Country Profile: Benin

Country Profile (PDF)

Country Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Togo Regional Series 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps	DCNC	1:200,000	1984	2
Benin 1:50,000 Scale Topographic Maps	IGN	1:50,000	1951 – 1963	8
Togo 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps (IGN)	IGN	1:200,000	1955 – 1989	7

Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Benin 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Map	BRGM	1:1,000,000	1960	1
Burkina Faso 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Map (2003 Edition)	BRGM	1:1,000,000	2003	1
Mali 1:1,500,000 Scale Geological Maps	BRGM	1:1,500,000	1980	2
Burkina Faso 1:1,000,000 Scale Mineral Resources Map	BUMIGEB	1:1,000,000	2012	1
Burkina Faso 1:1,000,000 Scale Mining Concessions Map	BUMIGEB	1:1,000,000	2012	1
Burkina Faso 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Map	DGM	1:1,000,000	1976	1
Niger 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Maps	DGMG	1:1,000,000	1961	3
Niger 1:2,000,000 Scale Geological Maps	DGMG	1:2,000,000	1965	1
Togo 1:200,000 Scale Geological Maps	DGMG	1:200,000	1986	5
Togo 1:500,000 Scale Geological Map	DGMG	1:500,000	1986	1
Nigeria 1:3,000,000 Scale Geology and Mineral Deposits Map	FSN	1:3,000,000	1967	1
Ghana 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Map	GGS	1:1,000,000	2009	1
Ghana 1:1,000,000 Scale Geology and Mineral Resources Map	MC	1:1,000,000	2002	1
Nigeria 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Maps by Zone	NGSA	1:1,000,000	2006	6
Benin 1:200,000 Scale Geological Maps	OBEMINES	1:200,000	1972 – 1989	11

Thematic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
The World 1:30,000,000 Scale Topographic Map Series 1145 (NGA)	DMA	1:30,000,000		2

Global Census Archive: GIS Census Data

East View Geospatial has an ongoing effort to add GIS census data to our Global Census Archive program. Please contact us for the status and availability of Benin census resources.

Global Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military City Plans	VTU GSh	Varies	1944 – 2003	3,021
Soviet Military 1:100,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:100,000	1947 – 1999	24,897
Soviet Military 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:200,000	1949 – 2009	17,799
Soviet Military 1:500,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:500,000	1953 – 1998	3,093
Soviet Military 1:1,000,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:1,000,000	1948 – 1994	1,089

Nautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
NGA Nautical Charts POD Certified (All Scales)	NGA	Varies	1943 – 2013	4,517

Aeronautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Joint Operations Graphic (JOG 1501A) 1:250,000 – Aeronautical	DMA	1:250,000	1958 – 2007	6,380
Tactical Pilotage Chart (TPC) 1:500,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:500,000	1967 – 2006	618
Operational Navigation Chart (ONC) 1:1,000,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:1,000,000	1969 – 2001	248
Jet Navigation Chart (JNC) 1:2,000,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:2,000,000	1971 – 1999	117
Global Navigation and Planning Chart (GNC) 1:5,000,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:5,000,000	1981 – 1999	27

Note: East View Geospatial is continuously sourcing new resources that may not yet be listed in Global Explorer. Please contact us if you have geodata needs beyond what is listed above and we will be happy to discuss available off-the-shelf and custom solutions.

Shop all products in Global Explorer

Historical Country Mapping Information

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Country Profile (PDF)

Topographic

The Republic of Benin (formerly Dahomey) was mapped by the French **Institut Géographique National** (**IGN**) in three West African series in the 1950s and 1960s. The sheets in these series are all graticule-based with *International map of the World* (*IMW*) sheet numbering, and the projection is UTM, Clarke 1880 ellipsoid. The 1:200,000 scale series was compiled from aerial photography flown during the period 1949-1963, and all 19 sheets had been issued by 1972. The map is in four colours, with 40 m interval contours. The sheets are now very out-of-date, and a new series was planned in the 1980s on rationalized sheet lines which reduced the number of sheets to nine. Only one sheet, Abomey, has so far been published. 1:500,000 scale cover was completed in 1969.

