

South Africa: People worse than lions

Scientists have conducted a study in the Kruger National Park that shows that wild mammals fear human voices more than the growling of lions. They played human voices through loudspeakers placed at waterholes. About 95% of the animals were frightened and ran away. The growling of lions caused far less alarm. They hope to use this finding to help areas that rely on wildlife tourism to ensure that human visitors do not unconsciously scare off the animals they want to see. It is also hoped to protect endangered species. Human voices placed in poaching hotspots, for example, could keep the much sought-after rhinos away from these deadly places. 19.10.2023

Plug pulled - Bissau in the dark

An unpaid electricity bill has plunged the capital of Guinea-Bissau into darkness. Turkish utility Karpowership pulled the plug, claiming the West African government owes it \$17 million. Economy Minister Suleimane Seidi promised to settle most of the bill within two weeks. Karpowership - one of the world's largest floating power plant operators - has a five-year contract to supply virtually all of Guinea-Bissau's electricity needs. Last month, the Turkish company cut off power to Sierra Leone's capital because of large unpaid debts. 18.10.2023

Mozambique: Unrest after local elections

In Maputo, riot police fired tear gas at opposition demonstrators who claim that last week's municipal elections were rigged in favour of the ruling Frelimo party. The main opposition Renamo party did not win a single municipality, although it ruled seven municipalities before the elections. Local media report that two Mozambican courts annulled the results of elections in Chokwe district in southern Gaza province and Cuamba district in northern Niassa province after finding irregularities in the polls. Renamo leader Ossufo Momade said the protests would not stop until the "election truth" was revealed. Civil society groups and the US embassy say the election was marred by irregularities. Analysts have raised questions about whether Mozambique's state electricity company deliberately cut off power to sabotage the election. 18.10.2023

Botswana: Bantu-Filmfestival

The festival, themed "A New Age in the African Cinema", will take place from 18 to 21 October at the New Capitol Cinemas, Riverwalk in Gaborone. This year's festival should be a celebration of film, culture, and creativity, with a programme of exceptional films from across the African continent: Botswana, Congo DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, with each film offering a unique cinematic experience and highlighting different themes and perspectives. The Bantu Film Festival is not just a cinematic journey, but a cultural odyssey that brings people together through storytelling. The Bantu Film Festival was founded by filmmakers Lesedi Mphothwe and Veronica Pilane. 18.10.2023

Angola: "Planagrão" - positive signs

Wheat production is one of the focal points of the "Planagrão" launched by the Angolan executive in December 2022, which envisages an increase in cereal production (wheat, rice, soy and maize) from the current level of around three million tonnes/year to six million

tonnes from 2027. With this executive programme to accelerate the increase in wheat production in the coming years, Angola expects to harvest about 229,000 tonnes (34%) of wheat annually, which will contribute to a significant reduction in imports. The country imports wheat flour mainly from Portugal and Turkey and exports to Congo-Brazzaville and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The goal is to become self-sufficient.

Kenya: Terminate agreement with Cuban doctors

Kenya will end a six-year arrangement that allowed more than 100 Cuban doctors to work in their hospitals. The move was unpopular with Kenyan doctors, who argued that local doctors were as well trained as their Cuban counterparts. There were also concerns that the Kenyan government was paying the Cuban professionals much more than their Kenyan counterparts - even though some locally trained doctors remained unemployed. 18.10.2023

Ghana: Dams overflowing

More than 8,000 people have been rescued in the Volta region after severe flooding caused by the overtopping of the Akosombo and Kpong dams. The "controlled flooding" of the dams began about a month ago and is still ongoing, according to the Volta River Authority. The floods have created a humanitarian challenge in several communities downstream in parts of the Volta, Eastern and Greater Accra regions. At least 12,000 people are reported to have been affected so far. 18.10.2023

Zimbabwe: Cholera cases

Cholera cases are registered in all 10 provinces of the country. In Zaka district, about 340 km south of the capital, the local government has banned public gatherings. According to the Ministry of Health, 4,645 suspected cholera cases and 30 deaths have been confirmed. In southern Africa - Malawi, South Africa and Mozambique - there have been recent cholera outbreaks. The WHO warned that the risk of large-scale outbreaks is increasing as the climate is warming. 17.10.2023

Mauritius: Same-sex relationships decriminalised

The Supreme Court of Mauritius has declared unconstitutional a law criminalising consensual same-sex acts between adult men. Section 250 of the Mauritian Penal Code of 1838 violates the Mauritian Constitution of 1968. The Court concluded that the Constitution in force protects all people from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, whatever it may be. 17.10.2023

Kenya: uproar over school textbook

Mentor Publishing Company has withdrawn a textbook that included a drawing of the Prophet Mohammed after Muslim leaders and parents became upset. They complained that it was blasphemous to draw the Prophet and ask students to colour in the illustration. The book's publisher said it regretted the "serious" error in the book on Islamic studies for second-year primary school pupils. About 11 % of Kenyans are Muslims, making them the second largest religious community. 16.10.2023

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

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