



**GIZ support to the  
African Union Border Programme  
GIZ-AUBP**

**poorly demarcated borders are a potential source of conflict.**

**- or -**

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









# Presentation overview

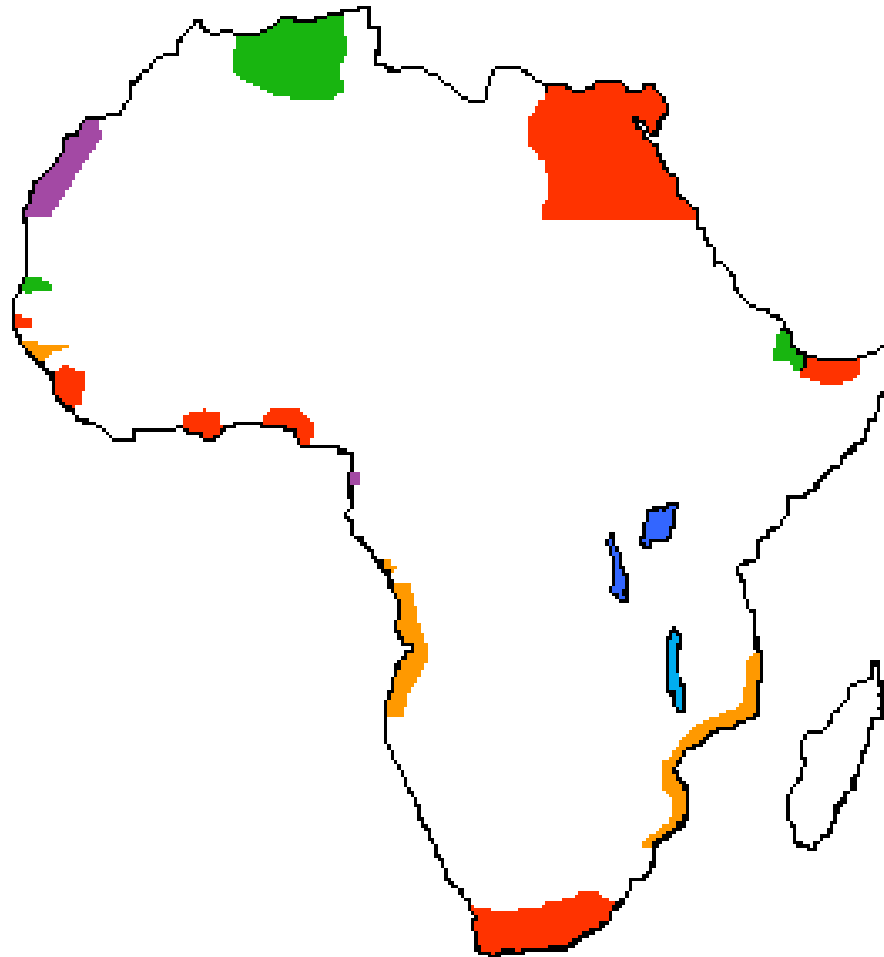
1. a brief history of African borders
2. the mandate of the different stakeholders
3. a textbook case of Delimitation & Demarcation
4. challenges & obstacles
5. achievements
6. outlook

# A brief history of African borders

AFRICA  
1880

## Colonial Powers

-  British
-  French
-  German
-  Portuguese
-  Italian
-  Belgian
-  Spanish
-  Independent











