

Sudan



Following Sudan's division into two republics in 2011, the two countries continued to squabble over how to demarcate the border and share oil production and profits. Matters were further complicated by an unexpectedly fierce rebellion in the Nuba Mountains. Before separation, the Nuban fighters had supported the southern rebels and it was suspected that South Sudan's government was secretly supplying the Nubans with money, tanks and militia fighters.

Decree nisi

As with all divorces, the two biggest bones of contention are likely to be who gets the children (oil) and who keeps the house (mostly the oil producing states, but also tribal territories). The single biggest dispute between Sudan and South Sudan came to a head in January 2012, when, having failed to reach an agreement with Sudan on a pipeline fee, South Sudan in an

act of risky brinkmanship, decided to cease all oil production. This had menacing consequences for Sudan, as according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), oil still represented over half of Sudan's government revenue and 90 per cent of its export earnings. (See Energy below).

Although the two Presidents had agreed in September 2011 to withdraw their armies from the immediate border region between the two countries (the second biggest area under dispute), neither side had seen fit to take the first step. In April 2012 fighting broke out in various places along the border, giving rise to fears that the two newly constituted countries were slipping into renewed warfare. As the fighting escalated, Sudan's President Omar Hassan al Bashir (revealing a pre-division mindset) made the rather rash and none too helpful claim that Sudan's forces had 'fertilised the soil with their dead'. His remarks turned out to be

KEY FACTS

Official name: Jamhuryat es Sudan (Republic of Sudan)

Head of State: President Omar Hassan Ahmad al Bashir (from 1993; re-elected Apr 2010)

Head of government: President Omar Hassan Ahmad al Bashir

Ruling party: Al Muttamar al Watani (National Congress Party) (NCP) (from 1998; re-elected Apr 2010)

Area: 1,861,484 square km

Population: 33.51 million (2012)*

Capital: Khartoum

Official language: Arabic

Currency: Sudanese pound (£S) = 100 piastre

Exchange rate: £S4.41 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$1,789 (2012)*

GDP real growth: -4.40% (2012)*

GDP: US\$59.94 billion (2012)*

Unemployment: 10.83% (2012)*

Inflation: 35.55% (2012)*

Oil production: 82,000 bpd (2012)

Balance of trade: -US\$4.75 billion (2012)

Foreign debt: US\$37.98 billion (Dec 2010)

Annual FDI: US\$2.89 billion (2010)

* estimated figure

somewhat premature as shortly afterwards South Sudan seized the Heglig oilfield, one of the few remaining in Sudanese territory.

The implementation of a buffer zone will probably do little to stop the rebellions in Sudan's South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The government in Juba (capital city of the South) claimed that the rebellions over the border, in particular by the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) in South Kordofan, were beyond its control. The establishment of the buffer zone may help President Bashir overcome the rebellions. But that, in turn, might only pressure the government of Salva Kiir to intervene.

Subsequent peace discussions fostered by the African Union (AU), the United States and the United Nations appeared to stall. The initial AU proposal required the South (1) to make a cash transfer in the range of US\$2.6 billion to US\$5.4 billion to Sudan as compensation for losing three-quarters of oil output and for the South's use of pipelines, processing and export facilities that run through Sudan; (2) supply Sudan with up to 35,000 barrels a day on loan; and (3) set aside arrears negotiations for later. An early draft AU proposal suggested the South should pay transit fees worth up to US\$1.1 billion to cover the period until the end of 2014.

In September 2012, a UN Security Council report confirmed that on 3 August Thabo Mbeki, the chair of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan and South Sudan, had announced that Sudan and South Sudan had reached a deal on oil and other financial arrangements. (Pipelines that lead to Sudan's Port Sudan on the Red Sea are the

only outlets to the outside world for South Sudan's oil). According to the agreement, South Sudan would pay transport fees of US\$11 per barrel for oil from Unity state and US\$9.10 per barrel for oil from Upper Nile state. It would also pay an additional US\$3.028 billion to help Sudan weather the financial impact of losing South Sudan, which held 75 per cent of Sudan's oil deposits before its 9 July 2011 independence.

In September 2012 President Bashir and his South Sudanese counterpart Salva Kiir, spent more days negotiating in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, trying to reach some sort of agreement. At the end of September they eventually reached a less than perfect agreement, which did at least permit the resumption of oil exports. Presidents Bashir and Kiir signed an agreement on 27 September in Addis Ababa. The status of Abyei and other areas claimed by both sides, were left in abeyance.

Corruption

Sudan's ranking on the 2012 Transparency International *Corruption Perceptions Index* dropped from 177 out of 182 to 173 out of 174 in 2012. Only three countries – Afghanistan, North Korea and Somalia – ranked lower. Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan had managed to move ahead of Sudan. Sudanese president Omar Hassan al Bashir had established an anti-graft agency in response to growing concern over corruption and what is seen as Sudan's lack of accountability. Sudanese officials, including President Bashir himself, have played down the level of corruption. But the Inspector General's annual report to parliament continued to show cases of embezzlement and fraud

within the government. The report noted that corruption cases had increased by 38.1 per cent over the previous year. One example cited was where the ministry of international co-operation had used a grant from an unknown source for US\$163 million, with no indication on what it was spent. The Inspector General also revealed that two grants from Algeria and Qatar did not appear in the books of the finance ministry at all and their whereabouts were unknown.

The economy

Following the creation of the two states there were a number of key economic issues to be settled, most importantly the future treatment of oil assets (ownership, production arrangements with operators, transport of crude to refineries and export points in the north, marketing and sales, etc). Previously, Sudan and South Sudan had equally split the rents from oil wells, which are predominantly in the south, as per the wealth sharing protocol of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Oil sector activity and government wealth sharing over the Interim Period had driven strong real gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Sudan. However, adjustments in the oil sector will have major economic implications. Other key issues that took time to resolve included the treatment of external debt, currency and water rights. The economic effects of secession were transmitted largely through the fiscal and external accounts. With roughly 75 per cent of its so-called 'oil revenues' actually generated from southern oil production, Sudan inevitably experienced negative fiscal and balance of payments implications that have strained Sudan's economic stability.

The complex exercise of national division has rendered the production of accurate statistics very difficult. There is nothing particularly new about this. In 1978 the editor of the *Middle East Review* (from which this current analysis continues to be produced) noticed that Sudan's annual agricultural production appeared to be growing at a suspiciously steady 10 per cent, year in, year out. Prior to the split, Sudan's GDP growth was estimated at 4.7 per cent in 2010, up slightly from 4.5 per cent in 2009 reflecting a buoyant non-oil sector. Real non-oil growth for the year was estimated to be 5.2 per cent, largely driven by agriculture and services.

