



Delimitation and Demarcation

of Boundaries in Africa

(2013)

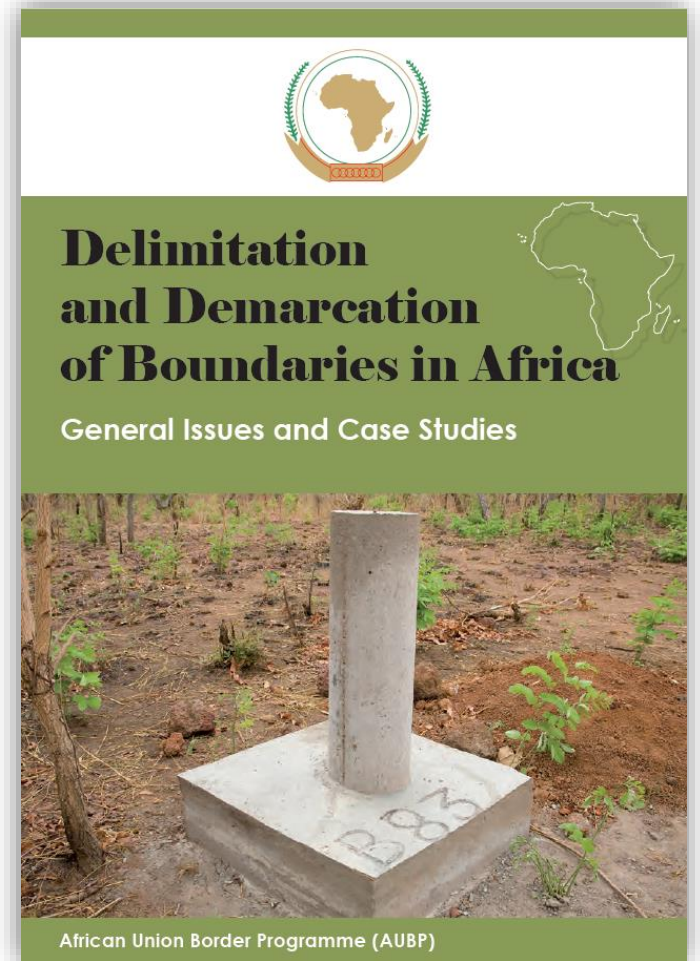
A Book Review
by Shimi Frish

Delimitation
and Demarcation
of Boundaries in Africa

General Issues and Case Studies



African Union Border Programme (AUBP)



The purpose of the lecture

To review the book “Delimitation and demarcation of boundaries in Africa” and make it accessible

To describe the organization of the AUBP and the processes that took place on the continent and learn from their experience

To learn academic concepts about boundary marking

To learn the practice of peace agreements and border committees

AUBP - the African Union Border Program

Project description

Title: Border governance in Africa: Support to the African Union Border Program (AUBP)

Commissioned by: German Foreign Ministry

Lead executing agency: African Union Commission

Overall term: 2008 to 2022 (overall term); Phase 4 2020 to 2022



- **Delimitation and Demarcation:**

The project supports selected AU Member States to better define their borders and to use improved planning and technical capabilities for joint border definition. Renewal of dilapidated border markings, mapping border areas. reform or creation of border commissions. communities' borders awareness.

- **Cross-Border Cooperation:**

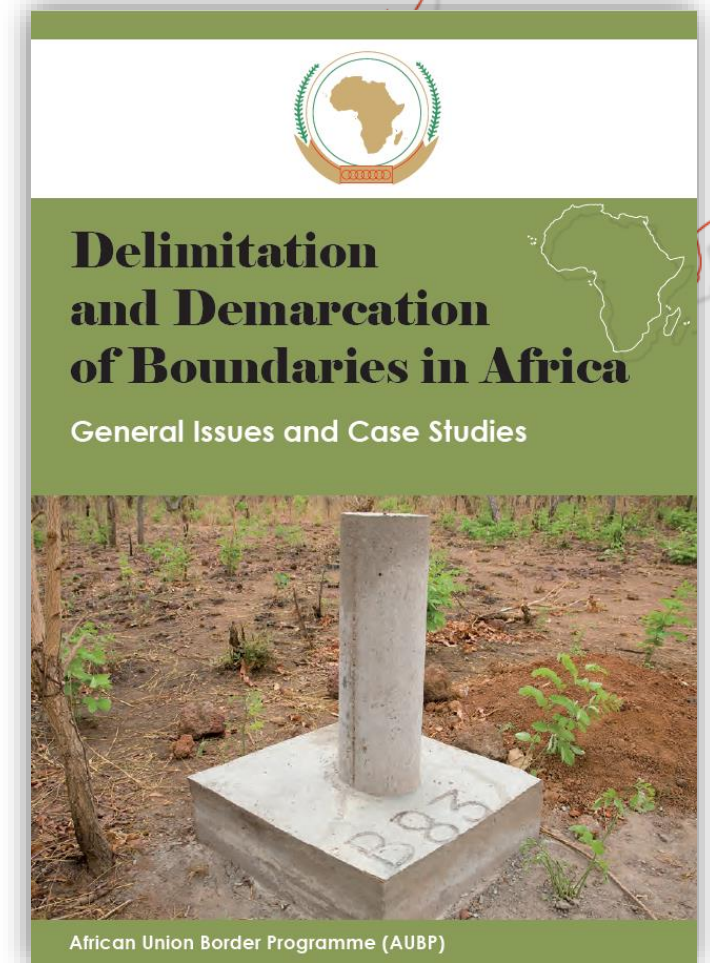
Implement cross-border cooperation projects at selected borders.

