

## **Namibia: Help from China and India**

Rice from China, millet from India, 640 wild animals slaughtered for game meat and the purification of seawater are some of the emergency measures Namibia is planning in the face of the worst drought in a century. Namibia is already one of the driest places in the world, and the lack of rain has caused the country's national food reserves to fall to a historic low of 16%, and in an economy that is about a quarter agricultural, jobs are at risk. If the rains don't come by October, 'there could be a catastrophe,' said Agriculture Minister Calle Schlettwein, and not even the capital will be safe. 01.08.2024

## **Mozambique: Winning trial in tuna scandal**

Mozambique won a \$3.1bn case in London's High Court on Monday against Emirati-Lebanese shipbuilder *Prinvest* for allegedly paying bribes in connection with the decade-old 'tuna scandal'. Mozambique alleged that more than USD 136 million was paid to secure favourable terms for three projects in 2013 and 2014, including one to exploit the republic's tuna-rich coastal waters. 31.07.24

## **Niger: Nuclear fuel company reports losses**

The French nuclear fuel specialist recorded a loss of 133 mill.€ in the first half of the year. In the first quarter of 2023, the company had still achieved a net profit of 117 mill€. One of the main problems is Niger's decision in June to withdraw the *Imouraren* mine from the company, which is the largest in the world. In addition, Somair, the subsidiary 63% owned by Orano, is having difficulties exporting uranium from its operation in Arlit in northern Niger. The reason for this is an export ban imposed by the military government in Niamey. 31.07.2024

## **Currency drops sharply**

The value of the Ethiopian currency has fallen by 30% against the US dollar after the government eased foreign exchange restrictions. The news was received with concern, as there are fears of a sharp rise in the cost of living. The country has struggled with a chronic shortage of foreign currency, especially in recent years. The economy has suffered from the brutal two-year civil war in the northern region of Tigray, which ended in 2022, and ongoing conflicts in other regions, making it difficult for the country to attract much-needed foreign investment.

## **Zimbabwe: Investment and labour law violations**

KUVIMBA Mining House (KMH) has signed a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) contract with a Chinese consortium to build a three million tonnes per annum ore processing plant at the Sandawana mines. At the same time, the country this week deported two Chinese nationals accused of hanging two miners from a front-end loader at the Makanga mine in Bindura - a case that has sparked debate over alleged abuses by investors from the Asian country. Last year, Zimbabwean trade unions wrote to the government urging it to investigate Chinese employers notorious for violations such as torture, beatings, gender-based violence, low wages and a host of other labour abuses. However, Zimbabwe is also planning to organise its first Chinese investment exhibition to showcase Chinese investment in various sectors. 27.07.2024

## **Sierra Leone: Dwindling wilderness**

The Kambui Hills Forest Reserve is located in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone, an area bordering

Guinea and Liberia with large deposits of gold, rutile and diamonds. Since 2000, Sierra Leone has lost more than 35% of its total tree cover and 14% of its primary moist forests - some of the most ecologically important habitats in the world - according to Global Forest Watch, an online monitoring platform. It was the trade in so-called blood diamonds that largely financed the country's brutal 11-year civil war, which left around 120,000 people dead. Today, people are mainly searching for gold along the rocky riverbanks of the Kambui Forest. The National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) is tasked with protecting the rainforest from illegal mining and logging. But with only 62 rangers covering around 14,000 hectares (35,000 acres), this is an almost hopeless endeavour. The rangers blame economic hardship for the increasing exploitation of the natural landscape. Sierra Leone, rich in natural resources, is one of the poorest countries in the world.

## **More than 50°Celsius**

With an average temperature of 17.09 °C, 21 July was the hottest day ever recorded worldwide. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) showed that June was the hottest since global records began in 1850. In the past 20 years, 19 cities in 15 countries have recorded maximum temperatures of 50°C or more. The Iraqi city of Basra recorded at least 129 days with maximum temperatures of 50 °C, followed by Ahvaz in Iran with 84 days and Jahra in Kuwait with 83 days. Days of more than 50°C were also recorded in the following African cities: Quargia, Adrar (Algeria), Gabes, Kairouan (Tunisia), Fada, N'gourma (Burkina Faso), N'Djamena (Chad) and Tahoua (Niger). Heatwaves have become more frequent and there are more days with temperatures of over 50°C in the cities.

## **ECOWAS and common currency**

On 15 July 2024, during its first ordinary session, the ECOWAS Parliament presented the recommendation for the accelerated implementation of the single currency programme. This would affect the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. 'It is crucial to build consensus among member states to accelerate the implementation of the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme and to provide the department with the necessary human resources to fulfil its mandate in a timely manner,' the report states. 22.07.2024

## **Olympic Games - Paris 2024**

All 54 African countries have sent delegations to the 33rd Olympiad in Paris. 1009 African athletes are taking part in the competitions. The Stade Robert Cesar has been transformed into an African village. The Africa Village will organise shows, exhibitions and encounters with athletes during the Olympic Games. Special events will also be organised during the Paralympics. It is estimated that more than 1,300 visitors are expected every day.

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

Mpox breakout

Uganda: Arrests during anti-government protests

Togo: Constitutional reforms exacerbate tensions

South Africa: Zuma expelled from the ANC