



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

President Barack Obama Travels to Africa

On June 20th, *National Journal* suggested President Barack Obama's trip to Africa will be an important step for the U.S. in remaining competitive with China's growing influence on the continent. Unlike the themes of former Presidents Bill Clinton's and George W. Bush's trips to Africa, President Obama's meetings in Africa will focus on economic development and trade. The *National Journal* article can be read [here](#).

On June 21st, the White House hosted a press briefing to preview President Barack Obama's trip to Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania. Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes described how the President's trip will focus on trade and emphasized President of the Export-Import Bank Fred Hochberg and U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman will hold separate meetings related to trade in South Africa. President Obama is also scheduled to visit Goree Island in Senegal, attend an official dinner with South African President Jacob Zuma, and visit Robben Island for dinner with Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete. A transcript of the call is available [here](#).

On June 21st, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted a press briefing to discuss President Barack Obama's trip to Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania June 26th-July 3rd. The discussion featured CSIS Africa experts Jennifer Cookie, Richard Downie, and J. Stephen Morrison. A recording of the briefing can be watched [here](#).

On June 23rd, *USA Today* reported former President George W. Bush will also be in Africa during President Barack Obama's visit to the continent. President Bush, who is well known for his Administration's efforts to combat AIDS in Africa, and former First Lady Laura Bush will travel to Zambia to open a cervical cancer clinic and then on to Tanzania. While President Obama and President Bush are not scheduled to meet in Tanzania, First Lady Michelle Obama is scheduled to join the Bushes for the African First Ladies Summit. A report on the Bushes travel can be viewed [here](#).

On June 24th, John Campbell of the Council on Foreign Relations issued a brief on President Obama's trip to Africa. Campbell noted the President will seek to boost U.S. investment across Africa. The brief also provides details on President Obama's goals in each country he will visit. Campbell's piece can be read [here](#).

On June 24th, *Bloomberg* published an op-ed by Charles Kenny on ways President Barack Obama can succeed with his trip to Africa. Kenny said the President should expand the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and improve migration between the U.S. and Africa. Additional suggestions are available [here](#).

On June 24th, *The Hill* reported on First Lady Michelle Obama's itinerary for the first family's trip to Africa, which will be focused on youth and education. The First Lady will visit a girl's school in Senegal, meet with students in South Africa, and attend an African First Ladies Summit in Tanzania. The First Lady's schedule is available [here](#).

On June 25th, *Reuters* reported on the heightened security measures in Senegal ahead of President Obama's trip to the country. A video with reactions from the Senegalese in Dakar on the increased security can be seen [here](#).

On June 26th, President Barack Obama embarked on his first trip to sub-Saharan Africa since his 2009 visit to Ghana. The White House has launched a website with information pertaining to the President's trip, which is available [here](#).

On June 26th, in conjunction with the First Family's departure for Senegal, the *Washington Post* published an article speculating on President Barack Obama's reception in Africa. In 2009, the President's arrival in Ghana was celebrated. While President Obama is still anticipated to receive a warm welcome, some believe Africans are disappointed with President Obama's failure to prioritize the region in his first term. The full article can be read [here](#).

On June 26th, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney addressed members of the press on Air Force One as the plane traveled to Senegal for the beginning of the president's trip to Africa. Press Secretary Carney said the U.S. is not engaging with Africa too late and the trip is a continuation of U.S. involvement on the continent. A transcript of the briefing is available [here](#).

On June 26th, the White House posted its first photo to the social media website Instagram ahead of President Barack Obama's trip to Africa. The photo shows the First Family departing on Marine One for their trip to Africa. Officials say photos of the President will be posted throughout the trip on the White House Instagram page, available [here](#).

On June 26th, Oxfam International issued a to-do list for President Barack Obama during his week-long visit to Africa. Oxfam says the President should work to help Africans benefit from the bounty of natural resources available on the continent. Oxfam America President Raymond Offenheiser also urged the U.S. to become more transparent regarding aid to Africa. The to-do list can be read [here](#).

On June 27th, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah accompanied President Barack Obama in Africa for meetings with government, business, and civil society leaders on issues including expanding economic growth, investment, and trade, strengthening democratic institutions, and investing in African youth. Administrator Shah's travel is noted [here](#).

