STRENGTHENING CROSS BORDER COOPERATION: A FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

PRESENTATION

BY

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- The National Boundary Commission
- Nigeria's International Borders
- Status of Nigeria's Borders
- Frameworks for Cross Border Cooperation
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

- ✓ **Borders** define **territorial limits** and **sovereign jurisdiction of a nation-state** where its domestic laws are applicable and a starting point of nations foreign policy. They are viewed as the representation of peoples' traditional heritage, belief, and values that gives them unique identity and sense of belonging (Newman and Paasi, 1998).

- ✓ Borders play an important role in daily lives of people because **they define ways of operational limits** (either on land, air or sea), place of habitation and limits to access of resources (hydrocarbon and maritime resources, mineral and agricultural resources, etc) as well their utilization (Alexander, 1963).

- ✓ Borders are often contested when issues of **national security** and **strategic economic interests** are at stake (Huth, 1996).

- ✓ **Borderlands** are communities in proximity to the International Borders (Adejuyibe, 1989).

- ✓ **Cross-border Cooperation**: Means **any act or policy aimed at promoting and strengthening good neighbourly relations** between border populations, territorial communities and administrations (African Union, 2014).

THE NATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

- The 1984 Closure of the Border
- The NIPSS Defence and Security Project (1985-1987)
- The NBC Decree 38 of 1987
- Mandate of the National Boundary Commission
- Structure and Operations of the National Boundary Commission

NIGERIA'S INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

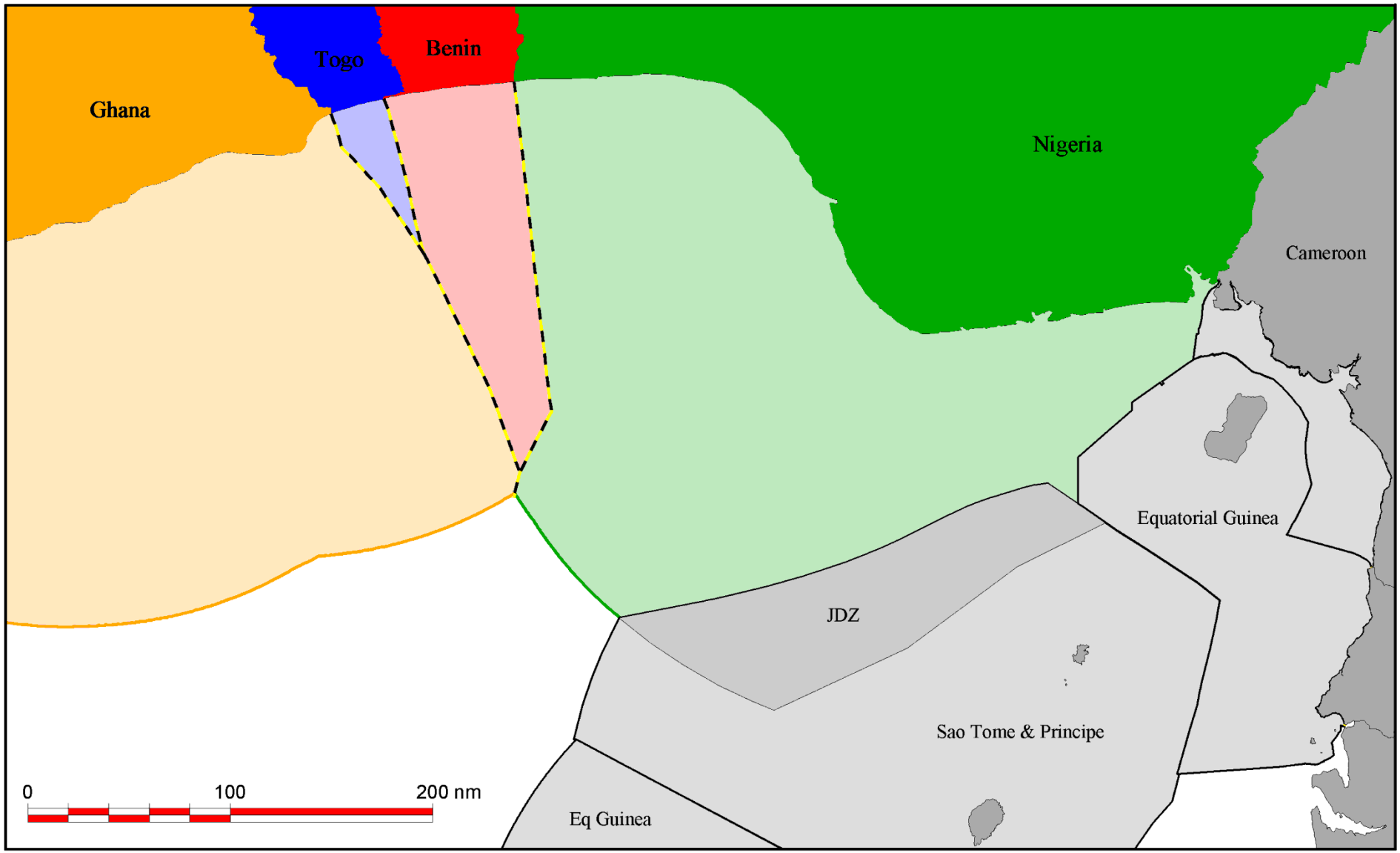
The Federal Republic of Nigeria shares International Borders with seven countries:

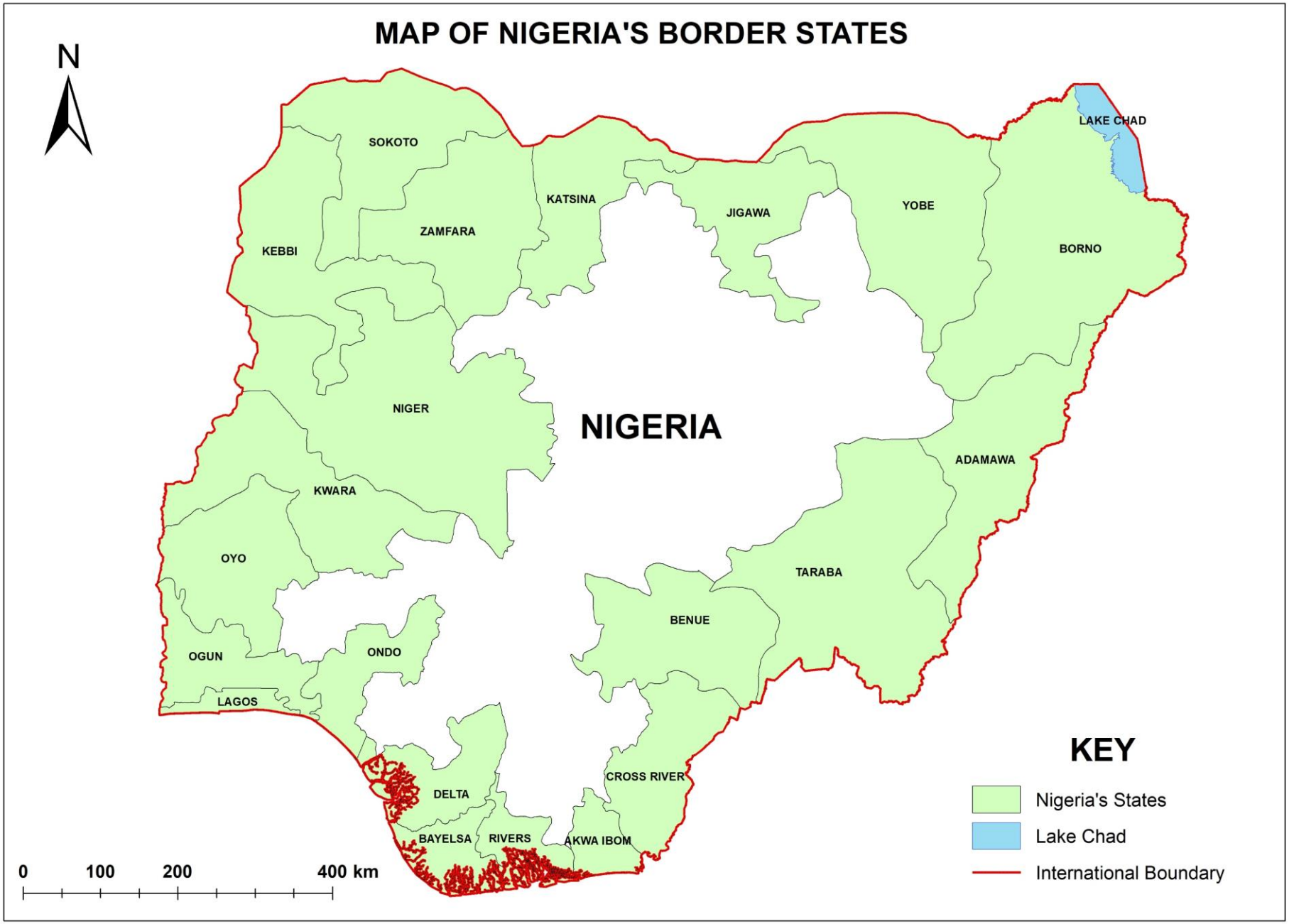
- ✓ Republic of Benin – Land, River and Maritime
- ✓ Republic of Niger – Land, Lake and River
- ✓ Republic of Chad – Lake
- ✓ Republic of Cameroon – Land, River, Lake and Maritime
- ✓ Republic of Sao Tome & Principe – Maritime
- ✓ Republic of Equatorial Guinea – Maritime
- ✓ Republic of Ghana – Maritime

ILLUSTRATION OF NIGERIA'S LAND BORDERS



NIGERIA'S MARITIME BORDERS




MAP OF NIGERIA'S BORDER STATES
N
SOKOTO
KEBBI
ZAMFARA
KATSINA
JIGAWA
YOBE
LAKE CHAD
BORNO
NIGER
NIGERIA
ADAMAWA
KWARA
OYO
TARABA
BENUE
OGUN
ONDO
LAGOS
DELTA
CROSS RIVER
BAYELSA
RIVERS
AKWA IBOM
0
100
200
400 km
KEY
Nigeria's States
Lake Chad
International Boundary

