

THE KINGDOM of Swaziland is a small landlocked country which covers just over 17 000 square kilometres. It is situated between the Republic of South Africa and Mozambique, and is often referred to as the 'Switzerland of Africa.' Swaziland comprises magnificent mountain scenery with unique ancient rock formations, which are a fascination for geologists, scholars and visitors. Many significant geological, archaeological and anthropological finds continue to be made.

The first steps towards the creation of the Swazi nation were taken during the mid-18th century when Ngwane III led his people inland to settle in what is now southern Swaziland. Archaeological digs in modern times have revealed that the region, prior to these arrivals, had been hunting grounds of the nomadic Khoisan for all the constituent eras of the Stone Age. When King Sobhuza I succeeded Ngwane III, he fought numerous territorial battles. The result of these endeavours was that that his successor, King Mswati II, inherited a realm twice the size of contemporary Swaziland.

White adventurers and fortune-hunters began arriving in Swaziland during the 1840s leading to the Boer and British representatives vying for administrative domination of the Kingdom, efforts that were in line with their determination to control all of Southern Africa.

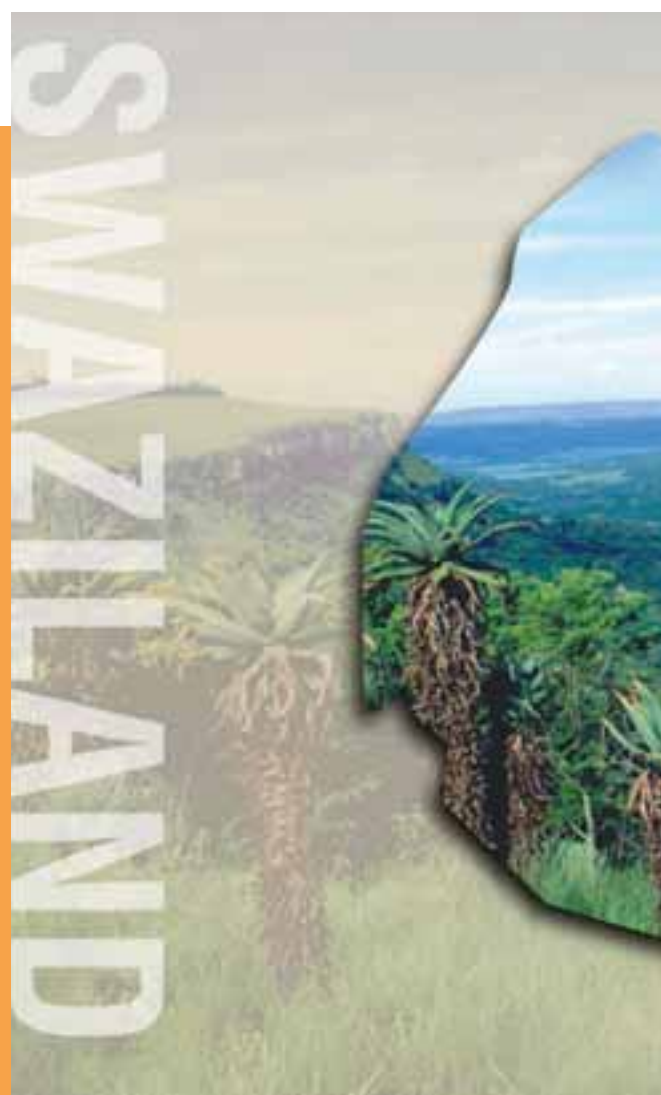
King Sobhuza II was born in 1899 while these powers were engaged in the Anglo-Boer War, at the conclusion of which Britain engaged its 66-year rule of Swaziland as a protectorate. Immediately upon his coming-of-age, the young monarch began his quest to recover land belonging to the Swazi nation and he ruled Swaziland until his death in 1982. He was succeeded in 1986 by his son and current monarch, King Mswati III.

Swaziland attained independence from Britain in September 1968, and inherited a Westminster-style constitution deemed by the Swazi nation as unsuitable for its traditional criteria and which was consequently suspended.

Education is regarded as the cornerstone of economic and social development in Swaziland; and the objective of the government is to provide education that is affordable, accessible and relevant. Schools fall under three categories, government, grant aided and private. The main levels of education are primary, secondary and tertiary. Literacy in Swaziland is about 75 percent. Primary education is widely available and almost all children enrol for school. In line with the Millennium Development Goals and the constitution of the country, the government is phasing-in free primary school education. Primary school level lasts for five years while the secondary level is for three years. The last two years of high school are for the International General Certificate Secondary Education (IGCSE) that has been recently adopted. Several institutes provide different levels of technical, commercial and vocational training; and there are three teacher-training colleges. Nurses are trained by a college and by the University of Swaziland.

