



Parliament of Australia

Parliamentary Delegation to Southern Africa (Zimbabwe, South Africa and the Seychelles)

3 August – 16 August 2014

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Part 1: Introduction

This report outlines the main activities and observations of the parliamentary delegation from the Parliament of Australia's visit to the Republic of Zimbabwe, the Republic of South Africa, and the Republic of the Seychelles between 3 and 16 August 2014. The overall objective of the delegation was to enhance bilateral relations between Australia and the three countries visited, while also gaining a greater understanding of Africa—particularly Southern Africa—and the Indian Ocean region. The delegation also had a particular interest in examining approaches used by countries to balance environmental conservation and economic development, including tourism.

Over the course of the delegation several issues reoccurred.

- One key issue was the **importance of stable property rights**, whether over land or natural resources, which are critical to ensure that individuals and communities have an interest in developing sustainable modes of economic activity and growth. For example, the unique but controversial manner in which South African authorities seek to conserve natural resources, such as allowing limited commercial exploitation of big game, shows how vesting the property rights over natural resources in individuals or communities may create better economic incentives for their preservation. Conversely, the parlous state of Zimbabwean agriculture shows how weak protections for property rights—which are a direct consequence of the decline in democracy in that country—almost inevitably leads to reduced incentives for investment and development, and, as a consequence, damages countries' economic performance.
- What the delegation observed of the **position of women** within the countries visited was both troubling and inspiring. The delegation observed that the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the region had a particular effect on women, and considers that improving the economic and social status of women and ensuring that women have real control over their sexual choices and activities is critically important to addressing this issue. However, the delegation also met with inspiring women who were breaking down gender barriers within their respective communities, and making a significant social and economic contribution.
- Australia was repeatedly identified as a country with expertise in **sustainable economic development across the areas of mining, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism**. Furthermore, our expertise in education—particularly vocational education—was identified by many with whom the delegation met as an area where further cooperation was possible. The delegation considers that the potential of Africa has not been fully tapped by Australian businesses.

The strategic importance of the Southern African and Indian Ocean region for Australia was also clear to the delegation. The important work of the Seychelles in combatting international piracy in the north Indian Ocean assists all nations whose interests might be affected by disruptions to maritime security in that region. As an island nation reliant upon trade, Australia should be particularly grateful for the Seychelles' efforts in this regard.

A full itinerary of the delegation's official engagements is at **Appendix A**.

Preparations and support for the delegation

The logistical arrangements for the delegation were mainly undertaken by the International and Community Relations Office, as it was then, within the Department of the House of Representatives. Pre-departure briefings were provided by officers of the Africa Branch of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on 20 June 2014 and 15 July 2014 at Parliament House, Canberra.

The delegation was facilitated by our respective heads of mission and the missions' Australian and locally engaged staff throughout the delegation. The efforts of Australia's missions contributed immensely to the success of the delegation. The delegation would particularly like to thank Australia's Ambassador to Zimbabwe, His Excellency Matthew Neuhaus, and Mrs Neuhaus; Australia's Acting High Commissioner to South Africa, His Excellency Chris Munn; and Australia's High Commissioner to Mauritius, Her Excellency Susan Coles, who is also accredited as Australia's High Commissioner to the Seychelles.

Australia's relations with Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean

Throughout the delegation it was noted that Australia enjoyed a unique status within the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region; being a geographically proximate and developed nation, but without the political or cultural baggage of a former colonial power. Reflective of this unique position, Australia already enjoys many existing cultural, political, and economic linkages with Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Recent official engagement

This delegation built upon several recent official exchanges between Australia and Zimbabwe, South Africa and the Seychelles.

In April 2011 the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade visited South Africa and Zimbabwe as part of its *Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa*.¹ In April 2014 four women members of Zimbabwe's Parliament visited Canberra as part of a delegation under an Oxfam-funded 'Women's participation in politics and decision-making program'. That delegation visited Parliament House and met a range of Senators and Members including the delegation leader the Hon. Warren Entsch MP.

The Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, and the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Bill Shorten MP, attended the memorial service for the former President of South Africa, the Hon. Nelson Mandela, in Soweto on 10 December 2013. President Mandela is recognised as the father of modern, post-apartheid, South Africa.

The then Australian Governor-General, Dame Quentin Bryce, visited the Seychelles in April 2009 and the then Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs and Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Richard Marles MP, visited the Seychelles in November 2011. The Seychelles President, His Excellency James Michel, and the Foreign Minister, the Hon. Jean-Paul Adam, were guests of the Australian

1. Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, [Inquiry into Australia's relationship with the countries of Africa](#), tabled 23 June 2011, accessed 7 April 2015.

Government in August 2011. The Seychellois Foreign Minister, Mr Adam, also attended the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Ministerial Meeting in Perth in November 2013, which was chaired by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Julie Bishop MP.

Regional fora

In addition to direct political exchanges, there are a range of fora relevant to Southern Africa, the Indian Ocean and Australia.

The Commonwealth

Australia, South Africa, and the Seychelles are all members of the Commonwealth of Nations (the Commonwealth). In all, 18 African nations are members of the Commonwealth.² The Charter of the Commonwealth sets out the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, which underlie the Commonwealth.³ While historically the membership of the Commonwealth reflected member nations' historic linkages with the British Empire, membership is now potentially open to any nation adjudged to uphold and promote the values reflected in the Charter. Zimbabwe joined the Commonwealth in 1980 upon its international recognition, but was suspended from the Commonwealth following concerns over the 2002 presidential election.⁴ Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth in 2003.⁵

Indian Ocean Rim Association

Australia, the Seychelles, and South Africa are all members of the IORA. The 13th meeting of IORA was held in Perth on 1 November 2013, and was chaired by the Australian Foreign Minister, the Hon. Julie Bishop MP.⁶ That meeting adopted certain principles—the Perth Principles—for the peaceful, productive and sustainable use of the Indian Ocean and its resources. The Perth Principles are set out at **Appendix B**.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is the key regional forum within Southern Africa. The objectives of the SADC are:

... to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration. These objectives are to be achieved through increased regional integration, built on democratic principles, and equitable and sustainable development.⁷

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2. The Commonwealth, '[Member countries](#)', Commonwealth website, accessed 7 April 2015.
 3. Ibid., '[Our Charter](#)'.
 4. Ibid., '[Zimbabwe is suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth](#)', 2002.
 5. Ibid., '[Zimbabwe withdraws from the Commonwealth](#)', 2003.
 6. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), '[Perth Communiqué](#)', 13th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Perth, 1 November 2013 website, accessed 7 April 2015.
 7. Southern African Development Community (SADC), '[SADC objectives](#)', SADC website accessed 7 April 2015.

SADC membership currently comprises Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. While Australia is not a member of SADC, in 2012, Australia and SADC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing the relationship between Australia, and SADC and its member nations.⁸

Part 2: Zimbabwe

Overview

The delegation arrived in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 3 August 2014. On Wednesday 6 August the delegation travelled to the City of Bulawayo, and departed Zimbabwe from that city for South Africa on 7 August 2014.

The delegation is cognizant that it could not ever purport to understand the complexities of Zimbabwe from the limited time it spent in that country. However, the following observations and assessments reflect the experiences of the delegation while in Zimbabwe and views expressed by those with whom it had the opportunity to meet and converse.