- **Strengthening the AU and RECs:**

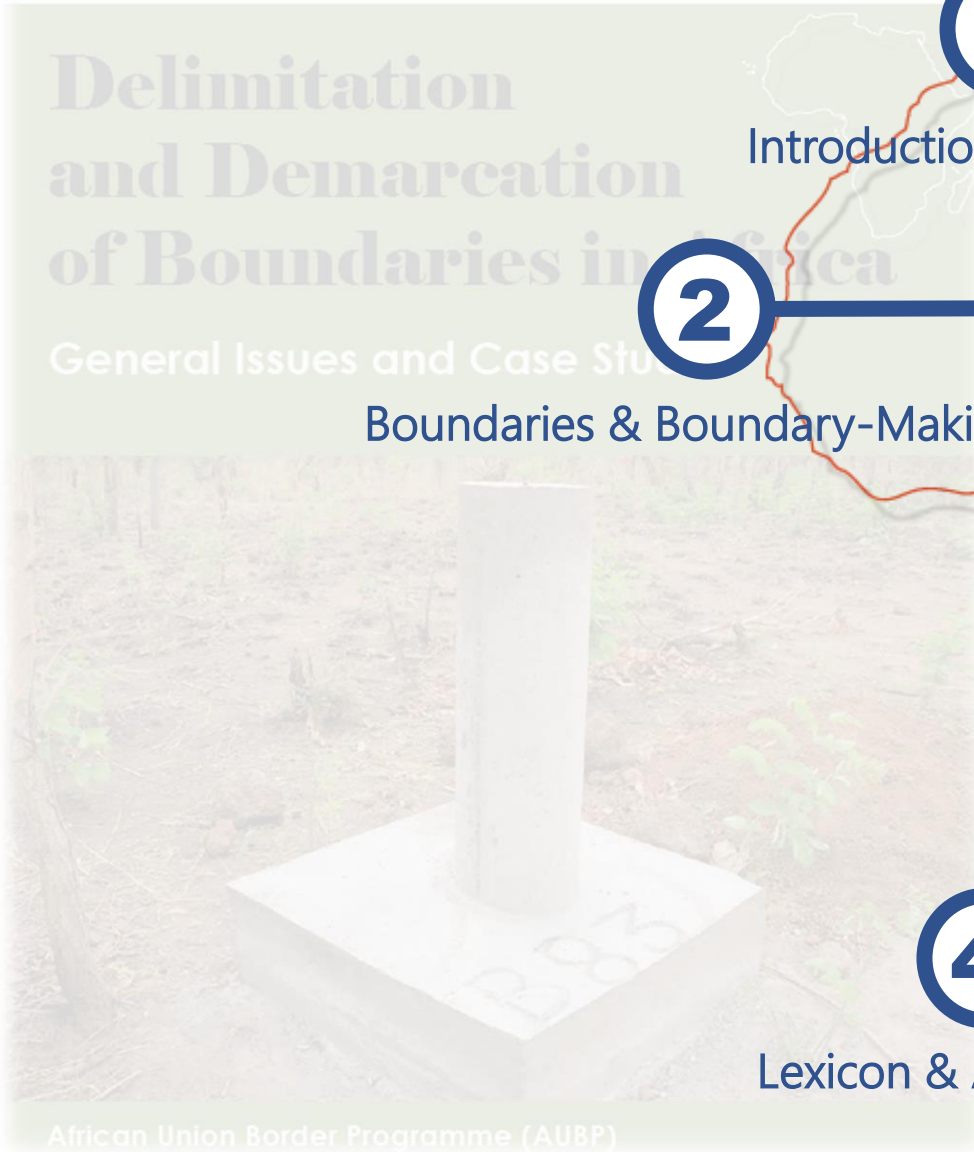
The AUBP-unit and selected Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are strengthened in supporting border governance. The project works with the AU Commission (AUC) and the RECs to improve their coordination platforms, strengthen the AUBP pacemakers.

The goal of the book

This handbook seeks to share the experiences of a range of experts in aspects of land boundary delimitation and demarcation, and to highlight examples of good practice that policymakers and practitioners may wish to consider when planning their own delimitation and demarcation activities.



