Country/entity	Cameroon Nigeria
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Agreement between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria concerning the Modalities of Withdrawal and Transfer of Authority in the Bakassi Peninsula
Date	12 Jun 2006
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/interstate conflict

Bakassi Territorial Dispute (1993 - 2006)

This conflict relates to the disputed Bakassi Peninsula territory in the Gulf of Guinea. After colonialisation, borders between Nigeria and Cameroon were arbitrarily drawn and Bakassi was granted to Cameroon even though many of the inhabitants feel an affinity to Nigeria. Nigeria claims the territory historically belongs to Nigerian tribes which inhabited the area pre-colonialisation and administered the peninsula from independence in 1960. Cameroon disputed this on the basis of maps dating back to colonial times. Troops either side of the border have occasionally escalated the dispute with incursions into respective territories and the subsequent retaliations have resulted in a number of military deaths. This came to a head in the early 1990s where troop blockades were built up on either side and relations were tense. In order to resolve this and avoid a war, Cameroon appealed to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to rule on the border dispute. Sporadic clashes continued into the mid 1990s. In 2002, the ICJ ruled that Nigeria pull out its troops, officials and police confirming Cameroon sovereignty. Nigeria was slow to accept the ruling but eventually submitted to a Mixed Commission made up of representatives of both nations to consider the implications of the ICJ ruling. Transitional arrangements for Bakassi were to be completed by 2008 and in 2013, Cameroon took over full sovereignty.
Close
Bakassi Territorial Dispute (1993 - 2006)

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Territory
Peace process	Cameroon-Nigeria border peace process
Parties	For the Republic of Cameroon: Paul Biya, President For the Federal Republic of Nigeria: Olusegun Obasanjo, President

Third parties	Unsigned copy of the agreement. The following entities are listed as witnesses: Witnesses For the United Nations: For the Federal Republic of Germany: For the United States of America: For the French Republic: For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:
Description	This agreement outlines modalities for implementing the ICJ 10 October 2002 decision. Issues covered include Nigeria's recognition of Cameroon's sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula; the withdrawal of Nigerian armed forces from the Bakassi Peninsula, the protection of Nigerian Nationals' rights following Nigeria's withdrawal from the Bakassi Peninsula; and the establishment of a follow-up committee to monitor the implementation of the agreement.

Agreement document	CM_NG_060612_ModalitiesofWithdrawal.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/ national group

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive
Page 2, Article 3, 1: Cameroon, after the transfer of authority to it by Nigeria, guarantees to Nigerian nationals living in the Bakassi Peninsula the exercise of the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights law and in other relevant provisions of international law.

Page 2, Article 3, 2: In particular, Cameroon shall:
a) not force Nigerian nationals living in the Bakassi Peninsula to leave the Zone or to change their nationality;
b) respect their culture, language and beliefs;
c) respect their right to continue their agricultural and fishing activities;
d) protect their property and their customary land rights;
e) not levy in any discriminatory manner any taxes and other dues on Nigerian nationals living in the Zone; and
f) take every necessary measure to protect Nigerian nationals living in the Zone from any harassment or harm.

Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall:
...(b) take every necessary measure, under the supervision of the United Nations observers of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, to stop any transfer or influx of its nationals into the Zone;
(c) not engage in any activity in the Zone which would complicate or hinder the transfer of authority to Cameroon;

Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 4: Following the transfer of authority over the Zone to Cameroon, the latter shall apply to the Zone a special transitional regime for a non-renewable period of five years.
In the application of the special transitional regime, Cameroon shall:
(a) facilitate the exercise of the rights of Nigerian nationals living in the Zone and access by Nigerian civil authorities to the Nigerian population living in the Zone;
(b) not apply its customs or immigration laws to Nigerian nationals living in the Zone on their direct return from Nigeria for the purpose of exercising their activities;
(c) allow officers and uniformed personnel of the Nigerian police access to the Zone, in cooperation with the Cameroonian police, with the minimum of formalities when dealing with inquiries into crimes and offences or other incidents exclusively concerning Nigerian nationals; and

Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 6: In accordance with paragraph 4 of this Annex, any acquisition of land in the Zone by Nigerian nationals not resident in the Zone at the time of the signature of this Agreement shall be perfected only in accordance with the laws and regulations of Cameroon.

Religious groups

No specific mention.

Indigenous people

No specific mention.

Other groups

No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall: ...(e) guarantee to Cameroonian nationals wishing to return to their village in the Zone the exercise of their rights;
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 [Summary: The entire agreement provides for the delimitation of the border between Cameroon and Nigeria].