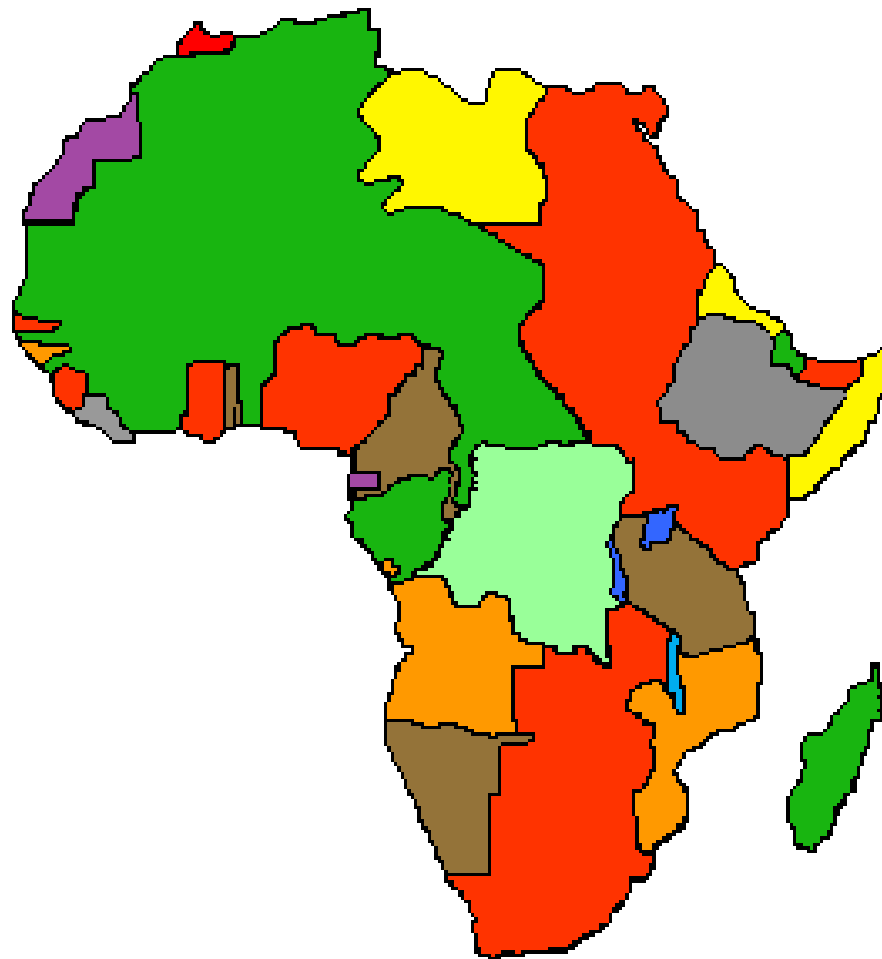
# A brief history of African borders

## PARTITION OF AFRICA

1885 - 1914

### Colonial Powers

-  **British**
-  **French**
-  **German**
-  **Portuguese**
-  **Italian**
-  **Belgian**
-  **Spanish**
-  **Independent**



# A brief history of African borders

1. “ever since” inner African trade, Mediterranean trade, trade in East Africa – Arabia & India
2. 1440 – 1884 establishment of European trade posts along the African coast
3. 1884/5: Berlin conference
4. **1964** **Cairo Declaration – intangibility of borders**
5. **2007** **set up of AUBP unit at AU**
6. **2008** **start of German Support**
7. **2008** **questionnaire to MS – about 35% demarcated**
8. **2012** **deadline – all borders to be demarcated**
9. **2015** **still no overview on the current state of affairs**
10. **2017** **extended deadline**

# A brief history of African borders

## Statistics

<b>1.</b>	<b>80'000km</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>terrestrial borders</b>
	55'000km		dry-land
	22'000km		rivers
	3'000km		lakes
<b>2.</b>	<b>60'000km</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>maritime borders</b>
	15'000km	47	inter-african
	25'000km	33	africa – international waters
	15'000km	14	africa – non-africa
	5'000km	6	disputed

# Setup & mandate of stakeholders

## 1) AUBP unit

- setup** AU Commission > Peace & Security Department > AUBP unit  
Based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
1 Head (Ambassador)  
1 GIS officer  
3 Admin support staff
- vision** a united and integrated Africa with peaceful, open and prosperous borders.
- mission** to resolve and prevent boundary disputes, and to promote regional and continental integration through cross-border cooperation.
- slogan** from barriers to bridges



# Setup & mandate of stakeholders

## mandate

### Delimitation & Demarcation (D&D) \*

- only 35% out of 80'000km are clearly demarcated on the ground
- more details later in the presentation...

### Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC)

- promotion of cross border activities (trade, joint development plans) and infrastructure (health, education, hydropower, other)
- promotion of One Stop Border Posts OSBP

### Capacity Development (CD)

- guide books and best practices on border management
- cooperation with African research & teaching institutions
- support to Member States (and AUBP unit)

# Setup & mandate of stakeholders

## 2) RECs (8)

### **mandate**

regional integration  
promotion of cross border activities

## 3) AU Member States (54)

### **setup**

national border commissions, members from various ministries  
such as

Ministry of Lands  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Defense, etc.

### **sub-committees**

legal advise  
demarcation  
secretariat

# Setup & mandate of stakeholders

## GIZ support to AUBP

- setup** Commissioned by German Federal Foreign Office  
Based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
5 international, 6 national staff (4 of them in West Africa)
- mission** support to AUBP on local, national, regional and AU level

**AUBP = AUBP unit + RECs + boundary commissions + GIZ + ...**

# Setup & mandate of stakeholders

## What is in AUBP / GIZ-AUBP's mandate

- African international borders, incl. maritime boundaries
- Political, technical, financial support to AU Member states
- Only upon a joint request by two neighbouring countries

## What is **NOT** in AUBP / GIZ-AUBP's mandate

- Internal borders (districts, provinces etc.)
- Border surveillance
- Customs
- Human trafficking
- Arms trafficking

## In short

- Promote «positive» cross border trade = our mandate
- Prevent «negative» cross border trade = **not** our mandate

# Delimitation & Demarcation

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**

# Delimitation & Demarcation

Nos.	Positions on the Ground.	Reckoned from the preceding Beacon.	
		Bearing.	Distance.
138	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.	Degrees. 348	Metres. 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



map dated 1911, 1:200'000

# Delimitation & Demarcation

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**
6. **Delimitation: Agreeing on the boundary line**
7. (opt.) delimitation treaty
8. **Demarcation on the ground, surveying, (opt.) mapping**
9. **Demarcation treaty**



# Delimitation & Demarcation



# Delimitation & Demarcation



# Delimitation & Demarcation



# Delimitation & Demarcation



# Delimitation & Demarcation



# challenges & obstacles

## Technological challenges

- Unstable internet connection, small bandwidth
- Availability of software updates, antivirus, spare parts
- Limited cell phone / internet coverage in remote areas

## Financial challenges

- Expensive GPS equipment, Satellite Imagery, Lidar Survey
- Limited financial capacities at Member States level

## «personnel challenges»

- Team at AU too small to respond to all requests
- Very broad range of skills/knowledge at country level
- Access restriction to border data (no open data policy)

