



International Boundary Study

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Cameroon – Chad Boundary

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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

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CAMEROON - CHAD BOUNDARY

I. BOUNDARY BRIEF

The Cameroon - Chad boundary is about 680 miles in length. In the north the Nigeria tripoint is located in Lake Chad at about 13° 05' N. latitude and 14° 05' E. longitude, and in the south the Central African Republic tripoint is situated on the thalweg of the Mbere. The boundary is demarcated by pillars and by a number of rivers, of which the Logone and Chari are of major importance.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Germany proclaimed a protectorate over Cameroon (Kamerun) in July 1884. On December 24th of the following year, a Franco - German protocol established a line between their respective territorial claims inland from the Bight of Biafra to the meridian of 15° E. as follows:

Art. I.-- The Government of His Majesty the German Emperor renounces in favor of France all rights of sovereignty or protectorate in the territories which have been acquired to the south of the River Campo, by the subjects of the German Empire, and which have been placed under the protectorate of His Majesty the German Emperor. It engages to abstain from all political action to the south of a line following the said river from its embouchure, to the point where it meets the meridian at 10° of longitude east from Greenwich (7° 40' longitude east from Paris), and, from this point, the parallel of latitude as far as up to its intersection with the meridian situated 15° of longitude east of Greenwich (12° 40' longitude east of Paris).

The Government of the French Republic renounces all rights and all pretensions which it might claim to exercise over the territories situated to the north of the same line, and engages to abstain from all political action to the north of this line.

On February 4, 1894, a second Franco - German protocol delimited a boundary between Cameroon and French Congo on the east from where the line of 1885 ended on the 15th meridian northward to Lake Chad. A convention of March 15, 1894 confirmed a protocol of the preceding year and afforded the following delimitation of the boundary.

Article I. The boundary between the Colony of the French Congo and the Colony of Kamerun shall follow, beginning with the intersection of the parallel forming the boundary with the meridian 12° 40' Paris (15° Greenwich), the aforesaid meridian as far as the Ngoko River, the Ngoko until it reaches the parallel 2°; from there, extending eastward, it shall follow that parallel up to the Sangha River. Thence, extending northward, it shall follow the Sangha River for a distance of 30 kilometers; from the point thus fixed on the right bank of the Sangha, it shall continue in a

straight line ending, on the Bania parallel, 62 minutes west of Bania; from that point, it shall continue in a straight line ending, on the Gaza parallel, 43 minutes west of Gaza.

Thence, the boundary shall continue in a straight line toward Koude, leaving Koude to the east, with a surrounding area described on the west by an arc with a radius of 5 kilometers, beginning, on the south, at the point where it is cut by the line running to Koude and ending, on the north, at its intersection with the Koude meridian; thence, the boundary shall follow the parallel from that point until it reaches meridian 12° 40' Paris (15° Greenwich).

From there, the line shall follow the meridian 12° 40' Paris (15° Greenwich) as far as parallel 8° 30'; thence, it shall continue in a straight line ending at Lame, leaving a surrounding area 5 kilometers west of that point.

From Lame it shall continue in a straight line ending on the left bank of the Mayo-Kebbi River, off Bifara. From the point of access to the left bank of the Mayo-Kebbi, the boundary shall cross the river and extend in a straight line northward, leaving Bifara to the east, until it reaches the 10th parallel. It shall follow that parallel to the Chari River, then the course of the Chari to Lake Chad.

In 1903 French Congo consisted of the colonies of Gabon and Middle Congo, the territory of Ubangi-Chari, and the military territory of Chad. Two years later the territory of Ubangi-Chari and the military territory of Chad were merged into a single territory. The colony of Ubangi-Chari - Chad was formed in 1906 with Chad under a regional commander at Fort-Lamy subordinate to Ubangi-Chari. The commissioner general of French Congo was raised to the status of a governor generalship in 1908, and the name of French Equatorial Africa was given to a federation of the three colonies by a decree in 1910. During 1914 Chad was detached from the colony of Ubangi-Chari and made a separate territory. Colonial status was conferred on Chad in 1920.

