



# **International Boundary Study**

No. 142 – January 18, 1974

## **Guinea – Guinea Bissau (*Portuguese Guinea*) Boundary**

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

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY**

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

## **I. BOUNDARY BRIEF**

The Guinea–Portuguese Guinea boundary is about 240 miles long. It follows straight-line segments and the thalwegs of rivers for most of the distance. The boundary is demarcated by pillars numbered consecutively from No. 1 northeast of Ponta Cajete inland to No. 58 at the tripoint with Senegal.

## **II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**Guinea.** Although French commercial interests along the Guinean coast dated from the 17th century, France did not control most of the interior of what is now the Republic of Guinea until the latter part of the 19th century. Administered at various times by Senegal and the Rivières du Sud (Southern Rivers),<sup>[1]</sup> the territory of French Guinea was made a colony by a decree of March 10, 1893. The federation of French West Africa, which included Guinea as a member, was established on June 16, 1895.

Following World War II, Guinea was made an overseas territory of France and a member of the French Union. On October 2, 1958, Guinea became the first state of former French West Africa to become independent.

**Portuguese Guinea.** In 1462 Portugal granted Cape Verde islanders trading rights in what is now Portuguese Guinea, and the territory was made a dependency of the Cape Verde Islands in 1650. Portuguese Guinea was separated from the Cape Verde Islands in 1879 and was made a separate colony.

In 1952 Portuguese Guinea was made an overseas province of Portugal by constitutional amendment. As such it was considered by the Portuguese Government in Lisbon to be legally an integral part of Portugal.

## **III. BOUNDARY TREATIES**

A Franco–Portuguese convention of May 12, 1886, delimited a boundary between Portuguese Guinea and adjacent French territories. The Guinea–Portuguese Guinea boundary was delimited in Article 1 as follows:

To the east,<sup>[2]</sup> the boundary line shall follow the 16th meridian [13°39'46.05 W. of Greenwich] between latitude 12°40' N. and latitude 11°40' N.;

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<sup>[1]</sup> From 1845 to 1893 the term was used officially to indicate various French coastal areas from Senegal as far as Gabon.

<sup>[2]</sup> To the north of Portuguese Guinea, the boundary was with Senegal.

To the south, the boundary shall follow a line beginning at the mouth of the Cajet River [Rio Inxanche], situated between Catack (which shall belong to Portugal) and Tristao Island (which shall belong to France) and running, insofar as the landmarks permit, an equal distance from the Componi (Tabati) [Compony] and Cassini [Rio Cacine] Rivers, then from the northern arm of the Componi River (Tabati) and from the southern arm of the Cassini River (Marigot de Kakoudo) first, and from the Rio Grande next, to terminate at the intersection of the 16th meridian west [13°39'46.05" W. of Greenwich] and latitude 11°40' N.<sup>[3]</sup>

The convention of May 12, 1886, provided in Article VII for a joint Franco–Portuguese commission charged with an "on-site determination of the final lines of demarcation" relative to the delimitation in Article 1 of the treaty. The commissioners were instructed to reach agreement on the alignment of the boundary and the location of the pillars, and several significant changes were made in the line designated as the 16th meridian west of Paris (13°39'46.5" W. of Greenwich). The most important change was the cession to France of the district of Kade, which was about midway of the 16th parallel west of Paris. To the north of this district, Portuguese territory was extended eastward of the original agreement. 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 on 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 Guinea–Portuguese Guinea boundary and the Portuguese Guinea–Senegal boundary.

#### **IV. ALIGNMENT**

The following alignment is based on information contained in the memoranda of the boundary commissioners from B.P. No. 1 northeast of Ponta Cajete to B.P. No. 58 at the tripoint with Senegal.

The boundary starts at Cajete (Cachequé) Point and runs roughly northeast to Marker 1, erected on the path from Cabu to Camine, 750 m. from Cabu.

From Marker 1 the boundary runs roughly NNE successively past:

Marker 1a, erected on a high point on the bank of Cacoca estuary 120 m. from the high-water mark on the line between Markers 1 and 2;

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<sup>[3]</sup> Article 1 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."

