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## Christoph Sauser wants to give back – 31 March 08



Christoph Sauser, the reigning World and European Mountain Bike Marathon Champion, has teamed up with Burry Stander, one of South Africa's most talented young mountain bikers, to ride the prologue and eight stages of the Absa Cape Epic presented by adidas.

Sauser, who has been racing professionally since 1993, won the 2006 Absa Cape Epic with fellow Swiss rider Silvio Bindi. It will be Stander's first Absa Cape Epic and also the first time that these two race together as a team to raise funds for the [Songo.info](#) charity. "I felt that I wanted to give something back to South Africa. My winter training base is the beautiful Boland town of Stellenbosch and the beneficiary of my participation will be the community of Kayamandi."

Kayamandi is a prominent township on the outskirts of Stellenbosch, on the slopes of the Pappegaaiberg, where Sauser has spent many hours training. Together with the JAG Foundation, the Songo.info project aims to raise funds for a BMX track. The track will be used to create an opportunity to help kids caught in the throes of poverty.

Twenty year-old Stander, who lives in Port Shepstone, Kwazulu-Natal, is the current African and South African cross-country mountain biking champion. He also finished sixth in the Under 23 World Championship and fifth in the Sea Otter cross-country championship in the USA last year. He took first place in round one of the SA Marathon series in Barberton this year. Sauser approached him in January to be his partner in the Absa Cape Epic. "I felt it was an awesome opportunity to ride with Christoph and at the same time raise funds for the Songo.info charity," says Stander whose training at this time of the year comprises mostly steady rides between 3 and 6 hours a day as well as an hour's running once a week.

To learn more about other top contenders racing in this year's Absa Cape Epic presented by adidas, check out the [Hall of Fame](#) on the event website