

Regional news : Southern Africa

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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

Ich bin die Wahlkoordinatorin der anstehenden Wahl der zwei Delegierten der Region Suedliches Afrika fuer den Auslandschweizer-Rat. Die beiden momentanen Delegierten stellen sich fuer eine Wiederwahl zur Verfuegung. Weitere Kandidaten muessen sich bitte direkt mit Lebenslauf und Foto bei ihrem eigenen Swiss Club melden (sie sollen deutsch- oder franzoesischsprachige Schweizer sein). Die Amtsdauer dauert vier Jahre. Die Swiss Clubs werden gebeten, mir die Namen der Gewaehlten bis 30. Mai 2017 mitzuteilen.

Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA

First Regional Climate Services Workshop

With support from Switzerland, Southern African hosts the first Regional Climate Services Workshop. The government of Switzerland through the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in collaboration with the German Weather Service and the Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe teamed up to host the inaugural Southern Africa Regional Climate Services Workshop in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 29 November – 02 December.

Representatives of meteorological services of Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia and Zimbabwe participated in the event. Other important partners included the United Nations agencies, NGOs involved in agriculture and research institutions working in Southern Africa.



The workshop was inaugurated by Mrs. Ruth Huber, Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe and Malawi and by Dr. Filipe Lúcio, Director of the Global Framework for Climate Services Office at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva. Expert knowhow was contributed by Mr. Alex Rubli, well known in Switzerland as meteo TV-presenter for more than a decade and currently the Director of the International Cooperation Department of MeteoSwiss.

A first of its kind in the region, the workshop which was held under the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) aimed at exploring the value of climate services in building greater resilience among decision makers at all levels and help ensure that every country and every climate-sensitive sector of society has access to high quality, relevant climate data and is able to apply this information to take climate-smart decisions.

The Swiss Ambassador informed about the Swiss support to the development of climate services through the Capacity Building and Twinning for Climate Observing

Systems (CATCOS) project, financed since 2011 through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. She emphasized: "Switzerland believes that better climate information results in a better future for everyone. (...) We strive to promote development that takes the present and future effects of climate change into consideration. We have therefore directed our attention to those regions and topics where we can contribute our internationally recognized experience and expertise in order to make a change."

She further explained that providing climate services to Southern Africa has been critical for the Swiss government especially in the agriculture sector. Agriculture contributes one-third of the gross domestic product of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and remains the main source of subsistence for the majority of the region's population. Climate services help agricultural decision makers improve their understanding of the mechanisms of climate impact on agricultural development and

Members from various countries in Southern Africa and supporting international and regional experts who attended the Southern Africa Regional Climate Services Workshop

food systems and estimate populations at risk from food insecurity (risk mapping). It can further help communities to understand the impacts of climate change on the well-being of livestock, on crops and allow them monitor and predict year-to-year variations in productivity, enabling early warning systems for agriculture and food security, as well as identifying longer-term trends for potential impacts. The GFCS offers support to countries in building capacities for delivering climate information and services. It enables them to better manage the risks of climate variability and change at all levels, through the development and incorporation of science based climate information and prediction services into planning, policy and practice. Southern Africa has been recognized as one of the world's most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate variability and climate change. The most recent climate-related event being the early 2016 El Niño induced drought, the worst in the last 35 years, affecting more than 41 million people in the region.

Important information to Swiss citizens residing in Zambia

In order to enhance the services for the Swiss citizens living in Zambia, please kindly note that from the 1st January 2017 all consular services will be provided by the Embassy of Switzerland in Dar es Salaam.

The address is as follows:
Embassy of Switzerland,
Kinondoni Road, Plot 79, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Phone +41 58 4 64 18 26, +255 22 266 60 08, +255 22 266 60 09,
E- mail:
dar.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

Consular Consultation days in Port Elizabeth

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town will hold consultation days in Port

Elizabeth on February 21st and 22nd. Swiss citizens from the Eastern Cape will have the opportunity to renew their passport as we will have a mobile passport station to capture the biometric data.

Our two colleagues will also be available for other matters. Swiss citizens living in the Eastern Cape will receive a letter and a form in order to arrange an appointment. We are looking forward to seeing our compatriots in Port Elizabeth.

Mobile passport station in Luanda

The Regional Consular Centre (RCC) in Pretoria is pleased to inform you that it is planning to hold a Consular meeting with a mobile passport station in Luanda on 14th March.

