

South Sudan



In August 2013 South Sudan President Salva Kiir appointed James Wani Igga as his deputy. Mr Igga replaced former vice president Riek Machar who appeared to have been the victim of inter-government feuding that resulted in his dismissal by the president. Mr Igga had been speaker of parliament and a commander in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the ex-rebel group that now ran the country. After his dismissal, Mr Machar said he planned to challenge Mr Kiir for the leadership of the SPLM so that he can run for president in the 2015 election. The entire cabinet was dismissed at the same time as Mr Machar in July 2013.

Political divisions

Mr Kiir is from the Dinka community, the largest in South Sudan, while Mr Machar was from the second-largest group, the Nuer, some of whom have complained about Dinka domination. It was thought by many that Mr Kiir's choice of vice president might be a way of garnering political support from Mr Igga's large Bari community in South Sudan's Central

Equatorial region ahead of the 2015 elections.

Not that the differences between the President and his deputy came as a surprise to anyone. The two men had not been getting along for some time. In April 2013 Mr Kiir had cancelled a national reconciliation programme, a project of Mr Machar, following allegations that the vice president's motivation was to build up his political following. In April 2013 Mr Machar had announced his intention to challenge Mr Kiir for the party leadership. The president had promptly relieved his deputy of some of his powers. The president's decision to dismiss his entire cabinet looked to be rather precipitous. But all was certainly not well within the government. In May 2012 the President had written to a reported 75 government officials politely – or naively? – asking them to return the US\$4 billion he alleged had been embezzled since the creation of South Sudan's interim government in 2005.

The cabinet's dismissal was justified as one of replacing corrupt officials with more competent technocrats. The new government, announced at the end of July

KEY FACTS

Official name: South Sudan (Janub as Sudan)

Head of State: President Salva Kiir Mayardit (SPLA/M) (from 9 Jul 2011)

Head of government: Vice President Riek Machar (SPLA/M) (from 9 Jul 2011)

Ruling party: Sudan People's Liberation Movement (from 9 Jul 2011)

Area: 644,329 square kilometres

Population: 10.39 million (2012)* (8,260,490; 2008 census, disputed)

Capital: Juba

Official language: English

Currency: South Sudan Pound (SS£) = 100 piasters

Exchange rate: SS£3.05 per US\$ Jul 2013

GDP per capita: US\$1,175 (2012)*

GDP real growth: -52.98% (2012)*

GDP: US\$12.20 billion (2012)*

Inflation: 45.08% (2012)*

Oil production: 31,000 bpd (2012)

* estimated figure

2013 was more streamlined. But loyalties were not changed; the top jobs were still held by the President's followers and other respected figures failed to make the cut.

The economy

In its September 2013 assessment of the South Sudan economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expressed the view that South Sudan's economic outlook was improving. Oil production was rising and inflation was declining, the authorities' 2013/14 budget seemed to strike the right balance between increasing spending on priority areas and maintaining economic stability. The IMF also welcomed the authorities' plans to lift fiscal austerity gradually as the oil revenue stream became more certain and to move forward with other key reforms including the enactment of the Petroleum Revenue Management Act.

The IMF agreed that, with the gradual resumption of oil production, policies that promote economic stability would remain essential, together with an environment of good relations with Sudan and the pursuit of national unity. To this end, key near-term priorities would need to be sound fiscal and foreign exchange policies, improved transparency in government and oil operations and strengthened public expenditure management. In the view of the IMF, transparent management of South Sudan's abundant natural resources and investments in health, education and public infrastructure could put the country on a path of sustained growth and poverty reduction. As public investment was scaled up in the near-term, sound project selection and prudent debt management should also be priorities.

Discussions on possible financial support by the IMF under the Rapid Credit Facility and a government programme that would be monitored by IMF staff were at an advanced stage in late 2013 and could be rapidly concluded. The successful implementation of this programme would set the basis for economic stability and help attract support from multilateral and bilateral partners as well as private investors.

The background.

To Salva Kiir Mayardit had fallen the unenviable task of being South Sudan's first President. For most of his life he had been engaged in steering South Sudan towards independence. Mr Kiir was an important member of his predecessor, John Garang's inner circle and for some time

was military commander of the southern rebels, the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM). His activities were not confined to the military field, though – he was also involved in the early stages of negotiating the 2005 peace agreement, which (notionally ended 21 years of civil war. A BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) profile of Mr Kiir notes that he was already well-known to the government in Khartoum before becoming national vice president of the former Sudan. The BBC describes him as 'not a natural speaker', and 'not an intellectual'. The same report credits Mr Kiir with knowing 'how to work the crowds', where he 'is greeted with cheers and popular affection when he speaks at rallies.'

A member of the majority Dinka community, Mr Kiir has been a rebel (or an independence fighter) since he first joined the southern rebellion in the late 1960s, working his way up through the ranks and eventually joining the Sudanese army following the 2005 agreement. But as the agreement fell away, he joined forces with Mr Garang to create the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) and become its military leader. The Dinka may be a majority, but their perceived hegemony is not always welcomed by South Sudan's other ethnic groups. Mr Kiir has been able to command respect across the ethnic board and to keep his country united – just.

One of the least developed nations in the world, South Sudan lags behind the rest of sub-Saharan Africa on most of the United Nations's (UN) Millennium Development Goals. South Sudan is politely described by the World Bank as 'at an early stage of economic development.' However, there is little doubt that it has great potential. Nevertheless in 2012, according to the World Bank, 85 per cent of South Sudan's population lived in some degree of poverty, almost double the proportion in the North, where the figure is just over 45 per cent. A majority of the population eke out a living on little more than US\$0.75 cents a day.

Poverty

Even when applying more charitable interpretations, over half the population in South Sudan lives in poverty. Poverty rates are substantially lower in the few urban areas, where 'only' 24.4 per cent are below the poverty line, compared to 55.4 per cent of the rural population. The poverty rate is highest in Northern Bahr El Ghazal and lowest in the Upper Nile. The poverty line used by the World Bank to

calculate the poverty rates is S\$£72.9 per person per month. At market exchange rates at the time of the survey used to calculate the poverty rates (April–May 2009), this was equivalent to US\$32 per person per month, or just over US\$1 per person per day. The standard practice of the World Bank for international poverty comparisons is to use a US\$1.25-a-day poverty line, calculated using not market exchange rates but 2005 purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates. PPP exchange rates reflect country-specific costs-of-living and can differ substantially from market exchange rates.

