African Union Border Programme

Roman Meyer

GIZ support to the African Union Border Programme
roman.meyer@giz.de
Presentation overview

1. AUBP overview
2. Delimitation & demarcation
3. GIS & RS
4. Summary
poorly demarcated borders are a potential source of conflict.

- or -

demarcating African borders bears great potential for peace and stability on the African continent.

International borders are the zero level layer for administrative entities
# AUBP - overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1440–1884</td>
<td>European trade posts along the African coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884/5:</td>
<td>Berlin conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Cairo Declaration – intangibility of borders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Heads of State decision to demarcate borders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>set up of AUBP unit at AU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>start of German Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>extended deadline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# AUBP - overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUBP</th>
<th>Delimitation &amp; Demarcation</th>
<th>Cross-Border Cooperation</th>
<th>Capacity Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUBP unit, PSD, AU</td>
<td>Border treaty collection</td>
<td>AU convention on CBC</td>
<td>Guidebooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECs</td>
<td></td>
<td>OSBP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trade facilitation Reg. integration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU Member States</td>
<td>Re-affirmation of borders</td>
<td></td>
<td>GIS / GNSS trainings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local level</td>
<td></td>
<td>Local initiatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Education Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Promotion of border governance, NOT border surveillance
## AUBP - overview

### Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>55</th>
<th>Member States of the AU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80’000km</td>
<td>terrestrial borders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55’000km</td>
<td>dry-land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22’000km</td>
<td>rivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3’000km</td>
<td>lakes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 43% geometrical: straight / equidistant lines, arcs
- 33% rivers and lakes
- 13% watershed lines
- 11% other (Foucher, 1991)

Only 35% of African borders are sufficiently demarcated.
Delimitation & Demarcation

Best case scenario

1. Joint decision by country A + country B to demarcate their border
2. (opt.) joint request for support to AUBP
3. Setting up of a joint boundary commission
4. Tracking of existing treaties and other legal documents
5. Analysis and evaluation of treaties, new supersedes old
6. Delimitation: agreeing on the boundary line
7. (opt.) delimitation treaty
8. Demarcation on the ground, surveying, (opt.) mapping
9. Demarcation treaty
Delimitation & Demarcation

joint analysis of existing documents
### Delimitation & Demarcation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nos.</th>
<th>Positions on the Ground</th>
<th>Bearing</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>In the bush 200 metres east of the Iwoye (Youoye)–Jabata road opposite a point situated about 2,000 metres north of the crossing of the River Onikpako.</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>In the bush 200 metres east of the crossing of the Iwoye (Youoye)–Jabata road over the River Okpe-Soukou.</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Delimitation & Demarcation

PARTITION OF AFRICA
1885 - 1914

Colonial Powers
- British
- French
- German
- Portuguese
- Italian
- Belgian
- Spanish
- Independent
Delimitation & Demarcation

map dated 1911, 1:200’000
Delimitation & Demarcation
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Delimitation & Demarcation
The role of GIS & RS

GIS & RS
- AU Border Information System
- interpretation of old treaties:
  - understanding of accuracy
  - understanding of map-making “in the old days”
  - Understanding of coordinate systems
- borders are defined by their neighbors, not by old treaties
- software for lake & maritime boundary delimitation
- need for creativity, think outside the box!
  - Thalweg = fastest flow
  - moving rivers = moving boundaries
  - land exchange
  - joint sovereignty
- watershed determination: need for lidar survey
- creation of topographic border maps -> what for?
- GNSS measurements of border beacons
bornes frontalières: B521

- borne nom: B521
- latitude DMS: 13° 16' 40,9627" N
- longitude DMS: 3° 22' 23,2349" W
- borne type: construit
- pays a: Burkina Faso
- pays b: Mali
- pays c:
The role of GIS & RS

Specialised GIS software for
- the delimitation of median lines (geodesic 2D)
- the claim of maritime zones (geodesic 3D)
The role of GIS & RS

Destruction of buildings along the border zone
Alternative solution: mutual land exchange
The role of GIS & RS

man made object (road) acts as a drainage
The role of GIS & RS

man made object (road) acts as a drainage
The role of GIS & RS

extremely flat area – position of watershed indeterminable
Summary of achievements

- borders are no longer a taboo topic
- opportunities of borders are increasingly exploited, barriers > bridges
- AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention) signed by 14, ratified by 5 Member States
- 7 practical handbooks, downloadable for free [http://bis.peaceau.org](http://bis.peaceau.org)
- more than 3000km of borders demarcated

Success factors
- support from the highest political levels
- peer learning between African nations
- some “easy” borders allow to get experience
- support from third parties

GIS & RS
- technology is the easy part of boundary reaffirmation
- technicians can de-politicise border negotiations
thanks for your attention