

Coming together to make a difference

Living Lands, as the implementers for the planting of Spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*), can positively report back on the successful implementation in offsetting the environmental CO<sub>2</sub>, for the flights for the Student Conference on Conservation Science, Cambridge, in the Cambria area of the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve, Eastern Cape, South Africa.



Figure 1: Offsetting carbon one Spekboom at a time trees.

The successful collaboration with partners such as; the Gamtoos Irrigation Board, The Rhodes Restoration Research Group, the Department of Water Affairs, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency and Rhodes University; have made it possible for the lucrative planting of Spekboom in the 'Goedehoop' area in the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve.

The investment of R 12 500.00 (ZAR) has resulted in an area of 1.0 ha being planted with 2 500 Spekboom

More details on the implementation site and restoration methodology may be found in the baseline report compiled by The Rhodes Restoration Group.

In line with the vision that Living Lands and Rhodes Restoration Research Group have, to provide employment to the unemployed and at the same time engage with the land reform programme,

Johanna Swartz has been the dedicated contractor in charge of completing the carbon offset planting for the Student Conference on Conservation Science, Cambridge. Together with her team of four (4), Johanna has had consistent work for the period between March 2010 and June 2011. The development of skills and the dedication of her and her team have made Johanna a very attractive contractor to use for future restoration projects.



Figure 4: Johanna Swartz

Figure 2: Spekboom planting team



Figure 3: Planting in process

The contribution on behalf of the Student Conference for Conservation has been invaluable for the Elemental Equity fund. For more information regarding Elemental Equity please visit:

[www.elementalequity.org](http://www.elementalequity.org).

Photos by Andrew Zylstra