Investment in education is a key component in the national budget. In 2008, E100-million⁸³ was set aside to educate the country's orphans and vulnerable children whose school-enrolled number, at the latest count, stood at 99 000. These children are among the people on whom HIV and AIDS is impacting, as their parents succumb to the pandemic. E34.9-million was allocated to stationery and textbooks for primary schools, and a further E207-million was allocated to the University of Swaziland to meet its mandate to create education opportunities for demand-driven teaching and research.

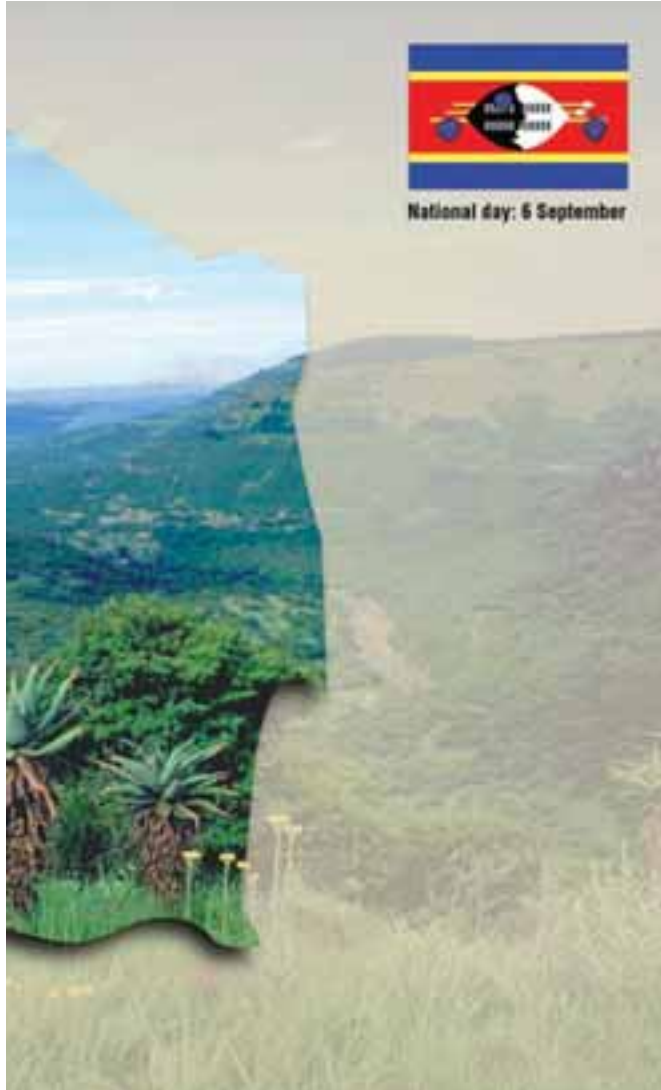
⁸³ E is the symbol for Swaziland's unit of currency, lilangeni, which has emalangeni as its plural form. Around E8.5 = US\$1 in May 2009.



KEY COUNTRY CONTEXT STATISTICS

Population:	1.146 million (2006)
GDP:	US\$2,300 (2006) per capita
Human Development Index (HDI):	0.547
Unemployment levels:	40% (2006 est.)
Key economic sectors:	Manufacturing, Tourism
Principal Exports:	Soft Drink Concentrate, Sugar, Wood Pulp, Refrigerators.
HIV and Aids prevalence:	26.09% (2007 estimate)
Gross Primary Enrolment Ratio:	98 (2006)
Gross Secondary Enrolment Ratio:	43 (2002)
Gross Tertiary Enrolment Ratio:	4 (2006)

Source: Country context data was obtained from a variety of sources: (CIA, 2008; SADC, 2008; UNAIDS, 2008; UNDP, 2008; UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2006)



POLICY CONTEXT

As a UNESCO member, Swaziland is a signatory to the Education for All (EFA) Declaration. Swaziland completed its draft EFA action plan in 2003 in consultation with stakeholders (Swaziland Government). The National Education Policy 1999 outlines some of the problems faced by the education system, and its priority areas (Government of Swaziland, 1999). There is no national HE policy.

HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
No relevant legislation was found	

LIST OF STATUTORY BODIES IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Education Board	The Education Board oversees the implementation of education policies and advises on the need to review outdated policies and targets.
Scholarship Selection Board	This board is responsible for screening tertiary education scholarship applications and making recommendations to the minister of education on who should be awarded scholarships.
University Council	The council is responsible for university operations and ensures the smooth operation of the University of Swaziland
University Senate	The senate is responsible for all academic affairs of the university and all affiliated tertiary institutions.
University Research Board	This board is responsible for commissioning research studies, advising on issues related to research and ensuring the progressive operation of the university research centre.