## Administrative challenges

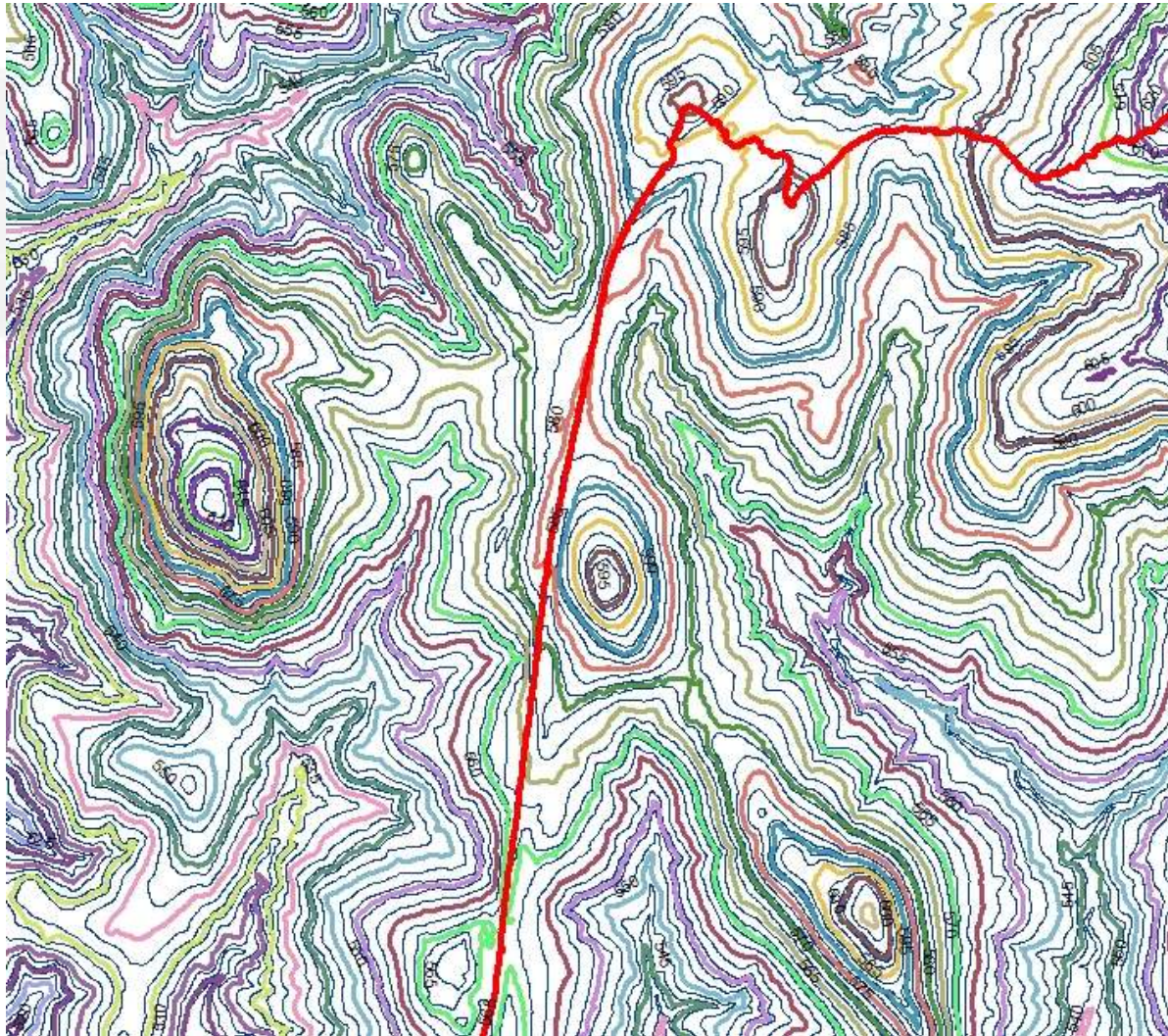
- Lengthy and complicated procurement procedures
- Lengthy and complicated recruiting procedures

