TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

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Chad

Country name	Chad
State title	Republic of Chad
Official languages	French (fra); Arabic (ara)[1]
Country name in official languages	(le) Tchad [fra]; Tshād [ara]
State title in official languages	République du Tchad [fra]; Jumhūrīyat Tshād [ara]
Script	French is written in Roman script. Arabic is written in Arabic script.
Romanization System	Romanization is not required for French. Arabic should be romanized using the BGN/PCGN Arabic Romanization System[2]
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	TD/TCD
Capital	N'Djaména

Introduction

Chad is a landlocked country in north-central Africa. It obtained independence from France in 1960. Chad has several regions: the Sahara Desert in the north, an arid Sahel belt in the centre and a more fertile savannah region in the south. Lake Chad, after which the country is named, is the largest wetland in Chad and the second largest in Africa, although the size of the lake has shrunk dramatically in recent decades.

Geographical names policy

Where possible, geographical names should be taken from official Chadian Roman-script sources. The names on such sources are for the most part found in a French style and should be taken as found. Maps produced by France's Institut géographique national, now called Institut national de l'information géographique et forestiére (IGN), may be used in the absence of Chad-produced sources. All diacritical marks (see page 2 for details), apostrophes and hyphens should be retained.

The difficulties of representing the many different African languages which have influenced the geographical names in Chad have inhibited a consistent approach to spellings on many sources. Various spellings may be encountered for a single place. Sources may also be inconsistent in their use of diacritics, hyphens and word division. The names recommended by PCGN are taken from the most recent official Chadian sources where possible; otherwise, for consistency, PCGN follows the IGN spellings.

Languages

Chad's official languages are Arabic and French[3], but over 100 languages and dialects are spoken. Both French and Chadian Arabic (the local spoken dialect) function as lingua francas.

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[1] Language codes given in this Factfile are ISO-639 codes
[2] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/858000/ROMANIZATION_OF_ARABIC.pdf
[3] https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Chad_2005.pdf

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Inventory of characters (and their Unicode[4] encodings)[5]:

French (and consequently Chadian Roman-script toponyms) contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Romanization (upper case)	Unicode encoding	Romanization (lower case)	Unicode encoding
À	00C0	à	00E0
Â	00C2	â	00E2
Ç	00C7	ç	00E7
È	00C8	è	00E8
É	00C9	é	00E9
Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
Ë	00CB	ë	00EB
Î	00CE	î	00EE
Ï	00CF	ï	00EF
Ô	00D4	ô	00F4
Œ	0152	œ	0153
Ù	00D9	ù	00F9
Û	00DB	û	00FB
Ü	00DC	ü	00FC
Ÿ [#]	0178	ÿ [#]	00FF

[#] rarely encountered

The BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Romanization (upper case)	Unicode encoding	Romanization (lower case)	Unicode encoding
'	2018 or 02BB	'	2019 or 02BC
Á	00C1	á	00E1
Ā	0100	ā	0101
Ḍ	1E10	ḍ	1E11
Ḥ	1E28	ḥ	1E29

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[4] See www.unicode.org

[5] Characters can be manually input into Microsoft word documents by typing in these character codes and then holding down the ALT key and pressing /x/. The code will change to the required character. The letter can be copied and pasted into other programmes if required. Alternatively, the 'Insert – Symbol' command can be used; the code can be entered into the 'Character code' box which will show the corresponding letter.

A GeoNames Soft-Copy Keyboard can be downloaded from the NGA website and used to enter the required letter-diacritic combinations for a particular region: http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/gns_services.html.

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Romanization (upper case)	Unicode encoding	Romanization (lower case)	Unicode encoding
Ī	012A	ī	012B
Ş	015E	ş	015F
Ţ	0162	ţ	0163
Ū	016A	ū	016B
Ẕ	005A+0327*	ẕ	007A+0327*

*Note, the z + cedilla is not available as a single encoding.

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Administrative structure

At first-order administrative level (ADM1), Chad is divided into 23 provinces[6] (French: *province*; Arabic: *wilāyah*). The capital N'Djaména is an ADM1 called Ville de N'Djaména. The provinces are further subdivided into departments (French: *département*; Arabic: *muḥāfaẓah*) at second-order (ADM2) level. At third-order (ADM3) level, these are subdivided into Communes (French: *commune*; Arabic: *baladīyah*). Details of the ADM1s of Chad are listed below. The French names are those that PCGN recommends for use on UK products.

