

## South Sudan

<b>Country name</b>	South Sudan
<b>State title</b>	Republic of South Sudan
<b>Name of citizen</b>	South Sudanese
<b>Official language</b>	English (eng) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Script</b>	Roman
<b>Romanization System</b>	Not required
<b>ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)</b>	SS/SSD
<b>Capital</b>	Juba (4°51'0"N, 31°36'0"E) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Population/Area</b>	12,118,379 (2023 est.) / 644,329 km <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>

### Introduction

South Sudan is a landlocked country in eastern Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia, Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Kenya. South Sudan split from Sudan in July 2011, becoming independent after many years of conflict and civil war, making it the world's newest sovereign state.

### Geographical names policy

PCGN policy for South Sudan is to use the Roman-script names found on official South Sudanese sources. Arabic-script and romanized Arabic names should not be used. It should be noted that varying spellings of some names in South Sudan may be encountered.

Where possible, official South Sudanese Roman-script sources should be used for geographical names, but, in the absence of these, pre-secession Sudanese Roman-script mapping, produced by the Sudan National Survey Authority may be used. Following South Sudan's secession, the US State Department produced some maps of the country, which are good sources for names. The US NGA [Geographic Names Server](#) (known as GNS or GNDB) may also be used. UN-produced mapping may also be used.

### Language

There are many different ethnic groups in South Sudan. These include Dinka (Jieng), approximately 35-40%, Nuer (Naath), approximately 15%, Shilluk (Chollo), Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi, Baka, and Fertit.

<sup>1</sup> ISO 639 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

<sup>2</sup> In 2011, the South Sudan government announced that the capital of South Sudan would move from Juba to Ramciel, located in central South Sudan. However, the move has yet to occur.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/south-sudan/summaries/#people-and-society>

English, the official language, functions as a lingua franca. Arabic (including Juba and Sudanese variants) is also spoken, alongside over 60 indigenous languages, including Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande and Shilluk<sup>4</sup>. Juba Arabic is an Arabic pidgin, used by several thousand people in the capital Juba, and also functions as a lingua franca.

### **Boundary Issues/Toponymic Disputes**

#### **Abyei Area**

The Abyei area limits run north of the current *de facto* boundary between Sudan and South Sudan, between the points along that line at 9°36'45"N, 27°54'20"E and 9°40'25"N, 29°00'00"E. The sovereignty of the entire Abyei area (which itself is defined) is disputed as it continues to wait for a referendum (as agreed to in principle through the 2004 Protocol on the Resolution of the Abyei Conflict in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement), although there is currently no indication that any such referendum is planned. On mapping, Abyei is to be defined by an encompassing boundary and to be annotated simply as *Abyei area* (use italics). The boundary should be shown with a unique, broken line symbol, except for the southern edge which should continue to be shown as the Sudan - South Sudan *de jure* boundary until the status of Abyei is decided.

#### **Ilemi Triangle**

The Ilemi Triangle is an area of dispute measuring over 10,000 square km, on the boundary between South Sudan and Kenya, between 4°37'41"N, 34°24'22"E and 4°37'52"N, 35°46'50"E. Sudan first agreed to Kenyan administration of part of the Ilemi Triangle in 1928, without affecting its perceived sovereignty of the area. The establishment of South Sudan in 2011 has re-opened the dispute.

On mapping, the Ilemi Triangle should be shown as a disputed area, with the 1902 Maud Line and the 1938 Red Line both shown with a broken line, disputed boundary symbol. The Red Line is the more northerly alignment and the effective *de facto* line, in favour of Kenya. The Maud Line is more southerly and represents the South Sudanese claim line. The area defined between the Red Line and the Maud Line should be shaded on HMG mapping as part of Kenyan territory. This reflects continuing Kenyan *de facto* control of the area, with a note identifying the disputed area as being "Under Kenyan administration" or "Administered by Kenya".