NIGERIA'S 21 GATEWAY STATES BY GEO-POLITICAL REGIONS

S/N	South West	North West	North East	North Central	South South
1	Ondo	Kebbi	Yobe	Kwara	Bayelsa
2	Lagos	Sokoto	Borno	Niger	Rivers
3	Ogun	Zamfara	Adamawa	Benue	Cross River
4	Oyo	Katsina	Taraba		Delta
5		Jigawa			Akwa Ibom

STATUS OF NIGERIA'S INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

NIGERIA-BENIN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY

- Instruments defining the border
- Covers a distance of **770km** long
- Cuts across Six States and 12 LGAs
- Mostly inhabited on both sides by people sharing common **languages**, **culture**, and **religion.**

- Status: Outstanding issues in the northern part of the boundary (Kebbi, Niger and Kwara States), area around Toungeli Island and Igbokofi/Towe axes (Ogun State)

NIGERIA-BENIN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY (CONT.)

S/N	STATES ALONG NIGERIA – BENIN INTERNATIONAL BORDER	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAs)	NO. OF LGAs
1	LAGOS STATE	Badagry and Badagry West	2
2	OGUN STATE	Ipokia, Yewa North and Imeko-Afon	3
3	OYO STATE	Iwajowa, Atisbo and Saki West. Itesiwaju (has border communities)	4
4	KWARA STATE	Baruten	1
5	NIGER STATE	Borgu	1
	KEBBI STATE	Bagudo	1
6	TOTAL		12


MAP OF NIGERIA-BENIN BORDER STATES/DEPARTMENTS
N
ALIBORI
KEBBI STATE
BORGOU
NIGER STATE
KWARA STATE
COLLINES
OYO STATE
PLATEAU
OUEME
OGUN STATE
LAGOS STATE
KEY
Benin
Nigeria
State/Department Boundary
International Boundary
0
50
100
200 Kilometers

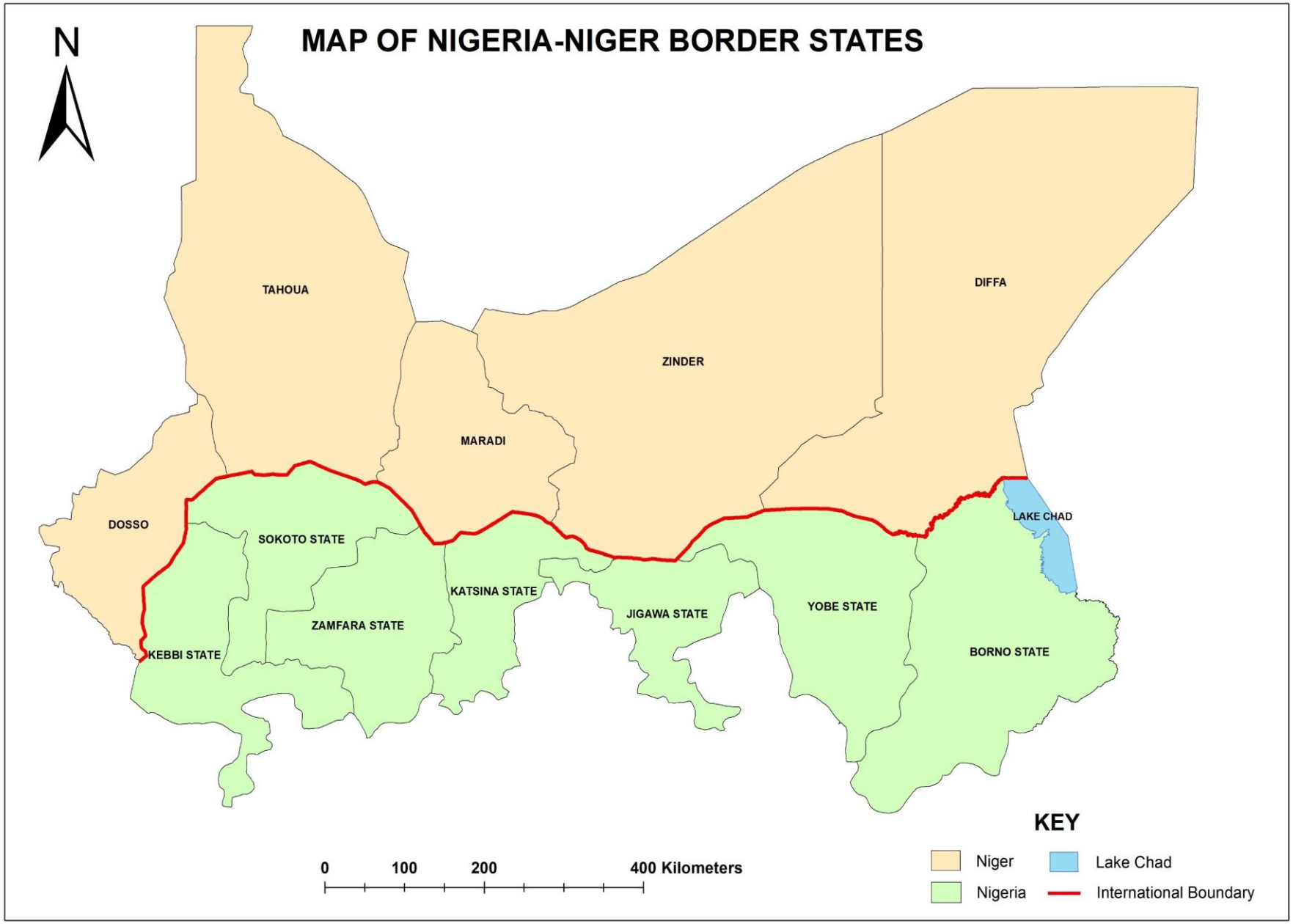
NIGERIA-NIGER INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY

- Instrument defining the Border
- Covers a distance of **1500km** long
- Cuts across Six States and has 28 LGAs
- Mostly inhabited on both sides by people sharing common **languages**, **culture**, and **religion.**

- Status: About 90% defined with 128 out of 148 main pillars emplaced. 840 out of 5400 intermediate pillars emplaced for visibility of the boundary.
- Outstanding issues are alignment of the Kumadugu-Yobe river, exchange of territories affected by the demarcation (10 for to Nigeria and 8 for Niger) and 15 straddling villages (in 6 states along the boundary).

NIGERIA-NIGER INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY (CONT.)

S/N	STATES ALONG NIGERIA – NIGER INTERNATIONAL BORDER	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAs)	NO. OF LGAs
1	KEBBI STATE	Dandi and Arewa	2
2	SOKOTO STATE	Gudu, Tangaza, Gada, Illela, Sabon Birni, and Isa	6
3	ZAMFARA STATE	Zurmi. Shinkafi (has border communities)	2
4	KATSINA STATE	Jibia, Kaita, Mashi, Mai'Adua, Zango, and Baure	6
5	JIGAWA STATE	Sule Tankarkar and Maigatari. Babura and Kaugama (have border communities)	4
6	YOBE STATE	Machina, Yusufari and Yunusari. Nguru. Karasuwa (has border communities)	5
7	BORNO STATE	Mobbar and Abadam. Guzamala (has border communities)	3
	TOTAL		28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MAP OF NIGERIA-NIGER BORDER STATES
TAHOUA
DIFFA
ZINDER
MARADI
DOSSO
SOKOTO STATE
LAKE CHAD
KATSINA STATE
JIGAWA STATE
YOBE STATE
ZAMFARA STATE
KEBBI STATE
BORNO STATE
0
100
200
400 Kilometers
KEY
Niger
Lake Chad
Nigeria
International Boundary

NIGERIA-CHAD INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY (CONT.)

The general characteristics are:

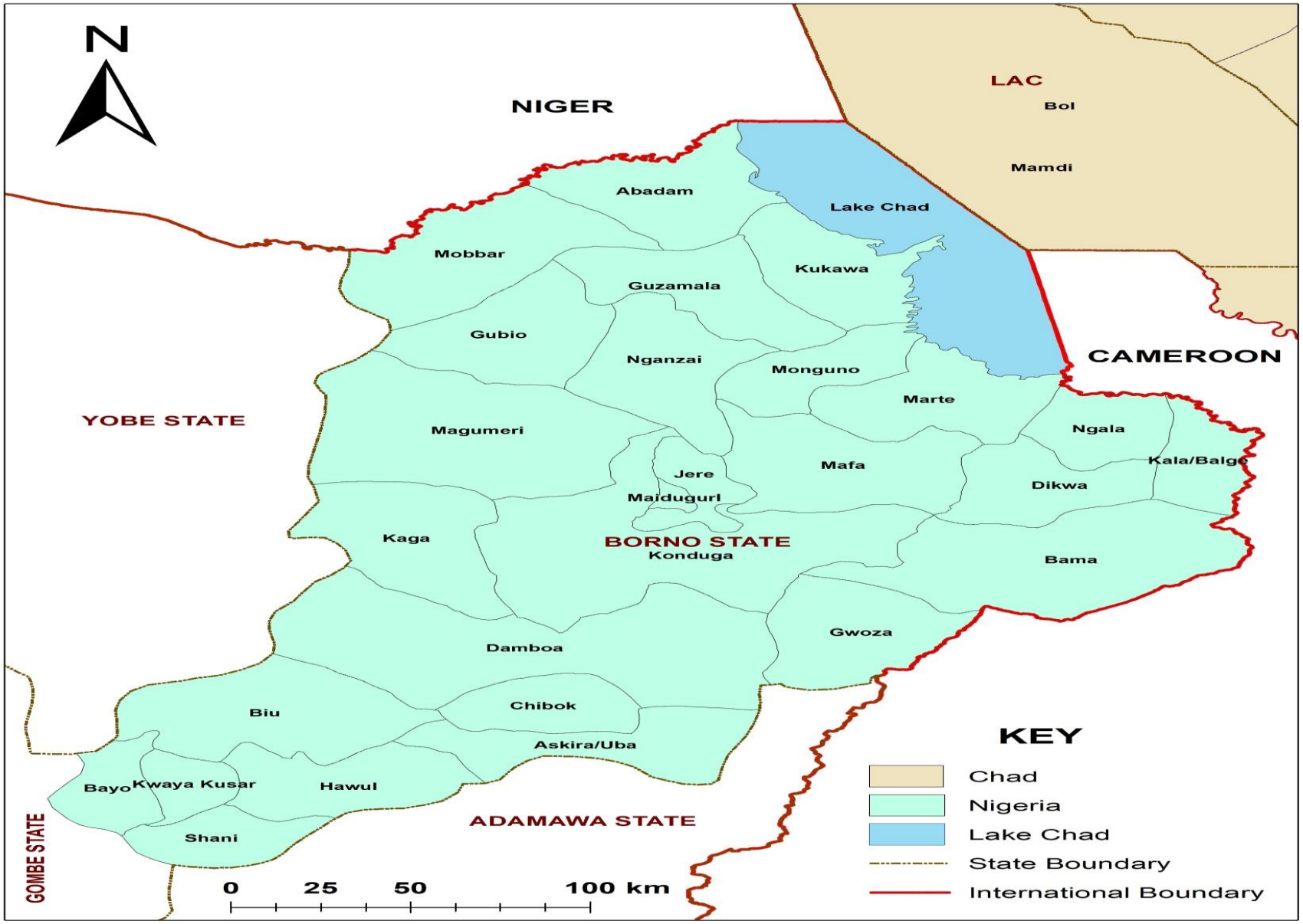
- Instrument defining the border.
- Covers a distance of **84km** long, featuring Lake boundary
- Borders with only one State and has 2 LGAs
- Mostly inhabited on both sides by people sharing common **languages**, **culture**, and **religion.**
- The boundary was demarcated by the French National Geographic Institute **(IGN-France)** in 1989/90 under the auspices of the **LCBC** and the demarcation documents duly ratified by all member States of the LCBC.

