



Investing in South Sudan:

A Comprehensive Report



INTRODUCTION

South Sudan, Africa's youngest nation, is a land of vast opportunity and untapped potential. Situated in East-Central Africa, South Sudan is endowed with abundant natural resources, fertile agricultural land, precious minerals, and a strategic geographic location. Since gaining independence in 2011, the country has embarked on a journey of economic transformation, making significant strides to create a conducive environment for foreign direct investment (FDI). With a youthful population, rich cultural heritage, and an economy ripe for diversification, South Sudan offers investors unique opportunities across sectors such as oil and gas, agriculture, infrastructure, renewable energy, and tourism.

BACKGROUND

South Sudan is located in East-Central Africa, sharing borders with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic. Covering a land area of approximately 619,745 square kilometers, it is home to an estimated population of 13.2 million (2023). The country's economy is primarily based on oil production, which accounts for the majority of its revenue, but it also holds immense potential in agriculture, mining, and infrastructure development.

Rich in natural resources, South Sudan boasts some of the most fertile agricultural land in Africa, with vast arable lands suitable for crop farming and livestock. It is also home to untapped mineral deposits, a large network of rivers, and a diverse ecosystem that supports tourism and renewable energy projects. The government of South Sudan, in collaboration with international partners, has worked to establish policies that encourage foreign investment and sustainable economic growth.

KEY STATISTICS

- **Population:** ~13.2 million (2023).
- **Land Area:** 619,745 square kilometers.
- **Oil Reserves:** Estimated at 3.5 billion barrels, making South Sudan one of Africa's largest oil producers.
- **Arable Land:** 90% of the land is suitable for agriculture, with only 4% currently cultivated.
- **GDP Growth:** 4.5% in 2022, with positive projections for 2023.
- **Youth Population:** Over 70% of the population is under 30, providing a vibrant and trainable workforce.
- **Water Resources:** The Nile River flows through South Sudan, offering immense opportunities for irrigation, hydroelectric projects, and fisheries.

BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan offers a wide range of advantages that make it a highly attractive investment destination:

Abundance of Natural Resources

South Sudan is rich in oil, minerals, and fertile land, providing immense opportunities for investment in energy, mining, and agriculture.

Strategic Geographic Location

Located at the crossroads of East and Central Africa, South Sudan offers access to regional markets with over 300 million consumers in neighboring countries.

Untapped Market Potential

The country's economy is still in its early stages of development, offering first-mover advantages in key industries such as infrastructure, manufacturing, and tourism.

Fertile Agricultural Land

With 90% of the land suitable for agriculture and access to abundant water resources, South Sudan is ideal for investments in crop production, livestock, and agribusiness.

Vibrant and Growing Workforce

South Sudan's youthful population provides a dynamic, trainable labor force ready to support industries across various sectors.

Pro-Investment Policies

The government has introduced investor-friendly policies, including tax incentives, land leasing options, and investment protection laws.

Oil and Gas Opportunities

South Sudan's vast oil reserves and ongoing efforts to modernize its energy sector provide attractive opportunities for investors in exploration, production, and refining.

Focus on Infrastructure Development

The government prioritizes infrastructure development, including roads, bridges, energy, and telecommunications, creating opportunities for public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Sustainability and Green Energy

South Sudan's natural resources, including rivers and abundant sunlight, offer vast potential for renewable energy projects such as hydroelectric power and solar energy.

Cultural and Natural Heritage

South Sudan's rich cultural diversity and stunning natural landscapes provide opportunities for investments in eco-tourism and hospitality.

RELEVANT AGENCIES

South Sudan has established several key agencies and institutions to facilitate foreign investment and promote economic growth:

South Sudan Investment Authority (SSIA)

The SSIA is the primary agency responsible for promoting and facilitating foreign investment. It provides guidance on investment opportunities, registration, and incentives.

Website: <https://www.ssia.gov.ss>

Ministry of Petroleum

The Ministry oversees South Sudan's oil and gas sector, supporting exploration and production activities and ensuring sustainable resource management.