The book structure:



1
Introduction & Overview

2
Boundaries & Boundary-Making

3
Case Studies

4
Lexicon & Appendices

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The Development of Africa Boundaries



Delimitation and Demarcation of Boundaries in Africa

General Issues and Case Studies



African Union Border Programme (AUBP)





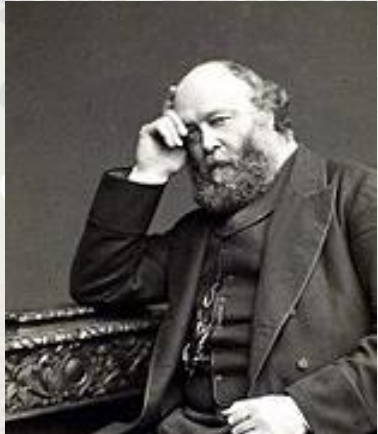
3 distinct phases in the making of African boundaries :

Phase I (1850-1886) – Conquering territories by the British, French, Germans, Belgians, Portuguese, Spaniards and Italians. Colonial territorial acquisition and boundary-making included the deceit, fraud, intimidation, bribery, and confusion of the African rulers. Europeans also tried to cheat each other.

Phase II (1886-1900) – Pacification and creation of colonial states through small-scale mapping and treaties. Many errors were made due to scant knowledge of the continent and the rudimentary maps in existence.

Phase III (1900-1930) – Completion of cartographic and geographic surveys of territories by boundary commissions that enabled total domination of colonies with the responsibilities of carrying out geographic explorations, geodetic and topographic surveys, and demarcations.

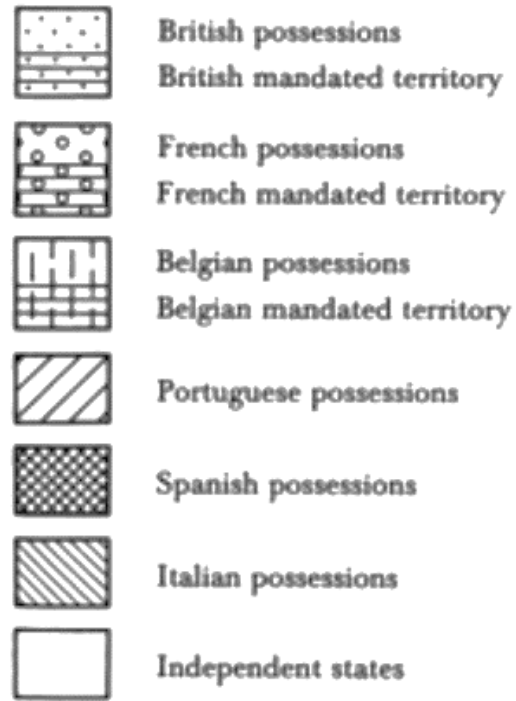
Robert Arthur Talbot
Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd
marquess of Salisbury



On signing the Anglo-French Convention on the Nigeria-Niger boundary in 1906, Lord Salisbury, then British Prime Minister, was credited to have remarked:

*"We [the British and the French] have been engaged in **drawing lines upon maps were no white man's foot ever trod** we have been giving away mountains and rivers and lakes to each other, only hindered by the small impediments that **we never knew exactly where the mountains and rivers and lakes were [...]** In those days, we just took a blue pencil and a ruler, and we put it down at Old Calabar and **drew that blue line** to Yola [...] I recollect thinking when I was sitting, having an audience with the Emir (of Adamawa), surrounded by his tribe, that **it was a very good thing that he did not know, that I, with a blue pencil, had drawn a line through his territory**".*

