

# **Kuwait**

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## **Location and area**

Kuwait is an independent state on the northwestern coast of the Persian Gulf. It is bordered on the north and northwest by Iraq, on the east by the Persian Gulf, and on the south by Saudi Arabia. The country's total area, including the islands of Bubiyan, Warbah, and Faylakah, is 17,818 km<sup>2</sup>. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Topography**

Virtually the entire country, except for some small coastal areas, is barren desert, with a flat to rolling terrain. Soils are practically non-existent. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Climate**

The average annual temperatures range from 14° C to 37° C, and the average annual rainfall is 125 mm or less, most of which falls between October and March. During the dry season temperatures frequently exceed 46° C. The country obtains its water supply from the desalination of sea water (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Wetlands**

Continuous human activities along the coastline have resulted in considerable disturbance to Kuwait's coastal wetlands. (Spiers 1999)

## **Peatlands**

According to the interpreted World Soil Map (Van Engelen & Huting 2002) no histosols nor gley soils exist in Kuwait.