

Republic Of South Sudan
Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism

Presentations on

**Effective, and Efficient Utilizations of the
Tourism Opportunities in the Republic of
South Sudan for Sustainable Economic
Growth**

BY;-

Hon. Rizik Zakaria Hassan

Minister

Wildlife Conservations and Tourism

6th. September 5, 2023

Table of Contents of the Presentation

1. Country Profile
2. Introduction
3. Tourism Objectives
4. Tourism Industry Facilities in South Sudan
5. The Tourism Attraction of the Republic of South Sudan
 - Natural Tourism (Sceneries)
 - Historical Sites in South Sudan
 - Cultural Tourism
 - South Sudan Wildlife and Protected Areas
 - a. Nimule National Park
 - b. Badingilo National Park
 - c. Boma National Park
 - d. Southern National Park
 - e. Shambe National Park
 - f. Lantoto National Park
 - g. South Sudan's Game Reserves
 - h. Migration of White-Eard Kobs, Tiang, and Mangala Gazelle
6. Investments Opportunities in the Tourism Sector and its impact on the GDP.
7. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
8. Challenges
9. Way forwards and Recommendations

1. COUNTRY PROFILE

- **Location:** South Sudan is a landlocked country in Eastern Africa.
- **Country's Brand:** Land of Great Abundance
- **Neighboring Countries:** Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Federal Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Sudan and Republic of Uganda.
- **Demography:** RSS covers an area of 644,329 Km² and an estimated population of 12.2 million, the country has a low population density- at 19 people per Km². Population growth is estimated at 3.2 per cent per year, one of the highest rates of demographic expansion in the world.
- **Capital:** Juba
- **Regional Economic Community Membership(s):** EAC, COMESA, IGAD.
- **Official Language(s):** English, Arabic and Other National Languages.
- **Religion:** Christianity, Islam and Traditional Beliefs.
- **Main Exports:** Crude Oil, Timber, Gold, Gum Arabic (Africa), etc.
- **Currency:** South Sudanese Pound (SSP)
- **International Dialing Code:** +211
- **Major National Sports:** Basketball, Football, Athletics, Wrestling, and etc.
- **Climate:** South Sudan has tropical type of climate, with high humidity and significant rainfall. Though there is regional variation due to altitude and terrain, the rainy season affects all parts of the Country and occurs mostly from April through November annually. While the dry season is from December to March.

2. INTRODUCTION

South Sudan is richly endowed with untapped quality of vast wilderness areas, the massive Wildlife Migration at Boma and Badingilo National Parks; the great rapids and water falls, the well documented cultures of the South Sudanese Tribes and the unique combinations of Nature, Heritage and Culture.

These attractions are valued by international visitors, as reflected by the growth of Tourism investment throughout the Country.

3. TOURISM OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure Tourism becomes a leading sector for Poverty Eradication and Economic Development for the RSS and the citizens as well, while contributing towards the conservation of the Bio-Diversity and the Eco-System.
- To ensure that Tourism becomes one of the main export sectors with high contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and mechanism for the Economics Growth.
- To develop, preserve and maintain cultural phenomena's such as Museums, Monuments, and Historical Sites, etc.

4. Tourism Facilities (Services) in South Sudan:

- Hospitalities, Catering and Recreations Facilities,
- Tour and Travel Facilities,
- The Protected Areas
- Expos and Exhibitions
- Sectorial Tourism such as Health, Education, Sports, etc.

5. The Tourism Attractions (Pillars) of the Republic of South Sudan

- Natural Tourism
- Historical Sites and Heritage
- Cultural Tourism
- Protected Areas and the Wildlife-based Tourism

- **Natural Tourism (Sceneries):**

Natural Scenery Attractions are geographical or biological features that have a specific appeal to the Tourism Market.

Natural attractions of South Sudan include, the climatic Regions, Rainforest, Alpine Areas, Woodlands, Grasslands, Mountains, Beaches, Swamps, Caves, Cliffs, Springs, Falls, Wetlands, and Rivers, as well as the unique life forms that inhabits those environments the Fauna and Flora.

- **Historical Sites**

The historical events that have occurred in South Sudan left a lot of sites, some of which are connected with the colonial rule, while others are linked to the struggle of the people of South Sudan beginning from 1880s to 2005.

