

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

No. 29

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SOUTH SUDAN BOUNDARIES

Background: The Office of the Geographer prepared this guidance in coordination with the Special Envoy's Office for Sudan in anticipation of the current southern region of Sudan becoming independent from Sudan on July 9, 2011. It will be reviewed and amended, as required, after South Sudan's independence.

Guidance: Upon U.S. recognition of South Sudan as an independent state:

1. Sovereignty status:

- a. Unless otherwise amended, identify the new state as *South Sudan* (short form) or *Republic of South Sudan* (long form) in a typeface used for independent states
- b. Use OD as the USG country code
- c. Continue to use SU as the USG country code for Sudan
- d. Use separate color tinting on political maps for South Sudan and Sudan.

2. South Sudan – Sudan boundary and names

- a. Configure the international boundary along on the January 1, 1956 north-south alignment*
- b. Where scale and context permit, include the following note: *South Sudan-Sudan boundary represents January 1, 1956 alignment; final alignment pending negotiations and demarcation*
- c. Use an international boundary symbol between the two countries (see also Abyei region below). Where scale and context permit, use a label or distinct line symbol identifying that boundary as "indefinite"
- d. At larger scales and where appropriate, use of an "approximate" label along specific contested sections is recommended
- e. Use either the standard disclaimer, *Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative*, or, as required: *Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative*
- f. Names and spellings for many features, especially populated areas, in South Sudan, including Abyei, remain in flux and have not yet been standardized. The U.S. Board on Geographic names will provide toponymic guidance as authoritative sources become available.

3. Abyei region boundaries and names

- a. Identify the disputed area as *Abyei region* in a typeface distinct from that used for administrative divisions.
- b. Where scale and context permit, render the contested Abyei region within the limits defined by the 2009 Permanent Court of Arbitration's (PCA) Arbitral Decision:
 - i. North parallel: 10°10'N, bounded by two meridians running south -- west meridian: 27°50'E, east meridian: 29°E
 - ii. A short NW-to-SE segment of the Darfur – South Kordofan boundary bounded by the intersection with the west meridian and the tripoint with (Northern) Bahr

- al Ghazal State. This short segment should run along the same axis as the Bahr al Ghazal segment
- iii. The January 1, 1956 north-south provincial boundary bounded by tripoint (ii) and the eastern meridian (29°).
- iv. These lines should be rendered with an “other line of separation” distinct from a either a standard administrative or international boundary
- v. Do not depict the 2005 Abyei Boundary Commission limits unless relevant to the map story.
- c. On political maps, tint the Abyei region with a neutral shading (e.g.: grey), indicating that its sovereignty status is yet to be determined
- d. Where scale and context permit, use the note: *Final sovereignty status of Abyei region pending negotiations between South Sudan and Sudan.*

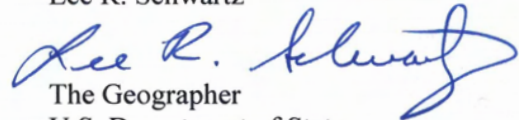
4. Other boundaries:

- a. Make no changes to the depiction of international boundaries with the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Ethiopia.
- b. Continue to depict the disputed Ilemi “triangle” between Kenya and Southern Sudan:
 - i. With an administrative boundary symbol representing the demarcated 1938 administrative line,
 - ii. Plus an international boundary symbol representing the 1914 provisional boundary, and
 - iii. Extend the Kenyan color tint on political maps up to the administrative boundary symbol.
- c. Until such time South Sudan establishes its own administrative structure and publishes authoritative maps with changes, continue to show the “inherited” administrative boundaries of Sudan with the standard boundary disclaimer

ACTION: Please disseminate this guidance to all personnel in your organization concerned with cartographic production.

*On or about July 9, 2011, Large- and small-scale shapefiles of the new South Sudan – Sudan boundary and Abyei region limits will be posted in the Department’s Boundary and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (BASE) at [<http://base.us-state.osis.gov> or <https://www.intelink.gov/basestate>] → International Land Boundaries → South Sudan – Sudan

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