

News Items

6th December 2024

Next Week

<https://www.u3ac-africa-forum.org/>

1. Monday, African Music with Iroko Band, Names to Alan Bird
2. Friday, Social Event in Community Area

Eva Namusoke – African Objects Futures Project

- Several of us attended the Launch Event last Tuesday, packed out.
- The report is now available here, in summary and in full (please do share widely):
<https://www.ccc.cam.ac.uk/initiatives/african-futures/>
- A BBC story on the report:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgzk6q715lo>
- Eva will be with us on 7th February

Next Term

- External Speakers
 - Evan Namusoke – 7th February
 - Martin Muita ‘Health Care in Africa’ – Terry A.
 - Ian Sanderson ‘Afrinspire’- INVITATION sent
 - Pippa Tagart – MSF in Chad – deferred until Spring term
 - The Rise and Fall of DFID – Terry A’s Contact (perhaps)

Next Term

- Internal Speakers (Provisional)
 - Hugo Bovill (hugobovill@ajowan.biz) – ‘Essential Oils and Madagascar’ INVITED
 - Victoria Heyward-Mills. – INVITATION SENT.
 - Sara Pienaar – ‘ South African Democracy, the Bigger Picture’
 - Margaret Bray – ‘My Grandfather Hugh Trowell and Kwashiorcor’

South Africa and the G20 Presidency

SARA PIENAAR

SA as G20 Chair 2025

Formed in 1999, G20 is G-7 Mega-Economies plus 12 other significant global economies, many still ‘developing’ e.g. Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, India and two Blocs - EU and (2023) AU. Brings developed and developing countries together to discuss financial and global issues.

85% of world GDP, 75% of international trade and 60% of population.

Other developing economies have held the presidency, but SA is the **first and only African state to do so**. SA is the only African member state. Dates back to flavour of the month days. In 2024, promised to promote Nigeria as a mem.

It's still the largest economy in Africa by most measurements. GDP (market value of all goods and services) around \$400 billion with Egypt, Algeria and Nigeria next. BUT

SA is also the most unequal (of those measured) country at GINI 63.

Southern Africa countries also rate very highly on GINI – Namibia being 2nd.

SA also has perhaps the world's highest recorded unemployment rate officially 32%, Actually miles higher. 70% youth unemployment e.g. and its economy is extremely shaky see debt: GDP ratio at 75%

What will this mean for SA and for Africa?

Africa rarely in the news unless it's a disaster e.g. Sudan. Hopes for positive world notice. Expectations enormous. Much hype and excitement.

Cyril Ramaphosa president of SA and for 2025 the G20.

Aim is to showcase development issues of Africa and the South and get help in promoting their interests and measures to achieve employment-based economic growth. Plus, all the usual disasters and 'reform of international financial architecture' (?)

During 2025, at least 230 G-20 meetings will be held in SA, seemingly all in Johannesburg, plus a huge summit in November. The first-ever G20 on African soil.

Cost will be very high, but business and philanthropy are stepping in to help. Run and organised by DIRCO. Advisory committees of 'experts' have been formed to advise SA main players. One, the T20 (Think20) includes my old employer and two other fp think tanks

Conclusion

Challenges are many and various, including

1. increasing **division** between pro-western and pro-Chinese/Russian-led anti-western grouping which is attracting increasing support from South. NB BRICS.
2. If **Putin** comes, will he be arrested and handed over to The Hague?
3. What to do about **Trump** at the Summit?
4. Can the problems of Africa etc. be **presented positively**, so as to attract help and not pity, or worse?
5. Can the G20 be more than a **talk shop**? Can it **bring results**?

The Conflict in Sudan

ANNA SNOWDON



Omar Al-Bashir

President of Sudan 1989-2019



Al-Bashir and his protege Hemedti, who, as leader of the Janjaweed (“Devils on horseback”), terrorised non-Arab African tribes in Darfur since 2003. Hemedti and his brother own one of the largest gold mines in Sudan





Popular revolution of 2018/19 led by the youth of Sudan, including many women.

The demand was for

“FREEDOM, PEACE AND JUSTICE”

The photo shows a Sudanese woman evoking a “Kandaka” (Nubian princess) or “strong woman” who had long protested against oppressive Sudanese regimes and became a symbol of the revolution



Peaceful revolution 2018/2019, Al-Bashir removed by the Army, Transitional Sovereignty Council formed (civilian and military)



Prime Minister (2019 to 2022) Abdalla Hamdok



General Al-Burhan (leader of the Sudan Armed Forces)





Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti)
Leader of the Rapid Support Forces

Hemedti and Burhan together launched a military coup in October 2021



The War in Sudan

started in the capital on 15 April 2023



The War in Sudan

A brutal war broke out in Sudan in April 2023 between the national army and a renegade paramilitary force:

- **The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF)** - the country's official military that includes the army, air force, and navy.
- **The Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** - a regional paramilitary group created by a previous military regime.

Why are the SAF and RSF fighting?

