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**ERITREA/ETHIOPIA BOUNDARY**

**General Guidance**

Between 1998 and 2000, Eritrea and Ethiopia fought a bitter war principally over the location of their mutual boundary. To maintain the peace, the United Nations established a 25-kilometer wide buffer within Eritrea called a Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). After concerted mediation, the parties agreed to an independent Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) to delimit and immediately demarcate a final boundary. The Commission rendered its delimitation decision in April 2002. Discussions on the survey, erection of pillars, and removal of landmines continue. Ethiopia continues to protest certain sections of the arbitrated delimitation.

Until the boundary is demarcated and its exact location published, the delimited line as described in the April 2002 Boundary Commission Decision (and any subsequent amendments and directives) shall serve as the interim *de jure* international boundary for Eritrea and Ethiopia. The line shall be considered an indefinite international boundary and labeled "Approximate" along its entirety. U.S. Government cartographic products depicting this delimited boundary shall carry the following disclaimer and note:

DISCLAIMER: Boundary representation is approximate and is not authoritative.

NOTE: 2002 Arbitration boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia; final alignment pending demarcation.

Over half of the Commission's arbitration boundary follows the main channels of permanent and intermittent streams; about one third consists of straight-line segments; and the remainder traces around two populated areas, runs parallel to a road and follows along a historical boundary or watersheds. Pillars will be erected on land respecting the principle of intervisibility between markers. Certain corrections will have to be made during the demarcation to adjust designated coordinates to features referenced in the delimitation.

**Other boundaries and lines of separation**

The former provincial boundary prior to the war served as the *de facto* international boundary. It should no longer be depicted to represent the Eritrea-Ethiopia boundary. The TSZ limits, if shown, must be depicted as other lines of separation and are never to be construed as international boundaries. At present, the line representing the southern limit of the TSZ limit serves as a *de facto* line separating Ethiopian from Eritrean nationals until the Commission boundary is demarcated and issues related to the resettlement of borderland populations are resolved.

**Summary of primary segments delimited in the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission's arbitration decision**

Notes:

- Coordinates relate to World Geodetic System 84 (WGS84) datum
- Numbers in first column refer to segments shown on attachment map

<i><b>Segment</b></i>	<i><b>Coordinates</b></i>	<i><b>Segment Description</b></i>
1	14°15.4'N 36°33.6'E – 14°11.0'N 37°31.7'E	From the tripoint with Sudan along the main channel of the Setit river until the confluence of the Tomsa
2	14°11.0'N 37°31.7'E – 14°53.6'N 37°54.8'E	A straight line segment connecting the Setit-Tomsa confluence with the Mareb-Mai Ambessa confluence
3	14°53.6'N 37°54.8'E - 14°38.0'N 39°01.3'E	Along the main channel of the Mareb from the Mareb-Mai Ambessa confluence to the Mareb-Belesa confluence
4	14°38.0'N 39°01.3'E - 14°38.3'N 39°06.2'E	Along the main channel of the Belesa from the Mareb-Belesa confluence to the Belesa A and Belesa B confluence
5	14°38.3'N 39°06.2'E - 14°29.1'N 39°16.0'E	Along the main channel of the Belesa B from its confluence with Belesa A with a diversion around Tserona to an unnamed tributary upstream
6	14°37'31"N 39°12'01"E	Diverging from the Belesa B, the boundary runs around the town of Tserona approximately 1 km from its current outer edge in a manner to be determined more precisely during the demarcation
7	14°29.1'N 39°16.0'E - 14°28.3'N 39°14.9'E	Along the main channel of an unnamed tributary of the Belesa B from its confluence with the Belesa B up to its source
8	14°28.3'N 39°14.9'E - 14°28.0'N 39°14.8'E	A short straight-line segments across a small watershed connecting unnamed tributaries of the Belesa A and B
9	14°28.0'N 39°14.8'E - 14°27.1'N 39°13.7'E	From the source of an unnamed tributary from its source to its mouth at the confluence of Belesa A
10	14°27.1'N 39°13.7'E - 14°27.8'N 39°21.6'E	From the above unnamed tributary upstream along the main channel of Belesa A until the historic (provincial) boundary [as shown on the Soviet General Staff maps at 1:100,000 scale], where the line crosses overland along several undesignated turning points, until a point 100 meters west of the center of the main Addis Ababa-Asmara highway
11	14°27.8'N 39°21.6'E – unknown*	North along the line which runs 100 meters west of the main Addis Ababa-Asmara highway until intersecting the periphery boundary extending one kilometer out from the outer edge of Zalambessa
12	14°31'06N 39°23'00"E	The boundary extends one kilometer out from the outer edge of the town of Zalambessa from the point at the junction with the line 100 meters west of the main road clockwise approximately to a point indicated in the 1900 Treaty that coincides with the eastward watershed at the source of the Muna/Berbero Gado stream.
13	14°31.1'N 39°23.0'E - 14°30.1'N 39°32.3'E	Along the main Channel of the Muna/Berbero Gado from one of its headwater sources as indicated in the 1900 Treaty to the confluence of the Muna and Enda Dashim.
14	14°30.1'N 39°32.3'E - 14°31.3'N 39°30.4'E	Along the main channel of the Enda Dashim upstream from its confluence with the Muna to one of its tributaries flowing from the north.
15	14°31.3'N 39°30.4'E – 14°32.9'N 39°30.5'E	Along the main channel of an unnamed tributary upstream from its confluence with the Enda Dashim to a more northern branch of the tributary.
16	14°32.9'N 39°30.5'E – 14°34.3'N 39°31.7'E	Along the main channel of a northern branch of an unnamed tributary of the Enda Dashim to its source.
17	14°34.3'N 39°31.7'E - 14°34.8'N 39°31.9'E	Along a short overland transect between the source of a branch of an unnamed tributary of the Enda Dashim to the source of branch of an unnamed tributary that flows into the Endeli
18	14°34.8'N 39°31.9'E - 14°36.2'N 39°38.3'E	Along a main channel of an unnamed tributary of the Endeli from its source to its confluence with the Endeli
19	14°36.2'N 39°38.3'E - 14°27'N 39°59'E	Along main channel of Endeli river from its confluence with the above tributary to the undefined point where Muna/Endeli (near the town of Rendacoma) becomes the Ragali river
20	14°27'N 39°59'E -	Along main channel of Ragali river from where Muna/Endeli

	14°32.9'N 40°05.6'E -	becomes the Ragali to the Ragali delta
21	14°32.9'N 40°05.6'E - 14°33.1'N 40°08.5'E	Straight-line segment in the Ragali delta (intermittent salt lake)
22	14°33.1'N 40°08.5'E - 14°23.2'N 40°12.8'E	Straight-line segment in the Ragali delta (intermittent salt lake)
23	14°23.2'N 40°12.8'E - 14°24.1'N 40°14.9'E -	Straight-line segment
24	14°24.1'N 40°14.9'E - 14°08.5'N 40°52.7'E	Straight-line segment
25	14°08.5'N 40°52.7'E - 13°32.9'N 41°19.4'E	Straight-line segment
26	13°32.9'N 41°19.4'E - 13°24.8'N 41°34.9'E	Straight-line segment
27	13°24.8'N 41°34.9'E - 13°20.3'N 41°39.7'E	Straight-line segment
28	13°20.3'N 41°39.7'E - 13°05.5'N 41°53.8'E	Straight-line segment
29	13°05.5'N 41°53.8'E - 12°48.2'N 42°02.3'E	Straight-line segment
30	12°48.2'N 42°02.3'E - 12°45.9'N 42°13.1'E	Straight-line segment
31	12°45.9'N 42°13.1'E - to be determined at demarcation	Straight-line segment to a point located equidistant between the Eritrean and Ethiopian checkpoints on the road at Bure
32	To be determined at demarcation - 12°28.3'N 42°24.1'E	Straight-line segment between the Bure checkpoints to the tripoint with Djibouti

**Comparison of boundary place names referred to in the Commission decision, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, and other sources**

<i>Decision names</i>	<i>US BGN standard name</i>	<i>Other Sources*</i>
Adigrat	Ādīgrat	Adigrat
Belesa	Belesa Shet'	Belesa Shet
Belesa A	Belesa Shet'	Belesa Shet/Areynay Shet
Belesa B	Ruba Shur Shet'	Al'khal'/Ruba Sur Shet/Areynay Shet
Bure	Burē	Bure
Enda Dashim	Bī'ēra Shet'	[not named]
Endeli	Endeli	Endeli
Mai Ambessa	Ambessa	Boskva
Mareb	Mereb Wenz	Mereb (Gash), Mareb
Muna/Berbero Gado	Berberē Gado Shet'	Sesehayto Shet'/Mai Meshchereb/Kalay Temen/Berbere Gado Shet'/Muna
Ragali	[Endeli Ragali is a variant of Endeli]	Endeli Ragali
Rendacoma	Randakoma	Renda Koma, Rendakoma
Setit	Tekezē Wenz	Tekeze
Tomsa	Tomsa	Tomsa
Tserona	Tsorena	Tsorena
Zalambessa	Zela Āmbesa	Zela Ambesa

\* Soviet General Staff maps, UNMEE TSZ map

**Action**

Please disseminate this guidance to all personnel in your organization concerned with cartographic production.

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