**Sudan**

- **Full name:** Republic of Sudan
- **Government:** Government of National Unity (GNU) - the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) formed a power-sharing government under the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA); the NCP, which came to power by military coup in 1989, is the majority partner; the agreement stipulates national elections for the 2008 - 2009 timeframe
- **Location:** Northern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Egypt and Eritrea
- **Capital:** Khartoum
- **Area:** 2.5 million sq km (966,757 sq miles); slightly more than one-quarter the size of the US
- **Climate:** tropical in south; arid desert in north; rainy season varies by region (April to November)
- **Terrain:** generally flat, featureless plain; mountains in far south, northeast and west; desert dominates the north
- **Natural Hazards:** dust storms and periodic persistent droughts
- **Population:** 35 million (UN, 2005)
- **Ethnicity:** black 52%, Arab 39%, Beja 6%, foreigners 2%, other 1%
- **Major Language:** Arabic; Nubian
- **Religion:** Sunni Muslim 70% (in north), Christian 5% (mostly in south and Khartoum), indigenous beliefs 25%
- **Life expectancy:** 55 years (men), 58 years (women) (UN)
- **Currency:** Sudanese dinar