Marker 1b, 2,263.70 m. from marker 1a, in the same general direction;

Marker 1c, 2,844.80 m. from marker 1b, in the same general direction;

Marker 1d, 2,531.20 m. from marker 1c, in the same general direction;

Marker 1e, 1,101.05 m. from marker 1d, in the same general direction;

Marker 1f, 3,889.50 m. from marker 1e, in the same general direction;

Marker 2, 3,009.45 m. from marker 1f, on the path from Duratiam to Cabugane, 3,500 m. south of Gadamael and 25,202 m. from marker 1;

Marker 3, on the path from Duratiam to Caguissame, 1,400 m. from Duratiam and 2,184 m. from marker 2;

Marker 4, on the path from Duratiam to Silija, before the Naluel River and 4,200 m. from Silija, about 4,700 m. from marker 3;

Marker 5, on the path from Sare–Morso to Sillia, 1,470 m. from Sare–Morso, about 11,250 m. from marker 4;

Marker 6, on the path from Sare–Morso to Simbelli, 780 m. from Sare–Morso, about 1,000 m. from marker 5;

Marker 7, on the path from Junquel to Candiafara, 720 m. from Junquel, about 4,500 m. from marker 6;

Marker 8, on the path from Sambana to Candiafara, 1,100 m. from Sambana, about 1,500 m. from marker 7;

Marker 9, on the path from Sambana to Samba–Jau, 1,035 m. from Samba–Jau and about 2,100 m. from marker 8;

Marker 10, on the path from (new) Cansambel to Samba–Jau, 485 m. from Samba–Jau and about 1,000 m. from marker 9;

Marker 11, on the path from (new) Cansambel to Cam–Demba, 565 m. from Cam–Demba and about 4,500 m. from marker 10;

Marker 12, on the path from Sare–Amadi to Cam–Demba, 730 m. from Cam–Demba and 300 m. from marker 11;

Marker 13, on the path from (new) Cansambel to (old) Cansambel, 2,400 m. from (old) Cansambel and about 1,600 m. from marker 12;

Marker 14, on the path from Roumague to (old) Cansambel, 1,000 m. from (old) Cansambel and about 1,900 m. from marker 13;

Marker 15, on the path from Contabani to (old) Cansambel, 1,000 m. from (old) Cansambel and 600 m. from marker 14;

Marker 16, on the path from Mompata and Samba Si to (old) Cansambel, 1,780 m. from (old) Cansambel and about 1,000 m. from marker 15;

From marker 16 the boundary turns east, passing along:

Marker 17, on the path from Mompata to Comatali, 1,520 m. from Mompata and about 4,800 m. from marker 16;

Marker 18, on the path from Queuel to Comatali, 3,600 m. from Queuel and 3,600 m. from marker 17;

Marker 19, at a point 4,175 m. southeast of Saala and about 8,200 m. from marker 18.

From marker 19, the boundary turns ENE, passing by:

Marker 20, on the path from Saala to Futa, 10,360 m. from Saala and about 8,000 m. from marker 19;

Marker 21, midway between the bends of the Gobodie Uol (Corubal) River and the Dalabare (Candiafara) Rivers, which bends are the points where the rivers come closest to each other, and about 11,250 m. from marker 20;

Marker 22, 4,800 m. from marker 21 travelling 63° NE.

From marker 22, the boundary turns NNE, passing by:

Marker 23, on the path from Bassi to Mo-Tairo, 6 km. from Mo-Tairo and about 5,500 m. from marker 22;

Marker 24, on the path from Juda-Cantassia to Mo-Tairo, 7,180 m. from Mo-Tairo and about 4,500 m. from marker 23.

From marker 24, the boundary turns SSE, passing along:

Marker 25, at the source of the Capege River, on the path from Cantassia to Mo-Tairo and about 1,800 m. from marker 24 in a straight line.

From marker 25, the boundary runs in an easterly direction passing along:

The thalweg of the Capege River to its confluence with the Mael Bane River;

Marker 26, at the confluence of the Capege River (left bank) and the Male Bane (right bank), 8,200 m. from marker 25, in a straight line;

Marker 27, located in the eastern part of Vendu Tiaurane, 4,925 m. from marker 26;

Marker 28, at the confluence of the Mondeali River (right bank) and the Tchibonguel River (left bank), 3,125 m. from marker 27;

The thalweg of the Mondeali River to its confluence with the Quiomaca River;

Marker 29, at the confluence of the Mondeali River (left bank) with the Quiomaca River (right bank) and 1,000 m. from marker 28, in a straight line.

The course of the Quiomaca River to its confluence with the Boro River;

Marker 30, at the confluence of the Quiomaca River with the Boro River (right bank) and 7,100 m. from marker 29 in a straight line:

The course of the Boro River to its source;

Marker 31, at the source of the Boro River, 4,000 m. from marker 30 in a straight line;

Marker 32, at the source of the Boulouba River, 2,300 m. from marker 31;

Marker 33, on the hill near the source of the Mussa River, on the caravan trail from Boke to Cade, bisecting at this point the telegraph line that follows the caravan trail, 5,500 m. from marker 32;

The thalweg of the Mussa River to its confluence with the Paramaca River;

The thalweg of the Paramaca to its confluence with the Fefine River;

Marker 34, on the right bank of the Fefine River in front of the confluence with the Paramaca River, 7,850 m. from marker 33 in a straight line.

