International Boundary Making – The Case of the International Boundary between Israel and Jordan

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The FIG Publication on International Boundary Making
1. Theoretical and Methodological Chapter
   b. Order of Precedence of boundary definitions.
   c. The definition of the boundary delimitation in a Peace Agreement.
   d. Technical aspects supporting the process.

2. Practical Cases
   a. The Irak-Kuwait international boundary – Miklos Pinter.
   b. The Nepal-India International boundary – Buddhi Shrestha.
   c. The Ethiopia-Eritrea International boundary – Bill Robertson.
   d. The Israel-Jordan International boundary – Haim Srebro.
   e. The Cruatia-Serbia International boundary – Zaljko Bacic.
The Israel-Jordan International Boundary

Description of the Boundary

The Historical Background

- Order in Council 1922
- Centre of Wady Araba
- The interpretation of line of lowest points
- The 1946 demarcation
- The armistice period 1949-1967
- The de facto situation 1967-1994
- The Madrid process and the 1993 Common Agenda
- The boundary delimitation and Peace Treaty
The negotiations and the boundary delimitation

- The Common Agenda – with reference to the international boundary under the Mandate
- The practical negotiations 12/7/94-26/10/94
- The creation of a JTE
- The maps
- The geodetic framework
- The relations with the political level
- The boundary delimitation in the Peace Treaty

The delimitation of the boundary line in the Peace Treaty: The 1st orthophoto sheet
The boundary demarcation

- Demarcation of boundary pillars based on the line shown on the orthophoto maps
- Joint work, temporary markers with witness points, mine fields
- Construction of pillars and field placement
- Use of helicopters
- Special cases
The boundary documentation

- List of geographic and UTM coordinates
- IJBD94
- The list of coordinates when completed and agreed upon “shall be binding and shall take precedence over the maps . . .“
- JTE and JBC
Boundary Maintenance

- The role of the JBC and JTE
- Annual reconnaissance and meetings
- Maintenance of boundary pillars
- Reconstruction of boundary pillars
- Supporting boundary administration
- Enhancement of the boundary documentation
- Special cases: BP1, BP118, Yarmouk River
Lessons learned and Recommendations

• The delimitation of the international boundary is crucial to the achievement of a Peace Treaty and may be a cause for dispute and violence;
• Establishing a JTE as soon as possible is essential;
• Joint work in connection with decision makers;
• The boundary making process model is highly recommended;
• Joint pre-defined demarcation, documentation and maintenance is contributing.