Source: Swaziland MoE questionnaire response

NATIONAL LEVEL OVERVIEW

Primary education in Swaziland lasts for seven years, leading to the Swaziland Primary Certificate. Primary school begins at age six. Secondary education lasts for five years and is divided into two cycles: a three-year cycle leading to the Junior Certificate and a two-year cycle preparing pupils to the General Certificate of Education 'O' Level which gives access to higher education (International Association of Universities [IAU] World Higher Education Database, 2003).

Swaziland's higher education sector consists of six institutions, including a publicly funded university, publicly funded polytechnics and specialised colleges, and privately funded accredited universities and colleges.

TYPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS
Publicly funded universities	1
Publicly funded polytechnics or specialised colleges	1
Publicly funded HE Colleges	4
TOTAL	6

Source: Swaziland MoE questionnaire response

FUNDING DATA	
Public Expenditure on Education as a % of Gross National Income (GNI)	5.5%
% Education budget allocated to higher education	22% (2007)
Loan/Grant scheme in place	Yes

Source: SARUA (2008) – 'Towards a Common Future: Higher Education in the SADC Region'

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	
KEY INDICATORS	INDICATORS FOR SWAZILAND
R&D Intensity [The ratio of Gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)]	Not available
ISI Output (Number of papers published in the 7500+ journals of the ISI Web of Science)	1990-1995: 71 1996-2001: 85 2002-2007: 93

Source: SARUA (2008) – CREST report

LIST OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN SWAZILAND	
UNIVERSITIES IN SWAZILAND	WEBSITE
University of Swaziland	www.uniswa.sz

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

TERTIARY EDUCATION in Swaziland began with the establishment of the University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland in 1963 and continued via the University of Botswana and Swaziland between 1976 and 1982.⁸⁴ It was only after the splitting of the latter institution in the early 1980s that the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) was finally established. The Swaziland Agricultural College and University Centre, which came into being in 1966, had developed independently, and it now constitutes UNISWA's Faculty of Agriculture and is situated on the Luyengo campus of the university. Main recipient of the courses offered are officers working for the Ministry of Agriculture and Education.

There are two other campuses which, like Luyengo, are situated in the Mbabane/ Manzini corridor in the east-central area of the country. The main and oldest campus is at Kwaluseni, which was financed jointly by the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, the Anglo American Corporation, and the Swaziland government. This campus houses the faculties

of Commerce, Education, Humanities, and Science. The Mbabane campus houses the Faculty of Health Sciences, established in 1996. Certificate, diploma and degree programmes are offered in general and specialised nursing, community mental health science and environmental health services.

Since achieving full university status a quarter of a century ago, UNISWA has grown in accordance with its chief mandate, which is to assist in the national development effort, mainly through appropriate manpower production. The output of teachers, nurses and agricultural offers has risen steadily, while the double-subject-major degrees on offer in both the humanities and the sciences have been designed to provide teachers with more than one speciality – an important qualification where teacher shortages are endemic.

The electronic engineering programme offered recently by the Faculty of Science reflects the need to rapidly develop the science and technology knowledge base existing within the country.

FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE⁸⁵

University of Swaziland provides both contact and distance learning. The majority (98%) of students are national citizens, with 108 students from the SADC region and 17 students from other international, non-SADC countries.

TABLE 1 UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND: SUMMARY OF ENROLMENT NUMBERS (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS (HEADCOUNT)	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED PER LEVEL OF STUDY			
		UNDER-GRADUATE DEGREE / DIPLOMA	POST-GRADUATE DEGREE / DIPLOMA	MASTERS DEGREE	DOCTORAL DEGREE
Science, Engineering & Technology	435	426	0	9	0
Business, Management & Law	2,568	2,568	0	0	0
Humanities and Social Sciences	1,027	1,024	0	3	0
Health Sciences	386	386	0	0	0
Agriculture	1,034	1,014	0	20	0
Education	335	185	134	16	0
TOTALS	5,785	5,603	134	48	0

Source: University of Swaziland questionnaire response

TABLE 2 UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND: ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)
Science, Engineering & Technology	46
Business, Management & Law	23
Humanities and Social Sciences	50
Health Sciences	27
Agriculture	50
Education	33
TOTALS	229

Source: University of Swaziland questionnaire response

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Luyengo Campus: University of Swaziland Faculty of Agriculture P. O. Luyengo Swaziland

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⁸⁴ For these early developments, first see the National University of Lesotho entry on page 16. The University of Botswana entry on page 7 continues the story

⁸⁵ All data presented in this section is headcount data.