The World Bank notes that in South Sudan poverty rates are slightly higher for households headed by women. Just over one-quarter (28.6 per cent) of the embryonic country's households are headed by women. Among these households, 56.9 per cent are below the poverty line, compared to 48.1 per cent of households headed by men. Education levels in South Sudan are extraordinarily low and poverty rates correlate highly with education. Three out of four household heads have completed no formal education. Poverty rates are highest for those living in households whose head has no education or only some primary education and they are much lower for households where the head has more education. The majority of every one of the southern states is rural. Overall, 84.4 per cent of the population of South Sudan lives in rural areas. The largest rural population (as a percentage of the state's population) is in Jonglei, where 94.3 per cent of the population is rural. The least rural state (and, as noted above, that with the highest poverty rate) is neighbouring Western Bahr El Ghazal, where 53 per cent of the population is rural. For the most part South Sudan's households across the economic spectrum are engaged in farming and the raising of livestock. Of the households in the poorest 20 per cent of the population, 83.7 per cent are chiefly occupied in agriculture. As is to be expected, the household activities of the wealthiest 20 per cent are more diverse: 57.4 per cent work chiefly in agriculture and 27 per cent live mostly on wages and salaries.

The UK based charity Oxfam reports rather disappointingly that in South Sudan a teenage girl has a higher chance of dying in childbirth than finishing elementary education. It is estimated that as few as 500 girls a year actually finish primary education (out of a total population of 10.4 million). Revenue from oil provides an opportunity to invest in social and

infrastructure development, but some also needs to be set aside for the future, given that production is already starting to decline. Making the most of South Sudan's assets to generate sustained and inclusive growth calls for transparent and effective budget processes, a robust legal framework and strengthened financial sector. Expertise from abroad would help in this regard – also to build much-needed capacity to put into operation basic government institutions, including a central bank to introduce and manage a new currency.

For both Sudan and South Sudan, future prosperity – which will inevitably help to cement peace – will depend to a large part on increased economic co-operation and trade between the two countries. On the plus side, aside from oil the new country has untapped potential. There are large livestock, fishery and forestry resources, which, assuming adequate rainfall and fertile land, could hold promise for labour-intensive agricultural exports. Importantly, developing agriculture in South Sudan could reduce the dependence on oil, which currently accounts for an alarmingly high 98 per cent of the government's revenue.

Hydrocarbons

In January 2012, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) South Sudan voluntarily closed down all its oil production because of a dispute with Sudan over oil transit fees. Following South Sudan's secession, Sudan had suggested transit fees of US\$32–36/barrel (bbl) in an attempt to make up for the oil revenue loss, while South Sudan offered a transit fee of less than US\$1/bbl. Tensions escalated at the end of 2011 when Sudan began to confiscate a portion of South Sudan's oil as a payment for unpaid transit fees and shortly after, South Sudan shut down production. After nearly 15 months of intermittent negotiations, South Sudan restarted oil production in April 2013. Despite the progress that had been made to reconcile differences, several unresolved issues remain and production might be curtailed again in the future. The closedown was a draconian step for South Sudan as oil represents almost all total government revenues for South Sudan. According to BP's 2013 Statistical Review, approximately 3.5 billion barrels of reserves are in South Sudan and 1.5 billion barrels are in Sudan. The majority of these reserves are located in the oil-rich Muglad and Melut basins, which extend into both countries. Oil is customarily transported through two main pipelines that stretch

from the landlocked South to Port Sudan. Because of civil conflict, oil exploration prior to independence in 2011 was mostly limited to the central and south-central regions of the once unified Sudan.

Natural gas associated with oil fields is mostly flared or re-injected. Despite proven reserves of 3 trillion cubic feet, gas development has been limited. In 2010, the unified Sudan flared approximately 11.8 billion cubic feet of natural gas, according to the latest data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this represents about 0.2 per cent of the total gas flared globally.

South Sudan's 2012 Petroleum Act, outlines the institutional framework governing the hydrocarbon sector. The Act established the National Petroleum and Gas Corporation (NPGC). NPGC is the main policymaking and supervisory body in the upstream, midstream and downstream segments of the hydrocarbon sector and is authorised to approve petroleum agreements on the government's behalf. The ministry of energy is responsible for the management of the petroleum sector. The Nile Petroleum Corporation (Nilepet) is the national oil company in South Sudan. At the end of 2011, South Sudan also nationalised the assets of Sudan Petroleum Company (SUDAPET) in the South and transferred them to Nilepet, according to a Foreign Reports Bulletin. Sudapet is demanding compensation of US\$1.2 billion from South Sudan

In 2012, according to the US government Energy Information Administration (EIA), combined production from Sudan and South Sudan plummeted to around 115,000bpd because South Sudan shut in all of its production at the end of January 2012. In less than one month, South Sudan closed production at: Blocks 3 and 7, Block 1 and Block 5A. Total unplanned disruptions in both countries averaged about 315,000–320,000bpd in 2012 and peaked at about 370,000bpd in mid-2012 because of military clashes around Sudan's Heglig field that temporarily halted production.

Agreement with the north

While oil production was closed down, representatives from Sudan and South Sudan met several times in Addis Ababa, (Ethiopia) for negotiations that were mediated by the African Union (AU). After months of impasse, Sudan and South Sudan reached a provisional agreement on oil transit fees in August 2012.

Although the agreement signified a major step forward, officials in Sudan

refused to reach a deal on when to restart oil production until a pact on security issues was achieved. Finally, on 27 September 2012, both sides signed a series of co-operation agreements on a number of post-independence issues, such as sharing oil revenue, border demarcation, security, migration, banking and trade.

The agreement called for the resumption of oil production in South Sudan and granted South Sudan access to use oil transportation and processing facilities in Sudan. It stipulated that South Sudan would pay Sudan processing, transit and transportation fees to use facilities and pipelines in Sudan. The total fee to use the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC) facilities and pipeline was US\$11/bbl; the Petrodar facilities and pipeline fee is US\$9.10/bbl, as agreed upon in the August 2012 provisional agreement. Compensation of US\$3.028 billion can be paid over time at a rate of US\$15/bbl and must be paid within three and a half years. The total fees associated with moving the crude oil to Sudan's export terminal, in addition to the compensation fee, bring the total payments to US\$24.10/bbl for Petrodar and US\$26/bbl for GNPOC.

Both sides agreed to cancel and forgive any claims of oil-related arrears and outstanding financial claims. This includes South Sudan's previous claims that Sudan diverted the South's crude oil to the refinery in Sudan. However, Sudan is still expected to give the South proceeds from the oil confiscated prior to the shutdown and shipped by the Traffigura Group in February 2012. The agreement on oil also stipulates that if operations related to production or use of processing and/or transportation facilities becomes technically or economically unsustainable, then the country must provide a 60-day notice prior to shutting down production or suspending access to processing and transportation facilities.

