



# INDiMA

AUTUMN EDITION  
MAY 2014

## LIMA CELEBRATES ITS 25th BIRTHDAY BONDING AS A FAMILY

To begin the 25th birthday celebrations, Lima staff members gathered from around the country for a weekend of bonding and reminiscence, down the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal, very close in proximity to where the organisation first began.

The weekend provided the perfect opportunity for staff to meet each other for the first time due to various projects being dispersed across a number of provinces. Once everyone had introduced themselves, it was evident that Lima is comprised of very diverse individuals, from different backgrounds and cultures, but each wanting to contribute towards a better tomorrow.

Duncan Stewart, managing director and founder of Lima, emphasised how important it was for everyone to get together to strengthen the family spirit that Lima's soul possesses. "Like most 25 years olds, Lima is still young, fit & willing...it is a humbling experience to reflect on the large number of people who made the last 25 years possible," added Duncan.

An evening of excellence was hosted during the weekend where various Lima staff members had the opportunity to toast on Lima's success. The keynote speaker was Nqe Dlamini, Lima board director, who described how Lima had overcome many challenges in the NGO sector to get to the level it is at today.

"The Lima brand has become synonymous with innovation and success in the agri-business community. We owe it to every contributor. To all the employees, our management team and my fellow board members, and not forgetting former members, well done. You have been instrumental in preparing this launch pad," said Nqe.

Everybody has had an important role to play in this journey towards a more just society for the rural communities Lima works with. Lima looks forward to the next 25 years of rural development, working together as a family to achieve greater works.



# MSUNDUZI FORESTRY STRATEGY

## EXPANDING FORESTRY INITIATIVES IN MSUNDUZI

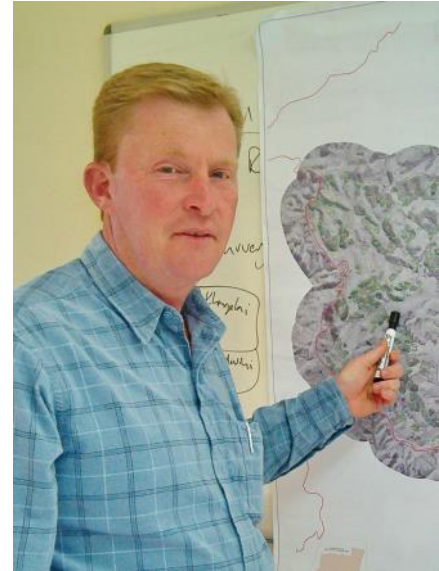
Lima has been working closely with and funded by the Msunduzi Local Municipality (MLM) and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT) to develop forestry initiatives and support co-operatives within the Msunduzi area in KwaZulu-Natal.

Rory Mack, Forestry Specialist, has been revising the forestry strategy for the MLM, and has indicated that there are many potential growth opportunities that can be looked at to enhance the current investments in the forestry sector.

The development of plantation forestry in South Africa especially KwaZulu-Natal was initially a government funded strategy to develop the wood industry sector and to encourage economic development. The emphasis was in areas that were designated formal farms or municipal land based on the previous policy of separate development. Since the advent of democracy in 1994 there has been a move to address the imbalances of the past and to facilitate development largely in the rural areas where forestry can be practiced along with other land based production crops.

Plantation production areas are an important component of the value chain and even more so in the case of the Msunduzi LM as it leases out municipal land with plantations to third parties. Besides the jobs generation aspect, it must be noted that timber is a critical resource to rural based communities as an affordable energy source. The access to firewood resources is essential for households to exist in rural areas and the existence of wattle and/or eucalyptus resources can play a significant role in terms of protecting the indigenous natural forest resources.

Lima has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Thathakonke Agricultural Cooperative, who have a 25 year lease with the Msunduzi LM on 900 hectares of plantation land in Snathing. Lima will be ensuring that the refurbishment of the Snathing plantation is properly managed and that the restoration follows the revised strategy.



**ABOVE: Rory Mack, Forestry consultant, provides valuable technical support and advice to many forestry co-operatives within the Msunduzi Municipality.**



# REHABILITATING THE UMZIMVUBU WATER CATCHMENT



Lima was contracted in 2012 by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to undertake a catchment restoration project within the upper reaches of the Umzimvubu River (Eastern Cape), as part of the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Land Users Incentives Programme.