On June 27th, President Barack Obama participated in a morning press conference with Senegalese President Macky Sall. President Obama addressed several domestic policy issues, including the Supreme Court rulings on gay marriage and the pursuit of National Security Agency (NSA) leaker Edward Snowden. Also today, President Obama is scheduled to meet with Senegalese judicial leaders, tour Goree Island - the largest slave trading post from the 15th to 19th centuries, meet with embassy staff, and attend an official dinner with President Sall. A report on this morning's press conference can be viewed [here](#).

Egypt

On June 24th, five people were injured in Fayoum, Egypt, in clashes between the Tamarod rebel movement and members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Participants in the rebel campaign had been in al-Sawaqy Square collecting signatures on a petition for a no-confidence vote against President Mohamed Morsi and early presidential elections. Details on the incident can be found [here](#).

On June 25th, Mahmud Badr, founder of the Tamarod rebel campaign, reported the group's petition for a presidential election just one year after President Mohamed Morsi took the presidency has attracted more than 15 million signatures. Tamarod and several other Egyptian opposition groups are planning mass protests for June 30th, the one year anniversary of President Morsi assuming office. More information can be seen [here](#).

On June 26th, two people were killed in Egypt during street fighting between supporters and opponents of President Mohamed Morsi. Violence remains a regular occurrence throughout the country as groups continue to disagree on President Morsi's policies. Information on the latest deaths is available [here](#).

Kenya

On June 23rd, 10 people were killed in northeastern Kenya during a grenade attack at a refugee camp. Clan feuds have engulfed the region in recent months and Somalia-based extremist group, Al-Shabaab, has been blamed for previous attacks. An article on the violence can be read [here](#).

Mali

On June 25th, Head of the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) Bert Koenders briefed the U.N. Security Council from Bamako on preparations for the transition of authority from the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) to MINUSMA, scheduled for July 1st. Special Representative Koenders provided an update on security, reconciliation, and planning for elections, and called on international partners to contribute resources to ensure MINUSMA's success. An article on the briefing can be read [here](#).

On June 25th, *Voice of America* published an article on preparations for upcoming national elections in Mali. Millions of biometric voter cards are being distributed ahead of the July 28th elections. Details on the preparations are available [here](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On June 21st, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued a release on efforts to address violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Franz Rauchenstein, the departing head of ICRC operations in the DRC, said many challenges remain in the country. The release can be read [here](#).

On June 26th, the *Atlantic* published Armin Rosen's detailed account of continued violence in the eastern DRC. Conflict in the DRC has killed up to 5.4 million people since 1996. Rosen writes that while the DRC conflict might be the deadliest since World War II, it remains an obscure and anonymous crisis. The full article can be read [here](#).

On June 27th, the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) deployed special forces to Katanga province to address security issues. The Bakata Katanga militant group has waged attacks in the province since March, threatening multi-billion dollar copper mining projects anticipated to yield more than 800,000 metric tons of copper this year. Details can be found [here](#).

South Africa

On June 23rd, South African President Jacob Zuma told reporters former President Nelson Mandela was in serious condition at a hospital in Pretoria as he continued to battle lung issues. President Zuma said President Mandela's health would not prevent President Barack Obama from visiting the country. Details on President Mandela's health are available [here](#).

On June 25th, the family of Nelson Mandela gathered at the former South African President's home in Qunu, in the Eastern Cape. The meeting was called by President Mandela's children to discuss delicate matters regarding President Mandela's health status. President Mandela remains in critical condition at a hospital in Pretoria, where President Jacob Zuma said doctors are doing everything to ensure his well-being. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On June 26th, an official briefed on former President Nelson Mandela's condition said the anti-apartheid leader has been put on life support. President Mandela has been hospitalized for a lung infection since June 8th. Authorities have described his condition as critical since Sunday. Developments can be seen [here](#).