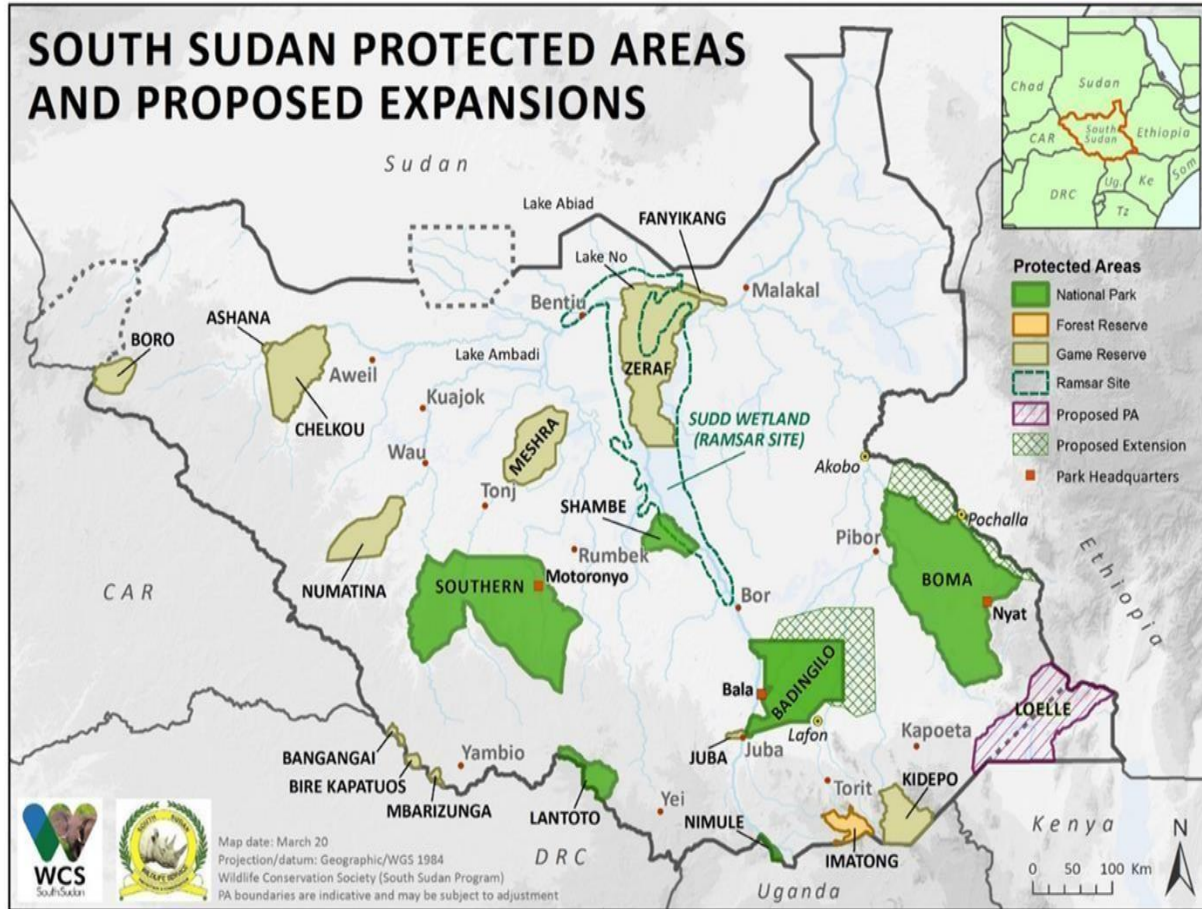
These historical sites includes the British garrisons, the execution and burial sites, old missionary centers, explorers' trails, slave trade centers (Diem Zubair) , monuments, The Famous Tamarind Tree, King George's House, Fashoda Incident, Torit Mutiny, Commando Operational HQs (SPLA), Himodonge, The Shrine of Late Rev. (Father) Saturoline Ohure, Gbudue Tomb, the Mausoleum of Dr. John Garang, the burial site of Ali Abdelatif and Abdel Fadih Almaz in Wau, Gondokoro, Ariith Makuei Site, Ngundeng Shrine etc.

- **Cultural Tourism**

It stands for the Activities in which the visitor's essential motivation is to learn, discover, experience and consume the Tangible and the Intangible cultural products in the Tourism Destination.