# challenges & obstacles



**main river channel difficult to identify, may change seasonally**

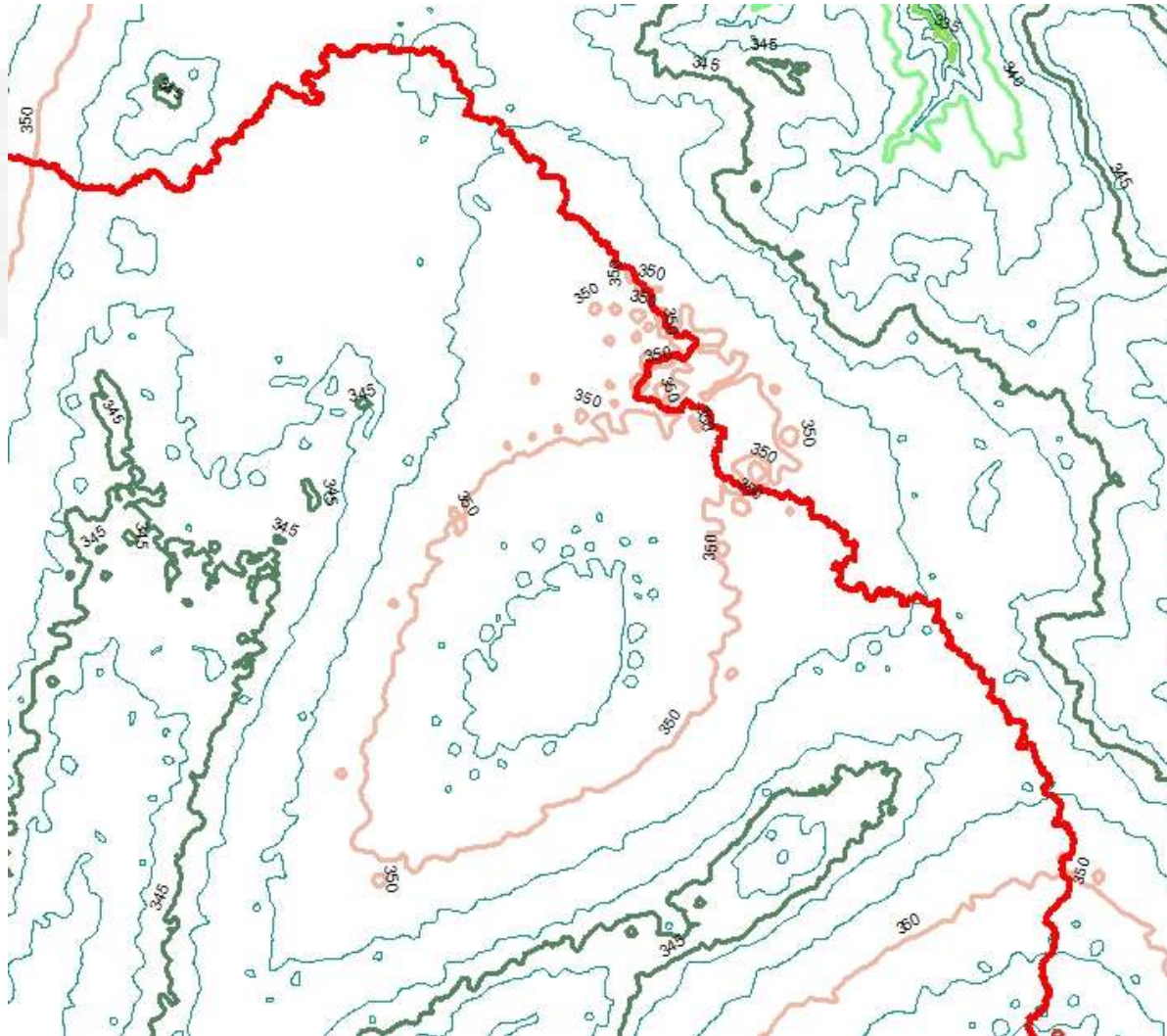
# challenges & obstacles



**man made object (road) acts as a drainage**



# challenges & obstacles



**extremely flat area – position of watershed indeterminable**

# challenges & obstacles



**contested border**

# achievements

- **Borders in Africa are no longer a taboo**
- **Treaties on African borders received from former colonial powers**
- **More and more requests for support to AUBP**
- **Countries are making progress on**
  - **Delimitation & Demarcation**
  - **Cross-border Cooperation**
  - **Capacity Development**
- **Niamey Convention on Cross-border Cooperation  
(five countries have already signed)**

# outlook

- **entry into force of Niamey Convention on Crossborder Cooperation once 15 countries have ratified it**
- **launch of African Union Border Information System AUBIS**
  - **up- and download of border related data**

### Sources Management - List ▲ ✕

Period	Filters	Opérations
Start Date <input type="text"/>	Republic of the Congo <input type="text"/>	Add  Lock
Wed-01-Apr-2015 <input type="text"/>	Angola <input type="text"/>	Modify  Remove

Date of Signature	Description	Archive Name	Re...	Li...	PDF Archive	Printed in	Li...	PDF Print
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#### Source #: 368

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon-10-Sep-2001	Angola approving offshore unitization zo...				Colson, David A.; ...		<u>Printed</u> ...
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#### Source #: 8

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wed-23-Jan-1901	Protocole en vue de déterminer le tracé d...	19...	<u>Archival</u> ...		Basdevant, Jules:...		<u>Printed</u> ...
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**Source Description :** Protocole en vue de déterminer le tracé de la ligne frontière entre les possessions françaises et portugaises dans la région du Congo

