



### [Illegal Chinese fishing off East Africa hurts local communities: report](#)

Long-distance fishing operations are linked to rights abuses, cruelty to wildlife and unsustainable practices. A multibillion dollar global fishing industry backed by the Chinese government is driving a surge in Chinese vessels engaged in illegal activities and exploiting fishing grounds off East Africa, spoiling them for local people, according to a London-based environmental group. "Before the Chinese fishing boats came here, we could expect a good catch when we cast our nets, even if we only cast the nets three times," one Mozambican fisher told the U.K.-based Environmental Justice Foundation. "Now we have to stay out at sea for a whole day to catch enough fish." "This is heartbreaking, because these fish are not only for us, but also for our children," he said. "They have destroyed our future livelihoods." In October 2023, a State Council white paper said China would focus on "win-win cooperation, safe, stable, green and sustainable" distant-water fishing operations. Radio Free Asia.

### [Xi congratulates Ramaphosa on reelection as South African president](#)

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to Cyril Ramaphosa who was reelected as president of South Africa on Friday. In his message, Xi noted that China and South Africa have profound political mutual trust and fruitful practical cooperation in various fields, which is a model of solidarity and cooperation among developing countries and the Global South. Xi said that during his fourth state visit to South Africa in August last year, he and Ramaphosa reached important consensus on a wide range of issues, marking a new chapter in building a high-level China-South Africa community with a shared future. Xi also said that he attaches great importance to the development of China-South Africa relations and stands ready to work with Ramaphosa to elevate the China-South Africa comprehensive strategic partnership to a new level and jointly contribute to world peace, stability, and prosperity. China Military Online.

### [Morocco, China set to boost cooperation in tourism & cultural sectors](#)

Morocco and China have a shared desire to boost their cooperation in the sector of tourism. Ways of strengthening this tourism cooperation were discussed at a meeting in Rabat Thursday by visiting Chinese Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism, Quan Rao, and Moroccan Minister of Tourism, Fatim-Zahra Ammor. The two sides stressed the importance of cooperation ties and strategic partnership between Morocco and China, and expressed their desire to further develop tourism cooperation, the Ministry of Tourism said in a press release. During these talks, the Chinese Vice-Minister recalled Morocco's growing appeal as a destination for Chinese tourists, pointing out that new air links between the two countries could boost tourist flows between the two destinations. For her part, Ammor expressed her desire to further promote Chinese tourism investment in Morocco, thus accompanying the momentum gained by Morocco, particularly in anticipation of major sporting events to be hosted by the Kingdom. The North Africa Post.

### [Benin pipeline dispute: Niger stops oil exports to China](#)

Niger has stopped exporting oil to China through its pipeline to Benin's coast. Oil Minister, Mahamane Moustapha Bako, disclosed this on Thursday, escalating an ongoing standoff between the West African neighbors. At the Agadem oilfield in eastern Niger, Bako supervised the shutdown of a section of the 2,000-km (1,243-mile) pipeline, which was meant to transport oil to China as part of a \$400 million agreement with China National Petroleum Corp, according to Africa Briefing. Relations between Niger and Benin have been tense since May when Benin blocked crude exports through its port, insisting that Niger's junta reopen the border to Beninese goods and restore normal relations. Earlier in the month, Benin authorities detained five Niger nationals for allegedly entering the Seme-Kpodji pipeline terminal under false pretenses—a charge Niger rejected, stating the group was supervising crude loading per their agreement with Benin. “We can't just sit back while our oil is stolen by other people, because we're not there where it's loaded,” Minister Barke Bako told workers, justifying the halt in oil flows, according to a state television broadcast. Punch Newspaper.

### [China 'not in the business of haircuts' as Zimbabwe asks for debt reduction from creditors](#)

Zimbabwe is implementing reforms in a bid to drag itself out of a debt crisis that has marred the country since Robert Mugabe was in power. As Zimbabwe attempts to lift itself out of a punishing debt crisis, it is asking for “deep haircuts” from its creditors, including China, according to its finance minister, Professor Mthuli Ncube. But analysts say China is “not in the business of haircuts” and is unlikely to accept any reduction of the debt it is owed. South China Morning Post.

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