Page 1, Untitled Preamble: ...Considering that the question of the withdrawal from and transfer of authority over the Bakassi Peninsula should be treated in a forward-looking spirit of goodwill in order to open new prospects for cooperation between the two countries after decades of difficult bilateral relations,

Page 1, Article 1: Nigeria recognizes the sovereignty of Cameroon over the Bakassi Peninsula in accordance with the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002 in the matter of the Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria. Cameroon and Nigeria recognize the land and maritime boundary between the two countries as delineated by the Court and commit themselves to continuing the process of implementation already begun.

Page 2, Article 4: Annex I and the map contained in Annex II to this Agreement shall constitute an integral part thereof.
No part of this Agreement shall be interpreted as a renunciation by Cameroon of its sovereignty over any part of its territory.

Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 1: In order to prepare the Nigerian nationals living in the zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula (hereinafter "the Zone") for the transfer of authority to Cameroon, the Zone shall temporarily be subject to a special status as laid down in this Annex.
For the purpose of this Annex, the details of the delimitation of the Zone are set out in the attached map (Annex II).

Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall:
...(b) take every necessary measure, under the supervision of the United Nations observers of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, to stop any transfer or influx of its nationals into the Zone;

Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 5: At the end of the special transitional regime, Cameroon shall fully exercise its rights of sovereignty over the Zone.

Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 6: In accordance with paragraph 4 of this Annex, any acquisition of land in the Zone by Nigerian nationals not resident in the Zone at the time of the signature of this Agreement shall be perfected only in accordance with the laws and regulations of Cameroon.

Cross-border provision	Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 2: (a) Cameroon shall allow Nigeria to keep its civil administration and a police force necessary for the maintenance of law and order in the Zone for a non-renewable period of two years from the time of the withdrawal of the Nigerian forces. At the end of this period, Nigeria shall withdraw its administration and its police force and Cameroon shall take over the administration of the Zone. Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 4: Following the transfer of authority over the Zone to Cameroon, the latter shall apply to the Zone a special transitional regime for a non-renewable period of five years. In the application of the special transitional regime, Cameroon shall: (a) facilitate the exercise of the rights of Nigerian nationals living in the Zone and access by Nigerian civil authorities to the Nigerian population living in the Zone; (b) not apply its customs or immigration laws to Nigerian nationals living in the Zone on their direct return from Nigeria for the purpose of exercising their activities; (c) allow officers and uniformed personnel of the Nigerian police access to the Zone, in cooperation with the Cameroonian police, with the minimum of formalities when dealing with inquiries into crimes and offences or other incidents exclusively concerning Nigerian nationals; and (d) allow innocent passage in the territorial waters of the Zone to civilian ships sailing under the Nigerian flag, consistent with the provisions of this Agreement, to the exclusion of Nigerian warships.

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	Page 2, Article 3, 1: Cameroon, after the transfer of authority to it by Nigeria, guarantees to Nigerian nationals living in the Bakassi Peninsula the exercise of the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights law and in other relevant provisions of international law.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship

Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizens, specific rights
Page 2, Article 3, 1: Cameroon, after the transfer of authority to it by Nigeria, guarantees to Nigerian nationals living in the Bakassi Peninsula the exercise of the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights law and in other relevant provisions of international law.

Page 2, Article 3, 2: In particular, Cameroon shall:
a) not force Nigerian nationals living in the Bakassi Peninsula to leave the Zone or to change their nationality;
b) respect their culture, language and beliefs;
c) respect their right to continue their agricultural and fishing activities;
d) protect their property and their customary land rights;
e) not levy in any discriminatory manner any taxes and other dues on Nigerian nationals living in the Zone; and
f) take every necessary measure to protect Nigerian nationals living in the Zone from any harassment or harm.

Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 4: Following the transfer of authority over the Zone to Cameroon, the latter shall apply to the Zone a special transitional regime for a non-renewable period of five years.
In the application of the special transitional regime, Cameroon shall:
(a) facilitate the exercise of the rights of Nigerian nationals living in the Zone and access by Nigerian civil authorities to the Nigerian population living in the Zone;
(b) not apply its customs or immigration laws to Nigerian nationals living in the Zone on their direct return from Nigeria for the purpose of exercising their activities;
(c) allow officers and uniformed personnel of the Nigerian police access to the Zone, in cooperation with the Cameroonian police, with the minimum of formalities when dealing with inquiries into crimes and offences or other incidents exclusively concerning Nigerian nationals; and

Democracy

No specific mention.

Detention procedures

No specific mention.

Media and communication

No specific mention.

Mobility/access

No specific mention.

