

An aerial photograph of a lush tropical forest. In the foreground, a large, multi-story building with a prominent orange-tiled roof and solar panels is nestled within the greenery. The building has a central courtyard area. In the background, a range of rugged mountains rises above the forest, with some peaks partially shrouded in mist or low clouds. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

HUB

Hidden
Universe:
Biodiversity

Annual report 2025

**The Hidden Universe:
Biodiversity (HUB) foundation**

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Dear friends, colleagues, and supporters,
2025 was a special year for the Antonelli Foundation. It marked the moment when a long-held dream came true with the completion and inauguration of the Alto da Figueira field station in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest.



Prof. Alexandre Antonelli and Antonia Ax:son Johnson

Over the past years, this project has taken shape step by step. Construction progressed steadily and, by mid-year, the station was completed ahead of schedule and on budget. What now stands on the site is not only a building, but a carefully designed space for research, collaboration, and learning. It is intended to serve scientists, students, and partners for decades to come.

The inauguration of the field station later in the year was an unforgettable occasion. It brought together those who have supported and shaped this work, and it allowed us to see the station in use for the first time. We were especially grateful to welcome representatives of our funding partners, including Antonia Ax:son Johnson. Her presence alongside several members of her immediate family as well as other supporters, reflected the shared commitment that has made this project possible. It was a moment of both quiet pride over our achievements and renewed responsibility for what is yet to come.

At the same time, we began to see the first signs of what this infrastructure will enable. Research activities continued to develop during the year, and the station started its transition into an active platform for science. Permits were secured, fieldwork was supported, and several studies were launched or continued. The first research groups also arrived on site, marking the beginning of regular use. The scientific work remains at the heart of what we do. Studies carried out during the period included work on fungi, plant communities, trees, and birds, alongside long-term monitoring efforts. The completion of the Lifeplan project added to an expanding body of knowledge that will help inform conservation and restoration efforts in the region.

Beyond the field station, the Foundation also continued to strengthen its partnerships and organisational capacity. We engaged with collaborators and donors across several regions and began to explore new initiatives,

including a large-scale ecological corridor. At the same time, we worked to support the Brazilian organisation in taking on the responsibilities that come with operating a fully functional field station. While it is natural to pause and recognise what has been achieved, we are also aware that this is only a beginning. The real work lies in ensuring that the station is used effectively, that strong collaborations are built, and that the knowledge generated contributes to long-term conservation efforts.

We are deeply grateful for the trust and support that have brought us to this point. It is a privilege to be able to do this work together, and we look forward to the next phase with excitement and energy.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Alexandre Antonelli'. The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Alexandre' written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name 'Antonelli'.

Prof. Alexandre Antonelli
Co-founder and Chair

HUB

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About HUB

The Antonelli Foundation for Biodiversity Research and Conservation Insamlingsstiftelse is dedicated to promoting the research and conservation of biological diversity. Our mission is to support targeted projects in research, conservation, restoration, education, and knowledge dissemination. We envision a world where biodiversity is understood, valued, sustainably used, and protected for the benefit of all life on Earth.

Founded in 2023, the Foundation operates as a non-profit entity and is overseen by the County Administrative Board in Gothenburg (Länsstyrelsen i Göteborg) under Sweden's foundation law. In 2024, the Foundation adopted Hidden Universe: Biodiversity (HUB) as their public-facing identity.

Our core values include excellence, inclusion, sustainability, cooperation, ambition, innovation, quality, responsibility and transparency. The Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan, and non-religious, committed to making a tangible difference in biodiversity conservation through collaborative efforts and scientific research.

Leadership is provided by Alexandre Antonelli who is Chair of a dedicated Board of Trustees. Alex brings extensive experience in biodiversity science and conservation with a focus on understanding the evolution and distribution of life on Earth and developing strategies for its protection and sustainable use.

The Foundation works in close partnership with its Brazilian counterpart, the Fundação Antonelli para a Pesquisa e Conservação da Biodiversidade, which is an independent legal entity registered in Brazil.



