

Large Scale International Boundaries

Version 11.2

Release Date: February 1, 2023



Overview

The Office of the Geographer and Global Issues at the U.S. Department of State produces currently at Version 11.2 (published 01 February 2023). The 11.2 release is primarily a data refinement release, fixing attribute issues and updates to Geopolitical Entities, Names and Codes (GENC) Edition 3 Update 17. 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.

Details

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. Due to the limitations of source materials and processing techniques, most lines are within 100 meters of their true position on the ground.

Attributes

The dataset uses the following attributes:

| Attribute Name | Explanation |
|----------------|---|
| Country Code | Country-level codes are from the Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard. The Q2 code denotes a line representing a boundary associated with an area not in GENC. |
| Country Names | Names are approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). Names for lines associated with a Q2 code are descriptive and are not necessarily BGN-approved. |
| Label | Required text label for the line segment where scale permits |
| Rank/Status | Rank 1: International Boundary Rank 2: Other Line of International Separation Rank 3: Special Line |
| Notes | Explanation of any applicable special circumstances |

Cartographic Usage

Depiction of the LSIB requires a visual differentiation between the three categories of boundaries: International Boundaries (Rank 1), Other Lines of International Separation (Rank 2), and Special Lines (Rank 3). Rank 1 lines must be the most visually prominent. Rank 2 lines must be less visually prominent than Rank 1 lines. Rank 3 lines must be shown in a manner visually subordinate to Ranks 1 and 2. Where scale permits, Rank 2 and 3 lines must be labeled in accordance with the “Label” field. Data marked with a Rank 2 or 3 designation does not necessarily correspond to a disputed boundary.

Additional cartographic information can be found in Guidance Bulletins

(https://hiu.state.gov/data/cartographic_guidance_bulletins/) published by the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues.

Please direct inquiries to internationalboundaries@state.gov.

Credits

The lines in the LSIB dataset are the product of decades of collaboration between geographers at the Department of State and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency with contributions from the Central Intelligence Agency and the UK Defence Geographic Centre.

Attribution is welcome: *U.S. Department of State, Office of the Geographer and Global Issues.*

Changes from Prior Release

The 11.2 release is an update to the version 11 series and corrects a few errors in the attribute data and ensure the CC1 and CC2 attributes are in alignment with an updated version of the Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard, specifically Edition 3 Update 17. The version 11 sequence was a significant upgrade in the line geometry and those changes, categorized by boundary country pair, are listed below.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Akrotiri (UK) / Cyprus | • Croatia / Slovenia | • Italy / San Marino |
| • Albania / Montenegro | • Croatia / Hungary | • Kazakhstan / Russia |
| • Albania / Greece | • Croatia / Serbia | • Kazakhstan / Uzbekistan |
| • Albania / North Macedonia | • Croatia / Montenegro | • Kosovo / North Macedonia |
| • Armenia / Turkey | • Czechia / Slovakia | • Kosovo / Serbia |
| • Austria / Czechia | • Czechia / Poland | • Kyrgyzstan / Tajikistan |
| • Austria / Slovakia | • Czechia / Germany | • Kyrgyzstan / Uzbekistan |
| • Austria / Hungary | • Finland / Russia | • Latvia / Russia |
| • Austria / Slovenia | • Finland / Norway | • Latvia / Lithuania |
| • Austria / Germany | • Finland / Sweden | • Lithuania / Poland |
| • Austria / Italy | • France / Italy | • Lithuania / Russia |
| • Austria / Switzerland | • Georgia / Turkey | • Moldova / Ukraine |
| • Azerbaijan / Turkey | • Germany / Poland | • Moldova / Romania |
| • Azerbaijan / Iran | • Germany / Switzerland | • Norway / Russia |
| • Belarus / Latvia | • Greece / North Macedonia | • Norway / Sweden |
| • Belarus / Russia | • Guyana / Suriname | • Poland / Russia |
| • Belarus / Ukraine | • Hungary / Slovenia | • Poland / Ukraine |
| • Belarus / Poland | • Hungary / Serbia | • Poland / Slovakia |
| • Bhutan / India | • Hungary / Romania | • Romania / Ukraine |
| • Bhutan / China | • Hungary / Ukraine | • Romania / Serbia |
| • Bulgaria / Turkey | • Iran / Turkey | • Russia / Ukraine |
| • Bulgaria / Romania | • Iraq / Turkey | • Syria / Turkey |
| • Bulgaria / Serbia | • Italy / Slovenia | • Tajikistan / Uzbekistan |
| • Bulgaria / Romania | • Italy / Switzerland | |
| • China / Tajikistan | • Italy / Vatican City | |
| • China / India | | |

Version 11.0 and 11.1 also contained topology fixes, land boundary terminus refinements, and tripoint adjustments.

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Additional Information

For US government and military users, additional boundaries information and analysis can be accessed through the Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (BASE) web application maintained by the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues. BASE can be accessed on the internet at <https://statetoday.net/base>. Access requires a username and password which can be requested through the site for users with a .gov or .mil email address.