

Emerging Border Tensions in Sub-Saharan Africa, a Case Study of Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria

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Abstract: The persistence of Interstate border disputes in the Word and Africa has been a significant challenge to peace and stability. This study, seeks to examine the root causes of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria. In achieving this the study employed a mixed research method, with a cross-sectional and descriptive survey design. The findings of this study revealed that, Arbitrary Borders created by colonial powers, external debt burden, heterogeneous composition of these communities, resource competition, population movements, population growth, territorial expansion and corruption of border officials are the major causes of the border dispute between these communities. Despite the measures employed by both governments, the study revealed a continues relapse of the dispute between the communities in Cameroon and Nigeria. The study recommends that a comprehensive border mapping and seasonal considerations, strong and effective occupation of the border area, and infrastructural development are crucial in preventing future dispute.

Keywords: Border Tensions, Dadi/Bodam, Danare, Sub-Saharan Africa.



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1. Introduction

Interstate border disputes are a significant challenge globally, particularly in Africa, where colonial-era borders have led to numerous conflicts. Boundary disputes arise from ill-defined borders, historical and cultural claims, and competition for resource exploitation (Sone, P., 2017:325-339; Clapham, C., 1996:237-241; Okumu, W., 2010:280; Jennings, P., 1996:1779-1822; Herbst, J., 2019:17-30; Francis, N., 2004:207). These disputes can escalate into violent conflicts, hindering development and causing long-lasting instability (Collier, P., Hoeffler, A., 1998:563-573). In Africa, border disputes are commonplace, often resulting from artificial borders drawn during the colonial era without consideration for ethnicities, pre-colonial history, or geography (Yoon, C., H., 2014:75-89). Scholars agree that European imperialism is responsible for the disunity among African states since independence, disrupting Africa's development (Herbst, J., 1989:674; Sone, P., 2017:325-339; Albert, E., 1989:674).

Border disputes can vary in intensity, from managed to violent, and can affect not only the states involved but also regional and international stability (Guo Y., and Yang, Y., 2003). Unresolved disputes can lead to significant negative consequences for development, including economic stagnation and political instability (Collier, J., and Hoeffler, A., 1998:563-573; Fearon, J. D., and Laitin, D., D., 2003:73-90; Debraj, R., and Esteban, J., 2017). Peace and security are key to sustainable development; it is problematic to build economic development, and more so regional integration, when people are in camps, either as internally displaced communities or as refugees (Kibret, C., J., 2008:6).

In the context of the East African Community (EAC), border disputes have left communities disunited, countries disconnected, and infrastructure destabilized, hindering economic interactions (Rwigema, P., C., :2020:4). African disputes are often resolved through bilateral negotiations, regional mediation, or international intervention, such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) (Cohen, N., 1995:11-14; M. Francis, M., 2004:207). Some disputes have been resolved through bilateral negotiations, as seen in the cases of Cameroon and Nigeria through the ICJ (Francis, M., 2004:207).

Some disputes have been resolved through bilateral negotiations, as seen in the cases of Cameroon and Nigeria through the ICJ (Francis, M., 2004:207). The Nigeria-Cameroon border dispute, specifically between the Boki communities in Cameroon and Nigeria, is a longstanding issue dating back to 1965 (Bonchuk, M., O., 1997:43). Despite previous efforts, the dispute remains unresolved, with recurring conflicts and neglect by both governments (E. Durkheim, 1998:50-55). The communities have been split by artificial borders, leading to detrimental effects on their development and livelihoods. The resolution of border disputes requires effective mechanisms, including dialogue, mediation, and international intervention. However, the recurrence and re-escalation of disputes in different parts of the world have made the idea of "sustainable peace" an illusion (Mfonobong, I., 2021:14; E. Albert, 1989:672). This paper seeks to examine the causes of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria

2. Methodology

This investigation utilized a mixed-method research framework, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis procedures to examine the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria. Data were collected through door-to-door surveys, interviews, and questionnaires from a sample of 15 stakeholders, selected using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. Primary data were gathered directly from respondents, while secondary data were sourced from existing literature and online resources. Data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 20 and thematic analysis.