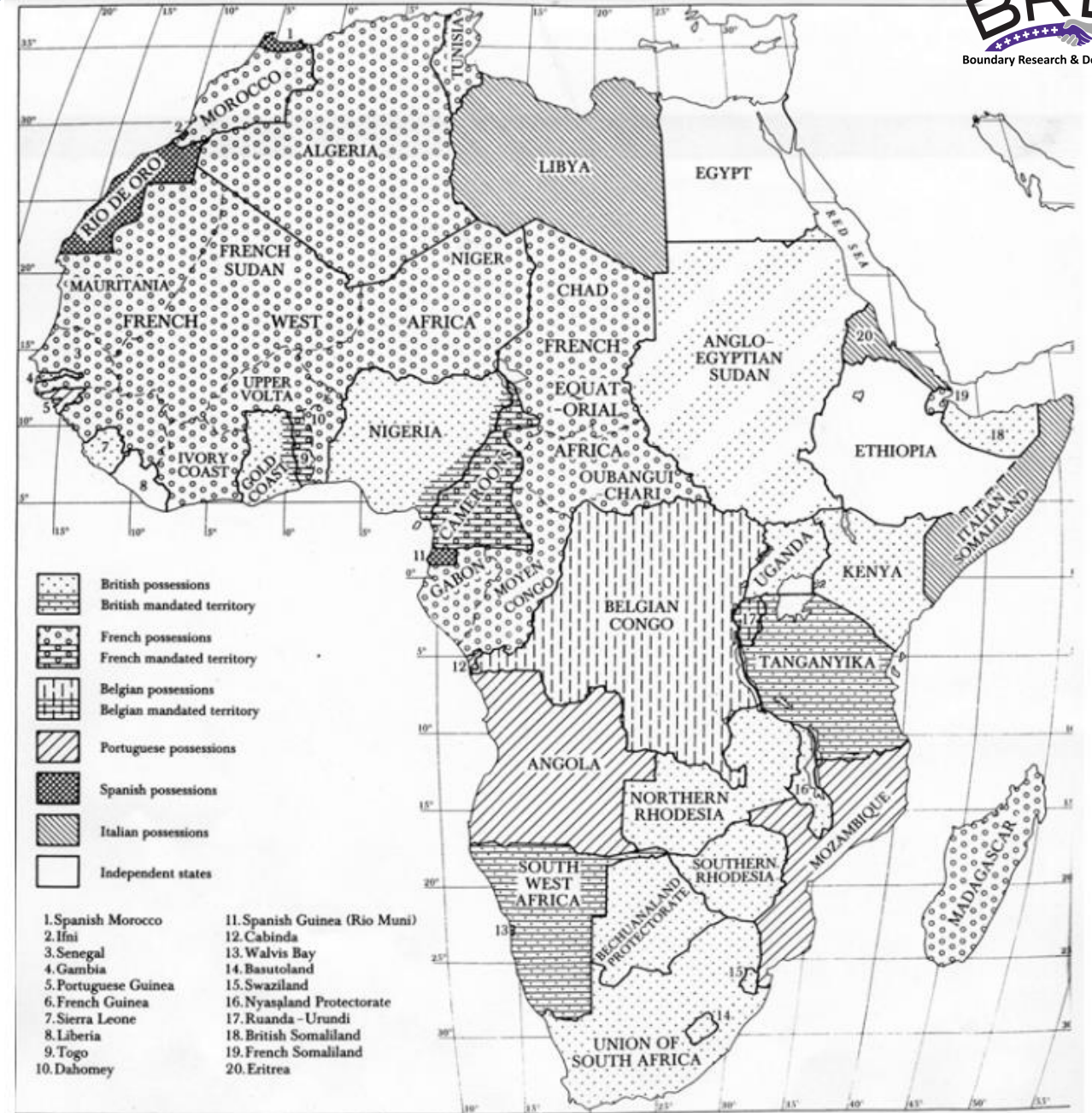




- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Spanish Morocco | 11. Spanish Guinea (Rio Muni) |
| 2. Ifni | 12. Cabinda |
| 3. Senegal | 13. Walvis Bay |
| 4. Gambia | 14. Basutoland |
| 5. Portuguese Guinea | 15. Swaziland |
| 6. French Guinea | 16. Nyasaland Protectorate |
| 7. Sierra Leone | 17. Ruanda - Urundi |
| 8. Liberia | 18. British Somaliland |
| 9. Togo | 19. French Somaliland |
| 10. Dahomey | 20. Eritrea |

Africa 1926-1946

Map 2. Colonial Africa, 1926-46, in: Brownlie, Ian, *African Boundaries: A Legal and Diplomatic Encyclopedia* (C. Hurst and Co., London, 1979) With kind permission of C. Hurst and Co.



Cairo Summit, July 1964

The Organization of African Unity - OAU, in July 1964, made Resolution AHG/ Res. 16(1) at the Cairo Summit that bound African States to “respect the borders existing on their achievement of national independence.”

This principle of “Uti Possidetis” is generally preventing conflicts in 2 ways:

1. Changing borders leads to more changes, which leads to instability. This is what underlies the “stability of borders means peace” argument.
2. Argument in favor of the “Uti Possidetis” principle is that changing borders through force is not acceptable and would be unsuccessful.



Damas George President Of Gabon
National Assembly At African Summit In
Cairo 18 July 1964
Copyright: Topfoto

AHG/Res. 16(I) BORDER DISPUTES AMONG AFRICAN STATES

The assembly of Heads of State and Government meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Cairo, UAR, from 17 to 21 July 1964,
Considering that border problems constitute a grave and permanent factor of dissention;

Conscious of the existence of extra-African maneuvers aimed at dividing African States;

Considering further that the borders of African States, on the day of their independence, constitute a tangible reality;

