



# Envirochamps: Pursuing Independence



As the world grapples with environmental challenges, Envirochamps stand tall, spearheading a movement towards sustainability and self sufficiency.

We were honoured to host a visit from UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa, uMngeni - uThukela Water, Mondi and the local council representative to witness the amazing work of the Envirochamps.

The Ashdown team, in collaboration with a supportive community member has transformed a former dumpsite into a thriving food garden, as a result; generating income for themselves. This has inspired individuals to follow suit, harnessing the spirit of entrepreneurship.

This particular team has also adopted a waterfall which they recently discovered and cleared in their area. They aim to utilize this natural gem as a site for water monitoring and education.



The second team that was visited is based in Imbali. This team is dedicated to restoring a local wetland. The wetland site was also overgrown with invasive alien plants, and additionally used as an illegal dumpsite.



Through the efforts of the envirochamps in collaboration with community members, whom donated different resources, this site was cleared and fenced off.



According to Bab Shezi, the site had not only become a health concern due to the kind of litter that was dumped there, it had also become a crime zone. The perpetrators would reportedly take cover in the overgrown vegetation and await their victims.



It was also reported that, the site had become so unsafe that a deceased child was once found in this previously overgrown site.



This team has also established a community garden at a site adjacent to the wetland they have adopted.



Our goal is to empower envirochamps to become self sufficient, leveraging their skills to create sustainable income streams. We strive to shift the mindset from job dependency to skill-based income generation.

