A company based in the Arab Gulf state of Kuwait has expressed interest in conducting oil-wells drilling and exploration activities in Sudan, state media reported on Tuesday.

Sudan’s daily oil output currently stands at 110,000 barrels, according to official figures, after the country lost nearly 75 percent of the previous 500,000 barrels per day figure it was splitting evenly since 2005 with South Sudan which seceded on 9 July.

Officials say they expect the current oil figure [to rise to 170,000 barrel per day by 2012](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-06/north-sudan-oil-output-to-rise-to-170-000-bpd-by-2012-update1-.html).

Exploration and production scene of Sudan’s oil sector is dominated by Asian and Arab companies, with Chinese-led companies as the main operators.

A delegation of [Gulf Petroleum Investment Company](http://www.gupico.com/index.html) (GPI), a Kuwaiti shareholding company, arrived in the country and held a meeting on Tuesday with the country’s acting minister of oil Ali Ahmad Osman at his office in Khartoum.

The minister instructed the competent departments at his ministry to provide GPI with necessary support and facilitate its venture to join Sudan’s market of oil wells drilling and exploration.

Meanwhile, the company’s delegation apprised the minister of its activities in oil-exploration fields, including its operations in Egypt, UAE and Syria.

It is not clear where will the Kuwaiti company’s exploration activities take place but new explorations are underway in a number of areas.

In October last year, Sudan announced that [oil exploration activities would be initiated in three areas in South Darfur State](http://www.sudantribune.com/Sudan-starts-oil-exploration-in%2C36784), one of the three states that make up the country’s war-battered western region.

In 2006, Sudan awarded a license to a consortium of Arab and Sudanese companies for block 12A which covers part of North Darfur and stretches up to the border with Libya.

Analysts opine that oil exploration activities in Sudan are subject to a number of uncertainties, including political instability and armed conflicts.

(ST)