

Ikhasi Forestry



**“I took on the responsibility of running the company, and it’s been quite a journey”
– Dumisani Hlongwa**

Ikhasi (Pty) Ltd is a community-owned forestry business handling all the silviculture work on a 1 500 ha forestry estate in the Kranskop area, creating jobs and empowering their own community in the process.

The business has been mentored and supported by the Mondi Zimele team and Mondi foresters since it was established in 2008.

The forestry estate is owned by the Siyathokoza Community Trust (SCT), which acquired the land when it was purchased from Mondi by the government in terms of the land restitution programme.

The Trustees opted to lease the land to Mondi, who would continue to manage the forestry operations. During this period, Mondi would provide business opportunities to the community so that they could engage meaningfully in the forestry business and develop the skills to one day conduct forestry operations on their own.

SCT established Ikhasi, a forestry contracting business, to work in conjunction with Mondi during the transition period. The Ikhasi workforce has grown from 12 to 46 people and the business has received a number of safety awards.



Vision and business plan

Mondi Zimele engaged with the SCT right from the start to help them prioritise their needs, develop a vision and a business plan, provide mentoring and access training for key staff.

Mondi Zimele accessed funds for training on behalf of Ikhasi, and provided bridging finance and soft loans to enable the business to purchase equipment.

MZ Business Development Manager Doni Sithole reports that the growth and development of the business is on track.



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