Meanwhile on April 18, 1908, a new Franco - German convention abrogated the convention of March 15, 1894 and redelimited the Cameroon - French Congo boundary between Spanish Guinea (now Equatorial Guinea) and Lake Chad. The 1908 line is the present Cameroon - Chad boundary between the Mbere and Logone rivers and for a short distance into Lake Chad.

Immediately prior to World War I, a Franco - German convention of November 11, 1911 redelimited the entire boundary between Cameroon and French Equatorial Africa except for the sector north of the confluence of the Logone and Chari at Fort-Lamy. In return for German recognition of French rights in Morocco following the Agadir crisis earlier in 1911, France through the convention ceded more than 100,000 square miles of French Equatorial Africa to Germany. Cameroon was extended southward along the coast almost to Libreville making Spanish Guinea (Rio Muni) an enclave in German territory, and France

also relinquished its right of pre-emption over Spanish Guinea to Germany.¹ A corridor of land was ceded by France along both banks of the Sangha giving Germany access to the Congo river, while farther north a second corridor along both banks of the Lobaye extended German territory to the Oubangui river a short distance south of Bangui. Thus, French Congo was split into three discontinuous entities. From the Oubangui the Cameroon - French Equatorial Africa boundary extended northwestward to the Pama west of its confluence with the Mbi, utilized the Pama valley and continued northward to the Logone Oriental (Pende in upper course) near Gore, and followed the Logone Oriental, Logone, and Chari successively downstream to Lake Chad.

The Franco - German convention of 1911 also ceded about 15,000 square miles of German territory to France south of Fort-Lamy. The territory included the land between the Logone and Chari from an approximate line between Ham on the Logone to Bousso on the Chari and northward to the confluence of the two rivers.

In the settlement following World War I, French territory ceded to Germany by the convention of November 4, 1911 was restored in full sovereignty to French Equatorial Africa. However, the German territory ceded to France by the same convention was retained as part of French Equatorial Africa and not returned to Cameroon. The League of Nations on July 22, 1922 conferred to Cameroon mandates on France and the United Kingdom. The French mandate comprised about nine-tenths of the former German possession with the remainder adjacent to Nigeria under British mandate administered as two entities known as the Northern Cameroons and Southern Cameroons.

Following World War II, Chad became successively an overseas territory of France in 1946, and autonomous member of the French Community in 1958, and independent on August 11, 1960. French and British administrations of their respective Cameroon mandates were continued through trusteeship agreements approved by the United Nations on December 14, 1946. The following year France established the autonomous State of Cameroun. After termination of the U.N. trusteeship, the State of Cameroun became independent on January 1, 1960, and it proclaimed the Republic of Cameroun on the following March 4th. The Southern Cameroons voted in a plebiscite on February 11, 1961 for union with the Republic of Cameroun; the union was accomplished on October 1, 1961, and the name given to the newly unified state was the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

III. ALIGNMENT

The alignment of the boundary between the Central African Republic tripoint and the Lagone river near Ham is delimited by the Franco - German protocol and annex of April 9, 1908 as confirmed in the convention of April 18, 1908. Where rivers form the boundary,

¹ Article VII of the Franco - Spanish convention of June 27, 1900 (Treaty of Paris) afforded France the right of pre-emption over Spanish Guinea in the event Spain abandoned their possession.

the line is the thalweg or if it cannot be determined, the median. The tripoint is located on the thalweg or median line of the Mbere at about 7° 31' 40" N. and 15° 29' 40" E.

...It shall follow the course of that river [Mbere] to its junction with the Mbina or Logone Occidental River.

(f) It shall run to a point fixed at 5 kilometers west of Di, then to a point fixed at 5 kilometers west of Mbe, and then to the Ndiki stream ford² on the road from Dol to Mandi (Manti) approximately 14 kilometers northwest of Dol.

From there, it shall run to the road from Bongo (Mbongo) to Manda Bossoro, midway between these two villages. Then it shall run to the Guiemguie (Giemgie) River ford on the Bongo - Mbaquen road, to the ford of the aforesaid river on the Diamdie (Samsche) - Mbaqueu road, and to the Sinabou (Simambou) ford on the Diamidie - Tiemieng (Tschimiang) road; then it shall follow the Sinabou River to the ford on the Djebo (Dschebo) - Quailega (Wileka) road.