An intact or restored river catchment has immense value in its ability to deliver services that are important to society, such as:

- *Improved water quality*: thereby decreasing water treatment costs and decreasing the risk of waterborne diseases and related health and other social costs
- *Flood attenuation*: reducing risk of damage to water reticulation and treatment infrastructure
- *Increased winter baseflow*: contributing to assurance of supply while enhancing ability of dams to provide ecological releases leading to improved dilution capacity & water quality during the dry season
- *Reduced sediment loads*: in both the river channel and dams, helping to maintain water quality, increase the economic lifespan of reticulation infrastructure and maintain storage capacity

Where ecological infrastructure (i.e. wetlands, rangelands, rivers) is restored and well managed, it is able to deliver services in addition to the above - such as improved agricultural productivity, improved landscape integrity securing cultural benefits, reduced flood damage to human settlement, increased ecosystem resilience and sustained productivity, and availability of natural resources.

Lima, in consortium with the Institute of Natural resources (INR), are implementing alien plant clearing, grazing management strategies and other value-adding enterprises at two sites within the Umzimvubu Catchment to improve the ecological infrastructure and enhance associated benefits. One hundred and forty-eight workers have been employed from 16 villages in the area, who perform Clearing and Herder-Ranger responsibilities. The project is in its second year of a three year funding cycle.



**LEFT:** Herder-Ranger build wattle screens out of cleared wattle biomass. **MIDDLE:** Camp closed to grazing for one growing season, pockets of aliens cleared, springs are protected. **RIGHT:** Site visit to Okhombe to learn donga reclamation skills.

**THIS PROJECT IS A PROUD PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:**



Environmental Affairs  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Water Affairs



# MAKHATHINI COTTON PROJECT

## COTTON GIN TO ASSIST IN SUSTAINING LIVLIHOODS

The Makhathini Cotton Project is a project that looks at sustainably running and managing the Makhathini cotton gin and associated irrigation infrastructure in Jozini, KwaZulu-Natal. This project came about when the Makhathini Cotton (Pty) Ltd and Makhathini Cotton Farming (Pty) Ltd were placed under provisional judicial management and later under liquidation by the Land bank in 2007. The assets are currently owned by the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) when they were bought from the liquidator in 2010. Funding to re-commission the gin has also been provided by government and a Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the transfer of the assets from government to the farmers.



Ubongwa Cotton Farmers Association has become the de facto managers of the operations of the gin. Ubongwa is an association representing all of the cotton growers on the Makhathini Flats in Jozini. The sustainability of the cotton gin is therefore very important for their long term livelihoods.

Lima have been working with Ubongwa to assist them in achieving their objectives to sustainably run and manage their gin. This support has been through the provision of an agricultural trainer supported by some technical expertise. This support has enabled Ubongwa to clearly plan their short, medium and long term activities and vision for the gin and its members.



**LEFT:** Julia Gumede is one of the farmers supported through this project. Julia owns a 5ha field of cotton and has worked in the cotton industry for the last 12 years. The money she earns contributes towards feeding her family and sending her children to school. Julia has hired other ladies in her community to work on her large plot of land, assisting them with an income.

**RIGHT:** Jabenkosi Gumede is one of the youngest farmers (23) but owns a 10ha cotton field. He has been able to pay for his tuition to further his studies on cotton. He has also hired staff and has been able to purchase a tractor as a business asset.

## ENSURING THE LONG TERM SUCCESS OF THE COTTON GIN

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC), through a grant provided by the Department of Rural Development has recently taken the lead in finding a sustainable solution to the operation of the cotton gin. This intervention is initially for one year and has provided financial support and training to the cotton gin through a grant to Ubongwa. This five year plan, explains the support that is needed to sustain the cotton ginning operation beyond this initial grant period.

Having a sound cotton supply strategy is the one thing that underpins the sustainability of any cotton gin. As such Ubongwa, with the support of Lima and the ARC have developed a number of strategies to ensure that the Makhathini cotton gin receives a sustainable supply of seed cotton in the medium to long term. The ARC is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation to support and develop the agricultural sector. Together with Lima and Ubongwa, they have labelled the new strategy as “The New Cotton Paradigm for the Makhathini Flats.”

The purpose of this five year plan is to provide some detail regarding this new paradigm and to indicate the financial support that is needed by Ubongwa over the next four years to support their cotton supply strategy and to provide extension and training internally and to the farmers and ensure that the business survives.

