

# CHAD TT8KO DXPEDITION (op LA7GIA)

## Part 1/2

Republic of Chad is a landlocked country in Central Africa and Africa's 5th largest country. The most popular religion of Chad is Islam (at 55%), followed by Christianity (at 40%). In 1960, Chad obtained independence from France as many other African countries during that period. While many political parties are active, Chad is a centralized, authoritarian state, with little democratic tradition and a fragmented political opposition. Power lies firmly in the hands of President Déby who has been the President since 1990. According to the new constitution, President Deby can stay in power until 2033. Chad remains plagued by political violence and recurrent attempted coups d'état, and is ranked among the world's poorest countries on UN human development index.

## PLANNING

I started planning to go to Chad just after I returned from Somalia as 6O6O in January. I was looking into a couple of options but knowing that Chad is ranked high up on lower bands made the difference. Getting the license wasn't that difficult except they had a somewhat strict licensing process. They required that I obtained a VISA as a proof of my stay in Chad. However, their European Embassy would not issue the Visa until 2 months prior to my arrival, and when my professional agent finally presented the application in person at the embassy in Germany, they refused to issue the

VISA. My agent had to bring my passport back to Norway, before we made a successful attempt some weeks later. After a long discussion with ARCEP (the regulator) I could file my license application without having the VISA, but I had to send a copy of the VISA when I received it, as that was necessary to have the license application approved. ARCEP also required the address of where I was staying

**AUTORITE DE REGULATION DES COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONIQUES ET DES POSTES**  
ARCEP

DIRECTION GENERALE  
DIRECTION DES RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS ET NORMALISATIONS  
Service des Agréments & Informatique

N° ARCEP/06/DIR/SAL/2018

**CERTIFICAT D'EXPLOITATION DE LICENCE RADIOAMATEUR**

- Vu la Loi N° 013/PR/2014 du 14 mars 2014, portant régulation des Communications Electroniques et des Activités Postales ;
- Vu la Loi N° 014/PR/2014 du 21 mars 2014, portant sur les Communications Electroniques ;
- Vu le Décret N° 1606/PR/PM/MPNTIC/2014 du 16 décembre 2014, portant Organisation et Fonctionnement de l'ARCEP ;
- Vu le Décret N° 1485/PR/MPNTIC/2018 du 3 août 2018, portant nomination à des postes de responsabilité de l'ARCEP ;
- Vu la demande présentée par Monsieur Kenneth OPSKAR pour autorisation d'exploitation d'une station Radioamateur ;

Monsieur Kenneth OPSKAR  
Radisson Blue Hôtel – N'Djamena

Est autorisé à partir du 09 octobre au 08 novembre 2018 à établir et exploiter une station RADIO-AMATEUR, dans les conditions générales prescrites par les règlements nationaux et internationaux de l'UIT en vigueur et conformément aux conditions particulières indiquées ci-dessous.

Mode de transmission : Phonie et graphie ;  
Indicatif : TT8 KO ;  
Station utilisée : Radioamateur ;  
Puissance : 100w  
Certificat d'opérateur : Radioamateur

Date limite de validité : 09/10/2018 au 08/11/2018

Délivré à N'Djamena, le 13.0. AOÛT 2018

Dr HAGGAR BACHAR SALIM  
ARCEP B.P. 5808 N'Djamena – TCHAD - Tél : +235 22 52 15 17 / 22 52 15 18 - Fax : +235 22 52 15 15 - Avenue Général Dassaï Soumaine

## TT8KO authorizathion

such countries like Somalia and Chad is not always easy, and only a few banks allow transactions to these countries. Many of these countries do not use the IBAN/SWIFT details, and the transaction can very easily be stuck in the system or returned.

N'Djamena is the capital city with a population of about 750.000. I knew that the previous DX-peditions to Chad had problems with noise on lower bands. I chatted with several of them prior to going there. I tried to put some effort into choosing a good QTH – which isn't easy in such a city. The first hotel I dealt with refused to host my antennas and radios. They said this is a country where telecom is a sensitive issue and would not let me do the installation. Leaving the best option, I talked to the next one. They had a large plot which would accommodate my RX antennas (beverage), as

ARCEP also let me wire transfer the 30 USD license fee to their bank account. Wire transfer money to

well my low band verticals. After discussing the installation with them, they refused to do anything due to security until I sent a copy of the authorization. Obtaining the license took about one month. It was also forwarded to the security police. The reason was that there were a lot of Embassy's nearby the hotel, including the US Embassy, and the hotel wanted to check with the security police that transmission was ok. After security police had seen it, they confirmed the authorization was good. Hence, I had all permission that was necessary. I had the authorization issued by the Ministry, I had the security police confirmation, I had the Hotel Managers approval of my installation, and I also meanwhile had obtained equipment admission certificates to bring my equipment into Chad. All HF equipment to be imported temporary to Chad is by law subject to an admission fee (yes, I have a copy of the paragraphs).