Then it shall run to the Budeka (Bundeka) ford on the Dari - Weimba road approximately 11 kilometers south of Dari, the Ginganfeu ford on the Bagi (Mbade) - Mbere road approximately 12 kilometers southwest of, Bagi, the Jbi (Njebi) ford at the intersection of the road from Lame to Aoudjali (Audjali) and the road from Lame to Bibene. It shall follow the Jbi stream to the Lame - Degolguia road; thence, it shall run in a straight line to a point midway between Djaloumi (Dschalume) and Guessale (Wodepane), and then northward to the Mayo - Kabbi (Mao-Kabi) River; it shall follow that river to the Bipare meridian and then follow westward the arc of a circle with a radius of approximately 2-1/2 kilometers, described around the center of Bipare, to the Bipare - Hamajadi (Hamaidschi) road.

(g) Then it shall run to a point 5 kilometers east of Figuil (Figil) on the Figuil - Djabili (Yabili) road, to the ford of the stream that cuts across the Biguerh (Bidjar) - Boursou (Bursu) road approximately 6 kilometers south of Biguerh, to the ford of the stream that cuts across the Biguerh - Guebagne road 3 kilometers southeast of Biguerh, to the More ford on the Biguerh - Sokoi (Sokeu) road approximately 8 kilometers northeast of Biguerh, and to the Sasaiken ford on the Boursou - Boudouba (Beduwa) road approximately 3 kilometers northwest of Boursou.

It shall cut across the Bipare - Goubara (Gubara) road 2 kilometers north of Bipare, extend to the Toukoufai (Diro) ford on the Binder - Gare (Garei) road approximately 8 kilometers northwest of Binder (astronomical observation marker), cut across the Binder - Doumrou (Dumuru) road 4 kilometers north of Binder, the Binder - Guidiguis (Gidigis) road 5 kilometers northeast of Binder, and the Diguelao (Dsigilau) - Mindiffi road 5 kilometers south of Diguelao.

² The precise alignment of the boundary is determined by a number of demarcation pillars. The pillars are numbered clockwise from No. 15 on the Ndiki river northward to No. 33 a short distance north of the parallel of 10° N. and then to No. 52 a short distance to the west of the Logone in the vicinity of Ham.

Then it shall follow a line halfway between Doudoula (Dudula) and Gouyou, Doue (Duei) and Gouyou, Soei and Boulambali, Soei and Nimbakri, Koumana and Nimbakri, Koumana and Forkoumai, Tala and Forkoumai, Soumakaia (Sakumkei) and Forkoumai, and Soumkaia and (Fornumei) Folmai until it reaches the western shore of Lake Toubouri (Lake Fienga) 2 kilometers south of the Kamargui - Irle (Komergji) and the eastern shore 2 kilometers south of Guissei - Guibi (Gisei - Gibi).

Then it shall follow a line halfway between Pia and Made and between Folokoi and Goumoune, thence to the point 3 kilometers south of Karam.

(h) From there it shall run to a point on the right bank of the Logone River 2 kilometers northwest of Ham (astronomical observation marker),...

From the Logone near Ham to Lake Chad, the boundary is determined by the western limit of the former German territory of Cameroon ceded to the French Congo by the Franco - German convention of November 4, 1911. Inference from the Franco - German convention of 1908 would indicate the boundary follows the thalwegs of the Logone and Chari rivers.

...Then it [reference the new Cameroon - French Congo boundary of 1911] shall follow the course of the Logone River northward to its confluence with the Chari River.

Article II. Germany will cede to France the territories north of the present boundary of the French possessions in the territories of Lake Chad, including the Chari River to the east and the Logone River to the west.

The boundary follows the thalweg of the principal navigable branch of the Chari to where the river empties into Lake Chad. From there it continues north-westward to a point in the lake at 13° 15' N. and 14° 28' E. and then extends westward to the tripoint with Nigeria. Except for the location of the present tripoint, the boundary in this sector is again determined by the Franco - German convention of 1908.