On June 27th, President Jacob Zuma reported while former President Nelson Mandela remains critically ill, his condition had improved throughout the night and he is now stable. While President Zuma said President Mandela is doing better than on Wednesday night, President Mandela's daughter Makaziwe warned her father's condition is very critical and things do not look good. The latest on President Mandela's condition is reported [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On June 21st, President Barack Obama nominated Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield currently serves as Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources. She has previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Principal Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration. President Obama also announced Ambassador Terrence McCulley's nomination to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire. He currently serves as U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria. A White House announcement has been posted [here](#).

On June 25th, President Barack Obama unveiled his Administration's plan to address climate change. In the President's Climate Action Plan, the White House notes in the past three years it has reach agreements with more than 20 countries, including South Africa, to support low emission development strategies that can help developing countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions while growing their economies. The framework also applauds the U.S. Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative, which aligns grant-based assistance with International Trade and Development Agency (ITDA) project planning expertise and U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) financing to unlock up to \$1 billion in clean energy finance. More information can be found [here](#).

State Department

On June 22nd, Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Rick Barton concluded a weeklong trip to Nigeria. Assistant Secretary Barton traveled to Abuju, Lagos, and Port Harcourt to meet with Government officials and civil society leaders on a range of issues, including security. Details on Assistant Secretary Barton's travel can be viewed [here](#).

On June 24th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Mozambique on its National Day. Secretary Kerry recognized common interests in the U.S.-Mozambique relationship, including regional security, growing trade and investment, and improving health, education, and agriculture. The full statement is available [here](#).

On June 25th, 119 students from the Middle East and North Africa arrived in Washington, DC, to participate in the State Department Middle East Partnership Initiative's (MEPI) 10th annual Student Leaders Exchange Program. This six-week program is intended to increase students' understanding of American civil society and the democratic process and to promote democratic participation in their home countries. More information on the program can be found [here](#).

On June 25th, State Department Chief of Protocol Ambassador Capricia Penavic Marshall hosted a

farewell reception in honor of the departing Ambassador of Libya to the U.S. Ali Suleiman Aujali. The reception was included on the Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be seen [here](#).

On June 25th, 27 tech-savvy teenagers from the Middle East and North Africa arrived in Washington, DC, for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs three-week TechGirls exchange program. The girls will engage with their American counterparts, both in the classroom and in the community, on technical development and leadership skills. Participants include teenage girls from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. More information on the program has been posted [here](#).

On June 26th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement in recognition of Djibouti's National Day. He commended Djibouti for serving as a supporter of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa, thanked Djibouti for its support of Somalia's political transition, and recognized the country's counterterrorism efforts. Secretary Kerry's full statement can be read [here](#).

On June 26th, Assistant Secretary for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Rick Barton hosted a roundtable with experts to explore conflict within the Great Lakes region in Africa. The roundtable was noted on the State Department public schedule, available [here](#).

On June 27th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with U.N. Special Envoy for the Sahel Romano Prodi at the State Department. The meeting was included on the daily listing of State Department appointments, which can be viewed [here](#).

On June 27th, Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp departed on foreign travel to Botswana to participate in the launch of the International Investigator/Justice Rapid Response training course. The training, hosted by the Institute for International Criminal Investigations, is focused on building capabilities to respond to mass crime scenes. More information can be seen [here](#).

Department of Defense

On June 21st, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Public Affairs reported on U.S. military health care specialists' recent travel to Swaziland and Malawi to help improve both countries' military health care systems. Personnel from U.S. Army Africa (USARAF) and the U.S. Department of Military and Emergency Medicine Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences conducted doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership, personnel, and facility (DOTMLPF) assessment visits in both countries. Details can be found [here](#).

On June 26th, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) Public Affairs reported on the first forward command post (FCP), which was fully assembled in Djibouti in May. The FCP, brings together a range of military personnel, was designed to allow AFRICOM and CJTF-HOA the ability to rapidly respond to crises in Africa. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On June 18th, the International Trade Administration (ITA) published a blog post on the Commerce Department's Doing Business in Africa campaign. The blog post describes how Pittsburgh-based Cardinal Resources, LLC, an environmental and energy company that produced solar powered water treatment systems, worked with the U.S. Commercial Service (CS) to export more than \$9 million in its technology to Africa, including to Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and Ghana. The blog post can be read [here](#).