- Activities of pillar recovery and densification as well as along the boundary were suspended as a result of the insurgency in the region.

NIGERIA-CHAD INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY

S/N	STATES ALONG NIGERIA – CHAD INTERNATIONAL BORDER	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAs)	NO. OF LGAs
1	BORNO	Abadam and Kukawa	2
	TOTAL		2

NIGERIA-CHAD INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY



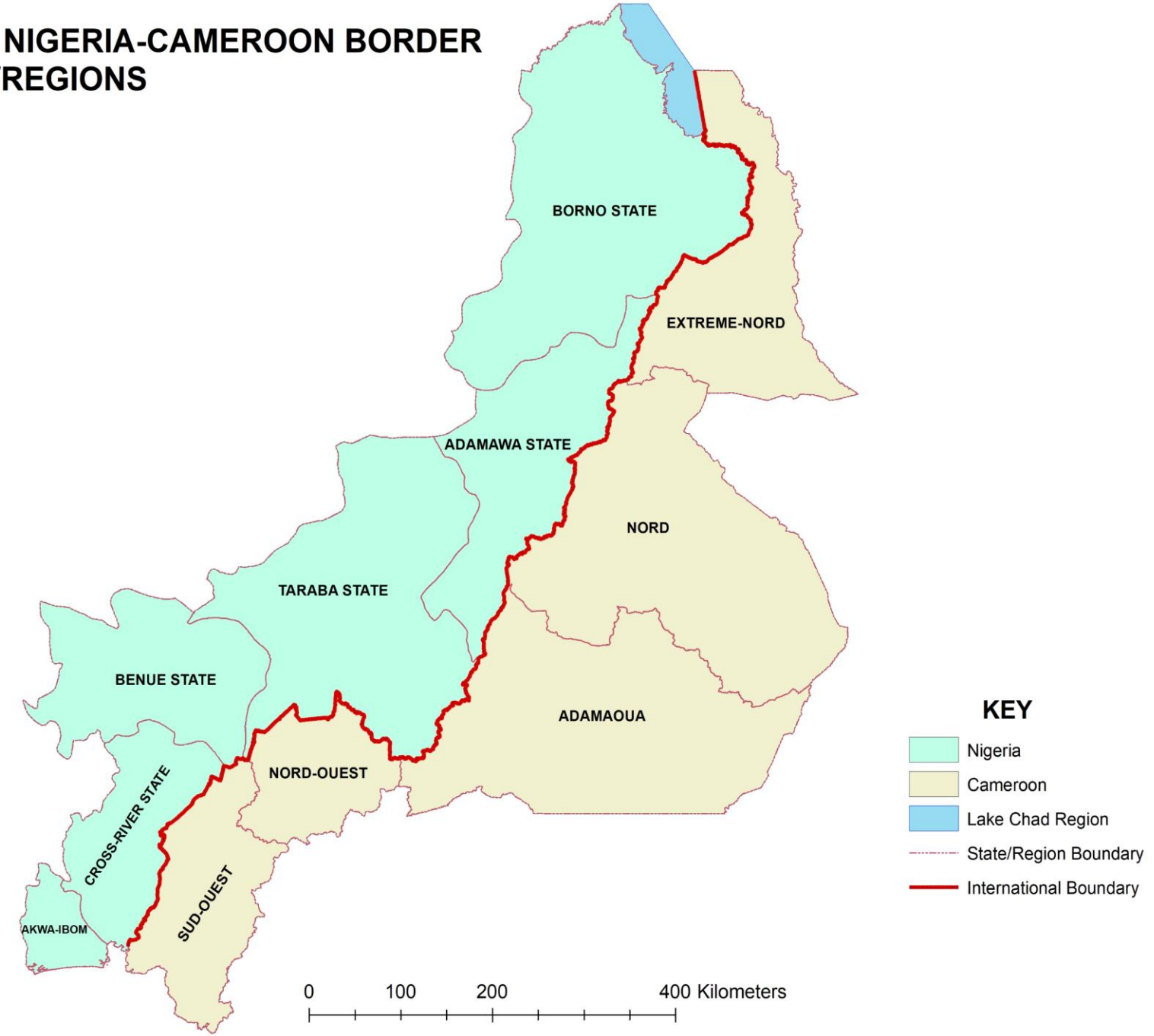
NIGERIA-CAMEROON INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY

- Instruments defining the border
- The ICJ gave a verdict on the land and maritime boundary disputes between Nigeria and Cameroon in 2002.
- The judgement implementation by the United Nations led tripartite team of Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission
- The boundary covers a distance of **2,100km** long, featuring land, river, lake and maritime boundaries
- Cuts across Six States and 31 LGAs
- Mostly inhabited on both sides by people sharing common **languages**, **culture**, and **religion.**
- About 85% of the Boundary has been demarcated with 2467 pillars. Remaining 15% is about 410 pillars the Adamawa State sector.
- Plan to engage the affected communities through confidence-building and cross border cooperation initiatives to consolidate on the gains and peaceful outcomes achieved by the two countries

NIGERIA-CAMEROON INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY (CONT.)

S/N	STATES ALONG NIGERIA – CAMEROON INTERNATIONAL BORDER	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAs)	NO. OF LGAs
1	BORNO	Kukawa, Monguno, Marte, Ngala, Kala/Balge, Bama and Gwoza	7
2	ADAMAWA	Madagali, Michika, Mubi North, Mubi South, Maiha, Fufore, Jada, Ganye and Toungo	9
3	TARABA	Gashaka, Sardauna, Kurmi, Ussa, and Takum	5
4	BENUE	Kwande	1
5	CROSS RIVER	Obanliku, Boki, Etung, Akamkpa, Akpabuyo and New Bakassi	6
6	AKWA IBOM	Oron, Mbo and Ibeno	3
	TOTAL		31

MAP OF NIGERIA-CAMEROON BORDER STATES/REGIONS



NIGERIA'S COASTAL STATES

The general characteristics:

- Covers a distance of **853km** long
- Cuts across Eight States and has 26 LGAs
- Strategic to Nigeria's National Security and Economy.

NIGERIA'S COASTAL BORDER

S/N	STATES ALONG NIGERIA'S COASTAL BORDER	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAs)	NO. OF LGAs
1	LAGOS	Badagry, Ojo, Amuwo Odofin, Apapa, Eti Osa, Ibeju Lekki, and Epe	7
2	OGUN	Water Side	1
3	ONDO	Ilaje	1
4	DELTA	Warri North, Warri South and Burutu	3
5	BAYELSA	Ekeremor, South Ijaw and Brass	3
6	RIVERS	Akuku Toro, Degema, Opobo/Nkoro, Bonny and Andoni	5
7	AKWA IBOM	Eastern Obolo, Ibeno and Mbo	3
8	CROSS RIVER	Akpabuyo, New Bakassi and Calabar South	3
	TOTAL		26

NIGERIA'S COASTAL STATES



NIGERIA'S MARITIME BOUNDARIES

- Nigeria shares Maritime Boundaries with **Benin**, **Cameroon**, **Equatorial Guinea**, **Ghana** and **Sao Tome & Principe** in the Gulf of Guinea Region.

  - ✓ **Nigeria-Benin Maritime Boundary:** The determination of the maritime boundary between Nigeria and Benin started as far back as **1968** and the boundary was established through negotiations guided by United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS II, 1982) in 2006.

  - ✓ **Nigeria-Cameroon Maritime Boundary** was adjudicated by the (ICJ) in 2002 after which a Working Group was formed by the CNMC in September, 2010 and formulated "Resource Clause" on the oil and gas fields straddling the Maritime Boundary.