From marker 34 the boundary turns NNE, passing along:

The thalweg of the Fefine River to its confluence with the Senta River;

Marker 35, at the confluence of the Fefine River (right bank) and the Senta River (left bank), 9,450 m. from marker 34 in a straight line.

From marker 35 the boundary runs southeast and then east, along:

The thalweg of the Senta River to the confluence of the Senta (right bank) and the Baleum (left bank) Rivers, 4,700 m. from marker 37 in a straight line;

The course of the Baleum River to marker 37;

Marker 37, on a hill near the source of the Baleum River.

At marker 37 the boundary turns north, roughly following Lat.  $16^{\circ}$  W. [ $13^{\circ}39'46.05''$  W. of Greenwich], passing along:

Marker 38, on a rocky plateau near the source of the Beidi River, a tributary of the Binasse Uol River, 4,200 m. from marker 37;

The courses of the Beidi and Binasse Uol Rivers to marker 39;

Marker 39, on the right bank of the Binasse Uol River, 6,800 m. from marker 38;

Marker 40, at the source of the Cho–Ore River, 3,350 m. from marker 39;

Marker 41, at the highest point of the pass between the Balegi Uol and Tarijeum Rivers on the path from Bamumia to Tarigue, 5,450 m. north of marker 40;

Marker 42, on the path from Bamumia to Caru–Caru, near Bundo Bamire, 4,800 m. north of marker 41;

Marker 43, on the right bank of the Quissem River, 3,675 m. north of marker 42;

Marker 44, at the end of the thalweg of the Caji River, 5,900 m. from marker 43.

At marker 44, the boundary turns generally WNW then NW passing along:

The thalweg of the Caji River to its confluence with the Camponi River.

The course of the Camponi River upstream to its confluence with the Uale–Uale River;

Marker 45, at the confluence of the Uale–Uale and the Camponi Rivers, on the left bank of the Camponi River and 12,750 m. in a straight line from marker 44;

The course of the Uale–Uale River upstream to its source;

Marker 46, at the source of the Uale–Uale, on the caravan trail that parallels the telegraph line from Boke to Cade, 6,100 m. from marker 45 in a straight line;



Marker 47, at the source of the Jacape River, on the path from Tabadara to Cade, 3,000 m. from marker 46;

The course of the Jacape River to its confluence with the Camboco River;

Marker 48, at the confluence of the Jacape and Camboco Rivers, on the left bank of the Camboco River, 3,350 m. from marker 47 in a straight line, near the path from Forrea to Cade;

The course of the Cofara River to its confluence with the Coli (or Corubal) River;

Marker 49, at the confluence of the Camboco River (right bank) and the Coli River (left bank), 6,800 m. from marker 48 in a straight line.

From marker 49, the boundary turns north and soon east, passing along:

The thalweg of the Coli or Corubal River to its confluence with the Nhamanca, over a distance of 60 km.;

Marker 50, at the confluence of the Nhamanca (left bank) and the Coli (right bank) Rivers.

From marker 50 the boundary again turns north, passing along:

The thalweg of the Nhamanca moving upstream (the upper reach of this river is called the Candica) to marker 51;

Marker 51, on right bank of the Candica River, near the village and cultivated area called Candica, 16,100 m. from marker 50 in a straight line;

A straight line through Fello Cataba from marker 51 to marker 52;

Marker 52, near the former village of Cataba, not far from the spring of the same name, at the foot of the hill and on the path from Camquelifa to Cutan that parallels the telegraph line, 3,600 m. from marker 51;

Marker 53, on the left bank of the Cambama River, 4,600 m. from marker 52;

The course of the Cambama River to marker 54;

Marker 54, on the right bank of the Cambama River, 3,750 m. from marker 53;

Marker 55, on the right bank of the Canjamo River (a tributary of the Caium River), 4,150 m. from marker 54;

Marker 56, on the path from Canquelifa to Caurane, 6,200 m. from marker 55;

Marker 57, not far from the Camussa River, a right-bank tributary of the Mael Jaube River, 3,375 m. from marker 56;

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

### **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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<sup>[4]</sup> Maps indicate that the Senegal tripoint is located at approximately 12°40'30" N. and 13°42'30" W. of Greenwich.

This International Boundary Study is one of a series of specific boundary papers prepared by The Geographer, Office of the Geographer, Directorate for Functional Research, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, in accordance with provisions of the Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-16.

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