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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,

■ The new year brings ongoing challenges while the world is in the grips of the pandemic. The economic consequences for the Southern African region are enormous as you can also read in the article about Zimbabwe where lots of people in urban areas are currently experiencing food insecurity. This is going to be a year where communities need to be built to look after each other and tolerance and humanity required to make it through. My thoughts go out to everyone who has lost loved ones or is facing financial distress.

■ Warm regards,
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

Switzerland contributes US\$7 million to support poor Zimbabweans in urban areas.

Switzerland, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Office in Harare, has extended US\$7 million for the next four years through the United Nations, World Food Programme (WFP) for families in urban areas of Zimbabwe struggling to meet their daily food needs due to the impact of climate shocks and COVID-19.



While poverty has in the past been seen as a largely rural phenomenon in Zimbabwe, in the recent past urban areas have become a lucrative destination for young rural men and women in search of better lives and employment, in the process worsening urban poverty. © Swiss Embassy Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's urban poor face a myriad of challenges that drive them into poverty, food insecurity and marginalization. Some of the challenges include climate change; economic downturn and macroeconomic shocks, weak urban governance and disease outbreaks such as the current global pandemic of Covid-19.

The Swiss contribution will assist almost 40,000 people every month with cash transfers equivalent to US\$10 each, enabling them to meet almost two-thirds of their daily food requirements. This is in addition to the more than 1 million people in rural Zimbabwe who are presently benefitting from Swiss support in food security and health related programmes.

2.2 million people in urban areas facing food insecurity

A 2020 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) report supported by SDC said that more than 2.2 million people in cities and towns faced food insecurity, not least because of surging prices and the

recurrence of drought. COVID-19 has exacerbated economic instability, significantly impacting urban residents already living hand to mouth, many of them working multiple jobs in the precarious informal sector. WFP forecasts that by March 2021, at least 3.3 million people – almost half (47%) the country's urban population could be food insecure.



The Swiss contribution enables almost 40'000 Zimbabweans to meet two-thirds of their daily food requirements for the next four years.

Mr. Manuel Thurnhofer, the SDC Director of Cooperation in Zimbabwe said, "This generous and timely contribution will help alleviate the suffering of a large number of people struggling to cope with the twin shocks of COVID-19 and a still deteriorating economy".

Beginning 2021, Switzerland is scaling up its development cooperation to Zambia and Zimbabwe in a bid to alleviate poverty amongst the most vulnerable including the most food insecure in urban areas.

Clearing landmines from a crucial wildlife corridor in Southern Africa

Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe have some of the world's most important remaining wilderness, including the protected wildlife of the unique Sengwe Wildlife Corridor – part of the three country Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. But the presence of landmines makes a large part of this corridor a lethal habitat for both animals and people.

The presence of landmines – a legacy of the region's liberation wars of independence, makes it almost impossible for children to attend school and to apply conservation measures needed to protect wildlife in the area.

Over 1500 people killed

Now, nearly 40 years on from independence, the unfenced minefields in the Sengwe Wildlife Corridor have killed or injured over 1,500 people and more than 100,000 animals. The human cost is huge, but loss of wildlife is also threatening economic opportunities for a region that has a lot endangered wildlife such as elephants, lions, and wild dogs. For wildlife, the landmines prevent the safe migration of large elephant herds between the Gonarezhou and Kruger National Parks covering the three countries, threatening the viability of the elephant population and leading to increased human-wildlife conflict.

Clearing the minefields on the Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe border is a fundamental step to protecting lives and build a more prosperous future for the Southern African region.
PHOTO – Apopo, 2020.



Four year project to clear landmines

To deal with the landmine challenges, Apopo, a global non-profit organization with financial support from the United States government and the Embassy of Switzerland in Harare have launched an ambitious project to clear the minefields once and for all by 2025. This will release local populations and endangered wildlife from the threat of landmines and open up agriculture and transnational tourism opportunities.

The Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe, Mr. Niculin Jäger, said: "The Government of Switzerland is happy to support Apopo's demining activities in the Sengwe Wildlife Corridor as this will help the local community regain their economic footing through accessing previously contaminated land for agricultural production – something that they have not been able to do for the past 40 years. The process will also support greater opportunities for transnational tourism between Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa."

In the short term, landmine clearance has the potential to be a significant employer in a region that currently offers few stable jobs. Following that, unrestricted access and increased safety will no doubt generate further economic opportunities, such as transnational tourism, in what are currently no-go areas.

Neuwahlen des ASR für die Amtsperiode 2021-2025

Zwischen Januar und Juni 2021 finden die Wahlen der Delegierten für den Auslandschweizerrat (ASR) stattfinden. Für die Region Südliches Afrika sind zwei Vertreterpositionen reserviert.

An der nächsten Generalversammlung der Schweizer Clubs im Südlichen Afrika wählen die Mitglieder die ASR-Regionalvertreter. Der bisherige Delegierte Hans-Georg Bosch stellt sich zur Wiederwahl zur Verfügung, während die zweite Vertreterin, Marcie Bischof, per Ende der aktuellen Amtsperiode zurücktritt. Somit wird eine Position für eine Neukandidatur frei.