Even a cursory examination of Zimbabwe's economy and social conditions shows that the country continues to suffer negative consequences from the political turmoil which has coloured its pre- and post-independence history. In particular, since about 2000, conditions in Zimbabwe have deteriorated, with political instability and repression leading to increased economic and political isolation. These issues have, in turn, created significant economic, social and environmental challenges for Zimbabwe and its people.

Despite the adverse circumstances in Zimbabwe, there were reasons for optimism. On 5 August 2014, the delegation met the Women's Caucus of the Zimbabwean Parliament, and built upon the ties that were established by several of those women during their visit to the Australian Parliament as part of the Oxfam 'Women's participation in politics and decision making program.' A common feature of all the women with whom the delegation met—regardless of their political affiliation—was a desire to utilise the skills and expertise for the betterment of their country.

The Government of National Unity (GNU) period between 2009 and 2013 saw some political and economic reform. The GNU concluded at the controversial 2013 election, in which a Zimbabwean African National Unity-Popular Front (ZANU-PF) government, led by President Mugabe, regained power in its own right.

Although the visit was short, the delegation had the opportunity to meet representatives of a broad cross-section of the Zimbabwean community, including senior political figures in the government and opposition from both the national and sub-national levels of government, representatives of civil society and international aid organizations, business leaders including expatriate Australians, and representatives of other nations with an interest in the progress being made by Zimbabwe. The

8. Australian High Commission to South Africa, '[Australia's relations with southern Africa](#)', Australian High Commission to South Africa website, accessed 7 April 2015.

opportunity to meet such a diverse range of Zimbabweans from disparate backgrounds reflected the hard work of Australia's Ambassador, His Excellency Matthew Neuhaus, and the Australian Embassy staff.

Australia has a relatively large Zimbabwean diaspora. The latest Australian Census in 2011 recorded 30,252 Zimbabwe-born people in Australia.⁹ This is a marked increase of 50.1 per cent from the 2006 Census, reflecting that, in response to the worsening political and economic environment in Zimbabwe, a large number of those who were able to leave did so—with many emigrating to Australia.

Key issues considered

The economy

The delegation observed that the Zimbabwean economy continues to struggle to recover from its routing during the 2000s. Between 2000 and 2008, the GDP of Zimbabwe declined by around 50 per cent.¹⁰ That decline was mostly attributable to the purported reforms to land tenure known as the Fast Track Land Reform, which had the consequence of largely collapsing the commercial farming industry in Zimbabwe, as well as the deleterious effects on the economy of one of the most significant episodes of hyperinflation in history. During that period, foreign direct investment (FDI) abandoned Zimbabwe; with many affluent and poor Zimbabweans also fleeing to neighbouring countries and further afield for employment and economic stability. As capital fled the country, Zimbabwe's current account deteriorated from a position broadly in balance in 2000, to a deficit of around 45 per cent of GDP in 2009.¹¹ The UN Development Program estimates that around 40 per cent of Zimbabweans live in poverty.¹² The delegation was advised that there had been improvements under the period of the GNU, particularly through the de facto adoption of the US dollar as the Zimbabwean currency. Following several years of recovery in the period from 2009 to 2013, growth is once again anaemic. It is reported that economic collapse has been kept at bay by remittances from expatriates abroad, foreign aid, and some mining and agricultural production.

HIV/AIDS

A major health, social and economic issues in Zimbabwe is the pandemic of HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the adult population in Zimbabwe is around 15 per cent.¹³ The failing economy and poor government institutions in Zimbabwe are likely to be hampering the capacity of the country to provide an appropriate public health response. Additionally, the low social and economic status of women was shown to be a factor contributing to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. In Bulawayo, the delegation received a presentation from Family Impact, a charity

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9. Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), [The Zimbabwe-born](#), DIAC, published on Department of Social Security (DSS) website, [2014] website, accessed 7 April 2015.
 10. International Monetary Fund (IMF), [World Economic Outlook \(WEO\) database \(October 2014\)](#), IMF website, accessed 7 April 2015.
 11. International Monetary Fund (IMF), [World Economic Outlook \(WEO\) database \(October 2014\)](#), IMF website, accessed 7 April 2015.
 12. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), [Sustaining human progress: reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience](#), Human development report, UNDP, New York, 2014, p. 181, accessed 7 April 2015.
 13. United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), [Country comparison: HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate](#), *World fact book*, CIA website, [2013], accessed 7 April 15.

established in 2001 to provide sexual health, family planning, and relationship advice to women and their partners. The delegation heard that the traditional pattern of relationships in Zimbabwe was problematic, with underage marriage and polygamy common. Family Impact was seeking to empower both women and their male partners to ensure that women had control over their own bodies, relationships and sexual health.¹⁴ Further information on that work is at **Part 5: Contribution of Australian Aid and other donors in Zimbabwe**. When underage marriage was raised with representatives of the Zimbabwean Government, the delegation was advised that underage marriage was unlawful in Zimbabwe. However, the assurances provided by those same representatives that the relevant laws were effectively enforced appeared to the delegation to be somewhat equivocal. This is an area of concern for the delegation.

Infrastructure and public services

The marked deterioration of the Zimbabwean economy was most evident to the delegation from the obvious dilapidation of almost all areas of the country's infrastructure. In Harare, while the roads were well laid-out, they were extensively potholed and with only limited signs of ongoing maintenance. Electrical blackouts occurred periodically, and the streetlights across the city were not functional indicating the state of the electrical infrastructure within Harare. Most disturbingly, at the Lake Chivero and the Morton Jeffray Water Treatment Works, the main water source and treatment plant for 3.5 million people in Harare and its surrounds, the delegation noted that much of the existing equipment, while of a relatively advanced type, was long past its useful life. The delegation was advised that the lack of a constant and stable electrical supply further jeopardised the stability of the plant and therefore the water supply of Harare.



The delegation receives briefing on remediation works being performed at Lake Chivero, near Harare.

14. Family Impact, '[Where we work – Zimbabwe](#)', Family Impact website, n.d., accessed 7 April 2015.

While the Harare Airport was basically functional, it was in a state of disrepair. Piles of soil and rocks were visible on the apron of the tarmac, potentially posing a risk of foreign matter damage to aircraft engines. Air Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwean flag carrier, appeared to be only marginally operational. The most concerning event during the delegation occurred on an attempted flight between Harare and Bulawayo. Prior to boarding, it appeared that the right engine of the aircraft was faulty and mechanics were attempting repairs. Shortly after take-off, passengers aboard the flight were advised that there was a mechanical issue with the aircraft and that the flight would be returning to Harare. While the landing was uneventful, upon departing the aircraft the delegation observed that the aircraft had been met by the airfield's fire truck, which was readied to douse the same right engine which had appeared to be problematic prior to boarding. Concerns over the safety of the airline meant that the delegation ultimately travelled to Bulawayo by road.