Website: <https://www.petroleum.gov.ss>

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

This ministry promotes investments in agriculture, irrigation, and agribusiness to enhance food security and exports.

Website: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ss>

South Sudan National Revenue Authority (SSNRA)

The SSNRA provides information on tax incentives, regulations, and revenue management to support investors.

Website: <https://www.ssnra.gov.ss>

Ministry of Trade and Industry

This ministry supports trade policies and industrial development, fostering a pro-business environment for investors.

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ITC Website: www.tradecouncil.org

Supply Chain News: www.supplychainreport.org

Business Confidence Survey: www.businessconfidence.org

ADAMfD Global Trade Data: www.adamfd.com

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The International Trade Council

TheInternationalTradeCouncil

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INTERNATIONAL
TRADE
COUNCIL
An international, peak-body, chamber of commerce

Website: <https://www.trade.gov.ss>

South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (SSCCIA)

SSCCIA offers networking opportunities, market insights, and advocacy for local and foreign investors.

Website: <https://www.sccia.gov.ss>

INCENTIVES FOR INVESTORS

The government of South Sudan provides a variety of incentives to attract foreign investment and support economic development:

Tax Incentives

Reduced corporate tax rates and exemptions for investments in priority sectors such as agriculture, energy, and infrastructure.

Tax holidays for new businesses, especially in underdeveloped regions.

Land Leasing Opportunities

Long-term leases for agricultural, industrial, and tourism projects at competitive rates.

Investment Protection

Full protection of foreign investments under the South Sudan Investment Law, including the ability to repatriate profits and capital.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Opportunities to partner with the government on large-scale infrastructure and energy projects.

Duty-Free Imports

Exemptions on import duties for machinery, equipment, and raw materials used in approved projects.

Fast-Track Business Registration

Simplified and expedited procedures for registering businesses and obtaining licenses through the South Sudan Investment Authority (SSIA).

Access to Regional Trade Agreements

Preferential access to East African markets through membership in the East African Community (EAC).

Support for Job Creation

Grants and subsidies for businesses that create local employment and provide skills training.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS

South Sudan's economy provides diverse and lucrative opportunities for investors across a range of sectors:

Oil and Gas

With vast untapped reserves, South Sudan offers opportunities in exploration, drilling, and refining, as well as downstream activities.

Agriculture and Agribusiness

Fertile land and abundant water resources make South Sudan ideal for crop farming, horticulture, livestock production, and agro-processing.

Renewable Energy

The country's rivers and abundant sunlight create opportunities for investments in solar, hydroelectric, and wind energy projects.

Infrastructure Development

Investments in roads, bridges, airports, energy facilities, and telecommunications are highly encouraged.

Mining and Natural Resources

Untapped reserves of gold, copper, iron ore, and other minerals offer opportunities for sustainable mining projects.

Tourism and Hospitality

South Sudan's national parks, wildlife, and cultural heritage provide opportunities for eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and hospitality investments.

Healthcare and Education

Investments in private healthcare facilities, medical equipment, and educational institutions are needed to meet growing domestic demand.

Manufacturing and Industrialization

Opportunities exist in food processing, construction materials, and consumer goods manufacturing to meet local and regional demand.

CONCLUSION

South Sudan is a land of immense potential, offering diverse opportunities for investors in one of Africa's most promising economies. With its rich natural resources, strategic location, and commitment to economic reform, South Sudan is positioning itself as a hub for investment in East and Central Africa. The government's pro-investment policies, combined with the country's youthful workforce and untapped markets, ensure long-term profitability for businesses.

Whether you are looking to invest in oil and gas, agriculture, renewable energy, or infrastructure, South Sudan provides a fertile ground for growth and success. By investing in South Sudan, you become a partner in the country's journey of economic transformation and sustainable development.

REFERENCES

- South Sudan Investment Authority (SSIA): <https://www.ssi.gov.ss>
- Ministry of Petroleum: <https://www.petroleum.gov.ss>
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- World Bank Data on South Sudan: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/south-sudan>