

# Central Equatoria

**Central Equatoria** is a state in South Sudan. With an area of 43,033 square kilometres (16,615 sq mi), it is the smallest of the original South Sudanese states. Its previous name was **Bahr al-Jabal** (also Bahr el-Jebel),<sup>[2][3]</sup> named after a tributary of the White Nile that flows through the state. It was renamed Central Equatoria in the first Interim Legislative Assembly on 1 April 2005 under the government of Southern Sudan. Central Equatoria seceded from Sudan as part of the Republic of South Sudan on 9 July 2011. The state's capital, Juba, is also the national capital of South Sudan. On October 2nd 2015, the state was split into three states: Jubek, Terekeka, and Yei River. The state of Central Equatoria was re-established by a peace agreement signed on 22 February 2020.<sup>[4]</sup>

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## Administrative divisions

Central Equatoria, like other states in South Sudan, is subdivided into counties, which are further divided into Payams, then Bomas. Each county is led by a County Commissioner, appointed by the State Governor in consultation with the President. They are:

- Juba County
- Lainya County
- Morobo County
- Terekeka County
- Yei County
- Kajo Keji County

## Central Equatoria

### State



Flag



Central Equatoria in South Sudan

Coordinates: 04°47′N 31°24′E﻿ / ﻿04°47′N 31°24′E﻿ / 4.78333; 31.4

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Country</b>                    | <span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> South Sudan                        |
| <b>Region</b>                     | Equatoria  |
| <b>Number of counties</b>         | 6  |
| <b>Capital</b>                    | Juba   |
| <b>Government</b>                 |  |
| <span> </span> • <b>Governor</b>  | Emmanuel Adil Anthony  |
| <b>Area</b>                       |  |
| <span> </span> • <b>Total</b>     | 43,033.00 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> (16,615.13 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi) |
| <b>Population</b> (2014 Estimate) |  |
| <span> </span> • <b>Total</b>     | 1,103,592  |
| <b>Time zone</b>                  | UTC+2 (CAT)  |
| <b>HDI</b> (2019)                 | 0.518 <sup>[1]</sup> <div>low<span> </span>·<span> </span>1st of 10</div>                |

Major cities and towns of Central Equatoria include Juba, Kajo Keji, Liria, Mongalla, Wonduruba, Rokon, Tali, Terekeka, Yei, Ji-Menze, Tombek, Tindilo, Kaya, Muni and Rijong. The major border crossing to the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo is at Dimo, a village in the state.

## Demographics

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Major tribes of Central Equatoria have included the Mandari, Pojulu, Kakwa, Keliko, Kuku, Lugbara, Avukaya, Baka, Nyangwara, Adio, and Lulubo. Minor tribes have included the Nyepo in Northern Kajo Keji County and the Lokoya along the Nimule Road. Erasto Gonda, Senior Folklore Officer for Central Equatoria's information ministry, further detailed the State's demographics:<sup>[5]</sup>

In terms of tribes in Central Equatoria, we have Mundari of Terekeka County, the Pojulu of Lowinyet, Wonduruba and Tijor counties combined, and the Bari, who are the largest. Then we have the Kuku from Kajok Keji County, Nyangwara from Rokon area – then we have the Kakwa, from Yei County and Morobo, then there is the Keliko from Morobo County, the Avokaya, Mundo and Baka from Tore Payam of Yei County. Additionally, there are the Pojulu-Tijor who are near Tali.

So, these tribes are the eight tribes who speak one language with slight differences, Kutuk, although they all have different traditional dances. Mundari language for example has its own notion tone different from Bari but they also speak Bari at the same time because some of the border the Bari to the north of Juba, although there are differences in some of the words. Some of the tribes like Avokaya of Yei County, Lugbara and Keliko of Morobo speak one language with slight differences except Mundo and Baka which speak different languages. But they all also have their special languages, called their ‘Kobura’ which the others do not understand. It is a hidden language, they speak it during danger.

They are all from one family but got separated because of land, the land was not enough. They were at first were pastoralists, and then diverged as pastoralists and agriculturalists.

Then there is also the Direr or Nubi, these people are a collection of tribes and their religion is Islam. They settled together in two main places, Malakia in Juba and Bombo which is near Kampala in Uganda. They are united by their religion, which came to them in the 1940s. They now consider themselves to be a new tribe.

The agriculturalists out of these are the Kuku, the Kakwa, Avokaya, Mundo, Pojulu, Lokoya, Lulubo, Nyangwara, Keliko, Nyepo. They grow a variety of crops, including maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, 'bolot or sorghum, groundnuts, beans. These tribes have two crops to harvest every year, the first in June or July and the second in November or December. They also keep cattle, goats and sheep.