On 12 March 2013, Sudan and South Sudan released an implementation matrix with a timeline to carry out the activities in the co-operation agreements. Most notably, the implementation matrix set dates to demilitarise the buffer zone along the shared border and to restart oil production. South Sudan resumed limited oil production on 6 April. Initial production of 4,000 to 6,000bpd came from the Thar Jath field in Block 5A. Production at South Sudan's largest fields in the Upper Nile State (Blocks 3 and 7) started about one month later.

Although production has finally resumed, it is still unclear whether there will

be another prolonged close-down in the near future. In May 2013, shortly after production resumed, South Sudan was forced to partially close-down production for a few days at Blocks 3 and 7 after Sudan turned off the pump station at the central processing facility in Jebelein, Sudan. Sudan claimed it turned off the pump station because of technical problems, but South Sudan believed the decision to be politically motivated. The pump station was returned to operations and the South was able to avoid significant economic and environmental costs that would have occurred if oil flows were disrupted for a longer period of time because of the lack of storage space near the fields.

However, the main issue fuelling tension between the two countries remains the support for rebel groups. Sudan presented South Sudan with a 60-day notice, starting in June, to cut off access to its two main export pipelines after accusing South Sudan of backing rebels that were trying to take over Sudan's government in Khartoum, an allegation that South Sudan denied. Sudan postponed the deadline to close the pipelines twice to allow the African Union more time to investigate the allegations and for further negotiations. In early September 2013, Sudan finally reported that it would continue to allow South Sudan to export its oil through Sudan's pipelines.

Risk assessment

Politics	Poor
Economy	Poor
Regional stability	Poor

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1821 The vast swamps (Sudd) of southern Sudan continued to discourage outsiders and left the area undisturbed by the Arab-controlled northern regions until the Turkish Ottoman Empire defeated Egypt and conquered northern Sudan. The Ottoman's set up Egypt as its proxy ruler of Sudan.

1839 A slave trade was developed with black male Africans seized for the Egyptian army and black women and children from the south traded in Arab markets.

1869 After the opening of the Suez Canal, the British became involved in Sudan's affairs, through its association with Egyptian governance of Sudan.

1870s Egypt colonised southern Sudan.

1878 Egypt established the province of Equatoria (much of modern-day Darfur, Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria and part of Somalia), in

the southern Sudan and banned slavery, at the behest of Britain.

1881 In northern Sudan, Mohammed Ahmed, who proclaimed himself the long-looked-for Mahdi (the guided one), led his followers, the Muslim Sudanese, in a rebellion against Egyptian rule.

1885 The Mahdi's army massacred the British army, under General Gordon, who had been sent to quash the rebellion. The Mahdi united the tribes in a modern Islamic state and undermined the basis of the province of Equatoria.

1889 The Egyptian province of Equatoria ceased to exist and was split into regions of Sudan.

1898 The Mahdi was defeated by the British and Anglo-Egyptian army.

1899 Sudan was ruled as an Anglo-Egyptian condominium, although north and south Sudan were governed as separate administrative regions.

1947 At the Conference of Juba, held under the auspices of Great Britain and Egypt the end of the Second World War, it was agreed to unify politically northern Sudan and colonial southern Sudan.

1948 A legislative assembly for the unified Sudan was established.

1953 Great Britain and Egypt agreed to grant Sudan independence.

1955 Troops of the Sudan Defence Force (of southern Sudan) mutinied as a southern member of the national assembly was put on trial. The mutiny was suppressed, but a number of troops fled into the countryside and became the core of a poorly armed and ill-organised rebel fighting force (later founding the Anya-Nya guerrilla army).

1956 Sudan gained independence. With the rejection of southern calls for if not secession or even a federation, then more regional autonomy and greater development for the south, a secessionist movement developed led by the surviving mutineers and students from the south, who formed the Anya-Nya guerrilla army. The political and sometimes violent conflict became polarised between the largely Muslim north and the largely Christian/Animist south.

1958 A military coup in the north, led by General Ibrahim Abboud overthrew the civilian government of Prime Minister Abd Allah Khalil. Martial law was declared and Abboud proclaimed himself prime minister of Sudan.

1962 Civil war began in the south, led by the Anya-Nya movement.

1964 The October Revolution overthrew Abboud and a national government for Sudan was established.

1969 Colonel Jaafar Mohammed al Nimieri led the May Revolution military coup, installing a revolutionary council in Sudan.

1971 The Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM) was founded by former lieutenant Joseph Lagu; it encompassed all southern rebel forces, with a unified command structure and independence as the main objective. It assumed the right to represent the interests of the people of the south.

1972 Nimieri became the first elected president of Sudan and negotiated with Joseph Lagu (SSLM) at the conference on peace in Ethiopia. An estimated 500,000 people had been killed since 1955. The Addis Ababa Agreement ended the first Sudanese civil war, through the creation of the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region (SSAR).

1978 Oil was discovered in southern Sudan.

1983 President Nimieri officially declared Sudan an Islamic State, introduced *Sharia* (Islamic law) and revoked the SSAR agreement. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) was established under the leadership of Colonel John Garang (who was head of the armed Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)) and gained control of much of the south; it campaigned for a united Sudan and blamed the central government for policies leading to Sudan's disintegration.

1985–86 Nimieri was ousted in a bloodless coup and after a brief period of military rule, Sadiq al Mahdi, the great-grandson of the Great Mahdi, became prime minister of Sudan after elections in 1986.

1986 Peace talks began between John Garang (SPLM) and Sadiq al Mahdi in Ethiopia, which culminated in the Koka Dam declaration. It was agreed to abolish *Sharia* in the south and a constitutional conference was proposed. The divided political situation in the north militated against a peaceful solution and fighting continued.

1988 A new agreement was reached, negotiated by a government coalition political party and the SPLM and called the November Accords, but Prime Minister Sadiq al Mahdi was politically weak and was unable to ratify the accords.

1989 Sadiq al Mahdi was replaced following another bloodless coup by the National Salvation Revolution, backed by the fundamentalist Islamic political party, National Islamic Front (NIF) (Al Jabhah al Islamiyah al Qawmiyah); Omar Hassan Ahmad al Bashir became chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation (RCCNS). An informal ceasefire broke down.