Average inflation for the year 2010 was estimated at 11.0 per cent, driven in part by high food and housing prices. The current account deficit was estimated at 7.2

KEY INDICATORS

Sudan

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	39.15	*39.74	*43.20	*32.66	*33.51
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	58.00	52.70	68.40	64.80	*59.94
GDP per capita	US\$	1,522	1,346	1,705	1,982	*1,789
GDP real growth	%	3.2	3.0	4.5	-3.9	*-4.4
Inflation	%	14.3	11.3	13.0	18.1	*35.5
Unemployment	%	16.0	14.9	13.7	12.0	*10.8
Oil output	'000 bpd	480.0	490.0	486.0	453.0	82.0
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	11,670.5	8,473.2	11,404.3	–	3,367.7
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	8,229.4	8,528.0	8,839.4	–	8,122.7
Balance of trade	US\$m	3,441.1	-54.8	2,564.9	–	4,755.0
Current account	US\$m	-1,313.6	-4,232.3	-1,164.8	-290.0	*-6,717.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	2.09	2.30	2.50	2.66	4.41

* estimated figure

per cent of GDP on a cash basis in 2010, with the value of oil exports rebounding in 2010 to nearly US\$10 billion, after the dip to US\$7 billion in 2009 due to the global economic downturn. The current account deficit was driven by high-value imports which were dominated by foreign machinery and equipment (often for oil production), manufactured goods, transport equipment and selected food items. Non-oil exports notched upwards to roughly US\$750 million, but remained less than 10 per cent of total exports. Foreign exchange controls on imports remained in place in 2010 and combined with currency depreciation kept import growth to 2 per cent. Exchange rate pressures caused by political uncertainty led to depreciation of the pound against the dollar by around 11 per cent. Although all this data is now largely redundant it gives an indication of the work Sudan needs to do to sustain the development of the country.

Sudan's external debt stood at roughly US\$36.8 billion at the end of 2010, of which US\$30.8 billion was in arrears. Bilateral creditors accounted for 68 per cent of obligations, split roughly equally between Paris Club and non-Paris Club bilateral. Multilaterals comprised 15 per cent of the total, including US\$1.45 billion to the World Bank and US\$1.54 billion to the IMF. Private creditors accounted for US\$5.9 billion. The debt burden continues to be a significant development constraint, as arrears to the World Bank and other development partners prevent normalised relations and constrains access to concessional financing.

Summarising the economic effects of the secession of South Sudan, the IMF noted in November 2012 that the secession of South Sudan was already having a significant impact on the Sudanese economy. Since 1999 a marked dependency on the oil sector had substantially increased its vulnerability to external and fiscal shocks. The oil sector's contribution to GDP had been modest, hovering around 15 per cent. However, it provided sizeable budget revenues and contributed a major share of the country's foreign exchange receipts. The economic and financial losses related to South Sudan's secession were substantial and have affected all the sectors of the economy.

The loss of output was concentrated in the oil sector and estimated at 75 per cent, compared with 5–10 per cent in the rest of the economy. In terms of value-added, the overall loss was about S£50 billion (US\$11.3 billion) (26.25 per cent of 2012

GDP), of which about 19 per cent of GDP was in the oil sector. The revenue loss for the government was estimated at S£12 billion (US\$2.7 billion) (6.25 per cent of GDP), corresponding to the lost oil revenues net of the transfers to South Sudan and the savings on wages of South Sudanese civil servants.

The main impact was related to the loss of oil exports estimated at about US\$6.6 billion (12.9 per cent of GDP) in 2012. Data from July 2011 indicated that the secession led to a downward adjustment of Sudan's official reserves by 17 per cent (US\$0.5 billion) and that of the stock of bank credit to the private sector by 7 per cent (0.9 of GDP) corresponding to the amount of credit outstanding provided by the southern branches of Sudanese banks.

Energy

Following the division, the Khartoum government asked for transit fees of US\$32–36 per barrel, while South Sudan countered with less than US\$1 per barrel, more in line with international standards. Primarily as a result of the impasse on transit fees, Khartoum began to divert South Sudan's Nile Blend crude to its Khartoum and el-Obeid refineries in December 2011.

In retaliation, on 20 January 2012, the South announced that it would shut down all production until a fair deal was reached on transit fees, or an alternative pipeline was built. At the time of writing, although agreement has been reached on transit fees, it is unclear when oil from South Sudan will start to flow again.

The US government's Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that crude oil production in Sudan and South Sudan averaged about 425,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2011. In the first quarter of 2011, oil production averaged nearly 470,000bpd, but production increasingly declined throughout the year, partially due to maturing fields, but primarily because of labour shortages at some oil facilities. In April 2011, there was a brief disruption in production when a number of North Sudanese workers in Southern fields were temporarily expelled. For the remainder of 2011, some oil facilities experienced labour shortages that adversely affected production, as skilled workers migrated back to the north after the secession.

According to international trade data, Sudan and South Sudan exports averaged 330,000bpd in 2011 and went almost exclusively to Asian markets. China imported around 220,000bpd (two-thirds of total exports and 5 per cent of Chinese

imports) followed by Malaysia (30,000bpd) and Japan (25,000bpd). Sudan and South Sudan also exported some processed fuels to neighbouring countries. Ethiopia imports most of its fuel from them, but official data on trade volumes are not available.

Risk assessment

Politics	Poor
Economy	Poor
Regional stability	Poor

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1821 The swamps of southern Sudan were unaffected by the Arab-controlled northern regions until the Turks defeated Egypt, conquered northern Sudan and opened the south to trade.

1869 After the opening of the Suez Canal, the British became involved in Sudan. 1881–85 Mohammed Ahmed, who proclaimed himself the long-looked-for Mahdi (the guided one), led his followers, the Muslim Sudanese, in a rebellion against Egyptian misrule; General Gordon was sent by Britain to quash the rebellion. In 1885, Gordon and the British army were massacred by the Mahdi's army at Khartoum. Sudan was ruled by the Mahdi for the next 17 years. The Mahdi united the tribes in a modern Islamic state.

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

1899 Sudan was ruled as an Anglo-Egyptian condominium until it achieved independence as a parliamentary republic in 1956.

1945 At the end of the Second World War, political parties emerged. The Umma Party was created by supporters of the Mahdi while the Ashiqqa Party was established by rivals of the Mahdi and eventually became the National Union Party (NUP).

1956 Sudan gained independence. With southern calls for a federation or even secession rejected, a civil war broke out between the largely Muslim north and the largely Christian/Animist south.

