

Great Britain's 'last African colony'

The UK has announced that it will return sovereignty over the Chagos Islands, with the exception of Diego Garcia Atoll, to Mauritius after more than half a century. The archipelago comprises around 60 islands and atolls. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) had already declared the occupation and resettlement of the population illegal in 2019 and described it as a relic of colonialism. In 2021, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea confirmed the sovereignty of Mauritius. The key factor in the transfer of sovereignty to Mauritius now announced by the British government is the special solution for Diego Garcia and the US-British military base there. Diego Garcia is to remain under British control for at least another 99 years. 04.10.2024

German Africa Prize 2024

Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, mayor of the capital Freetown since 2018, is - according to the German Africa Foundation - an 'inspiration'. After 25 years working in London's financial sector, she has been unwavering in her commitment to 'her' city. Freetown has a wastewater treatment plant, 160 water reservoirs and rainwater collection systems, compost, biogas and heating briquettes made from waste. The latter also protects the forests. Under her leadership, 977,000 trees have been planted. Freetown is to become 'Tree-Town'. A planned cable car is intended to reduce air pollution. Freetown is seen as a role model for Africa, even for South Africa's capital Pretoria. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr will accept the award in Berlin on 16 October full of joy and gratitude on behalf of the whole team and all the citizens of Freetown.

Global wheat trade and climate change

East Africa can expect higher wheat prices in 2025 as a poor harvest is expected in Russia, the region's main supplier. Russia, the world's largest wheat exporter, has been hit by a severe drought that threatens its winter harvest. Russia's 2025 wheat harvest is expected to fall to an 11-year low, causing concern for countries such as Kenya, which imports up to 75% of its wheat needs from Russia and Ukraine. 02.10.2024

Rwanda: Number of funeral attendees limited

The Rwandan authorities have limited the number of mourners at funerals for victims of the Marburg virus in order to contain the outbreak of the highly contagious disease. No more than 50 people are allowed to attend the funeral of one person. The Marburg virus has a mortality rate of up to 88%. It belongs to the same virus family as Ebola. 01.10.2024

64 years independent

The 64th anniversary of its independence began in a generally depressed mood. Persistent inflation, widespread insecurity and unpopular economic reforms have left many Nigerians frustrated and pessimistic. In a statement, President Bola Tinubu acknowledged these challenges but said that the ongoing reforms will lead to prosperity. 'As your president, I assure you that we are endeavouring to find lasting solutions to alleviate the suffering of our citizens,' Tinubu said. 'Once again, I ask for your patience as the reforms we are implementing are showing positive signs and we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel.' With around 230 million inhabitants (2024), Nigeria is by far the most populous

country in Africa and the sixth most populous country in the world. The country's population doubled between 1989 and 2019 and continues to grow rapidly. More than 250 ethnic groups live in the country. 01.10.2024

Namibia: Drought affects humans and animals

Namibia is one of the countries in southern Africa that is facing the worst drought in the region for more than 100 years, according to United Nations estimates. The drought prompted the Namibian government to declare a state of emergency in May. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a global food security agency, declared in September that 1.15 million people in Namibia - around 38% of the population - are affected by acute food insecurity and need urgent assistance. In August, the government announced it would kill 723 wild animals, including elephants and hippos, to reduce pressure on food and water sources and provide meat for starving people. Now five hippos have died in a mud pool in north-east Namibia, where a severe drought has dried up the great Chobe River. The dead were among 130 hippos that were stuck for days in a pool along the Chobe River on the border with Botswana after the water in the pool evaporated. 01.10.2024

Zimbabwe: New gold-backed currency devalued

The central bank has devalued its gold-backed currency by over 40% against the US \$ (24 cig to \$1). This indicates that the last-ditch attempt to stabilise the country's volatile economy has failed. Retailers had threatened to close shops if the exchange rate remained at its current level. The US \$ is also legal tender. The Zig, which stands for Zimbabwe Gold, was introduced over 6 months ago and is sixth currency in 25 years. 30.09.2024

A new start in agriculture

Refugees from African countries such as Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo are finding a new livelihood in agriculture in the United States. Many of these refugees, who have fled war and persecution, are now growing and selling vegetables to earn an income and get back to their agricultural roots. Most are focussing on growing fast-growing, low-maintenance crops such as carrots, potatoes, spinach, kale and pumpkins. For these refugees, farming means more than just financial survival - it is a step towards integration, self-determination and a new start in their new country. 30.09.2024

Ethiopian Orthodox Christians celebrate 'Meskel'

Thousands of Ethiopians gathered in Meskel Square in Addis Ababa on 26 September. They celebrated Meskel, the festival commemorating the cross on which Jesus was crucified according to church belief and his restoration by St Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine. At the same time, tensions in the Horn of Africa have intensified: Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's efforts to secure access to the sea via the semi-autonomous Somali region of Somaliland have angered the authorities in Somalia; Ethiopia is at odds with Egypt over the Great Nile Dam; this is contributing to uprisings in the north-western region of Amhara. So this year's festival is taking place at a difficult time for Ethiopia.

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

Boat sinks off the coast of Djibouti