Swiss citizens registered at the RCC will have the opportunity to apply for a Swiss passport, an identity card and also attend to other consular matters. Please note that prior to the meeting, application with the RCC is compulsory. Please check if and how long your current Swiss passport is valid for, as we intend to visit Angola every three years. Should you decide to take this opportunity of the above-mentioned date and order a new passport, please let us know the number of applicants, their full name, date of birth, marital status including date of marriage/divorce, their e-mail address as well as the preferred hour for the appointment by 31.01.2017. Please e-mail the above information to: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch We are looking forward to receiving your tentative bookings. Information about the next steps will be sent out in February 2017 by e-mail. Therefore, it is essential that the e-mail address you provide with your booking is valid. If you are not available to meet with us during these days, you will still have the opportunity of having your biometric data

registered in a cantonal passport office in Switzerland. Please lodge your application online at www.schweizerpass.ch and mention the date of your stay in Switzerland and the preferred passport office in the remarks section. As most of the Swiss passport offices have a waiting list, we advise to plan this appointment a few months ahead. Regional Consular Centre in Pretoria: E-mail: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch, Tel. +27 (0)12 452 06 61, Fax +27 (0)12 346 26 05

Uniting South African and Swiss music

Forest Jam is an educational association whose members are musicians and people involved in the running of yearly gatherings initiated 2014 by Swiss born Robert Trunz in an ex army camp in the mountain forests of Melchtal (Obwalden).

The African arm of Forest Jam Southern Africa is a non-profit organisation based in Durban which works mainly throughout the SADC region. Forest Jam offers an alternative opportunity for young & aspiring artists to gain an experience beyond their usual academic education. The goal is to unite masters with young, less experienced musicians and artists from different countries, generations, backgrounds and cultures and let them work and travel together as a single creative team. Forest Jam is supported by national and international cultural organisations like Concert SA, *Pro Helvetia* (Swiss Arts Council) and the German Goethe Institut.

In 2017 we have earmarked a project involving Matthias Abächerli - a young Swiss multi instrumentalist and producer, Madala Kunene - the legendary King of the Zulu guitarist from South Africa and SA ROY - a young Acapella trio from the South of Madagascar - Madala Kunene (<http://madalakunene.co.za/>) with

Acapella Trio SA ROY from Madagascar, Matthias Abächerli & Gontse Makhene Kunene and his collaborative work with a string of musicians including Andreas Vollenweider and Max Lässer during the past 3 decades needs little introduction. In 2014 Madala

joined Forest Jam in Switzerland and a year later he travelled to Madagascar for a month of workshops, rehearsals and concerts. Among the 20 participants we invited was Acapella trio Sa Roy, winner of the national song contest

organised by the Goethe Institut. The magic of their collaboration with Madala that unfolded during the 4 weeks inspired us to invite Roy to Durban for a tour and workshops in March and April 2017 with Kunene.

Robert Trunz +27 72 808 30 95 <http://forestjam.org/>

Swiss Club info

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG:

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Wolf, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152, office@swissclubjhb.co.za, www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier»

Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch. Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082-5699146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA:

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbsch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary bvrooyen@gmail.com Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

Another year has drawn to a close and we had a wonderful end of year function, once again at the Church hall of the Johannes-gemeinde, adjacent to the German School. We can look back on a very successful year with a steady stream of new members joining the club. Our Consul General, Francois Duvanel and his team have been most helpful in bringing the news of our club to all the Swiss citizens in the greater Pretoria area. A very big thank you at this point goes to the Ambassador and staff of the Swiss Embassy for their wonderful support to Swiss Clubs in Southern Africa. Hans-Georg Bosch, President, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary.

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN:

Swiss Social&Sports Club, Bill Peters Road, Green Point, www.swissclub.co.za. PRESIDENT: Nicky Rodrigues president@swissclub.co.za. T 021 658 7276, C 082 921 7729. VICE PRESIDENT: Stefan Pflocks, vicepresident@swissclub.co.za

T 021 715 2703, C 082 920 9351. SEC: Nadia Luedi secretary@swissclub.co.za. C 082 393 4704. ASO representative: Marcie Bischof mwbischof@telkomsa.net. T 021 554 0176, C 076 389 7824.

