

## Daily Incident Briefing report

09/05/2025

### Rwanda

#### Carbon agreement signed with Singapore

Rwanda and Singapore have signed a landmark carbon market agreement aimed at reducing emissions and boosting climate finance through clean energy projects. The deal was finalised on 06 May by the Rwandan government and Singapore-based climate tech firm, Spore. Notably, the agreement will see the distribution of fuel-efficient cookstoves across rural Rwanda. It will also convert avoided carbon emissions into tradeable carbon credits, each potentially valued at between USD 10 and USD 12. These credits will then be sold to global companies seeking to offset emissions. According to officials, the Rwandan government expects to generate hundreds of millions of dollars over the project's lifespan, which will be re-invested in environmental and social development. This agreement makes Rwanda the sixth African country to partner with Spore since 2023 and aligns with the country's goal to grow its USD 2 billion voluntary carbon market.

### Rwanda

#### Industrial production grows in March

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) agency announced on 06 May that industrial output in Rwanda's formal sector increased by 5 percent in March this year, compared to the same month in 2024. While this continues a trend of year-on-year growth, the NISR noted that it reflects a slowdown from the 12-month average growth rate of 9.4 percent. The largest gains came from electricity production (up 23.2 percent) and mining and quarrying (up 4.1 percent). Manufacturing grew by 1.7 percent, driven by food processing (up 7.8 percent) and furniture production (up 19.3 percent), though declines were recorded in textiles, clothing, leather goods (down 11.2 percent), and wood, paper, and printing (down 8.2 percent). Overall, the 5 percent growth in industrial output indicates sustained expansion in Rwanda's formal sector, albeit at a slower pace than the annual average, which could signal possible headwinds in some industries.

### Tanzania

#### European parliament calls for release of opposition leader

The European Parliament called on 08 May for the Tanzanian government to release opposition leader Tundu Lissu, drop the charges against him, and allow his Chadema party to participate in the upcoming October elections. This was stated after the parliament adopted a resolution to outline that Tanzanian authorities have violated international human rights and democracy conventions in the arrest of Lissu. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the European Union (EU) members of parliament. The resolution also called for member states of the EU to engage with Tanzania over Lissu's case and to "consider appropriate measures" if the country continues to violate human rights principles. The government has yet to directly comment on the resolution, but foreign affairs minister Mahmoud Thabit Kombo did appear to respond when he stated on 08 May that the government had not "broken any law" in its actions against Lissu. Lissu was arrested on 09 April during a Chadema rally in Ruvuma region. He was charged with treason and publishing false information on 10 April, in relation to a video released on 03 April in which he claimed that the government had manipulated the November 2024 local elections. In similar past cases, the charges brought against opposition leaders have eventually been dropped, and it is possible that the government will eventually drop the charges against Lissu in response to international pressure and to avoid increased international scrutiny ahead of the upcoming elections. Should the government fail to do so, the resolution from the European Parliament indicates that EU member states could implement political or economic sanctions against Tanzania in response.

## **Ruling party to investigate irregularities at local primaries**

Secretary general of the ruling NRM party, Richard Todwong, stated on 07 May that an investigation would be launched into irregularities in the NRM's local primary elections held the day prior. Irregularities – including political interference and incidents of violence – were reported at roughly 400 villages out of thousands where voting was held. At least one individual was killed on 07 May, when police attempted to quell unrest during a voting re-run at a polling station in Luuka district, Eastern region. In coming months, the NRM will continue to hold primaries at the parish, sub-county, and parliamentary levels. The nomination of the party's presidential candidate – likely to be president Yoweri Museveni – is scheduled for October. The primaries are part of the ruling party's preparations of the general elections scheduled for 12 January 2026. Incidents of localised political violence and unrest could accompany future primaries and electoral activities ahead of the ballot.

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