3. Discussion Findings

In relation to the specific research objective one, the study revealed a number of causes of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam and Danare. Based on the interview, the study identified several factors, including arbitrary borders created by colonial powers, external debt burden, and heterogeneous composition of these communities, resource competition, population movements, population growth, territorial expansion, and corruption of border officials. These findings tie in line with the aim of this work.

3.1. Arbitrary borders as a cause of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria

One of the main causes of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria is the arbitrary border created by colonial powers. An arbitrary border, according to Metz, S., and Chapin, M., (1988:16), is a boundary line that demarcates the limits of natural sovereignty at the choice or whim of rulers without regard for natural features, cultural affinities, and

historical background. Such borders can cause conflicts, divisions, and confusion. According to Alexander, J., and Hagen, R., (2012:21-22), an arbitrary border is a border or boundary that is artificially imposed without taking account of natural conditions, historical realities, and without providing a clear rationalization. Even though it is virtually impossible not to have arbitrary borders, this artificial division leads to conflicts and infighting.

Again, the Berlin West African Conference of 1884-1885 gave European powers the authority to colonize Africa, thereby splitting Africa into colonial spheres of interest. They divided Africa, mixing cultures that had no business being together and dividing similar cultural groups. Dadi/Bodam and Danare are neighboring communities in the Boki region of Cameroon and Nigeria with similar cultural similarities, split by the 1913 Anglo-German boundaries. The only clear delineation of the international border demarcations between these communities are the two pillars marked pillar 112, and pillar 113A, a little further away, around forest blocks on each side, which is drowned by cultural affinity.

According to the findings obtained, arbitrary borders created by colonial powers stand as one of the causes of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria. With regards to the interviews obtained, 9 (81.8%) respondents strongly agreed, and 2 (18.2%) agreed to the opinion that arbitrary borders created by colonial powers have influenced the border dispute between these Boki communities.

More so, field findings revealed that, in the case of Dadi/Danare both communities have had conflict, which could be traced back to the 1960s right up to 2009. This conflict came as a result of the arbitrary boundaries created by the European powers who divided Africa into colonial spheres of interest to suit only the colonizers. Before the coming of Europeans, these two communities had their natural way of determining their boundaries which was through rivers, hills, mountains, valleys. They were very comfortable and happy without any conflict, and even if there were any conflicts, they knew how to resolve them. This mutual arrangement was cut short by the methods employed by the colonial powers to demarcate their territories. These borders were drowned without considering the natural boundaries such as rivers, hills, mountains, and so on which the people believed are boundaries demarcating each Community. Bonchuk, M., O., (1997:112) and Onor, S., O., (1994:127) demonstrated that, the Boki are originally settled in Cameroon from the pre-colonial times in the vicinity of Nchang and Mbankang respectively near Mamfe. The combination of internal conflicts, population pressure, economic factors such as the search for salt ponds and Bantu expansion, must have facilitated their dispersal to found settlements in Nigeria after a local war probably with the Kesham people.

Again, field findings further revealed, the European powers divided these Boki communities in a straight line, placing Dadi, Bodam, and other communities on the Cameroon side under German while majorities of the Boki people were in Nigeria under Britain, such as North and South Danare. Looking at the demarcations, about seven pillars are found within Bodam and Danare to Agborkum which are: pillar 109 on the left bank of Okon river runs in a straight line through pillar 110 on the Abo-Bodam roads, pillar 111 on the North Danare-Bodam road pillar 112 on the South Danare-Bodam road, pillar 113 on the Baje-Danare road, to pillar 113A about 6 miles (9, 6 Km) distance from pillar 113. From pillar 113A the boundary runs in a straight line to pillar 114 in a bend in the cross river about 2 1/2 miles (4, 00 Km) upstream from Agborkum on the North bank of this river. All the pillars consist of iron poles cemented into concrete blocks, each block being marked with the number of the pillar, the date, and arrows showing the directions of the next pillar.

Also, this demarcation has left the Communities of Dadi and Danare in constant conflict regarding the arbitrary boundaries created by the European powers. The Danare people have refused to accept the arbitrary boundaries created by the colonial masters. Danare people for example, believed that the boundaries were established without regard to natural or historical characteristics

and often lacks a logical or clear justification. Both Communities have been encroaching on each other spheres of interest, claiming to be theirs, which has been the major cause of border dispute among the Communities as far back as 1950 till date.