The club remains open every Wed and Thu for dinner. To receive the "newsflash" contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on 0214348405. SWISS RIFLE CLUB - Sunday 24 April is the FAMILY FUN DAY PIGGY SHOOT @ Klaver in Simonstown. Please visit <http://www.swissclub.co.za/club-sections/> for more information or contact dierk@telkomsa.net directly for more information. AGM is being held on 15 March at 7pm at the Swiss Club Greenpoint. For those that didn't know, our Club boasts a traditional Swiss Jass Club (card playing club) so join in on the 'Jassen' every last Thursday of the month where you can hone in on your traditional Swiss card playing skills. There are also weekend trips planned during the year and Baenze Jass days. For more information contact Mettswiss@bucknet.co.za. Our little Gem in the Jonkershoek Valley has continuously been blessed with many upgrades this past year. Since this facility is enjoyed by the club members as and added benefit, we would encourage you to become a member so that you too can enjoy this little piece of forest. Contact membership@swissclub.co.za for more info on becoming a member Newsletter: www.swissclub.co.za

SWISS CLUB NATAL:

President Philippe Lanz C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625, p.lanz@absamail.co.za

JASS EVENINGS held second Friday of every month at the LAPA, Ethelbert Village, 5 Park Road, Malvern at 7pm. SPORT TARGET SHOOTING – held monthly – at 08.30am commencing Saturday 28th January, 25th February, 25th March, 22nd April, 27th May, 24th June, 22nd July, 26th August, 23rd September, 28th October, 25th November, 9th December 2017, & 27th January 2018 – held at Nottingham Road Shooting Range. SWISS FILM EVENING 21st January at 6pm "De Goalie bin Ig" (I Am the Keeper) – venue to be advised. AGM 5th March 2017 – 10.30am at Crowhurst, Gillitts. FRANCOFETE 21st March 2017 – 10.30am at Sutton Park, Morningside. BEACH

BREAKFAST 14TH May 2017 – 9am at Amanzimtoti Beach Picnic Area. KLOOF TO INCHANGA STEAM TRAIN RIDE/LUNCH 18th June 2017 – 8am – Kloof Railway Station. CHEESE FONDUE EVENING 15th July 2017 – 7pm Crowhurst, Gillitts. SWISS NATIONAL DAY 30th July 2017 – 10am Von Moos Farm, Drummond. PRIZE JASSEN 8th December 2017 at 6pm in the LAPA, Ethelbert Village, 5 Park Road, Malvern. YEAR END FUNCTION 10th December 2017 – 11am at Krantzklouf. SWISS FILM EVENING 20th January 2018 at 6pm – film and venue to be advised. AGM 4th March 10.30am at Crowhurst, Gillitts. CHICKEN FARMING & EGG PRODUCTION TOUR/ BREAKFAST 9am – von Moos Farm, Drummond – date to be advised. For up-to-date information - www.swissclubnatal.org.za

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH:

John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, johndiener@bluewin.ch; comm.member Mark Krebs C 0823214693, T w 0413671422; Heidi Schultes, secretary, C 0613696598.

SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:

c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler, T 0437483542, C 0837008846, C 0832874324, christinestiffler@telkomsa.net

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Michael Holford -Contact Number Cell: +27 83 229 3787. Postal Address: Private bag X2465, Louis Trichardt 0920, Secretary: Suzanne Holford-Salchli, Suzanne.holford@gmail.com

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SWISS CLUB IN MAURITIUS:

Club Suisse de Maurice, President: Pierre-Yves Roten, +23058441915, pyroten@mac.com, www.swiss-club-mu.com

Swiss NPO in Botrivier

Lucky Point is registered as a Foundation in Switzerland and also registered in South Africa as a NPO. The project focuses on: environmental awareness, educational programmes, sport, music and social activities.

LP was founded 2008 by Margrit Schwendimann and all started by doing Recycling with the children. They earn points which can be used for shopping in our Point-Shop. We also started two after School care and run our own Crèche which is registered by the Government. Our next vision is to build a Youth Centre which is a big need for Botrivier.

The planning is done and building starts soon! At the same time we also need to build a bigger Recycling station.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to find out more about us: info@lucky-point.ch. www.facebook.com/myluckypoint.

ASO News

And so another year drew to a close. Elections for the ASO Delegates will be on the cards for the various clubs in Southern Africa registered with ASO in early 2017.

Both Marcie and myself will be standing for re-election for a further 4 year term. Last year (2015) I had also been requested by the directorate of ASO to look deeper into the banking issue due to my contacts within the Swiss banking industry. During the session in Bern on 5 August I gave a report back to the delegates present on this vexing topic.

Concerning the e-voting there are new developments to get e-voting established on a national level, but due to the security issues which were raised by government, it will take some time, before e-voting will be available from all the cantons. Both Marcie Bischof (resident in Cape Town) and myself look forward to serving you for another four years. Hans-Georg Bosch and Marcie Bischof. aso@hbosch.com

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IMPRESSUM

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