

## African Countries under the Southern Hemisphere

The Southern Hemisphere of Africa includes eighteen independent countries formerly of British, French, Belgian, Portuguese and German rule. All countries South of the Equator are independent. **South Africa** is located in the most southern region. **Namibia** and **Angola** in the southwest region, **Gabon** and **The Republic of Congo** in the northwest, **Kenya** and **Uganda** in the Northeast of Africa, The **Democratic Republic of Congo** in the Western-Central region, **Tanzania** in East Africa, **Mozambique** in the Southeast. **Zambia**, **Malawi**, **Zimbabwe** and **Botswana** being located in Central Africa. **Swaziland** and **Lesotho** are landlocked in South Africa and finally **Rwanda** and **Burundi** in midland Northeast. All these countries indicated in the map below enjoy independence and prosperity and give us the opportunity to study the the first commemorative and definitive issues of the postage stamps from their independence and their historical background. The countries below the equator are rich in wild life as well as minerals, agriculture, husbandry and general industry. The official languages of these countries are English, French, Portuguese and Afrikaans in South Africa, also Swahili in East Africa.

