African Union Border Porgramme

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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

1440 – 1884   European trade posts along the African coast
1884/5:   Berlin conference

1964   Cairo Declaration – intangibility of borders

2002   Heads of State decision to demarcate borders

2007   set up of AUBP unit at AU
2008   start of German Support
2022   extended deadline

AUBP - overview

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

Promotion of border governance, NOT border surveillance

AUBP - overview

Statistics

	55	Member States of the AU
80'000km	**108**	**terrestrial borders**
55'000km		dry-land
22'000km		rivers
3'000km		lakes

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

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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Nos.	Positions on the Ground.	Reckoned from the preceding Beacon.	
		Bearing.	Distance.
		Degrees.	Metres.
138	In the bush 200 metres east of the Iwoye (Youoye)–Jabata road opposite a point situated about 2,000 metres north of the cross-ing of the River Onikpako.	348	3,700
139	In the bush 200 metres east of the crossing of the Iwoye (Youoye)–Jabata road over the River Okpe-Soukou.	312	1,800

colonial treaty

Delimitation & Demarcation

PARTITION
OF AFRICA
1885 - 1914

Colonial Powers

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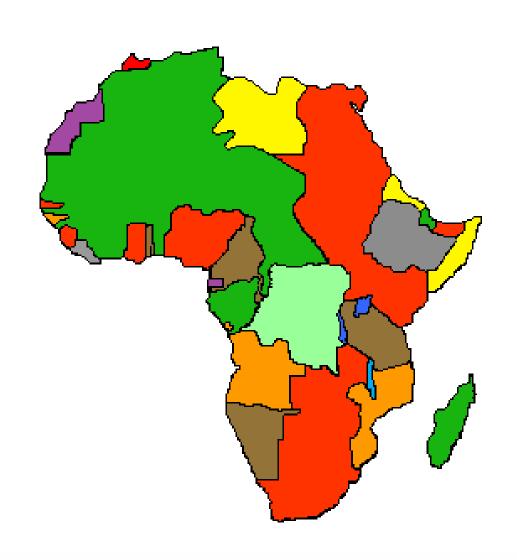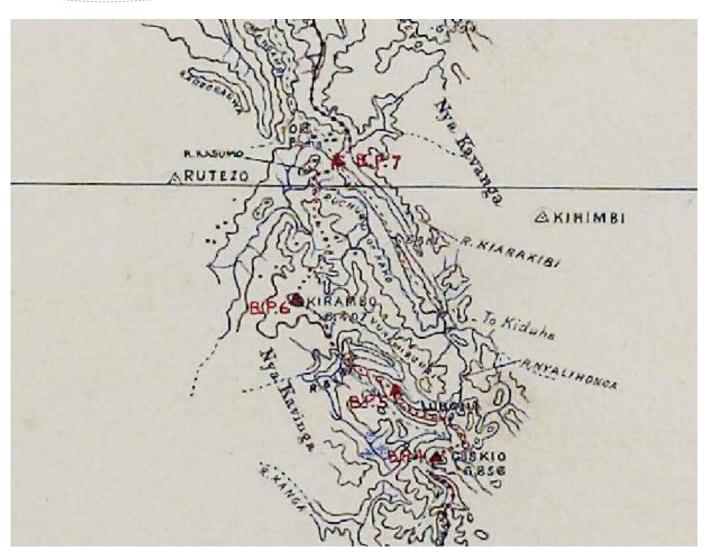
Delimitation & Demarcation