The 1:50,000 scale map requires over 160 sheets for complete coverage, but only 77 have been published, mostly before 1980. These sheets are also in four colours, and the contours are at 20 m intervals.

Although Benin became fully independent in 1960, mapping continued to be carried out by the **IGN** from Paris and from its center at Dakar. In 1978, however, **Institut National de Cartographie** was created in Benin, and assumed responsibility for geodetic, topographic and cadastral survey and cartography. The organization is now called the **Institut Géographique National du Bénin** (**IGNB**), Cotonou. All recent mapping activity has been substantially dependent on overseas aid, principally from France, but there has also been technical assistance from Nigeria and World Bank support for large scale urban mapping.

A 48 sheet series of 1:25,000 scale maps of the coastal zone was initiated in 1991 as a joint project with IGN, Paris. The maps are in six colours with 5 m interval contours, and are on a UTM projection.

Soviet military topographic mapping for Benin exists at the the following scales; 1:1,000,000 (3 sheets, complete coverage, published in 1986); 1:500,000 (7 sheets, complete coverage, published in 1985) and 1:200,000 (27 sheets, complete coverage, published 1981-1982). These products are available in print, digital raster and digital vector GIS formats from **East View Geospatial**.

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Geological/Scientific

The **Office Beninois des Mines** (**OBEMINES**), Cotonou, has been undertaking production of a 1:200,000 series of geological maps to cover the country, to which the former USSR, France and Italy have all contributed. The first sheet, published in 1984, covered the breadth of the country between 9° and 10° N. In 1989, four further sheets were published, covering the north of the country. It is also intended to map the sedimentary basin (between 6° and 7°N) at 1:50,000 scale. A summary map of the whole country at 1:500,000 is also planned. The best available complete coverage remains the 1:2,000,000 *Carte géologique de l'Afrique Occidental*, published by the **French Bureau de Recherche Géologiques et Minières** (**BRGM**) in the 1960s.

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Soil

Soil mapping of Benin has been carried out by the **Institut Français de Recherche Scientifique pour le Développement en Coopération** (**ORSTOM**), and includes complete coverage with explanatory texts at 1:200,000 scale, some larger scale mapping of villages, and a single-sheet map of the country at 1:1,000,000 scale. **ORSTOM** has also compiled a bathymetric map of the continental shelf adjacent to Benin and Togo.

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Vegetation/Forestry

An important series of environmental maps is the *Carte de végétation du Benin* 1:100,000. This programme was initiated in 1993 and by 1997 was almost complete. It has been produced by the **Centre National de Télédétection et de Surveillance du Couvert Forestier** (**CENATEL**) using satellite image processing software and GIS.

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Cadaster

The urban areas of Benin have grown enormously over recent decades, and French aid facilitated the production of urban plans at scales of 1:5,000 and 1:10,000 in the 1980s. In 1986, the **Societé d'Etudes Regionales d'Habitat et d'Aménagement Urbain**, Cotonou, was founded with technical and financial support from France. Its remit includes thematic atlas mapping for the Région Sud and the Région Nord, and the production of maps and development plans for towns and cities. Urban cadastral registers are being established for Parakou, Cotonou and Porto Novo, and an urban reconstruction and development project is being undertaken. In 1993, the organization became **SERHAU-SEM** (**Société d'Economie Mixte**), and the following year acquired MapInfo software. Since then, the organization has created a multi-thematic digital atlas as part of its *Registre Foncicer Urbain de Cotonou*. Similar digital atlases are in preparation for Parakou and Porto Novo.

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Tourist/Reference

A street map of Cotonou was published in 1995 by the **Institut Géographique National** (**IGN**), France in association with **IGNB**. It includes a grid-referenced index to numbered buildings and to communes, roads and quartiers. For the whole country, there is a general map published by **IGN** in its *Pays et villes d'outre mer* series.

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Census/Demography/Statistics

The **Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique** (**INSAE**) was created in 1973 in preparation for the first population census, held in 1979. **INSAE** has produced census tract maps of the six provinces at scales of 1:100,000 and 1:200,000.

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