1958 A military coup 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.

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

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

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

1972 Nimieri became the country's first elected president and gave the southern provinces a degree of autonomy under the Addis Ababa agreement between the government and the Anya Nya, reducing the level of fighting.

1978 Oil was discovered in southern Sudan.

1983 The President increased the Islamisation campaign when the autonomy agreement was revoked and *Sharia* (Islamic law) was introduced. In the south the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) was established; its armed wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) gained control of much of the south.

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 after elections in 1986.

1989 Sadiq al Mahdi was replaced following another bloodless coup by the National Salvation Revolution; Omar Hassan Ahmad al Bashir became chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation (RCCNS).

1992 The Sudanese pound was replaced as the currency by the Sudanese dinar.

1993 The RCCNS was abolished after Omar al Bashir was appointed president; Sudan returned to civilian rule, although with one political party exercising dominance – Al Muttamar al Watani (National Congress Party) (NCP), the country was not strictly a democracy.

1995 Egyptian President Mubarak accused Sudan of being involved in an attempt to assassinate him in Addis Ababa.

1996 The first presidential and legislative elections since the coup in 1989 were held; Omar al Bashir was elected president for a five-year term. Sanctions were imposed against Sudan by the UN for the country's failure to extradite three men suspected of involvement in the 1995 attempted assassination of Mubarak.

1997 The Khartoum Peace Agreement was ratified by the National Assembly. Peace talks between the SPLA and the government resumed in Nairobi.

1998–99 Voters in a referendum endorsed a new constitution. Sudan began to export oil. After a power struggle within the ruling NCP, between 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.

2001 Hassan al Turabi, was arrested and his party, the National Islamic Front (NIF), was banned. The UN Security Council approved the lifting of sanctions imposed in 1996. The UN's World Food Programme estimated that three million people were facing famine.

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 Rebels in the western region of Darfur started an uprising by attacking government targets, claiming the region was being neglected by Khartoum. Hassan al Turabi was released and the ban on the NIF was lifted. China and the Sudan announced a US\$1 billion investment plan to enhance Sudan's oil infrastructure, including increased capacity at the Khartoum refinery and construction of a 750-kilometre-long pipeline between the Kordofan oilfield and the coast.

2004 A campaign to quell the insurrection in Darfur began; thousands of people were displaced by the fighting. Army officers and opposition politicians, including al Turabi, were arrested over an alleged coup plot. 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. The conflict in the western region of Darfur between nomad Arab militia and black African villagers gained world attention. The government denied that it supported the *Janjaweed* militias, accused of systematic killings of African villagers, and said that there was no evidence of any atrocities.

2005 The government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) signed a peace agreement which ended the 22-year civil war. The agreement began a period of transition to run until 2009, when parliamentary and state legislative elections would take place. SPLA leader, John Garang, was appointed vice president for the six-year period of reconciliation, and a new constitution gave a large degree of autonomy to the south. Security forces arrested many members and top officials of the main opposition Umma Party (UP), because of planned celebrations marking an anti-government uprising in 1986. Sudan said it had found quantities of oil in its western region of Darfur. 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. Chad declared 'a

state of belligerence' with Sudan. In an effort to ease tensions between the two countries, President Obasanjo of Nigeria, as head of the African Union, attempted mediation between a Sudanese envoy and Chad's President Déby, but with little success.

2006 The AU extended the mandate for its peacekeeping force by a further 10 months. Chad broke-off diplomatic relations with Sudan, following attacks on Chadian towns by Sudanese backed Chad rebels based in the Darfur region. A UN resolution was passed calling for a 20,000 international force of soldiers and police to be admitted to the Darfur region as peace-keepers. President Bashir remained uncompromising in its opposition to intervention. The UN envoy, Jan Pronk, was expelled for claiming that government troops had suffered defeats in southern Sudan.

2007 The currency was changed from the dinar (in use since 1992), back to the Sudanese pound (£); the exchange rate was set at £1 to 100 old dinars. Vice President Kiir accused the national government of supporting militia operating in the south, who had not been disarmed, and failing to share the wealth of resources found in the south. An agreement was signed between Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic whereby no shelter would be given to rebel movements from another country. The minister of humanitarian affairs, Ahmed Haroun and a Janjaweed leader, Ali Mohammed Ali Abd al Rahman (known as Ali Kushayb) were indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, committed during attacks on the civilian population of Darfur. The UN voted for a UN peacekeeping force to be sent to Sudan to bolster African Union (AU) troops already deployed in Darfur to protect civilians. An AU base, staffed by mostly Nigerian troops acting as military observers, was attacked by heavily armed rebels; 10 soldiers were killed and the incident sparked international condemnation. Dissident members of the SLA, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), were blamed for the attack. Rebels burned down the AU-base town of Haskanita. The UN Mission (Unmis) reported the town was under the control of government troops. The government announced a unilateral ceasefire in Darfur in advance of peace talks, despite two rebel groups boycotting the talks, which were being held in Libya. The SLA-Unity and the JEM groups decided not to attend the talks as other, smaller, rebel groups had also been invited. Representatives approached SLA-Unity and JEM to reconsider their decision. Meanwhile, the northern National Congress Party and southern Sudan

People's Liberation Movement finally agreed to implement all provisions of the 2005 peace agreement. The UN-AU Mission in Darfur (Unamid) began operations, replacing the AU forces. The oil producing province of Abyei was subject to continued armed attacks by the SPLA, so finally the government, 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 International Criminal Court (ICC) accused President al Bashir of genocide in Darfur and formally requested a warrant for his arrest. Sudan does not recognise the ICC and claimed the move was a 'foreign conspiracy'. The AU called on the UN to suspend the war crimes accusation against President Bashir, saying it would jeopardise the on-going peace process. The PCA ruling concluded that the government in Khartoum'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 southern Sudan. It also rejected southern Sudan's argument that its demarcation in the eastern and western boundary areas was legitimate and awarded those areas, including much of the oil reserves in the area, to Khartoum. It also affirmed the right of traditional pastoral herdsmen to continue to use both sides of the border areas in the province of Kordofan for their flocks (over 18,500 square km).

2009 The ICC issued a warrant for the arrest of President Bashir on two counts of war crimes and five counts of crimes against humanity. Sudan dismissed the charges and re-affirmed its position of non-co-operation with the ICC. Sudan expelled 10 foreign aid agencies within hours of the issue of the arrest warrant. General elections to be held in 2009 were postponed until 2010; when undertaken, there would be six elections, including national presidential and parliamentary, the south Sudanese presidency and parliament and state gubernatorial and assemblies. The government reversed its earlier decision and invited new aid-NGOs into the country and allowed those already in operation to expand their activities. The ruling SPLM of the autonomous southern region split when Lam Akol created his own political party SPLM-Democratic Change, claiming the SPLM had failed to govern South Sudan. Both parties will nominate a candidate to challenge President Bashir in the next presidential elections. A delay in completing a census forced the postponement of presidential elections. The census was criticised by political leaders in the south who said that the southern

Sudanese population had been under-recorded.