3.2. Corruption as Cause of the Border Dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare

Moreso, the findings as revealed by some participants from Danare, Corruption, have equally contributed to the border dispute between these communities. Corruption can be seen where a mixed commission was sent to trace the border area of those communities and believed that the demarcation only favoured the Dadi/Bodam people and did not favour them which according to them contributed to re-occurrence of the border dispute. To them, corrupt practices such as bribery, coercion have influenced the demarcation of the border in favour of the Dadi/Bodam communities, resulting to the re-escalation of the border dispute in 2017. Also, corruption can be seen in the area of resource extraction.

According to responses from the Dadi/ Bodam communities, officials and citizens of Nigeria have engage in the extraction of these resources which rightfully belong to them and they are not willing to stop. To them, to secure those resources and farm lands, they had to fight which have been the causes of the border dispute over the rightful owner of the border area of these communities. Inadequate communication and coordination among the authorities of both nations have contributed to the misunderstandings and conflicts over land ownerships. Poor governance and weak institutions of these authorities have fuelled the border dispute of these communities instead of resolving. It was believed that, the authorities of Bodam went and attacks the Danare people and destroyed their farm lands in 2017 instead of helping to resolve the tension that existed between these communities. This findings are in line with the research conducted by Ake, C., (1985:1212-1214), why is Africa not developing? West Africa, related that, one of the paths to border disputes in Africa consisted in corruptive actions by national officials. The researcher explains how corruption results in economic disparities between nations, which can create tensions and disputes. If corrupt practices are prevalent in a nation, it could delay economic growth, discourage foreign investment, and limit opportunities for cooperation with other nations.

This economic inequality could breed interstate conflict, particularly if one country might feel itself as disadvantaged as a result of corruption in other state. Also, Corruption can also results in illicit financial flows, such as money laundering, embezzlement, and bribery. These illicit activities can cross national borders, leading to conflict between nations. When one nation doubts the other, facilitating or benefiting from such activities, it can deteriorate their diplomatic relations and potentially result to a dispute.

Ake, C., (1985:1212-1214), goes to support the view that corruption has alter allocation of national resources provoking disputes between countries. For example, if a corrupt government mishandles natural resources or engages in bribery to gain an unfair advantage over neighbours could result to disputes between countries, and could also escalate into an interstate border dispute. Again, corruption goes hand in hand with cross-border criminal activities, like drug trafficking, smuggling, and terrorism. Such activities may go across multiple national borders and escalate into disputes over border security, extradition, and information exchange. Corruption could also cause a country to be observed as harboring or supporting criminal or terrorist elements, which could affect any diplomatic relations with other nations. This could be seen in the case in the case of Cameroon-Nigeria over Bakassi Peninsula.

Stedman, J., (1991: 367-399) in his work "Conflict and conflict resolution in Africa: A conceptual framework and conflict resolution in Africa" is of the opinion that corruption is actually another reason for border disputes in Africa. Corruption has contributed to the image of unequal competition between countries. If bribery, for example, impacts a market, then both the ethical

environment and profits of foreign entities can be affected causing trade, investment or intellectual property disputes. These disputes may become a strain on international relations and may even cause legal actions against each other in the international bodies like the World Trade Organization. Corruption can also be seen as one of the key issues responsible for internal conflicts in Africa and is responsible for the devastating impact of conflict. Corruption, in the form of looting has crippled embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds, has paralyzed development efforts and caused debilitating immobilize in the march towards socio-economic transformation and political integration in Africa. More so, Africa's year of poor management of resources has consequences that led the masses to be fed up of their leaders. This has led to aggressive nationalism against Africa leaders. The result, expectedly, is the unending conflict across Africa states. The Africa Union itself accepts that the political and socio- economic stability of Africa states is crippled by corruption. This possibly explains why the "Africa Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption" adoption by the 2nd ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on 11 July 2003. The convention goals was to promote the criminology and accountability in Africa of each state party, spot, penalize and eliminate corruption in the public and private sectors.