**PDF Archive :** [Archival Documents/AV\\_8.pdf](#)

**PDF Print :** [Printed Documents/PV\\_8.pdf](#)

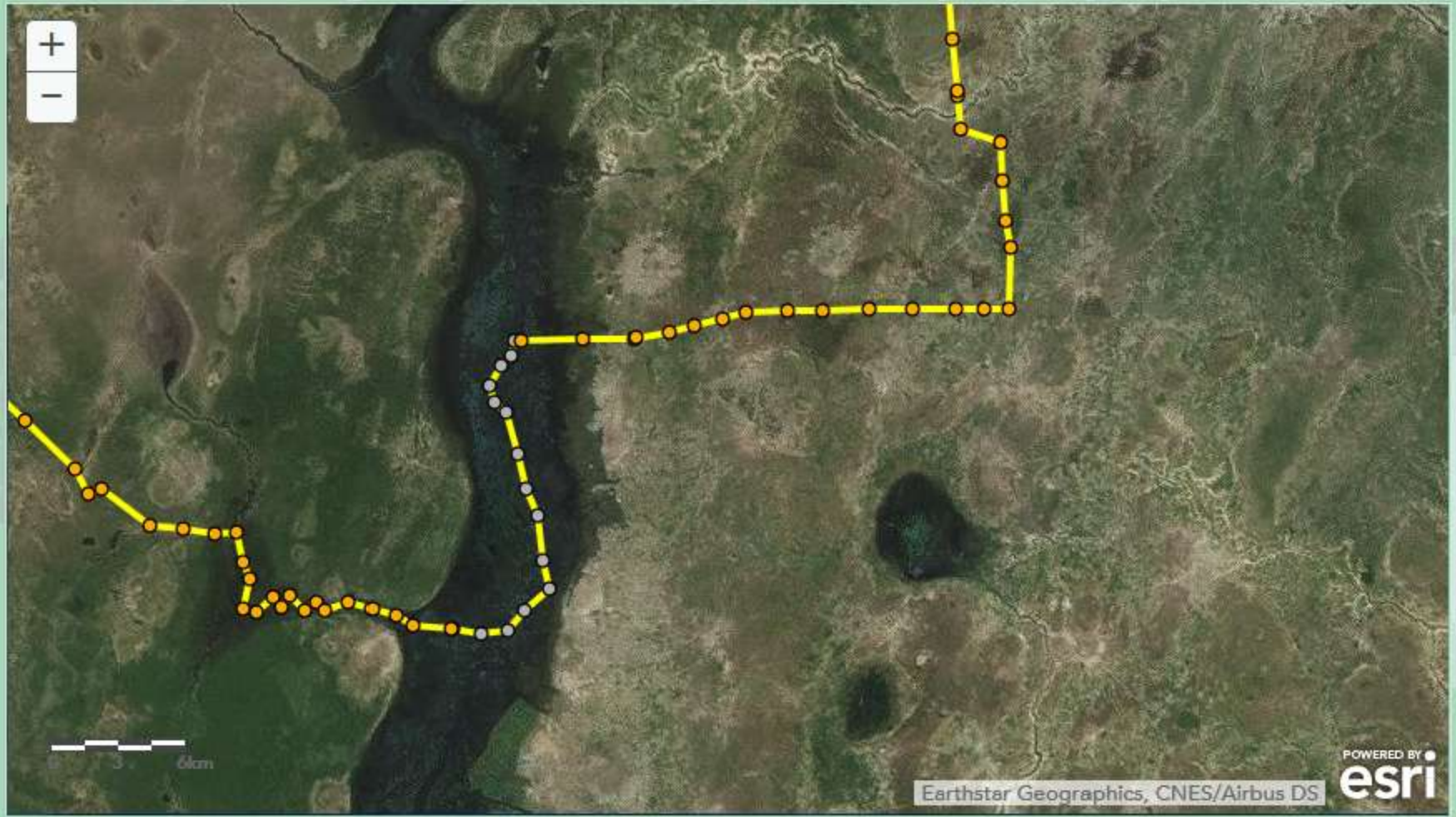
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