The Ubongwa cotton gin is an essential element in the agricultural framework of the Makhathini flats. In order for the gin to be sustainable two interventions are needed. The first is a concerted effort by all stakeholders to ensure that the cotton required to run the gin is planted and procured. The second is a grant component of the ginning operations to allow the gin to meet its cost obligations. This grant should be at least R5 500 000 over the next three years for the running cost of the gin.



**ABOVE:** Sabelo Nxumalo, has been planting cotton, sugar cane, sweet potato as well as cabbage since 1978. Lima in partnership with ARC has assisted Sabelo in retrieving seeds, getting the small business holder loan as well as linking him with markets to sell his crops. Sabelo was also flown to Pretoria to get training on how to manage his 20ha of land. He has also paid for five of his children to get tertiary education via the income he earns.

## THE MAKHATHINI PROJECT IS A PROUD PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:



# JABULANI AGRI-VILLAGE PROJECT

## MONDI PROMOTES ECONOMIC FREEDOM IN MPUMALANGA



Mondi, the international packaging and paper group, has partnered with Lima who is providing technical support on the Mkhondo Municipality Development Project (MMDP) which is located under the Gert Sibande District Municipality in Mpumalanga. The MMDP is home to 65 rural settlements on Mondi landholdings, 62 being in the Mkhondo Municipality in Piet Retief.

The project started as a response to the low employment rate in this area, with most inhabitants having little or no access to basic services (94% of households did not have electricity and 85% had no access to water on-site).

The MMDP is essentially an integrated settlement development programme, driven by the principle that all people have the right to basic needs and a right to choose where they live. With this in mind, the MMDP model provides people with three choices: continue their pursuit of rural livelihoods in planned and serviced agri-villages; seek urban livelihoods in newly-serviced urban residential developments; or remain where they are.

Assessments were undertaken to determine the suitability of the 65 settlements on Mondi land for the growth and development into agri-villages. Jabulani was identified as appropriate for the pilot agri-village and planning began in 2009.



The basic development concept allowed for ownership of residences with adjoining plots for food production. Three basic housing types were offered, and Mondi provided the choice of either a kitchen structure or better finishes to the house. Construction of the first 35 houses began in April 2011 and all have been completed.

During 2012, a further 87 households from five villages on Mondi land opted for settling at Jabulani. The second phase of housing planning and construction which began in the first quarter of 2013, and Jabulani will be used as a model for a second generation of agri-villages, namely Watersmeet, Riverside and Athalia.

A multi-purpose community centre was designed and a grant of R 2.4 million secured for the construction of the first building. Building began in 2013 and is now completed. A school was also built in the village, the Department of Education put electricity and water in the school for the school to run efficiently and Lima facilitated all of this.



Lima has supervised the completion of all the projects that are going on in the Jabulani Agri village according to agreements between all stakeholders involved i.e. Dept. of Agriculture, Mondi, Mpumalanga provisional government. Lima additionally has made sure that the correct beneficiaries received their houses after the Department of Human Settlements had identified them. The people at Jabulani Agri Village have been given a fair opportunity to fight against poverty, the future for them is now looking brighter than they could have ever expected.

In a few months Jabulani Agri Village is also looking forward to having its own, park, camping site and Lodge which will bring a lot of tourist attraction for the village. Lima with the help of Mondi have made Jabulani Agri Village what it is today with a very promising future for happiness and joy.



**ABOVE:** The picture above demonstrates how poor households were selected to receive newly built homes, funded by Mondi. The basic development concept allows beneficiaries to have ownership of their new homes with adjoining plots for food production. Three basic housing types were offered, and Mondi provided the choice of either a kitchen structure or better finishes to the house.



# FRIENDS OF UKZN AGRICULTURE



UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL™  
INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

Every year, Friends of UKZN Agriculture hosts a Networking Function on the first Friday of the Royal Show in Pietermaritzburg to create an opportunity for Alumni and the Friends of the Association to meet and hear what the Association has been up to over the past year. It also affords guests the opportunity to meet with academics and staff from the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and see what they're up to in their research and teaching effort. Various agricultural companies and organisations from across the province attend the annual Networking Function each year, making it the perfect place to compare notes on work happening in the agricultural industries in KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa. UKZN welcomes those who have never attended this event and have an interest in agriculture or reconnecting with peers or supporting the university to please join this networking event. For more information please see details in the poster below and contact Christine on [cuenod@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:cuenod@ukzn.ac.za) if you would like to attend.



