



AFRICA FOUNDATION

empowering communities • enabling conservation

## IAIA Symposium Technical Visit 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014, Skukuza

Africa Foundation is a nonprofit organization that has been active for more than twenty years. Its mandate is to facilitate community-driven social development based on the needs identified by communities living close to wildlife areas and the corresponding opportunities that may exist to link them to the ecotourism economy.

As a result, Africa Foundation's four pillars of education, health, environment, and income generation have been shaped by deep consultation and participatory engagement with the local communities and driven by local champions, with the ultimate objective of creating sustainable livelihoods in a holistic way.

The local leadership plays an integral role in identifying the development priorities of the community and encouraging contribution from members. Project champions also support monitoring of their projects according to indicators determined at the outset of the project in order to help shape future strategy.



### Working towards Sustainable Livelihoods

**Three projects have been identified as inspiring and relevant learning journeys for delegates to visit and engage with during the IAIA special symposium. More information about each project can be found on the following pages.**

Since Africa Foundation operates in historically disadvantaged regions of the country where infrastructure backlogs are rampant, a great deal of the organization's work focuses on providing basic services such as water, sanitation, food security, infrastructural improvements to schools such as additional classrooms, libraries and kitchens and additional facilities for clinics.

Local procurement and skills development is an integral part of contributing to the local economy of the region and building capacity for future projects and we encourage you to explore the extensive achievements that have been accomplished over the years across several villages in the area.

Africa Foundation operates on a project by project basis, ensuring that there are clear boundaries of contribution, fundraising targets and expected outcomes for each project.

To learn more about how you can meaningfully contribute to the work being done on the ground, active projects that have specific needs are available on the website at:

[www.africafoundation.org.za](http://www.africafoundation.org.za)

## Madilika Craft Centre

Madilika means 'falling walls' and represents the challenges that twelve initial crafters have overcome since 2005 to get to where they are today.

Located at the Newington Gate entrance to Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve, the artists operate as a collective at their new craft centre built by Africa Foundation in May 2012. Prior to this they struggled separately to make ends meet from the roadside, with no formal access to the lucrative ecotourism market in the area.

Through Africa Foundation's partnership with AndBeyond – an operator of luxury safari accommodation in the area, and the collective properties within the Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve, the cooperative has been given direct market access to the lodges in the area with the opportunity to supply the various curio shops.

The cooperative has since grown to 16 members from the neighbouring villages of Justicia and Lillydale, where bulk orders for artefacts and beads have enabled them to connect the centre to the electricity grid and provide for their children's education needs. Product development training has also been provided and the members are currently exploring the manufacture of clay beads from recycled glass obtained from the ecotourism waste stream.

*"Traditional craft such as beadwork and needlework is an inherent skill of the Shangaan people that allows for cultural exchange between tourists and local communities and provide an income for crafters."*



## Zitha Farm

Zitha Farm is small holding of 4 hectares owned by Fear Zitha in the Somerset community. As the only female farmer in the region, Fear was selected for the Community Business Linkage Programme (CPLP) which seeks to commercialise subsistence farmers through skills development and infrastructure support.

With the help of Africa Foundation, Zitha Farm has received irrigation equipment, training and mentorship from agricultural experts and a revolving micro loan to afford seasonal inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.

Funded by the Ford Foundation and implemented with the help of enterprise experts Technoserv, the CBLP has so far empowered six farmers across South Africa to tap into the agricultural value chain and supply local markets.

Fear Zitha's farm is supplying produce to the local market enabling individual vendors to sell the produce on and supply a feeding scheme programme for schools.

The farm is now able to sustain 8 full time jobs and recently purchased a vehicle to assist with distribution.

*"The programme has inspired the community to see farming as an enterprise rather than just a means of survival. "*

## Lillydale Home-based Care Centre Mpumalanga, South Africa

Poverty and unemployment are rife in the village of Lillydale where 12 000 people struggle to make a living every day. With few economic opportunities outside of the hospitality and tourism industry offered at nearby Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve, more than 60% of the village remains unemployed.

But despite these harrowing statistics, there is a strong sense of community in this village making sure the most vulnerable do not go uncared for.

From 2004, a group of women volunteers came together to support the needs of the frail and the sick in their community. They appealed to the local clinic for training on how to meet the needs of those unable to travel to the clinic for their medication and for six years, operated out of a borrowed office adjacent to the clinic.

The social burden of this community is not restricted to the elderly. There is a growing number of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs) who outside of the single meal provided at school, have no caregiver when the home bell rings.

**In 2007, the national figure for children affected by HIV / Aids was recorded as 1.5 million orphans with this number projected to rise to 5 million by 2015.**

Home-based care is increasingly being viewed as a vital service in communities where few basic facilities for the vulnerable are absent. In 2011, volunteers who provide this service were acknowledged for the first time by the government's Social Services Department with a living stipend, in recognition of their role in primary healthcare.

In 2008 back at their old site, the group received training to establish a bakery with the intention of being able to produce bread for the feeding scheme and excess to generate income for the running of the centre. Without access to water, this valuable enterprise collapsed.



*"This centre is a place of refuge for the children who would have nowhere else to go after school."*

In 2010, when the group of volunteers had outgrown their space, Africa Foundation helped them secure communal land and built them an entirely new facility to cater for their diverse needs.

The building now houses a large kitchen, dining hall, offices and private consulting rooms where people can come for counseling in privacy. With the stigma of illness still rife in rural areas, this move has encouraged larger numbers of people to access the service, resulting in higher numbers of being tested and treated.

While the new plot has allowed them to grow an impressive stand of maize and other important vegetables to balance the nutritional needs of the children and elderly, access to water remained an ongoing challenge.

In 2011, Lillydale HBC centre was prioritized by Africa Foundation when funding became available for drilling. Now with a newly installed borehole on their property, the centre has doubled the number of children it is able to care for to 360. It is unlikely that the need for such a service will diminish any time soon and with water the community now stands a chance at strengthening its food security and nutrition.

**Produced by: Kristina Gubic**  
**[africanscribe@gmail.com](mailto:africanscribe@gmail.com)**