The soft infrastructure of a functioning nation and a sound economy were also clearly lacking. On the six hour road journey to Bulawayo, the delegation encountered 22 police roadblocks, which were part of an apparently organised system of extracting fines (bribes) from motorists and travellers. Ambassador Neuhaus was able to display his credentials on both occasions that the delegation's vehicles were stopped, and the delegation was allowed to pass. Business people complained of import duties changing between trucks being loaded in South Africa and arriving at the Zimbabwean boarder. Change in shops was given in lollies, as there was no coinage.

Indigenisation policy and foreign direct investment

Representatives of the Zimbabwean Government consistently expressed the view that they wished to encourage FDI in Zimbabwe. From this, the delegation inferred that the Zimbabwean Government recognised that FDI was critical to Zimbabwe addressing the continuing economic and social challenges. The energy, mining, tourism industries, and critical infrastructure were repeatedly identified as sectors likely to benefit from increased FDI. These are also areas in which Australian firms often exhibit significant expertise.

Despite the stated desire to enhance FDI in Zimbabwe, the recent 'indigenisation policy' was identified by many with whom the delegation spoke as having a particularly deleterious effect on FDI. Implemented under the *Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act 2007*, the indigenisation policy requires that 51 per cent of any business be owned by 'indigenous Zimbabweans'.¹⁵ 'Indigenous Zimbabweans' are defined in the Act to mean 'any person who, before the 18th April, 1980, was disadvantaged by unfair discrimination on the grounds of his or her race'.¹⁶ The delegation understands that the practical effect of the indigenisation policy is to prevent non-indigenous Zimbabweans—including white Zimbabweans—holding a majority or controlling share in any business in Zimbabwe. In discussions with Zimbabwean parliamentarians, it was implied that the indigenisation policy was chiefly supported by the executive government of Zimbabwe.

In other discussions with business people, the indigenisation policy—particularly within the context of the weak protections for property rights—was identified as a key barrier to further FDI within Zimbabwe. In the mining and agricultural sectors, the delegation heard that one key effect of this

15. *Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act 2007*, section 7.

16. *Ibid.*, section 2.

policy has been to reorient FDI away from Zimbabwe and towards Zimbabwe's immediate neighbours—Botswana and Zambia. Compounding this effect was the movement of both skilled and unskilled labour from Zimbabwe to those countries in response to the greater economic opportunities available there.

Overall, the delegation found it difficult to reconcile the obvious negative effects of the indigenisation policy with the Zimbabwean Government's stated desire to enhance the level of FDI in Zimbabwe. The delegation came to suspect that official support for the policy, despite its clearly negative economic consequences, was most likely to be due to its resonance amongst certain sections of Zimbabwean society adjudged to be politically important, rather than any economic merits.

Purported 'land reforms'

Another matter of continuing controversy in Zimbabwe has been the policy known as the Fast Track Land Reform programme. That policy has been associated with violent farm invasions, during which white farmers have been forcibly removed from their land since the late 1990s. Prior to travelling to Zimbabwe, the delegation was under the impression that farm invasions had largely ceased since their height during the early 2000s. Regrettably, however, the delegation received repeated accounts of relatively recent farm invasions occurring and, as in the case of David Connolly (discussed below), farm invasions that were underway. Moreover, despite the Fast Track Land Reform programme being notionally aimed at redistributing white-owned land to war veterans, the delegation heard that farm invasions were now also taking place against indigenous Zimbabweans who themselves had previously obtained their properties under the Fast Track Land Reform programme. Such events suggest to the delegation that a high degree of lawlessness and uncertainty in Zimbabwe with respect to land ownership and tenure remains.

The case of David Connolly and 'Centenary' farm

On the evening of Wednesday 6 August 2014, the delegation had the opportunity dine with the Mayor of Bulawayo and local dignitaries at the Bulawayo Club. In attendance was local farmer David Connolly, whose 100 or so workers on his farm 'Centenary' in Figtree had been forcibly removed from their living quarters by an aide to the President of Zimbabwe, Dr Ray Ndhlovu, that day.

Mr Connolly advised the delegation that, upon being warned on 1 June 2014 that his farm would soon to be taken over, he had sought and received an order in the High Court of Zimbabwe on 27 June 2014 preventing the invasion. However, in early August 2014, Dr Ndhlovu's workers began bringing equipment onto Centenary farm, under the supervision of local police, and began to disrupt farming activity. Mr Connolly's workers were told that they would be required to leave Centenary farm by 6 August 2014. During this period, repeated appeals to the local police to ensure compliance with the High Court order were ignored by both Dr Ndhlovu and the local authorities.

That evening, Mr Connolly advised that his workers had been evicted from their accommodation earlier that day—their belongings having been placed upon the veranda of the farmhouse—and that they were now camping rough under trees on the property. Mr Connolly expressed grave concerns about the welfare of his workers, and whether his farmhouse would have been invaded upon his return from dinner.

Subsequent to the delegation meeting Mr Connolly, it was reported that the process of taking over Centenary farm had continued, but that Mr Connolly was continuing to defy these efforts and occupy Centenary farm.¹⁷

17. Staff reporter, '[Figtree farmer David Connolly vows to defy Mugabe's aide](#)', *Bulawayo24*, 21 September 2014, accessed 7 April 2015.

The overall effect of farm invasions and the ongoing uncertainty over land tenure on agricultural production were apparent to the delegation. What appeared to be prime cropping land near Harare had been left fallow and now had native vegetation regrowth. On pastoral properties close to Gweru, fencing was in various states of disrepair—indicating properties were not able to be used for livestock. The delegation heard that often the recipients of redistributed farms lacked the expertise to successfully operate these agricultural ventures, leading to marked declines in productive capacity. Moreover, some farms are now partitioned into small-scale plots (which do not exhibit economies of scale) and then leased to local farmers on an annual basis. The meagre returns and lack of any ‘bankable’ interest, or tenure, in their land has meant that many farmers on such plots are forced to sell their crops to suppliers before harvest, often at discounted or fixed prices, in return for the inputs necessary for production.

The delegation leader, the Hon. Mr Warren Entsch MP, shared with his Zimbabwean counterparts the findings in relation to land tenure and its impact upon economic development of the Australian Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia’s inquiry into the economic development of Northern Australia.¹⁸ Mr Entsch noted that, in the context of Northern Australia, difficulties in obtaining sufficient tenure over land in that region meant that occupiers often did not have a sufficient interest in land to either obtain finance or make investing in improvements viable. Mr Entsch noted that, in the context of Northern Australia, some form of tenure—even if less than that of freehold title—could be established that aligned the interests of the occupier with viable economic horizons, – for example, 25 year leases. The delegation considers that some form of certainty over land tenure and other property rights must be created within Zimbabwe to check the marked economic deterioration of that country.

Recommendation 1: The delegation encourages the Government of Zimbabwe to recognise the deleterious effects of uncertain property rights on economic growth and restore effective protections for those rights; including protections over interests in land.

Implementation of the 2013 Constitution

Zimbabwe adopted a new *Constitution* in 2013, following a national referendum. That new *Constitution* abolished the office of Prime Minister, and adopted a presidential-parliamentary model.

With respect to the judiciary, the 2013 *Constitution* provides for greater transparency in the appointment of justices, such as through the holding of public interviews of prospective candidates.¹⁹ The delegation was advised that interviews were occurring, and that these were assisting in raising the standard of potential judicial appointments.²⁰ However, the delegation noted that a number of judicial vacancies remained.

