



ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiative

QGIS

Module 02.13: Importing Shapefiles

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ASOR QGIS Module 02.13 – Importing Shapefiles

QGIS is a free and open source Geographic Information System (GIS), or geodatabase, licensed under the GNU General Public License. QGIS runs on Linux, Unix, Mac OSX, Windows and Android and supports numerous vector, raster, and database formats and functionalities. Download QGIS here: <https://qgis.org/>.

QGIS users can view, edit, and analyze spatial information through its free software toolkit.

This **ASOR Tutorial (02.13)** provides instructions on importing shapefiles into QGIS.

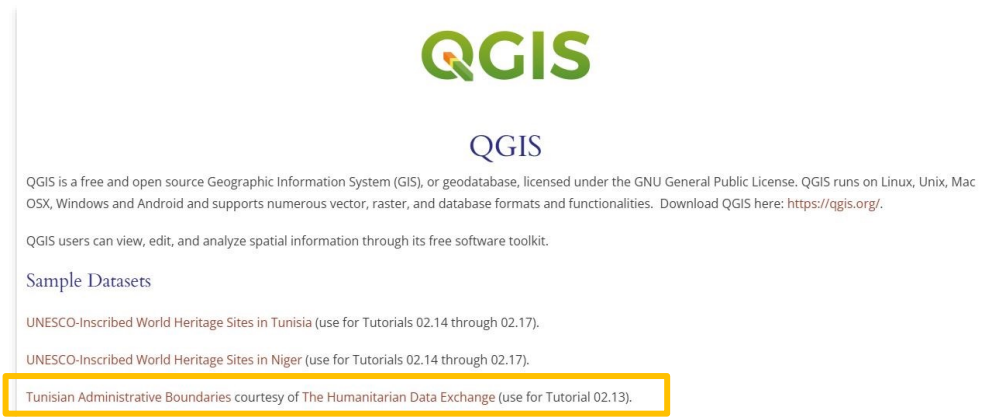
KEY CONCEPTS

- ❖ **Shapefiles in QGIS** – A shapefile consists of at least three associated files; all must be kept together when moving to a new folder to ensure proper rendering in QGIS.
- ❖ **Importing a Shapefile** – To import, use *Layer > Add Layer > Add Vector Layer*, select the .shp file from the unzipped folder (choose the simplified file in this tutorial), and click *Add* to display it in the map viewer.
- ❖ **Layer Management** – After adding, the shapefile appears in the Layers Panel; users may need to adjust its position or symbology to make it visible and styled properly.

IMPORTING SHAPEFILES

Download the Tunisian Administrative Boundaries shapefile from ASOR's tutorial webpage:

<https://www.asor.org/chi/chi-tutorials>



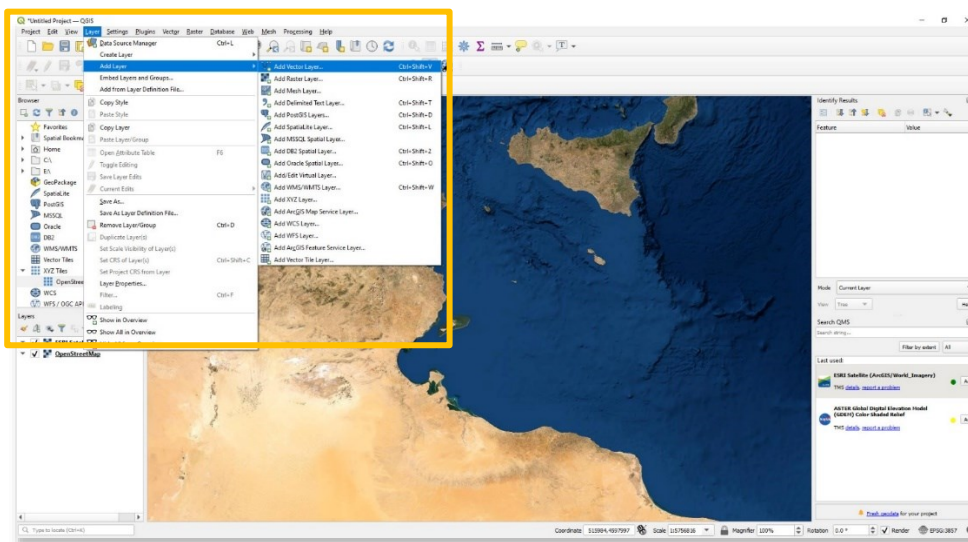
Unzip this file and move to your QGIS project folder on your computer. Please note that a shapefile in QGIS comprises of at least 3 separate files on your computer (often more).

When moving a shapefile to a new folder on your computer, ensure that you move all associated files together, otherwise the shapefile may not render in QGIS.