Was ist die Rolle der Regionalvertreter? Sie haben die Aufgabe, die Anliegen der Auslandschweizer und die Entscheide des ASR in die zuständigen Organe (Parlament, Verwaltung) in der Schweiz einzubringen und die Anliegen auf politischer Ebene wirkungsvoll zu vertreten. Einige Inlandsvertreter sind Mitglieder von National- oder Ständerat, andere vertreten Institutionen oder Organisationen.

Am ASO-Kongress im August 2021 wird der neue Auslandschweizerrat konstituiert.

Alle Details zu den Regionalwahlen: <https://www.swisscommunity.org/de/abstimmen-mitbestimmen/ausland-schweizerrat/neuwahlen-des-asr-fuer-die-amtsperiode-2021-2025>

SWISS CLUB INFO

PLEASE NOTE: THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SWISS CLUBS MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS.

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand.

Chairman: *Mario Valli*, 082 451 8040; office: *Max Waspe* 083 412 0161, 011 805 3039, office@swissclubjhb.co.za, www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. The Courier: *Wolfgang Wollauz*, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier». Please visit our website for information and updates on events at the club.

■ 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: 082 569 9146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA

Swiss Society Alpina, President: *Hans-Georg Bosch*, T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Secretary: *Biffy van Rooyen*, bvrooyen@gmail.com, Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN

Swiss Social&Sports Club, Green Point Common, Off Bill Peters Road, Green Point. P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town 8000, T 021 434 8405 www.swissclub.co.za President: *Christian Schiess*, president@swissclub.co.za C 079 088 8233 Vice President/Treasurer: *Andreas Reichmuth*, treasurer@swissclub.co.za C 083 297 3803 Secretary: *Chayenne Rusi*, secretary@swissclub.co.za C 082 569 8446 To receive the "newsflash" contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on 021 434 8405.

The Swiss club Cape Town is open for dinner every Thursday evening. Every 1st Thursday of the month

IMPRESSUM

DELEGATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Marcie Bischof, Cape Town
mwbischoff@telkomsa.net /
mwbischoff@bluewin.ch,

Hans-Georg Bosch, Cape Town
info@hbosch.com / swissoffice.hbosch@bluewin.ch

Editor of Swiss Review Southern Africa
Gisela Piercey,
gisela@afriantwisttravel.com

NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES

Issue	Next Deadline	Distribution
02/21	13/03/2021	20/04/2021
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04/21	04/09/2021	08/10/2021

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY AND DON'T EMAIL THE EDITOR OF SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA. THANK YOU.

is Pensioner's Lunch. Join the Swiss Jass players every LAST thursday of the month. There is much more happening at our club, meeting friends, host a party, club events etc.

For more information, please send an email to: info@swissclub.co.za
The independent Swiss Rifle Club can be found on the Swiss Club Cape Town club's website www.swissclub.co.za under rifle club and on Facebook.
President: *Dierk Lüthi*,
hdluthi@gmail.com &
dierk@telkomsa.net;
C 083 441 4626. Shooting takes place mostly at the SA Navy 'Klawer Valley' range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town. Shooting dates and times are listed on the website and the 2 Facebook pages.

SWISS CLUB NATAL

President: *Philippe Lanz*
C 082 493 2673, T 031 765 1625,
p.lanz@absamail.co.za

■ JASS EVENTS

This is held on the second Friday of each month and will commence at 2 p.m. and is held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay (directions on our website).

■ SPORT TARGET SHOOTING

Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 08:30 a.m. - Nottingham Road (calendar available on our website).

■ AGM, Augusta Estate – 7th March.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

*For up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative website www.swissclubnatal.org.za

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH

President: *Anne Diener*, C 079 089 4428, Comm.member: *Urs Leuenberger*,
C 074 355 2182,
Secretary: *Heidi Schultes*,
C 076 376 1441

SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON

C/O *Christine and Paul Stiffler*,
T 043 748 3542, C 083 700 8846,
C 083 287 4324,
christinestiffler@telkomsa.net

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH

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

SWISS CLUB IN MAURITIUS

Club Suisse de Maurice,
President: *Pierre-Yves Roten*,
+23 058 441 915, pyroten@mac.com,
www.swiss-club-mu.com

SWISS CLUB IN NAMIBIA

President, *Rudolf Imhof*,
T+26 46 124 0598, C+26 48 144 27217,
e-mail : er.imhof@iway.na,
Vice President, *Yvonne Vorster*,
T +26 481 852 7957,
yvonne.mantle@hotmail.com

SWISS CLUB IN SWAZILAND

Ruedi Hofer, Calabash Rest,
T (h) +26 841 61095, T (w) +26 841 61187,
C +26 860 28545, calabash@swazi.net

HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND

Urs Gamma
Restaurant NICE, Namibian Institute
of Culinary Education,
2 Mozart Street.
Windhoek, Namibia
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