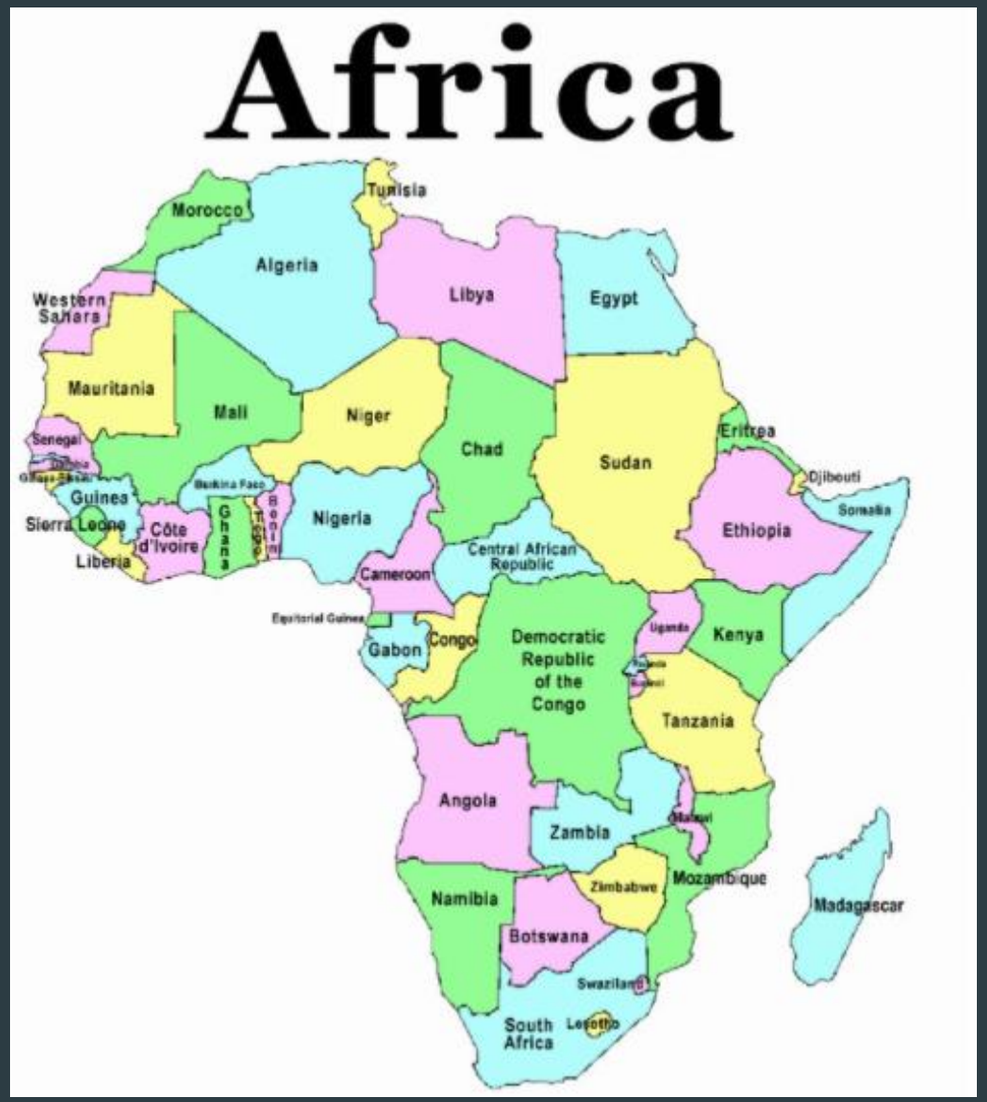
Saginaw and Banjul collaboration

Presentation by Abdoulie Jarju,
Administrative Intern, City of Saginaw, TX

Why a Sister City?

- Increased city-wide cultural awareness
- Educational partnerships and developments, including joint research and teaching programs
- An influx of business, tourism & trade
- Sharing of valuable resources and approaches in business, education, culture & technologies
- Raising the international profile of cities
- Showcasing local government achievements