#### **Kafia Kingi Area**

Kafia Kingi is one of five disputed sections recognised in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement<sup>5</sup>, along the *de jure* alignment between 9°49'01"N, 24°50'34"E on the Bahr al Arab river to the Central African Republic tripoint at 9°40'19"N, 23°41'46"E. Sudan claims a line from the Bahr al Arab to a more southerly tripoint at 8°38'51"N, 24°14'13"E, claiming the territory on the basis of a 1960s transfer of administrative areas. South Sudan claims the area on basis of administrative areas in place in 1956, when Sudan became independent. HMG advises that the South Sudanese claim be considered as *de jure*. On mapping, show a *de jure*, full international boundary line symbol along the northern extent of the claimed area, to the advantage of South Sudan, with a broken line, disputed boundary symbol along the southern extent of the claimed area. Within the disputed area add label "Area under Sudanese control". The Kafia Kingi area should be shaded as part of South Sudan.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/south-sudan/summaries/#people-and-society>

<sup>5</sup> Between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army

The other four disputed sections recognised in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement are as follows:

- **Bahr al Arab or “14 Mile Area”**, also known as Samaha, is a 14-mile wide strip of grassland south of the River Kiir/Bahr al Arab at the northern frontier of the Bahr el Ghazal region between 10°22'27"N, 25°55'59"E and 9°36'45"N, 27°54'20"E. *De facto* control of this area is currently with Sudan
- **Joda/Jawda** between 12°08'14"N, 32°44'18"E and 12°12'12"N, 33°17'29"E.
- **Jabal Megeinus** between 11°57'13"N, 32°44'37"E and 11°57'00"N, 32°05'51"E.
- **Kaka**, a port town on the White Nile and surrounding area, between 10°44'11"N, 32°09'04"E and 10°17'25"N, 31°46'48"E.

## **Heglig**

Heglig is centred at 10°00'00"N, 29°24'00"E. The local population generally refer to Heglig as Panthou. This territorial dispute materialised after South Sudanese secession from Sudan in 2011 and is not recognised as a dispute in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005. In 2012, a brief war was fought between Sudan and South Sudan over this small border town. An agreement was signed on 26 September 2012, resolving most aspects of the conflict and South Sudan withdrew from the area. *De facto* control of this area is currently with Sudan.

## **Administrative structure**

South Sudan is divided into 10 states at first-order administrative level (ADM1), these are subdivided into counties at second-order (ADM2) level.

As mentioned above, the spelling of place names in South Sudan can be inconsistent. This Factfile lists the recommended Roman-script spellings of the names of the states of Sudan and their administrative centres<sup>6</sup>.

This 10-state structure has been in place since South Sudan's secession. However, in October 2015, President Salva Kiir declared that he had decided to divide the existing 10 states<sup>7</sup> into 28 new states, a change that was reportedly part of a move towards a federal system<sup>8</sup>. Despite opposition to the decision, President Kiir reportedly appointed and swore in governors for the 28 new states in December 2015<sup>9</sup>. In January 2017 President Kiir created four additional states, bringing the number of states in this new structure to 32<sup>10</sup>. Nevertheless, despite reports in the media on the creation of the new states, PCGN has been unable to find any official confirmation of the practical implementation of the new structure. Therefore, the original 10-state structure remains the recommended structure for HMG purposes.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> These are the Roman-script spellings recommended by both PCGN and BGN for UK and US use.

<sup>7</sup> See Annex A

<sup>8</sup> <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/kiir-and-makuei-want-28-states-s-sudan> [accessed March 2018]

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article57484> [accessed March 2018]

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article61403> [accessed March 2018]

<sup>11</sup> Further details of the proposed new states can be found in BGN/PCGN 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Conference papers, available on request.

