



# **International Boundary Study**

**No. 141 – January 11, 1974**

## **Guinea Bissau (*Portuguese Guinea*) - Senegal Boundary**

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**The Geographer  
Office of the Geographer  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research**

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY**

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# **GUINEA-BISSAU (PORTUGUESE GUINEA) – SENEGAL BOUNDARY**

## **I. BOUNDARY BRIEF**

The Portuguese Guinea–Senegal boundary is about 210 miles long. It consists of straight-line segments and is demarcated by pillars. From the tripoint with the Republic of Guinea at pillar No. 58, the boundary extends westward to pillar No. 184 on the Atlantic coast. Between pillars No. 112 and No. 184, the line is approximately equidistant between the Rio Cacheu and Casamance.

## **II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**Portuguese Guinea.** By the mid-15th century, Portuguese mariners had explored along the coast of what is now Portuguese Guinea, and in 1462 Cape Verde islanders were granted trading rights in the territory. Cacheu, an early trading post, declined in importance at the beginning of the 19th century, and Bissau became the chief commercial center. The source of an Anglo–Portuguese dispute, the Ilha de Bolama was awarded to Portugal in 1870 by U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant, who acted as arbitrator.

In 1941 the capital was moved from Bolama to Bissau. The colony of Portuguese Guinea was made an overseas province of Portugal by constitutional amendment in 1952. As such it is considered by the Portuguese Government in Lisbon to be legally an integral part of Portugal.

**Senegal.** French commercial interests in the coastal areas of Senegal date from the 17th century. During the 19th century, French control was extended gradually into the interior regions. A decree of June 16, 1895, established the federation of French West Africa which included the Colony of Senegal.

Following World War II, Senegal became an overseas territory and a member of the French Union. It became a republic and an autonomous member of the French Community in November 1958. The Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Soudan formed the Federation of Mali on April 4, 1959. Both Senegal and Soudan as part of the Federation of Mali became independent from French administration on June 20, 1960. Senegal seceded from the federation and inaugurated an independent republic on August 20, 1960.

## **III. BOUNDARY TREATIES**

A Franco–Portuguese convention of May 12, 1886, delimited a boundary between Portuguese Guinea and adjacent French territories. The Portuguese Guinea–Senegal boundary was delimited in Article I as follows:

To the north,<sup>[1]</sup> a line beginning at Cap Roxo and running, insofar as the landmarks permit, at an equal distance from the Cozamance (Casamausa) [Casamance] and San Domingo de Cacheu (Sao Domingo de Cacheu) [Rio Cacheu] Rivers, to the intersection of the longitude 17°30' west of Paris [15°09'46.05" W. of Greenwich] and latitude 12°40' N. Between that point and the 16th meridian west of Paris [13°39'46.05" W. of Greenwich], the frontier shall be identical with latitude 12°40' N.<sup>[2]</sup>

Article VII of the convention of May 12, 1886, provided for a joint Franco–Portuguese commission charged with an "on-site determination of the final position of the lines of demarcation" in accordance with Article I of the treaty. The commissioners were to reach agreement on the location of the pillars in accordance with various local factors so that the part of the boundary designated as the parallel of 12°40' N. in the convention is actually demarcated a short distance to the north of this line. Also, the tripoint with Guinea is not located exactly on the 16th meridian west of Paris (13°39'46.05" W. of Greenwich).

The commissioners demarcated the boundary by pillars numbered 1 through 184 between the French and Portuguese territories from the Rio Inxanche counterclockwise to Cap Roxo in the north. The demarcation was completed between 1900 and 1905 and recorded in memoranda prepared by the commissioners. This demarcation was approved by two exchanges of notes at Paris in 1904 and 1906, and it affords the present alignment of the Portuguese–Senegal boundary and the Guinea–Portuguese boundary.

#### **IV. ALIGNMENT**

The following alignment is based on information contained in the memoranda of the boundary commissioners from B.P. No. 58<sup>[3]</sup> at the tripoint with Guinea westward to B.P. No. 184 on the Atlantic Coast.

Marker 58, near the valley of the Mambiasse, a left-bank tributary of the Zaianga (Geba) River about 3,500 m. from marker 57.<sup>[4]</sup>

From marker 58, the border turns west, passing along:

Marker 59, near the Cancoiel River, 4,000.10 m. from marker 58;

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<sup>[1]</sup> To the east and south of Portuguese Guinea, the boundary was with French Guinea.

<sup>[2]</sup> Article I of the convention also stated that: "All islands lying between Cap Roxo meridian, the coast, and the southernmost limit formed by a line which shall follow the thalweg of the Cajet River [Rio Inxanche] and then run southwest across the Piloires pass to latitude 10°40' N., with which it shall be identical up to the meridian of Cap Roxo, shall belong to Portugal."

