

Republic of the

Sudan

[Print window](#)

Jumhūriyyah al-Sudan



Land and Climate

At about one-third the size of the continental United States, Sudan is the largest country in Africa. It is divided into four different geographical regions. The north is mainly desert. Most of central Sudan is covered with grasslands and small hills. Farther south is a marsh called the Sudd, and south of this are rainforests. When the Nile enters Sudan from Uganda, it is known as the White Nile. When it reaches the Sudd, it branches out into numerous small channels that flow through the reeds and mud banks. North of the Sudd, the White Nile is joined by the Blue Nile. Together they are called simply the Nile. Without the water from the Blue Nile, the Nile would eventually dry up. Since ancient times, the Sudanese have used the water from the Nile to water their crops. When the river floods, it also leaves behind fertile soil that is good for farming. Because Sudan has so many different geographical features, there are habitats for a variety of animals, like elephants, lions, crocodiles, zebras, monkeys, boars, eagles, vultures, and cranes.

Sudan is one of the hottest countries in Africa. The northern deserts are dry year-round. Short, violent sandstorms are common in these areas, darkening the sky and bringing violent winds. Some areas of Sudan are experiencing *desertification*, when land becomes desert as a result of too much farming, livestock grazing, and drought. Outside of the deserts there is a wet season and a dry season. The farther south one goes, the more rainfall there is. The far south actually has a tropical climate, with high temperatures and humidity.

□ 2012 ProQuest LLC and Brigham Young University. All rights reserved. It is against the law to copy, reprint, store, or transmit any part of this publication in any form by any means without written permission from ProQuest.