

# Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (BASE)

# **SpaceTimeIDs**: A novel approach for tracking boundary changes over time

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## Office of the Geographer and Global Issues (GGI)

- 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Office's founding
- Cartographic Production and Place Names
- Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB)
- Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (BASE)
- Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) and responsibilities under the Geospatial Data Act of November, 2018



## Office of the Geographer and Global Issues (GGI)

- Critical Questions...
  - How to move LSIB data production and GIS workflows forward in terms of sophistication, scalability, and dissemination?
  - How to leverage the massive amount of modern and historical information on boundary lines and associated documents?
  - How to increase value and accessibility for consumers of boundary information?



## Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB)

- These data and their derivatives are the only international boundary lines approved for U.S. Government use. They reflect U.S. Government policy, and not necessarily de facto limits of control.
- Sources for these data include treaties, relevant maps, and data from boundary commissions and national mapping agencies. Where available, the dataset incorporates information from courts, tribunals, and international arbitrations.
- The research and recovery of the data involves analysis of satellite imagery and elevation data.



## Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB)

• The LSIB are a US National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) and are a core layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

- The LSIB data are publicly released as open data on the State Department geospatial data portal:
  - Webpage: <a href="https://geonode.state.gov/layers/catalog:geonode:LSIB">https://geonode.state.gov/layers/catalog:geonode:LSIB</a>
  - Data download: <u>https://data.geonode.state.gov/LSIB.zip</u>



#### **Large Scale International Boundaries**



#### O Info

 $\equiv$  Attributes rightarrow Share rightarrow Ratings ightarrow Comments

- Title Large Scale International Boundaries
- License Public Domain / USG (PD/USG) (1)

#### Abstract Overview

The Office of the Geographer and Global Issues at the U.S. Department of State produces the Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB) dataset, currently at Version 11.1 (published 22 August 2022). The 11.1 release is primarily a data refinement release, further updating the line pairs described below in the Supplemental Information section. These data and their derivatives are the only international boundary lines approved for U.S. Government use. They reflect U.S. Government policy, and not necessarily de facto limits of control. This dataset is a National Geospatial Data Asset.

# Download Layer Metadata Detail View Layer Download Metadata Legend Boundary Status ✓ International Boundary (Rank 1) ✓ Other Line of International Separation (Rank 2) ✓ Special Line (Rank 3) Maps using this layer This layer is not currently used in any maps.

#### Styles

The following styles are associated with this layer. Choose a style to view it in the preview map.

• (default style) Boundary Status

#### About

Responsible, Point of Contact, Metadata Author

GGI

## **Elements of Boundary Data**

- Bilateral agreements
  - Negotiated between two entities
  - Entities change...(appear, disappear, change names)
- Grounded in legal agreements
  - Each boundary has any number of treaties and maps associated with it
  - Additionally, analysis documents and news reports may also be relevant
- Lines change over time (for several reasons)
  - New agreements
  - Better mapping data and technology
  - Entities change
- Lines are composed of smaller segments
  - Segments governed by different legal agreements
  - Status and recognition of a segment may be different
  - Multiple contrasting claims may be made over the same geographic area











A digital boundary data archive must accomplish **four** fundamental tasks:

- 1. Manage changes in the boundary alignment / spatial geometry and attributes associated with boundary lines and segments through space and time
- 2. Manage the hierarchical assembly of constituent line segments into international boundaries boundaries
- 3. Maintain the linkages between the line segments and the various kinds of relevant documents (artifacts)
- 4. Provide visualization, search, and access functions for both boundary lines and segments and documents

## Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (BASE)

- Official US government boundary repository
- New Version [2.0] is a fully interactive encyclopedia of officially recognized USG boundaries, policy narrative, artifacts, and geospatial data
- Cloud-hosted, internet accessible at https://statetoday.net/base
- Open to anyone in the USG with an official email
- Built to manage the entirety of the boundary and document repository in space and time
- Introduces new challenges when lines are managed as data, and not just as cartography
- Revised production, GIS, and dissemination workflows
- Required a new model of data management and a new concept of *SpaceTimeIDs*

