



International Boundary Study

No. 128 – September 29, 1972

Burkina Faso (*Upper Volta*) – Togo Boundary

(Country Codes: UV-TO)

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

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

No. 128 - 29 September 1972

BURKINA FASO (UPPER VOLTA) - TOGO BOUNDARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Boundary Brief.....	2
II. Historical Background.....	2
III. Alignment	4

APPENDIX

I. Documents.....	6
II. Maps	6

BURKINA FASO (UPPER VOLTA) - TOGO BOUNDARY

I. BOUNDARY BRIEF

The Togo–Upper Volta boundary is approximately 78 miles long. Except for the Sansargou river, it consists of straight-line sectors. Although delimited, the boundary is undemarcated by pillars.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A Franco–German convention of July 23, 1897, delimited a boundary between German Togoland and the French possessions of Dahomey and Sudan. The line passed northward from the Atlantic Ocean to the 11th parallel between Togoland and Dahomey. The boundary then extended westward between Togoland and French Sudan as follows:

It shall then run westward along Lat. 11° N. to the White Volta so as in any case to leave Pougno to France and Koun–Djari [Koundjouare] to Germany. It shall then run along the thalweg of that river to Lat. 10° N., which it shall follow to its intersection with the meridian 03°52' west of Paris (01°32' west of Greenwich).

The following year an Anglo–French convention of June 14, 1898, delimited the British Gold Coast–French Sudan boundary eastward from the Black Volta to the French Sudan–Togoland boundary. The extreme eastern sector of the boundary to the Togoland tripoint was as follows:

...and shall then follow the thalweg of this river [Nahau or Nouhao] up or down stream, as the case may be, to a point situated 2 miles (3,219 metres) eastward of the road which leads from Gambaga to Tenkrugu (Tingourkou) [Tenkodogo], via Bawku (Baukou). Thence it shall rejoin by a straight line the 11th degree of north latitude at the intersection of this parallel with the road which is shown on Map No. 1 as leading from Sansanne–Mango to Pama, via Jebigu (Djebiga) [Diabiga].

After a joint survey in 1901–2, the Gold Coast–Togoland boundary was delimited in detail from the 9th parallel northward to the Gold Coast–Sudan–Togoland tripoint by an Anglo–German exchange of notes of June 25, 1904. The northern segment of the boundary was delimited by the following straight lines:

Thence to a post placed about half-way between Ganwaka (Gbawa) and Pusaga (Pussiga) [Pusiga].

Thence to a post placed about half-way between Ganwaka (Gbawa) and Nkogo (Nikogo).

Thence the boundary follows in a northerly direction the meridian drawn through the last-mentioned post until it meets French territory.

An Anglo–French exchange of notes on March 18, 1904–April 25, 1904 redelimited the boundary between the Gold Coast and French Sudan, including the extreme eastern sector. Paragraph 41 of the delimitation schedule relative to the Togoland tripoint was amended in a second Anglo–French exchange of notes on May 24, 1906–July 19, 1906, which also included the demarcation of the boundary. The following is the revised paragraph:

41. From this point the frontier runs in a straight line across an uninhabited country, covered by bush, in the direction of the point of intersection of the 11th parallel with the road from Punio (Pounio) to Jebiga (Djebiga) until it reaches the northern terminal point of the Anglo–German frontier, where it terminates.

Utilizing in part the boundary of the convention of July 23, 1897, a Franco–German declaration of September 28, 1912, delimited the French Sudan–Togoland boundary in detail and is the basis of the alignment of the present Togo–Upper Volta boundary.

Although the term continued in use in official treaties, the Sudan as part of French West Africa underwent a number of changes in size, administration and names. In 1899 parts of French Sudan were transferred to French Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Dahomey. The remainder of French Sudan was organized into the civil territory of Upper Senegal and Middle Niger and initially into two and later three military territories with headquarters at Tombouctou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Zinder. During 1902 Upper Senegal and Middle Niger was renamed Senegambia and Niger which in turn was changed to the Colony of Upper Senegal and Niger in 1904.

By a decree of March 1, 1919, the colony of Upper Volta was constituted by detaching various cercles from Upper Senegal and Niger. The remainder of Upper Senegal and Niger was renamed French Sudan on December 4, 1920. A decree of September 5, 1932, abolished the colony of Upper Volta and divided it among the colonies of Ivory Coast, Niger, and French Sudan.

Following World War I, eastern Togoland became a League of Nations mandate under French administration and western Togoland became 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. In 1957 British Togoland was merged with the Gold Coast, including Ashanti and the Northern Territories, to form the new state of Ghana. On October 28, 1956, French Togo voted to become an autonomous republic within the French Union, and on April 27, 1960, it became an independent republic.

On September 4, 1947, Upper Volta was reconstituted with its prior boundaries and became an overseas territory within the French Union. It became a member of the French Community as the Volta Republic on December 11, 1958. The name of the Volta Republic was changed to the Republic of Upper Volta on March 2, 1959, and the state became independent on August 5, 1960.