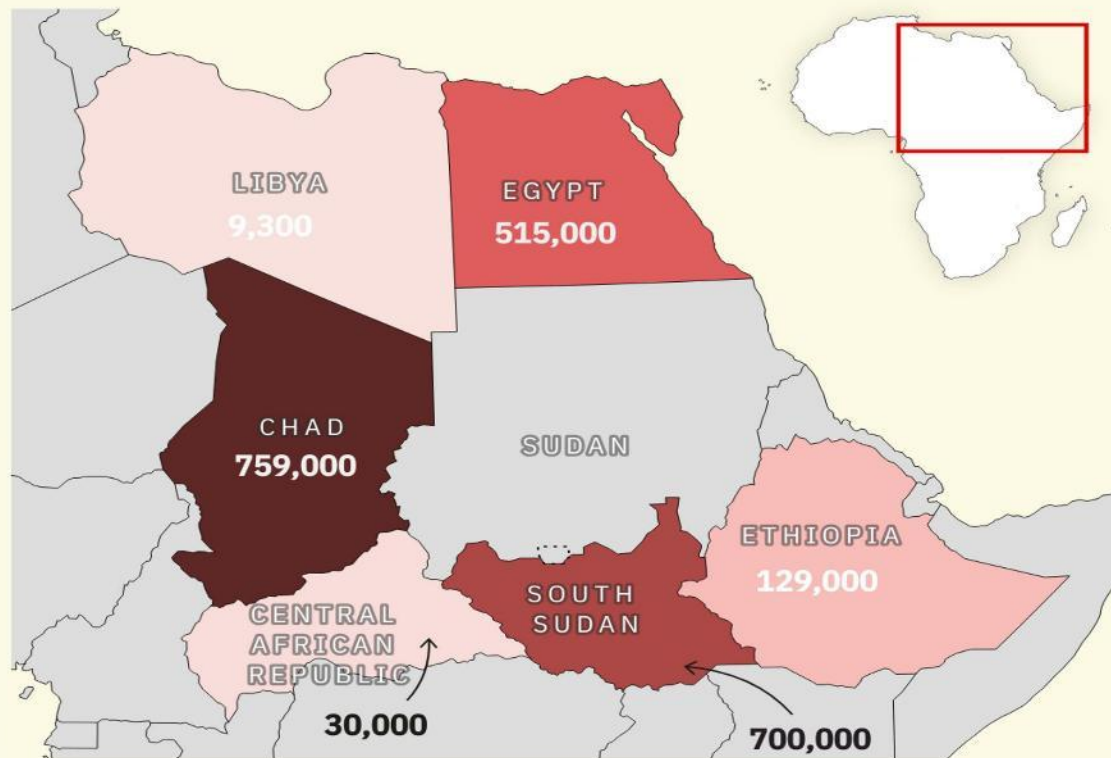
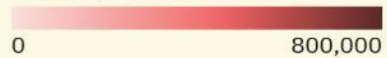
SAF and RSF used to be allies, but that changed after they overthrew a civilian reform government in October 2021. RSF commander Mohamed Dagalo (aka Hemedti) sees himself as Sudan's rightful dictator, while SAF generals believe they are the true government. *It's worth noting that the vast majority of Sudanese want neither in charge of the country.*

There are also significant ethnic dimensions in this war that cannot be ignored:

- RSF**- Top RSF commanders and most of their fighters hail from Arab tribes in the western Darfur region. Many RSF fighters adhere to an extremely racist, Arab-supremacist ideology. The belief system states that Darfur's historic African tribal groups must be cleansed from the region and that all other Sudanese Arabs are inferior.
- SAF** - Top army brass are mostly Nile Valley Arabs, representing the most elite and privileged ethnic groups in the country. Unlike the RSF, the army is a fairly diverse force with soldiers from most parts of the country. Arab racism toward African tribes does exist in SAF, which explains why members of the force have executed civilians on an ethnic basis as well.