1992 The Sudanese pound was replaced as the currency by the Sudanese dinar. The central government mounted a military operation to take all rebel towns in the south, and captured the SPLA's

headquarters in Torit. Riek Machar and Lam Akol attempted to overthrow the leadership of John Garang by forming the Nasir Faction. William Nyuon Bany formed a second rebel faction.

1993 Kerubino Kwanyin Bol formed a third rebel faction in the south. The three dissident rebel factions formed a coalition called SPLA-United. However clashes between these rebel factions caused Western powers to overlook their importance. The RCCNS was abolished after Omar al Bashir was appointed president; Sudan returned to civilian rule, although with one political party (Al Muttamar al Watani (National Congress Party) (NCP)) exercising dominance, the country was not strictly a democracy. Non-Muslim judges from the south were transferred to the north and were replaced with Muslim judges. Non-Muslim citizens were subject to arrest and punishment under Islamic religious laws (*Sharia*).

1994 The *Declaration of Principles* (DoP), an initiative sponsored by Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya setting out objectives for a just and comprehensive peace settlement, was promulgated. Signatories to the DoP included the government of Sudan and the SPLM and SPLA (later reformed into SPLM/A)

1995 Political parties of the north and south formed the National Democratic Alliance. Eritrea, Ethiopia and Uganda increased their military support of SPLA.

1996 Omar al Bashir won the presidential election.

1997 The Khartoum Peace Agreement between the central government and seven southern groups, led by John Garang, was ratified by the National Assembly.

1998–99 Voters in a referendum endorsed a new Sudanese constitution. Sudan began to export oil from southern Sudan. After a power struggle within the ruling NCP between President Bashir and Hassan al Turabi (a hardline Islamist and ideologue), the President imposed a state of emergency and dissolved the National Assembly.

2000 Omar al Bashir and the NCP were re-elected. Most opposition parties boycotted the elections.

2002 After peace talks in Kenya, the government and the SPLA signed the Machakos Protocol: the government accepted the right of the south to seek self-determination after a six-year interim period.

2003 China and the Sudan announced a US\$1 billion investment plan to enhance Sudan's oil infrastructure including the construction of a 750-kilometre-long pipeline between Sudan's largest oil deposits in the Kordofan oilfield and the coast.

2004 President Bashir agreed to grant autonomy to the south for six years, split the country's oil revenues with the southern provinces and allow the southerners to vote in a referendum on independence at the end of the six-year period.

2005 The government and the SPLM/A signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), ending the 22-year civil war. Among other things the agreement began a period of transition until 2009, when parliamentary and state legislative elections were scheduled to take place, and provided for an equal sharing of oil revenues between the north and south, with special administrative status given to the oil producing province of Abyei. SPLA leader, John Garang, was appointed vice president of Sudan for the six-year period of reconciliation; the new constitution also gave a large degree of autonomy to the south. John Garang was killed in a helicopter crash; riots broke out in Khartoum, between black southern Sudanese and northern Arabs. Garang's deputy, Salva Kiir, was named his successor as vice president of national Sudan and president of southern Sudan.

2006 UN envoy, Jan Pronk, was expelled for claiming that government troops had suffered defeats in southern Sudan. The Kordofan oilfield was attacked by the SPLA.

2007 The currency was changed from the dinar (in use since 1992), back to the Sudanese pound (£S); the exchange rate was set at £S1 to 100 old dinars. Vice President Kiir accused the national government of supporting militia operating in the south, claiming that they had not been disarmed, and the central government had failed to share the wealth of resources found in the south. The oil producing province of Abyei had been subject to continued armed attacks by the SPLA, so finally the governments in agreement with the SPLM asked the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) (based in The Hague) to rule on the disputed border between the north and south.

2008 The PCA gave its ruling and concluded that Sudan's argument that Abyei only constituted a small sliver of land south of the Kiir/Bahr el Arab River was erroneous and awarded 10,460 square kilometres to South Sudan. It also rejected South Sudan's argument that its demarcation in the eastern and western boundaries was legitimate and awarded those areas, including much of the oil reserves in the area, to Sudan. It also affirmed the right of traditional pastoral herdsmen to continue to use both sides of the border areas in the province of Kordofan (over 18,500 square km) for their flocks

2009 Lam Akol created his own political party – SPLM-Democratic Change – and

split from the SPLM, claiming it had failed to fully govern southern Sudan. Both political parties nominated candidates to challenge President Bashir in the next Sudanese presidential election. A delay in completing a census forced the postponement of presidential and parliamentary elections throughout Sudan. The census was criticised by political leaders in the south who said that the southern Sudanese population had been under-recorded.

2010 Almost all of the political parties based in southern Sudan withdrew from the Sudanese presidential elections, due to concerns over fraud and security during voting and what they considered to have been rigging of the electoral process in order to favour the ruling NCP. President Bashir threatened to cancel the referendum on independence in the south in face of the boycotts. In the general elections the NCP won 68.2 per cent of the vote, the SPLM won 22 per cent, Popular Congress 4 per cent. President Bashir was re-elected with 68.24 per cent of the vote. At the same time a presidential election took place in Southern Sudan; Salva Kiir (SPLM) won 92.99 per cent of the vote, Lam Akol (SPLM-Democratic Change) 7.01 per cent. Salva Kiir was sworn in as the first elected president of southern Sudan. The referendum on independence for southern Sudan was set for 9 January 2011. The UN estimated that some 51,000 people travelled south in time to register their vote (14 November–4 December). President Bashir announced on 19 December that if the South broke away the north would adopt an Islamic constitution.

2011 In January, a referendum to determine the future of southern Sudan as either a province of Sudan or as an independent country began. The vote, over nine days, was overwhelmingly in favour of independence. The result was 98.83 per cent of the vote in favour, 1.17 per cent against independence. In February, it was decided by the ruling committee of the SPLM that the official name of the country would be South Sudan when it came into existence on 9 July. [From now on we will refer to the area of southern Sudan which will become South Sudan on 9 July as South Sudan – Editor] In March, militia supporting rebel leader General George Athor attacked the town of Malakal, in the oil-rich state of Upper Nile. Official talks with representatives of Sudan were suspended following South Sudan's accusations that President Bashir was plotting to overthrow the future South Sudan government, orchestrated by the Sudanese military intelligence agency. It was claimed that Sudan was 'creating, training, supplying and arming militia