## Challenges: LSIB, BASE, GIS, and SpaceTimeIDs

- Tracking change over time in the boundary data, both in terms of spatial alignment and attributes, requires specific geospatial workflows and versioning.
- Building a digital repository of associated documents, with the appropriate data tagging and organizational schema.
- Building a web application that unifies the spatial data with the document repository and provides visualization, search, and access at all levels of boundary data
- Maintaining links between changing boundary lines and document library



## SpaceTimeIDs

- Developed to solve the problem of linking changing boundaries to relevant documents
- Adapted from distributed version control systems used to manage software code (Git) and geospatial data (GeoGig)
- Leverages Universally Unique Identifiers (UUIDs) to encode the spatial and attribute configuration of a line segment at a point in time
  - Example: 123e4567-e89b-12d3-a456-426614174000
  - Citation <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universally\_unique\_identifier#Version\_4\_(random)</u>
  - Citation <u>https://www.iso.org/standard/53416.html</u>















## SpaceTimeIDs and Search

- SpaceTimeIDs allow a linkage between a document and a specific instance of a boundary line.
- The collection of SpaceTimeIDs (in the form of the PreviousID field) allows the database to understand that a document tagged as relevant to a specific boundary line (SpaceTimeID) is also relevant to a later version of that even...even if every other variable changed.
- For example, how would a treaty between Yugoslavia and Hungary be discovered in a search for relevant documents between Croatia and Hungary?



## BASE Organization / Web Application

- Lines and geospatial data in LSIB, global maritime limits and boundaries format
- **Boundary pages** with narrative information about each boundary, linked artifacts, and map of the boundary
- **Country pages** that show boundaries for a country or territory
- Artifact files like treaties, pictures, and articles that provide context to geospatial and narrative data



## **BASE Home Page**

- Explore BASE by country
  - Clickable map with links to country pages
- Discover boundary type navigation hubs
  - Global land boundaries
  - Global maritime boundaries
  - Global maritime limits







**Country Pages** 

- Find all boundary information for each country in the world.
- Interactive map to discover individual boundaries
- Tables of all a country's boundaries
- Country-level boundary narratives



#### GGGI DFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHE



**U.S. DEPARTMENT** of **STATE** 

## **BASE** by Boundary Type (Pages)

1. Contribute Content • View *land boundaries*, Mali - Mauritania - Land Boundar maritime boundaries, Pair Global Maritime Boundaries PORTAL MEMBERS and *maritime limits* 1. Contribute Content across the globe rance - United Kingdom Aaritime Boundary Pa maritime boundary pair Global Maritime Limits PORTAL MEMBERS **1** Contribute . . . Content ortugal (Extended Continental Shelf Limit) maritime limit Discover and navigate to pages for specific boundaries

Global Land Boundaries PORTAL MEMBERS



## Global Maritime Boundaries PORTAL MEMBERS





## Global Maritime Limits PORTAL MEMBERS

Content

1 Contribute 🖬 🕈



## Boundary and Segment Pages

- Dedicated pages for each land and maritime boundary, maritime limit, and segment
- Sourced narrative information describing the boundary and history
- Discover all "artifact" documents that provide historical context for a boundary
- "Child" segments of a boundary shown geospatially and in clickable table



🗙 Contribute 🛛 🛪

Overview

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

- Segment 1 [NORTHERN SEGMENT]: Beginning at the Djibouti tripoint on Madaha Djalelo hill at approx. 105955N 0425805E, the boundary connects to hilltops until 9N 044E, where it extends in a straight line to 8N 047E, and then along the parallel to 048E. This section was demarcated between 1929 and 1934.
- Segment 2 [CENTRAL SEGMENT]: Beginning at 8N 48E, the provisional administrative line runs SW in largely straight line segments connected to points associated with primarily populated places until the town of Dolo Odo (Dolo).
- Segment 3 [SOUTHERN SEGMENT]: Boundary follows the thalweg of the Daua/Dawa Wenz (Dewa) river from its confluence with the Genale Wenz (Ganale-Dorya) at the town of Dolo Odo to the Kenya tripoint (cf: ET-KE treaty of 9Jun1970).