2010 The government agreed a ceasefire with the JEM rebels in Dafur. Almost all of the political parties based in southern Sudan threatened to withdraw from the presidential elections, due to fears concerning fraud and security during the voting. They maintained that the electoral process had been rigged to favour the ruling NCP. President Bashir threatened to cancel a referendum on independence in the south in the face of the boycotts; the elections were duly held. The presidential and parliamentary elections were extended by two days due to organisational problems and high voter turnout. Two election monitoring organisations declared that the elections failed to meet full international standards due to intimidation and harassment, although neither called for a re-election. The announcement of the results was delayed as counting took longer than anticipated. President Bashir (NCP) won 68.24 per cent of the northern presidential vote and his political party NCP won 68.2 per cent. Salva Kiir (SPLM) was sworn in as the first elected president of southern Sudan. Sudan signed an agreement with Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda to redistribute their relative share of Nile water; negotiations had been taking place since 1977. Opposition leader, Hassan al Turabi, who had been imprisoned by the government was released. The ICC added a second arrest warrant for President Bashir, for genocide. The UN reckoned that some 51,000 people travelled south to register in time. President Bashir announced that if the south broke away, the north would adopt an Islamic constitution.

2011 A seven-day referendum in southern Sudan, which began in January, to determine its future as either a province of Sudan or as an independent country, 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 South Sudan would be the official name of the country when it comes into existence in July. In May a group of army personnel of 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', while the US called on South Sudan to 'account' for the attack. In retaliation, northern military 'repelled enemy forces' and occupied Abyei, according to Sudanese state news. 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'. 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 in May. In a deal mediated by the AU in May, Sudan and South Sudan agreed to set up a demilitarised zone along their 2,100km border, including Abyei. The zone is to be jointly patrolled. In the meantime President Bashir arrived in China, a day late after his plane turned back to Tehran (where he had been attending an anti-terrorism conference) in June. China is not a member of the ICC and does not recognise the arrest warrant for Mr Bashir, issued in 2009. In July, the UN Security Council authorised the deployment of a 4,200-strong Ethiopian force (UN Interim Security Force for Abyei – UNISFA) as the violence continued. Sudan introduced a new set of bank notes in July and only issued them in the north, thus rendering worthless all stocks of Sudanese pounds kept in the south. South Sudan's minister of peace, Pagan Amum, accused Sudan of starting an 'economic war'. China's foreign minister, Yang Jiechi, arrived in Khartoum in August where he had talks before travelling to South Sudan for talks with President Kiir. China was concerned to maintain its supply of oil, which now comes from both Sudan and South Sudan. In September, the government closed the Khartoum offices of the largest opposition political party, SPLM-North, on the grounds that it was not a legally represented political party. There was violence in Blue Nile State, between the army and ex-rebel militia loyal to Governor Malik Agar (chairman of SPLM-North). The president named Adam Youssef, a politician from Darfur, to replace Salva Kiir (who became president of South Sudan in July) as one of two vice presidents. 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.

2012 On 9 February the government established the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), a new organisation aimed at underpinning a range of support mechanisms. These include regional development, power sharing, wealth

creation, security and overseeing the safe return of thousands of people from refugee camps to their homes. On 11 February, the chief mediator, and former South African president, Thabo Mbeki, announced in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, that Sudan and South Sudan had signed a non-aggression pact, saying that both sides had agreed to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The agreement establishes a monitoring mechanism that allows complaints to be lodged if border disputes erupt. On 13 March, Sudan and South Sudan signed an agreement allowing free movement and residence of their nationals in one another's territory. President Bashir will travel to Juba to sign the accord by 1 April. 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 and resolve their dispute. The UN peace-keeping mission in Abyei confirmed that on 30 May Sudan withdrew its troops from the disputed region, following negotiations in Ethiopia between officials of Sudan and South Sudan. On 23 September, President Bashir and President Kiir met in Ethiopia, following a UN threat to impose sanctions on both countries if they did not produce a solution to their joint oil production crisis. Although an agreement on trade, oil and security was achieved they failed to resolve their border issues. Sudan accused Israel of an air raid on a weapons factory in Yarmouk, south of Khartoum, on 23–24 October; Israel declined to comment. The factory was thought to have been an Iranian-run plant making weapons for Hamas in Gaza. 2013 On 8 June President al Bashir ordered the stoppage of oil transfers through its territory from South Sudan to stop from 9 June. 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. Wide spread floods, the worst in 25 years, hit Sudan in August. Khartoum was one of the worst hit areas. 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. The government reduced fuel subsidies on 23 September, leading to disturbances and attacks on petrol stations. There were reports of over 25 deaths, mostly from gunshot wounds.

Political structure

Constitution

A multi-party parliamentary system was introduced in 1986, comprising a five-member Supreme Council and a 360-member Majlis Watani (National Assembly).

In 1994, the government increased the number of states to 26. Each state has a wali (governor), legislative council and council of ministers. In March 2002, the government indicated that it would replace elections for the wali with a system of electoral colleges which would submit six possible candidates, giving the president the final decision on appointments. A new constitution was promulgated on 1 January 1999, allowing opposition political associations to register prior to the elections. Eligibility for voting was reduced from 18 to 17 years on 3 January 1999.

Independence date

1 January 1956

Form of state

Federal republic

The executive

The president has inherited most of the powers of the now disbanded Revolutionary Command Council of National Salvation (RCCNS), which assumed unified powers in the 1989 military coup. These include the right to override constitutional elections to the 26 state governorships. Executive power at the operational level resides with the cabinet, which includes both civilian and military representatives. In 2002, the government scrapped the two-term limitation to the presidency. The president is directly elected by universal suffrage.

National legislature

The national assembly elected in 2000, was suspended by presidential decree a year later. It was superseded by a new, bicameral parliament, established in 2005 following agreement between the Sudanese government and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The new Majlis Watani (National Assembly) will have 450 members (from the 2010 elections), chosen to represent the government, SPLA and other political parties. The Majlis Welayat (Council of States) has 50 members who are indirectly elected by subordinate state legislatures. Members of both chambers serve for six-year terms.

Legal system

Sharia (Islamic law) with an admixture of English common law operates officially at the federal level, although individual states choose whether or not it should apply at state level. In practice the legal system is split along political lines, with Sharia imposed universally in the north, but ineffective in the rebel-held south. The judiciary is in theory politically

independent under the constitution introduced at the beginning of 1999. However, military or paramilitary elements influence the judiciary or operate direct extra-judicial military rule throughout the country.