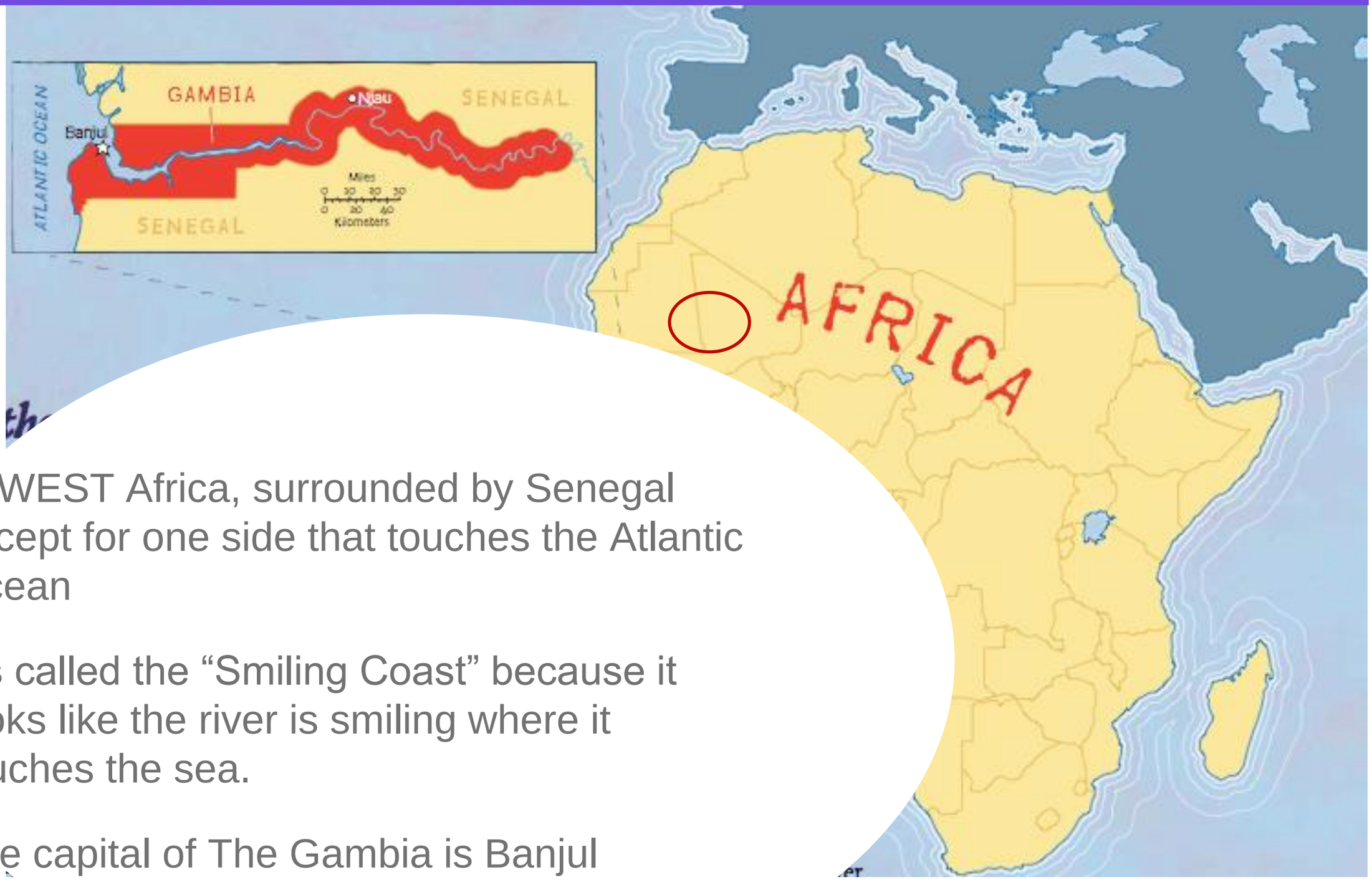
The Gambia



Smallest country in Africa

- The Gambia

Where is The Gambia?



- In WEST Africa, surrounded by Senegal except for one side that touches the Atlantic Ocean
- It’s called the “Smiling Coast” because it looks like the river is smiling where it touches the sea.
- The capital of The Gambia is Banjul

What does Banjul look like?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecOUISa_Glw

What is the weather like?

- HOT and SUNNY
- Sometimes, it can get very windy. It is just below the Sahara Desert.
- There are only two seasons: WET and DRY. It rains in summer (June-Sept), but doesn’t rain much or at all during the other months of the year.
- It does not snow in the Gambia.

What do people eat and drink?

- Domoda - peanut butter sauce over rice
- Benachin - spicy red rice with fish or chicken
- Tapalapa - long, fresh-baked bread - like a baguette
- Wonjo juice - a red drink that looks like Kool-Aid, made from hibiscus plants. Sometimes, when a freezer is available, they make plastic-bag popsicles.

What is the school like?

- Most schools have tables, not desks. There are often no windows, just openings in the walls for light and air.
- Many schools are crowded, so children go for half days.
- Everyone wears a uniform.
- They have recess, too.
- Long walk to school or take a public van.
- Very few books, sometimes not allowed to check out books.
- All-school assemblies are outside - and kids have to stand in the sun.

What is the language?

- English is the language of school and business.
- Wolof and Mandinka are two of many languages spoken at home, in the market, and sometimes on TV or in churches.
- Everyone also greets in Arabic, and many people pray in Arabic.
- Many Gambian children and teens speak 3, 4, 5 or more languages!

English = Hello / How are you?

Wolof = Nanga Def?

Mandinka = A ben yaadi?

Arabic: Salaam Alekium

Banjul City Council & Major

- City Council Building is located in Banjul Central
- Mayor – Rohey Malick Lowe

- The city has a population of 34,828
- First sister city program in both Saginaw and Banjul

Ways you can help Banjul:

- Read more books about other countries, especially African countries
- Raise money for Books for Africa or other charities
- Learn another language
- Host an exchange student