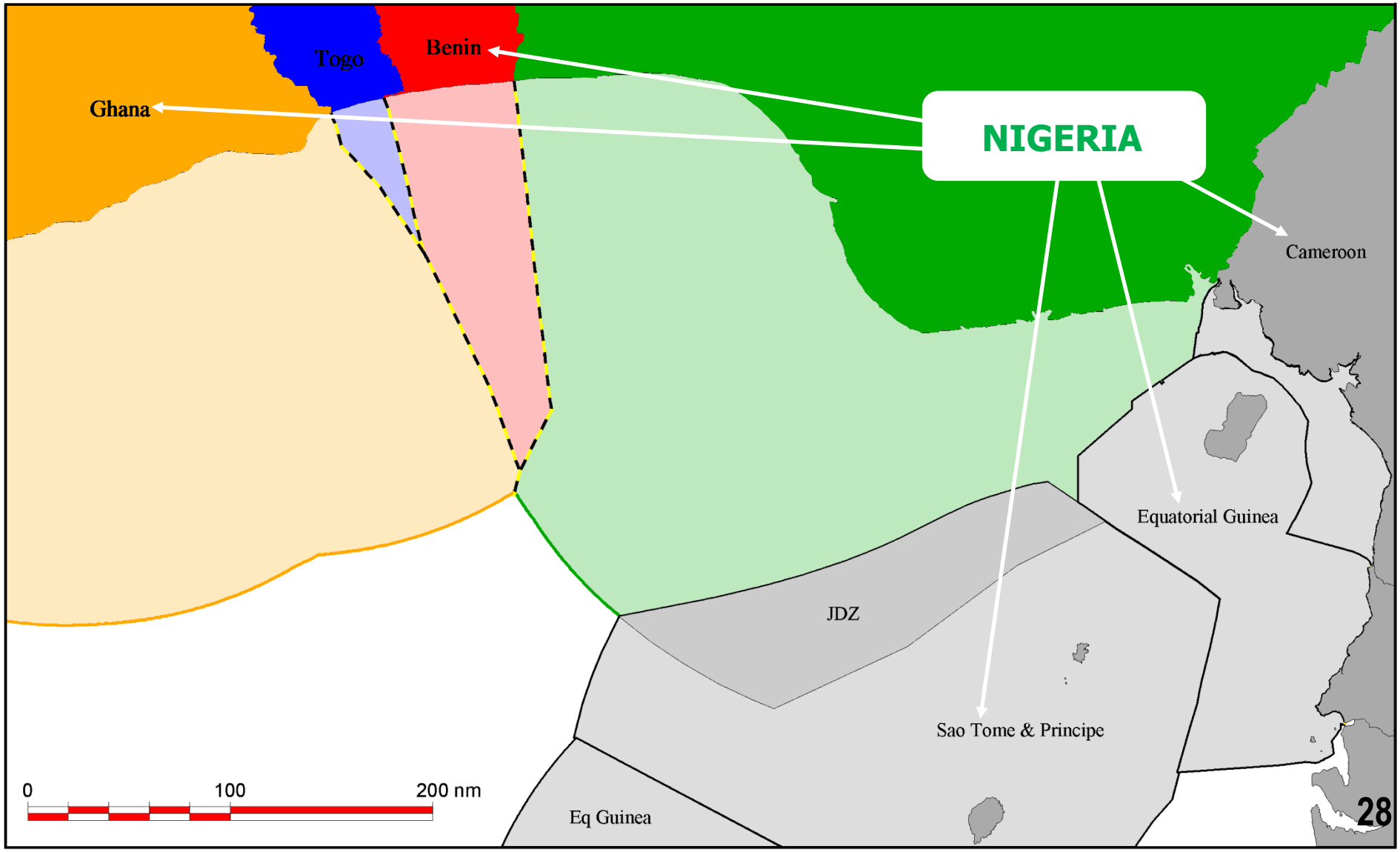
  - ✓ **Nigeria-Sao Tome & Principe:** share a maritime boundary in the Gulf of Guinea, both nations negotiated, identified a Joint Development Zone (JDZ) in the disputed overlapping area, and agreed to establish the **Nigeria–Sao Tome and Principe Joint Development Authority (JDA)** in 2002, to manage the resources of the JDZ to share the accruing revenues in the ratio of **60:40** in favour of Nigeria for **45** years.

NIGERIA'S MARITIME BOUNDARIES (CONT.)

- **Nigeria-Equatorial Guinea:** maritime boundary has been finalized with the signing, ratification and domestication of the Treaty by the Presidents of both countries in **2001, 2002 and 2003** respectively. The issue of resources straddling the boundary line was dealt with by unitizing the **Zafiro/Ekanga Oil Fields**, which has been of great economic benefits to Nigeria. Negotiations on the remaining 3.5M is ongoing and when completed Oil and Gas activities will also commence in the area.

- **Nigeria-Ghana Maritime Boundary:** is about eight **(8M)** Nautical Miles as a result of the protrusion of the Niger Delta in Nigeria and that of Cape Three Point in Ghana. Negotiations initiated in 2007 are still ongoing to delineate the boundary.

NIGERIA'S MARITIME BOUNDARIES IN THE GULF OF GUINEA



THE NIGERIA'S EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF PROJECT (NECSP)

- **The NECSP:** The United Nations Commission on the Limit of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS or CLCS) held an open session in **May, 2000,** to enlighten nations on the provisions of Article 76 of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) II of 1982, which deals with the delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, including the Continental Shelf. Nigeria was identified as a nation with potential to claim and extend her maritime territory up to a maximum of **350M** beyond the traditional Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) limit of **200M**.

- The Federal Government constituted an Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee made up of experts from NBC, Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Federal Survey (FS) and the Nigerian Navy (NN) with the NBC supervising the project.