III. ALIGNMENT

The tripoint with Dahomey at Point No. 109 of the Franco–German delimitation of 1912 is by map measurement located at 11°00' N. and approximately 0°55'E. The boundary then extends westward along the 11th parallel for about 16 miles to 0°40'E. It continues in a straight line southwestward for 12 miles to the Sansargou river at 10°56'N. and then follows the Sansargou northward for 6 miles to 11°30'N. and 0°30'12"E. The remainder of the boundary consists of a straight line for 44 miles to the Ghana tripoint at pillar 148 of the Anglo–French demarcation of 1929 at approximately 11°08'13"N. and 0°08'09"W.

The detailed delimitation of September 28, 1912, by the Franco–German boundary commission is as follows:

109. 1,300 meters north of point 108.^[1]

110. 3,800 meters southeast of French stake No. 70, measured on the road from Pampaga (Kolamanga) to Kouedinga (Banjega).

111. 1,450 meters south of French stake No. 20 at Diabantari (Djabondjari).

112. 2,350 meters south of French stake No. 17 at Faouargou (Fongurugu), measured on the Pemondjiora (Bembondjurga) road.

113. 4,650 meters from French stake No. 17 at Faouargou (Fongurugu), measured on the Niamanga (Bangangundi) road.

114. 2,000 meters west of French stake No. 7 northeast of Niamanga.

115. 1,500 meters from French stake No. 16, measured on the road from Sankoti to Djabyoare (Jabduari).

116. 2,000 meters southwest of German stake No. 131, measured on the road from Sankoti to Benangadi (Benangande).

117. 1,200 meters south of Tanfiegu (Tamfiegu) [French stake No. 13].

^[1] Points 1 through 109 delimit the Dahomey–Togo boundary from the 7th parallel to the Upper Volta tripoint. The points enumerated in the text were indicated on maps annexed to the convention in accordance with the surveys of the delimitation commission in 1908–9.

118. 750 meters west of marker 117.

119. Course of the Sansargou (Pembaro) River north to the point where the trail from Sankoti to Tokourga (Tokulga) crosses it [German stake No. 125].

120. 2,700 meters north of German stake No. 104 at Djendjoga (Jenaga), measured on the Tokourga (Tokulga) road.

121. 1,350 meters south of German stake No. 175 at Tokourga.

122. 2,350 meters south of French stake No. 24, measured on the road from Soudougou [Soudougui]^[2] (Surugu) to Tambamondi (Tangbamoanti).

123. Point where the Gorikianga River (German map) crosses the road from Soudougou to Kantindi (French stake No. 77 and German stake No. 116).

124. 3,100 meters south of German stake No. 107 at Komienga (Pempienga).

125. 2,100 meters southeast of Dabankoum (Dagonkum) [Dagonkon] [German stake No. 136], measured on the Nadjundi [Nadjouni] road.

126. 1,870 meters southeast of Dabankoum (German stake No. 136), measured on the Sankalgou (Sankalo) road.

127. 100 meters south of French stake No. 82 at Nasiongo (Naseango).

128. German stake No. 103 at the intersection of the Sanga–Pusga road and the Yaragatenga [Yargatenga] (Jeragatenga)–Timbou (Timbu) road.

129. 3,100 meters southwest of German stake No. 132, measured on the road from Yaragatenga to Zounbekou (Sumbiaku) [then northwestward to the Ghana tripoint].^[3]

^[2] Place names in brackets have been added to indicate the spelling of preceding name or names taken from recent maps.

^[3] Point No. 130 was the former British Gold Coast–French Sudan–German Togoland tripoint which was about 1,850 meters northwest of the present tripoint with Ghana at pillar 148 of the Anglo–French demarcation of 1929.

APPENDIX

I. Documents

1. Convention between France and Germany, defining the Boundary between French Possessions of Dahomey and 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).
2. Convention between Great Britain and France, for the Delimitation of their respective Possessions to the West of the Niger, and of their respective Possessions and Spheres of Influence to the East of that River. Signed at Paris, June 14, 1898 [Ratifications exchanged at Paris, June 13, 1899]. BFSP, Vol. 91 (1898–9), pp. 38–57.
3. Notes exchanged between Great Britain and Germany defining the Boundary between the Gold Coast and Togoland to the North of the 9th degree of North Latitude, Berlin, June 25, 1904. BFSP, Vol. 99 (1905–6), pp. 363–5.
4. Agreement between Great Britain and France relative to the Boundary between the Gold Coast and the French Soudan. Notes exchanged in London, March 18, 1904, to July 19, 1906. BFSP, Vol. 99 (1905–6), pp. 203-17.
5. 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, September 28, 1912. Ibid., Vol. 106 (1913), pp. 1001–8 (French).

II. Maps

1. Survey of Ghana: scale 1:50,000; prepared 1963; sheet 1101 D4.
2. Institut Geographique National-Paris; scale 1:200,000; 1955-65; sheets NC-31-XII (Sananne-Mango), NC-31-XIX (Pama), and NC-30IXXIV (Tenkodogo).

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 the Office of Management and 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).