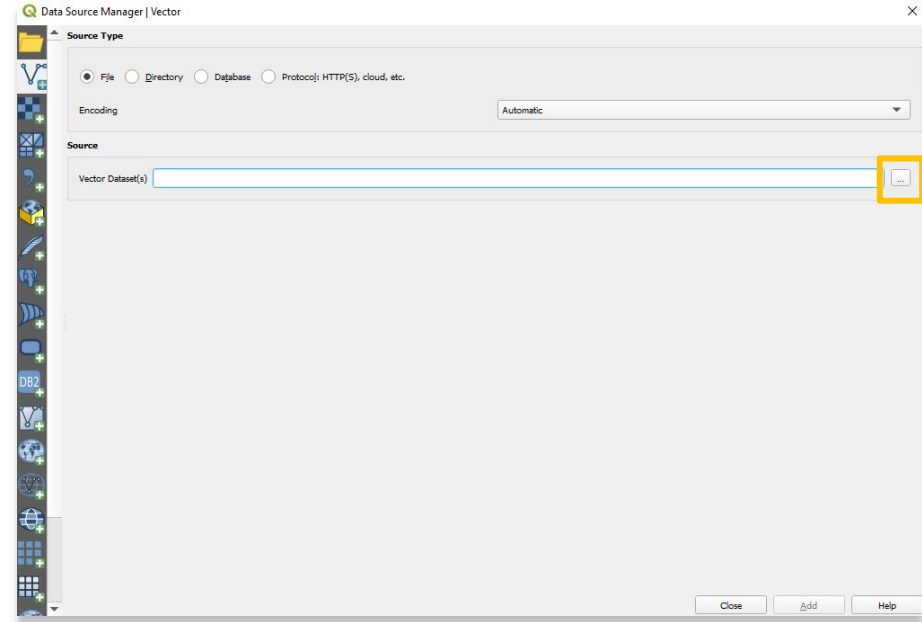
CITATION-AND-USE-geoBoundaries-gbOpen	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	Text Document	5 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1.dbf	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	DBF File	2 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1.geojson	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	GEOJSON File	1,874 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1.prj	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	PRJ File	1 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1.shp	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	SHP File	1,285 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1.shx	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	SHX File	1 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1.topojson	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	TOPOJSON File	529 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1_simplified.dbf	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	DBF File	2 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1_simplified.geojson	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	GEOJSON File	247 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1_simplified.prj	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	PRJ File	1 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1_simplified.shp	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	SHP File	169 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1_simplified.shx	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	SHX File	1 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1_simplified.topojson	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	TOPOJSON File	68 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1-metaData	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	JSON Source File	1 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1-metaData	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	Text Document	1 KB
geoBoundaries-TUN-ADM1-PREVIEW	8/27/2021 9:20 PM	PNG File	44 KB

Open your QGIS project from previous ASOR tutorials.

Next add the Tunisian Administrative Boundaries shapefile by **Layer > Add Layer > Add Vector Layer**.

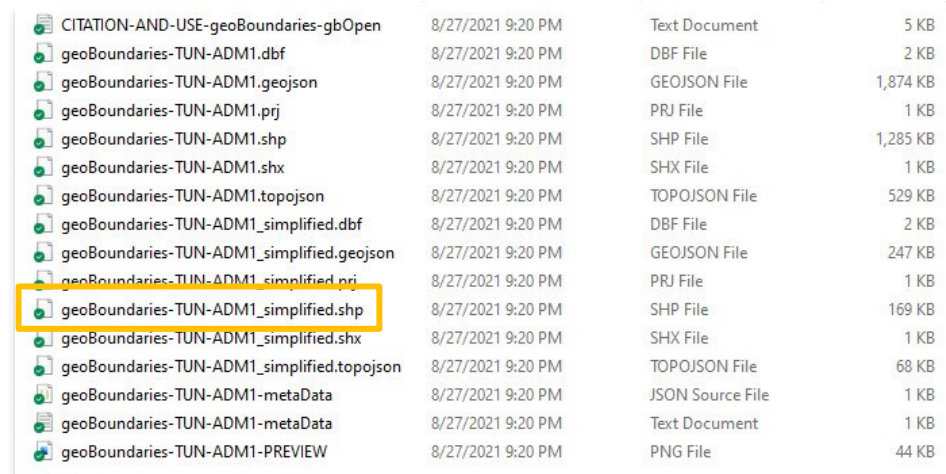


In the **Data Source Manager**, select the button with three dots to the right of Vector Dataset(s) to add the **Tunisian Administrative Boundaries** shapefile.