<sup>[3]</sup> Maps indicate the Guinea tripoint is located at approximately 12°40'30" N. and 13°42'30" W. of Greenwich.

<sup>[4]</sup> The location of boundary pillar or marker 57 is given as "Marker 57, not far from the Camussa River, a right-bank tributary of the Mael Jaube River, 3,375 m. from marker 56."

Marker 60, on the path from Cantire to Dibane Cunda, between the Mael Jaube River on the west, and its right-bank tributary, the Jalaja, on the east, 6,727.32 m. from marker 59;

Marker 61, on the path from Canquelifa to Parumba, that parallels the Senegal telegraph wire, 3,582.30 m. from marker 60;

Marker 62, near the Nhanca stream, a left-bank tributary of the Mael Jaube, on the path between Cantire and Niancare, 4,325 m. from marker 61;

Marker 63, 6,008.50 m. from marker 62;

Marker 64, on the path from Cantire to Suco, 6,309.34 m. from marker 63;

Marker 65, on the right bank on the Mael Jaube River, 1,988.87 m. from marker 64;

Marker 66, on the path from Cantacunda to Suco, 4,534.96 m. from marker 65;

Marker 66 marks the limit between the colonies of French Guinea and Senegal (Senegambia).

Marker 67, on the path from Cantacunda to Nhanau and Cutchoi, 6,065.82 m. from marker 66;

Marker 68, on the path from Pirada to Paionco, 3,915.11 m. from marker 67;

Marker 69, on the path from Pirada to Nhanau, 1,484.20 m. from marker 68;

(The road from Oco north ends at marker 69.)

Marker 70, on the path from Pirada to Perim, 3,418.73 m. from marker 69;

Marker 71, on the path from Durubali to Perim, 1,120.47 m. from marker 70;

Marker 72, on the path from Cupuda and Paonca to Perim, 629 m. from marker 71;

Marker 73, on the path from Cupuda to Cauna, 5,820.50 m. from marker 72;

Marker 73A, 1,620.67 m. from marker 74, immediately south of the village of Demosor and on the line between markers 73 and 74;

Marker 74, on the left bank of the Xaianga (Geba) River, near the former village of Tumbo Demussoro, 6,971.23 m. from marker 73;

Marker 75, on the path from Paiama to Candanga, 3,467.56 m. from marker 74;

Marker 76, on the path from Duma to Candanga, 3,782.98 m. from marker 75;

Marker 77, on the path from Duma to Tchideli, 3,935.84 m. from marker 76;

(The road from Contuboel via Cambara and Sama ends at marker 77.)

Marker 78, on the path from Mansacunda to Jidina, 4,454.90 m. from marker 77;

Marker 79, on the path from Sare Bailo to Jidina, 498.54 m. from marker 78;

Marker 80, on the path from Sare Bailo to Cumbacara, 1,740 m. from marker 79;

Marker 81, on the path from Sare Bailo to Caudjam, 1,344.94 m. from marker 80;

Marker 82, on the path from Sare Mijaca to Canjom, 513.86 m. from marker 81;

Marker 83, on the path from Sora to Sare Djide, 4,394.82 m. from marker 82;

Marker 84, on the path from Sambali Cunda to Sare Djide, 466.08 m. from marker 83;

Marker 85, on the path from Sambali Cunda to Jalcumbi, 3,886.69 m. from marker 84;

Marker 86, on the path from Sare Uale to Jalacumbi, 2,597.91 m. from marker 85;

Marker 87, on the path from Sanhare to Jalacumbi, 1,200.83 m. from marker 86;

Marker 88, on the path from Sanhare to Sare Engubo, 1,284.10 m. from marker 87;

Marker 89, on the path from Carantaba to Sare Engubo, 5,455.25 m. from marker 88;

Marker 90, on the path from Carantaba to Samboleneunda, 2,460.40 m. from marker 89;

Marker 91, on the path from Carantaba to Saliquinhe, 510.15 m. from marker 90;

Marker 92, on the path from Niacara to Saliquinhe, 3,678.92 m. from marker 91;

(The Farim–Contuboel road via Sam Corla ends between markers 91 and 92, near the latter).

Marker 93, on the road from Cambaju to Saliquenho, 1,399.07 m. from marker 92;

Marker 94, on the path from Cambaju to Camboa, 1,877.44 m. from marker 93;

Marker 95, on the path from Lenquebembe to Camboa, 2,585.88 m. from marker 94;

Marker 96, on the path from Solucocum to Sare Cube, 7,316 m. from marker 95;

Marker 97, on the path from Solucocum to Sare Coli, 400 m. from marker 96;

Marker 98, on the path from Canxelebel to Sare Coli, 1,298.50 m. from marker 97;

Marker 99, on the path from Faquina to Sare Iero Cumbal, 3,046.70 m. from marker 98;

Marker 100, on the path from Sare Sambadado to Sanca, 3,492.73 m. from marker 99;

(The road from Farim to Colda via Cuntima passes by marker 100.)