ADM1 French short-form name	ADM1 French long-form name	ADM1 Arabic short-form name	ADM1 Arabic long-form name	Variant names/ spellings	ISO 3166-2 code	ADM1 Location	Administrative centre (PPLA) French name [variant names for reference]	PPLA Arabic name	PPLA location
Bahr el Ghazel	Province du Bahr el Ghazel	بحر الغزال (Baḥr al Ghazāl)	ولاية بحر الغزال (Wilāyat Baḥr al Ghazāl)	Barh-el-Gazel[7]; Barh-El-Gazel; Bahr al Ghazel	TD-BG	14° 40' 00" N, 016° 55' 00" E	Moussoro	موسورو (Mūsūrū)	13° 38' 40" N, 016° 29' 22" E
Batha	Province du Batha	البطحاء (Al Baṭḥā')	ولاية البطحاء (Wilāyat al Baṭḥā')		TD-BA	14° 00' 00" N, 019° 00' 00" E	Ati	آتيا (Atiyā)	13° 12' 50" N, 018° 20' 21" E
Borkou	Province du Borkou	بوركو (Būrkū)	ولاية بوركو (Wilāyat Būrkū)	Bourkou, Borko, Bourko	TD-BO	18° 15' 00" N, 018° 30' 00" E	Faya	فايا (Fāyā)	17° 55' 33" N, 019° 06' 15" E
Chari-Baguirmi	Province du Chari-Baguirmi	شاري باقرمي (Shārī Bāqirmī)	ولاية شاري باقرمي (Wilāyat Shārī Bāqirmī)		TD-CB	11° 20' 24" N, 016° 15' 00" E	Massenya [Massenia]	ماسنيا (Māsiniyā)	11° 24' 12" N, 016° 10' 13" E
Ennedi-Est	Province de l' Ennedi-Est	إنيدي الشرقي (Inīdī ash Sharqī)	ولاية إنيدي الشرقي (Wilāyat Inīdī ash Sharqī)		TD-EE	17° 45' 00" N, 023° 10' 00" E	Am-Djarass [Amdjarass;Am Djarass]	ام جرس (Am Jaras)	16° 04' 00" N, 022° 50' 07" E

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[6] The ADM1s were previously called regions. The regions were re-classified as provinces in Ordonnance No.038/PR/2018 issued by the president.

[7] The spelling Barh-el-Gazel may be encountered for the province name. The province is named after the wadi so the spelling Bahr in Roman-script is more representative of the Arabic generic term in the wadi name.

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Ennedi-Ouest	Province de l' Ennedi-Ouest	إنيدي الغربي (Inīdī al Gharbī)	ولاية إنيدي الغربي (Wilāyat Inīdī al Gharbī)		TD-EO	18° 24' 00" N, 021° 24' 00" E	Fada [Fort de Fada]	فدا (Fadā)	17° 11' 31" N, 021° 34' 51" E
Guera	Province du Guera	قيرا (Qīrā)	ولاية قيرا (Wilāyat Qīrā)		TD-GR	11° 30' 00" N, 018° 30' 00" E	Mongo	منقو (Munqū)	12° 11' 06" N, 018° 41' 18" E
Hadjer-Lamis	Province de Hadjer-Lamis	حجر لميس (Ḥajar Lamīs)	ولاية حجر لميس (Wilāyat Ḥajar Lamīs)		TD-HL	12° 40' 00" N, 016° 10' 00" E	Massakory [Massakori]	مسكوري (Masakūrī)	12° 59' 53" N, 015° 43' 55" E
Kanem	Province du Kanem	كانم (Kānim)	ولاية كانم (Wilāyat Kānim)		TD-KA	15° 00' 00" N, 015° 00' 00" E	Mao	ماو (Māw)	14° 07' 22" N, 015° 18' 43" E
Lac	Province du Lac	البحيرة (Al Buḥayrah)	ولاية البحيرة (Wilāyat al Buḥayrah)		TD-LC	13° 30' 00" N, 014° 30' 00" E	Bol	بول (Būl)	13° 28' 02" N, 014° 42' 49" E
Logone Occidental	Province du Logone Occidental	لوغون الغربي (Lūghūn al Gharbī)	ولاية لوغون الغربي (Wilāyat Lūghūn al Gharbī)	لوقون الغربي (Lūqūn al Gharbī)	TD-LO	08° 45' 10" N, 015° 52' 20" E	Moundou [Mondu, Moundu, Mondou]	مندو (Mundū)	08° 34' 28" N, 016° 04' 38" E
Logone Oriental	Province du Logone Oriental	لوغون الشرقي (Lūghūn ash Sharqī)	ولاية لوغون الشرقي (Wilāyat Lūghūn ash Sharqī)	لوقون الشرقي (Lūqūn ash Sharqī)	TD-LR	08° 15' 00" N, 016° 25' 12" E	Doba	دوبا (Dūbā)	08° 39' 50" N, 016° 51' 12" E
Mandoul	Province du Mandoul	ماندول (Māndūl)	ولاية ماندول (Wilāyat Māndūl)		TD-MA	08° 19' 46" N, 017° 54' 56" E	Koumra [Koumbra]	كمرا (Kumrā)	08° 54' 57" N, 017° 33' 02" E