Questions arose regarding the independence of the judiciary, particularly with respect to matters which might have political implications. The delegation heard that, while justice was generally

18. The final report of that Inquiry is Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia, [Pivot north: inquiry into the development of Northern Australia](#), final report, House of Representatives, Canberra, 2014, accessed 7 April 2015.

19. *Constitution of Zimbabwe 2013*, section 180.

20. See, for example, M Dzirutwe, [‘Zimbabwe holds first public interviews for judges’](#), *Reuters*, 15 July 2014, accessed 7 April 2015.

attainable in private law matters, decisions in matters that had political implications were either legally curious in their reasoning, or delayed indefinitely. And, as the case of David Connolly shows, there are reoccurring concerns regarding the enforcement of judicial decisions.

In addition to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, the 2013 *Constitution* provides for the establishment of various other independent bodies, or ‘commissions,’ to support civil society and democracy in Zimbabwe. The commissions foreshadowed by the *Constitution* are as follows:

- the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission²¹
- the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission²²
- the Zimbabwe Gender Commission²³
- the Zimbabwe Media Commission²⁴ and
- the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.²⁵

The *Constitution* provides that the various commissions shall be accountable to the Parliament, but be nonetheless independent, and that the appointment of members to the various commissions be an open and public process.²⁶

The delegation considered that the requirement in the *Constitution* for the establishment of the various commissions to be a laudable feature, however, it repeatedly heard concerns about both the progress of setting up the various commissions and their effectiveness once established. For example, the delegation noted that while the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission is established administratively, the delegation received reports that it had no enabling legislation or funding. Likewise, while the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission was required to ‘without delay ... submit a report on the conduct of every election,’ such a report had not been prepared with respect to the 2013 elections at the time of the delegation.²⁷ This latter issue was particularly concerning to the delegation, as it heard repeated references to discrepancies in the conduct of the 2013 Zimbabwean election. These included otherwise eligible electors being removed from electoral rolls or prevented from voting, votes recorded against the names of deceased persons, and instances of violence and voter intimidation.

Recommendation 2: The delegation encourages the Government of Zimbabwe to expedite the establishment of the various civil society institutions required by the 2013 *Constitution*. Appropriate non-government organisations (NGOs) or regional bodies, such as SADC, may wish to monitor Zimbabwe’s progress in this regard.

21. *Constitution of Zimbabwe 2013*, Chapter 12, Part 2.
22. *Op cit.*, Part 3.
23. *Op cit.*, Part 4.
24. *Op cit.*, Part 5.
25. *Op cit.*, Part 6.
26. *Op cit.*, Part 1.
27. *Op cit.*, section 241.

Delegation comment

While Zimbabwe enjoys significant natural and human resources, what appear to be largely politically inflicted economic difficulties continue to undermine the abundant potential of the country and its people. Many contemporary problems within Zimbabwe appear to result from explicit policies aimed at addressing historic injustices, such as the land reform programme and the indigenisation policy. Rather than improving circumstances for current-day Zimbabweans, however, these policies have had devastating economic and social effects, of which the delegation suspects it observed only a small part.

Many people from a broad cross section of the Zimbabwean community expressed a desire to re-join the international community, particularly through readmission to the Commonwealth. While any position on Zimbabwean readmission to the Commonwealth would be a matter for the Commonwealth itself, and any Australian position on that question would be a matter for the Australian Government, the delegation considers that readmission to the Commonwealth would be desirable. However, there are a range of areas where the current circumstances in Zimbabwe would appear incompatible with readmission. Commonwealth member countries, however, may wish to set out those milestones that would need to be met in order for readmission to be contemplated. The continuation of sanctions against Zimbabwe was cited as another barrier to normalising Zimbabwe's relations with other nations. The delegation notes that Australia used to impose sanctions on around 100 individuals and companies in Zimbabwe. That has now been reduced to only eight companies and individuals—mostly those associated with defence and security in Zimbabwe.²⁸

The delegation considers that Australia and other nations should seek to enhance whatever opportunities arise to further their engagement with Zimbabwe and its people. While the issues associated with the current political circumstances may prevent high-level political engagement, there are clear opportunities for cultural, sporting and educational exchanges and, to a lesser extent (mostly due to the weak protections for property rights in Zimbabwe), business engagement. The delegation considers that Australia and Australians should utilise whatever opportunities are realistically available to engage with Zimbabwe and Zimbabweans, even if only to ensure that greater scrutiny is brought to bear on events there.

28. [Autonomous Sanctions \(Designated Persons and Entities and Declared Persons - Zimbabwe\) List 2012](#), accessed 7 April 2015.

Part 3: South Africa

Overview

The delegation arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 7 August 2014. On 8 August 2014 it travelled to Pretoria by road before returning to Johannesburg. On 9 August 2014, the delegation travelled to the KwaZulu Natal province, where it stayed overnight before travelling to Durban on 10 August. The delegation departed South Africa for the Seychelles from Durban on 12 August 2014.

The delegation visited civil society and other organisations that have been active addressing the cultural and social issues that have their origins in the apartheid era and its end in 1994. Additionally, the delegation was able to attend the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and view first-hand the outstanding work being undertaken to address the issue of HIV/AIDS in Africa. The management of natural resources and wildlife, particularly the balancing of environmental conservation with the economic utilisations of those resources, was a particular area of interest for the delegation and the delegation considers that the approach of the South African authorities may have lessons for Australia.

The delegation also received a briefing on the South African wine industry, met political and business leaders, and met Australian volunteers who are making a significant contribution in Southern Africa.

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 145,683 South Africa-born people in Australia, an increase of 39.9 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 40,247 followed by Queensland (35,549), Western Australia (35,327) and Victoria (24,447).²⁹

Key issues considered

Role of civil society organisations

From the troubled experience of apartheid, South Africa has emerged with robust civil society institutions aimed at healing the scars of its past. The knowledge and experience that has been developed may serve as a model for other nations.

In Johannesburg the delegation toured Constitution Hill, which is both the location of the former gaol used to house Nelson Mandela during his incarceration under apartheid, and the South African Constitutional Court provided for by the post-apartheid *Constitution*. The architecture of the court building reflects the 11 official languages of South Africa as recognised in the *Constitution*.

In Durban, the delegation met representatives of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and discussed their work across the African continent in conflict resolution and prevention. The delegation was able to discuss with representatives of ACCORD the development of African Union peacekeeping forces, including the SADC Standby Force to which ACCORD has recently delivered training via the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre. The

29. Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), '[The South Africa-born](#)', DIAC, published on Department of Social Security (DSS) website, [February 2014], accessed 7 April 2015.

delegation heard about ACCORD's contribution to the development of a global peace index, in conjunction with the Institute for Economics and Peace.³⁰



The delegation meets African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Durban.

The delegation also visited the International Centre for Non-Violence at the Durban University of Technology.

Healthcare and HIV/AIDS

An ongoing issue of critical concern in Africa is the prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDS. In Durban, the delegation had the opportunity to visit the one of the world's leading HIV/AIDS research centres, the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in Africa (CAPRISA). The delegation had the opportunity to visit the CAPRISA clinic, which provided antiretroviral therapies to thousands of patients annually, and learnt about the innovative therapies that were being developed there. The delegation learnt that a key factor in controlling the prevalence and transmission of HIV/AIDS was ensuring that women had control over their own reproductive health.