On June 20th, the Department of Commerce hosted a webinar on the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector in sub-Saharan Africa. Details on the webinar are available [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On June 24th, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry indicating his intentions to issue four new subpoenas for State Department officials responsible for diplomatic security during the September 11th attack on the

U.S. compound in Benghazi. In his letter, Representative Issa said due to delays in scheduling voluntary interviews, he had no choice but to issue subpoenas. Representative Issa's letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On June 25th, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa officially issued subpoenas compelling Eric Boswell, Former Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Scott Bultrowicz, Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Director of the Diplomatic Security Service in the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Elizabeth Dibble, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and Elizabeth Jones, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, to appear for interviews on the Benghazi attack. Comments from Representative Issa have been posted [here](#).

On June 25th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee marked up S. 718, the Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act. The bill, introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), directs the President to establish a comprehensive strategy for public and private investment, trade, and development in Africa. The Committee also considered S. Res. 144, a resolution concerning the ongoing conflict in the DRC and the need for international efforts to support long-term peace and stability and observance of human rights, introduced by Senator Chris Coons (D-DE). In addition, the Committee considered S. Res. 166, a resolution commemorating the recent 50th anniversary of the African Union (AU), also introduced by Senator Coons. The Committee also voted on the nomination of Dr. Tulinabo Salama Mushingi to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso. More information is available [here](#).

On June 25th, Representative Randy Forbes (R-VA) introduced H. Res. 275, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the funds made available for the cost of President Barack Obama's trip to Africa instead be used to compensate those who have been placed on administrative furlough as a result of sequestration. The resolution has been referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. A press release from Representative Forbes' office has been posted [here](#).

On June 26th, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) placed a hold on all State Department nominations until President Barack Obama nominates an Inspector General (IG) for the State Department. The position has been vacant for almost 2,000 days. A statement from Senator Cruz's office can be read [here](#).

On June 26th, the House Armed Services Committee held a classified briefing to receive testimony from former AFRICOM Commander General Carter Ham, former Commander of the Site Security Team at the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli Lieutenant Colonel S.E. Gibson, and former Commander of Special Operations Command Africa Rear Admiral Brian Losey on the attack in Benghazi. According to a readout, the testimony focused on force posture and planning, as well as the response to the attack. The readout can be viewed [here](#).

On June 26th, House Armed Services Committee member Niki Tsongas (D-MA) criticized the classified briefing on Benghazi as a redundant and partisan exercise. She noted the briefing revealed no new information beyond what has been learned from the tens of thousands of documents received on the Administration's response to the attack and hearings previously held by the Committee. More comments from Representative Tsongas can be found [here](#).

On June 27th, the House Foreign Affairs Committee marked up H. Res 131, a resolution concerning the ongoing conflict in the DRC and the need for international efforts toward long-term peace, stability and observance of human rights. Details on the markup are available [here](#).

North Africa

On June 20th, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said \$485 million will be needed through the end of the year to provide humanitarian assistance to three million people in South Sudan. The Government of Sudan and 114 humanitarian partners launched the Consolidated Appeal for South Sudan last November, seeking \$1.16 billion in humanitarian aid. To date, donors have only contributed \$567 million. Details are available [here](#).

On June 20th, a federal appeals court reinstated a \$282 million lawsuit against Sudan on behalf of the families of 17 soldiers who were killed in the attack on the destroyer Cole in a port in Yemen in 2000. While a lower court rejected that families could seek damage for emotional distress after winning an earlier judgment for compensatory damages, the new ruling will return the case to the U.S. district judge for trial. Information on the ruling can be found [here](#).

On June 21st, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement renewing its call for Libya to pursue peaceful dispute resolution and rule of law. The statement comes following recent fighting in Benghazi and a briefing on the situation in Libya by Head of the U.N. Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Tarek Mitri. Additional comments from the Security Council can be seen [here](#).

On June 21st, following his third trip to Sudan, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan Mashood Adebayo Baderin recognized progress on human rights in the country as a whole, but expressed concern about ongoing violence in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan States. He called on the Government of Sudan to protect rights to freedom of the press, expression, and assembly, and urged the international community to provide technical assistance to Sudanese authorities. More comments from Special Rapporteur Baderin can be seen [here](#).