Last elections

11–15 April 2010 (parliamentary; presidential, first and second rounds); 11–15 April 2010 (South Sudan: presidential first and second rounds).

Results: Parliamentary: Al Mu'tamar al Watani (National Congress Party) (NCP) won 68.2 per cent of the vote, Al Harakat al Shaabia Le Tahreer al Sudan (Sudan People's Liberation Movement) (SPLM) won 22 per cent, Al Mu'tamar al Sha'bi (Popular Congress) 4 per cent. Presidential: Omar Hassan Ahmad al Bashir (NCP) won 68.24 per cent of the vote, Yasir Arman (SPLM) 21.69 per cent; of the 10 other candidates none won more than 4 per cent and 8 won less than 1 per cent.

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

Next elections

October 2016 (presidential and parliamentary)

Political parties

Ruling party

Al Muttamar al Watani (National Congress Party) (NCP) (from 1998; re-elected Apr 2010)

Main opposition party

Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)

Population

33.51 million (2012)*

Projections put the population at 50 million by 2030. Around 7 per cent of the population are nomads.

Last census: 22 April 2008: 39,154,490

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

4.0 million (UNHCR 2004)

Ethnic make-up

Black (52 per cent), Arab (39 per cent), Beja (6 per cent). In the north and central regions the population consists mainly of Muslim Arabs and Nubians. In the south the people are socially, culturally and historically related to the peoples of east Africa.

Religions

Islam (Sunni Muslim) in the north (70 per cent); in the south traditional beliefs (25 per cent) and Christianity (5 per cent).

Education

Elementary education for those aged six to 12 years is free. Intermediate education starts at the age of 13 and lasts three years. Secondary education starts at 16 years and also lasts for three years.

Students completing secondary education are eligible for university. There are five universities, two in Khartoum (one is a branch of Cairo University), an Islamic university at Omdurman and universities at Juba and Wad Medani.

Public expenditure on education typically amounts to 1 per cent of annual gross national income.

Unicef has voiced concerns at the low-level of public spending on education and at low enrolment and high dropout rates, calling for, among other things, significantly increased public spending, stronger teacher training and in particular the attention given to girls' education. Interventions to promote girls' education have resulted in an increase in the enrolment of girls by 5.7 per cent. The percentage of total girls' enrolment increased marginally from 45.3 per cent in 2000–01 to 45.6 per cent in 2001–02. Nationally, enrolment in primary schools increased by 5.8 per cent.

In 2002 Unicef undertook, with BRAC (an international NGO educational organisation specialising in providing schooling in poor rural areas), to provide 100 primary schools under the Village Girls Schools Project, in southern Sudan, within three years.

Literacy rate: 60 per cent adult rate; 79 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: Six to 14.

Enrolment rate: 51 per cent gross primary enrolment of relevant age group (including repeaters); 21 per cent gross secondary enrolment (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 29 in primary schools.

Health

Public health services are organised by the ministry of health. Some health care is provided free of charge. Total expenditure on health is about 3.5 per cent of GDP, of which government spending is about 19 per cent.

In 2004 epidemiologists of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative announced that new cases of polio had been confirmed in the Darfur region of Sudan. The infection is believed to have spread from Northern Nigeria.

HIV/Aids

The conflict in southern Sudan has left many destitute; UN peacekeepers are expected to provide a buffer between the warring sides and when this happens UNAids will send in teams to ensure HIV/Aids is not an inevitable consequence of the peace-keepers' arrival and the sex-industry that usually develops in conflict zones.

HIV prevalence: 2.3 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 58 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 4.1 births per woman, 2009 (FAO 2012)

Birth rate/Death rate: 36.5 births per 1,000 population; 9.6 deaths per 1,000 population (2003).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 73 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 0.22 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

Social insurance in Sudan is not provided through the government. There is no social security budget.

Main cities

Khartoum (capital, estimated population 2.7 million in 2012), Omdurman (2.8 million), Khartoum North (936,349), Port Sudan (585,090), Kassala (510,165), Kusti (487,982), Nyala (468,955), al Ubayyid (408,357), Wad Medani (369,733), al Qadarif (354,598), al Fasir (256,803).

Languages spoken

Arabic and English are used in business. African languages include Nilotic and Nilo-Hamitic. The government is considering eliminating the official teaching and use of English as part of its Islamisation programme.

Official language/s

Arabic

Media

The broadcast media is tightly constrained by censorship laws and statutory government ownership. There is a military censor permanently stationed in Sudan television to ensure the official line is always adopted. Print media enjoys a less restrictive regime but authorities have mechanism to control and influence items published, which had resulted in an unsurprising amount of self-censorship.

Press

Press restrictions have eased with increasing discussion of some domestic and foreign policy issues. Ownership of publications by individuals or political groups is banned. The board and chairman of a publication must be government-appointed, and 26 per cent of the publisher's equity goes to the government. The National Press and Publications Council (NPPC) has the power to suspend any publication. A wide variety of English and Arabic-language publications operate in the shadow of the government's information policy.

Dailies: Most newspapers are published in Khartoum. In Arabic, national publications include *Al Ayaam* (www.alayaam.net), *Al Rayaam*

(www.rayaam.net), a mass circulation private newspaper; regional publications include *Al Sahafah* (www.alsahafa.info), *Akhbar Al Youn*

(www.akhbaralyoumsd.net), *Al Mshaheer* (www.almshaheer.com), *Al Sudani* (www.alsudani.info). In English, leading independent include *Khartoum Monitor* and *Sudan Vision*. Online news is published by Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com) and Sudan Online (www.sol-sd.com).

Weeklies: In Arabic, publications include *Al Sudan al Jadid* and *Al Fajr* (bi-weekly).

Periodicals: Periodicals include the Arabic political monthly magazine *Addaraweesh* (published in the UK) and the political newspaper *Mehairah* covering current affairs. *Sudanow* is government owned and *Al Midan* is the monthly organ of the Sudanese Communist party (www.midan.net).

Broadcasting

All broadcasting is controlled by the National Radio and Television Corporation based in Omdurman.

Radio: The government-owned The Sudan National Radio Corporation (www.sudanradio.info) broadcasts daily radio programmes in Amharic, Arabic, English, French, Somali and Tigrinya. The privately owned Mango 96 FM is a music station. The internationally funded Miraya radio station (www.mirayafm.org), is run by the UN, broadcasting in Arabic and English it is based in Juba.

Television: The government-owned Sudan National Broadcasting Corporation (SNBC) (www.srtc.gov.sd) has a monopoly for internal broadcasting. The government-owned Juba TV is based in the semi-autonomous south.