The delegation discussed with CAPRISA the level of international collaboration that was occurring amongst HIV/AIDS researchers across the world. The delegation was advised that, while there was extensive international collaboration, Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines prevented Australian research funding from being accessed by collaborative research centres located outside Australia, such a CAPRISA. Such restrictions, the delegation was advised, were an impediment to Australian researchers' participation in international research.

30. More information on the global peace index is available on the Institute for Economics and Peace's website: www.economicsandpeace.org.

On a particularly sad note, the delegation was informed that several of the world's leading HIV/AIDS researchers that were lost due to the loss of the Malaysian airliner MH17 were affiliated with CAPRISA. Not only was their loss personally traumatic for the HIV/AIDS research community, but it was likely to hinder the progress of future research.

The delegation was able to tour the Bethesda Hospital in the province of ZwaZulu Natal, where Dr Southcott had worked as a volunteer during his medical studies in 1989. The hospital provides healthcare to 88,474 people in an area of about 1,500 square kilometers. The delegation was warmly received, and discussed the outreach programs run by the staff of the hospital. Of concern was the maternal HIV infection rate recorded by the hospital of 35 per cent, which the delegation was advised had previously been as high as 41 per cent. Despite its excellent primary care and outreach, the delegation heard that the capacity of the hospital was hampered by a lack of adequate vehicles and other resources. The hospital staff enquired as to what capacity Australia would have to provide support for the acquisition of ambulances to assist their work.

Natural resource conservation and tourism development

In Pretoria, the delegation received a briefing from South African National Parks (SANParks) on the South African Government's approach to natural resource conservation, in particular game animals such as rhinos. The main challenge for the preservation of big game in southern Africa is the prevalence of illegal poaching, compounded by the porous borders between South Africa and neighbouring countries that allow both game and poachers to easily cross national borders.

The delegation learnt that central to the SANParks conservation effort was ensuring that game animals had an economic value placed upon them which, in turn, provided incentives for their conservation. The most controversial aspect of this approach, however, was the facilitation of limited but regulated big game hunting. Some members of the delegation found this approach to be highly confronting, and decline to endorse it. The delegation notes, however, that this approach was only one facet of a conservation strategy, which also included a paramilitary anti-poaching force, habitat conservation, selective breeding and private game reserves.

The delegation also discussed the opportunities for cooperation and exchange on tourism with the South African National Department of Tourism. It was noted that Australia had extensive expertise in tourism, and there may be opportunities for Australian educational institutions in the provision of vocational education and training in this area.

Delegation comment

It was clear to the delegation that South Africa has made significant progress since the end of apartheid in 1994, but continues to face significant economic and social and challenges. From its difficult history, however, South Africa has developed both institutions and expertise to address these challenges.

Part 4: Seychelles

Overview

The Seychelles is an archipelagic country in the Indian Ocean. The official languages are English, French and the local Creole, and the delegation was able to converse in English throughout its time in the Seychelles. The delegation arrived on the main island of Mahé in the Seychelles on 12 August 2014 and departed for Australia on 15 August. On 15 August, the delegation travelled by plane to the island of Praslin, before returning to Mahé that same day for its departure.

In its short time in the Seychelles, the delegation was able to meet many Seychellois politicians and dignitaries, and was able to canvass a broad range of issues. Many of these issues were ultimately a product of the topography of the Seychellois archipelago and its extensive marine resources, such as natural resource management and environmentally sensitive economic development. It was noted that these features created a natural economic base not dissimilar to many regions in Australia. Other issues that were of interest to the delegation resulted from the Seychelles strategic position in the Indian Ocean, and the important role it is clearly playing in combatting international crime and piracy within the region.

It became quickly apparent to the delegation that there were already significant linkages between Australia and the Seychelles. While the 2011 Australian Census indicated that there were 2,596 people who identified as being born in the Seychelles, an increase of 3.3 per cent from the 2006 census, the delegation heard that the size of the Seychellois diaspora in Australia may in fact be larger.³¹ This was mostly attributed to immigrants from the Seychelles to Australia that arrived prior to the independence of the Seychelles from Britain in 1976 possibly identifying as British upon arrival. The 2011 Census distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number of Seychellois with 993, followed by Western Australia (803), Queensland (447) and New South Wales (243).³² Moreover, a large number of Seychellois the delegation met had undertaken their studies in Australia, particularly at Western Australian universities, due to its relative proximity to the Seychelles. In recent years there has been extensive cooperation between our two countries and many high level visits in both directions. Despite these linkages, this was the first Australian parliamentary delegation to the Seychelles.

Overall, the delegation was impressed by the quality of governance in the Seychelles. The Seychellois officials who assisted the delegation were highly competent, despite typically being quite young. Social services, such as affordable housing and healthcare, appeared to be delivered effectively. Moreover, 14 of the 35 members of the Seychellois National Assembly are women – one of the highest levels of female parliamentary representation in the world.³³ It cannot pass without mention, however, that the political environment in the Seychelles may be skewed by the boycott of the 2011 elections by the main opposition party, the Seychelles National Party. This resulted in only

31. Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), '[The Seychelles-born](#)', DIAC, published on Department of Social Security (DSS) website, [February 2014], accessed 7 April 2015.

32. Ibid.

33. International Parliamentary Union (IPU), '[Women in national parliaments](#)', IPU website, 1 May 2015, accessed 10 April 2015.

one member of the Opposition, the Hon. David Pierre, being elected as a proportional member. Mr Pierre is the chair of the important Finance and Public Accounts Committee.

Key issues considered

The economy

The level of economic development in the Seychelles places it within the range of middle-income countries, with GDP per capita in 2014 expected to be around US\$15,700, which is particularly high when compared with the African continent generally.³⁴ The archipelagic nature of the Seychelles endows it with an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), however, it also makes transport more difficult, prevents large-scale agriculture, and makes the country highly reliant upon energy imports. Tourism is a significant industry for the Seychelles. The Seychelles has adopted a distinct economic strategy that recognises its unique topography and marine resources. The Seychelles' 'Blue Economy' policy aims to sustainably exploit the natural resources of its EEZ including hydrocarbons; sustainably exploit its marine resources such as tuna fisheries; and explore sustainable energy sources linked to the ocean, including wave energy, offshore wind energy, and carbon sequestration from sea grasses and algae (so-called 'blue carbon'). The delegation considered that exposure of the Seychelles to energy imports, and its unique natural environment, may make the development of renewable energy sources within the Seychelles potentially economically viable when in other circumstances they may not be. Throughout the delegation, the capacity for Australian experience and expertise to assist the Seychelles develop its economic resources was highlighted, particularly in relation to its EEZ (for example, hydrocarbon exploration and extraction, and fishing) and the development of a sustainable and environmentally sensitive tourism industry.

International crime, piracy and illicit drugs

The delegation was advised that, because of the Seychelles proximity to Somalia, piracy is the main regional concern. With the number of instances of piracy and hostage-taking in the Northern Indian Ocean escalating between the years 2008 and 2011, the Seychelles was particularly affected as its archipelago became extremely dangerous for fishing, luxury yachts and cruise ships, and the cost of imported goods increased.