On June 21st, the World Bank announced it will provide \$21 million to South Sudan to support temporary employment for poor people and the development of a social protection system in the country. A release on the World Bank announcement can be read [here](#).

On June 24th, the Moroccan Government held closed door discussions with Kenyan officials and reached an agreement on increasing bilateral trade. According to Moroccan Trade Minister Abdelkader Amara, the agreement will allow the countries to explore new trade incentives, including launching direct flights between Morocco and Kenya and taking advantage of mobile banking. An article on the meeting is available [here](#).

On June 24th, *Climatewire* reported solar companies are beginning to view North Africa as an opportunity to grow sales in light of decreases in European subsidies and anti-dumping duties against Chinese companies. North African countries, including Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco, have an abundance of sunlight that is yet to be exploited and may eventually position North African countries to export solar energy to nearby European countries. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On June 25th, Libyan Minister of Education Ali Abed and U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) Libya Country Director Carel de Rooy signed an agreement to improve Libya's education system. Policy reforms include the development of an education management information system, validation of early learning development standards, and the promotion of early childhood care. Details on the agreement can be found [here](#).

On June 25th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons Joy Ngozi Ezeilo concluded a five-day visit to Rabat, Casablanca, and Tangier, Morocco. She noted migrants in the country are especially vulnerable to trafficking for forced labor, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation. Special Rapporteur Ezeilo commended Morocco for ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and urged the Government to go further in collecting data on human trafficking and protecting victims. Remarks from Special Rapporteur Ezeilo have been posted [here](#).

On June 26th, U.N. Special Envoy to the Sahel Romano Prodi proposed a strategy to the U.N. Security Council for achieving peace in Africa's Sahel region. Special Envoy Prodi urged the strategy must go beyond local governments and focus especially on Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad. He also indicated consultations have been initiated with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and will soon begin with the World Bank on managing an international fund for implementing the Sahel strategy. Comments from Special Envoy Prodi can be read [here](#).

On June 26th, Libya's National Assembly elected Nouri Ali Busahim as its new president, with 96 of 184 votes. Busahim, an independent member of parliament, will become the first member of the Berber minority community to hold the position. U.N. Special Representative for Libya Tarek Mitri and UNSMIL have welcomed Busahim's election. More information on the vote is available [here](#).

East Africa

On June 21st, speaking at the Export Promotion Council forum attended by 17 county governors, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said deepening diplomatic and commercial ties with other African governments will be a key component of his foreign policy approach. As part of this initiative, East Africa Community Commerce and Tourism Secretary Phillis Kandi said Kenya will pursue new bilateral treaties with other African countries that back preferential trade terms and double tax agreements and boost exports and investments. An article on the forum can be accessed [here](#).

On June 22nd, the *Los Angeles Times* ran a story on Canadian biofuels company Bedford Biofuels' decision to pull out of a biofuels crop farming project in the Tana River Delta in Kenya. While Bedford Biofuels initially leased more than 600 square miles of land, the company's recent decision was motivated by local resistance from environmental and humanitarian activists, as well as ethnic violence between herders and farmers over grazing rights. The full story is available [here](#).

On June 24th, officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were interviewed on why the organization decided to renew a relationship with Somalia after a 22-year separation. IMF officials say the situation in Somalia is starting to improve, and the IMF can now assist with rebuilding the central bank and fiscal institutions in the country. The interview can be found [here](#).

On June 25th, the head of Kenya's tourism authority said projections show the country is on track to earn more than \$1.2 billion in tourism revenue this year. These projections have increased as officials feel confident that peaceful elections in March alleviated tourists' concerns about violence and political instability. More on the new projection can be viewed [here](#).

On June 26th, following Nigeria's execution of four prisoners that ended a seven-year moratorium on the death penalty in the country, U.N. Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions Christof Heyns called on the Government of Nigeria to refrain from further executions and to return to the moratorium on the death penalty. Comments from Special Rapporteur Heyns have been posted [here](#).

