

The Seeland Development Trust



“To empower and to create wealth as well as making a real meaningful impact and difference in the lives of the Seeland beneficiaries utilizing the land to unlock opportunities.”

Background History and Introduction

Seeland Development Trust

Laingville community in St. Helena Bay was granted a Farm of 926 hectares through the Land Reform Programme by the Department of Land Affairs. The official hand-over took place in 2006-23rd of September. The beneficiaries consist of 205 members of the St.Helena Bay community.

The Laingville community, made of persons from Afrikaans, Coloured and Xhosa speaking African background and origin, was recently the focus on national broadcast and print media due to flare up of local conflict, presented as racial incidents. The Applicants, registered, as beneficiaries of Seeland Development Trust and are representative of both racial groups in the local community. The harmonious working relations between the applicants in Seeland Development Trust, is considered as a public demonstration that the two racial groups in the community can work together, overcome local differences and contribute towards local community healing and reconciliation.

Thus, the success of Seeland Development Trust as a LRAD project of the Department of Land Affairs will contribute not only towards black commercial farmer development and land ownership in the area but also towards community building and healing.

The group is made up of 210 applicants (from 76 households). The applicants have employment experience of different aspects of small scale- farming activities. All applicants come from families with a history of activities involving subsistence farming, involving sheep, cattle (beef & milk), vegetable production and poultry. The majority of the applicants worked most of their lives in the agricultural sector before settling in the Laingville area. Some have (at their homes) subsistence vegetables gardens to supplement household income.

Location:

The farm Lang lip is located in St.Helena Bay about 4,5km from the Laingville, Village where the majority of the beneficiaries resides.

St.Helena Bay is part of the Greater Saldanha Bay Municipal area about 160km's North West of Cape Town.



“To work in an integrated way to achieve socio – economic empowerment in the broader communities.”

Masibambane Community Project was established in the year 2000 (February), this organization was to be a community vehicle in addressing the High HIV/AIDS infection within the St. Helena Bay. Though the organization was established in 2001 it was officially registered with the Department of Social Development in 2003.

We are a non-profit organization with its own constitution, relevant structures, an executive management committee and a day to day management team who are responsible to execute the objectives and activities of the organization. A board with members elected through a democratic process oversee that all functions operates as per policies and guidelines of our constitution.

Wind Farm

Highlights

- Ø Obtaining Farm: Department Rural Development Land Reform (2006)
- Ø Support base extension officer Department of Agriculture WC Province
- Ø COP 17 2011- Run and Cycle Against Climate Change in West Coast and from Port –Elizabeth to Durban- Inpartnership with AREA Ansgar Keine- Nathalie Bertams Proffesional Photographer and Speaker- Electrawinds and The Belgium Embassy. Huge Success

Challenges

- Ø Airforce base for the Wind Farm(Great Support from Airforce Base)
- Ø Just –Energy (Significant Partner and awesome support base)
- Ø Electrawinds : Pulling out of South Africa(Huge Blow)
- Ø **New Partners:** Innowind (In final stage of deal) for 4th round

Projects and Activities

Ø Wind Farm – Core Project

Ø Agricultural Activities

Ø Co - Operatives





The Seeland Development Trust Community Wind Farm Project

The Trust's goal is to support social and economic development amongst the broader community of the Laingville township utilizing the land to unlock local development opportunities. The Trust responds to socio-economic conditions such as unemployment, poverty, skills shortage and Black Economic Empowerment.

Just Energy is focussed on working with low income communities to establish socially responsible clean energy enterprises, with the aim that these enterprises will generate social and economic benefits for the local community. Just Energy is assisting the Seeland Development Trust in the planning and development of their community wind farm.

Benefits of Purchasing Power from this Wind Farm Project

Long term, secure supply of electricity, with the opportunity to increase the amount of power purchased when the project size increases

Prices of energy from the wind farm will be CPI index linked. Within a few years the cost of energy from the wind farm will be at parity with grid prices, and will represent significant long term energy cost savings

More predictable than grid prices leading to the opportunity for greater certainty in business planning

Reductions in **CO2 emissions** and environmental degradation

Presentation of a very **positive image** to the public and to key local and national political constituencies



Contact Details

Johan Lewin

Farm Langklip

St. Helena Bay

7390

(079) 805 7981

(022) 736 1012

Email: seeland.development@yahoo.com

Web: <http://seelanddevelopmenttrust.com>

<http://masibambanecommunityprojects.wozaonline.co.za>