#### ▲ Article Information



## **SpaceTimeIDs**

- Access historical versions of boundaries
- View key metadata of historical boundaries
- Discover artifacts associated with historical boundaries

← return to form



## Search and Discovery

- Use keyword search to find pages, files, and boundaries that match your search terms
- Use geospatial search to find information within an area you draw on a map

#### **Spatial Search** Map WKT 87 🕨 🔳 🔘 Î **г** п Map Satellite 6.4 Norwegian Sea and Iceland Sweden Russia Finland lorway Denmark United Kingdom Ireland Poland Germany Ukraine Kazakhstan Austria Mongolia France



## Artifact File Repository

- View and download artifacts providing source material for boundaries
  - Treaties
  - Maps
  - News articles
  - Government reports
- Filter with keywords
- Search with tags
  - Country
  - Boundary



#### Maps

- Image graphic showing transition from Dawa River to provisional administrative line<sup>[12]</sup>
- Frontier Area between Ethiopia and Trust Territory of Somalia<sup>[13]</sup>
- Southeastern Ethiopia, Status of Boundaries 1949<sup>[14]</sup>
- Map 1: To Illustrate the Italian and the Ethiopian Interpretations of the Convention of 16 May 1908<sup>[15]</sup>
- Map 2: To Illustrate the Italian and the Ethiopian Compromise Proposals<sup>[16]</sup>
- Ethiopia-Somalia1<sup>[17]</sup>
- Ethiopia-Somalia4<sup>[18]</sup>
- Ethiopia-Somalia5<sup>[19]</sup>
- "Frontiers and Colonial Boundaries, 1891-1960," from Somalia: A country study, p. 15<sup>[20]</sup>
- Servizio Cartografico del Ministero delle Colonie, "I territori della Somalia con l'indicazione de luoghi e di limiti politici ad illustr 1931, 1:3,000,000 scale (published by the United Nations in Document A/3502, Annex V, January 1957)<sup>[21]</sup>
- Linee Telegrafiche E Telefoniche (Eritrea, Etiopia, Somalia) (Scale 1:500,000; January 1957)<sup>[22]</sup>
- Former Italian Somaliland<sup>[23][24]</sup>

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL GUIDANCE: DEPICTION OF "PUNTLAND" AND "SOMALILAND" SECESSIONIST REGIONS:

Unlike the southern portion of Somalia, which has been without a functioning government in Mogodishu since 1991, "Puntland," at the British Somaliland in northwest Somalia, have each retained a level of administrative cohesion but clans clash over their common b secessionist "Somaliland" seeks international recognition as an independent state.

- These yet-unrecognized entities may be identified on maps intended to show their existence with line symbols and name type administrative political separation.
- The separation between the two entities, which is in dispute, is unclear and may or may not fall along the former Anglo-Italian

### Treaties And Other International Acts

- 1897 Treaty between Great Britain and Ethiopia [1897 Treaty];
- 1908 Agreement between Ethiopia and Italy [1908 Agreement];
- UK letter to UN Trusteeship Council defining 1950 provisional line [1950 letter]
- Anglo-Italian exchange of notes, November 22, 1933
- Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and Italy respecting concessions for a barrage at Lake Tsana and a r
- Anglo-Italian and Anglo-Ethiopian boundary coordinates from surveys<sup>[2]</sup>





## Roadmap

- Continued refinement and *automation* of the end-to-end geospatial processing for creating and disseminating the LSIB
- SpaceTimeID paper being drafted that formalizes much of the content in this talk
  - We believe the use of SpaceTimeIDs are broadly applicable to all boundaries (admin 1 and above as well as maritime)
- Overall goal is to open BASE to the public...
  - but requires a robust content review to remove any information that is limited by copyright or official use caveats



# SpaceTimeIDs and BASE

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