On June 26th, Director-General of the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Irina Bokova called on Ugandan authorities to investigate the murder of Thomas Pere, a reporter for *New Vision* who covered social issues. Pere is the fourth journalist murdered in Uganda since September 2010. A UNESCO news release on the murder can be found [here](#).

On June 26th, Somali sources said Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, a senior official within the Al-Shabaab terrorist organization, was captured without a fight in the early morning hours. Sheikh Aweys, who was captured by the Himin and Heeb Administration that controls a portion of central Somalia, must still be handed over to government authorities. An article on the capture can be read [here](#).

On June 26th, several East African Presidents agreed to build two oil pipelines across the region. South Sudan will benefit significantly from new pipelines, as it currently relies on Sudan, its northern neighbor, for exportation cooperation. Sudan and South Sudan regularly disagree about pricing and security relating to a pipeline between the two countries. An article on the decision by leaders in the region to build additional pipelines is available [here](#).

On June 26th, Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries Felix Kosgey said Kenya has opened discussions with government officials in the European Union (EU) that would allow Kenya to once again export meat products to European markets. Exports have been blocked due to Kenya's failure to create disease-free zones. An article on the discussions has been posted [here](#).

On June 27th, environmentalists in Uganda expressed opposition to the Ugandan Government's plans in partnership with French oil company Total to conduct seismic tests for oil in Murchison Falls National Park. While the Government and Total insist oil can be extracted in a manner that minimizes harm to the eco-system, environmentalists are concerned about the potential impacts on wildlife and future oil spills. An article on the oil beneath Murchison Falls National Park has been posted [here](#).

West Africa

On June 18th, an op-ed from John Campbell and Asch Harwood in the *Atlantic* addressed the difficult situation for the Nigerian Government as it attempts to eliminate Islamist insurgents while maintaining a credible military and police force. The op-ed is available [here](#).

On June 21st, the *Associated Press* reported Shell Nigeria shut down its Trans Niger Pipeline due to an explosion and fire caused by oil theft. The pipeline carries 150,000 barrels of crude oil daily. Environmentalists accuse Shell of claiming oil theft to cover an accidental spill. An article on the incident can be read [here](#).

On June 23rd, U.K. Home Secretary Theresa May announced a new pilot program that will go into effect this November requiring visitors to the U.K. from Nigeria and Ghana, which have been deemed as high risk for immigration abuse, to pay a cash bond before entering the country. The fees of approximately \$4,600 for a six-month visa will be forfeited by visitors if they stay in the country past the expiration of their visas. More information on the new immigration program can be seen [here](#).

On June 24th, leaders throughout West Africa met in Yaounde, Cameroon, to discuss the development of an international naval force to combat piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. The leaders noted the Gulf of Guinea experienced more pirate attacks than Somalia in 2012. An article on the piracy threat in West Africa can be read [here](#).

On June 24th, *Voice of America* reported on Nigeria's space program, which is one of the largest on the continent. Nigeria has already launched three satellites into orbit, which National Research and Development Agency Spokesperson Felix Ale reports are helping Nigeria to address poverty, security, and development challenges. Nigeria is also planning to launch the first African astronaut into space in 2015. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

On June 26th, Governor of Nigeria's Central Bank Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi endorsed a proposal to establish the African Monetary Union. The proposal entails the creation of a unified Central Bank and a single currency across the continent. A story on the proposal can be viewed [here](#).

On June 26th, Nigerian Foreign Minister Olugbenga Ashiru said it is discriminatory of Britain to demand a cash bond payment for individuals from certain countries within the British Commonwealth who want to visit Britain for an extended stay. Details on Nigeria's opposition to the new pilot program are available [here](#).

On June 26th, Dr. Philomena Nyarko, the acting government statistician in Ghana, said her country's economy grew by 6.7% in the first quarter of 2013. Details on the growth are available [here](#).

On June 27th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement welcoming West African leaders' adoption of the Code of Conduct Concerning the Prevention and Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery Against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activities in West and Central Africa. The agreement creates a regional strategy for combatting piracy and lays the foundation for a legally binding instrument. Secretary-General Ban's statement can be read [here](#).