The Republic of South Sudan as Cultural Destinations is shaped by its diverse **Ethnic Setting**, defined as the Nilotics, Nilo-Hamid's, Sudanic, and the Bantus, each holds its uniqueness in terms of **Cultures and Cultural Items**, such as **Music, Languages and their Livelihood (Cattle Camps, Farms, in the Forest collecting Forest Product)** shaped by their surrounding environments.

- **South Sudan Wildlife and the Protected Areas (PAs):**



There are six (6) National Parks and twelve (12) Game Reserves, and the Migrations. There are potential areas such as Imatong, Lowile, Machar Marshes, subject for further considerations

The National Parks are;- Nimule, Badingilo, Boma, Lantoto, Shambe and Southern National Parks.

a. **Nimule National Park:**

The Park was established as a Game Reserve in 1935 and proclaimed as a National Park in 1954. The Park is about 256 Km² and the buffer zone is about 154 Km²

The park is located at the extreme southern border with Uganda at the entrance of the River Nile to South Sudan.

Fauna:

The main wildlife are elephants, Uganda Kob, crocodiles, hippos, baboons, vervet monkeys, bushbucks and variety of bird species. The park lies within Savannah Woodland.

b. Badingilo National Park:

Badingilo National Park cover significant areas in Central and Eastern Equatoria States and encompasses the old Mongalla and Badingeru Game Reserves and a large area extending east to the Veveno River Drainage.

Badingilo covers an area of 8,935 Km². The proposed extension, extends into Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei States and covers additional 7,724 Km².

Fauna:

It is a home to the migration of White-eared kob and Tiang in the rainy season. Other species found in the park include: Mongalla Gazelle, Giraffe, elephants, elands, spotted and stripped hyena, ostrich, etc.

It is one of the internationally recognized important birds' areas.

c. Boma National Park:

Boma National Park (BNP) covers an area of about 22,000 Km². The park boundaries were proposed in 1977 and it was officially opened in 1979. The park covers a large portion of Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) extending up to Boma plateau and Ethiopian border in the east. The park lies within Grassland Savannah habitat.

Fauna:

The park is home to migration of White-eared Kob that stays in the park during dry season (November-April). Other animals found in the park are: elephant, zebra, buffalo, lion, cheetah, wild dog, hyena, hartebeest, Beisa oryx, grants gazelle, roan antelope, ostrich and variety of bird species.

d. Southern National Park:

Southern National Park (SNP) was established in 1939. It is the largest Parks, it covers around 23,000 km². in Western Equatoria, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Lakes and Warrap States.

The Park is drained by three rivers: the Sue River to the west, a well-defined channel that joined the Nile, which forms the western boundary of the park; the Giel River to the east; and the Ibba River (Tonj River) in the Centre of the park.

The Gel and Ibba Rivers, after flowing through the park, formed a flood plain which made the habitat swampy.

Fauna:

The park is home to the big five - Elephants (species of forest and savanna elephants), Rhinos, Buffalo, Lion and Leopard.

Other major wildlife species found in the park include: the Bongo (one of the rare species in the country), Giant eland, hartebeest, chimpanzee, baboons, patas monkey, vervet monkey, roan antelope, lesser kudu, Uganda kob, giraffe, warthog, giant forest hog, bush pig, a variety of bird species. The park lies within Savannah Woodland habitat.

e. Shambe National Park:

The park was Gazetted in 1986. It covers an area of 620 km².

Location:

The park is located in the Flood Plains ecological zone within the Lakes and Unity States.

Fauna:

The park is a home to Rhinoceros, elephants, Nile Lechwe, rhinos, Uganda kob,

Waterbuck, buffalos, etc.

f. Lantoto National Park:

It lies between latitude 4° 30' N and longitude 29° 54'E on the western side of Yei-Maridi within Central and Western Equatoria States, bordering Garamba National Park of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The vegetation of the Park is predominantly Savannah Woodland, forest and open glades

Fauna:

Important wildlife species include elephant, buffalo, giraffe, chimpanzee, bushbuck and duiker.