groups' in South Sudan, overseen by President Bashir. Fighting between the SPLA and those loyal to rebel leader, George Athor, killed 70 people in three states in March. The UN extended its peacekeeping mission in the region until July. It also established a successor mission after independence (Unmiss, on 8 July). The finance minister announced that the new currency, the South Sudan pound, would be issued in July, initially valued on a par with the Sudan pound. In the May gubernatorial elections held in southern Kordofan, Ahmed Haroun (NCP) was declared the winner in what the SPLM declared was a fraudulent election. (The International Criminal Court (ICC) had issued an arrest warrant for Haroun in 2006, charging him with committing war crimes in Darfur (western Sudan)). Abdelaziz al Hilu (SPLM) was elected as deputy governor. In May a group of army personnel from Sudan were ambushed while being escorted out of Abyei by UN peacekeepers and 22 men were killed in what the UN called 'a criminal attack'. The US called on South Sudan to 'account' for the attack. In retaliation, on 22 May northern military 'repelled enemy forces' according to Sudanese state news and occupied Abyei. The UN condemned the escalation in violence and called on Sudan to withdraw its military from the disputed town and region of Abyei, as a UN peacekeeping force was caught in the middle of what South Sudan called an 'invasion'. Around 20,000 people fled from Abyei to South Sudan. Armed men looted and burned buildings in Abyei as the UN warned Sudan that it was 'responsible for maintaining law and order' and that it should 'intervene to stop criminal acts'. In May, President Bashir refused to withdraw troops from Abyei saying the area belonged to Sudan. In June, the UN announced that it would undertake an investigation into the breakdown in order in South Kordofan between Sudan and South Sudan. On 9 July celebrations were held as South Sudan became independent. It became the 193rd member of the United Nations on 14 July, and the 54th member of the African Union (AU) on 15 August. China's foreign minister, Yang Jiechi, arrived in Khartoum on 7 August where he had talks before traveling to South Sudan for talks with President Kiir. China was concerned to maintain its supply of oil, which would in future come from both Sudan and South Sudan. An agreement on border crossings between Sudan and South Sudan was signed in Khartoum in September – 10 border crossings will be opened to ease communications. The agreement was brokered by the AU and is hoped to demonstrate the willingness of the two countries to

co-operate. Google maps online became the first mapping service to recognise the new state in September.

2012 On 7 January, the UN launched an emergency programme to aid around 50,000 people, including food distribution for 2,000 people, displaced following attacks by rival ethnic groups, centred on the town of Pibor. The government declared the state of Jonglei a disaster area, as Lou Nuer fighters, who outnumbered the South Sudanese army and UN peacekeepers, attacked in the area. On 27 January, South Sudan began to shut down its oil production following the failure to reach an agreement over oil sharing revenue and oil transit fees with Sudan. On 31 January, South Sudan rejected proposals, backed by the AU, for Sudan to pay US\$6.5 billion for oil rights. On 11 February, the chief mediator, former South African president, Thabo Mbeki, announced that South Sudan and Sudan had signed a non-aggression pact, saying that both sides had agreed to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. On 13 March, Sudan and South Sudan signed an agreement allowing free movement and residence of their nationals in one another's territory. It was agreed that President Bashir would travel to Juba to sign the accord by 1 April. Following President Salva Kiir's official visit to China, on 28 April it was announced that China had agreed to loan South Sudan US\$8 billion, to be used on a range of infrastructure projects, including roads, telecommunications, hydroelectric generation and agriculture. Sudan declared a state of emergency (SOE) along its border with South Sudan on 29 April, following weeks of clashes between Sudan and South Sudan forces. On 2 May the UN Security Council warned both Sudan and South Sudan that sanctions would be imposed if they failed to halt the recent violence and that both sides should resume negotiations to resolve their dispute. The UN peacekeeping mission in Abyei confirmed that on 30 May Sudan withdrew its troops from the disputed region, following negotiations undertaken in Ethiopia between officials of Sudan and South Sudan. Presidents Bashir and Kiir signed an agreement on 27 September in Addis Ababa that will finally lead to the resumption of oil production and oil exports. South Sudan agreed to pay US\$9.10 per barrel of oil passing through pipelines operated by Dar Petroleum and US\$11.00 per barrel through those of Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company. The National Legislative Assembly approved the agreement on 16 October and on 19 October, the government ordered the resumption of oil production; oil exports will start in around three months.

2013 On 8 June Sudan's President al Bashir ordered the stoppage of oil transfers through its territory from South Sudan to stop from 9 June. Sudanese officials later said the ban would take effect in 60 days. On 10 June South Sudan accused Sudanese troops of crossing into Upper Nile state, as tension between the two states rose. President Kiir sacked the entire cabinet on 24 July, in an apparent power struggle with other senior leaders, particularly Vice President Riek Macha. He appointed a new, smaller, cabinet on 1 August, but no successor to Mr Macha. James Wani Igga was appointed vice president on 24 August. Mr Igga is a member of the Nuer, South Sudan's second largest group of peoples. Talks between Presidents Bashir and Kiir on 3 September eased tensions between the two; President Bashir withdrew his threat to disrupt oil exports from South Sudan.

Political structure

Constitution

The interim constitution for southern Sudan was inaugurated in 2005, as agreed under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) with Sudan. It established an autonomous government, headed by a president, who is head of government and commander-in-chief of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). A presidential term in office is five-years, with a limit of two terms.

A new, draft constitution was finalised in March 2011. However national discussion and a final constitution will be voted on and ratified after independence in July 2011.

Independence date

9 July 2011

Form of state

Presidential democracy

The executive

The president is elected by popular vote and is head of government and appoints a cabinet, approved by parliament. The presidential office is limited to two, five-year terms.

National legislature

The unicameral, South Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA). The membership was previously constituted on the basis of the power-sharing formulas in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and members in post on 9 July 2011 were elected in the April 2010 Sudan general elections.

Legal system

The interim constitution mandated a decentralised institution that is independent of the executive and legislature and with its own budget, so as not to be dependent on the government. Judicial power is derived from the people and exercised in courts in accordance with customs,

values, norms and in conformity with the constitution and legislation.

The structure of the judiciary is modelled on the UK judiciary and is headed by a Supreme Court (based in Juba), which is the highest legal institution. Below this court are the Courts of Appeal (based in three state capitals), High Courts (based in all state capitals), County Courts and other courts deemed necessary to establish. The president of the Supreme Court is answerable to the president and parliament for the administration of the judiciary.

Last elections

11–15 April 2010 (presidential first and second rounds); 20 January 2011 (independence referendum)

Results: Presidential: Salva Kiir (SPLM) won 92.99 per cent of the vote, Lam Akol (SPLM-(Democratic Congress) DC) 7.01 per cent.

Referendum: 98.83 per cent of the vote in favour, 1.17 per cent against.

