

WESTERN SAHARA



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

none

Head of Government

none

Government Type

legal status of territory and issue of sovereignty are unresolved; territory contested by Morocco and Polisario Front (Popular Front for the Liberation of the Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro), which in February 1976 formally proclaimed a government-in-exile of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), near Tindouf, Algeria.

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 266,000 sq km

Land: 266,000 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Climate

hot, dry desert; rain is rare; cold offshore air currents produce fog and heavy dew

Natural Resources

phosphates, iron ore

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

has a small market-based economy whose main industries are fishing, phosphate mining, tourism, and pastoral nomadism; arid desert climate makes sedentary agriculture difficult; much of its food is imported

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$906.5 million (2007 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$2,500 (2007 est.)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

652,270 (July 2020 est.)

Population Growth

2.54% (2020 est.)

Ethnicity

Arab, Berber

Language

Standard Arabic, Hassaniya Arabic, Moroccan Arabic, Berber, Spanish, French

Religion

Muslim

Urbanization

urban population: 86.8% of total population (2020)

rate of urbanization: 2.61% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

