

**RSS Technical Guide**

# XML File

*Channel:*

<title> string Africa Alert – RSS Service

<link> link to Africa Alert web site

<description> string Africa Alert for ‘client name’

<language> language of the Alert as a two character code (ISO 639-1)

<pubDate> date that Alert was published

<lastBuildDate> date that previous Alert was published

<generator> unique numeric id for this Alert, see assumptions below

*Item:*

<title> story headline

<link> URL of the full text story on the publisher’s site

<description> snippet/lead paragraph for story

<category> metadata for the story, see metadata below

<guid> unique numeric id for story, see assumptions below

<pubDate> publication date for story if RSS originated or date crawled

<source> name of source or site, note not URL as per standard

# Assumptions

1. The <generator> field is numeric and will only increase in time. So if the generator of the Alert just downloaded is > the generator of the current Alert, it is a later Alert.
2. The <guid> is unique, all stories delivered by Africa Alert will be assigned a unique id.
3. Stories within a stream/heading will be adjacent with the list of items.

# Metadata

This all contained in the <category> field for the story item, in the form:

Category name:value separated by commas

Category names are as follows:

Language: provides the language of the story as a two character code (ISO 639-1). If this differs from the language of the Alert it is a candidate for on demand translation, see API below.

Stream name: is the name of the stream in which the story exists. The first occurrence of a stream name can be used to trigger the display of the stream name.

Heading name: is the name of the heading under which the story exists. The first occurrence of a heading name can be used to trigger the display of the heading name.

# API

All API elements are in the form of RESTful URLs where the main parameter is a unique 13 character client key which identifies the client. This client key will be provided to the client when they register for the service and normally will not change from that time on.

The main element of the API is formed as follows:

<https://www.africa-alert.com/rssalert.php?cukey=client-key>

which will cause the latest Alert for the client to be downloaded.

Other elements are:

<https://www.africa-alert.com/rsstranslate.php?cukey=client-key&guid=story-uid>

which will return the headline and snippet of the story identified by its <guid> field to be translated and returned in the language of the Alert.

The translated elements will be returned in an XML file with following fields:

<title> translated story headline

<description> translated snippet/lead paragraph for story

<guid> unique numeric id for story