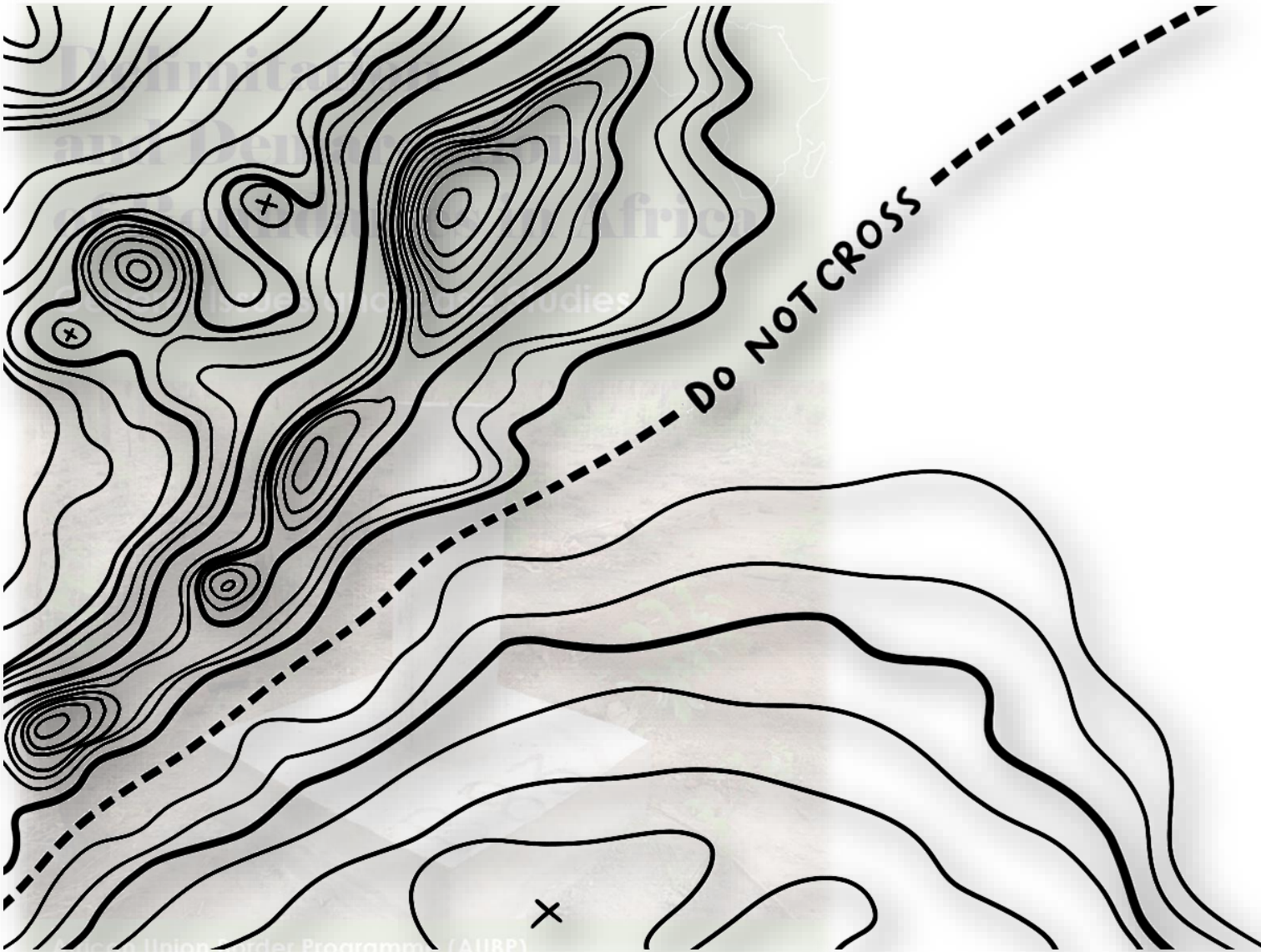
Recalling the establishment in the course of the Second Ordinary Session of the Council of the Committee of Eleven charged with studying further measures for strengthening African Unity;

Recognizing the imperious necessity of settling, by peaceful means and within a strictly African framework, all disputes between African States;

Recalling further that all Member States have pledged, under Article IV of the Charter of African Unity, to respect scrupulously all principles laid down in paragraph 3 of Article III of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity:

1. SOLEMNLY REAFFIRMS the strict respect by all Member States of the Organization for the principles laid down in paragraph 3 of Article III of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity;
2. SOLEMNLY DECLARES that all Member States pledge themselves to respect the borders existing on their achievement of national independence.

