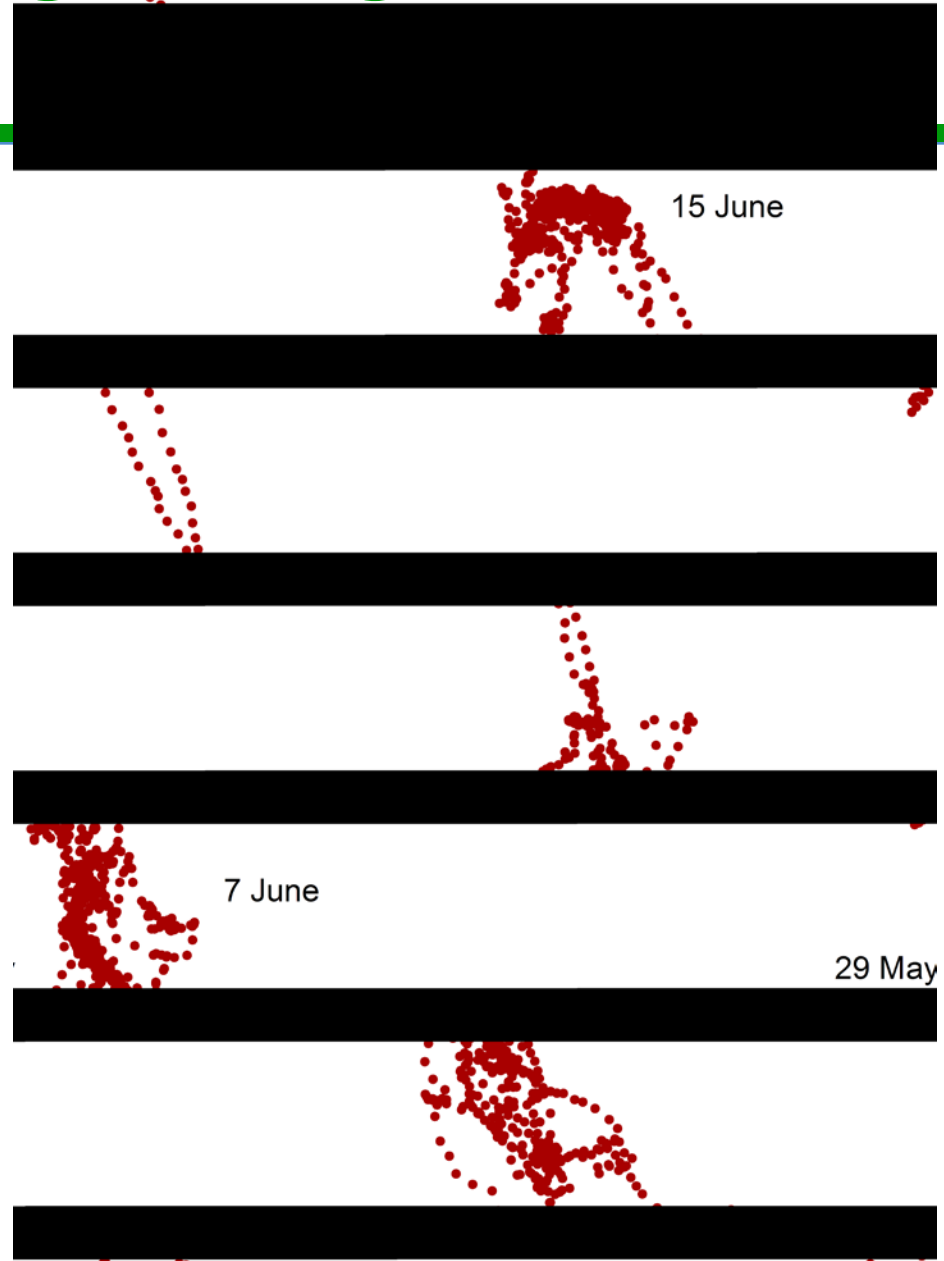
Movement of 4 herders East Darfur



Movement of 4 herders East Darfur



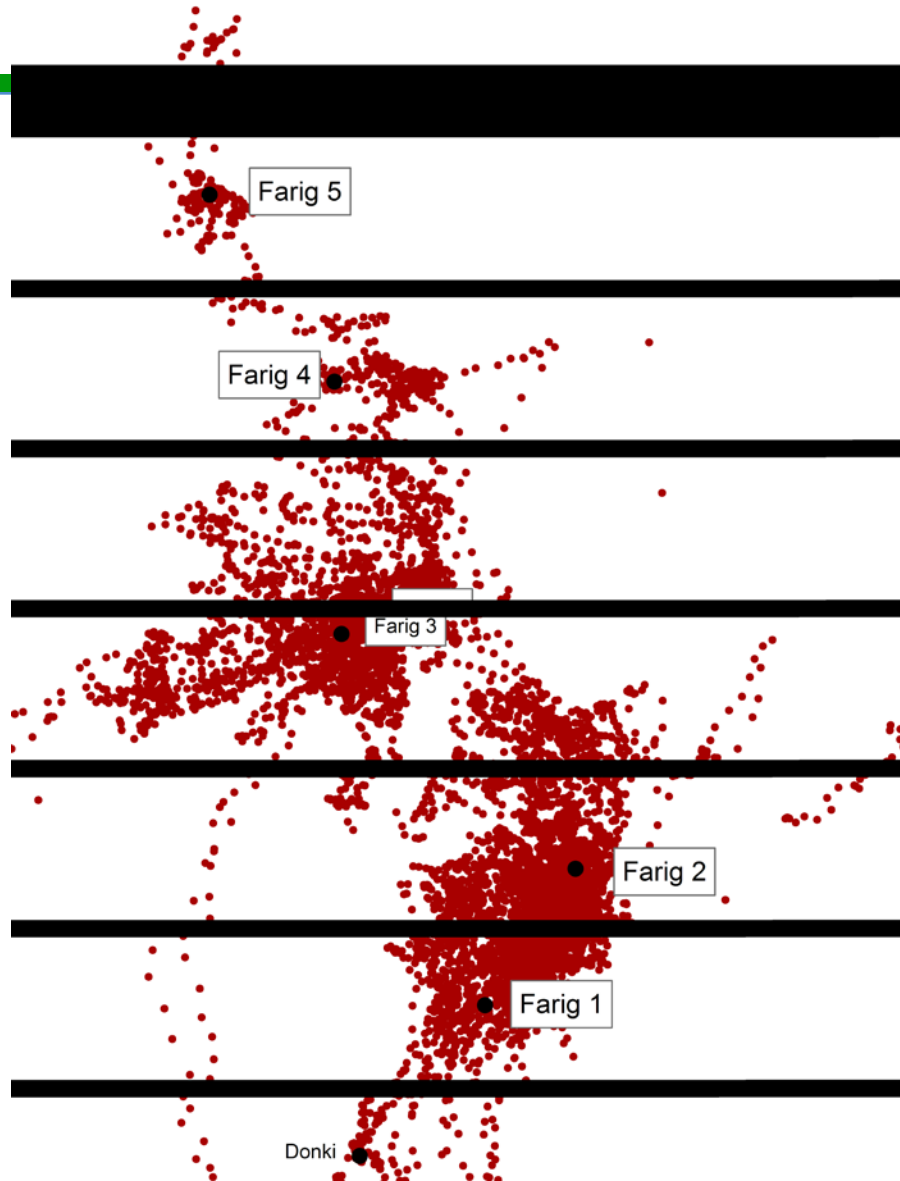
EDC1 response to greening



EDC4 – facing conflict



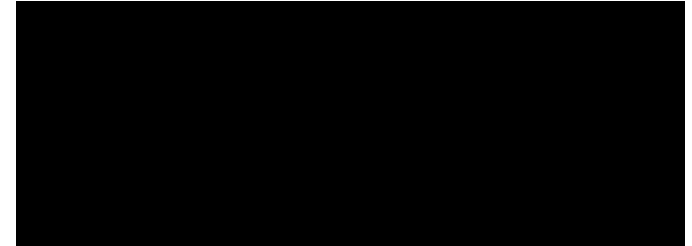
NKS2 moving camp



arig F



arig
Back to ... to donki
Going to ...



Conclusions – *so what?*

1. Innovative approaches to research, learning and promoting policy debate

- Piloted new technologies – GPS tracking & longitudinal monitoring
- Partnerships
 - Multi-stakeholder, multi-level & multi-disciplinary
 - Demand driven research ideas
 - Fostered national networks & stimulated debate
 - Reduced levels of mistrust & suspicions
- Strategic dissemination – State level, nationally and internationally
- **Recommendation:** keep the door open to such pioneering approaches



2.1 Increased understanding of the resilience of pastoralist production

- Environmental & economic sustainability hinges on strategic mobility
 - *timely and reliable access to pastures when nutrients peak*
- Pull factors drive the pastoralist imperative to move
 - *attraction of better pasture*
- Risks and hazards
 - *Misconceptions drive poor policy and prog responses*
 - *Multiple levels of conflict impacting on pastoralism*
- **Recommendation:** Address misconceptions of pastoralism and re-align policies & practice
 - Within recent peace agreements
 - As part of understanding the herder farmer dynamic



2.2. Analysis of new trends and adaptations

- Mobile bladder tanks enable access to pasture
- Investment strategies – sheep Increased fivefold in North Kordofan
- Expansion of E.Darfur cattle herders into sheep
- Targeted use of feed supplements in dry season
- Conflict avoidance – change routes, increase herders, foster relations, switch to sheep
- Privatization of support services

3. *New evidence about local systems of natural resource governance*

- Interactions between local pastoralist system and local governance that serves pastoralist interests – despite wider policy context
- A pastoral ‘parametric’ approach to local level resource management – regulates access not numbers of animals:
 - *local governance of shallow wells in the bahr area*
 - *coordination of movement along stock routes*
 - *regulation of cross-border movements*

Recommendation: *learn from these positive experiences of local natural resource governance – to inform national policy*



