

# **West Africa shuts down communication green base station service**





## Overview

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What happened to Vodacom in South Africa?

Vodacom, South Africa's mobile operator, also reported "intermittent connectivity issues due to multiple undersea cable failures." Namibia and Lesotho were also affected.

Which countries have been affected by internet disruptions in West Africa?

Internet analysis firm Cloudflare reported a pattern in the timing of the disruptions that heavily impacted at least 10 countries in West Africa, including Ivory Coast, Liberia, Benin, Ghana, and Burkina Faso. Vodacom, South Africa's mobile operator, also reported "intermittent connectivity issues due to multiple undersea cable failures."

What happens if a cable fails in Namibia and Lesotho?

Namibia and Lesotho were also affected. The impact from such cable failures worsens as networks attempt to route around the damage, potentially reducing the capacity available to other countries, said Mater with NetBlocks. "The initial disruption may be a physical cut, but subsequent issues could be of a technical nature," said Mater.

Is cable damage causing network disruptions in Africa?

Network disruptions caused by cable damage have occurred in Africa in recent years. However, "today's disruption points to something larger (and) this is amongst the most severe," said Isik Mater, director of research at NetBlocks, a group that documents internet disruptions around the world.



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