Marker 101, on the path from Sare Sambadadem to Bantancutu, 1,794.81 m. from marker 100;

Marker 102, on the path from Cuntima to Sanca, 1,558.78 m. from marker 101;

Marker 103, on the path from Tonhataba to Sibicaranto, 967.35 m. from marker 102;

Marker 104, on the path from Cuntima to Nebataba and Sibicaranto, 2,347.10 m. from marker 103;

Marker 105, on the path from Galo Gega to Bantancutu, 1,549.10 m. from marker 104;

Marker 106, on the path from Galo Gega to Sibicaranto, 6,186.93 m. from marker 105;

Marker 107, on the path from Galo Gega to Sare Subona, 1,136.90 m. from marker 106;

Marker 108, on the path from Galo Gega to Sare Iero Jau, 4,024.95 m. from marker 107;

Marker 109, on the path from Norobantan to Sare Cunja, 2,147.96 m. from marker 108;

Marker 110, on the path from Sama to Sare Cunja, 290.48 m. from marker 109;

Marker 111, on the path from Sama to Sare Bubo, 3,277.73 m. from marker 110;

Marker 112, on the path from Manca to Sare Bubo, 2,996.85 m. from marker 111.

From marker 112, the boundary turns away from the true west direction followed since marker 58 and runs generally WSW along a line substantially equidistant between the courses of the Casamance River to the north and the Sao Domingos de Cacheu River to the south, passing along:

Marker 113, on the path from Lamba to Cutadala, 4,797.34 m. from marker 112;

Marker 114, on the path from Lamba to Siucha Mamadu, 530.77 m. from marker 113;

Marker 115, on the path from Lamba to Conhaji, 689.44 m. from marker 114;

Marker 116, on the path from Uensaco to Sare Caale, 3,699.91 m. from marker 115;

Marker 117, on the path from Jabico to Uensaco, 309.12 m. from marker 116;

Marker 118, on the path from Farinco to Samoi, 1,988.87 m. from marker 117;

Marker 119, on the path from Carantaba to Samoi, 4,383.78 m. from marker 118;

Marker 120, on the path from Carantaba to Canjeno, 971.58 m. from marker 119;

Marker 121, on the path from Carantaba to Jamai, 1,498.15 m. from marker 120;

(The road from Farim ends between markers 120 and 121.)

Marker 122, on the path from Coliena–Cunda to Jamai, 1,399.42 m. from marker 121;

Marker 123, on the path from Coliena–Cunda to Farancunda, 1,718.03 m. from marker 122;

Marker 124, on the path from Ulo to Bissassi, 5,096.74 m. from marker 123;

Marker 125, on the path from Mansacunda to Carumbo, 3,216.92 m. from marker 124;

Marker 126, on the path from Samoje to Carumbo, 545.65 m. from marker 125;

Marker 127, on the path from Samoje to Iera, 8,117.71 m. from marker 126;

Marker 128, on the path from Bagine to Iera, 350 m. from marker 127;



Marker 129, on the path from Bagine to Fassada, 4,026.40 m. from marker 128;

Marker 130, on the left bank of the Tyimassau, 6,982.30 m. from marker 129;

Marker 131, on the path from Cauro to Samine, 1,802.70 m. from marker 130;

Marker 132, on the path from Barro to Naiful, 1,936.66 m. from marker 131;

Marker 133, roughly in the direction of the azimuth of the preceding markers from marker 124, and 5,496.45 m. from marker 132.

From marker 133, the boundary runs westerly, passing along:

Marker 134, on the path from Canja to Ajine, 677 m. from marker 133;

Marker 135, on the path from Canja to Butongol, 3,084.15 m. from marker 134;

Marker 136, on the path from Ingore to Butongol, 2,584.80 m. from marker 135;

Marker 137, on the path from Ingore to Safane, 4,862.80 m. from marker 136;

Marker 138, on the path from Ingore to Cunaian, 2,179.40 m. from marker 137;

Marker 139, on the path from Tianhel to Cunaian, 1,744.60 m. from marker 138;

Marker 140, on the path from Ingore to Gundum, 776.75 m. from marker 139;

Marker 141, on the right bank of the Tiural estuary, 4,966.30 m. from marker 140;

Marker 142, on the path from Sedengal to Singuere, 2,220.25 m. from marker 141;