## Culture and languages

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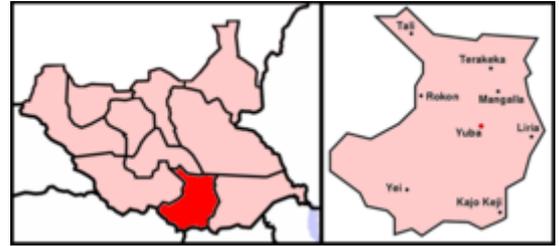
Due to the South Sudanese Civil War, the state's culture was heavily influenced by the countries neighboring South Sudan. Many South Sudanese fled to Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, where they interacted with the nationals and learned their languages and culture. Most of those who remained in the country or went north to Sudan and Egypt assimilated into Arab culture.

It is also worth noting that most South Sudanese diaspora kept the core of their culture even while in exile. Traditional culture is highly held and great attention is given to knowing one's origin and dialect. Although the common languages spoken are Juba Arabic and English, Swahili began to be introduced to the population to improve the country's relations with its East African neighbors. Many people from Central Equatoria use English, Kiswahili, Juba Arabic, their dialect, or a mixture of the languages mentioned.

## Government

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Directly before Central Equatoria split up into three separate states in 2015, the government was as shown:<sup>[6]</sup>



- Governor – Juma Ali Malou
- Deputy Governor – Suba Samuel Manase
- Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs – Wani Tom Sebit
- Minister of Finance and Economic Planning – John Ijino Lako
- Minister of Commerce, Industry, Mining and Investment – John Modong Santo
- Minister of Information, Broadcasting and Tourism – Emmanuel Adel Anthony
- Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Rural Water – Emmanuel Khamis Richard
- Minister of Agriculture and Forestry – Michael Robert Kenyi
- Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries – Osman Laku Wani
- Minister of Health, Sanitation and Environment – Dr Felix Lado Johnson
- Minister of Education and Technology – Clement Maring Samuel
- Minister of Culture, Antiquities, Youths and Sports – Dabe Francis Murye
- Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement – Oliver Mule Gabriel
- Minister of Gender and Social Development – Maka Mustafa Fataki
- Minister of Labor, Public Services and Human Resources Development – Michael John Konga

## See also

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- Mundari people
- Bari people (South Sudan)
- Pojulu Tribe
- Equatoria
  - Western Equatoria
  - Eastern Equatoria

## References

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1. "Sub-national HDI - Area Database - Global Data Lab" (<https://hdi.globaldatalab.org/areadat/shdi/>). *hdi.globaldatalab.org*. Retrieved 2020-04-18.
2. e.g. FAO 1996 Crop Assessment Report Southern Sudan <http://www.fao.org/3/W3350E/W3350E00.htm>
3. compare Britannica Encyclopedia <https://www.britannica.com/place/Bahr-al-Jabal>
4. Peace finally in South Sudan (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/6-years-war-peace-finally-south-sudan-200223114919537.html>) (Aljazeera, February 2020)

5. "Interview with Erasto Gonda *Tribes Of Central Equatoria*" (<https://archive.today/20070814203348/http://www.gurtong.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=2753>). Archived from the original (<http://www.gurtong.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=2753>) on 2007-08-14. Retrieved 2007-08-14.
6. "Central Equatoria State" (<http://www.gurtong.net/Governance/Governments/GovernmentofSouthSudanStates/CentralEquatoriaState/tabid/329/Default.aspx>). Gurtong. Retrieved 24 November 2016.
  - South Sudan Internet radio (<https://web.archive.org/web/20101115063545/http://www.radionline.com/>)
  - Interview with Erasto Gonda 'Tribes Of Central Equatoria' [1] (<https://archive.today/20070814203348/http://www.gurtong.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=2753>)
  - 'GLOBAL: Protect rights of minorities to avoid conflict, NGO urges.' [2] (<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72951>)
  - 'Violence, Sacrifice, and Chiefship in Central Equatoria Southern Sudan.' [3] (<https://www.questia.com/PM.qst?jsessionid=LRJHvSbGGLc6vXGTJr3q6zn3mlf6bx4RyGgXkSpyh6FNWwJ06FjM!758423851?a=o&d=5024491142>)

## External links

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- [Video of Equatorians Abroad](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SVgcoZcTzo) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SVgcoZcTzo>)
  - [Equatorians Abroad](https://www.youtube.com/user/equabroad/) (<https://www.youtube.com/user/equabroad/>)
  - [UNHCR Sudan Operations: Sudan/Chad situation update 42, 8 Dec 2005](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/ETOA-6JZ8X3?OpenDocument) (<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/ETOA-6JZ8X3?OpenDocument>) describing name change
  - [State Government Profile](https://web.archive.org/web/20081208161400/http://www.gurtong.org/resourcecenter/regions/profile_state.asp?StateID=166) ([https://web.archive.org/web/20081208161400/http://www.gurtong.org/resourcecenter/regions/profile\\_state.asp?StateID=166](https://web.archive.org/web/20081208161400/http://www.gurtong.org/resourcecenter/regions/profile_state.asp?StateID=166))
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