

# MONDI ZIMELE CASE STUDY



## Siyathokoza Community Trust & Ikhasi (Pty) Ltd

### Community forestry business on the way up

A community-owned forestry business, supported by the Mondzi Zimele team and Mondzi foresters, is doing all the silviculture work on a 1 500 ha forestry estate, creating jobs and empowering the community in the process.

The post land claim settlement agreement between Mondzi and the Siyathokoza Community Trust (SCT), signed in 2008, was one of the first such agreements to be signed by any forestry company in South Africa. It was a pioneering agreement in terms of which Mondzi was to provide business opportunities to the Trust and members of the community.

Mondzi Zimele, Mondzi's enterprise development arm, assisted the Trustees to prioritise their needs and develop a vision and business plan. This led to the establishment of Ikhasi (Pty) Ltd, a forestry contracting business wholly owned by the SCT.

A phased approach was adopted to enable the Ikhasi team to start with maintenance work in unplanted conservation areas, and to take on additional responsibilities as they gained in confidence and experience.

Mondzi Zimele provided management and business development training for the Trustees and Ikhasi operations manager, soft loans for equipment and assigned an experienced business mentor to work closely with the operations manager.

The Ikhasi team's progress went according to plan and by 2012 they were performing all silviculture operations on the estate, with a workforce of 45 people.

Mondzi's manager responsible for ensuring that the SCT farm is operated to Mondzi's high standards and retains its FSC certification, said that Ikhasi matches up to the established contractors in all aspects of their work.

Ikhasi's operations manager reports that his confidence in the management and operational aspects of the business has grown enormously, and that the steady work, discipline and training has transformed the lives of employees.

#### Contact details:

**Hilton Office**  
Tel: 033 329 5506  
Fax: 033 329 5507

**Richards Bay Office**  
Tel: 035 902 2624  
Fax: 035 902 2136

**Piet Retief Office**  
Tel: 017 824 8054  
Fax: 086 743 9999

**Email:** [info@mondizimele.co.za](mailto:info@mondizimele.co.za)  
**Website:** [www.mondizimele.co.za](http://www.mondizimele.co.za)

