

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](#)

Local agreement properties

Process type	Informal but persistent process
Rationale	It appears that the agreement is informal in the way it is made and supported, with vague commitment by the army to monitor sporadically but this only refers to implementation and is not support in terms of mediating or supporting the act of agreement making. There does seem to be a level of persistent practice in the sense that this agreement involves the Fulani who are frequently involved in processes, particularly involving herders and pastoralists in farmer grazer conflict resolution processes around the same time. One of the states, Nasarawa which is implicated in the agreement also appears to border the plateau where many of the inter-communal processes and farmer grazer processes have taken place, which have also involved the Fulani.
Is there a documented link to a national peace process?	No
Link to national process: articulated rationale	There is no reference in the text to the national process and it could not be said that there is sufficient basis for a link to the national through involvement from state representatives. The head administrator of Agatu appears to be the only official signing, possibly with the involvement of another local level governor and it appears the administrator of Agatu has called for the agreement. It is not necessarily clear however whether this is supported by other local groups concerned and state level authorities from the surrounding states of Benue and Nasarawa.
Name of Locale	Adapati Island
Nature of Locale	Smaller

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 7.867055, 7.910455

Participant type Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations

Mediator, facilitator or similar No mention of mediator or similar

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture) No specific mention.

Grievance List Page 1, 5. That Fulani herdsmen shall be held accountable for any destruction done to any farm land or produced in any nearby island other than Adapati Island.

Cattle rustling/ banditry No specific mention.

Social cover No specific mention.