g. South Sudan's Game Reserves: -

Some of these Game Reserves are in the process to be Upgraded to National Parks

- **Meshra** Game Reserve established on 1980 and covers area of 4500 Km².
- **Mbarizunga** Game Reserve established on 1939 and covers area of 180 Km².
- **Bire-Kapotas** Game Reserve established on 1939 and covers area of 230 Km².
- **Bangangai** Game Reserve established on 1939 and covers area of 170 Km².
- **Kidepo** Game Reserve established on 1975 and covers area of 120 Km².
- **Zeraf** Game Reserve established on 1939 and covers area of 9000 Km².
- **Fanyikang** Game Reserve established on 1939 and covers area of 480 Km².
- **Boro** Game Reserve established on 1986 and covers area of 1500 Km².
- **Ashana** Game Reserve established on 1986 and covers area of 900 Km².
- **Chillkou** Game Reserve established on 1939 and covers area of 5500 Km².
- **Juba** Game Reserve established on 1939 and covers area of 200 Km².
- **Namutina** Game Reserve established on 1939 and covers area of 2100 Km².

h. The Largest Global Migration: -

It is a massive movement of White-eared Kobs, Tiang antelopes, Mangala Gazal and Redbugs, which dominates the world's largest Wildlife migration, where animals annually moves from the floodplains of

the Sudd and Badingilo National Park to the Boma National Park and back.

Recently we have Collared the Migrations and the indigenous Fauna of the Jongle Plaine and carried the population Census for the Migration and the Indigenous Species awaiting the launching in October 2023



6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

This section describes the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders for Tourism;-

- **National Government**

The Ministry of Wildlife Conservation & Tourism (MWCT) has responsibility for overarching guidance of the Tourism sector's development, including the policy and regulatory Conservations as well as the Law enforcement aspects, as well as to provide a conducive environment for the private Sectors, investments and business development that will provide the basis for a growing and vibrant Tourism industry.

- **State and Local Government**

State and local governments will work with MWCT to collectively plan for Tourism development in their states and administrative areas to implement measures described therein which are designed to promote Tourism investment and development at the particular destinations within those states.

- **The Role of Local Communities**

Local communities have the role of participating in Tourism in their areas or on their community lands, of developing community-based and cultural Tourism products in collaboration with private investors and government or NGO facilitators, and of integrating Tourism into their own economic and social development activities. Local communities additionally have the role of working with other stakeholders to sustainably manage key natural resources, such as wildlife, forests, or water bodies (Ramsar sites), valued by the Tourism. Local communities shall be among the primary beneficiaries of Tourism which takes place in rural areas.

- **Private Sector Role**

The private sector shall play a leading role in Tourism developments in South Sudan, as the main engine of investment, product development, and marketing. The private sector shall undertake the necessary investments and will ensure through competition that the sector is financially viable, expands, diversifies and becomes a leading foreign exchange earner and provider of employment. The private sector also will have a social obligation as it will ensure that tourism will be a major contributor to poverty alleviation; the sector will also ensure a sustainable development including involving the participation of the local communities in the Tourism development. Employment and human resource development will be one of those key requirements expected of the private sector.

- **The Role of Development Partners**

Partners play significant role in supporting the Tourism sector, through various bilateral and multilateral arrangements, some of which have extensive experience in Tourism development in other African nations.

Development Partners may provide supports for Infrastructure development, further policy and institutional development, human resource capacity building, training and integrated development planning are all key areas where development partners may have considerable experience and potential to support Tourism sector developments.

7. Investments Opportunities of the RSS's Tourism Sector and its impact on the GDP.

Case Studies from two National Parks

- *Case Study of Ngorongoro Crater on Tanzanian Economy*

Entrance Fee 70 USD/ Tourist / 750,000 =52,500,000 Annually
Mobilities for Tourist 250 USD / 110,000=27,500,000 Annually

- *Case Study of Queen Elizabeth NP. Uganda*
Entrance Fee 50 USD/ 350,000=Annually
Mobilities carrying Tourists 150USD/ 70,000 Annually
- **The Migration Boma/Badingilo National Parks**
 - I. Domestic Tourists Entrance fees 10 USD. / 500,000=5,000,000
 - II. International Tourists Entrance fees 50 USD/ 700,000=35,000,000
 - III. Accommodation and Catering 50/USD/1,100,000=55,000,000usd.
- **Tourist to NP, GR, Historical, and Natural Sites, and other Protected Areas.**
Domestic Tourists Entrance fees 10 USD/2,600,000
International Tourists Entrance 50 USD/1,000,000
Accommodations
- **Tour and Travels (Levies) 5%**
International Flights 8 carriers (280,944 passengers) annual
Domestic Flights 7 carriers / 95,760 ANNUAL
- **Hospitality, Catering and Recreation (Levies)5%+(VAT)**
Accommodations 281 hotels/ 5937 rooms*365=2,167,005 visitors
- **River Tourism, Rafting, Fishing etc.**
- **Hiking**
- **Wildlife Safaris and Camping**
- **Balloon Safaris, etc.**
- **Tourism for the Specialized Sectors, Sports, Health, Marketing, etc.**

8. Challenges

1- Habitat Destruction and Degradation:

This factor causes biodiversity losses within most of the protected areas due to Increase of human encroachment into the Protected Areas.

