

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

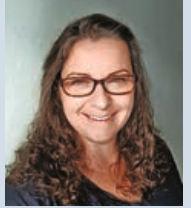
Editorial

DEAR READERS

SA Swiss-backed initiative is helping turn Southern Africa's extraordinary biodiversity into high-value, sustainable exports with global demand. Iconic natural ingredients such as rooibos and marula are becoming part of a growing market

that links ethical sourcing, conservation, and economic opportunity. The story reveals how Swiss investment is directly shaping livelihoods, trade, and environmental protection in South Africa and across the region.

WARM REGARDS, GISELA PIERCEY



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

South Africa: Switzerland backs South Africa's biotrade future

From rooibos to indigenous botanicals, South Africa's natural wealth is increasingly in demand worldwide. A Swiss-backed initiative aims to turn this biodiversity into sustainable economic growth—while ensuring local communities benefit and ecosystems are protected.

Switzerland is deepening its economic cooperation with South Africa through a new phase of support for the region's fast-growing biotrade industry. The initiative, led by State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), focuses on strengthening sustainable value chains built around natural ingredients and biodiversity. The third phase of the programme runs from late 2025 to the end of 2028 with a budget of CHF 2.5 million. The project comes at a time when global demand for natural, organic, and sustainably sourced products continues to rise. Consumers in Europe, the United States, and Japan are increasingly seeking ingredients that are both environmentally friendly and ethically produced.

South Africa's untapped biodiversity potential

South Africa is uniquely positioned to benefit from this trend. It is the third most biologically diverse country in the world, home to more than 21,000 plant species, many of which are found nowhere else. This biodiversity creates strong potential for high-value exports in sectors such as cosmetics, food ingredients, and natural health products. However, the sector still faces structural

challenges. Barriers such as regulatory complexity, limited market access, and fragmented industry coordination have slowed growth.

Supporting small businesses and communities

















Switzerland's programme aims to address these bottlenecks by consolidating earlier progress rather than launching entirely new initiatives.



Rooibos tea - natural resources as drivers of economic growth.



When Your Swiss Bank Closes the Door – The Clock Starts Now

 Account Closures on the Rise  <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Relationships Terminated+ Focus on Larger Clients+ Cross-Border Regulation Costs	 Immediate Pressure Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Time to Act Cross-Border Complexity Uncertainty on Next Steps	 A Structured Alternative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open New Offshore Account Seamless Asset Transfer Discretionary Portfolio Management Ongoing Reporting & Oversight	 Why Levantine & Co <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligned with Long-Term Objectives Institutional-Quality Investments Fully Compliant & Structured Dedicated Client Servicing
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Account Closures... What Comes Next?

An increasing number of Swiss citizens living in South Africa are receiving notices from Swiss banks that their accounts are being closed. Often overlooking decades-long relationships with their private clients, institutions are increasingly prioritising larger, more profitable partnerships amid rising cross border regulatory costs. For affected clients, the implications are immediate: limited time to act, uncertainty around alternative banking arrangements, and the complexity of managing cross-border transfers and compliance from abroad.

A Structured Alternative: Levantine & Co

At Levantine & Co, we provide a fully integrated, end-to-end solution to help our Swiss clients. From opening a new offshore account to managing the complete transfer of your assets, we handle the entire process efficiently and in full compliance with regulatory requirements. Beyond the transition, we deliver discretionary portfolio management aligned with your long-term objectives, provide access to institutional-quality investment solutions, and ensure ongoing reporting with dedicated client servicing.

Serving Swiss Nationals Since 2016

We have supported Swiss citizens and internationally connected clients for nearly a decade - offering continuity, clarity, and a disciplined approach to long-term wealth preservation. Levantine & Co is a partner built for a changing landscape. As private banking evolves, so too should your wealth strategy.

Levantine & Co offers a solution designed for today's realities - not yesterday's constraints.

To explore available options, please contact Laurent Joly
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The current phase is designed as the final stage of a long-term intervention that began in 2018. At its core, the project focuses on strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises.

These businesses are key drivers of innovation and employment in the biotrade sector but often lack the resources to meet international standards. Through technical and financial support, companies will be helped to improve compliance with Access and Benefit Sharing regulations.

This includes ensuring that biodiversity is used sustainably and that benefits are shared fairly with local communities. Improving product quality, traceability, and safety is another central objective. By meeting international requirements, South African producers can better access global markets and compete with established suppliers.

Building a stronger industry ecosystem

The programme also seeks to strengthen collaboration across the sector. Industry associations will receive support to coordinate efforts and implement

broader development strategies.

At the policy level, governments will be assisted in creating a more enabling environment for biotrade.

This includes fostering cooperation between stakeholders and improving regulatory frameworks. A key focus is on building long-term resilience. By enhancing skills, institutions, and partnerships, the initiative aims to create a sustainable and inclusive industry.

Long-term impact and regional opportunity

The expected outcomes include a pipeline of export-ready businesses capable of scaling production and entering new markets. There will also be stronger partnerships across regions and sectors, including transboundary collaborations within Southern Africa.

In addition, national systems are expected to improve in supporting conservation and equitable benefit sharing. This aligns economic development with environmental protection and community inclusion. Earlier phases of the programme have already delivered

tangible results.

Participating companies have expanded market access, developed new products, and increased their production capacity. The new phase builds on these achievements while preparing for a gradual exit.

Rather than expanding the programme, Switzerland is focusing on ensuring that gains are sustained independently. Ultimately, the initiative reflects a broader shift in global trade. Natural resources and biodiversity are no longer seen only as environmental assets but also as drivers of economic growth. For South Africa and its regional partners, this presents a significant opportunity.

With the right support, the biotrade sector could become a key contributor to jobs, exports, and sustainable development. Switzerland's involvement highlights the growing importance of international partnerships in unlocking this potential.

It also underscores the strategic role of Southern Africa in supplying the world with high-quality, sustainable natural products.

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Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen,

Sun 10-17h, 11-24h Bar

■ Our Clubs of Society: Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club.

Associated Groups: Swiss Choir,

Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, Senior

Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday

of the month for Lunch, Swiss Ladies

meet every 4th Thursday of the month

for lunch.

PRO TICINO PRO GRISCHUN BOCCIA CLUB

Johannesburg

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■ We shoot at the Navy's KLAWER shooting range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town, near "Just Nuisance" grave.

Occasionally we use the Atlantis 'Good Hope' range of the SA Army. In May we hold our popular 'Piggy Shoot' at the WCSU range, also near Atlantis.

KWAZULU-NATAL

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Durban

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<http://www.swissclubnatal.org.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).

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

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IMPRESSUM

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NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES

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03/26	18/06/2026	17/07/2026
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