Dear Friends of UKZN Agriculture,

You are invited to attend our

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Friends of UKZN Agric Networking Function

**DATE:**

Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014

**TIME:**

12:00pm - 3:00pm

**VENUE:**

The Members Dining Room Hall, The Royal  
Agricultural Society, Pietermaritzburg

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Justin Chadwick

*CEO of the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa  
and Alumnus of the University*

**COST:** R50.00 gate entry fee

*Don't miss this opportunity to meet Friends, Alumni and Staff  
of the UKZN School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental  
Sciences and see what Friends of UKZN Agriculture has  
achieved in the last year.*

**Finger snacks to be served and cash bar will be available**

**RSVP by 9th May 2014 to Christine on**  
[cuenod@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:cuenod@ukzn.ac.za) / 033 260 6557

## 91 HOMES COMPLETED IN THORNVILLE



Lima has assisted to complete 91 houses out of 120 units for the Zwelethu Land Reform Project funded by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements. The project which is located in the agricultural village of Thornville, within the Richmond Local Municipality, is now being supervised by Lima's new engineering and construction manager, Grant Pellow-Jarmin. All builders and contractors that have been working on the project are local or from the surrounding areas of Thornville, with many being beneficiaries having had the opportunity to help build their own homes and for others in their community. A few skilled artisans were also brought in from within the district to train and mentor the local artisans. The last 29 houses will soon reach completion, and with it, a sense of pride from the community builders.

## IRRIGATION SCHEMES TO HYDRATE DRY FARMS

Golder Associates Africa in association with Jeffares & Green and Lima Rural Development Foundation have been appointed by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) to undertake an assessment, develop business plans and facilitate the implementation of four prioritised irrigation schemes in KwaZulu-Natal.



The DRDLR in partnership with the Department of Agriculture has prioritised four communal agricultural schemes in KwaZulu-Natal which require establishment, revitalising and upgrading. The four schemes which are Tugela Ferry, Bululwane, Ndumo 'B' and Nsuze, is approximately 1946 hectares in extent and has the potential to produce a variety of cash crops.

This is an opportunity to make a positive impact on the surrounding communities in terms of possible employment and increasing household incomes. Pre-planning surveys were conducted on each irrigation scheme. Tugela Ferry and Nsuze irrigation schemes were completed in January this year and Bululwane and Ndumo B where completed in February this year. A number of challenges were identified and have been categorised into production, marketing, training, land tenure and infrastructure issues. This project is still in its planning stage, and the various issues that have been raised via the surveys will now be addressed before implementation.

### THIS PROJECT IS A PROUD PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LIMA AND:



# CHRISTINE AND NTOBISILE MAKING JOZINI PROUD

Christine Gumbi and Ntobisile Bhuthelezi are one of the many identified farmers in Jozini that have been provided with revolving credit funds through the Farmer Support Programme funded by the DBSA Jobs Fund, in order for them to start their small businesses in Agriculture.

These ladies are part of the 86 famers being given technical support in Jozini by Lima. In the next quarter, Lima will be focusing more on providing farmers with training on farm business management as well as record keeping, recruiting and registering farmers on the database and moving them to job equivalent positions. Christine and Ntobisile have formed their own business buying and selling fertilisers to the local market with the money used from the revolving credit fund, which is then used to sustain their large farm upon which cabbages, bananas and amadumbes are being cultivated to generate a regular income and maintain food security for their families.



**TOP LEFT:** Christine (left) and Ntobisile (right) from the DBSA Jobs Fund Farmer Support Programme in Jozini. **BOTTOM LEFT:** These are the bags of fertilisers that the ladies buy and sell to the local market in order to generate an income to sustain their farm operations.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Christine proudly displays the cabbages, bananas and amadumbes that will be sold to the local market.



## CONTACT LIMA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### Head Office Contact Details

Tel: (033) 342 9043

Fax: (033) 394 2691

Website: [www.lima.org.za](http://www.lima.org.za)

### Managing Director

Duncan Stewart

Email: [duncan@lima.org.za](mailto:duncan@lima.org.za)

Phone: (033) 342 9043

### Contact the Marketing Specialists

Sandra Badenhorst

Email: [sandrab@lima.org.za](mailto:sandrab@lima.org.za)

Phone: (033) 342 9043

Melba Gordon

Email: [melba@lima.org.za](mailto:melba@lima.org.za)

Phone: (033) 342 9043

Click on the links below and join us on our social networking sites:

