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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

Series A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 15

MALAGASY REPUBLIC STRAIGHT BASELINES

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

STRAIGHT BASELINES OF THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC

The Government of the Malagasy Republic decreed on February 23, 1963 that the territorial sea of the state would be twelve nautical miles measured from straight baselines for most of the coast. The decree, published in the Journal Officiel de la République Malgache, No. 277, March 9, 1963, defined the straight baselines as follows:

Decree No. 63-131 Delimiting the Territorial Waters of the Malagasy Republic

...

Article 1

The external limit of the territorial sea is constituted by a line whose every point is situated at a distance of 12 nautical miles from the nearest point of the baseline, which is defined in the following article.

Article 2

The baseline, from which the territorial sea is measured, is the irregular polygon traced on the annexed map (see map, p. 652-3) and whose apexes are formed by the following points:

1. Cap d'Ambre	11°56' South 49°15' East	17. Nosy Lava	21°45' South 43°16' East
2. Nosy Anambo	12°16' S. 48°39' E.	18. Nosy Hao	22°05' S. 43°11' E.
3. Nosy-Lava	12°45' S. 48°40' E.	19. Les Coins de Mire	22°26' S. 43°15' E.
4. Nosy Iranja	13°35' S. 47°50' E.	20. Pointe Rendrehana	22°49' S. 43°21' E.
5. Nosy-Lava	14°32' S. 47°35' E.	21. Tuléar	23°22' S. 43°38' E.
6. Pointe Maromanjo	15°31' S. 46°28' E.	22. Falaises de Lanivato	24°20' S. 43°40' E.
7. Cap Saint-André	16°12' S. 44°27' E.	23. Cap Andriamanoa	25°00' S. 44°02' E.
8. I. Chesterfield	16°20' S. 43°58' E.	24. Nosy Manitra	25°14' S. 44°13' E.
9. Nosy Vao	17°30' S. 43°46' E.	25. Cap Sainte-Marie	25°35' S. 45°08' E.
10. Nosy Mavony	18°19' S. 43°45' E.	26. Faux Cap	25°35' S. 45°31' E.
11. Nosy Androtra	18°30' S. 43°48' E.	27. Baie de Ranofotsy	25°11' S. 46°43' E.
12. Cap Kimby	18°52' S. 44°15' E.	28. Pointe Itaperina	25°00' S. 47°06' E.
13. Delta de la Manombolo	19°03' S. 44°13' E.	29. Sainte-Luce	24°46' S. 47°13' E.
14. Ilot Indien	19°48' S. 44°22' E.	30. Foulpointe	17°41' S. 49°32' E.
15. Cap Ankarana	20°29' S. 44°07' E.	31. Pointe Albrand	16°42' S. 50°02' E.
16. Nosy Andriangory	20°50' S. 43°45' E.	32. Cap Bellone	16°13' S. 49°52' E.

33. Nosy Nepato	16°00' South 50°14' East	36. Nosy Ngotsy	15°16' South 50°28' East
34. Cap Tanjondaingo	15°48' S. 50°20' E.	37. Pointe de Vohémar (Harambazaha)	13°21' S. 50°01' E.
35. Nosy Voara	15°28' S. 50°27' E.	38. Nosy Akao	12°48' S. 49°51' E.

Article 3

The baseline between consecutive points is the straight line which connects them with the exception of points 29 (Sainte-Luce) and 30 (Foulpointe) where the baseline coincides with the low-water line of the coast.

...

Tananarive, 27 February 1963

The decree creates a continuous straight baseline (SBL) from point 30 counter-clockwise to point 29. The low-water mark of the intervening coast, between Points 29 and 30, which measures approximately 452 nautical miles, forms the normal baseline. The individual segments of the straight baseline are as follows:

Points	Distance (nautical miles)	Comments
1 - 2	40.0	The line joins the northern-most point of the island of Madagascar with an offshore island 10.5 nautical miles from mainland; deviates approximately 12° from general trend of coast which is embayed and fringed with many reefs as well as islets and rocks.
2 - 3	29.0	Two offshore islands are joined. The SBL cuts the general trend of the coast at an angle of approximately 32°.
3 - 4	70.8	Same. Angle to the general trend of the coast is 10°.
4 - 5	58.0	Same. Coastline is indented and fringed with approximately 16 islands and islets as well as with large patches of reef. Identical with general trend of coast.
5 - 6	86.0	Joins offshore island to mainland; encloses two deep legal bays; virtually no islands. SBL within 2° of general trend of coast.
6 - 7	123.1	One of longest single stretches of SBL in world; identical with general trend of coast. Encloses four bays and a coastal indentation of considerable area. SBL within 1 mile of two capes and 2 miles of another.
7 - 8	30.0	Joins mainland with island 30 miles offshore while continuing the general trend of the past section of coast, i.e. formed by SBL Sector 6-7. Mainland is quite smooth with virtually no islands.
8 - 9	70.9	Joins two distant offshore islands; SBL within 10° of general trend of coast but at an average distance of more than 20 nautical miles.
9 - 10	49.9	Joins two offshore islands (c. 11 - 19 n.m.) along a relatively smooth coast. Three islets, one seaward of SBL, and a half dozen patches of reef. Within 13° of general trend of coast.

Points	Distance (nautical miles)	Comments
10 - 11	11.0	Joins two offshore islets; relates to coast at an angle of 11°.
11 - 12	34.0	Joins islet to mainland, which since point 7 has been relatively smooth and without many islands. Encloses about 35% of the shallow Banc de Pracel, less than 25 fathoms. SBL varies from general trend of coast by c. 37°.
12 - 13	10.7	Joins two mainland capes; angle identical over short distance but 20° from general trend.
13 - 14	46.2	Joins two mainland capes; identical with general trend of coast, between points 9 and 14.
14 - 15	44.1	Joins two mainland capes; SBL at angle of 14° to general trend of the coast.
15 - 16	23.4	Same in angularity but joins mainland with offshore island (c. 8 n.m.). Few islands and generally smooth coast.
16 - 17	60.1	Joins two offshore islands. SBL within 4° of general trend of the coast. Ten isolated patches of reef; one continuous at southern point. Coastline smooth except for island development in delta of Mangoky River. See Summary below.
17 - 18	21.5	SBL begins to "bend" to conform with change in general direction of coast. Joins two offshore islands. Coast lined with reefs. Three islets seaward of SBL.
18 - 19	21.3	Same as above.
19 - 20	24.0	See Summary below.
20 - 21	35.1	See Summary below.
21 - 22	58.9	See Summary below.
22 - 23	46.1	Smooth coastline; angularity virtually zero. See Summary below.
23 - 24	16.4	Joins headland to small offshore island. Angular deviation approximately 4°.
24 - 25	51.8	Very smooth coastline without islands. Joins island to southern cape of Madagascar. Angle and general trend virtually identical.
25 - 26	20.8	Headland to headland enclosing shallow indentation. No islands. Angular deviation zero.
26 - 27	68.0	Smooth coast; no islands. Encloses wide but shallow indentation by joining headlands. See Summary below.
27 - 28	28.5	See Summary below.
28 - 29	14.0	Joins mainland capes. Deviation of angularity zero. Encloses several small bays and indentations. Termination of straight baselines. Low water mark of mainland forms baseline for approximately 452 nautical miles.

