

Geodetic Datum of Indonesian Maritime Boundaries: Status and Problems

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SUMMARY

Indonesia has maritime boundaries with 10 countries namely: Australia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Palau, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and India. Many treaties have been ratified concerning these boundaries. Unfortunately, many coordinates of boundary points mentioned in the treaties are not clear in relation with their geodetic datum.

The uncertainty in geodetic datum of boundary points introduces complications and problems in spatial management of Indonesia's maritime boundaries, since it can displace the boundary lines from their assumed true location. The displacements of boundaries in WGS84 datum are generally in the order of a few hundred meters, i.e. about 200 to 400 m, depending on the assumed original geodetic datum of the boundaries stated in the treaties. These boundary displacements are spatially advantageous for Indonesia in some cases and also disadvantageous in others. Paper will be sum up with some conclusions and recommendations.