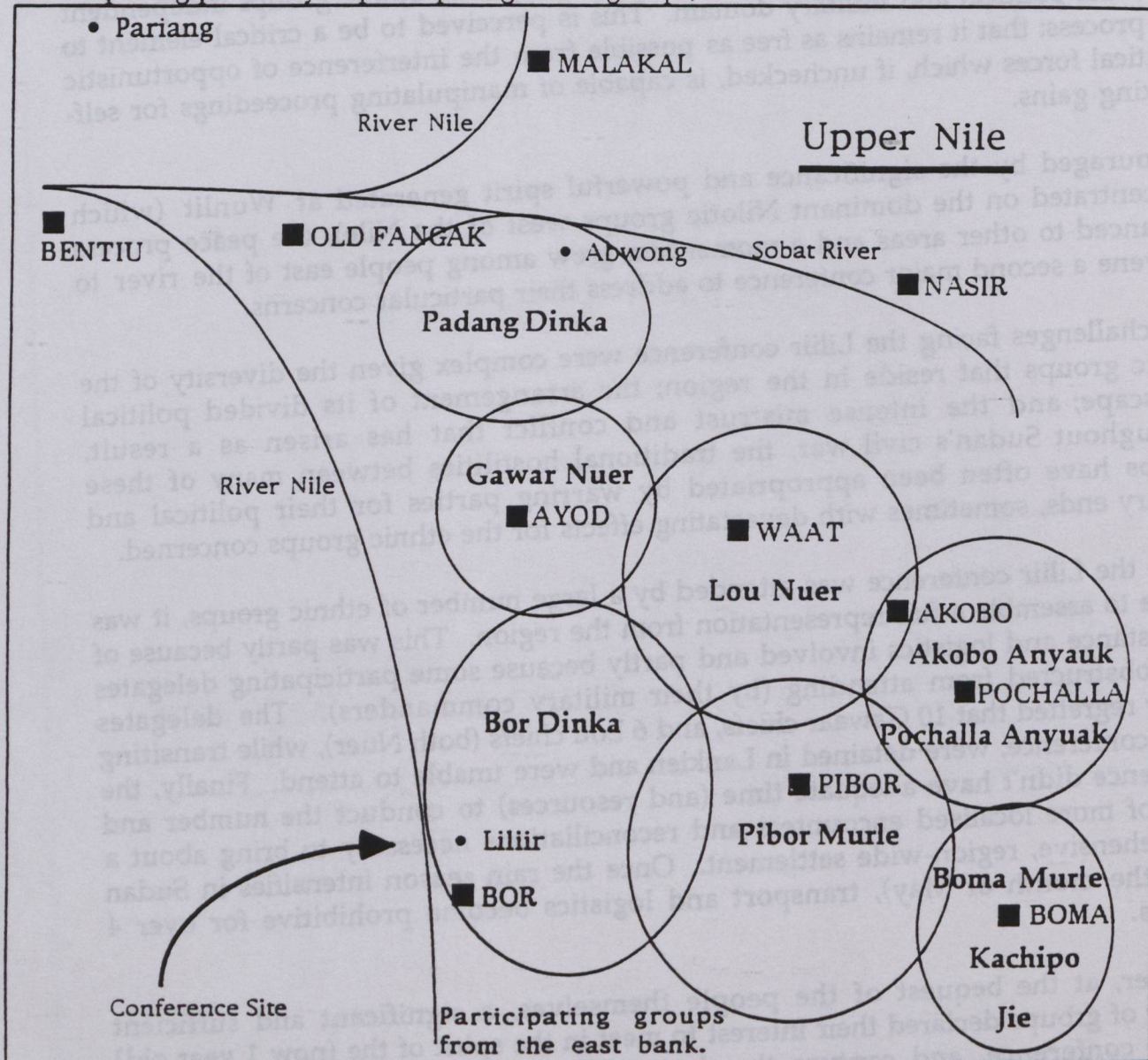


The box below gives a simple representation of the participating groups and their approximate boundaries of interaction. In varying degrees, conflict exists *between* ethnic groups and *within* ethnic groups, and not all the members of one group are necessarily perceived to be hostile to another.

Thus, for example, the conference distinguished between the Murle from Boma and the Murle from Pibor, the latter residing in areas under northern government control and seen as hostile to almost all neighbouring groups. Similarly, the Gawaar and the Lou Nuer were distinguished, as there is currently discord between members of both sub-groups.

Box depicting proximity of participating ethnic groups, to each other.



It was also acknowledged that prior to the conference, dialogue and smaller localised agreements were either in process or actually brokered - principally among the Bor Dinka and the Gawaar and Lou Nuer, and also among the Padang Dinka and the Gawaar Nuer - reflecting the changing trends taking place at the grassroots towards peace in southern Sudan among civilian groups.