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	Page 2, Article 3, 2: In particular, Cameroon shall: ...c) respect their right to continue their agricultural and fishing activities;

Taxation	Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Reform of taxation Page 2, Article 3, 2: In particular, Cameroon shall: ...e) not levy in any discriminatory manner any taxes and other dues on Nigerian nationals living in the Zone; Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 4: Following the transfer of authority over the Zone to Cameroon, the latter shall apply to the Zone a special transitional regime for a non-renewable period of five years. In the application of the special transitional regime, Cameroon shall: ...(b) not apply its customs or immigration laws to Nigerian nationals living in the Zone on their direct return from Nigeria for the purpose of exercising their activities;
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights	Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Other land rights Page 2, Article 3, 2: In particular, Cameroon shall: ...d) protect their property and their customary land rights; Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall: ...(g) take every necessary measure to prevent any change in land-property rights; Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 6: In accordance with paragraph 4 of this Annex, any acquisition of land in the Zone by Nigerian nationals not resident in the Zone at the time of the signature of this Agreement shall be perfected only in accordance with the laws and regulations of Cameroon.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion Page 2, Article 3, 2: In particular, Cameroon shall: ...b) respect their culture, language and beliefs;
Environment	Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall: ...(f) not conduct or continue the exploitation of natural resources in the sub-soil of the Zone, or to engage in any other activity harmful to the environment;
Water or riparian rights or access	Page 1, Article 1: Nigeria recognizes the sovereignty of Cameroon over the Bakassi Peninsula in accordance with the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002 in the matter of the Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria. Cameroon and Nigeria recognize the land and maritime boundary between the two countries as delineated by the Court and commit themselves to continuing the process of implementation already begun. Page 2, Article 3, 2: In particular, Cameroon shall: ...c) respect their right to continue their agricultural and fishing activities; Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 4: Following the transfer of authority over the Zone to Cameroon, the latter shall apply to the Zone a special transitional regime for a non-renewable period of five years. In the application of the special transitional regime, Cameroon shall: ...(d) allow innocent passage in the territorial waters of the Zone to civilian ships sailing under the Nigerian flag, consistent with the provisions of this Agreement, to the exclusion of Nigerian warships.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall: (a) not conduct or allow the conduct of any activities in the Zone which would prejudice Cameroon's peace or security;
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 2: (a) Cameroon shall allow Nigeria to keep its civil administration and a police force necessary for the maintenance of law and order in the Zone for a non-renewable period of two years from the time of the withdrawal of the Nigerian forces. At the end of this period, Nigeria shall withdraw its administration and its police force and Cameroon shall take over the administration of the Zone. Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall: ...(d) equip its police force in the Zone with only the light equipment strictly necessary for the maintenance of law and order and for personal defence; Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 4: Following the transfer of authority over the Zone to Cameroon, the latter shall apply to the Zone a special transitional regime for a non-renewable period of five years. In the application of the special transitional regime, Cameroon shall: ...(c) allow officers and uniformed personnel of the Nigerian police access to the Zone, in cooperation with the Cameroonian police, with the minimum of formalities when dealing with inquiries into crimes and offences or other incidents exclusively concerning Nigerian nationals; and
Armed forces	Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall: ...(h) not position any armed forces in the Zone.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces	Page 1, Article 2: Nigeria agrees to withdraw all its armed forces from the Bakassi Peninsula within sixty days of the date of the signing of this Agreement. If exceptional circumstances so require, the Secretary- General of the United Nations may extend the period, as necessary, for a further period not exceeding a total of thirty days. This withdrawal shall be conducted in accordance with the modalities envisaged in Annex I to this Agreement. Page 5, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 4: Following the transfer of authority over the Zone to Cameroon, the latter shall apply to the Zone a special transitional regime for a non-renewable period of five years. In the application of the special transitional regime, Cameroon shall: ...(d) allow innocent passage in the territorial waters of the Zone to civilian ships sailing under the Nigerian flag, consistent with the provisions of this Agreement, to the exclusion of Nigerian warships.
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	Witnesses For the United Nations:
Other international signatory	Witnesses For the Federal Republic of Germany: For the United States of America: For the French Republic: For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	Page 2, Article 6, 1: A Follow-up Committee to monitor the implementation of this Agreement is hereby established. It shall be composed of representatives of Cameroon, Nigeria, the United Nations and the witness States. The Committee shall monitor the implementation of the Agreement by the Parties with the assistance of the United Nations observers of the Mixed Commission Page 4, Annex I, Zone in question of the Bakassi Peninsula, 3: For the duration of this period, Nigeria shall: ...(b) take every necessary measure, under the supervision of the United Nations observers of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, to stop any transfer or influx of its nationals into the Zone;
Enforcement mechanism	Page 2, Article 6, 1: A Follow-up Committee to monitor the implementation of this Agreement is hereby established. It shall be composed of representatives of Cameroon, Nigeria, the United Nations and the witness States. The Committee shall monitor the implementation of the Agreement by the Parties with the assistance of the United Nations observers of the Mixed Commission. Page 2, Article 6, 2: The Follow-up Committee shall settle any dispute regarding the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement. Page 2, Article 6, 3: The activities of the Follow-up Committee shall cease at the end of the period of the special transitional regime provided for in paragraph 4 of Annex I to this Agreement.