3.3. Heterogeneous Ethnic Composition of the Boki Communities as a Cause of the Border Dispute

Using the grassroots perspective as the principal mode of analysis, Anene, J., C., (1970:153) demonstrated that, even though the 1913 Anglo-German boundary separated the Boki people and left them in two opposed systems, the boundary in this region has proven abortive to function as exact lines of separation between the divided peoples. The border area of Dadi/Bodam and Danare belong to different ethnic groups whose fellows lived on both sides of the border. These communities have intermarriage across the borders and visits their divided families especially during "national festivals" (such as new yam festival), which have continued despite the boundary. Most people in the borderlands agreed that there are frequent inter-ethnic visits especially during funerals rites that affect members of such families. The divided peoples endure an isolated life from modernity and are open to many threats and disputes which are usually not reported in the mass media. The climate conditions of rainfall intensity, duration, and periodicity reflected in the incidence of rain squalls often very violent and accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning cause a lot of damage to life, buildings, while the sudden torrential rainfall wash away make-shift bridges and personal goods which their isolation from modernity and great distance from officialdom may never help to replace (Bonchuk, M., O., 1979:230).

More so, their political, economic and cultural activities cut across the artificial boundary. To the Boki, the borders divided the Germans, British and the French and not the indigenous groups whose various activities cut across the boundaries. For example, some groups live on one side of the borders, but their farmlands, fishing ponds and rivers, markets, shrines and attendance at festivals, the Birubifi (new yam festival) dances or marriages including visits by kith and kin require movement across the borders (Bonchuk, M., O., 1997:43). The grassroots perspective (or anthropology of borders) is distinctive in methods have enabled ethnographers to focus on local communities at the margin of international borders in order to examine the material and symbolic processes of culture. The focus is on everyday life and on the cultural constructions and interactions across borders between splintered ethnic groups which give meaning to the boundaries between nations usually neglected by state-centric scholars whose approach is located within the ambit of relations between states. This ignores the sovereignty percolating realities at the grassroots which result in micro-integration formalities that can be galvanized at the macro level for wider economic integration between the states. The study of everyday life of border communities is simultaneously the study of the daily life of the state, whose agents should take an active role in the implementation of policies and the intrusion of the state's structures into the

lives of the people. Studies based on this perspective reveal that border communities interact more with themselves than members of their core States. Given to the fact that the border area of Dadi/Bodam and Danare is inhabited by different ethnic groups whose members lived on both sides of the border, dispute or tensions over land ownerships and cultural ties are unavoidable which caused the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria destroying the peace and stability they had in the past.

In a research conducted by Cilliers, J., (2005:56-68), he observed that heterogeneous ethnic composition of African states was another cause of interstate dispute in Africa. To him, an example was the Nigeria-Cameroon border dispute, which includes the Bakassi Peninsula. The area is populated by several ethnic groups, including the Efik, Ejagham, and Ibibio peoples. The dispute over the territory has its origins in colonial legacies, ethnic rivalries, and issues of historical land ownership. The heterogeneous ethnic composition of the region has amplified tensions and made it difficult to reach a resolution. Kifleyesus, A., (2002) also noted that heterogeneous ethnic composition of African states have also contributed to interstate disputes in Africa. A good example can be seen in the case of Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict, which lasted from 1998 to 2000. The border dispute was compounded by a tangle of ethnic, historical, and political reasons, including the rivalry between the dominant ethnic groups in the countries, the Tigray and the Tigre. Another case manifested in the border conflict between Sudan and South Sudan following South Sudan's independence in 2011 that involved territory that was populated by various ethnic communities, including the Dinka, Nuer, and Shilluk. Besides differences in ethnic identities, historical grievances, and competition for resources have contributed to the complexity of the dispute.

Fefferman, G., et al (2001:1), Carment. D., (1994:137) and the United Nations (1987), in their research title International Dimensions of ethnic conflict: concepts indication and theory have withstood observed that of the over 180 states of the world, only a few numbers are ethnically homogenous. This perhaps proposes that multi-ethnic states are expected to continue to remain a component of international politics and that ethnic conflict is not only a danger to the African continent but also a threat to the whole international community (Ryan 1990:14; That being said, one cannot refute the fact ethnos political conflicts have been on the rise in Africa throughout the 20th century. This is possibly not unrelated with the issue of ethnic diversity of most African nations and the ensuing problem of ethnicity. Eminue, O., (2004:19) and Osaghae E., (1992: 214) conflict Resolution and Management in Africa: AParomana of conceptual and theoretical issues, submit that of all the factors, multi- ethnicity is belief to be the most recurrently associated with conflict.

Truly, at this time of deep ethnic cleavages, and banal practice of political discrimination against minority groups across Africa, ethnicity can only provide great potential for separatist activities. Ethnicity has farmed the feelings of suspicion, hatred and distrust among the people of the different ethnic groups in Africa and has certainly re traded political integration in Africa. It is thus not shocking to note that at least twice (1967-70 civil wars and 1993 -1999 friction) ethnic rivalry has been the main cause of internal conflicts in Nigeria. Similar tales may have also been told of Liberia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, Congo and a host of other Africa states.

3.4. Leadership Factor as a cause of the border Dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria

The next cause of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria has to do with bad leaderships. According to the responses of some of the participants, both the Cameroon government and Nigeria government have abandoned these Boki communities since they gained their independents without carrying any developments. They accepted their colonialist's belief that the border areas were military vulnerable and unsafe for any investment

and development without given the population a try to see whether it will work or not. The tendency has continued since both countries became independent thereby neglecting the border areas to the disadvantage of the border splintered groups. The people's main occupation is the cultivation of cocoa, plantain, yam, banana, timber production and the collection of forest products, apart from white collar jobs, business and commercial transactions.

The coastal lowlands in both Nigeria and Cameroon receive very heavy rainfall throughout the year as a result of their location near the Atlantic Ocean. This neglect was really felt during the raining season when the people of Boki communities are exposed to climatic hazards. It is during times like this that the people are reminded of their neglect by both governments. The climatic characteristics of rainfall intensity, duration and periodicity affect both the environment and human life. They cause damage to life and buildings, while sudden torrential rainfalls wash away make shift bridges, homes, and school buildings. These are precious infrastructures and personal goods that their isolation from modernity and great distance from officialdom never help to replace. Perhaps due to the conflictual profile of the border region the governments hardly invest in the border areas. Also, some of the splintered peoples of the Boki communities shift farther away from the borders and prefer to settle nearer to the major urban settlements where they can easily obtain the much-needed social services (Bonchuk, M., O., 1997:43).

While those left behind and astride the borders pay their taxes to the governments of Nigeria and Cameroon, and they receive little or no benefit from both governments. It is astonishing to note that there is no general hospital to serve the health needs of the peoples; rather, make shift community health centres are located on the Nigerian side of the border villages at Bashua and Abo Ebam, while they are no-existent on the Cameroonian side. It is in times like this that the border inhabitants ponder to which country they belong or to which authorities they may direct their prayers. The neglect made these communities depend on each other for survival. To the Boki, the borders divided the Germans, British and the French and not the indigenous groups whose various activities cut across the boundaries. For example, some groups live on one side of the borders, but their farmlands, fishing ponds and rivers, markets, shrines and attendance at festivals, the Birubifi (new yam festival) dances or marriages including visits by kith and kin require movement across the borders (Bonchuk, M., O., 1997:43). The quest for economic resources such as lands, timbers, river, and sociopolitical reasons have resulted in to conflict thereby destroying the peace and stability this communities had in the past.

Adedeji, A., (1999:11) in his work "Comprehending and Mastering African Conflicts: The Search of Sustainable Peace and Good Government, London, Zed Books," identified elements of bad leadership which are the causes of interstate border disputes to be Poor governance and corruption: Bad leadership often goes hand in hand with corruption and mismanagement of resources. This can lead to inequitable distribution of land, water, or other valuable resources along borders, triggering disputes between countries. For instance, the case of the Bakassi Peninsula dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria was fuelled by corruption and mismanagement issues that allowed interests groups to exploit the region's resources without considering the consequences for the border demarcation.

According to Achankeng, F., (2014), "political repression and non-respect for human rights are synonymous with bad governance. He maintained that political repression in Africa goes back to Africa's colonial legacy and that this was the pattern of leadership adopted by most post-colonial African leaders. Okoye, M., (1977) emphasized the fact that whatever legitimacy or acceptance which colonialism possessed in Africa was not from any set of agreed rules or consensus, but from the monopoly of the instruments of coercion and violence, and by its divide-and-rule system which was aimed at widening the division along class, tribal, religious sentiments inherent in the social structure which will help them to prolong their rule.

3.5. Population Growth as another Cause of the border Dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria

The next causes of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria have to do with population growth. Campbell K., et al (2017:1224) defined population growth as a change in the number of individuals over time due to births, deaths, and migration. One of the causes of population growth is that it has a great impact on resources, the environment and sociopolitical domain. In the case of these communities, the increase population growth has led to the expansion of settlements and infrastructures, and blurring borderlines there by complicating the delineation of the territory, which has led to confusion and disagreements over the land demarcation resulting in conflict between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria. Again, 9(81.8%) agree, to the statement that Population growth in the border area has contributed significantly to the border dispute of these communities. 9(81.8%) identify Population movement to be another contributing factor to the border dispute between these Boki Communities.

Also, as these communities increase in numbers, the cultural and political differences have become more pronounced, which have increased the tensions and resulting in to conflict over territorial claims. Again, population growth has caused the dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria due to an increased competition for resources such as land and water. As the population increases, there was a high demand for these resources, which have contributed to the dispute over access and control. The population growth of these communities has also led to an increase in migration as people move across the border seeking better opportunities, causing the population to encroach upon the border areas resulting to conflict between these communities. Competition of these scared resources have resulted to tensions between the communities living along the border, as each side feel justified in pushing its claims to the disputed area to meet the needs of it growing population. Population growth has not only caused dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria, but it has also been a source of border dispute in other African countries.

Adebayo F., A., (2001: 56-58), in the book "Africa's Challenge with Borders, observed that one of the causes of border dispute in Africa have to do with population growth. To him, the border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria over Bakassi peninsula has to do with population growth. This is because the population growth led to an increase demand for limited resources such as fishery in the Bakassi peninsula. The quest for these limited resources led to conflict between Cameroonians and Nigerian Fishermen. This conflict was resolved through the International Court of Justice, in which Bakassi peninsula was given to Cameroon. Population growth in the region has heightened competition for arable land and water resources, leading to tensions between the two countries over control of the area which is in line with the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria.

Williams P., D., (2011: 145) is also of the opinion that, population growth has also contributed to border dispute in Africa, which is due to the increased pressure on resources and land. To William, as population increases, the competition for land, water, and other resources intensifies, leading to conflicts over territorial boundaries. According to him, the dispute between Sudan and South Sudan has roots in population growth and pressure on resources. The competition for oil-rich lands and grazing areas has fuelled tensions between the two nations. Gérard, L., (2018: 342) identified that; population growth has equally contributed to the border dispute in Africa. He conducted a research titled: "Understanding Contemporary Ethiopia" and stipulated in the case of Ethiopia and Eritrea that the border dispute has been exacerbated by population growth and the need for land for agriculture and settlement.

3.6. Population Movements as a Cause of the Border Dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria

Population movements were other causes of the border dispute between Danare in Nigeria and Bodam in Cameroon. Population movements between Danare Nigeria and Bodam Cameroon have triggered border disputes, often due to ethnic tensions and these movements create demographic changes, challenge territorial integrity, and lead to contested borders. Such disputes demonstrate the intricate connection between population dynamics and border conflicts. Population movement has caused the border dispute between these communities due to various factors such as conflict, environmental issues, and political instability. Also, the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon has led to population movement of the Bodam communities, and displacement has contributed to tensions, leading to a long-standing border conflict. Before the 1913 Anglo-German partition, the two communities used to consider their natural boundary from the Bapour River. They have lived and respected each other boundaries and equally move across the border areas to cultivate without any issues since they shared a lot in common in terms of political, economic, social and cultural aspect. With the coming of the 1913 Anglo-German partition, the partition did not respect the natural boundaries of these communities which were at Bapour River, placing majority of the border area to Danare, making it difficult for both communities to accept the Anglo-German partition, leading to conflicts over territory, resources, and ethnic tensions (Field Research, 2025)

More so, population movements, driven by factors like resource scarcity and conflict, have led to tensions among these communities. Population movements have made the two communities to shift and compete for limited resources; it often results in clashes and disagreements over territorial boundaries. These disputes may escalate into full-fledged conflicts if not properly addressed through diplomacy and cooperation between the countries involved. Population movements, including refugee influxes and nomadic tribes crossing territorial lines, have fuelled tensions. These movements have exacerbated border conflicts, with both countries claiming ownership over potentially resource-rich territories. The shifting demographics and dynamics in these border regions have created challenges for establishing clear boundaries and maintaining peaceful relations. Addressing these issues requires careful consideration of historical context, economic factors, and social dynamics to find sustainable solutions that respect the needs and rights of all populations involved (Field Research, 2025).

