

South Africa: green light to drilling plans

French hydrocarbon company TotalEnergies can proceed with plans to drill for oil and gas off the Western Cape coast after Environment Minister Barbara Creecy rejected an appeal from 18 NGOs and individuals. They can apply to have the decision judicially reviewed within 180 days, Daily Maverick reports. 26.10.2023

Ghana protects its food plants

After the African countries Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia, Ghana has now also deposited the seeds of its most important plants: Maize, rice, aubergines and black-eyed peas deposited in the Svalbard Global Seed Board. This facility in Arctic Spitsbergen, owned by the Norwegian government, protects over 1.2 million seed samples from almost every country on earth. The facility is designed to withstand all natural and human disasters and ensure future global food security. Hence the nickname "doomsday vault". 25.10.2023

Algeria: Death penalty= Life imprisonment

The Court of Appeal sentenced 38 people to death for lynching a man they falsely suspected of starting a forest fire in 2021. They were found guilty on several charges, including murder, torture, and incitement to murder. Their sentences will be commuted to life imprisonment as Algeria has a moratorium on executions. 24.10.2023

Kenya shilling K.Sh hits all-time low

Kenya's currency has fallen to a record low of 150 shillings per dollar. The economic situation in the heavily indebted and inflation-plagued East African country has deteriorated further. The K.Sh has lost almost 24 % of its value against the US dollar in the past year. This devaluation makes imports more expensive and increases Kenya's debt, which, accord. to the Ministry of Finance, amounted to more than Sh10,100 billion at the end of June, equivalent to about 2/3 of gross domestic product. Repaying this debt, especially to China, is becoming increasingly costly for the government. 24.10.

No roaming charges

Benin and Togo have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will allow free international roaming on the mobile network between the two countries. Togo is currently concluding a similar roaming agreement with Ghana, which signed a roaming agreement under ECOWAS RULES with Côte d'Ivoire in July this year. An agreement had already been reached between the CEMAC countries (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and the Central African Republic)

Equipped for dengue outbreaks?

The chief scientist of the World Health Organisation, Dr Jeremy Farrar warns that dengue fever will become a major threat in new parts of Africa this decade. Chad is currently experiencing its first dengue outbreak. In Sudan, hundreds of deaths are reported due to the disease. 23.10.2023

Tanzania: Controversial port agreement with UAE

Tanzania has signed a 30-year port management agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Under the agreement, Dubai Port (DP) World will have four berths or quays in Dar es Salaam. The partnership includes a \$250 million investment by DP World to upgrade the port's infrastructure over the next five years.

The agreement has been criticised by several activists, citizens and opposition politicians who say: "*that it favours the Emirati company at Tanzania's expense.*"

Kenya: Compensation for the fire

On the eve of the state visit of King Charles III and Queen Camilla (31 October to 3 November), a court has ordered the British Army to pay compensation for the fire that occurred during a British Army Training Unit (BATUK) military exercise in Kenya in 2021. More than 4 800 hectares of land were devastated. Those affected are demanding compensation for environmental damage, as well as compensation for medical problems such as "severe breathing difficulties" and "permanent problems with eyesight", which they say were caused by the fire. Many farmers have been unable to rebuild crops and livestock lost in this terrible fire. The unit is located near the town of Nanyuki, about 200 km north of the capital Nairobi. 23.10.2023

Sudan: Ethnic cleansing

The BBC has new evidence of ethnic violence that has rocked Western Sudan since the bloody power struggle between ruler Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohammed Hamdan Daglo. The army under al-Burhan's command is fighting the Rapid Response Forces (RSF), a powerful paramilitary group led by Daglo - also known as Hemeiti. An analysis of satellite and social media data shows that at least 68 villages in Darfur have been set on fire by armed militias since 15 April 2023. The most recent confirmed fires occurred in a village called Amarjadeed in southern Darfur. Much of the ethnic violence is blamed on militias that are part of the RSF, the paramilitary group fighting with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) - for control of the country. According to the UN, at least 7,000 people have been killed and more than 5 million displaced from their homes. Many have taken refuge outside Sudan. About half of the population - around 24 million people - are dependent on humanitarian aid. 23.10.2023

Africa's Best National Park

The Serengeti National Park in Tanzania has been named Africa's best for the fifth year in a row. The Serengeti, known for its wildebeest migration, has won the award every year since 2019. Other African contenders included the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana, Etosha National Park in Namibia, Kidepo Valley National Park in Uganda, Kruger National Park in South Africa and Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya.

Bird flu from South Africa spreads

More than 45 000 chickens were slaughtered, burned and buried to prevent the spread of bird flu. The birds had been imported from neighbouring South Africa, which has been affected by an outbreak of the disease. The disease has now spread to Mozambique's Morrumbene district in the southern province of Inhambane. The average price of a chicken has almost doubled, from 350 metical (€5) to 600, while the price of a dozen eggs has risen from 100 to 150 metical (€2). 21.10.2023

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

Uganda: North Korea closes its embassy