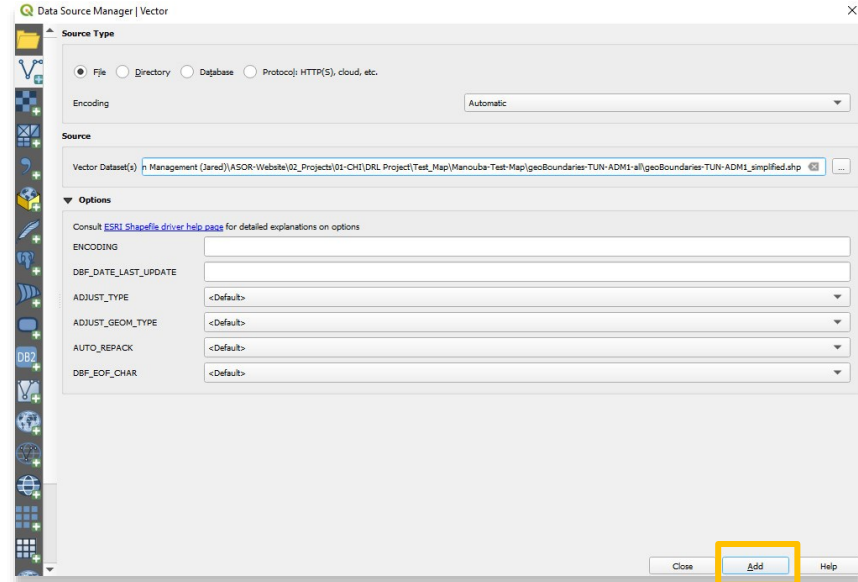


For this example, you only need to select the file ending in **.shp**. There are actually two shapefiles stored in the Tunisian Administrative Boundaries zip file downloaded from the ASOR website.

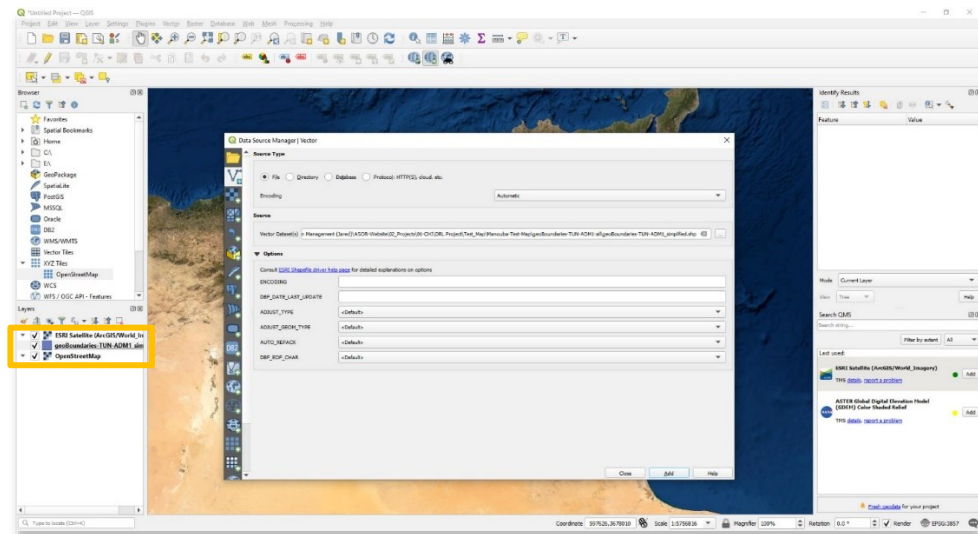
Choose the “simplified” file for this tutorial.



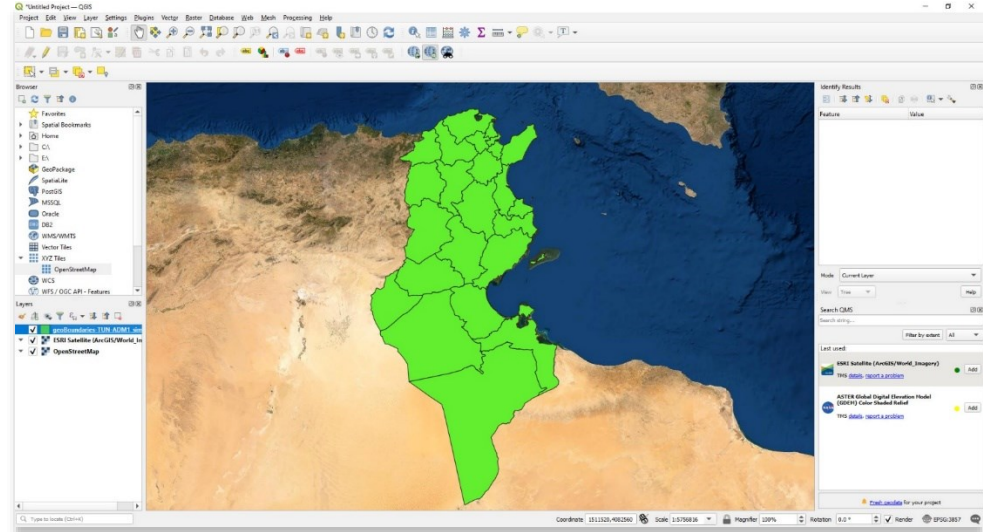
Select **Add** for the shapefile to display on your QGIS map viewer.



You will see the shapefile appear in the Layers Panel. The Data Source Manager will not close automatically. Select the **Close** button to view the new shapefile.



You may need to move up the Tunisian Administrative Boundaries shapefile in the Layers Panel so that it is visible.



RESOURCES

QGIS Download: <https://qgis.org/>



VIEW ALL ASOR TUTORIALS FOR FREE

asor.org/chi/chi-tutorials