

## Impressions from the All-Africa Anthroposophical Training conference in Namibia 2025

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The All-Africa Anthroposophical Training (AAAT), held near Windhoek from 23–30 August 2025, brought together 120 participants from 14 African countries, joined by colleagues from Europe and America. Set within the expansive stillness of the Namibian landscape, the gathering created a powerful space for learning, renewal and connection. The week opened with a moving fire-lighting ceremony: participants gathered around, working rhythmically to coax an ember into life. Through shared breath and movement, warmth rose, thickened, and finally opened into flame. A candle was lit from the living spark, and voices rose in harmony, filling the space with warmth and intention. This image of fire, born of collective effort, set the tone for the entire training.

Each day unfolded through a meaningful rhythm that integrated spiritual deepening, artistic activity, and intellectual engagement. Mornings began with the Act of Consecration of the Human Being followed by the quiet, awakening movement of eurythmy. Participants then stepped outdoors for nature observation, guided by the seven life processes with a particular focus this year on life forces, the plant world, and the activity of thinking. The Namibian landscape offered a remarkable setting for this work, and participants approached plant observation with attentiveness, allowing shape, gesture, and transformation to speak directly before moving into conversation. These observations flowed naturally into text study and group dialogue, deepening the shared enquiry. Each morning also included a short input from Dr Michaela Glöckler, whose clear, inspiring contributions set the orientation for the day.

In the afternoons, the training opened into ten practical working groups that brought together many disciplines: Waldorf early childhood and school education, biodynamic agriculture, anthroposophical medicine, social work, community engagement, crafts and artistic practices. Facilitators from across Africa worked with commitment and sensitivity, ensuring that participants not only received guidance but also experienced genuine belonging and value within their groups. Conversations were lively and

collaborative, with insights from different fields enriching one another. This interweaving of disciplines was one of the distinguishing strengths of the week, demonstrating how anthroposophy is being carried into many spheres of life across the continent.

One of the most significant moments for me was the workshop on African Spirituality and Anthroposophy, led by Janet Manoni of Tanzania and Patrick Ssequja of Uganda. The session brought together streams of African traditional knowledge, African spiritual practice, anthroposophy and insights from various religious backgrounds. The tone of the workshop was tender and respectful, while also expansive and illuminating. Many participants described it as a moment of recognition, opening a doorway into a deeper and more rooted exploration of anthroposophy in an African context while bringing a deeper understanding of Ubuntu on many levels. The session inspired a sense that a long-awaited conversation had begun.

Throughout the week, the atmosphere was warm, open and filled with engaged exchange. Anthroposophy is clearly flourishing across the African continent, often more visibly and vibrantly than in the regions where it first began. In biodynamic farms, Waldorf schools, small enterprises, community projects and village initiatives, anthroposophy is being translated into practical life with creativity, responsibility and cultural sensitivity. This became especially evident during the cultural evening and the marketplace of initiatives, where participants shared music, movement, poetry and displays of regional projects. The event radiated a sense of pride, renewal and possibility. Many remarked that the marketplace revealed the extraordinary richness already alive across the continent—evidence of a movement that is not simply studying anthroposophy but actively transforming it into life. It was an honour to bring IASWECE to the gathering through a small exhibition of the projects supported on the African continent and around the world, as well as the opportunity to describe the global activities of the association on behalf of the small child.

The Kapps Mountain Lodge offered an ideal setting for the training. Surrounded by wide skies, ancient rock formations and quiet expanses, the location supported reflection, dialogue and inner strengthening. Its grounded, welcoming atmosphere allowed participants to settle deeply into the work. Later in the week, visits to the Windhoek Waldorf School and the Krumhuk Biodynamic Farm provided living examples of anthroposophy in practice in Namibia, demonstrating long-term dedication and community-building rooted in local realities.

Evenings offered time for review, further conversation or shared artistic work, and as the week drew to a close, a Future World Café invited participants to reflect on emerging impulses and directions for anthroposophical work across Africa. The closing plenum carried a mood of gratitude and purpose. Participants spoke of feeling renewed, strengthened and connected—not only to the content of the training but to one another and to the broader movement taking shape across the continent.

The 2025 AAAT left a lasting impression of unity, courage and creative potential. Those who attended returned to their home countries carrying new insights, practical tools and a shared resolve for the future. The week's experiences affirmed the conviction that anthroposophy has a powerful role to play in shaping the future of Africa—one that is grounded, culturally alive and carried by the warmth of human connection.

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