



AFRICAN HABITAT
CONSERVANCY
Foundation

Creating Impact Together

March 2025 Newsletter

As we wrapped up the first quarter of 2025, we are proud to share the milestones we've achieved—thanks to the incredible support of our partners, donors, and communities. From bridges to beadwork, every project reflects our commitment to conservation, community development, and education.

Here's what we've been up to—and how you can be part of the change.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Courtney House International School!

We are thrilled to acknowledge **Courtney House International School** for their generous donation of R50,000 towards the refurbishment of Koningsday Child and Youth Care Centre.

After seeing the worn-down play equipment firsthand, the school took swift action. Thanks to their support, AHCF installed **safe, fun, and engaging playground equipment**—bringing joy and a sense of normalcy back to the children's lives.

"We're deeply grateful for the incredible support from Courtney House and AHCF, particularly at a time when children need outdoor activities and play equipment to make them feel like kids again. Thank you for the support!" Social Worker at Koningsdal.



Farming for the Future: KCT Receives Vital Support

African Habitat Conservancy Foundation (AHCF) in partnership with Babanango Game Reserve proudly hosted a handover event at the Old Sports Field in Zulu Rock for the beneficiaries of the **KwaNgono Community Trust (KCT)**. Forty KCT beneficiaries received much-needed farming tools and resources to aid sustainable agricultural practices and strengthen food security in their communities.

This initiative was driven by a proposal from the KCT, highlighting the urgent need for food security support.



"These agricultural resources greatly contribute to improving productivity and enhance livelihoods. With this support, we are confident that the community will be empowered to cultivate sustainable farming practices" Langelihle Yaka, KCT Deputy.

New Bridge, New Beginnings for Esibongweni

In January, we broke ground on the **Esibongweni Bridge**—a much-needed link for residents and farmers needing access to grazing lands.

By mid-February, the bridge was complete and already transforming daily life, easing travel, and reconnecting the community.



Mr Mbatha, Chairman of the Esibongweni Community Trust, standing proudly at the new bridge – a testament to what collaboration can achieve.

25 Local Jobs, 160 Hectares Restored: A Win for Nature & Community

The Ecological Restoration Team (ERT) is growing – literally! We expanded from 18 to 25 permanent employees this year, creating meaningful employment for local community members whilst building environmental resilience.

Since January, our **Ecological Restoration Team** has cleared over **160 hectares** of invasive species—like lantana, bugweed, and black wattle—that threaten local ecosystems.

Even with more than **300mm of rainfall**—the highest since 2021—the team pressed on, working through steep terrain to protect biodiversity and restore balance to our environment.

With the rainy season ending, the ERT is shifting focus to critical follow-up work, including herbicide treatment to prevent regrowth and mapping out future restoration zones. Every hectare cleared allows native species to return and wildlife to thrive. This initiative is more than conservation—it's empowerment in action, and a model for how communities can lead the way in environmental restoration.



Babanango Youth Career Expo: Shaping Futures

On February 26th, we hosted a dynamic Youth Career Expo at Babanango Hotel, where young people connected with professionals from government, law enforcement, and education sectors.

With practical advice on CV-writing and inspiring success stories, the event empowered 50 local youth to dream big and plan their futures with confidence.

[Click here to view an article that was published in the Vryheid Herald](#)



Skills for Life: 5-day Beadwork Workshop

In Nhlazatshe, 30 participants gained hands-on artisan training during our **5-day beadwork workshop**, led by **Nela Kahle Arts and Crafts Development Academy**.

Each graduate received a certificate and starter kit and with orders already rolling in, these talented artisans are now turning their skills into sustainable businesses.



You Can Be the Difference

While we've made meaningful progress, our work is far from over. You can help us improve lives. Here's how:

1 Help Us Restore What Matters

Every hectare we restore is a step toward a healthier planet—and a stronger community. Your donation helps us provide tools, protective gear, transport, and training for our hardworking Ecological Restoration Team.

Support local jobs. Protect biodiversity. Heal the land.



2 Rebuild Nsubeni Crèche—Restore a Child's Future

Nsubeni Crèche, an early childhood development centre, has had to close its doors to over 30 children due to unsafe infrastructure. With the help of Emcakwini Community Trust, land has been secured for a new site. Now, we need your support to rebuild a safe, nurturing space where children can grow, learn and thrive.

3 Help Us Replace Unsafe Pit Toilets

Sizanempi Primary School is still using unsafe, outdated pit toilets—a daily health risk to young learners. Your support can help us build clean, hygienic facilities that restore dignity and safety to the students.



4 Rebuild a Classroom, Rebuild a Future

At Konfoor Combined School, one of the classroom blocks is overcrowded and crumbling. With your support, we can refurbish this space and give students a safe, inspiring place to learn.



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"Thank you for being part of our journey. Whether you give, volunteer, or share our story—your support is planting seeds of change. Let's keep growing together."