There are restrictions on satellite dish ownership, but satellite services are offered in tandem with domestic. A six-channel pan-Arab cable network offers CNN, Saudi Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MEBC), Kuwait-TV and Dubai-TV.

Economy

The service sector is the largest component of the economy at 43.3 per cent in 2010, with industry, particularly the petroleum industry, accounting for 33 per cent, of which manufacturing was 5.6 per cent including car and truck assembly. Agriculture, predominantly subsistence farming and cash crops such as gum Arabic, sesame and cotton contributed 23.6 per cent in 2010.

GDP growth was 11.5 per cent in 2007, falling sharply to 3.2 per cent in 2008 as world energy and food prices were at a record high. In 2009, GDP growth remained static at 3 per cent, but as global

trade picked up in 2010, so growth rose by 4.5 per cent.

Economic growth has been principally fuelled by oil production, although it resulted in little improvement to living standards for the majority of the population. Oil export revenue accounted for over 70 per cent of Sudan's total export earnings prior to the independence of South Sudan (on 9 July 2011), when a large number of oil wells fell across the border into South Sudan. When the two countries failed to reach agreement on the fees South Sudan should pay to transport oil from the south to Port Sudan for export, South Sudan simply halted production.

The expanding oil and gas reserves have been largely developed with the assistance of China, and China is keen to engage with both sides to achieve a commercially viable outcome.

In January 2012 South Sudan shut down all oil production as the dispute with Sudan over the transit fees for oil piped overland to Sudanese ports continued. 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 to its oil terminals and ports. However on 21 August 2012 South Sudanese treasury officials announced that limited oil production was unlikely to resume until December, and full production, using all available pipelines (through Sudan), was not expected to resume until June 2013, even if Sudan accepted South Sudan's offer. After still more delays, in September 2012 the two presidents finally sat down, in Ethiopia, to try and thrash out an agreement.

The political turmoil in 2011 caused a sharp contraction in the economy, which fell into a recessionary -3.9 per cent.

Without full resumption of production until 2013 GDP growth was forecast to remain negative, at -7.3 per cent in 2012.

Annual inflation in January 2012 rose to 19.3 per cent from 18.9 per cent in December 2011, as food costs jumped. In February 2012, Qatar agreed to loan Sudan US\$2 billion to help it during a deepening economic crisis, which was compounded by the secession of South Sudan in 2011 and the loss of around 75 per cent of oil reserves it had previously held. Foreign exchange restrictions were imposed from mid-2011, including purchasing and transferring foreign currencies and an import blacklist.

The Sudanese pound hit a record low against the US dollar on the black market, on 6 February 2012. The rate was S£5.2

per US\$1 compared to S£3.3 per US\$1 in July 2011; the official rate remains S£3.0 per US\$1.

Sudan has a strategy for poverty reduction based on macroeconomic development and private sector growth. In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Sudan 169 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. The literacy rate was 89/82 per cent for males/females (2004–2008) according to Unicef (2011). Remittances in 2010 were US\$1.4 billion (3.1 per cent of GDP), with an estimated US\$1.5 billion in 2011.

External trade

In 2005 the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (Gafat) was ratified by 17 members, including Sudan, creating an Arab economic bloc. A customs union was established whereby tariffs within Gafat will be reduced by a percentage each year, until none remain.

Around 70 per cent of total export revenue is generated by crude oil. In 2010, Sudan was in negotiation to join the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Industrialisation is limited and although Sudan is considered a major source of minerals, exploration and commercialisation is underdeveloped.

Imports

Principal imports are foodstuffs, manufactured goods, refinery and transport equipment, medicines and chemicals, textiles and wheat.

Main sources: China (20.2 per cent of total in 2011), Saudi Arabia (9.1 per cent), UAE (6.7 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports are crude oil and petroleum products, cotton, sesame, livestock, groundnuts, gum Arabic and sugar.

Main destinations: China (68.1 per cent of total in 2011), Japan (14.3 per cent), India (5.6 per cent).

Agriculture

Sudan is a semi-arid country and a large part is desert. Irrigated farmland constitutes about one-fifth of the total cultivated area, but produces about 50 per cent of total crop production. The traditional farming areas are semi-arid and used for livestock rearing, while export crops are grown in the irrigated areas, mostly in the Gezira area between the Blue and White Niles. The country is often racked by drought and famine.

The majority of the population work on the land. Principal export crops are cotton, oil seeds (mainly groundnuts and sesame) and gum arabic (used in soft drinks, baking, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and other industrial applications), of which Sudan is the world's largest producer. Main

food crops include sorghum (*dura*) and millet. Cotton is the main cash crop providing 45 per cent of agricultural export earnings, followed by gum arabic and sesame (21 per cent). Livestock-raising is of considerable importance, employing about 40 per cent of the population. Sudan is aiming to become self-sufficient in rice and tea production.

Sudan has attempted to tackle the problem of land usage. Government policy aims to increase the area of cultivable land (only about 10 per cent of the potential arable land is under cultivation) through the rehabilitation and expansion of existing irrigation schemes. A planting scheme has given precedence to food crops over land devoted to cotton production and export.

In 2009, Cadburys, the UK top selling chocolate manufacturer, will source around 15,000 tonnes of cocoa per annum from Ghana, in a Fairtrade deal that will invest £45 million (US\$64 million) from 2009–19.

Despite the insurgency and harrasing from bandits, a booming trade in livestock has thrived for more than two decades along the borders between Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Sudan possesses vast freshwater and marine fishing potential. The freshwater sources comprise rivers and lakes. The Nile alone has an estimated potential output of 60,000 tonnes of fish a year, but the fisheries are barely exploited. Fishing on the Red Sea coastline is also under-exploited and is being encouraged with government assistance.

Over 95 per cent of the Sudanese catch of fish is obtained from inland fisheries on the Nile, its tributaries and associated swamp lands. Subsistence fishing is widespread, but the commercial sector is under-developed. Marine fishing is mainly carried out by artisanal fishermen in small boats.

Sudan exported around US\$1 million of fish per annum before the war, but now exports only a small amount of dried and salted fish.

Sudan has 17 per cent forest cover, most of which is located in the mountains and the wooded savannahs. In 1990–2000, forest cover diminished by an average of 1.44 per cent per annum or around 960,000 hectares (ha) per year. Rapid deforestation is a result of demand for fuelwood. Sudan produces a large amount of industrial roundwood, mainly for posts and poles, and also produces sawnwood, although not enough to ensure self-sufficiency. Sudan's most important non-wood forest product is gum arabic. Sudan is also one of the world's main producers of olibanum resin.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributed around 28 per cent to GDP in 2004 and employs 10 per cent of the workforce. The main activities are oil refining, agricultural products, textiles and leatherwares.