***2 el Mosley beam up 25 meter***

Now, I was really looking forward to this trip. I planned to install a 26-28m tall top loaded 160m vertical with 2-3 elevated radials, a 13m top loaded 80m vertical on Spider pole in the garden with ground radials. At the roof, 25m above ground level I planned to install my favorite Mosley mini 32AW 20-10m beam which has served me so well in the past 5 DXpeditions. It's a great beam! As well at the roof I would have my favorite homebrew fan dipole for 40+30m up about 25-30 meter. The dipole is made of spare parts, some left over antenna wire, baseboard as spacers, and I put it in a plastic bag. All my equipment weighted about 105 kg / 230 pound, I had about 1700m/5500 feet of wire and coax with me to Chad. I had an upgraded Elecraft K3 radio, a 1 kW JUMA lightweight amplifier, and an Elecraft KX3 as backup. I had a Remote QTH RX antenna system; a directional beverage kit and K9AY RX loop (4 directions) ([www.remoteqth.com](http://www.remoteqth.com)), including a custom-made RX controller. I also had some 250 m/ 800 feet of receiving 75 ohm coax, some sponsored by DX Engineering.



***40+30m homebrew fan dipole***



***Beverage antenna 1.0m/3 feet height***

## GOING TO CHAD

The day of departure all gear was packed. I had a full working day at the office before I headed to Oslo airport in the afternoon. I checked-in on an Ethiopian Airlines flight going to N'Djamena with a change of flight in Addis Ababa, before the final leg to Chad.

Arriving in the very small airport in N'Djamena the following day, I was quite relieved to see all my luggage at the bag belt. I headed for baggage screening, but when they checked all my gear, they immediately took all my bags and locked them in a room out of my sight. I showed them all papers, but still had to wait for the big boss. It was 3-4 other people in same situation. I was worried, but after 30 min waiting time, I met the big boss in his office smoking a cigar. He checked all my papers, we had a brief chat, and he said I could go if I took the gear with me when I left Chad. I was very relieved when I headed for the hotel. Despite all the discussion with the hotel about my room location facing the North side of the building, they had failed to make a reservation in the part I wanted. It took a while to sort out this, but finally I was happy and could continue with the installation. The hotel manager wanted me to rest, but there was no time for resting in the schedule so after 2,5 hours my beam, dipoles and 200m beverage to EU/NA was up, and radio and all gear installed just prior to sunset. The installation was carefully planned upfront and all bags packed accordingly. The hotel had provided me with many detailed photos, so I knew exactly how it looked. I knew all about their satellite dishes, the weather station, the lightning arrestors, the security cameras, the router, dimensions of roof&hotel, directions, heights of structures and so on.



### ***80m top loaded vertical***

check my station. I did not mind. I continued with the transmission. Still great signal all over! Late in the afternoon the Mosley beam failed! I had high SWR and the PA tripped, still I run the pileup with 3W for some minutes! After some checking's, I decided to continue with the backup dipole (yes always bring spare parts and backups...).

I planned to install the 80m antenna the following day, and 160m the third day if the beverage worked well. The first night I started on 15m before I changed to 40m about 22 UTC. The signals were fantastic on 15 and 40m. The beam was excellent in that position up 25m. The beverage was located about 150m from the hotel and in a 500m/1500 feet radius there were almost no houses. The beverage was very quiet, and many NA stations had booming signals throughout the night on 40m (S9)

After 43 hours (!) with almost no rest, I slept for 3 hours that night before I continued. I had a great time! The next day at lunch time I installed the 80m vertical antenna, as I planned to be on 80m in the evening. At the same time, I had a phone call from the reception. There were some people looking for me, and in the reception the national security police waited. We had a talk about my equipment and authorization for about 20 minutes.

They said they would return later that evening to

At 18 UTC, after exactly 24h operation I managed 2135 CW QSOs while sleeping, eating, doing the 80m vertical antenna installation, talking to national security police, meeting the hotel management, and dealing with a failed beam. I decided to have a few hours break before continuing 80m.

I had rested for about 5 min before the receptionist called me again and let me know I had some guests waiting.

I went down to the reception.

=====