

# Sibuyile Investments



**“The people in my team are self-motivated and are driving this business forward”  
– Jabulani Shange**

Sibuyile Investments (Pty) Ltd is a silviculture contracting business owned by the Isigedlane Community Trust. The Trust owns 5 500 ha of land near Kranskop in the KZN midlands, including 4 500 ha of forestry.

The farm was formerly owned by Mondi and was sold to Government on behalf of the community in 2011 in terms of a land claim settlement. The farm was subsequently leased back to Mondi. Mondi assisted the community to establish their own business to perform the forestry operations on the farm as a means of transferring forestry know-how and skills.

Sibuyile was formed in 2014 for the purpose of running the silviculture operations. Mondi Zimele provided crucial loan funding to set up the business and commence operations, and performs an important mentorship role.

Jabulani Shange, Operations Manager of Sibuyile, says that the training he and his staff have received through MZ has played a major role in their success. He is an experienced forester who worked for Mondi for 23 years, and is relishing the task of working on the farm that has been restored to his community.

Sibuyile has a staff of 190 people and handles all silviculture activities including land preparation, planting, maintenance, fire prevention and conservation.



## Modernising forestry

In 2017 Jabulani joined a group of Mondi contractors on a benchmarking visit to Brazil to see world-class, modernised forestry operating practices and equipment in action.

Jabulani says the biggest benefits of modernising have been the improved health and safety of the field workers and boosted productivity.

The future is bright for Sibuyile Investments. The company plans to take over the harvesting operation, which will require significant new investment in harvesting equipment and a whole new skills set.



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