

## Sea swallows up coastline

Kipini, an idyllic coastal village at the mouth of Kenya's longest waterway, the Tana River, which flows into the Indian Ocean, is facing an existential crisis as rising sea levels continue to engulf the land. Once a picturesque place that attracted tourists with its pristine beaches and luxurious accommodation, Kipini is now witnessing the unstoppable advance of the Indian Ocean that is engulfing homes, businesses and even lives. 24.08.24

## Seychelles: Seagrass is an important CO2 reservoir

The results of a comprehensive assessment of seagrass distribution in the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) show that these seagrass ecosystems store almost three times the annual emissions of the local energy sector and almost three times the emissions of the transport sector. The research project entitled 'Seychelles Seagrass Mapping and Carbon Assessment Project' was launched in 2020. It is in line with the government's commitment to protect 50 % of its blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves and seagrass meadows, by 2025 and to achieve 100 % protection by 2030. (Blue carbon = carbon that the ocean and marine and coastal ecosystems absorb and store. From mangroves and seagrass meadows to large whales. 20.08.

## Gambia: Draft constitution released for discussion

The draft constitution will be gazetted for three months, and a further 10 days as provided for in the 1997 Constitution. According to the government, it 'reflects our national values and ethos and is consistent with the existence of The Gambia as a sovereign, independent, republican state with a multi-party democracy based on democratic principles and regular elections based on universal adult suffrage'. For the first time in the history of constitutional development, the draft introduces term limits for persons holding the office of president. 19.08.2024

## SADC summit in Harare

Despite local controversies such as the imprisonment of opposition activists and pressure to move the meeting from Harare, Zimbabwe, the 44th Ordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was one of the best attended - by heads of state and government - in the last nine years. Only three heads of state were not present, namely Hakainde Hichilema from Zambia, Azali Assoumani from the Comoros and Prithvirajsing Roopun from Mauritius. Eswatini was expelled from the Troika body for politics, defence and security cooperation. Lesotho was encouraged to speed up electoral reforms. The Harare summit was held under the theme of promoting innovation to unlock opportunities for sustainable economic growth and development towards an industrialised SADC. The region is home to most of the world's gold, copper, cobalt, lithium, chrome, graphite and platinum deposits and has significant livestock and agricultural resources.

## Rwanda: Inspection of church buildings and religious communities

In a nationwide measure, the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) has closed 185 churches. In order to be allowed to run a church, you have to pass tests relating to infrastructure, hygiene and safety. In addition, all leaders of places of worship must be qualified. The RGB's head of communications, Jean Bosco

Rushingabigwi, says: 'The inspection focuses on checking whether the religious communities and houses of worship have the registration documents issued by the RGB, whether they cooperate with the district when opening a branch and whether the houses of worship fulfil the legal requirements for their location. We also check that the leaders have the required academic degrees and certificates in theology at both the organisational and congregational or branch levels.' In 2019, RGB carried out a similar action; at that time, 714 places of worship, most of them Pentecostal churches and one mosque, were closed. The last census in 2022 shows: 40 % Catholic, 21 % Pentecostal, 15 % Protestant, 12 % Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) and 2 % Muslim.

## Lesotho: So close to heaven and death

The Kingdom of Lesotho, one of the highest countries in the world, is home to the world's highest suicide rate. According to the WHO, 87.5 people per 100,000 take their own lives every year, more than twice as many as the next country on the list, Guyana in South America (40 per 100,000). The global average is 9 suicides per 100,000 people. The most common reasons are: Rape, unemployment, loss through death and drug and alcohol abuse. The health system is in dire straits. There has been no psychiatrist in the only psychiatric ward since 2017. The NGO *HelpLesotho* is determined to help young people manage their mental health through group therapies. 16.08.2024

## 10th African country to join the UN Water Convention

As the 53rd Party to the UN Water Convention, Côte d'Ivoire became the tenth African country to join the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes in July. Côte d'Ivoire's membership consolidates the strong development of water co-operation in Africa, where over 90% of water resources are located in 63 basins shared by two or more countries. Côte d'Ivoire is the ninth largest economy in Africa and the fifth fastest growing economy on the continent, sharing eight transboundary river basins (Black Volta, Bia, Tanoé, Comoé, Niger, Sassandra, Cavally et Nuon) with its neighbouring countries. Water resources are threatened by urbanisation and the effects of climate change, including drought and flooding. At the same time, water quality is deteriorating due to pollution from agricultural and industrial waste, illegal gold panning and untreated wastewater.

## Botswana: Beef on the way to the EU

Botswana's beef is well on its way to penetrating the lucrative European Union (EU) market as the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) has been provided with sophisticated equipment for analysing chemical residues in meat thanks to SADC-EU support. An implementation support programme amounting to 88 million pula is intended to promote export-oriented economic diversification and growth in Botswana with improved employment in the targeted value chains.

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

Eswatini: Young people without prospects  
Angola: Cannabis field destroyed