Next elections

2015

Political parties

Ruling party

Sudan People's Liberation Movement (from 9 Jul 2011)

Population

10.39 million (2012)* (8,260,490; 2008 census, disputed)

The result of the 2008 census was disputed by the interim government of Southern Sudan, which claimed that the population of the south should have been around one-third of the total of Sudan (39,154,490). They also claimed that the figure for southerners living in the north (518,000 in the census) was closer to 3.9 million.

The government of Southern Sudan had expected up to 1.5 million people living in northern Sudan and Egypt to return to the south to participate in the January 2011 referendum. However, according to the UN Sudan mission, from October 2010–April 2011 288,000 people had made the journey from the north. The majority of these returnees settled in border states and in rural areas.

Last census: 22 April 2008: 8,260,490 million (disputed figure)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that there were 213,832 returnees to South Sudan (October–February 2010–11) and more people were expected to return from Uganda and Sudan, which would strain food security throughout the country in 2011.

Ethnic make-up

There are over 200 ethnic groups, but the people are socially, culturally and

historically related to the peoples of east Africa. The largest group are the Dinka.

Religions

Mainly Christian, animist and traditional beliefs

Education

Only 37 per cent of the population above aged six has attended school.

The Juba National University is based in Khartoum and provides instruction in English for South Sudan students. In 2011 it was in the process of being relocated to South Sudan.

In October 2010, the Dr John Garang International School opened, and in January 2011 it moved to a permanent location in Juba, where it operates a first school, on the UK system. When its intake is complete it will provide education for 350 children, with classes of 25–30 per teacher. It is divided into four stages, kindergarten, pre-school, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) for children aged five and six and Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) children aged seven–10. The educational year begins in September and finishes in July. Plans for the construction of a high school in 2012 are advancing.

The Southern Sudan Interactive Radio Instruction (SSIRI) provides at-a-distance educational programmes for children (called The Learning Village) and adults (including English), as well as training for teachers, including classroom management. It is funded by US Agency for International Development and administered by the Education Development Centre (EDC). The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) in conjunction with educationalists and ministers in Juba, identified the needs of South Sudan to develop educational services for the population.

All statistics on South Sudan were gathered from the National Education Statistical Booklet, Ministry of Education (South Sudan 2009).

Literacy rate: 27 per cent of the population aged above 15 years are literate. Literacy in males is 40 per cent, 16 per cent in females. Urban adult literacy rate: 53 per cent, 22 per cent rural rate. Literacy rate of population aged 15–24 years 40 per cent, of which male rate 55 per cent, 28 per cent female.

Enrolment rate: 72 per cent gross enrolment. Net enrolment in primary school 72 per cent.

Pupils per teacher: 52 students per teacher (average class size 129 students)

Health

In January 2011 there were only 130 doctors in South Sudan as well as a chronic lack of other medical staff. The senior medical officer at the Juba Teaching Hospital was critical of the

health system on the day after independence in July 2011, saying that none of the state-run hospitals or primary care centres available was functioning properly due to a lack of funds, equipment, medical supplies and personnel. Although plans for a new hospital and blood bank, as well as a network of primary care centres were under consideration, the health service could not provide for many patients with traumas and preventable diseases in the meantime.

All statistics gathered from Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE)

At independence South Sudan had been polio-free for some four years. However, although every child in the country is supposed to be vaccinated against tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and measles by its first birthday, the director of the programme on immunisation (EMI), Anthony Kirbak, said that only happens for about 65 per cent of the country's children due to a scant health infrastructure, poor roads and cyclical violence in some areas of the country. The ministry of health sends thousands of volunteers out across the country four times a year to immunise every child they can find who is under six. Kirbak said they regularly reach more than 90 per cent of the children.

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 1.6 per cent (SSCCSE 2010)

Life expectancy: 42 years (SSCCSE 2010)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 2,054 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 104 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 80,000 per doctor (2011)

Main cities

Juba (capital, estimated population 508,908 in 2012), Rumbek (81,732), Wau (163,421), Malakal (143,412), Yei (128,880), Yambio (123,673), Kwajok (98,237).

Languages spoken

Colloquial Arabic is widely spoken and Juba Arabic (a pidgin) is spoken in the capital. Native languages include Dinka, Nuer and Ubangian.

Official language/s
English

Media

Press

There are a number of online news outlets, although most are published from abroad.

Weeklies: In English, the *Juba Post* (<http://jubapost.org>) reports on news, politics, business and other domestic issues. It accepts advertising for both its hardcopy and online editions.

Broadcasting

Radio: Internews operates a community service for the region including South Sudan (www.internews.org), although it is based in the US. The BBC also has services operating (www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice)

The Southern Sudan Interactive Radio Instruction (SSIRI) provides at-a-distance educational programmes for children (called The Learning Village) and adults (including English), as well as training for teachers, including classroom management.

National news agency: South Sudan News Agency (www.southsudannewsagency.com)

Economy

South Sudan has fertile soil suitable for subsistence farmers growing a variety of crops including plantains, sorghum, cassava, millet, groundnuts, maize, okra, millet, rice, sweet potatoes, wheat, sesame and beans. The Ngok Dinka and Misseryia people have traditional use of land for grazing cattle in Abyei, straddling the new border between Sudan and South Sudan. Livestock includes chickens and goats as well as cattle (dairy and beef) in drier, less fertile areas. Mineral deposits include uranium, gold and copper, among others.

There are large petroleum deposits that were initially developed by the central government of Sudan (before the independence of South Sudan), in partnership with foreign, principally Chinese, oil companies. At the end of 2011, South Sudan (including some wells in the disputed border region with Sudan) had proven reserves of 6.7 billion barrels of oil, with production of 453,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil. The division of oil production and revenue has been under discussion since the referendum on independence that confirmed South Sudan's future as a sovereign nation. Although the two governments held talks to agree a royalty on previous investment, development and infrastructure costs on the exploitation of the oil fields, no agreement had been reached before independence on 9 July 2011.

The South Sudan government considered an equal division of oil revenue with Sudan as inequitable, given that 70 per cent of total oil production comes from South Sudan. As Sudan refused to negotiate, so in July 2011 South Sudan began discussions with Ethiopia and Kenya to run an oil pipeline through either country to their seaports, thereby circumventing any oil

sharing agreement with Sudan. Both projects would take several years to complete.

In January 2012 South Sudan shut down all oil production following the dispute with Sudan over the transit fee for oil piped overland to Sudanese ports. The shutdown resulted in a cut in government revenue, (oil typically provides 98 per cent of government revenue), but the stoppage was only envisaged to last for up to four months.

