



International Boundary Study

No. 124 – July 7, 1972

Benin (*Dahomey*) – Togo Boundary

(Country Codes: BN-TO)

**The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research**

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

No. 124 - 7 July 1972

BENIN (DAHOMY) - TOGO BOUNDARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Boundary Brief.....	2
II. Historical Background.....	2
III. Alignment	3

APPENDIX

I. Documents.....	11
II. Maps	11

BENIN (DAHOMY) - TOGO BOUNDARY

I. BOUNDARY BRIEF

Inland from the Atlantic Ocean, the Dahomey-Togo boundary extends northward for approximately 400 miles to the Upper Volta tripoint. It follows a coastal lagoon, several rivers, and numerous straight-line segments. Although delimited by various points, the boundary is undemarcated except by rivers.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1851 France concluded an agreement with King Gezo of Dahomey for the location of a trading post at Cotonou. Although control was later temporarily suspended, Porto Novo in 1863 became the first of a number of French protectorates along the Bight of Benin. France reestablished former rights in Porto Novo in 1883, and protection was extended to various other political entities along the coast and in the interior. In 1893 the French territories were placed administratively under the colony of Benin which was renamed Dahomey the following year. A decree of October 17, 1899, included Dahomey in French West Africa.

On July 5, 1884, Germany signed a treaty with the Chief of Togo, by which the territory along the Gulf of Guinea from east of Porto-Seguro (Agbodrafo) to a short distance west of Lome was placed under the protection of the German Empire. German territory was gradually extended inland by additional treaties, and by a Franco-German protocol of December 24, 1885, France abandoned all claims to Porto-Seguro and Anecho. The same protocol also stated that the boundary between Dahomey and Togo "shall start from a point on the coast to be fixed between the territories of Petit Popo [Anecho] and Agoue."

In accordance with the protocol of 1885, a proces-verbal of February 1, 1887, delimited the boundary as "the meridian, which, leaving the coast, passes through the west point of the little island called Ile Bayol, situated in the Lagoon, between Agoue and Petit Popo, a little to the west of the village of Hillacondji [Hila Kondji], and continued until it meets the 9th degree of north latitude."

A Franco-German protocol of July 9, 1897, delimited a boundary between German Togo and the French possessions of Dahomey and Soudan (presently Upper Volta) and a convention between France and Germany confirmed the protocol on July 23, 1897. The convention boundary utilized the lagoon eastward from Ile Bayol to the Mono river and then followed the river northward to the 7th parallel. From the 7th parallel the boundary continued to the 11th parallel as follows:

From the intersection of the thalweg of the Mono with Latitude 07° N., the frontier shall extend via that parallel to the Bayol Island meridian, which shall serve as the boundary as far as its intersection with the parallel running equidistant between

Bassila and Penesoulou [Penessoulou]. From that point, it shall extend to the Kara River following a line equidistant between the road from Bassila to Bafilo via Kirikri [Krikri] and the road from Penesoulou to Semere via Aledjo [Aledjo-Koura], and then a line equidistant between the roads from Sudu [Soudou] to Semere and Aledjo to Semere, so as to pass equidistant between Daboni and Aledjo and between Sudu and Aledjo. It shall then run down the thalweg of the Kara River for 5 kilometers and from that point shall run northward in a straight line to Lat. 10° N., but in any case Semere shall continue to belong to France.

From there, the frontier shall run directly to a point equidistant between Dje and Gandou, leaving Dje to France and Grandou to Germany, and shall extend to Lat. 11° N. following a line parallel to the road from Sansanne-Mango to Pama at a distance of 30 kilometers from the road...^[1]

After World War I, eastern Togoland became a League of Nations mandate under French administration and western Togoland a British mandate. In 1946 the mandates were made United Nations trust territories and continued to be administered by France and the United Kingdom, respectively. During the mandate and trusteeship periods, French Togo had its own governmental structure, but British Togoland was administered by the United Kingdom as an integral part of the territory under the Government of the Gold Coast. As a result of a plebiscite in 1956, British Togoland was merged the following year with the Gold Coast, including Ashanti and the Northern Territories, to form the new state of Ghana.

In 1956, French Togo voted to become an autonomous republic within the French Union. On April 27, 1960, Togo severed juridical ties with France, shed its trusteeship status, and became an independent republic.

In 1946 Dahomey became an overseas territory and a member of the French Union. On December 4, 1958, it was made an autonomous republic of the French Community. Dahomey was proclaimed independent from France on August 1, 1960.