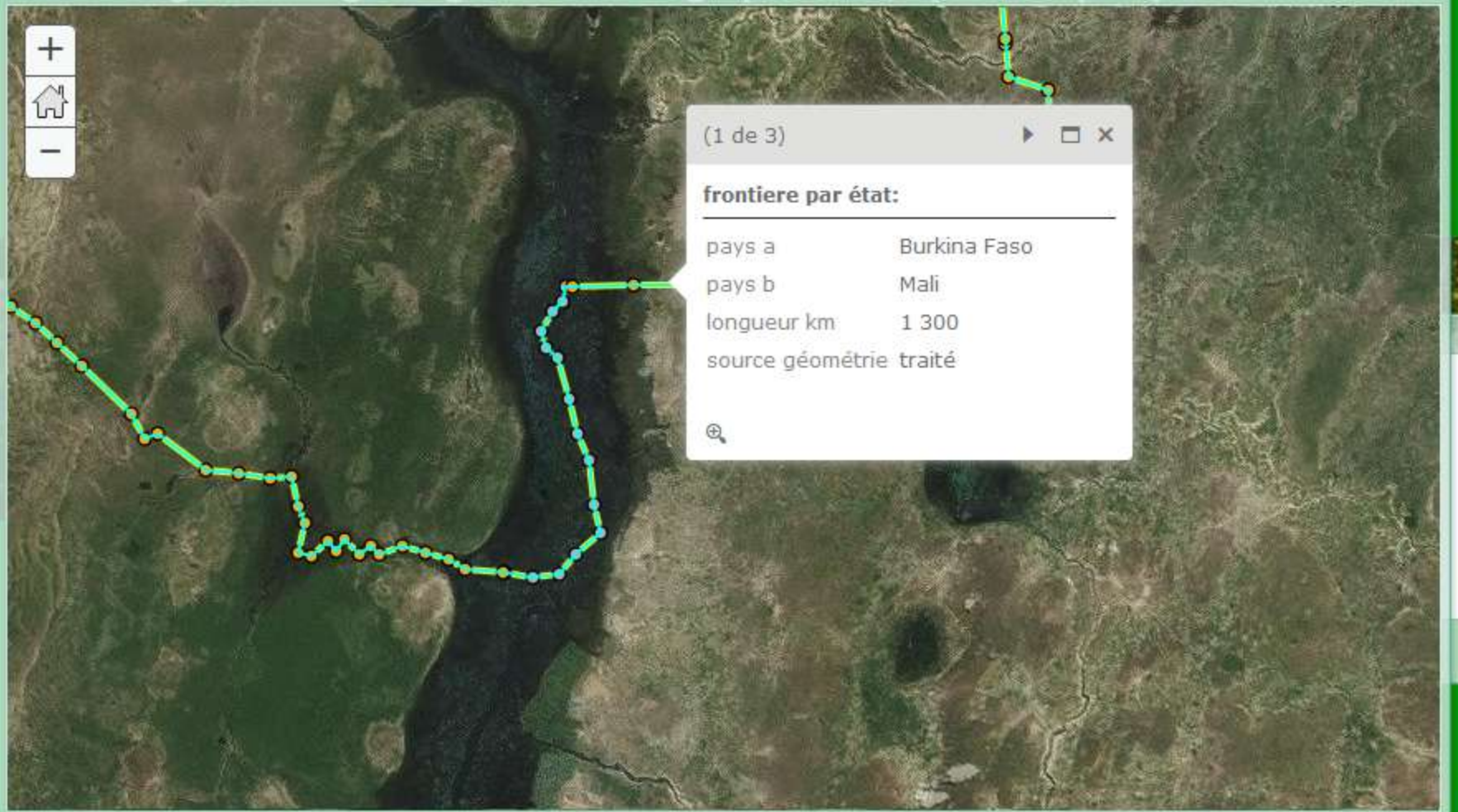
 African Borders Map (Click on a border to display details) *a through peaceful, open and prosperous border* 🗨️ ✕