Months of diplomatic negotiations followed and culminated on 23 July 2012, when South Sudan offered compensation of US\$3 billion to Sudan for economic losses resulting from revenue loss since South Sudan's independence. South Sudan also offered increased transit fees for oil passing through Sudan.

The World Bank administers the Multi-Donor Trust Fund-South Sudan (MDTF-SS), which has a total of US\$232.5 million to invest in capacity building support to the newly formed government of South Sudan. The World Bank advised the new government that anti-corruption measures were essential to ensure good governance when disbursing national revenue derived from petroleum sales.

In early 2011 there were less than 50km of metalled roads in South Sudan, around 80 per cent of the population lived in traditional timber round houses (*tukul*) without electricity or running water, and 90 per cent were living on less than US\$1 per day. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) stated that almost 50 per cent of the population were in need of food assistance.

On 20 April 2011 South Sudan formally applied for membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which will allow it draw on financial technical assistance and loan arrangements in the future. It became a member of both the IMF and World Bank on 18 April 2012. On 18 July 2011, distribution of the new South Sudan pound (SS£) began; the first bank notes issued were to the value of SS£50. All Sudanese pounds in circulation in South Sudan were due to be exchanged for the new money at S£1 = SS£1, however no deadline for exchange was published. It was estimated that S£2 billion (US\$750 million) was in circulation in early 2011.

As the South Sudan pound fell in value, losing around 98 per cent of its value in January 2012, due to the shutdown in oil production. Inflation rose sharply, it reached an annual rate of 60.9 per cent in July 2011.

In June 2012, the government struck a loan-deal with the Qatar National Bank (QNB), which agreed to provide a line of credit up to US\$100 million in hard

currency for imports of food, fuel, medicines and construction materials. At an agreed time, Bank of South Sudan (BoSS) will buy back the local currency paid to the QNB plus 10 per cent in stamp duties and the interest accrued.

External trade

South Sudan's future trading will be with traditional partners including all of its neighbours, however in the short term it will need to develop a modern infrastructure to sustain anything but the current, improvised, transportation of goods from anywhere in the region.

Oil flows north to the Mediterranean ports in Sudan. In early 2011 there were less than 50km of metalled roads, severely hampering private business expansion.

Exports

Petroleum piped through Sudan (for onward delivery to China and other destinations).

Agriculture

The soil is fertile and crops under cultivation include plantains, sorghum, cassava, millet, groundnuts, maize, okra, millet, rice, sweet potatoes, wheat, sesame and beans. Livestock includes cattle (dairy and beef), chickens and goats.

Artisan fishermen catch freshwater fish for domestic consumption.

Teak wood is a valuable export.

In 2007, a report by the UN Environment Programme, stated that South Sudan had lost 40 per cent of its forests since 1960s and that desertification was progressing south due to land degradation. It recommended measures to impede the growth of the Sahara, including a reduction in slash-and-burn for agricultural purposes. The need for charcoal was also noted as a potential source of conflict between Sudan and South Sudan, with sufficient supplies for Sudan only being manufactured in South Sudan by 2017.

Industry and manufacturing

In 2008, 53 per cent of the working population were unpaid family members and only 12 per cent of the working population were paid employees. Of the 7,333 formal businesses in the ten state capitals, 84 per cent were retail or restaurants.

Tourism

While the potential for eco-tourism is high, there is little infrastructure to attract any but the most intrepid traveller. South Sudan is the location of the world's largest freshwater swamp (the Sudd) which can increase in size to 130,000sq km during the rainy season and is Africa's largest wetland, and an important habitat for fish, birds and mammals.

Environment

In June 2010 the African Union backed a proposal to build the 'Great Green Wall' project – a 15km wide, 7,775km long, continuous belt of trees from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east (traversing 11 countries, including South Sudan) in an effort to halt the advance of the Sahara Desert. The trees to be used would be drought-adapted, preferably native to the area from a list of 37 possible species, and should help to slow soil erosion and filter rain water.

Mining

There are under-exploited deposits of uranium, iron ore, chromium, zinc, tungsten, mica, gold and copper. However these are becoming globally more sought after commodities and development is expected in the medium-term.

Hydrocarbons

At the end 2011 South Sudan and Sudan together had proved reserves of 6.7 billion barrels of oil, with production of 453,000 million barrels of oil per day (bpd). An expected 85 per cent of total production and 75 per cent of total Sudanese revenue went to South Sudan on independence on 9 July 2011. Although most of the oil is in the South, all exports will need to use pipeline across the north to reach Port Sudan. Sudan entered into negotiations for a royalty on its investment on development and infrastructure costs in the exploitation of this oil. It started at a fee per barrel transported of over US\$36, while South Sudan offered less than US\$1. Both sides dug in their heels and as a consequence in July 2011 the South began discussions with Ethiopia to run an oil pipeline through Ethiopia and circumvent the oil sharing agreement with Sudan.

By the end of 2011, when there had been no progress in the negotiations – Sudan was still demanding US\$36 per barrel, and had seized US\$800 million of oil in transit and diverted it to their own refinery – the South said they would shut down all production. In January 2012 South Sudan carried out their threat and stopped all oil production. In March Sudan made a slightly better offer of US\$32.20 per barrel, which was again rejected.

Talks sponsored by the African Union, and mediated by former South Africa president, Thabo Mbeki, were held in Addis Ababa in early 2012. Eventually an agreement was signed by Presidents Kiir and Bashir on 27 September and South Sudan ordered the resumption of oil production, which had been around 350,000bpd in January. Under the agreement, South Sudan will pay US\$9.10 per barrel of oil passing through pipelines operated by Dar Petroleum and

US\$11.00 per barrel through those of Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company.

Meanwhile a memorandum of understanding (MOU) had been signed between South Sudan and Kenya on 24 January 2012, to build an oil pipeline to take South Sudanese oil to a Kenyan port for export. The pipeline will be built and owned by South Sudan and the two countries will negotiate transit fees for the oil through Kenya. The pipeline will also include a fibre-optic line giving internet connection to South Sudan. On 2 March construction began on the US\$23 billion port and oil refinery project in Lamu District, Kenya. The presidents of Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia were at the launching ceremony, amid tight security in an area close to the border with war-torn Somalia. The project, known as the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transit Corridor (Lapsset), is due to be completed by 2016, with initial investment from all three countries, with plans to attract international investment. If it goes ahead, Lapsset will be one of Africa's largest civil engineering projects. It would also obviate the need for oil to pass through Sudan.

On 10 February another MOU, to build another pipeline, this one through Ethiopia to the Port of Djibouti, was signed with Ethiopia. Industry analysts consider that such a pipeline, of 1,000km through rugged terrain, with roving bands of militia, could take up to three years to build at a cost of US\$4 billion.