III. ALIGNMENT

Ensuring the application of the convention of July 23, 1897, the Franco-German declaration of September 28, 1912, reiterates the 1897 boundary from the coast to the 7th parallel and delimits by a series of points the remainder of the Dahomey-Togo boundary as follows:

Article I The boundary shall begin at the intersection of the coast with the meridian at the western tip of Bayol Island; it shall follow along the meridian as far as the south bank of the lagoon, which it shall follow to a distance of 100 meters beyond the eastern tip of Bayol Island; thence, it shall extend directly north as far as

¹ In accordance with the convention of July 23, 1897, a Franco-German declaration of September 28, 1912, delimits in detail the Dahomey-Togo boundary and is the basis of the present alignment.

midway between the south bank and the north bank of the lagoon; then it shall follow the meandering of the lagoon, along a line equidistant from the two banks, to the thalweg of the Mono, which it shall follow to Point No. 1 defined in the list below. From there, the boundary shall pass, in succession, through Points 2, 3, etc., indicated on the list until it reaches Terminal Point No. 130.^[2] The boundary shall be established by joining, in a straight line, the adjacent points unless it is clearly specified that a waterway shall serve as the boundary.

II. List of the points fixing the boundary north of 7° North Latitude:

1. Meeting point of the Mono thalweg with the line joining two points on the left bank and the right bank of the river and drawn in an east-west direction 750 meters, measured from the bank, upstream from the astronomic point west of Rhevi (Jangba).
2. 400 meters south of the astronomic point of Bossoukou (Basseku).
3. 3,000 meters east of Point 2.
4. 500 meters north of the point where the Tohoun (Tun) road crosses the Lomo River at Parahoue, measured on the road.
5. 1,950 meters east of Tohoun (Tun) [market bench mark].
6. 2,250 meters east of Sinouesodji (astronomic point, French map).
7. 1,950 meters east of Bossouhoue (Bossukondji) [astronomic point].
8. Point on the Bossouhoue (Bossukondji)-Atome road, 750 meters southwest of the point where that road crosses the Agba [Agban] ^[3] River and measured on the road in the direction of Dossouhoue.
9. 920 meters west of Atome.
10. 270 meters east of Bowe hill (geodetic signal).
11. 175 meters east of Agodogoue (Agodogwi).
12. 700 meters to be measured on the road from Agodogoue (Agodogwi) to Akouanou (Abalokovbe) from the point where the Gougou (Gugu) River crosses it and in the direction of Akouanou.

² The present Dahomey-Togo boundary terminates at Point No. 109 which is the tripoint with Upper Volta. The remainder of the points delimited the Soudan-Togo boundary.

³ Place names in brackets have been added to indicate spellings of the preceding name or names taken from recent maps.

13. Point where the Couffo (Kufo) [Kouffo] crosses the Agouna-Glito road.
14. The Couffo upstream until it meets the meridian at a point 3,450 meters west of the point where the Asagba River crosses the Aklame (Akleme)-Tamba road; the meeting point nearest the meridian shall be designated as the boundary point.
15. 150 meters west of Motchama (Motjema).
16. 290 meters east of Ouroukou (Uruku).
17. 3,200 meters northwest of Tchetti (Tscheti), the nearest village south of the German signal, a distance measured on the road north of Adjinaku (Adjinaku).
18. 750 meters west of Agadja (French map).
19. 400 meters east of Agbota.
20. 1,920 meters east of Mount Djafe (geodetic point).
21. 220 meters east of Mount Okoko (geodetic signal).
22. 950 meters west of Akifon (Akifong).
22. bis. 875 meters east of Do (Badja).
23. 1,500 meters on the road from Doume (Dume) to Guegue (Gege), beginning with the geodetic signal of Doume.
24. 1,850 meters on the road from Doume (Dume) to Agaoun [Agaung], beginning with the geodetic signal of Doume.
25. 1,500 meters east of Afole (Awole).
26. 970 meters west of Totolo.
27. 2,300 meters west of Mount Otola (geodetic point, French map).
28. 1,900 meters east of Mount Guegue [Gueguere] [geodetic signal].
29. 1,550 meters east of the confluence of the Beleba River (stream 6 meters wide on the German map) and the Ogou (Ogu) River.