2- Illegal Firearms and poaching:

- Most of the citizens across the country has firearm, which are being used for poaching, thus compounding poaching problems and becoming a big factor in the reduction of wildlife populations.

- The Existence of armed forces in and around the protected areas has badly affected the protected Areas in terms of poaching and habitat destruction.

3- Conservation Legislation: -

- **Weak or nonexistence of Laws**

4. Poor Parks management:

4. Lack of Arms, Field Equipment's and Communication Equipment:-

- Lack of Deterrent Armaments
- Lack of field equipment like tents, Binoculars, Telescope GPS, Collars first-aid kits
- Lack of Uniforms make working conditions very difficult in the field.

5. Lack of mobility for Administrations and for Law Enforcements;-

6. Capacity Building:

7. Lack of infrastructure inside and outside the protected areas (General infrastructures such as offices, outposts, Ecolodges and other facilities, boreholes).

8. Uncontrolled bush fires destroy the Fauna and Flora in the protected areas every year

9. Negative Advisory on the RSS in terms of Insecurity and Instability.

10. Insufficient Funding

9. The Way Forward: -

a. Enactment of the Laws: -

- The Wildlife Conservations and the Protected Areas Bill standing for the second reading in the **RTNLA**.
- Tourism Bill standing for the second reading of the **RTNLA**.
- To enact the Regulatory Frameworks for: -
 - i. Tour and Travel
 - ii. Hotels Catering and Recreations (not classified)
 - iii. Wildlife Services/ Protected Areas

b. The Policies

- The Tourism Attraction Manual in the **RTNLA**.
- Develop Tourism strategic plans standing for the second reading in the **RTNLA**

c. To recruit young qualified forces to help change the status of the Protected Areas which had suffered from the ineffective and unmotivated work force.

d. Development of the Protected Areas: -

- To Establish the Infrastructures as H/QRs, Game posts, observation points, roads, eco-lodges, water points and drill bore holes in the Protected Areas.
- To demarcate the boundaries of the Gazette protected areas.

e. To establish the Classification and the Standardization of all hotels, and the Caterings Facilities, waiting for the Tourism act and the Regulatory Framework.

f. Identification Develop and to Promote the Natural, Cultural, historical Sites and heritage sites as essential parts in Tourism Attractions

g. Research and planning:

- To develop the research guidelines and regulations.
- To conduct wildlife and habitats surveys for the other areas apart from the Jungle Plaine to generate data for management decisions
- To establish research stations in each of the protected areas.

h. Law Enforcement:

- To strengthen the Law Enforcement Units and raise their capabilities to address poaching challenges and insecurities within and around the Protected Areas Armaments/Mobilities.
- To provide the required field equipment's for the law enforcement units, such as long-range radio sets, Motorola's, tents, binoculars, field camera, sleeping materials, water bottles, ground sheets, mosquito nets, uniforms, etc.

i. Conservation education and awareness:

- To introduce conservation education in school curricula.
- Development of wildlife associations and clubs
- To establish operational wildlife extension service (media outreach)

j. International and Regional Conservations Agreements

- To process accession to multilateral and regional Wildlife Conservation agreements
- Develop bilateral and Transboundary agreements with neighboring countries.
- Join regional agreements e.g., the Lusaka Agreement

k. Capacity building, training centers upgrading:

- To rehabilitate the three training centers: Boma, Lori and Nimule training center.
- To accelerate the taking over of the Military Training Centre in Badingilo
- To provide facilities and make these centers useable and ready for training officers and NCOs
- Recruit qualified trainers and managers in Tourism and it's Pillars to efficiently run training and capacity building programs at these centers. to upgrade skills

l. Prevision of Mobilities (Vehicles, Planes, helicopters, Boats, and Drones) to Strengthen the Tourism Sector.

m. In Conclusion for Tourism Sector to Boom, the RSS have the Opportunities and the Unique Strength what is missing is Funding and only Funding

Thank You