

Water trade - blessing and curse

The Kingdom of Lesotho, which is completely surrounded by South Africa, is poor, but thanks to its altitude - from 1,000 to 3,400 metres above sea level - it is rich in water. The water from the many rivers that originate there is collected in huge dams and has been exported to South Africa for two decades, especially to the economic area around Johannesburg, 400 km to the north. While South Africa pays € 180 million to the Lesotho government every year, many people in Lesotho do not benefit from this. They are barely consulted or informed and have to take legal action for a small compensation for their taken land. Their pastures and fields are already suffering from persistent drought. Nevertheless, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is planning another major project: 150 million cubic metres of water are to be pumped annually from a new dam in the south-west through a 700km pipeline to thirsty Botswana. 17.0.2024

West Africa and Europe's security

'If more countries in West Africa tip over into instability, this will not only have dramatic consequences for the people on the ground, but also direct consequences for our security in Europe,' said Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock during her visit to Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. In competition with Russia and China, the Foreign Minister is calling for equal co-operation with countries in Africa.

Ruanda: Landslide victory

According to the preliminary election results, President Kagame won the presidential election with 99%. The president, who has been in power in various capacities since 1994, won with a similar percentage in 2017. 16.07.

Mocambique: 'Sky Island' - saved by new discoveries?!

The largest (75 km²) contiguous rainforest in southern Africa is a 1700 m high mountain, Monte Mabu, in the province of Zambezia. The special thing about Monte Mabu is its geography. The rainforest lies at medium altitude and rises above the Mozambican lowlands, making it practically an 'island in the sky'. This means that most of the animals and insects living there have no opportunity to socialise and reproduce with other populations, increasing the likelihood that they will evolve into something unique and new to science in isolation. A team of UK scientists has discovered at least 25 new species and is helping to persuade Mozambique to protect the forest. 16.07.2024

Cholera in Africa

The Tropeninstitut.de has now published the latest figures on cholera outbreaks. In 2024, cholera broke out in 14 African countries. The Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) and Ethiopia are currently experiencing an acute health crisis due to cholera. Comoros, DRC, Ethiopia, Zambia and Zimbabwe account for 86.5% (82,141) of all cases and 94.6% (1,530) of all deaths reported this year. In May 2024, eleven countries - Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe - reported a total of 13,247 new cases and 126 deaths (CFR = 1.0%). 16.07.2024

Seychelles: Increased biosecurity measures

In view of the current leaf beetle situation, the Ministry of Agriculture is stepping up its measures. The leaf beetle

was first reported in the Seychelles in November 2023 and has since been infesting golden apple trees on the main island of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue, the three most densely populated islands. Over the years, new pests such as the melon fly, fruit fly, tortoise beetle, spiral whitefly, papaya mealybug and hairy caterpillar have found their way to the Seychelles, threatening the country's crops, environment, biodiversity and even its economy. Trade, travel and tourism pose the greatest threat to biosecurity. In 2022, 300,000 tourists visited the Seychelles. Tourism generates 70 % of the total national income. Sichuan Airlines' first direct flight to Chengdu in China will take place in the second half of the year. On **29 June**, the 48th anniversary of Independence was celebrated; (approx. 100,000 inhabitants) 16.07.2024

Eswatini and Belarus form new partnership

In an ambitious attempt to revitalise its healthcare system, Eswatini is entering into a partnership with Belarus. Prime Minister R. Dlamini: 'We are looking forward to a long-term co-operation with Belarus and of course intend to have a reciprocal relationship with Belarus. We will expand exports and in return we expect improved access to important medicines and the exchange of expertise. Eswatini has the highest incidence rate of cervical cancer in the world, with 56 new cases per 100,000 women annually, and one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world (27%). In addition, the country has a limited number of doctors and nurses and rural areas lack access to basic healthcare.

Regional infrastructure project

Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana are working together on a major infrastructure project that includes the expansion of the Beira-Zimbabwe-Botswana railway network and the construction of a new deep-sea port at Matutuine in southern Mozambique. This is intended to boost trade and economic development in the region, particularly in the mining and transport sectors. The project would enable the development of large coal deposits in landlocked Botswana and their transport through Zimbabwe to ports in Mozambique. The railway line will extend into the centre of Botswana and connect to the existing infrastructure in Zimbabwe. Mozambique has already completed the modernisation of the Beira-Machipanda line and work has begun in Zimbabwe on a 10 km extension to Mutare. 15.07.2024

Kenya: Cabinet dissolved

President William Ruto has dismissed his entire cabinet after *Generation Z protesters* exerted pressure and demanded changes. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi were left in their posts. Ruto has promised further measures that point to a further reorganisation of his government, which is likely to affect more ineffective officials. The protesters are demanding that all ministers be scrutinised. 15.07.2024

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

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