

DJIBOUTI: Administrative Divisions

The first-order administrative division structure of Djibouti was altered on 7th July 2002, by Law No 174/AN/02/4^{ème}. This law was published in the *Journal Officiel de la République de Djibouti* and can be seen at:

<http://www.presidence.dj/LES%20TEXTES/loi174an02.htm>

The purpose of the law was to make the *région* the primary administrative unit of the country, replacing the former *district*. A secondary unit, the *commune*, was also created by this law, with details to be determined at a later juncture (Article 3). Presumably the *commune* would function as a second-order administrative division. Note that in this Law, the term *collectivité territoriale* is used in a very general all-encompassing sense to denote both forms of administrative unit; it is not the generic term applicable to individual units at either level.

The first-order units created by this Law are:

Région d'Arta
Région d'Ali Sabieh
Région de Dikhil
Région d'Obock
Région de Tadjourah

Article 4 notes that this Law does not encompass “Djibouti-Ville”, which is to be subject to separate provisions of its own. These provisions were subsequently detailed 9th April 2003, as Arrêté No 2003-0278/PR/MID, also published in the *Journal Officiel de la République de Djibouti*. It can be seen at:

<http://www.presidence.dj/LES%20TEXTES/arr0278pr03.htm>

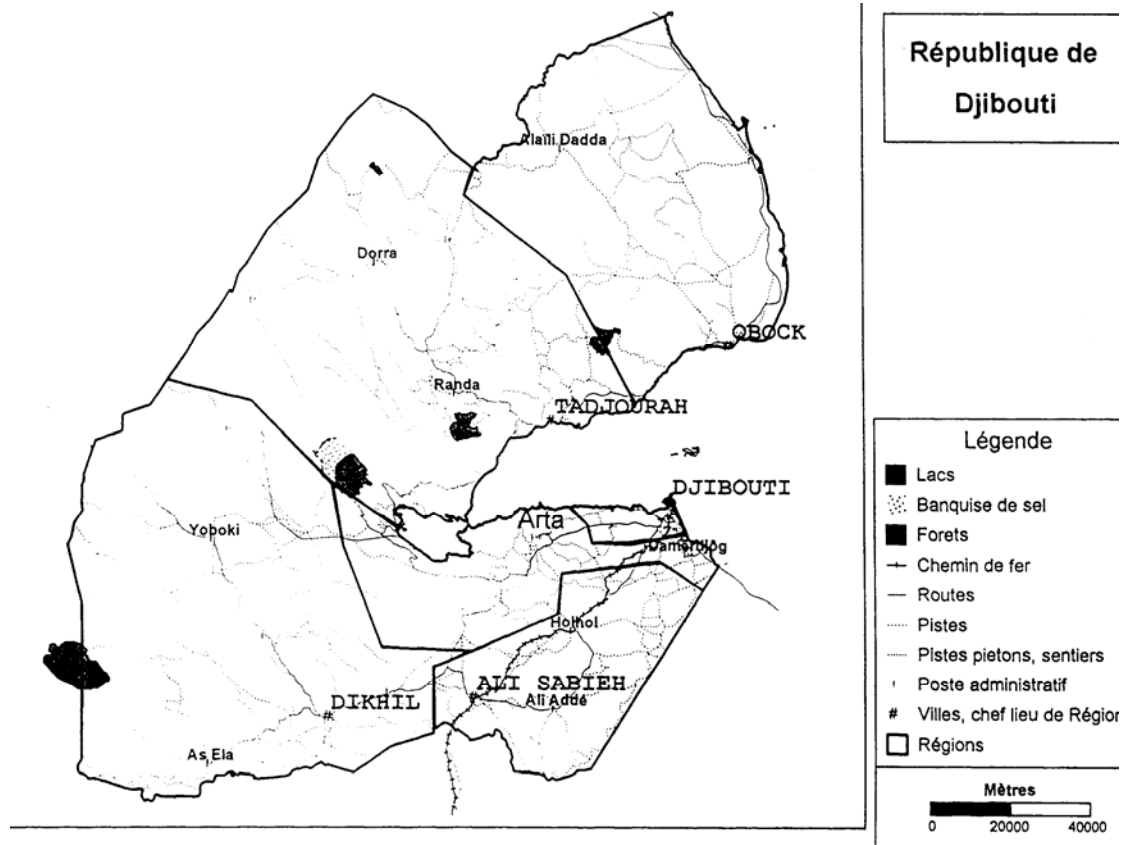
The Annex to this web page consists of a sketch map of the new first-order divisions¹. This legislation also notes that the town of Djibouti is itself divided into 6 sectors, each an *arrondissement*.

¹ <http://www.presidence.dj/cartearr0278.htm> A copy is reproduced overleaf.

Putting these two pieces of legislation together, the first-order administrative structure of Djibouti now consists of the following 6 units:

Ali Sabieh , Région d'	admin centre = Ali Sabieh	1109N 4242E
Arta , Région d'	admin centre = Arta	1131N 4250E
Dikhil , Région de	admin centre = Dikhil	1106N 4222E
Djibouti , Ville de	admin centre = Djibouti	1135N 4308E
Obock , Région d'	admin centre = Obock	1157N 4317E
Tadjourah , Région de	admin centre = Tadjourah	1147N 4253E

[Permissible short forms of the above names are in **bold type**]



Note:

Until the 2002 reorganisation, there were 5 first-order administrative divisions of Djibouti, all with the term *district*.

Ali Sabieh	full form =	District de 'Ali Sabieh	centred at 1115N 4300E
Dikhil		District de Dikhil	centred at 1130N 4215E
Djibouti		District de Djibouti	centred at 1130N 4315E
Obock		District d'Obock	centred at 1115N 4300E
Tadjoura		District de Tadjoura	centred at 1200N 4230E

[The 2002 legislation also revises the spelling *Tadjoura* in favour of *Tadjourah*].

PCGN
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