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

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.

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.

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.

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 de-mining 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 Auslandsschweizerrat (ASR) stattfinden. Für die Region Südafrika sind zwei Vertreterpositionen reserviert.


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 wirksam vertreten. Einige Inlandsvertreter sind Mitglieder von National- oder Ständerat, andere vertreten Institutionen oder Organisationen.

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

Alle Details zu den Regionalwahlen: https://www.swisscommunity.org/de/abstimmen-mitbestimmen/auslandsschweizerrat/neuwahlen-des-asr-fuer-die-Amtsperiode-2021-2025

SWISS CLUB INFO

Bitte beachten Sie, dass die Aktivitäten der Schweizer Clubs möglicherweise aufgrund der Lockdown-Beschränkungen in Südafrika beeinträchtigt werden könnten.

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG
Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand.


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, P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town 8000, T 021 434 8405 www.swissclub.co.za President: Christian Schiess, president@swissclub.co.za
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.
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