Again, movements of these communities across the border often leads to border dispute when these people across international borders move due to environmental factors, conflicts, or economic opportunities. These movements have resulted in overlapping claims to land and resources, leading to disputes between neighbouring countries. For instance, the movement of people in regions can trigger conflicts over lands and water resources, impacting border areas. Additionally, in areas affected by civil conflicts or political unrest, refugees fleeing violence may cross borders, straining resources and creating tensions with host communities. Population movements have been identified as causes of the border dispute between Dadi in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria. Both Communities have lived together in the past freely across borders in matters of trade, festivals, marriages, dance, politically, rendering and the telocentric perspective of the border as barrier ineffective (Durkheim, M., O., 1998:50-55). Again, the communities usually experience heavy rain fall during the raining season. They are exposed to climatic hazards.

More so, it is during this time that the people are reminded of their neglect by both governments. The rain fall intensity, duration and periodicity affects both the environment and human lives. They cause damage to lives and buildings, while sudden torrential rainfalls wash away shift Bridges, homes and school buildings, which are never replaced by the both governments. The Nigeria-Cameroon border where the Boki is now is the least developed of all the border areas surrounding of both Cameroon and Nigeria (Bonchuk, 1997:43). Despite the fact that these communities are in conflict today, both communities lived together in the past freely across

borders in matters of trade, festivals, marriages, dance and politically, rendering the telocentric perspective of the border as barrier ineffective (Durkheim, E., 1998:50-55).

More to that, population movements of these Communities were driven by various factors such as environmental changes, political instability, and economic opportunities. When people crossed international borders due to environmental factors, conflicts, or economic opportunities, it results in overlapping claims to land and resources, leading to disputes between neighbouring countries. For instance, the movement of the people across the border triggers conflicts over grazing lands and water resources, impacting border areas. Additionally, in areas affected by civil conflicts or political unrest, refugees fleeing violence may cross borders, straining resources and creating tensions with host communities. Border disputes, intertwining issues of ethnicity, resources, and sovereignty. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for addressing and resolving conflicts in the region. These movements often lead to resource competition, ethnic tensions, and challenges in demarcating borders, exacerbating geopolitical conflicts.

Moreso, this population movement that have been the causes of border disputes between the communities of Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria is in line with research conducted by some scholars like (Durkheim, E., 1998:50-55). To him, Population movements in Africa have triggered border disputes, often due to ethnic tensions and resource competition. In the book "Border Disputes in Africa," they highlight how migration can lead to tensions along boundaries. This was illustrated in the case of Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict in the 1990s and the Cameroon-Nigeria border clashes are influenced by population movements. These movements create demographic changes, challenge territorial integrity, and lead to contested borders. Such disputes demonstrate the intricate connection between population dynamics and border conflicts in Africa.

Ibrahim A., (2019: 109), in his book titled "Africa's Critical Choices: A Call for Pan African Roadmap Leadership," observed that Population movement was one of the causes of border disputes which create complex challenges in Africa, spurring border disputes over resources, land, and political power. In the case of the Sudan-South Sudan border conflict, the population movements were due to oil exploration which has intensified territorial disputes. Similarly, the Uganda-Rwanda border conflict, underscores how population displacement and migration have been central to the border tensions between the two nations. Also, Population movement can indeed be a significant cause of border disputes in Africa. The case of the Mali-Burkina Faso border was as a result of population movements. Population movements was driven by factors like resource scarcity and conflict, which have led to tensions along this border as populations shift and compete for limited resources; it can often result in clashes and disagreements over territorial boundaries. These disputes can escalate into full-fledged conflicts if not properly addressed through diplomacy and cooperation between the countries involved.

3.7. Resource Competition as a Cause of the Border Dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare

One of the causes of border disputes between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon, and Danare in Nigeria, pertains to resource competition. Notably, 9 (81.8%) of respondents agree that competition for scarce resources is a major driver of the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam and Danare. The exploration and extraction of natural resources often lead to disagreements over control and ownership, exacerbating tensions between these neighboring communities. These instances highlight how resource competition has been a significant driver of border disputes across these two countries. The scramble for mineral resources like timber, cocoa, farmland, and oil has also played a crucial role in border disputes between these communities.