Cross-border movements by Sudanese migrants since April 2023

Migrants



Map: Jeronimo Gonzalez/Semafor • Source: IOM

SEMAFOR



CHRIS WAGNER

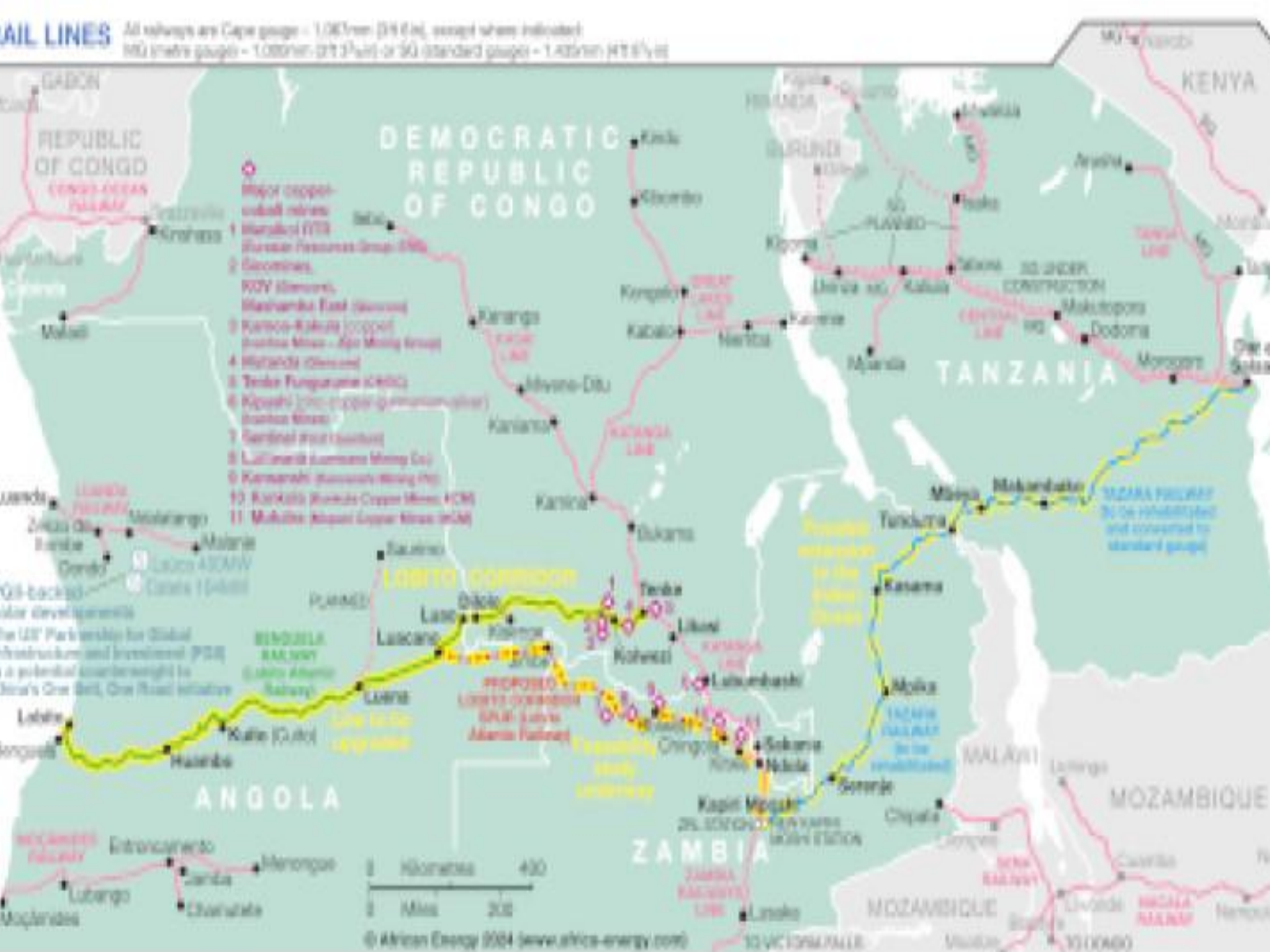
Lobito Corridor Railway

President Biden uses his visit to Angola to promote major African Rail Project, September 2024, from Copperbelt (very valuable and rare minerals-lithium) in DRC and Zambia with Atlantic Ocean.

China now re-instating Tanzam (now called Tazara) railway from DRC to Indian Ocean, new concession signed 4 September 2024

Lobito Corridor Railway follows the same line as the original Benguela Railway

100) metric gauges - 1.000mm (JT 2 1/2) or 3/4" standard gauges - 1.430mm (JT 2 1/2)



Benguela railway - Wikipedia

- started in 1899 and completed in 1929;
- passenger trains between Lubumbushi and Lobito (Benguela). (shortest route for Europeans working in Copperbelt in Congo and Northern Rhodesia returning home)
- route proved very successful especially in 1970s after Zambia closed border with Southern Rhodesia
- railway badly damaged in Angola Civil War, following independence in 1975 (mines-Halo Trust)

Lobito Corridor History & Background

Formerly the Benguela Railway
linking the Copperbelt in Congo and
northern Zambia with Atlantic Ocean

TanZam Railway (now Tazara)

- Financed and built by China (19 500 Chinese working on the railway)
- Construction started in 1970 and completed in 1975 (signings in Tanzania by Julius Nyerere and in Zambia by Kenneth Kaunda)
- Length 1860 km and much in very difficult terrain
- Fell into disrepair and maintenance issues
- New concession signed with China on 4 September 2024

ALAN BIRD

From the Guardian

- [US Cancels \\$1.1 Billion Somali Debt](#)
- Review of a new film “[Made in Ethiopia](#)”
 - [Trailer on YouTube](#)

TERRY ALLSOP

From Generosity to Justice

Darren Walker

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity,
it is an act of justice” [Nelson Mandela]

“What can we do to reduce inequality in all its forms?”

....notion of philanthropy as a tool for achieving economic, social and political justice

“It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have” [James Baldwin]

- **We must remember to:**
- **Recognise the privilege of perspective by seeing and sharing access and opportunity;**
- **Adopt the awareness of ignorance by learning what we don't know;**
- **Take ownership of selflessness by giving with humility;**
- **Work to raise the roots by addressing causes, not consequences;**
- **Harness the power of proximity by valuing both expertise and experience;**
- **Exercise the courage of conviction by standing up and speaking out;**
- **Promote the democracy of justice by recognising that our liberation is bound together.**