More generally, piracy and maritime crime are constraints to economic growth and private sector development in the region because they limit access to markets and international trade routes off the East African Coast. The delegation notes that shipping routes traversing the Indian Ocean are vital to Australia's economic interests. In 2012–13 \$77 billion of Australian imports and exports transited the Indian Ocean.³⁵ The Seychelles has taken a lead role in international efforts to combat piracy, and the related problems of drug, arms and people trafficking in the Northern Indian Ocean. One of the main aspects of the Seychellois' contribution to the anti-piracy effort is through allowing its legal and prisons systems to be used to legally try and convict detained pirates, and thereby providing a legal end to the broader enforcement and deterrence efforts.

34. International Monetary Fund (IMF), [World Economic Outlook \(WEO\) Database \(October 2014\)](#), IMF website, accessed 7 April 2015.

35. Derived from: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), [Australian sea freight 2012-13](#), statistical report, BITRE, Canberra, 2014, p. 7, accessed 7 April 2015.

On a positive front, the delegation was informed that Somalia, one of the main sources of pirate activity, has recently claimed an EEZ and appears to be seeking to economically develop its marine resources.³⁶ This may, in the long-run, provide new economic opportunities in that country and reduce the instances of piracy.

Reflective of its strong interest in security within the Northern Indian Ocean, the Seychelles hosts the Regional Fusion and Law Enforcement Centre for Safety and Security at Sea (REFLECS-3). The REFLECS-3 initiative aims to utilise a multi-disciplinary approach to combat the threat from regional piracy and maritime linked transnational organized crime. The REFLECS-3 initiative has three distinct limbs:

- intelligence development
- investigation and prosecution and
- capacity and capability building.

As an example, members of the Australian Civilian Corps have been posted to the Seychelles to develop the Seychelles' capacity in law enforcement, and Australian Federal Police officers have been deployed to assist with intelligence capability. Australian corrections officials have also provided capacity building to their Seychellois counterparts, and the Australian Government will assist 24 participants in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Maritime Crime Programme, which has a presence in the Seychelles, to complete tertiary studies through the University of Wollongong.

36. Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), [*Deposit by the Federal Republic of Somalia of a list of geographical coordinates of points, pursuant to article 16, paragraph 2 and article 75, paragraph 2 of the \[Law of the Sea\] Convention*](#), Circular communications from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea Office of Legal Affairs, UN, (Maritime Zone Notifications) MZN, 3 July 2014, accessed 7 April 2015.



Mr Entsch and Dr Southcott inspect captured Somali pirate vessels at the REFLECS-3 compound, Victoria

While not formally part of the REFLECS-3 initiative, the Australian Navy ship, HMAS Melbourne, continues to participate in the US-led Combined Maritime Forces efforts to promote maritime security, and counter terrorism and piracy within the Northern Indian Ocean.

The Australian High Commissioner to the Seychelles, Her Excellency Susan Coles, has also provided funds from the discretionary funding available to her to support several initiatives in the Seychelles – some of which are directly complementary to the Seychelles’ efforts to combat piracy. For example, assistance to the Green Prison Project included the installation of solar lighting and other energy saving measures at the Montagne Posee prison, and the delegation had the opportunity to accompany the High Commissioner to the unveiling of this project. The delegation was informed that the Green Prison Project was a product of the efforts of the prisoners themselves, who both designed and installed the energy efficiency saving measures.



Hon. Joel Morgan, Minister of Home Affairs and Transport, and Her Excellency Susan Coles unveiling the Greening the Prison project at Montagne Posee prison

During this visit, the delegation was able to speak to prison staff and view the rehabilitation facilities available to prisoners, including convicted Somali pirates. The delegation was advised that, despite prior concerns regarding the possible security implications of the Somali inmates, they had integrated successfully into the prison population. Security at the prison was supplied by Nepalese Gurkhas, showing the breadth of support for the Seychelles' efforts against piracy.

The delegation was advised that the close proximity of the Seychelles to known drug trafficking routes meant that it faced a continuing domestic challenge in managing the abuse of illicit drugs within the Seychellois community. The delegation had the opportunity to inspect the Les Canelles 'Wellness Centre' that is a mental health and drug rehabilitation facility at the forefront of the Seychelles Government's attempts to address this issue. The delegation was advised that, while the prevalence of HIV/AIDS within the general community was low, particularly by African standards, there was a very high prevalence (over 99 per cent was suggested) of Hepatitis C sufferers amongst intravenous drug users, which was a significant public health concern.

Education

As noted above, there are already strong educational links between Australia and the Seychelles. The delegation was advised that there are around 300 alumni of Australian universities in the Seychelles, and they had the pleasure of attending the launch of the Australian Alumni Association in the Seychelles. The delegation was advised that Ms Margaret Pillay, CEO of the Agency for National Human Resource Development, will be the coordinator of the Association until it elects a Committee. The Seychelles' first university, the University of Seychelles, was established in 2009, and it already has partnerships with three Australian universities (Edith Cowan University, University of Queensland and the University of the Sunshine Coast). The delegation understands it is exploring further partnerships. In addition to tertiary education, there is strong support for greater vocational

and technical educational exchange between Australia and the Seychelles, particularly in the areas of tourism and hospitality. The delegation was able to meet the manager of the Seychelles Raffles Hotel to discuss how such exchanges may be developed, and discussed the High Commissioner's efforts in establishing such exchanges.

Agriculture

The delegation also toured the Baie St Anne Farmers' Cooperative Project on the island of Praslin. This afforded the opportunity to inspect salinity monitoring equipment, which had been provided by Her Excellency Susan Coles to assist local farmers manage watering and the rising water table. The delegation noted much of the agricultural production being pursued was marginal, reflecting the poor coastal soils that are typical for the Seychelles. Moreover, the relative unavailability of fresh water made the traditional market garden crops somewhat difficult to produce. The delegation noted that Australia had extensive expertise in salinity management, crop selection, and the development of varieties that suited specific environments, including saline environments. The delegation considers that Australia has significant capacity to further assist the Seychelles in developing its agricultural resources.

Delegation comment

The delegation noted that Australia is typically thought of as an island nation in the Pacific, but Australia has an equivalent geographic connection with the Indian Ocean. Immediately prior to the delegation, the tragic events associated with the loss of the aircraft MH370 had highlighted to many Australians our place within the Indian Ocean. Overall, it appeared to the delegation that there is further scope to develop Australia's relationships within the Indian Ocean, particularly with nations that exhibit generally sound institutions and opportunities for mutually beneficial economic, governmental, and cultural exchange. The Seychelles is one of those nations. Despite the relative proximity of the Seychelles to Australia, the difficult transportation links—including the lack of direct flights between Australia and the Seychelles—means opportunities to further develop our relationship may have gone wanting in the past.

While Australia has recently reorientated its aid effort to the Indo-Pacific region—meaning that there is less scope for support for the Seychelles via direct aid—the delegation considers that what would be of the greatest assistance to the Seychelles would be the development of the clear and obvious business opportunities which exist for Australian businesses, and greater cultural and educational exchanges between our two peoples. In order to develop this, the delegation suggests that more regular (at least annual) ministerial engagement between Australia and the Seychelles should become a feature of our relationship. Whether or not under the auspices of the Australian Aid programme, the delegation considers that *both* countries would also benefit from further technical and exchange in areas such as public administration, law and law enforcement, and the administration of justice.