Resource competition has been a vital tool in contributing to border disputes in Africa, often triggered by disputes over land, water, or mineral resources. As populations of these border

communities increase, resources dwindle, and these countries become increasingly desperate to secure access to essential resources, leading to heightened tensions along shared borders. Additionally, weak governance structures and historical colonial legacies contribute to the difficulty in resolving resource-based conflicts. These disputes continue to have far-reaching consequences, affecting political stability, economic development, and regional cooperation between these two countries. The lack of effective governance, border control, and law enforcement mechanisms exacerbates tensions over territorial boundaries.

Azevedo (2019) noted that resource competition has contributed to fueling border disputes in Africa due to the unequal distribution of wealth and power. The desire for control over valuable resources like oil, diamonds, or minerals often leads to conflicts between neighboring countries. This is consistent with the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria. Azevedo (2019) illustrated that the Nigeria-Cameroon border conflict over the oil-rich Bakassi Peninsula exemplifies this competition. Resource competition exacerbates tensions and challenges the stability of borders created through colonial-era divisions, highlighting the complex interplay between natural wealth and territorial disputes in Africa.

Mohamoda, D., Y., (2003:126)) demonstrated that resource competition often fuels border disputes in Africa. For example, the Nile River's water has triggered tensions between Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia. Similarly, the conflict over oil-rich regions between Sudan and South Sudan illustrates such competition (Lual, A., 2014:56). Resource competition in Africa has also been observed in the case of the Lake Chad Basin, where countries like Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon vie for water access and agricultural land

Territorial Expansions as causes of the Border Dispute

Lastly, 6 (54.5%) agree that territorial expansion of these border communities has equally contributed to the border dispute of these communities. Territorial expansion has contributed to the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria. The increase in population growth of these communities has led to the expansion of settlements and infrastructures, blurring borderlines, and complicating the delineation of territory, which has led to confusion and disagreements over land demarcation, resulting in conflict between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria (Field Research, 2025). Nevertheless, the population growth of these communities has caused cultural and political differences to become more pronounced, increasing tensions and resulting in conflict over territorial claims. Furthermore, the population growth has caused disputes between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria due to increased competition for resources such as land and water. These disputes often arise from competition over valuable resources, exacerbating existing tensions and creating challenges for peaceful coexistence.

Hsu, M., et al. (2015) noted that historical colonial borders, often drawn without regard for ethnic or tribal boundaries, have contributed significantly to border disputes in Africa. The quest for territorial expansion by colonial powers resulted in the partition of Africa, leading to border disputes. Dambisa (2009) concluded that state failures in Africa exacerbate border disputes by creating power vacuums, lawlessness, and instability. The lack of effective governance fosters corruption and weak border controls, fueling disputes like the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusively, the border dispute between Dadi/Bodam in Cameroon and Danare in Nigeria is a complex issue driven by multiple factors. The legacy of colonialism and artificial borders has contributed to the persistence of the border dispute. Key factors include arbitrary borders, leader factor, heterogeneous Ethnic Composition, Corruption, external debt burden, poverty, territorial expansion, resource competition, and Population movements. These factors have created a complex web of issues that require a comprehensive approach to resolve. A collaborative effort

from governments, local communities, and International organizations is necessary to address the root causes of the dispute and promote peace and stabilities in the region. The complexity of the issue demands a multifaceted solution that takes account the historical, cultural, and socio-economic context of the regions. The study recommends that A thorough historical analysis is imperative to understanding the complexities of the border dispute between Dadi /Bodam in Cameroon and Danare Nigeria. This analysis would involve an exhaustive examination of the historical events and colonial legacy that have contributed to the current conflict. By investigating the historical context of the border dispute, the root causes of the conflict can be identified, including the impact of colonial powers on traditional boundaries and communal affiliations. This knowledge would inform the development of effective conflict resolution strategies that address the underlying issues. A historical analysis would provide a nuanced understanding of the complexities involved, enabling the development of informed decisions and strategies that promote a peaceful and sustainable resolution to the conflict. Both governments should prioritize this analysis to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the conflict's historical underpinnings

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