30. Confluence of the Akouata River (stream 3 meters wide on the German map) and the Ogou (Ogu).
31. Course of the Ogou to the confluence of the Akpessi (Aghessi).
32. Course of the Akpessi to its confluence with the Atoua (French map).
33. 3,500 meters on the Gubipira trail, measured from the point where the Afa crosses it and in the direction of Pira.
34. Point where the Pira-Cabole (Kambole) road crosses the Perekete (Pekete) River.
35. 4,200 meters east of Cabole (Kambole) [market post].
36. 2,170 meters east of Bedou (Balanka) [market post].
37. Point where the road from Bariba (Parampa) [Parempa] to Bassila crosses the Ayolo (Ajolo) River.
38. The Ayolo upstream to the point where the trail from Berekini to Ntadono (Galabo) crosses it.
39. 1,000 meters west of Ayolo-Guitouri (Ajolo), from the northern part of the village on the Berekini-Bafemi (Afem) trail.
40. 2,500 meters west of Kafodjuai [Afodiobo] (French map).
41. Intersection of the Agouna (Agumna) with the Karibadja-Bafemi (Afem) road.
42. Intersection of the Agouna (or Foforo) with the Kodoari [Kodowari]-Bafemi (Afem) road.
43. Intersection of the road from Kodoari to Kirikri (Kjirkjiri) [Krikri] with the Assontou (Kassuntu) River.
44. Intersection of the Pelela (Pelelang) [Penelan]-Sominde [Sominide] road with the Oukonani (Bawele) River.
45. Intersection of the Tankona-Sominde road with the Bulakpa (Gatuboropa River) [German map].
46. Intersection of the road from Parataou (Aledjo-Paratau) to Sominde with the Fallao (Falao) River.

47. Intersection of the road from Aledjo (Aledjo-Kura) [Aledjo-Koura] to Sominde with the Fallao River.
48. 350 meters south of Kade.
49. 220 meters west of Kade.
50. 370 meters west of the geodetic point of Tchimberi (Tschemberi) [Tchembere].
51. 200 meters west of the intersection of the Soudou (Suda)-Tchimberi road and the Soudou-Aledjo road.
52. 1,600 meters eastward, measured on the Bafilo-Aledjo road from the point where the Touace (Tuasse) [Touase] River crosses it.
53. 700 meters west of the intersection of the Pindi [Kpouindi] River with the westernmost road from Akarade to Semere (Ssmere).
54. 800 meters west of the intersection of the Deteraku River (German map) with the westernmost road from Akarade to Semere.
55. 2,800 meters from the point where the westernmost road from Akarade to Semere, crosses the Kara River, measured upstream as the crow flies.
56. Course of the Kara River to the intersection point of that river with the meridian passing 120 meters west of the Oke-N Diaye (Oke-N Diaje) hill [geodetic point].
56. bis/120 meters west of Oke-N Diaye.
57. Intersection of the road from Semere to Sirka with the Kandjefe (Kangjele) River [French stake No. 30].
58. 970 meters west of the intersection point of the Tchaouia (Tjauju) [Touli or Tchawia] River and the Semere-Koumeri [Koumerida] (Kumeri) trail.
59. Point where the trail from Koumeri to Semere crosses the Bohom (Boom) [Bohoun] River (German stake No. 3).
60. Intersection of the Kougnonlomboia River with the Koumeri-Logba (Kandede) trail [French stake No. 40].

61. Midway between German stake No. 1 at Koumeri and German stake No. 4 on the Kougnonlombo (Ajam) River.
62. 870 meters west of German, stake No. 5 north of Asarade [Assarade] on the road from Asarade to Lama-Tero (Terao-da) [Tereouda].
63. 1,520 meters east of German stake No. 6 at Lama-Tero (Terao-da).
64. 2,950 meters east of the market in Kadjana (Kadjanga) [Kadianga].
65. 3,800 meters east of German stake No. 7 at the market in Paguda (Pagouda).
66. 2,000 meters east of German stake No. 8 near Dambourgou (Dambourgu).
67. 3,950 meters east of German stake No. 9 at the lower market in Bufale [Boufale].
68. 3,750 meters east of the market in Sorouba (Sola-Lauwolu [Sola]).
69. 3,400 meters east of the geodetic point east of Mount Schireobe [Mont Siriabe].
70. 6,000 meters east of the market in Koutchara (Goacha), measured on the road from Loutchara to Taniga (French map).
71. 4,380 meters east of the geodetic point of Mount Tonabu.
72. 1,900 meters north of point 71.
73. 2,500 meters south of stake 12 at Koute (Kutje).
74. 2,670 meters north of Tapunte (east post of the geodetic base).
75. Course of the Daboni River to the point 1,700 meters north of Tapunte (east post of the geodetic base).
76. 950 meters north of Koutantatoun (Kutantatun) [stake No. 38].
77. 700 meters north of Koutama (Kutama) [stake No. 34].
78. 3,600 meters south of Koustountougou (Kussuntugu) [Koussountougou] [geodetic point].