From the point where the principal navigable branch of the Chari River empties into Lake Chad, as shown on the map annexed to this Protocol, the boundary shall extend to the intersection of the meridian 12° 8' east of Paris (14° 28' east Greenwich) with parallel westward to the French and British boundary (Convention between France and Great Britain of May 29, 1906).

An Anglo - French exchange of notes, dated January 9, 1931, relative to the boundary between their respective Cameroon mandates affords the location of the present Nigeria tripoint in Lake Chad as follows:

The boundary starts from the junction of the three old British, French and German boundaries at a point in Lake Chad 13° 05' latitude north and approximately 14° 05' longitude east of Greenwich.

APPENDIX

A. Documents

1. Protocol relating to the German and French Possessions on the West African Coast. Signed at Berlin, December 24, 1885 [Ratifications exchanged at Berlin, July 28, 1886]. Edward Hertslet, The Map of Africa by Treaty, 3 vols. 3rd Edition (London: Harrison and Sons, 1909). Vol. 2, p. 653.
2. Protocol between the French and German Delegates for the Settlement of the Questions pending between the two countries in the Region comprised between the colonies of the Cameroons and French Congo; and to fix the Line of Demarcation of their Respective spheres of Influence in the Region of Lake Tchad. Berlin, February 4, 1894. Ibid, Vol. 2, pp. 657 - 660 (French).
3. Convention between the French Republic and Germany for the Delimitation of the Colony of the French Congo and the Colony of Kamerun and the French and German Spheres of Influence in the Lake Chad Region. Signed at Berlin on March 15, 1894 [Ratifications exchanged at Paris on August 10, 1894]. British and Foreign State Papers (BFSP), Vol. 86 (1893 - 4) pp. 974 - 978 (French)
4. Convention between France and Germany confirming the Protocol and its Annex of April 9, 1908, defining the Boundary between the Colonies of the French Congo and the Cameroons. Signed at Berlin, April 18, 1908 [Ratifications exchanged at Berlin, July 28, 1908]. BFSP, Vol. 101 (1907 - 8), pp. 1003 - 11 (French)
5. Convention between France and Germany relating to their Possessions in Equatorial Africa. Signed at Berlin, November 4, 1911 [Ratifications exchanged at Paris, March 12, 1912]. BFSP, Vol. 104 (1911), pp. 956 - 964 (French)
6. Exchange of Notes between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the French Government respecting the Boundary between British and French Cameroons. London, January 9, 1931. United Kingdom Treaty Series No. 34, 1931, Cmd. 3936 (with maps).

B. Maps

1. Institut Geographique National - Paris: scale 1:50,000; 1955; sheets NB-33-XXII-3b (Baibokoum 3b), NB-33-XXII-4a (Baibokoum 4a), NB-33-XXII-4c (Baibokoum 4c), and NB-33-XXII-3d (Baibokoum).
2. Institut Geographique National - Paris: scale 1:100,000; 1950 - 9; sheets NC-33-XV-1 (Maroua-1), NC-33-IX-4 (Mbourao-4), NC-33-X-4 (Gounou - Gaya-4), NC-33-XVI-2 (Tena-Boeyna-2), NC-33-X-3 (Fianga-3), NC-33-XVI-1 (Bongor-1), NC-33-XXII-1 (Mogroum-1), NC-33-XXII-3 (Mogroum-3), ND-33-IV-1 (Fort-Lamy-1), ND-33-III-2 (Goulfey-2), and ND-33-III-4 (Goulfey-4).
3. Institut Geographique National - Paris (Annexe de Yaounde, Annexe de Brazzaville): scale: 1:200,000; 1959 - 68; sheets NB-33_XXII (Baibokoum), NC-33-IV (Tapol), NC-33-III (Rey Boubou), NC-33-IX (Lere), NC-33-XV (Maroua), NC-33-X (Fianga), NC-33-XVI (Bongor), NC-33-XXII (Mogroum), ND-33-IV (Fort-Lamy), and ND-33-III (Makari).
4. Institut Geographique National - Paris (Annexe de Yaounde); scale 1:500,000; 1963 - 4; sheets NB-32/33-N.E. (Ngaoundere), NC-33/34-S.O. (Garoua), NC-33/34-N.O. (Maroua), and ND-33-S.O. (Fort Foureau).

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