

24 November 2024

Echo Champs Report Updates

Overview

Eight Echo Champs from Stulwane, Emajwetha, Eqeleni, and Ezibomnvini are involved in this initiative.



Introduction

The work of the Echo Champs began in November at Ezibomnvini. Their focus includes gully rehabilitation, alien plant clearing, wetland management, and spring protection. This work will also extend to Stulwane and two new villages in the upcoming season.

To prepare for these activities, we conducted a site walk with Lucky Hlongwane, one of the Echo Champs, to identify areas in Ezibomnvini that require maintenance. This report provides an update on the progress made so far.



The picture above showing Echo champs working on the bottom galley at Ezibomnvini

Progress Update

The team has started with stone line packing at Ezibomnvini. Over five working days within the month, they managed to complete 11 stone lines. Additionally, they planted three lines from the bottom to upward, replanting nutsedge grass on plain land to stabilize the soil.

During monitoring, we observed positive results. Silt and sediment accumulation was evident in four of the packed stone lines, demonstrating the effectiveness of their work. However, we identified areas where the stone lines need extensions at the edges to prevent water from escaping sideways.

Next Steps

For the upcoming month, we plan to:

1. Spend one day working alongside the Echo Champs to assess and address problematic stone lines.
2. Use brush packs to stabilize areas where the gully is at risk of further degradation.
3. Focus on planting in areas where soil accumulation is noticeable, starting from the top and working downward.

Visual Evidence

The following pictures showcase the progress made so far.



The pictures above showing stone line packed and soil catchment on top



The pictures above showing the Paches of grass planted

Management Team Tasks

- **Leader:** Nomfundo Jali (assisted by Lizzy)
- **Timesheet and Recording:** Neliwe Buthelezi
- **Chemical Handling and Application:** Lucky Hlongwane and Lizzy Buthelezi