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Mayo-Kébbi-Est	Province du Mayo-Kebbi-Est	مايو كيبي الشرقي (Māyū Kībī ash Sharqī)	ولاية مايو كيبي الشرقي (Wilāyat Māyū Kībī ash Sharqī)	Mayo-Kebbi-Est, Mayo-Kebbi Est	TD-ME	10° 00' 00" N, 015° 49' 48" E	Bongor	بنقور (Bunqūr)	10° 16' 51" N, 015° 22' 27" E
Mayo-Kébbi-Ouest	Province du Mayo Kebbi-Ouest	مايو كيبي الغربي (Māyū Kībī al Gharbī)	ولاية مايو كيبي الغربي (Wilāyat Māyū Kībī al Gharbī)	Mayo-Kebbi-Ouest Mayo-Kebbi Ouest	TD-MO	09° 19' 48" N, 014° 45' 00" E	Pala [Palla]	بالا (Bālā)	09° 21' 53" N, 014° 54' 26" E
Moyen-Chari	Province du Moyen-Chari	شاري الأوسط (Shārī al Awsaţ)	ولاية شاري الأوسط (Shārī al Awsaţ)		TD-MC	09° 20' 00" N, 018° 30' 00" E	Sarh [Sahr, Sagh]	سار (Sār)	09° 08' 44" N, 018° 23' 00" E
N'Djaména	Ville de N'Djaména	أنجمينا (Injamīnā)	مدينة أنجمينا (Madīnat Injamīnā)	Ndjamena; N'Djamena	TD-ND	12° 07' 00" N, 015° 04' 00" E	N'Djaména [Ndjamena, N'Djamena]	أنجمينا (Injamīnā)	
Ouaddaï	Province du Ouaddaï	وَدَاي (Waddāy)	ولاية وَدَاي (Wilāyat Waddāy)	Ouadaï; Ouaddat	TD-OA	13° 30' 00" N, 021°15' 00"E	Abéché [Abeche,Abacher, Abécher]	أبشة (Abishah)	13° 49' 40" N, 020° 49' 49" E
Salamat	Province du Salamat	سلامات (Salāmāt)	ولاية سلامات (Wilāyat Salāmāt)		TD-SA	11° 00' 00" N, 020° 30' 00" E	Am-Timan [Am Timan, Am Timane, Am Timmane, Umm Timman]	ام التيمان (Am at Timān)	11° 02' 36" N, 020° 17' 00" E
Sila	Province du Sila	سيلا (Sīlā)	ولاية سيلا (Wilāyat Sīlā)		TD-SI	12° 15' 00" N, 021° 30' 00" E	Goz-Beïda [Goz-Beida, Goz Beïda]	قور بيضة (Qūz Bayḍah)	12° 13' 35" N, 021° 24' 35" E

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Tandjile	Province de la Tandjile	تانجيلي (Tānjīlī)	ولاية تانجيلي (Wilāyat Tānjīlī)		TD-TA	09° 30' 00" N, 016° 30' 00" E	Laï	لاي (Lāy)	09° 23' 59" N, 016° 17' 54" E
Tibesti	Province du Tibesti	تبستي (Tibistī)	ولاية تبستي (Wilāyat Tibistī)		TD-TI	20° 20' 00" N, 016° 40' 00" E	Bardaï	برداي (Bardāy)	21° 21' 17" N, 017° 00' 06" E
Wadi-Fira	Province du Wadi-Fira	وادي فيراء (Wādī Fīrā')	ولاية وادي فيراء (Wilāyat Wādī Fīrā')	Wadi Fira	TD-WF	15° 00' 00" N, 021° 30' 00" E	Biltine	بلتن (Biltin)	14° 31' 38" N, 020° 55' 34" E

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Other Significant Locations

PCGN Recomm- ended Name	Name in Arabic	Conventional Name	Variant Names/ Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Lake Chad	بحيرة تشاد (Buḩayrat Tshād)	Lake Chad	French: Lac Tchad Tsad, Tschad	13° 20' 00" N, 014° 00' 00" E	lake
Sahara Desert	الصحراء (Aş Şaḩrā')	Sahara Desert	Sahra	26° 00' 00" N, 013° 00' 00" E	desert
Chari	شاري (Shārī)	-	Shari, Schari, Sari	12° 58' 38" N, 014° 30' 43" E	river
Logone	لوغون (Lūghūn)	-	Logon, Lagone, لوقون (Lūqūn)	12° 06' 11" N, 015° 02' 02" E	river
Emi Koussi	إيمي كوسي (Īmī Kūsī)	-	Emi Koussou	19° 49' 02" N, 018° 28' 32" E	mountain
Tibesti Mountains	جبال تبستي (Jibāl Tibistī)	Tibesti Mountains	-	21° 30' 00" N, 017° 30' 00" E	mountain range
Bahr el Ghazal	بحر الغزال (Baḩr al Ghazāl)	-	El Ghazel, Bahr el Gazal	13° 00' 31" N, 015° 26' 44" E	wadi

Useful references

- BBC Country Profile: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13164686
- BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/858000/ROMANIZATION_OF_ARABIC.pdf
- CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cd.html
- Ethnologue: www.ethnologue.com (for information on language)
- FCDO Travel Advice: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/chad
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/
- Languages of Chad: https://www.ethnologue.com/country/td/languages
- Library of Congress, Chad country study: https://www.loc.gov/item/89600373/
- Omniglot: www.omniglot.com (for information on language and scripts)
- President of Chad: https://www.presidence.td/
- Statoids: http://www.statoids.com (for information on administrative divisions)
- Unicode: https://home.unicode.org/
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server (GNS): http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/

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July 2021