

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

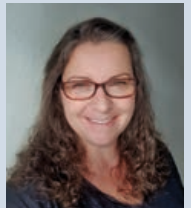
Editorial

DEAR READERS

I really enjoyed reading the article about the female game developers in Africa who met at Africa Games Week, supported by Pro Helvetia Johannesburg. Young women in this thriving industry create an

environment which is attractive and conducive and it means more interesting games for both women and men.

WARM REGARDS, GISELA PIERCEY



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

Zimbabwe:

Switzerland helps bring about climate-resilient agriculture in Zimbabwe

The European Union and Switzerland are investing over €200 million (CHF187 million) in projects to make Zimbabwe, in southern Africa, more food secure and resilient to climate change. At the heart of one initiative is a goat that does not get milked.

Mutiusinazita, in Buhera District some 220km south-east of the capital Harare, is one of the driest parts of Zimbabwe. The annual rainfall of 650 to 700mm is not enough to make agriculture profitable. As a result, hunger and poverty are widespread.

Jesca Mutero, 46, was a typical resident of Mutiusinazita. Poor and widowed, she tilled a small field that yielded little to nothing each year. Her home was a one-room hut.

But in the last four years her life and that of her two children have changed. She now owns 45 goats and has built a three-room house.

Four years ago, she got about only on foot; now she owns a motorbike.

“Before this project, I was struggling. We cultivated the land, but the harvest often failed. Thanks to

the goats we can now make a living,” she says.

Mutero is a member of the Mutiusinazita Buhera Livestock Association, a cooperative of 38 women who breed goats. The project is part of the €40 million Zimbabwe Agriculture Growth Programme, launched by



Zimbabwe's economy is still primarily agrarian, with most of the population dependent on farming for a living.
KB Mpofu / Getty Images

the European Union in 2016 to support the country's livestock sector.

In March 2023, the EU and Switzerland expanded their cooperation with Zimbabwe to a €207 million programme, known as the Team Europe Initiative on Greener and Climate-Smart Agriculture.

The aim is to establish more sustainable production in Zimbabwe and help vulnerable communities to overcome climate-related challenges.

Zimbabwe's economy is still primarily agrarian, with most of the population dependent on farming for a living. The ever more frequent droughts, cyclones and high temperatures as a result of climate change are endangering the livelihoods of the rural population.

Crossbred goats in demand

Ntuthuko Nyathi, 37, from the arid region of Manama in Gwanda District, some 600km south of Harare, is chairman of the Gwanda Goat Producers Business Association.

When the EU first got in touch, he recounts, they were poor smallholders who did not know how to market their produce. They then received training in how to increase production and productivity, improve their financial skills and negotiate better prices. hoods of the rural population.

The cooperative members each received two breeder males, crossbred Boer goats and crossbred Kalahari Red goats, as well as material to build goat pens. The Boer goat, from neighbouring South Africa, is large, while the Kalahari Red, from the same country, is very robust. Both are bred for their meat. The members of the cooperative crossed the foreign breeds with local Matebele goats, which are generally smaller and suited to the harsh conditions in Gwanda.

Switzerland contributes €34 million

The €207 million in funding covers all programmes that will be implemented from 2021 to 2027, explains Alexandra Maseko, press and information officer at the EU delegation in Zimbabwe. Switzerland is contributing €34 million.

Over 20 support programmes have been launched so far. In addition to more sustainable agriculture, they focus on renewable energy promotion, general livelihoods in rural areas and environmental and nature conservation.

According to Maseko, the Team Europe initiative is a good tool for building relations with governments and other partners. The programmes are also geared at building economic sustainability.



Goat farmers Ntuthuko Nyathi and his assistant Mgwebi Ncube prepare feed for their animals. Photo: Daisy Jeremani

Richard Nyamanhindi, programme officer for communication and culture at the Swiss embassy in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, believes that the local coordination of the projects is one of the strengths of the Team Europe initiative. It enables the participants to learn from each other and share successful models. "And we avoid repeating things that didn't work," he says.

Anxious Masuka, the Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, supports the EU and Swiss initiative. It aligns with the government's programme launched in 2020, he says. In just three years since the government launched its efforts, Zimbabwe has become food secure, the minister asserts, "because we have adopted climate-smart agriculture at both national and household levels."

ARTICLE: SWISSINFO.CH

South Africa:

On cultivating a thriving environment for female game developers

Kenyan video game writer and technology enthusiast Wendi Ndaki attended the She Got Game panel discussion during Africa Games Week, and wrote this report.

"As I travel across Africa creating games, there's something everyone seems to agree on..." said Bethlehem

Anteneh, a trained architect, co-founder of SOSTLab and the moderator of the She Got Game panel at Africa Games Week (AGW). "Think of a bar where 90% of the people are men. The beer will be great but the interior a little wanting. The idea is that for men, it is the function, the beer, that matters more than the environment. Whereas, if 90% of the people in a bar were women, the idea is

that the environment is more appealing than the actual content. Yes, the quality of the drink matters but the first inviting thing is the environment."

This analogy shows how spaces affect people differently. When it comes to female game developers, it's not only about the quality of their work but also about the environment they work in. This idea was at the heart of the discussion on the

2nd of December 2023 at the AGW panel titled The Importance of an Entrepreneurial Mindset and Business Support for Female Game Developers.

The panel united women from African and Swiss game industries, who shared their unique experiences. These women were part of the first She Got Game mentorship programme initiated by Pro Helvetia, which aims to promote equal opportunities in the global video games scene.

She Got Game and similar programmes are aspiring to create an attractive and conducive environment where female game developers and entrepreneurs can thrive and step into leadership roles in the video game industry. After all, as the attending female game developers said, “more diversity means more interesting games” and “both women and men enrich things.”

ARTICLE: PRO HELVETIA JOHANNESBURG



Socialising and networking Photo © Kathleen Bohren

ASO News

On 15 th March I attended the March Session of the Auslandschweizerrat in Bern. A full report will be distributed to all Swiss Clubs represented by PY Roten and myself. The main Issues debated were: 1. Progress made on E-Voting, 2. Improvement in Banking Issues for Swiss Expats. The Annual Congress 2024 will take place this year in Luzern from 12 -14 July 2024. NB: In July, not in August!

HANS-GEORG BOSCH, MEMBER OF ASR COUNCIL.

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■ 2023 marked the 125th Anniversary of the Swiss Society Alpina in Pretoria. This event was celebrated during our annual Fondue Evening with a large presence from the Embassy and Regional Consular Centre. The Club has been able to attract younger members over the past 20 years and therefore is well suited to look forward into a bright future. On a more personal note, I have decided to step down as President of the Club to allow for a younger member to take over from me. When you read this, the AGM (28.2.24) will have been held and you will have been informed of the members of the new committee. I wish the Club all the best for the future.

Hans-Georg Bosch, outgoing President

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Tue-Sat 11-21h30

Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h

■ 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.

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■ We will celebrate the 75th anniversary in 2024, in the 200th year of the

Swiss Shooting Sport Federation.
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

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■ **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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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.