The Purpose and Functions of International Boundaries



International Boundary Classifications:

There are two classifications that are commonly used to identify international boundaries:

The Hartshorne's classification (1938)



Richard Hartshorne
Geographer
1889-1992

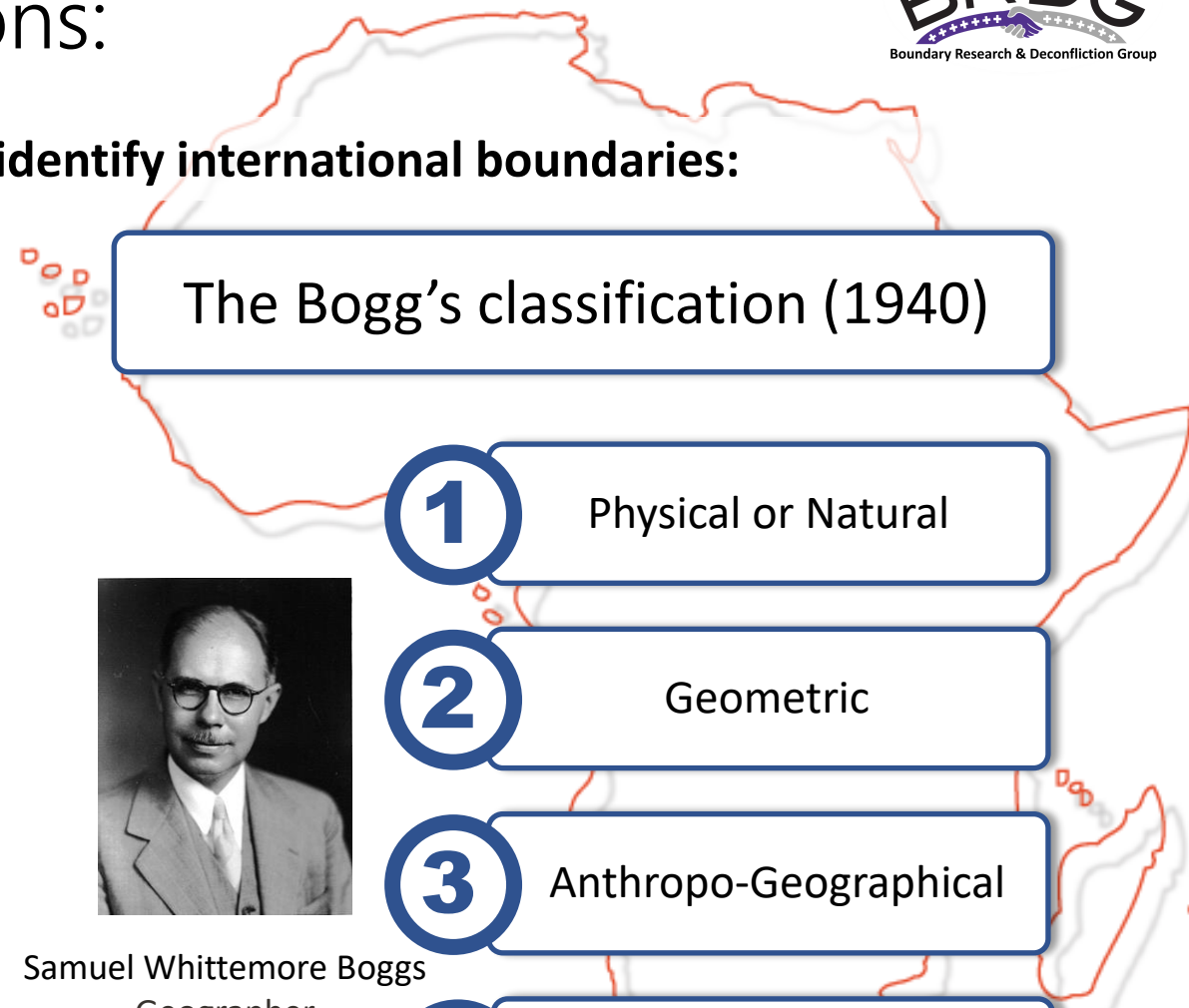
- 1 Antecedent boundaries
- 2 Consequent/subsequent boundaries
- 3 Superimposed boundaries
- 4 Relict boundaries

The Bogg's classification (1940)



Samuel Whittmore Boggs
Geographer
1889-1954

- 1 Physical or Natural
- 2 Geometric
- 3 Anthro-Geographical
- 4 Compounded



International Boundary types:

1

Artificial Boundaries

Astronomical Boundaries

Geometrical Boundaries

2

Natural/Geographical Boundaries



Orographic Boundaries

Crest lines

Watersheds

foot of mountains



Fluvial Boundaries

Thalweg/central line

Riverbank



Lacustrine Boundaries

Demarcation of Boundaries in Africa

General Issues and Case Studies

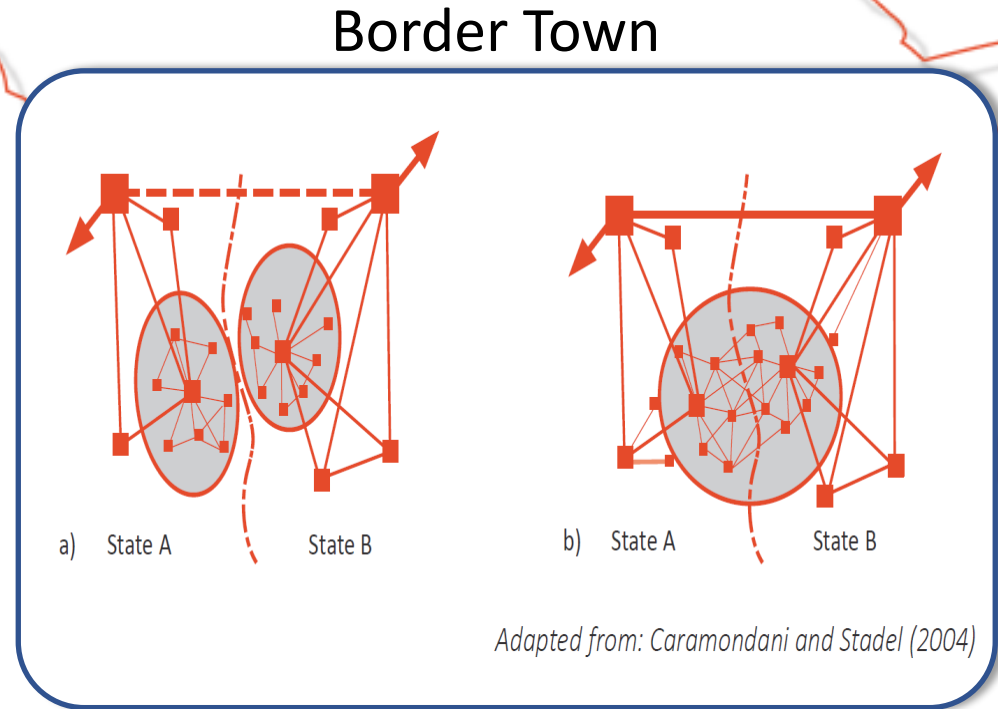
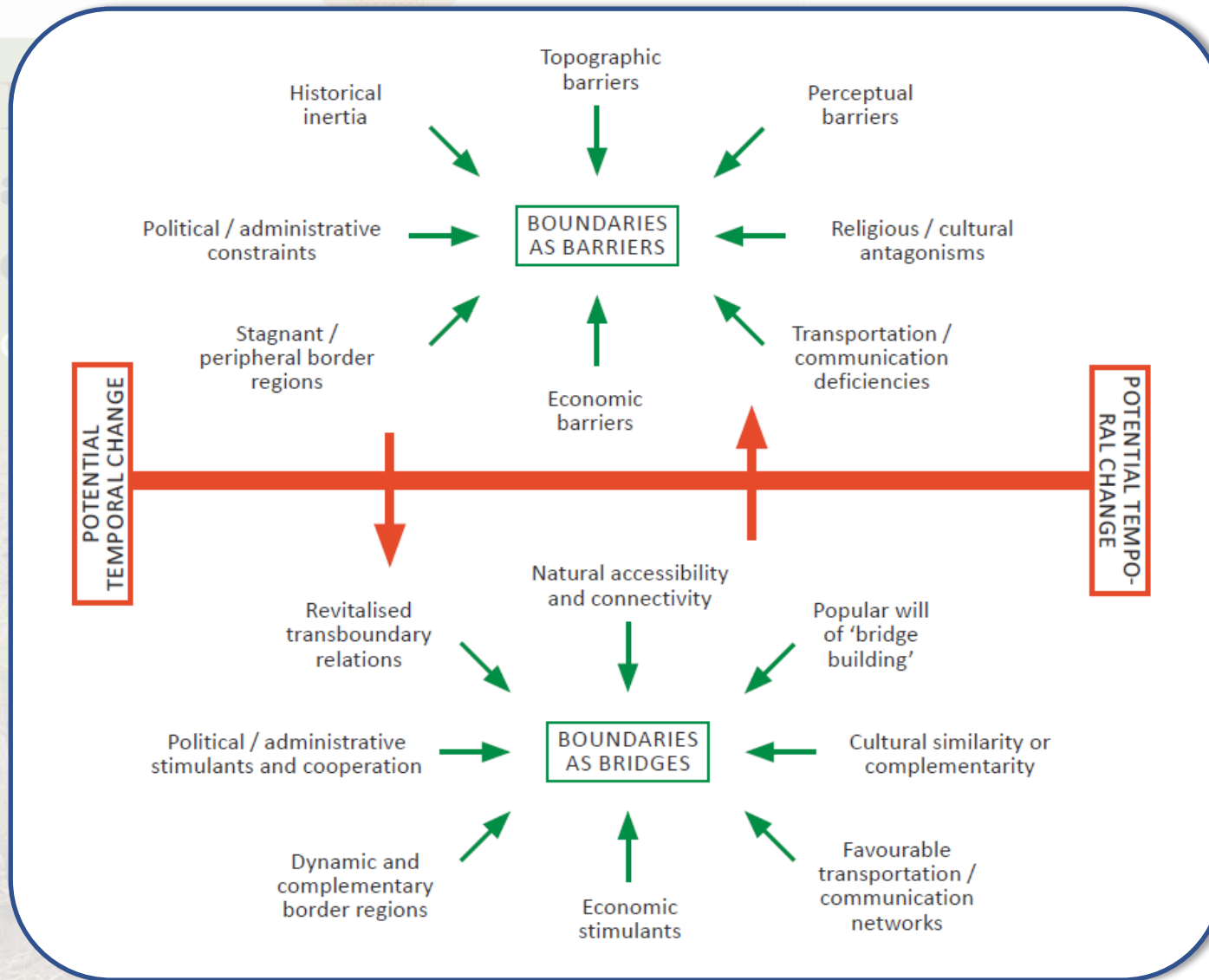
International Boundary Function