4. *Multiple roles and functions of land – livelihoods, power & conflict*

- The same land may be shared by multiple users:
 - Rainy season cultivation & harvest
 - Post harvest grazing of crop residues
 - Winter cultivation of vegetables
 - By different livestock species at different times of the year
- Land structurally linked with tribal politics, political allegiances & power – potentially undermines livestock mobility and further polarizes livelihood groups
- Local natural resource conflict not in isolation
- Key factor shaping pastoralist resilience and social sustainability



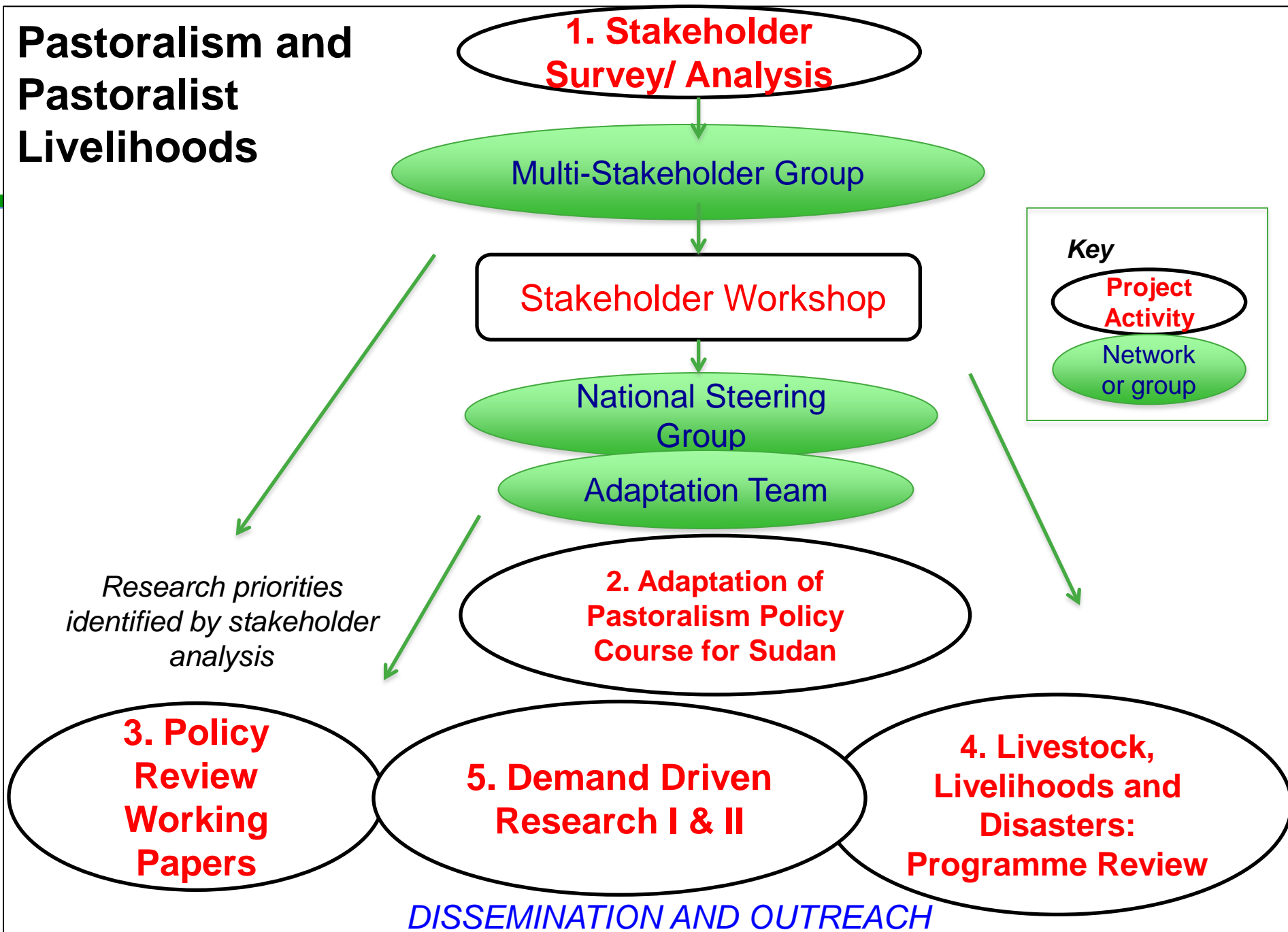
Acknowledgements: The Absent Team

- Roy Behnke: International Advisor
- Janet Aamir – Data entry & cleaning
- North Kordofan:
 - Samira Mohamed Ahmed
 - Dr El Jack
 - Salih Abdal Majiid and his team at SOS Sahel
- East Darfur:
 - Hamid Ahmed - El Massar
 - Dr Hamid SMLFR
 - Dr Bashir SMLFR
- MLFR: Dr Amar el Shikh Idris
- NDC: Ahmed Balah and Haja Ghandour

THANK YOU



Pastoralism and Pastoralist Livelihoods



Introductory visit, followed later by identification, selection & informed consent