map dated 1911, 1:200'000

Delimitation & Demarcation

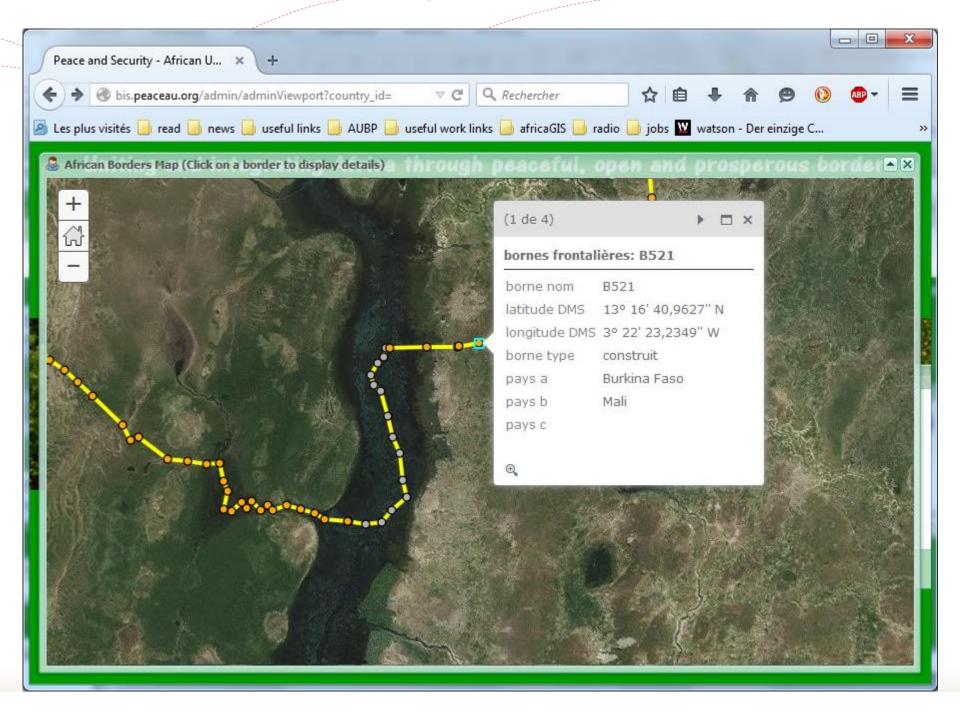# Delimitation & Demarcation
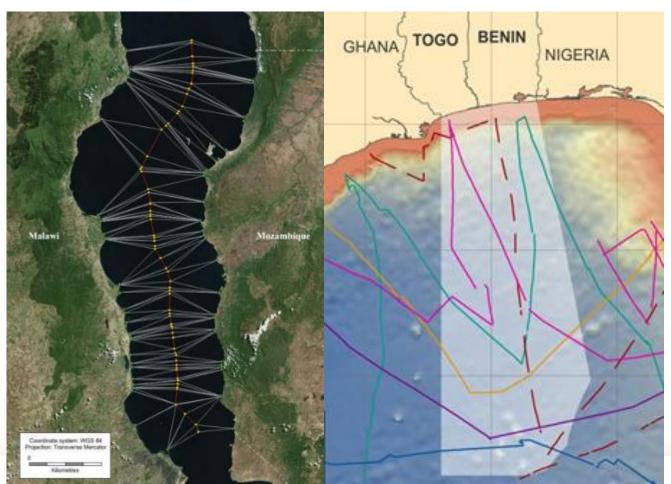
The role of GIS & RS

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

Peace and Security - African U... ✕ +

bis.**peaceau.org**/admin/adminViewport?country_id=

Rechercher

Les plus visités ▢ read ▢ news ▢ useful links ▢ AUBP ▢ useful work links ▢ africaGIS ▢ radio ▢ jobs ⓦ watson - Der einzige C...

African Borders Map (Click on a border to display details)

(1 de 4)