- **High Powered Presidential Committee (HPPC) on Nigerian Extended Continental Shelf:** This Committee was constituted by Mr. President to handle the concluding aspects of the Nigerian Extended Continental Shelf Project including the successful extension of Nigeria's Maritime territory beyond the 200M and up to 350M.

FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

- The African Union Convention on Cross Border Cooperation – Continental Level
- The ECOWAS Cross Border Cooperation Programme – Sub-regional Level
- Bilateral Cross Border Cooperation – Bilateral Level
- Local Cross Border Cooperation Platforms – Local Level

FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS BORDER COOPERATION (CONT.)

The main objectives of the African Union Convention on Cross Border Cooperation as stated in Article 2 are to:

- Promote cross-border cooperation, at local, sub-regional and regional levels;
- facilitate the delimitation, demarcation and reaffirmation of interstate borders, in conformity with mechanisms agreed upon by the parties concerned;
- promote peace and stability through the prevention of conflicts, the integration of the continent and the deepening of its unity.
- Seize the opportunities arising from shared borders and address the related challenges;
- facilitate the peaceful resolution of border disputes;
- ensure efficient and effective integrated border management;
- transform border areas into catalysts for growth, socio-economic and political integration of the continent.

EXISTING FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS BORDER COOPERATION (CONT.)

The Areas of Cooperation with other African States as provided by the Convention are listed as follow in Article 3 of the Convention:

- Security, especially combating cross-border crime, terrorism, piracy and other forms of crimes
- Mapping and geographical information, including survey
- Socio-economic development, including transportation, communication, trade, agro-pastoral activities, handcrafts, energy resources, industry health, sanitation, drinking water, education and environmental protection;
- Cultural activities and sports;
- De-mining of border areas

FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS BORDER COOPERATION (CONT.)

Benefits of the Convention includes:

- Enhancement of Border security;
- Peaceful cohabitation by the border dwellers;
- Intelligence gathering and sharing; and
- Facilitation of cross-border trade.

FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS BORDER COOPERATION (CONT.)

The ECOWAS Cross Border Cooperation concept was adopted by Heads of State and Government in 2006. It recognizes border Communities as building blocks for sub-regional cooperation and integration. It also facilitate ECOWAS desire to move away from ECOWAS of States to ECOWAS of People and create trans-national Identities.

ECOWAS launched Cross Border Cooperation Programme across the West African Sub-region. The Prorgamme, is aimed at:

- promoting regional peace and security;
- strengthening sub-regional cooperation;
- promoting integration and development across borders;
- managing migration dynamics and free movement; and
- supporting joint socio-economic development initiatives.

BORDER FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS BORDER COOPERATION (CONT.)

Bilateral Cross Border Cooperation Frameworks:

- Nigeria-Benin Cross Border Cooperation Agreement
- Nigeria-Niger Joint Commission for Cooperation (NNJCC)
- Nigeria–Cameroon Trans-border Cooperation/ Security Committee
- Nigeria-Sao Tome and Principe Joint Development Authority
- Nigeria-Equatorial Guinea Joint Commission
- Nigeria-Ghana Joint Committee
- Lake Chad Basin Commission

BORDER FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS BORDER COOPERATION (CONT.)

Local Cross Border Cooperation Platforms:

- Nigeria-Benin Local Cross Border Cooperation Platform along the borders
- Nigeria-Chad Local Cross Border Cooperation Platform along the borders
- Nigeria-Niger Local Cross Border Cooperation Platform along the borders
- Nigeria–Cameroon Local Cross Border Cooperation Platform along the borders
- Nigeria Coastal States: Local Cross Border Cooperation Platform along the borders

RECOMMENDATIONS: OPERATIONALIZING CROSS BORDER COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

In order to institutionalize the Cross Border Cooperation Mechanisms, there is need for:

- Effective Inter-Agency Cooperation
- Leveraging on Technology and Innovation
- Strengthening Intelligence Sharing and Security Coordination
- Operationalizing Local Cross Border Cooperation Platforms
- Facilitating Cross Border Trade
- Enhancing Border Community Development

CONCLUSION

Cross Border Cooperation is a critical instrument for promoting peace, security, economic growth, and regional cooperation and integration. Given the transnational nature of contemporary security threats and economic opportunities, neighbouring countries must adopt collaborative approaches that foster mutual trust, shared prosperity, and collective responsibility.

It is imperative to note that Cross Border Cooperation is an indispensable tool for addressing transboundary security challenges and unlocking regional economic opportunities. By deploying the Cross Border Cooperation instrument, neighbouring countries can transform border areas from zones of vulnerability into corridors of peace, resilience and sustainable development. Such cooperation not only strengthens national security but also promotes regional security and advances economic cooperation, regional integration and collective prosperity.

Nigeria must therefore take advantage of these instruments in addressing transnational security threats and economic challenges. The institutionalization of the local cross-border cooperation platforms established by the NBC along all Nigeria's International Borders can play a critical role in fostering trust, social cohesion, and collective responses to shared challenges and opportunities.

THANK YOU
FOR LISTENING