

Country/entity	Nigeria
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Agreement Reached this Day 7th of January, 2017 Between Agatu People of Benue State and Fulani Herdsmen of Nasarawa State of Nigeria
Date	6 Jan 2017
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict

Nigerian Civil War (1967), Delta Unrest (1990 -), Communal Conflicts (1978 -), and Boko Haram Insurgency (2009 -)

Since 1960 when Nigeria became independent, it has seen a number of coup d'états and instability. In 1967, after confederation plans for the Nigerian regions to gain more independence failed, the Eastern region seceded as the Republic of Biafra and this caused the Nigerian Civil War. The conflict resulted from political, economic, ethnic and religious tensions which had existed since before Britain drew new borders when colonising the area. The discovery of oil in the Niger Delta heightened the intensity of the conflict. With the aid of British forces, the Nigerian military managed to take back the territory in 1970. Since then, ethnic violence has persisted.

Nigerian Delta Unrest (1990 -)

Conflict in the Niger Delta arose in the 1990s between foreign oil companies and ethnic groups which felt exploited after being forced to abandon their land. The Nigerian military caused international consternation in 1995 when members of the Ogoni tribe of the Niger Delta were found hanged without due process. The proliferation of arms in the region has encouraged the rise of armed groups which have targeted oil companies and pipelines. This came to a head in 2004 when Shell withdrew personnel from two oil fields in response to attacks on wells and pipelines by rebels. The military have attempted to clamp down on militant groups in the Niger Delta but it was not until the establishment of the Presidential amnesty program in 2009 which required the surrender of weapons by militants in exchange for amnesty. In 2016 a new militant group called the Niger Delta Avengers has announced its existence in the Niger Delta illustrating the continued instability in that region.

Boko Haram Insurgency (2009 -)

Sectarian violence has also been rife in Nigeria and since 2002, the radical Islamist group Boko Haram have been violently seeking to establish sharia law throughout Nigeria and an Islamic caliphate in the Northern part of the country. In 2009 they began an official insurgency which spread to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. In 2014 the group kidnapped 276 girls from a college in Chibok and bombed the town of Jos. The insurgency is the result of Muslim – Christian tensions in the country which is a constant source of instability and violence. In 2015 the military led a regional coalition of forces on a counter-offensive against Boko Haram and they were successful in taking ground. There are also conflicts between Fulani herdsman and Christian peasants in the Middle belt. Widespread corruption and lack of state authority exacerbate these many complex tensions.

Central Nigerian communal conflicts (1978 -)

Unrest in Nigeria is a product of socio-economic pressures between migrating herdsman and settled agriculturists, exacerbated by firearms proliferation, ethnic conflict, sectarianism and banditry. Since 2001, attacks have adopted a more sectarian character involving suicide bombings and shooting at churches by the jihadist group, Boko Haram. Peaks of violence occurred in 2004 and 2011, pastoral/farmer conflict has resulted in the deaths of thousands since the Fourth Nigerian Republic was founded in 1999. The Land Use Act of 1978, exacerbated conflict by allowing longtime occupants 'indigeneship' and the ability to apply for a certificate of occupancy, putting migrating communities at a disadvantage.

Close

Nigerian Civil War (1967), Delta Unrest (1990 -), Communal Conflicts (1978 -), and Boko

Stage	Framework/substantive - comprehensive
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Nigeria - local agreements
Parties	Agatu People of Benue State Fulani Herdsmen of Nasartawa State
Third parties	-
Description	An agreement between two groups dealing with inter-communal conflict and providing for mutual access to Adepati Island, with provisions on access to grazing and fishing, and providing that the agreement may from time to time be monitored by the military.

Agreement document [NG_170106_Agreement between Agatu people and Fulani Herdsmen.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	Groups→Children/youth→Other Page 1, Article 9 That soldier shall invade the Island on hearing of any gun shot by either Agatu youth or Fulanu herdsmen. Page 2, Article 10 That both Agatu youth and Fulanu herdsmen should not deploy any armed group to any location except directed by the military.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group**

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical

Page 1, Untitled preamble

An agreement reached on this day 6th of January, 2017 between Agatu people of Benue state and Fulani Herdsmen of Nasartawa State.

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive

Page 1, Article 1

That Adepati Island is by this agreement opened to Fulani herdsmen for the purpose of grazing only and not for resident.

Page 1, Article 3

That the Island is opened to both Agatu and Fulani herdsmen for the purpose of their economic practices. Hitherto, the Island is also opened to Agatu for fishing without threat.

Page 1, Article 5

That Fulani herdsmen shall be held accountable for any destruction.

Page 1, Article 7

That only the indigenous Fulani that their identity are known that should be allowed to graze on Adapati Island.

Page 1, Article 8

That Neither Agatu nor Fulani herdsmen are allowed to carry about any dangerous Arm.

Page 1, Article 9

That soldier shall invade the Island on hearing of any gun shot by either Agatu youth or Fulanu herdsmen.

Page 2, Article 10

That both Agatu youth and Fulanu herdsmen should not deploy any armed group to any location except directed by the military.

Religious groups

No specific mention.

Indigenous people Groups→Indigenous people→Rhetorical
Untitled preamble
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Groups→Indigenous people→Substantive
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Page 2, Article 10
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Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	Page 1, Article 1 That Adepati Island is by this agreement be opened to Fulani herdsmen for the purpose of grazing only and not for residence. Page 1, Article 3 That the Island is opened to both Agatu and Fulani herdsmen for the purpose of their economic practices.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** Page 1, Article 1
That Adepati Island is by this agreement opened to Fulani herdsmen for the purpose of grazing only and not for residence.

Page 1, Article 3
That the Island is opened to both Agatu and Fulani herdsmen for the purpose of their economic practices.

Page 1, Article 4
That No herdsmen is allowed to grazing beyond the said Island.

Page 1, Article 7
That only the indigenous Fulani that their identity are known that should be allowed to graze on Adapati Island.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** Page 1, Article 3
Hitherto, the Island is also opened to Agatu for fishing without threat.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

Page 1, Article 8

That Neither Agatu nor Fulani herdsmen are allowed to carry about any dangerous Arm such as Gun, Matchet and Explosives.

Page 1, Article 9

That soldier shall invade the Island on hearing of any gun shot by either Agatu youth or Fulani herdsmen.

Page 2, Article 10

That both Agatu youth and Fulani herdsmen should not deploy any armed group to any location except directed by the military.

Page 2, Article 11

That any armed group from either side that cross over illegally will be engaged by 72 SFBN and 177 BN.

Page 2, Article 12

That this agreement shall be monitored by the military from time to time.

Page 2, Article 13

Any breach of this agreement shall lead to the withdrawal of this agreement and the military shall take over the occupation of the Island.

Ceasefire

No specific mention.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

No specific mention.

Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 2, Article 13 Any breach of this agreement shall lead to the withdrawal of this agreement and the military shall take over the occupation of the Island.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	On file with author.