Marker 143, on the path from Sedengal to Singuere, 4,080 m. from marker 142;

Marker 144, on the path from Sedengal to Nbajuo, 3,224.40 m. from marker 143;

Marker 145, on the path from Jandem to Samique, 627.18 m. from marker 144;

Marker 146, on the path from Jandem to Nhaju, 3,714.10 m. from marker 145;

Marker 147, on the path from Jandem to Samique, 5,002.10 m. from marker 146;

Marker 148, on the path from Jandem to Samique, 533.50 m. from marker 147;

Marker 149, on the path from Nemba to Samique, 2,685.10 m. from marker 148;

Marker 150, on the path from Sao Domingos to Samique, 325.15 m. from marker 149;

Marker 151, on the path from Campada to Butupa, 484.82 m. from marker 150;

Marker 152, on the path from Afanque to Butupa, 3,597 m. from marker 151;

Marker 153, on the path from Afanque to Sangaye, 3,423.25 m. from marker 152;

Marker 154, on the path from Beguingue to Sangaye, 1,087.50 m. from marker 153;

Marker 155, on the path from Beguingue to Guidele, 1,760 m. from marker 154;

Marker 156, on the path from Jegue to Guidele, 3,927.80 m. from marker 155;

Marker 157, on the path from Jegue to Canjalan, 974.80 m. from marker 156;

Marker 158, on the path from Jegue to Canjalan, 1,612.76 m. from marker 157;

Marker 159, on the path from Jegue to Abalagi, 1,233.85 m. from marker 158;

(The road between Sao Domingos and Ziguinchor passes between markers 158 and 159, but closer to the latter.)

Marker 160, on the road from Jegue to Guilolon, 393.94 m. from marker 159;

Marker 161, to the southwest, 411.13 m. from marker 160;

Marker 162, roughly WSW, on a path to Ziguinchor and 1,278.42 m. from marker 161;

Marker 163, on the path from Babonda to Ziguinchor, 2,983.60 m. from marker 162;

Marker 164, on the path from Babonda to Bagame and Guilolon, 448.40 m. from marker 163;

Marker 165, on the path from Nhambala to Bagame, 4,086.20 m. to marker 164;

Marker 166, on the path from Nhambala to Bapere, 894.55 m. from marker 165;

Marker 167, on the road from Nhambala to Essinhe, 1,940.50 m. from marker 166;

Marker 168, on the path from Colage to Essinhe, 1,251.64 m. from marker 167;

Marker 169, on the path from Colage to Bayote, 922.91 m. from marker 168;

Marker 170, on the path from Colage to Essinhe, 2,643.23 m. from marker 169;

Marker 171, on the path from Colage to Essinhe, 622.70 m. from marker 170;

Marker 172, on the path from Cassum to Essinhe and Bayote, on the left bank of the Cassum estuary, 1,674.01 m. from marker 171;

Marker 173, on the path from Cassum to the Cassum estuary landing, 4,237.20 m. from marker 172;

Marker 174, on the west bank of the confluence of the Apertado with the luto estuary, 3,484.12 m. from marker 173;

Marker 175, on the path from Arame and Bugim to luto, 3,636.50 m. from marker 174;

Marker 176, on the path from Ejatem to luto, 2,810.12 m. from marker 175;

Marker 177, on the path from Ejatem to Effoc, 645.16 m. from marker 176;

Marker 178, on the path from Cassalol to Emaye and Effoc, on the right bank of the Catao estuary, 2,950.80 m. from marker 177;

Marker 179, on the path from Caroai to Cahem, 5,306.90 m. from marker 178;

Marker 180, on the path from Basseor to Cahem, 1,508.99 m. from marker 179;

Marker 181, on the path from Sucujaque and Tenhate to Cahem, 3,668.94 m. from marker 180;

Marker 182, on the right bank of the Sucujaque estuary, 3,806.91 m. from marker 181;

Marker 183, between the two paths that run from the villages on Cap Roxo to the landings at Sucujaque and Yeron, 1,736.59 m. from marker 182;

Marker 184, on the southernmost dune of the dunes making up the point of Cap Roxo, 3,839.67 m. from marker 183.

## DOCUMENTATION

1. Convention between France and Portugal, for the delimitation of the French and Portuguese Possessions in West Africa. Signed at Paris, May 12, 1886 (Ratifications exchanged at Lisbon, August 31, 1887). British and Foreign State Papers (BFSP), Vol. 77 (1885–86), pp. 517–20 (French).
  
2. Exchange of Notes between the French and Portuguese Governments confirming the Delimitation of the Franco–Portuguese Boundary. Paris, October 29–November 4, 1904, and July 6–12, 1906, BFSP, Vol. 103 (1909–10), pp. 976–79 (French).

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