MONKEY CAUSES POWER OUTAGE

Millions of households, businesses lose power

The power outage resulted from a cascading effect on the country's generators. This cascading effect was caused by the loss of a hydroelectric facility, which provides 20% of the Kenya's electricity, and the unreliability of the power grid, due to aging infrastructure. The loss of the hydroelectric facility was caused by a monkey falling onto the transformer.

"This monkey tripped a transformer. This triggered a cascading effect on the other generators which ended up disrupting power generation and distribution in the whole country . . . This is the first such disruption we've had by a monkey."

- Eric Kathenya, Kenya Power spokesman

More Detailed Cause Map - Add detail as information becomes available.

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3 Solutions

The utility says it is "looking at ways of further enhancing security" at all their power plants. Unfortunately, total protection against outages caused by animals is impossible. Because power outages due to animals and other issues can't be completely eliminated, ensuring a robust power grid is important to minimize the impact from and duration of outages. Calls for improvements to the aging infrastructure in Kenya have resulted from this incident, but these kinds of solutions require not only the cooperation of the utilities, but the country as a whole.