

Ambassadors' Welcome



Zsolt Mészáros

Embassy of Hungary in Nairobi,
Ambassador

Dear Reader,

Welcome to wonderful East Africa: the savannas are alive with wildlife, the rainforests are home to giant lakes and rivers, the deserts are inhabited by mysterious tribes, and the snow-capped mountain peaks rising in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia have for centuries filled the European mind with the inexpressible desire to explore the unknown. This yearning to discover and understand unfamiliar worlds has brought many Hungarian travellers to the region over the past 150 years. Some travelled for the sake of making scientific discoveries, others went to save lives with their medical expertise, and some fled European wars to find a new home in Africa. Nearly a dozen Hungarian physicians, hunters, and travellers made their mark and increased Hungary's reputation in this

exotic region with their outstanding work. Their memories are preserved in geographical names (Sámuel Teleki), remembered by architects (Tibor Gaál) and physicians (Imre Löffler and László Sáská), and immortalized in hunting myths (Zsigmond Széchenyi and Kálmán Kittenberger).

In cooperation with the Africa Research Centre of the University of Pécs, the Hungarian Government recently decided to commemorate those prominent Hungarians who significantly contributed to developing the region and expanding general Hungarian knowledge about Africa. First, we will introduce ten famous Hungarians on our website. The Hungarian Embassies of Kenya and Ethiopia will also construct ten historical monuments honouring the Hungarians for locals and international travellers alike to learn more about their important work.

Secondly, our goal is to create a travel itinerary for Hungarian tourists visiting the region, which we hope will become a "pilgrim path" over time. There is no greater pride for me than finding

memorials in a foreign country that pay homage to my fellow Hungarians and contribute to advancing humanity with their hard work. I recommend taking a short detour to visit these sites if you are ever in the region while discovering the many local wonders, safaris and beaches.

Enjoy reading this book, and I hope to meet you soon at one of the memorial sites.



Attila Koppány

Embassy of Hungary in
Addis Ababa, Ambassador

Dear Reader,

Africa traditionally receives less attention from the Hungarian scientific community than other continents. However, this does not mean that there have not been significant Hungarian developments in African studies. The work and research of Móric Benyovszky, Emil Torday, László Magyar, and Dr. László Sáska are internationally recognized, serving as useful source materials and achievements ahead of their time.

Etiópiában kétségtelenül Dr. Sáska László az, akit elsőként kln Ethiopia, Dr. László Sáska made various breakthroughs in medical anthropology, botany and ethnography. His memoirs about the Italian occupation often serve as invaluable source material for papers and books even to this day.

The building where his clinic was located still stands in Addis Ababa. The Hungarian Embassy in Addis Ababa took the initiative to install an informative plaque in his honour to grab the attention of younger generations in Ethiopia.

It is long overdue for Dr. László Sáska and other Hungarian scientists who worked in Africa to receive their well-deserved place in the history of modern science. We intend to pay homage to them at the respective venues where they worked.

On behalf of the Hungarian Embassy in Addis Ababa and its staff, I extend my gratitude to the editors and all participants of this project spanning across the borders of multiple African countries.