### Ten States of South Sudan

State (ADM1)	Approximate location	ISO 3166-2 Code	Administrative Centre (PPLA)	Approximate location PPLA
Central Equatoria <sup>12</sup>	05°00'N 31°30'E	SS-EC	Juba <sup>13</sup>	04°51'N 31°37'E
Eastern Equatoria	05°00'N 33°00'E	SS-EE	Torit	04°25'N 32°34'E
Jonglei	07°30'N 32°30'E	SS-JG	Bor	06°12'N 31°33'E
Lakes <sup>14</sup>	07°00'N 30°00'E	SS-LK	Rumbek	06°48'N 29°41'E
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	09°00'N 27°00'E	SS-BN	Aweil	08°46'N 27°24'E
Unity <sup>15</sup>	08°30'N 30°00'E	SS-UY	Bentiu	09°14'N 29°50'E
Upper Nile	10°00'N 32°30'E	SS-NU	Malakal	09°32'N 31°39'E
Warrap	08°00'N 29°00'E	SS-WR	Kuacjok	08°18'N 28°00'E
Western Bahr el Ghazal	07°30'N 26°30'E	SS-BW	Wau	07°42'N 28°00'E
Western Equatoria	05°00'N 29°00'E	SS-EW	Yambio	04°34'N 28°25'E

### Other Significant Locations

PCGN Recommended Name	Conventional Name	Alternative names (for reference)	Location	Feature Type
South Sudan - Bahr el Jebel (White Nile) Sudan - Bahr el Abiad (White Nile)	White Nile	بحر الأبيض (Baḥr al Abyaḍ) or النيل الأبيض (An Nīl al Abyaḍ)  Bahr al Jabal, Bahr el Gabel	The White Nile flows from Uganda, through South Sudan, joining with the Blue Nile in Khartoum (Sudan) to form the River Nile.	River
River Nile	River Nile	نهر النيل (Nahr an Nīl)	The Nile is the name given to the river formed by the confluence of the Blue and White Niles in Khartoum, from where it flows through Sudan and Egypt, where it forms a delta and flows into the Mediterranean Sea.	River
Bahr al Arab	-	Bahr el Arab, Bahr al' Arab, Kiir river, بحر العرب (Baḥr al 'Arab)	9°05'19"N, 29°26'24"E A tributary of Bahr el Ghazal, which is a tributary of the White Nile.	River

<sup>12</sup> In April 2005 Bahr el Gabel state was renamed Central Equatoria

<sup>13</sup> Juba is also the national capital.<sup>31st</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Formally also known by its Arabic name, El Buhayrat.

<sup>15</sup> Formerly also know by its Arabic name Wahda.

PCGN Recommended Name	Conventional Name	Alternative names (for reference)	Location	Feature Type
Lol	-		9°12'53"N, 28°59'10"E	River
Bahr el Ghazal	-	Bahr al Ghazal	9°30'50"N, 30°27'39"E	River
South Sudan- Pibor  Ethiopia- Pībor Wenz	-		8°26'06"N, 33°13'07"E Forms part of the boundary between South Sudan and Ethiopia.	River
Lake No	-		9°29'32"N, 30°27'14"E Located at the confluence of the Bahr el Jebel and Bahr el Ghazal rivers, and marks the transition between the Bahr el Jebel and White Nile proper.	Lake
As Sudd	-	The Sudd, al-Sudd, Toc	8°N, 31°E	Swamp region

## **Useful references**

- BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14069082>
- CIA World Factbook South Sudan country summary: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/south-sudan/>
- Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2005): [https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SD\\_060000\\_The%20Comprehensive%20Peace%20Agreement.pdf](https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SD_060000_The%20Comprehensive%20Peace%20Agreement.pdf)
- FCDO Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-sudan>
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui#home>
- Omniglot: [www.omniglot.com](http://www.omniglot.com) (for information on languages and scripts)
- PCGN Country Names list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/country-names>
- South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics: <https://nbs.gov.ss/>
- Unicode: [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org)
- US NGA Geographic Names Server: [Geographic Names Server \(nga.mil\)](http://GeographicNamesServer.nga.mil)

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