Samuel Whittemore Boggs
Geographer
1889-1954

“ A boundary determines for millions of people the language and the ideas which their children would be taught at school, the books and newspapers they would be able to buy and read, the kind of money they would use, the markets in which they would buy and sell, and even sometimes the kinds of food they might be permitted to eat. Besides, it determines their national culture with which they shall be identified, the army they might serve and the soil which they might be called upon to defend with their lives whether or not they choose to defend it.”

International Boundary: Barriers or Bridges





Delimitation Treaty types

- 1** General Treaty
- 2** Specific Treaty
- 3** A Treaty Establishing A State's Territorial Sovereignty
- 4** A Treaty Granting Independence to a State



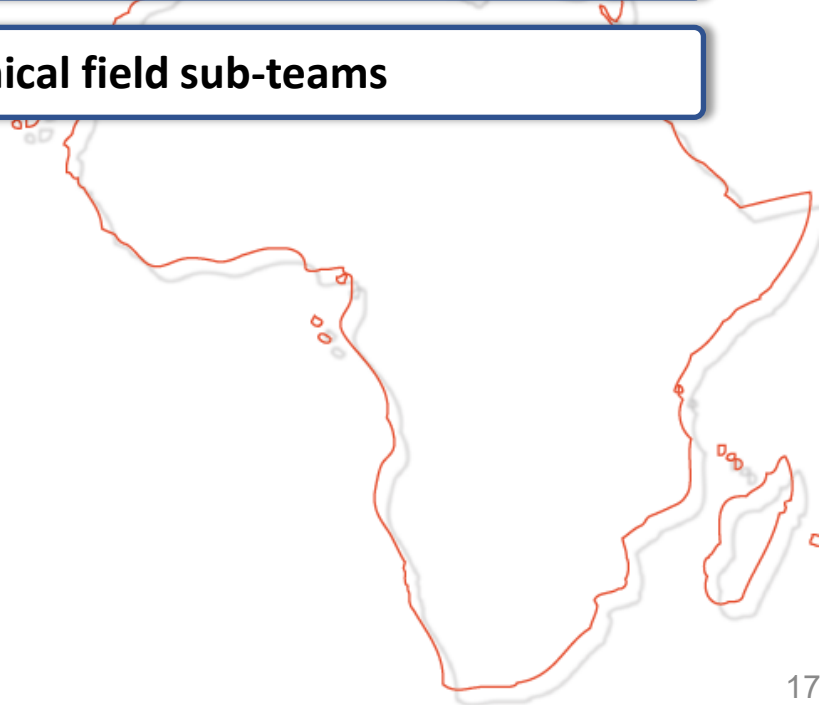
Contents of the Treaty

- 1** The preamble documents
- 2** Scheme
- 3** Final provisions
- 4** Appendices



Boundary Commissions

- 1** Constitutive Agreement
- 2** Mandate
- 3** Structure
- 4** Technical Specifications
- 5** Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
- 6** Work of the Commission



Case Study: Nigeria's International Boundaries



**Traditional
State-centric &
Legalistic Stance**

**Regional
Development
Perspective &
People-oriented
Emphasis**

The Institutionalization of a Specialized Agency, the National Boundary Commission

Regular Joint Ministerial Cross Border Tours

Bilateral Trans-border Cooperation Workshops

AUBP – Results & Achievements

More than 6,000 km of African borders have been fully delimited and demarcated

Support 16 local agreements on cross border collaboration across Africa

Conflicts prevention: supported the construction of infrastructure, including wells, hospitals, cattle markets and livestock corridors in border areas in the Sahel region

Supports the AU member states to establish or reform their national border commissions

The assembly of the AU adopted the AU strategy in 2020 for better integrated border governance (AUBGS)

SUMMARY



**We reviewed the book
“Delimitation and demarcation
of boundaries in Africa”**

**We described the AUBP
organization and its challenges
and achievements**

**We described the historical
processes of the boundaries
of Africa**

**We described academic
concepts about boundaries &
boundary marking**

**We described treaties and
boundaries committees**

**We described Nigeria's
experience in managing its
boundaries as a “Case Study”**



**Delimitation
and Demarcation
of Boundaries**

General Issues and Case Studies



Boundary Research & Deconfliction Group

Thanks for your attention!