Tourism

Sudan was the largest country in Africa until 2011 when its southern states became the newly founded South Sudan. The remainder of Sudan is a largely desert Arab state with a coastline long the Red Sea. The coastal city of Port Sudan is a stopover for many Muslim pilgrims on their way to Mecca (Saudi Arabia) for their *Hajj*. The scuba diving along this coast is spectacular. The archaeological sites date back into antiquity, with two – the Island of Meroe (the heartland of the Kingdom of Kush) and Gebel Barkal, in the Nubian desert with a number of tombs and pyramids – included on Unesco's World Heritage List. Khartoum has a number of national museums that house examples and artefacts of Sudan's history. Travel and tourism contributed an average 3.8 per cent of GDP over 2007–10, although the industry has been subject to negative growth since 2010, so that in 2011 the industry contributed 3.1 per cent of GDP. Employment in the industry does not rise about 4 per cent of the workforce (452,100 jobs), and fell to 2.7 per cent (334,400 jobs) in 2011. A number of Western governments have warned their citizens to avoid travel to certain areas of Sudan, such as Darfur, the Blue Nile and the southern Kordofan regions. Also in the past, terrorists groups have targeted western visitors in Sudan.

Mining

The mining sector has played a relatively insignificant role in the country's economic development. Chromite, gypsum, gold, copper and iron ore are exploited on a commercial basis. Other mineral deposits include zinc, lead, talc, coal, nickel and tin, phosphate and uranium, but not in sufficient quantities to develop. If financial and infrastructural problems can be overcome, the sector could make a significant contribution to the economy. Sudan's first gold refining factory was opened on 20 September 2012, which when fully operational will produce 328 tonnes of gold per year. The export of gold ore was banned from this date and the government expects to sell up to US\$3 billion within one year. The factory will refine Sudanese gold and silver, as well as ore from other countries in the region.

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.

Energy

Total installed electricity generation capacity was 563MW in 2006. The state-owned National Electricity Corporation is responsible for generation, distribution and transmission of electricity. The energy mix is 60 per cent oil, and 40 per cent hydropower, which is subject to weather conditions.

The Roseires dam on the Blue Nile produces a large proportion of Sudan's electricity, with installed capacity of 274MW. Hydroelectric sources are being expanded and the gross theoretical capability is 48 terrawatt hours. New dams are under construction, including the Merowe dam, inaugurated in March 2009 and the Kajbar dam providing an extra 1,250MW. Both dams were controversial as the water catchment area displaced a number of communities and resulted in forced resettlements and in the case of the Kajbar dam the flooding and destruction of ancient Nubian archaeological sites.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

The first stock exchange opened in January 1995.

Banking and insurance

Central bank

Bank of Sudan

Main financial centre

Khartoum

Time

GMT plus two hours

Geography

Sudan lies in north-eastern Africa. It is the largest country in Africa and the ninth largest in the world. It lies entirely within the tropics and is bordered by Egypt and Libya in the north, Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Red Sea in the east, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the south and the Central African Republic and Chad in the west.

The River Nile and its tributaries, the White and Blue Niles, are the country's most important physical features. The Blue Nile, in particular, plays a vital economic role, supporting 40 per cent of the current irrigated area and with the potential to support 70 per cent of future irrigated land. The Blue Nile is prone to serious seasonal flooding.

The topographic features are a large, broad plain with mountains to the north-east along the coast of the Red Sea and in the south-eastern border region with Uganda and Kenya. This is the

location of Mount Kinyeti (3,187 metres) the country's tallest peak.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Tropical in the south, hot and dry in the north. In Khartoum, the hottest month is May (26–42 degrees Celsius (C)), the coldest is January (16–32 degrees C). The northern zone receives very little rainfall and is mainly desert. The south is mainly tropical while the central zone is semi-arid grassland.

From mid-April to the end of June the climate is extremely hot and dry. Sandstorms (*haboobs*) are frequent in desert areas between April and September. The rainy season extends from July to September. During this period road travel outside the cities is difficult. In Khartoum, the average temperature by day in the summer is 42 degrees C and 32 degrees C in the winter.

Dress codes

Formal clothing should be worn for business and social engagements. Lightweight clothing is essential at all times, although visitors should carry some warmer clothing if travelling to Sudan during the winter months (November to March). A light raincoat is needed during the months of July, August and September. Women should be aware of the fact that the north is predominantly Muslim and are advised to dress modestly.

Entry requirements

Passports

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

Visa

Required by all. For information see www.sudanembassy.org and follow the link to *visa/passport*.

Business visas require a letter of invitation from a sponsoring company giving purpose of visit, duration of stay, a commitment to financial responsibility and references, plus copies of commercial correspondence with entities in Sudan. Visitors are required to register with the Aliens Department within three days of their arrival (hotels will do this). Once registered, they are not required to obtain an exit visa.

Contact the closest consulate for further information.

Prohibited entry

Nationals of Israel and holders of passports with Israeli travel stamps,

Currency advice/regulations

The import and export of local currency is prohibited. Import of foreign currency is unlimited but must be declared; export is limited to the amount declared.

Travellers cheques have limited acceptance.

Customs

Alcohol is strictly forbidden; products from Israel are prohibited.

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.

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.

Medical facilities are scarce outside Khartoum. A first aid kit that includes disposable syringes is a reasonable precaution. Medical insurance is essential, including emergency evacuation, and an adequate supply of personal medicines is necessary.

Hotels

Accommodation can be difficult to obtain outside Khartoum and Port Sudan. Advisable to book in advance. Service charge of 10 per cent is usual. Hotel bills are subject to 10 per cent sales tax.

Credit cards

Credit cards may be accepted but visitors should ensure that they have sufficient hard currency (preferably US dollars) to cover their expenses during their stay.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (Independence Day), 30 Jun (Revolution Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

Variable dates

Eid al Adha, Coptic Christmas (Jan), Islamic New Year, Birth of the Prophet, Coptic Easter (Mar/Apr, two days), Eid al Fitr (three days).

Islamic year 1435 (5 Nov 2013–24

Oct 2014): The Islamic year contains 354 or 355 days, with the result that Muslim feasts advance by 10–12 days against the Gregorian calendar. Dates of feasts

vary according to the sighting of the new moon, so cannot be forecast exactly.

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.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

There are 900 and 900/1800 GSM services available in large urban areas only.