Energy

South Sudan has very poor energy infrastructure. The majority of the population uses bio-fuel to light their homes and cook their food. South Sudan has the potential to produce a large quantity of hydroelectricity and in 2010 the authorities identified eleven likely sites for hydroelectric power plants.

In February 2011 the second electricity generation and distribution system was launched in the town of Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria), with an initial capacity of 894kW and 700 service connections. The US funded the project (US\$4 million), to include personnel training along with the infrastructure. The first electricity project was established in Yei (Central Equatoria), in 2008 and the third projects with a similar generation and distribution system was launched later in February 2011 in Maridi (Western Equatoria).

Banking and insurance

The Bank of South Sudan (BoSS) was launched in 2006 to provide a financial and banking structure for the newly formed interim government under the Wealth Sharing Agreement with Sudan in 2004.

There were three commercial banks operating in South Sudan in 2010, the Nile Commercial Bank (NCB), the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and the Ivory Bank.

The Qatar National Bank (QNB) began operation in October 2011 and in June 2012, Stanbic Bank (licensed by the Bank of Uganda) began commercial operations in Juba.

The government has called on other foreign banks to increase their quality of operations in South Sudan for business, NGOs and foreign consulates and international organisations.

In 2010, only 1 per cent of the population had access to, or made use of, a bank account.

Central bank

Bank of South Sudan (BoSS)

Main financial centre

Juba

Time

GMT plus three hours (South Sudan does not use daylight saving).

Geography

South Sudan is bounded by Ethiopia in the east, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the south and the Central African Republic in the west, with Sudan in the north. It has a rainforest environment that includes the 30,000 square kilometres (sq km) Sudd swamp formed by the White Nile. The Sudd is the world's largest freshwater swamp, which can increase in size to 130,000sq km during the rainy season.

The river Kirr (Gurf) (Bahr el Arab) became the border between Sudan and South Sudan, it flows through the province of Kordofan and is a tributary of the Upper (White) Nile. Mount Kinyeti Imatong is the highest peak, situated in the Jebel Marra range located along the border with Uganda. The Nuba Hills, in the centre of north South Sudan, are rugged granite peaks that rise sharply out of the plains with fertile slopes and clay pits between hills.

Southern Sudan is composed of ten states: Western Bahr el Ghazal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Warab, Lakes, Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

South Sudan has a tropical climate that varies from over 35 degrees Celsius (C) (centigrade) in summer to around 20 degrees C in winter. The rainy season is May–October and the humidity only falls between November–March.

Dress codes

Western business clothing is acceptable.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all. Passports must be valid for six months from date of entry.

Currency advice/regulations

Banks exchange the local currency for foreign currency at a fix rate and the US dollars is accepted in all money exchange establishments. Currency exchange bureaux use a flexible rate which may offer a better market rate, however they may not be able to re-convert local currency when a visitor departs. On arrival it is advisable to have plenty of lower denomination bank notes for use in exchange.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Valid yellow fever and cholera certificates are required if travellers are arriving from infected areas, or travellers are intending to visit the south of Sudan.

SUE: I picked this up from our Sudan entry and have now confused myself! Does this now mean all travellers to South Sudan must have a cert or just those moving from South to north?

Advisable precautions

Vaccinations for yellow fever, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, hepatitis A and typhoid are recommended. Other vaccinations that may be recommended are cholera, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and meningitis. There is a risk of rabies. Malaria is prevalent throughout the country. Anti-mosquito measures including repellents, nets and clothing that cover the body should be used (these will also provide protection against hepatitis B and yellow fever). Tap water must be treated as unsafe unless boiled and filtered (bottled water is available in the main cities). Eat only well cooked meals, preferably served hot; vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled. Dairy products are unpasteurised and should be avoided. Use only well maintained, chlorinated, swimming pools as bilharzia can be contracted from streams and rivers.

Hotels

There are several hotels of differing quality in and around Juba.

Credit cards

Not readily accepted.

Working hours

Banking

Sat–Thu: 0830–1200.

Business

Sat–Thu: 0800–1430.

Government

Sat–Thu: 0800/0830–1330/1400.

Shops

Sat–Thu: 0800–1330, 1730–2000.

In 2011, there were three supermarkets in Juba, plus outdoor traditional markets.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

The local operator, Vivacell, extended operations to include more rural areas in 2011.

Sudanese mobile phone operators provide 900/1800 and 3G 2100 services that may operate around urban areas of South Sudan.

Security

There are armed attacks on oil fields and trips outside the capital should be arranged through local contacts. Landmines remain a major hazard in South Sudan, especially south of Juba. Visitors should remain on main roads only. Armed militia loyal to local interests in Upper Nile, Blue Nile and Bahr al Ghazal pose a threat. Crimes against person and property are frequent in South Sudan and while the police force is fledgling all care should be taken to minimise risk.

Conflict in neighbouring countries occasionally spills over into South Sudan. The armed and lawless militia, the Lord's Resistance Army poses a threat to all along the southern border with Uganda. Banditry is prevalent in South Sudan.

Getting there

Air

National airline: South Sudan does not have a national airline but a number of international carriers land in Juba.

International airport/s: The Juba Airport (JUB), is an airfield located north of Juba. It accepts international flights but has few amenities for travellers.

Surface

Road: A project to pave the 192 kilometres, Juba-Nimule highway to Kampala

(Uganda) began in February 2011. When completed (early 2012) an extension to Mombasa (Kenya) will be undertaken. Until the road is metalled, the bus journey between Juba and Kampala is around eight hours.

Water: Rivers provide transport but no scheduled services exist.

Getting about

National transport

There are no paved roads in any directions except north from Juba to Sudan.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for South Sudan is +249, followed by area code:

Aweil	844	Malakal	831
Bentiu	861	Torit	322
Juba	811	Wau	841
Kwajok	569	Yei	249

Banking

Central bank

Bank of Southern Sudan (BoSS), PO Box, Juba South Sudan; Juba Town Centre, Between the Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Services (GOSS) Building and the Central Equatoria Taxation Department (tel: 811-820218, 911-820211; fax 811-820211, 811-823939; internet: www.bankofsouthernsudan.org; email: info@bankofsouthernsudan.org).

Other useful addresses

Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation, PO Box 137, Juba (email: SICCSE@gmail.com or info@SICCSE.org).

National news agency: South Sudan News Agency (www.southsudannewsagency.com)

Internet sites

Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS): www.goss-online.org

Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SICCSE): www.SICCSE.org