

**Scientific Report on Exchange Visit (06/09-18/10, 2011) at the CEA,
ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon**

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1. Purpose of Visit

My six-week exchange visit to the Centro de Estudos Africanos (CEA) in Lisbon had two distinct purposes:

- (i) To pursue research exploring the security-development nexus in the context of the Rwanda-DRC borderland. This was conducted following a period of fieldwork in the towns of Goma and Gisenyi during the summer of 2011.
- (ii) To liaise with the staff and faculty of ISCTE-IUL and to assist in the organisation of the African Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE) conference, September 21st-24th, 2011.

2. Description of the work carried out during the visit

The specific timing of my visit was chosen carefully in order to maximise what I could achieve during the period. A six-week stay from September 6th to October 18th 2011 allowed me two weeks to assist in the organisation of the ABORNE conference, and a further month to refine and evaluate data gathered during fieldwork earlier in the year.

With regard to objective (ii), I lent my services to the faculty and organisational staff of ISCTE-IUL. I communicated regularly with conference participants on behalf of the CEA, and assisted in drafting the conference programme. During the conference proper, I attended all panels, and introduced speakers. Strong scientific ties were established with specialists from different regions. These academic ties will prove invaluable in future research into African borderland processes.

On objective (i), I pursued research, as stated in my original proposal, into the security-development nexus in the context of growing disparities between the Rwandan city of Gisenyi, and its Congolese neighbour Goma (shown below):



Satellite Image of Makoro (Goma, DRC) and Birere (Gisenyi, Rwanda). Source: Google (2011)

I was able to take advantage of the extensive library of African Studies in the ISCTE-IUL central campus, which houses over 15,000 texts. Here I critically evaluated data gathered during my fieldwork on the Rwanda-DRC border in the light of the most cutting edge research into African borderland processes.

My research topic fitted well with the theme of the ABORNE conference (borderland migration and mobility). As a result, I benefited greatly from interaction with conference participants. Due to the specific nature of the fieldwork conducted prior to this exchange, the security-development nexus was evaluated scientifically through the lens of petroleum trade and distribution at the site. My time was spent converting raw data into publishable material.

3. Description of the main results obtained:

Analysis of the security-development nexus along the Rwanda-DRC border has resulted in the completion of an article entitled 'Fuelling Instability: Power and Petrol in the Goma-Gisenyi Borderland', which I am currently submitting to the peer reviewed Journal of Modern African Studies for publication. I have been invited to present the same article at the 2012 annual conference of ABORNE. The abstract reads as follows:

Goma and Gisenyi have grown into a single conurbation straddling the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This paper focuses on petroleum distribution in the two cities, with particular reference to how traders negotiate with state representatives assigned to the frontier. Thriving off the border, the *Association des Petits Pétroliers du Nord Kivu* (A.P.PE.NO.KI) has begun to monopolise the second-economy distribution of gasoline and kerosene in Goma, both of which are essential to the basic

functioning of the city. This group increasingly mirrors the Congolese state's top-down political organisation, forming structures that exist parallel to it. Interaction between A.P.PE.NO.KI and the state occurs along a number of tiers that transect their respective hierarchies, and leads to a *de facto* institutional integration of the two. I argue that what results is a horizontal proliferation of domestic sovereignty that contributes to the ongoing fragmentation of the Congolese state.

For its extremely generous assistance, the European Science Foundation will of course be credited in these and any further publications concerning the data evaluated during my stay in Lisbon.