Electricity supply

240V AC

Social customs/useful tips

Visitors should address Sudanese males using the form *Sayed* (meaning Mr) with the first name only. There are a large number of local traditions and most Muslim customs are observed. Politeness and patience are more important than punctuality. Women are often not present at business or social gatherings. There is a ban on alcohol and gambling in the north.

Some souvenirs, such as cheetah skins, although available in the souks (markets) are banned by the Government.

Military establishments should not be photographed, nor should bridges, dams, rail and air transport facilities. Visitors should not attempt to photograph Sudanese people without permission or if they appear reluctant. Photography permits issued by the Tourist Information Office in Khartoum are often ignored by the authorities, who may confiscate film and camera. Most banks in Sudan are heavily fortified and resemble prisons as much as they do commercial institutions.

The Islamic legal and moral code, *Sharia*, is in operation in the north.

Security

Southern Sudan, the Nuba mountains, the Ethiopian and Eritrean borders and the Kassala area near the Eritrean border are all zones of military activity, (including the laying of anti-personnel landmines), and are insecure. There is banditry in Darfur state. Travel in these areas should be avoided unless work is absolutely essential. In general, no land borders into or out of Sudan can be crossed safely, with the exception of the Wadi Halfa crossing into Egypt. The political situation in Sudan is not stable and foreign nationals should contact their embassy, and keep in contact throughout their stay. Before embarking, visitors are advised to consult their embassy for an up-to-date appraisal of the situation, as well as brief themselves

regarding developments in the wider region. Demonstrations should be avoided and British and US citizens may wish to keep a low profile.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Sudan Airways

International airport/s: Khartoum (KRT), 4km from city; duty-free shop and restaurant.

Airport tax: Departure tax: US\$20, except transit passengers.

Surface

Road: There are road links, with varying degrees of accessibility, to all surrounding countries. Drivers wishing to enter Sudan by road must apply for permission in Khartoum or from overseas representatives. Applicants must list vehicle and passenger details, with supporting documents from a recognised motoring organisation, or a guarantee from a bank or registered business.

Most border crossings remain dangerous, with the exception of the relatively secure border with Egypt via Wadi Halfa.

Rail: A railway line runs from Cairo to the Aswan High Dam in Egypt; passengers can then take a river boat on to Wadi Halfa just inside the Sudanese border, and train to Khartoum.

Water: The only major harbour is Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast. International shipping lines that maintain contacts with Sudan may provide passenger services on cargo ships.

Sudan's River Transport Corporation (RTC) operates a Nile ferry from Aswan in Egypt to Wadi Halfa, the service can be hindered by local conditions and circumstances.

Main port/s: Port Sudan.

Getting about

National transport

Travellers must obtain special permits to travel anywhere outside Khartoum. These are obtainable from the Passport and Immigration Office in Khartoum. Before travelling, it is advisable to check the security situation in the area. Visitors arriving in any town or city in Sudan must register with the police on arrival and show the necessary paperwork.

Permits are required to visit archaeological or historical sites. These can be obtained from the Department of Antiquities in Khartoum.

Air: Sudan Airways operates a regular service between Khartoum, Port Sudan and El Obeid and other larger towns. Small air taxi companies fly from Khartoum to main towns.

Road: Main tarred roads are the 1,186km route from Port Sudan to Khartoum, from Port Sudan to Kassala and on to Shavak, from Khartoum to Sennar and

on to Malakal. Another 800km of tarred roads exist, but the rest of the country's 48,000km network is of very variable quality.

Buses: Scheduled coach services include Khartoum-Kosti, Khartoum-Omdurman, Khartoum-El Fasher, Juba-Nimule, Juba-Faradge.

Rail: A network links Khartoum with Port Sudan, Kassala, Wau, Nyala and Wadi Halfa, but not Juba. The condition of the network is very dilapidated and services can be very slow.

There are three-classes offered but only first class is suitable for business travel.

Water: There are ferries operating on the White and Blue Niles but may not offer a complete journey as underinvestment has left waterways in need of repair and redevelopment.

City transport

Taxis: Easily available in Khartoum and can be hailed, or taken from ranks. Fares are negotiable and should be agreed before start of any journey.

Car hire

Available in main centres. A national or international driving licence is required.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international dialling code (IDD) for Sudan is +249, followed by area code and subscriber's number:

El Obeid	81	Khartoum North
	85	
Kassala	41	Port Sudan City31
Khartoum	11	

Chambers of Commerce

Union of Sudanese Chambers of Commerce, Gamhoria Street, PO Box 81, Khartoum (email: chamber@sudan-chamber.org).

Banking

Bank of Khartoum, PO Box 1008, Khartoum.

Farmers Commercial Bank, PO Box 1116, Kasr Avenue, Khartoum.

Al-Baraka Bank, PO Box 3583, Al-Baraka Tower, Khartoum.

El Nilein Industrial Development Bank, PO Box 466, 1722 United Nations Square, Khartoum.

Central bank

Bank of Sudan, Al-Gamaa Avenue, PO Box 313, Khartoum, Sudan (email: sudanbank@sudanmail.net).

Stock exchange

The first stock exchange opened in January 1995.

Travel information

River Transport Corporation, PO Box 284, Khartoum North.

Sudan Airways, SDC Building, Street 15, New Extension, PO Box 253, Khartoum.

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, PO Box 22213, Khartoum (email: postmaster@sudan-tourism.gov.sd; internet: www.sudan-tourism.gov.sd).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Khartoum.

Ministry of Animal Welfare, Khartoum.

Ministry of Aviation, Khartoum.

Ministry of Culture and Information, Khartoum.

Ministry of Defence, Khartoum.

Ministry of Education, Khartoum.

Ministry of Energy and Mining, Khartoum.

Ministry of the Environment and Tourism.

Ministry of Finance & National Economy, Khartoum.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Khartoum.

Ministry of Health, Khartoum.

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Khartoum.

Ministry of the Interior, Khartoum.

Ministry of National Industry, Khartoum.

Ministry of Public Services, Khartoum.

Ministry of Social Planning, Khartoum.

Ministry of Trade, Khartoum.

Ministry of Transport, Khartoum.

Other useful addresses

National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, PO Box 178, Khartoum.

Sudanese Embassy (USA), 2210 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202) 338-8565; fax: (+1-202) 667-2406; email: info@sudanembassyus.org).

Sudapet, Block 9/10, Resident 22/1, Africa Street, P.O. Box 13188, Al Khartoum 11111 (tel: 156-557777; fax: 156-557799;

email: info@sudapet.com.sd; website: www.sudapet.sd

Internet sites

Africa Business Network: www.ifc.org/abn

AllAfrica.com: http://allafrica.com

African Development Bank: www.afdb.org

Africa Online: www.africaonline.com

The Sudan Page: www.sudan.net