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)
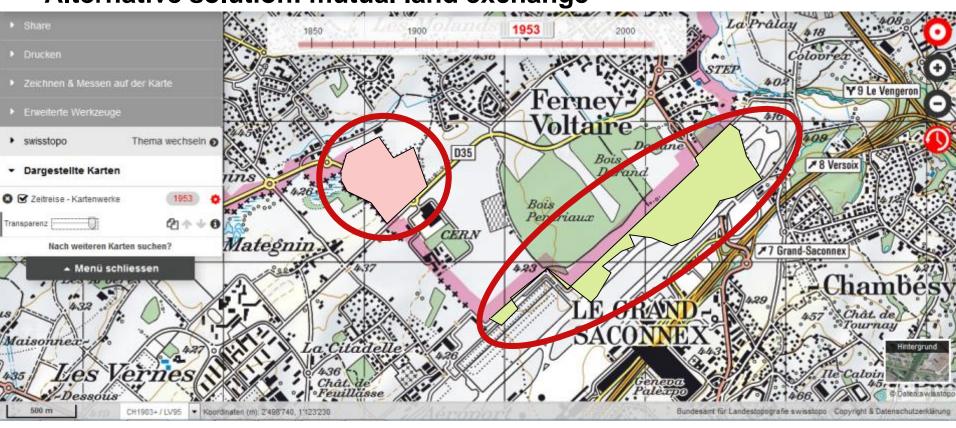- the claim of maritime zones (geodesic 3D)

The role of GIS & RS

Destruction of buildings along the border zone
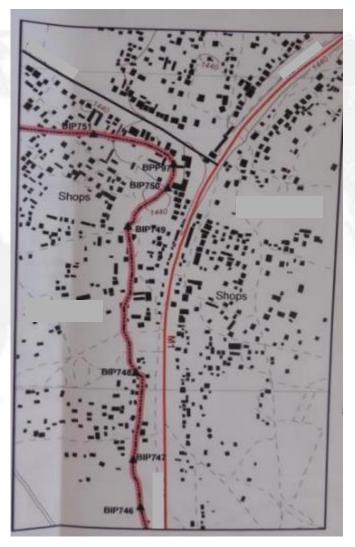
The role of GIS & RS

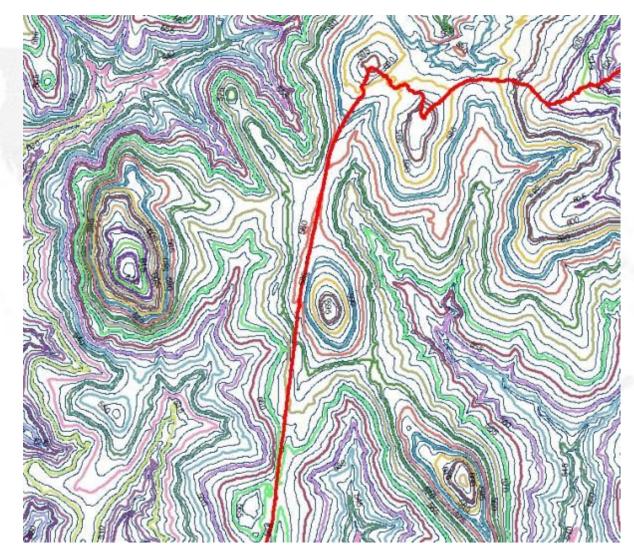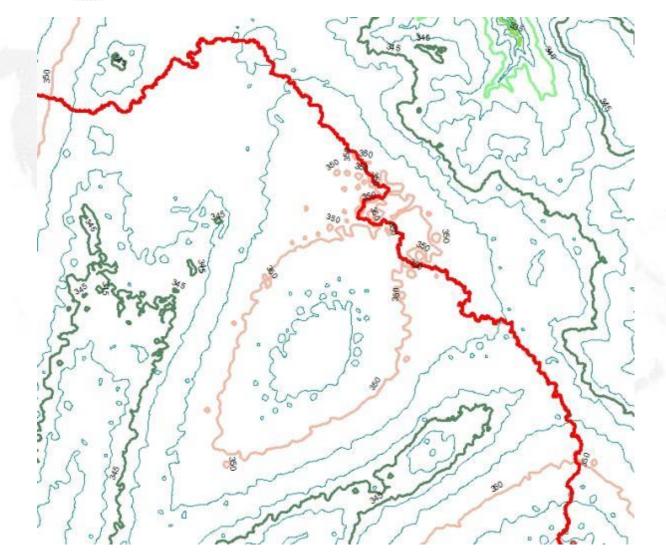## Alternative solution: mutual land exchange

man made object (road) acts as a drainage

man made object (road) acts as a drainage

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**
- **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