Recommendation 3: The Australian and Seychellois Governments seek to develop the relationship between the two nations, including through more regular, and at least annual, ministerial exchange.

Part 5: Contribution of Australian Aid and other donors in Zimbabwe

On 18 June 2014, The Australian Foreign Minister, the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, announced the Australian aid policy: *Making Performance Count: Enhancing the Accountability and Effectiveness of Australian Aid*.³⁷ The new policy reflected a perceived need for change in the way in which Australian aid was delivered. In announcing the new policy, Ms Bishop advised:

The world has changed—and our aid program must change too. Today, many developing countries are growing rapidly, with aid representing an increasingly small proportion of development finance. To be effective in this new context, our aid needs to be more innovative and catalytic, leveraging other drivers of development such as private sector investment and domestic finance. Our aid needs to support economic growth as the most sustainable way to reduce poverty and lift living standards. We need to recast our aid program in light of this new development paradigm.³⁸

The policy includes 10 high-level target areas comprising:

- promoting prosperity
- engaging the private sector
- reducing poverty
- empowering women and girls
- focusing on the Indo–Pacific region
- delivering on commitments
- working with the most effective partners
- ensuring value-for-money
- increasing consolidation
- combatting corruption³⁹

The fifth element—a renewed focus on the Indo-Pacific region—has been particularly controversial, and has resulted in the discontinuation of many otherwise successful aid initiatives. Against this backdrop, the delegation had the opportunity to inspect various aid projects in Zimbabwe that were funded either directly or indirectly through Australian Aid.

Aid projects assisted by Australian Aid

On 5 August 2014 the delegation inspected water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects in Harare and its surrounds.

Urgent Water Supply and Sanitation Rehabilitation Project

The delegation toured the Lake Chivero and the Morton Jeffray Water Treatment Works and water metering projects in the district of Norton. Both projects have been undertaken through funding

37. DFAT, [‘Australia’s aid program,’](#) DFAT website, n.d., accessed 7 April 2015.

38. DFAT, [Australia’s new development policy and performance framework: a summary,](#) DFAT website, [18 June 2014], [p. 2].

39. Ibid.

provided under the Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund (Zim-Fund) administered by the African Development Fund, to which Australia contributed AU\$10,000,000.⁴⁰

The upgrades to the Morton Jeffray Water Treatment Works are mostly aimed at restoring the functionality of the water treatment facilities to ensure clean water at the source of the urban water distribution network. The effort is made more difficult because Harare sits within the Lake Chivero catchment, and high levels of industrial pollution and urban sewerage flow into that catchment because of dilapidated sewerage systems in Harare.

In the township of Norton, the German NGO GIZ is supporting the Norton Town Council to develop its financial and billing systems in order to ensure that billing services are effective and to ensure high levels of cost recovery from consumers.



Women and children pumping water from a communal well, Norton

In several of the shanty towns of Norton, however, there is no access to reticulated water or sewerage services, and households (mostly women and children it appeared) were left to pump contaminated water from contaminated wells sunk next to untreated sewerage and refuse.

On 6 August 2014 the delegation travelled to Bulawayo and received presentations from Ebenezer's Farm and Family Impact, both of which are supported by the Australian NGO TEAR Australia.

Ebenezer's Farm

In Bulawayo, the delegation received a presentation from Ebenezer's Farm, a faith-based NGO that trains local farmers to grow cash crops and sell into local and regional markets. Significantly, many of the Zimbabweans benefiting from the work of Ebenezer's Farm are young women, and the skills

40. African Development Bank, '[Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund](#),' African Development Bank website, accessed 7 April 2015.

that they were gaining promised, in the longer-term, to provide them with a basis for economic independence. The approach of Ebenezer’s Farm demonstrated the significant and direct gains that could be achieved from relatively simple forms of assistance.

Family Impact

Family Impact was established in Zimbabwe in 2001, and is based in Bulawayo.⁴¹ Family Impact provides programmes aimed at developing healthy marital relationships, empowering women and improving the health outcomes of both women and children. The main feature of the approach of Family Impact is through relationship counselling aimed at building healthy and monogamous relationships between partners. This is of particular importance given the prevalence of polygamy and other infidelity in a country with high rates of HIV/AIDS infection.



Participants in the Family Impact program with Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus and members of the delegation, Bulawayo.

Sandra Jones Children’s Home

A highlight of the delegation’s visit to Zimbabwe was the opportunity to visit the Sandra Jones Children’s Home, which offers refuge and support to young girls who have been victims of sexual assault, including incest. The Home has the capacity to care for around 70 young girls in its facility located at the former Hotel Rio, Bulawayo. In addition to accommodation, the hotel grounds provide ample space for gardens and livestock to assist with food at the Home. The former Hotel Rio building was acquired in 2012. The acquisition was by way of instalments, and the organisation is currently undertaking fundraising in order to complete the purchase.

The delegation heard many harrowing accounts, including instances of young women giving birth to children conceived as result of incest. However, the delegation also heard of the outstanding work

41. Family Impact, [‘Where we work – Zimbabwe’](#), Family Impact website, accessed 7 April 2015.

of the Home in ensuring that the young women there were given the best chance of living healthy and happy lives, despite the adversity of their childhoods.

The Home, and its recent acquisition of the Hotel Rio building, is funded through donations, including from Australia. The head of the Home, Ms Deborah Brennocks AM, was made a member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2012 for her work in establishing the Home.⁴²

Bulawayo Water and Sewerage Emergency Response Program

The Bulawayo Water and Sanitation Response Program (BOWSER) program commenced in 2010, and is aimed at addressing serious public health concerns, such as cholera, that have arisen from the deterioration of a once functional sewerage system in Bulawayo.

One part of BOWSER is the development of the Maweegwe Sewer Ponds in the outskirts of Bulawayo. The ponds are a low technology solution to the problem of untreated sewerage – chosen because it is likely to be a more sustainable solution for the local community.



Australia's Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Matthew Neuhaus, discusses the BOWSER programme, Bulawayo.

The delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Bulawayo City Council, and inspect an Australian Aid funded call centre that is part of BOWSER. The call centre ensured that municipal services in the City of Bulawayo were delivered in a responsive manner.

42. Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, [Debra Louise Brennocks](#), It's an Honour website, 2012, accessed 8 April 2015.

Kirimuva Community Gardens

The delegation visited the Kirimuva Community Gardens in Bulawayo, which are a project of the Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT).⁴³ The Gardens provide an important source of fresh food for the local community, and were a hive of activity. While the Gardens were well tended and productive, they lacked effective irrigation systems and their only source of water was a hand pump. The delegation discussed the feasibility of relatively simple improvements to the Garden's irrigation system, such as a solar powered water pump. The delegation was shown the Gardens by Mr Simon Spooner, the National Development Officer of ZDDT, who is an expatriate Australian.

