

Developing good practice in boundary demarcation & maintenance

Working in groups, consider the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers, and for many of the questions you will need to discuss whether there are different answers for different boundary landscapes. Where possible, draw on your own experiences (simple maps of the countries represented at the workshop will be provided to each group to help you explain the challenges you face).

1. What are the minimum requirements for a boundary to be considered ‘visible on the ground’? If there were no financial constraints, what would your recommended guidelines be for boundary visibility?
2. Should existing features of the physical and/or human landscapes ever be used as boundary markers?
3. Should marker locations ever be chosen without a field survey? If so, under what circumstances? What would be the minimum cartographic / image quality requirements? If not, what tasks would justify the purchase of high-resolution satellite imagery or aerial photography of the boundary area?
4. Do boundaries which follow rivers or run through swamps or lakes ever need to be demarcated? If so, what demarcation guidelines would you recommend?
5. Should demarcation teams today be given freedom to adjust the line described in a delimitation agreement? If so, in what circumstances and by how much? Can you suggest suitable language for defining the level of freedom allowed in a boundary treaty or demarcation instructions?
6. What arguments can be used to help secure appropriate funding for demarcation and maintenance activities?
7. What specifications would you suggest for boundary monuments? What variations might be required in different physical and human geographical settings?
8. Is a dedicated boundary map an essential component of a clearly-defined boundary? If so, what recommendations would you make concerning scale and map design?
9. What should be avoided when establishing an international boundary commission?
10. How (if at all) should borderland communities be involved in demarcation and maintenance activities?