

Sierra Leone: President re-elected

J.M.Bio of the People's Party (SLPP) received about 56.17% of the vote, Samura Kamara, of the main opposition All People's Congress (APC), 41.6%. Kamara rejects the election results. EU election observers report a lack of transparency and violent incidents at ten polling stations. Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world. 29.06.2023

South Sudan: 10,000 refugees from Sudan

Since the armed conflict began in April, 130,000 people have fled Sudan to South Sudan, most of them South Sudanese who returned to their home country. 10,000 are registered as refugees, including many unaccompanied children, disabled people and people with serious medical needs. This is a serious burden for South Sudan, which is still struggling to survive since independence in 2011 due to civil war, conflict, droughts and floods. Of the other neighbouring countries, Egypt has taken in 255,000 Sudanese war refugees and Chad 120,000. 28.06.2023

Land degradation - Bamboo - CO2 certificate

1MT Nation OU, an Estonian company developing high-value natural-based carbon credits, has received one million euros from Estonian investors. The company aims to restore degraded land in Africa and develop high-quality CO2 certificates. The goal is to restore at least one million hectares of land by planting local bamboo species by 2030. In April this year, the first 300 hectares of bamboo were planted in Uganda, and preparations have begun for planting bamboo on 2,000 more hectares in Uganda and on 1,000 hectares in Kenya. Bamboo is one of the most effective natural means of mitigating climate change. It grows quickly, so carbon dioxide pollution in the atmosphere is also eliminated much faster. However, establishing plantations and restoring damaged land requires high investment. 28.06.2023

Togo: Civil-State Security Cooperation

Attacks by violent extremists in Benin and Togo are on the rise. Since the first incidents in 2019 in Benin and 2021 in Togo, the insurgents' tactics have expanded: They no longer target only defence forces, but also plant improvised explosive devices on roads and attack civilians. More than 32 000 Togolese fled in attacks in February and May 2023, and more than 900 in Benin. CIPLEV (an inter-ministerial committee for the prevention and countering of violent extremism) has intensified awareness-raising campaigns, especially in the Savanes, Centrale and Kara regions. These efforts are important to strengthen the link between the state and the population and to encourage civilians to support the fight against violent extremism. However, as attacks on civilians increase, the government must ensure their protection if it wants their continued support. 28.06.2023

Western Sahara: Condemnation of Moroccan occupation

In Panama, the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) condemned the violation of international law by the Moroccan occupation in Western Sahara and reaffirmed the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination. They also reiterated their support for the UN's efforts to decolonise Western Sahara. 28.06.2023

Ghana: Should AI be regulated?

Lawmakers are calling for regulation of the use of artificial intelligence (AI). They argue that the tool could increase inequality and want clarity on machine errors. But proponents of AI disagree. In 2018, Google opened its first African AI research centre in Accra. It aims to support the growing capabilities of artificial intelligence by working with regional universities, research institutions and governments. In Tamale, about 610 km north of Accra, young people are bridging language barriers online by using artificial intelligence (AI) to translate articles written in English into local languages. For them, Ghana should think about utilising the potential of AI instead of worrying about its shortcomings and looking for regulations. 27.06.2023

Côte d'Ivoire: First ambulance boat for lagoon dwellers

The country has more than 500 km of coastline and several lagoons with countless islands. For most villages on the waterfront, the only option for medical emergencies was a canoe - far away, slow and expensive. At the beginning of June, the €76,000 ambulance boat financed by the Assinie-Mafia community was put into operation. On board are medical staff as well as oxygen, defibrillator and heart monitor, 4 beds and space for some relatives. The boat ambulance, called "My Health" in the Essouma language, makes people happy because it brings fast and free help, especially to expectant mothers. The boat was manufactured in the country. The Mayor is already considering commissioning a second boat. 27.06.2023

Mali: Draft constitution approved with 97 %

The draft of a new constitution presented by the junta, which has been in power since 2020, was approved with 97% of the vote; the turnout was 39.40%. According to observers and opponents of the reform, the ballot was marred by incidents and irregularities. Critics of the new constitution claim it is tailor-made to keep the colonels in power beyond the presidential elections scheduled for February 2024, despite their original commitment to hand over power to civilians after the elections. The military claims the draft constitution is an important cornerstone for the reconstruction of Mali, which is struggling with widespread jihadism. 26.06.2023

Egypt: India strengthens ties

Egypt and India discussed strengthening ties in areas such as trade, food security and defence during a state visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Cairo. They also discussed cooperation in the G-20 framework, emphasising food and energy insecurity, climate change and the need for a common voice of the Global South. India wants to strengthen ties with Egypt, also to secure trade through the Suez Canal. In the last fiscal year, the country exported goods worth USD 4.11 billion to Egypt while importing USD 1.95 billion. 26.07.23

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

[South Africa: Legislation for the hemp and cannabis](#)
[Wagner mercenaries remain in Africa](#)

[Mozambique: Supreme Court rejects appeal on gas project](#)