African Borders Map (Click on a border to display details) a through peaceful, open and prosperous border



African Borders Map (Click on a border to display details) *a through peaceful, open and prosperous border*



(1 de 3) ▶ □ ×


**frontiere par état:**

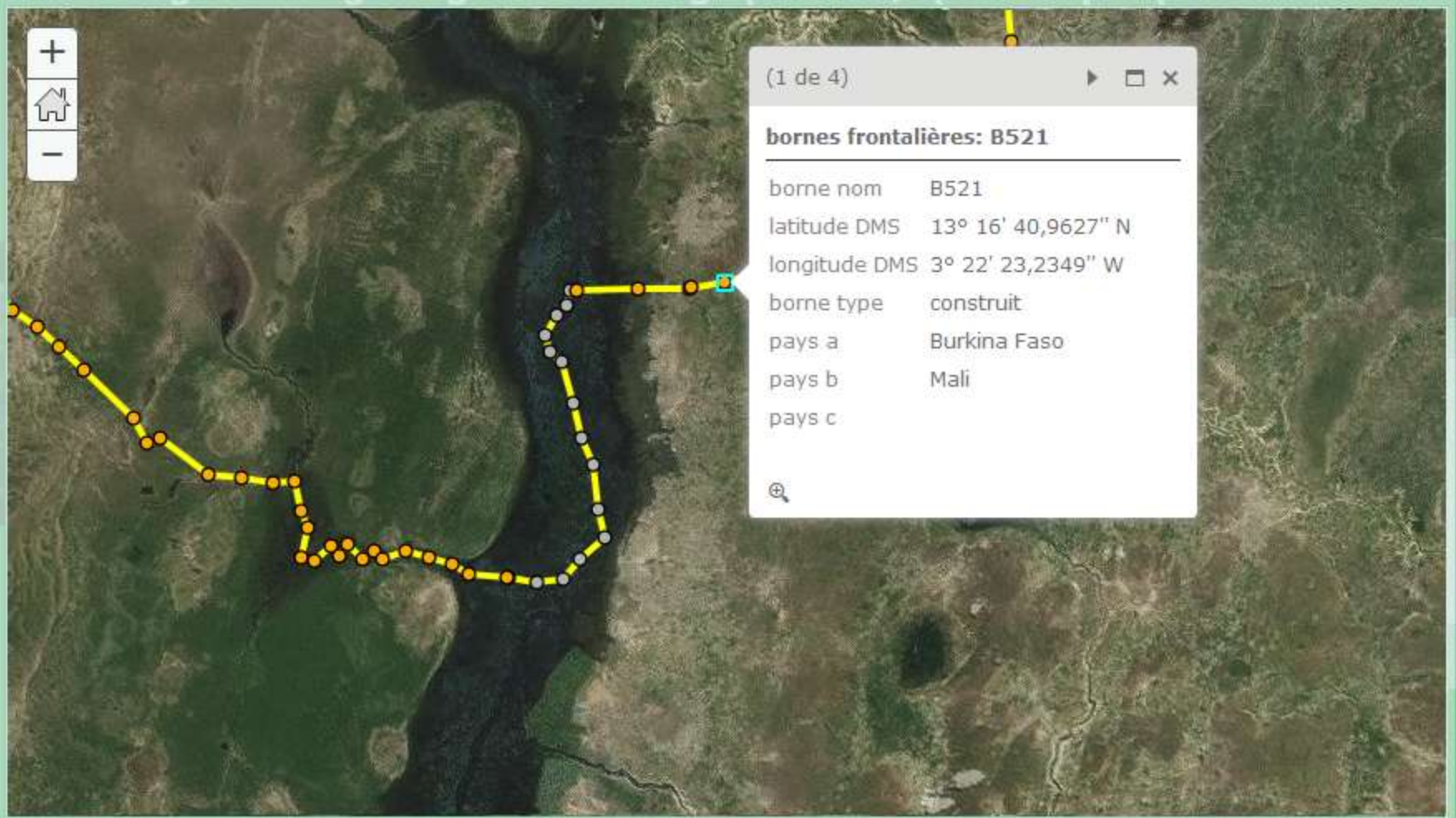
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pays a	Burkina Faso
pays b	Mali
longueur km	1 300
source géométrie	traité

🔍



 African Borders Map (Click on a border to display details) *a through peaceful, open and prosperous border* 🗑️



- entry into force of Niamey Convention on Crossborder Cooperation once 15 countries have ratified it
- launch of African Union Border Information System
  - up- and download of border related data
- **continuous efforts on border issues by all stakeholders**
- **more CORS, SBAS, AFREF**
- **East African Free Trade Area, African passport, free movement of people, one stop border posts OSBP**
- **likely extension of the 2017 deadline**
- **a united and integrated Africa with peaceful, open and prosperous borders**

**African borders:  
from barriers to bridges**

**Thanks.**

**<http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/15759.html>**

**<http://aubis.peaceau.org/>**

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