

## M23 rebels continue to advance

M23 rebels have invaded the outskirts of the town of Walikale (population 15,000) in eastern Congo. Walikale is located in the province of North Kivu and is rich in mineral deposits, including tin. The M23 group has thus advanced furthest west. They have advanced to within 400 km of Kisangani, the fourth largest city in Congo.

## Billion-euro agreement to build the largest airport

The Ethiopian Airlines Group and the African Development Bank will jointly build a new airport at an estimated cost of 140 billion euros. It is to be the largest in Africa. The new airport, named Bishoftu, will be located near the capital Addis Ababa. Bishoftu will enable Ethiopia to increase its annual passenger capacity from the current 17 million to more than 60 million by 2040.

## Niger: withdrawal from La Francophonie

In December, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) suspended Niger from all its bodies, and shortly afterwards the new Nigerien authorities announced the suspension of all cooperation with the organisation. Niger, a founding member of the OIF, could now be followed by Burkina Faso, which has officially announced its withdrawal. Mali could also follow suit. The OIF is an institution that has been dedicated to the promotion of the French language and political, educational, economic and cultural cooperation between the 93 member countries of the organisation since 1970. It is estimated that over 321 million people on five continents speak French.

19.03.2025

## African countries and entry restrictions

The US government is planning entry bans and more difficult entry conditions for citizens of a total of 43 countries. The red list, all entry bans, includes: Libya, Somalia, Sudan. On the orange list, visas are severely restricted: Eritrea, Sierra Leone, South Sudan. On the yellow list, 60 days to rectify security deficiencies (without naming them) are: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zimbabwe.

18.03.2025

## South Africa: Penguins win

In a landmark conservation victory, BirdLife South Africa and the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) have secured a court settlement to protect the critically endangered African penguin through the establishment of no-take zones. The injunction provides for the designation of no-take zones for commercial sardine and anchovy fishing around six important breeding colonies of the African penguin, which are located in coastal areas where commercial fishing takes place. The agreement, which was approved by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), bans commercial sardine and anchovy fishing in these biologically critical feeding areas for the next ten years and aims to reverse the decline of the species by 2035.

18.03.2025

## Niger: Expulsion of three Chinese oil officials

The Niger junta has ordered the Niger-based directors of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), the West African Oil Pipeline Company (WAPCo) and the joint venture oil refinery SORAZ to leave the country

within 48 hours. This is the latest move by the junta to gain greater control over resources. Separately, the Nigerien Ministry of Tourism last week revoked the licence of a Chinese-run hotel in Niamey, citing discriminatory practices.

18.03.2025

## Egypt: Attacks on ships in the Red Sea intensified

In response to the deadly largest US military operation on Yemen, in which at least 53 people were killed on 15 March 2025, the Yemeni group has declared that it will again attack US ships in the Red Sea. They also declared that they would resume attacks on Israeli ships travelling through the Red Sea if Israel does not lift the blockade on aid supplies to Gaza. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said that the monthly loss of revenue from the Suez Canal due to the regional 'situation' amounts to around 800 million dollars. The Iran-backed Houthis have been attacking ships in the Red Sea to support the Palestinians in Gaza since November 2023.

18.03.2025

## South Africa: KwaZulu-Natal disaster area

The government has declared KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) a 'disaster zone' after catastrophic flooding claimed several lives and caused widespread destruction, including washed away roads and bridges.

17.03.2025

## Mozambique: French proceedings against TotalEnergies

The French public prosecutor's office has opened an investigation against TotalEnergies for possible killing and failure to provide assistance during a jihadist attack in Mozambique. Islamist insurgents attacked the port city of Palma in March 2021, killing numerous civilians near Mozambican gas infrastructure projects, some of which are owned by TotalEnergies. Survivors and relatives of the victims filed a lawsuit in France at the end of 2023, claiming that the company had failed to ensure the safety of subcontractors. The energy company denies any wrongdoing.

17.03.2025

## Cooperation between the EU and South Africa

Cooperation between the European Union and South Africa is to be intensified. This was decided at the eighth EU-South Africa summit in Cape Town. EU Commission President von der Leyen announced plans to mobilize 4.7 billion euros for an investment package. Both the EU and South Africa have been confronted with radical changes of course since US President Trump took office. President Ramaphosa said that the meeting was taking place at a time of global uncertainty. It was therefore necessary for partners who shared the same values to work together. With a goods trade volume of 49 billion euros in 2023, South Africa is the EU's largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa.

17.03.2025

## Ethiopia: Power struggle within the party

A breakaway faction of the main political party in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region has seized control of key offices and a radio station in the regional capital Mekelle. This follows an intensifying power struggle within the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), raising fears of a return to civil war. Several countries, including the US, the UK and the European Union, have warned of escalating tensions.

## More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

Ethiopia: Cholera is spreading

Zambia: Dam breach puts partnership with China to the test

Rwanda: Breaking off diplomatic relations with Belgium