43. Further information on the delegation's visit to the Kirimuva Community Gardens is available here: Zimbabwe Democracy Development Trust (ZDDT), '[Kirimuva Gardens receive visit from Australian Parliamentary delegation](#)', ZDDT website, 15 August 2014, accessed 10 April 2015.

Appendix A: Itinerary of official engagements

Zimbabwe

Sunday 3 August

Evening: Arrived Harare, Zimbabwe

Monday 4 August

Morning: Called on President of the Senate, Mrs Edna Madzongwe
Called on Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Jacob Francis Mudenda
Toured the Zimbabwean Parliament building

Afternoon: Lunched with UK, EU, US, Canadian, Malawian and Zambian Ambassadors to Zimbabwe at Australian Ambassador's residence
Called on Minister for Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Emmerson Mnangagwa
Called on Foreign Minister, Hon. Simbarashe Mumbengegwi

Evening: Attended reception for local dignitaries at the Australian Ambassador's residence

Tuesday 5 August

Morning: Inspected Australian Aid funded programs in the locality of Norton

Afternoon: Participated in development and civil society roundtable at Australian Embassy
Met Women's Caucus of the Zimbabwean Parliament and other prominent Zimbabwean women
Called on Movement for Democratic Change-Tsvangirai (MDC-T) leader, Hon. Morgan Tsvangirai

Evening: Participated in roundtable of Zimbabwean business people

Wednesday 6 August

Day: Travelled to Bulawayo

Afternoon: Received presentations of Australian Aid funded projects conducted by Ebenezer Matopos Farm, NGO TEAR, and Family Impact
Inspected Sandra Jones Children's Home

Evening: Dined at Bulawayo Club with local dignitaries

Thursday 7 August

Morning: Met Mayor of Bulawayo, His Worship Martin Moyo
Inspected water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects
Inspected Kirimuva Community Gardens

Afternoon: Travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa

South Africa

Evening: Briefing on South African wine industry, Australian Consulate General, Sandton
Dined with representatives of the Australian Business Chamber of Commerce, Sandton

Friday 8 August

Morning: Guided tour of South African Constitutional Court, Johannesburg
Travelled to Pretoria

Received briefing on natural resource management from South African National Parks (SANParks)
Afternoon: Lunched with senior officials of the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation
Meet National Department of Tourism
Travelled to Johannesburg
Evening: Attended a reception for development partners and Australian volunteers hosted by Acting Australian High Commissioner, Sandton

Saturday 9 August

Morning: Toured township of Soweto and visited Nelson Mandela Museum
Afternoon: Travelled to Hluhluwe–iMfolozi Park game reserve, KwaZulu Natal
Evening: Evening game drive

Sunday 10 August

Morning: Morning game drive
Afternoon: Visited Bethesda Hospital, Umbombo
Travelled to Durban

Monday 11 August

Morning: Toured Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRSA)
Afternoon: Lunched with Mayor of Durban, Counsellor James Nxumalo, and others
Visited to the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
Visited the International Centre of Non-Violence
Evening: Dined with members of the Australia-New Zealand Association of South Africa

Tuesday 12 August

Morning/afternoon: Travelled to the Seychelles

Seychelles

Evening: Met by Hon. Sebastian Pillay and Deputy Clerk of the Seychelles National Assembly, Ms Luisa Waye-Hive, Mahe

Wednesday 13 August

Morning: Called on Leader of Government Business, Hon. Marie-Antoinette Rose
Met the Committee of Chairpersons
Received presentation by Mrs Tania Isaac on her recent Study Attachment at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
Guided Tour of the National Assembly Building
Afternoon: Called on the Foreign Minister His Excellency Mr Jean Paul Adam
Attended lunch hosted by the Leader of Government Business and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. David Pierre
Inspected the Australian-made Cat Cocos Ferry
Attended the launch of Seychelles Women in Police Network
Evening: Pre-cocktail Drinks with Minister of Tourism and Culture, Alain St Ange
Cocktail Reception for Parliamentarians, Seychellois alumni of Australian Universities and Australian Community, Savoy Resort and Spa

Thursday 14 August

Morning: Inspected Wellness Centre, Les Canelles
Inspected housing development III Perseverance

Afternoon: Lunch hosted by Committee of Women Parliamentarians
Called on Minister of Home Affairs and Transport, His Excellency Mr Joel Morgan
Presented first aid equipment to Seychelles Protection Vessel Team
Inaugurated Solar Panel Electricity Project at Monte Posee Prison

Evening: Attended dinner hosted by the Seychellois National Assembly's International Affairs Committee

Friday 15 August

Morning: Travelled to Praslin
Visited Vallee De Mai UNESCO World Heritage Nature Reserve
Visited Baie St Anne Farmers' Cooperative Project

Afternoon: Lunched at Raffles Praslin
Visited Anse Lazio Lifesavers Association
Travelled to Mahe

Evening: Departed the Seychelles

Appendix B: Perth Principles

Declaration of the Indian Ocean Rim Association on the principles for peaceful, productive and sustainable use of the Indian Ocean and its resources

Perth, Australia

1 November 2013

WE, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, on the occasion of the thirteenth Council of Ministers' Meeting (COMM)

- **REITERATING** that IORA is the apex pan-regional organisation for the Indian Ocean.
- **RECALLING** the six priority areas of cooperation agreed at the eleventh COMM in Bengaluru, namely: Maritime Safety and Security; Trade and Investment Facilitation; Fisheries Management; Disaster Risk Management; Academic and Science and Technology Cooperation; and Tourism and Cultural Exchanges.
- **RECALLING ALSO** our desire to promote the sustainable growth and balanced development of the Indian Ocean region and IORA Member States, and to create common ground for regional economic cooperation.
- **COMMITTED** to promoting cooperation and collaboration between IORA and other Indian Ocean regional stakeholders including Dialogue Partner States and other regional and international forums.
- **REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, to the Charter of IORA, and to the applicable principles of international law.
- **REAFFIRMING ALSO** our commitment to 'The Future We Want', as adopted at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and to the protection, restoration, health, productivity and resilience of the Indian Ocean and its resources.
- **RECOGNISING** that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources and plays a vital role in maintaining peaceful cooperation and stability across the Indian Ocean.

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

That the Member States of IORA are guided by the following principles for productive and sustainable use of the Indian Ocean and its resources:

- Recognition of the importance of the Indian Ocean's biodiversity, including its marine life and ecosystems.
- Commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of the Indian Ocean and its resources in accordance with international law, including fisheries stocks, water and seabed resources and other marine life; and commitment to deliver on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

- Recognition of the important contribution of the conservation and sustainable use of the Indian Ocean and its resources to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work.
- Recognition of the importance of building the capacity of countries to conserve, sustainably manage and realise the benefits of sustainable fisheries.
- Commitment to intensify efforts, individually and collectively, to take the measures necessary to maintain or restore all fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.
- Commitment to understand and address the main threats to the Indian Ocean and its resources, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, unsustainable fishing practices, loss of critical coastal ecosystems and the adverse impacts of pollution, ocean acidification, marine debris, and invasive species on the marine environment.
- Recognition of the importance of building the capacity of countries to understand, forecast and address marine, ocean and climate science issues in the Indian Ocean.

ADOPTED by the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association on 1 November 2013 in Perth, Australia.