Field notes: Highlights from Brazil in 2025

Construction of the field station reached its final milestone by July 2025, with the station essentially completed five months ahead of schedule. The fully furnished and equipped facility is designed to support long-term research and collaboration in a demanding field environment. Its official inauguration in November brought together donors, partners, and collaborators, including members of the Ax:son Johnson family whose unwavering financial support made it all possible. Discussions at the launch event touched on future priorities, including early plans for a large ecological corridor and additional research infrastructure such as a tree tower and canopy walk.

Following the departure of Thomas Berg and Karine Bresolin, whose long-lasting efforts as field station manager and research coordinator were instrumental in bringing the station from construction to operation, Yan Gabriel Ramos joined as the new field station manager in late November. His initial focus has been on team structures, financial reporting, and identifying sustainable financing models for the station's long-term future. The station quickly started becoming alive with researchers, students, park rangers, and

institutional partners arriving from universities and organisations across Brazil, Europe, and beyond.

Scientific activity remained central throughout the year. Research covered fungal diversity, including newly identified species, epiphytic plant communities, tree inventories, palm species responses to climate change, bird surveys, and butterfly studies. Work also assessed invasive plant species and the impact of domestic dogs on local wildlife. The Lifeplan project was completed, contributing to long-term global biodiversity datasets. By January 2026, the station had already welcomed its first research groups, with 14 researchers on site.

Looking ahead, increasing occupancy and building formal university partnerships remain priorities, as utilisation levels are not yet sufficient to cover a significant share of operational costs. Overall, 2025 marked a successful transition from construction to operation, laying the foundations for a sustained programme of biodiversity research and conservation in one of the world's most important and threatened ecosystems.



Home base: Highlights from Sweden in 2025

Work in Sweden during 2025 focused on building partnerships, visibility, and organisational capacity to support the Foundation's activities in Brazil.

We made significant progress in strengthening HUB's institutional foundations. This included the development of the HUB logo and branding, a London HUB pre-launch event, and the launch of our new website and LinkedIn channel, all of which mark important steps in establishing HUB as a clear and recognizable platform. In parallel, we initiated the development of an institutional strategy to guide HUB's long-term growth and impact.

International engagement remained a key focus. Alex represented HUB at the World Economic Forum in Davos, and visits were carried out with donors and partners in Germany, Brazil, the US and of course in Sweden. Our visibility also expanded meaningfully.

A new collaboration with Hexagon/Greencubes advanced through the development of an online sponsorship programme for Alto da Figueira. We also established a tax-effective giving mechanism in the United States.

We were grateful for expanding our group of funders with Regen Trust supporting a preparatory study for the Regenera Mata Atlantica project. In addition, HUB co-organised a session at the first Swedish Biodiversity Symposium, further strengthening our presence in Sweden.

Communications and storytelling were another highlight. Mattias Klum's visits to Alto da Figueira generated some wonderful images which we plan to share in 2026, and the SVT program Alex and the field station was filmed and aired alongside segments on Swedish Radio.



Financial overview



2025 Financial overview

The Foundation completed its second full year of operations in 2025. Total income amounted to SEK 5,360,000, representing donations received. During the year, the Foundation refined its approach to recognizing grant income, resulting in a one-off adjustment of SEK 2,225,000 to better align the recognition of income with the timing of related grant expenditure.

The Foundation awarded SEK 5,680,000 in grants, primarily supporting the continued development of the biodiversity research center in Brazil. Total expenditure, including grant payments, personnel and operating costs, amounted to SEK 7,585,000.

At year-end, the Foundation's equity amounted to SEK 163,000. Cash and bank balances totaled SEK 3,327,000, of which SEK 3,008,000 related to donor-restricted funds earmarked for activities in future years.

The financial statements were audited in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and Swedish auditing standards. The auditors concluded that the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Foundation's financial position.





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Contact information

For general inquiries or to learn more about our work,
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You can find more information about the Antonelli
Foundation at: www.hu-b.org

To learn more about our flagship initiative in Brazil,
visit the Projeto ARAÇÁ at: www.projeto-araca.org

For field updates and insights, follow Projeto ARAÇÁ
on Instagram: [@araca.project](https://www.instagram.com/araca.project)

We welcome your interest and look forward to future
collaborations.

The Hidden Universe: Biodiversity (HUB) foundation
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HUB is the brand name for the Antonelli Foundation for Biodiversity Research and Conservation Insamlingsstiftelse,
registered in Sweden (Org. nr. 802482-2838)