On June 27th, at an investor relations event held in New York City, Nigerian Minister of Power Chinedu Nebo confirmed Nigeria's plans to privatize ten power stations across the country as part of its efforts to achieve a sustainable power supply. He said the privatization effort will create opportunities for international investors to participate in the revolution in Nigeria's power sector. Information on the privatization plans can be viewed [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On June 20th, the inaugural Tour de Congo bicycle race kicked off in the DRC. The \$1 million, 600-mile race, which has attracted 60 cyclists competing for a \$7,000 first place prize, is largely funded by the Government of the DRC and is intended to showcase infrastructure in the country. Details on the race can be found [here](#).

On June 21st, retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu penned an op-ed endorsing Mamphela Ramphele in advance of her launch of the Agang political party in South Africa in opposition to the African National Congress (ANC). The opinion piece has been posted [here](#).

On June 24th, *Mail & Guardian* reported thieves broke into the National Arts Club in New York City and stole 31 pieces of artwork by South African artist Conor Mccreeedy, including a painting of former South African President Nelson Mandela. The New York Police Department is working with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to track down the perpetrators and the missing artwork. A story on the incident is available [here](#).

On June 25th, the World Bank released an update on the current economic situation in Rwanda. The report suggests government action has helped Rwanda steadily progress and achieve 8% economic growth in 2012. The report can be accessed [here](#).

On June 25th, the *Wall Street Journal* reported South Africa will likely begin wage talks related to its gold-mining industry in mid-July. Unions demand significant wage increases, although gold prices are down and mining company executives are eyeing significant cuts. An article on the upcoming negotiations can be read [here](#).

On June 25th, BP Angola announced it plans to invest more than \$20 billion in the country by the end of the decade at a rate of approximately \$3 billion per year. The investments will be made to increase oil production from 190,000 barrels per day to 250,000 barrels per day. An article on BP's activities in Angola can be read [here](#).

On June 25th, NBCUniversal's Universal Networks International announced the pay TV version of the broadcast network Telemundo will first be made available outside of Latin America in Africa. The network's introduction to sub-Saharan African markets is planned for August 12th. The African version of Telemundo will air fully dubbed Spanish-language programming into English for South Africa and other countries, as well as Portuguese for Angola and Mozambique. Details can be found [here](#).

On June 26th, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) issued a news release calling for \$22 million to address the locust plague in Madagascar. Locusts have already infested more than half of Madagascar's lands used for growing crops. The persistent problem could eventually lead to a food crisis for 13 million people, especially if the infestations are not properly addressed before the start of the next crop planting season in September. The news release has been posted [here](#).

General Africa News

On June 20th, Google announced African Finalists in the 2013 Google Science Fair. The winners are South African scientist, Samantha Hayward who explored the advantages and disadvantages of body mass index (BMI) calculation, and a team of Kenyan scientists including Himanshi Sehgal, Souparni Roy, and Richa Nagda, whose project focused on producing electricity using heat and tomatoes. More information on the projects can be seen [here](#).

On June 21st, the Government of the Philippines began destroying millions of dollars of ivory smuggled into the country from Africa. According to Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, the action is intended to send a clear message that the Philippines will not tolerate illegal wildlife trade. An article on actions taken by the Philippines to address the ivory trade can be viewed [here](#).

On June 24th, the Fund for Peace, a Washington, D.C., think tank, issued its failed states index (FSI) for 2013. All of the countries listed in the top five on the index are located in Africa. Somalia received the top ranking, despite continued progress toward peace and democracy in the country. Mali was identified as the "most worsened" country for 2013. The full rankings are available [here](#).

On June 25th, the Joint U.N. Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) released the latest progress report on the Global Plan towards the elimination of new HIV infections in children by 2015. The report finds Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia have reduced new HIV infections among children by half since 2009. The report also commends Tanzania and Zimbabwe for

making significant progress. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On June 26th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered remarks at Africa Day celebrations in New York commemorating the 50th anniversary of the AU on May 25th. Secretary-General Ban praised the continent for its progress in addressing poverty and controlling disease and noted several African countries are among the world's fastest growing economies. Secretary-General Ban's remarks have been posted [here](#).

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