79. 4,250 meters south of Odende (geodetic point).
80. 3,700 meters south of Boukombe (Bukombe) [stake No. 19].
81. 4,350 meters south of stake No. 40 (point where the trail from Boukombe to Korountiere [Korontiere] crosses the Koumago River).
82. 6,100 meters south of Korountiere (Koruntiere) [geodetic point].
83. 3,800 meters south of Bamatanta (Bandetarage) [geodetic point].
84. 3,300 meters south of stake No. 27 (on the trail from Korountiere to Memone).
85. 7,850 meters south of Kadjene (Kadjeni) [Kadiane] [stake No. 92].
86. 1,200 meters east of Memone (geodetic point).
87. 3,300 meters south of French stake No. 36 in the village of Tedokare (French map).
88. 900 meters from stake No. 87, measured in a southerly direction on the Dje-Gando (Dje-Buri) road.
89. 1,300 meters west of German stake No. 65 at Kongomon (Kogomon).
90. 600 meters east of Kudjog on the road from Kudjog to Dago (Dag).
91. 1,350 meters measured on the Pantaga (Tangu) River above German stake No. 63.
92. 400 meters west of Tamiaga (Tamiag) [German stake No. 43].
93. 2,000 meters west of Ogonde (German stake No. 64), to be measured on the Sendie (Santje) road.
94. 2,400 meters west of Kotiama (Koriam) [German stake No. 74].
95. 2,800 meters east of Tiamang (Djemong) [German stake No. 89].
96. 2,250 meters west of Sapantandi (Alt-Namotel).
97. 1,100 meters west of Nagoden (Naoteni) [German stake No. 61].
98. 1,750 meters west of Tandaratana (German stake No. 60).

99. 270 meters east of Ouandogo (Uandogo) [German stake No. 62].
100. 2,100 meters east of Tcharpanha (Tjerebanga) [German stake No. 71].
101. 1,500 meters west of Kouanteni (Kuanteni) [German stake No. 70].
102. 2,300 meters west of Ouande (Uande) [French stake No. 61].
103. 2,550 meters east of German stake No. 80 (point where the Manduri [Mandouri]-Niarma (Njerema) road crosses the Oti).
104. 750 meters west of French stake No. 64 on the Tabo (Kabubaga) River.
105. 300 meters west of Tampaga (Tambanga).
106. 300 meters west of German stake No. 88 at Lalabra (Lalabaga).
107. 1,470 meters west of French stake No. 73 at Niorgou (Niorgu).
108. 1,450 meters west of Bediero (French map).
109. 1,300 meters north of Point 108 [Point No. 109, the tripoint with Upper Volta, is located at 11°00'N. and approximately 0°55'E.].

APPENDIX

I. Documents

1. Protocol relating to the German and French Possessions on the West African Coast. Signed at Berlin, December 24, 1885. Edward Hertslet, *The Map of Africa by Treaty*, 3 vols., 3rd Edition (London: Harrison and Sons, 1909). Vol. 2, pp. 653-5.
2. Proces-Verbal fixing the delimitation of the French and German Possessions on the Slave Coast. February 1, 1887. *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, pp. 655-6.
3. Convention between France and Germany, defining the Boundary between French Possessions of Dahomey and the Soudan, and the German Togo Territory. Signed at Paris, July 23, 1897 [Ratifications exchanged at Paris, January 12, 1898]. *British and Foreign State Papers (BFSP)*, Vol. 89 (1896-7) pp. 584-6 (French).
4. Declaration between Germany and France Concerning the Delimitation of the French Possessions of Dahomey and the Soudan and the German Territory of Togo. Signed at Paris on September 28, 1912. *Ibid.*, Vol. 106 (1913), pp. 1001-8 (French).
- 5.

II. Maps

Institut Geographique National-Paris: scale 1:200,000; 1947-69; sheets (N to S) NB-31-XIV (Lome), NB-31-XX (Abomey), NC-31-11 (Sokode), NC-31-VIII (Djougou), NC-31-XIV (Natitingou), NC-31-XIII (Sansanne-Mango), and NC-31-XIV (Pama).

This International Boundary Study is one of a series of specific boundary papers prepared by The Geographer, Office of the Geographer, Directorate for Functional Research, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, in accordance with provisions of Bureau of the Budget Circular No. A-16.

Government agencies may obtain additional information and copies of the study by calling the Geographer, Room 8744, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520 (Telephone: 63-22021 or 63-22022).