



## **GWEBINDLALA!**

**a partnership between Government and Civil Society to  
Create Jobs, Promote Shared Growth and Build Social  
Capital for Development**

### **SOLID WASTE PROGRAMME**

**turning waste into value**

- Generating new approaches to managing solid waste in rural areas..
- Supporting communities to improve solid waste management techniques, including training and skills development.
- Mobilising poor households to be self sustaining through improved productivity.
- Strengthening policy and improve implementation guidelines on the use of household solid waste.
- Increasing job creation and rural local economic development.
- Appropriate technology choices to contribute to long term sustainable livelihoods.



**Dislodging of a VIP**

#### **Generating new approaches to managing solid waste in rural areas**

While solid waste management has received considerable attention in the urban areas of South Africa this is a largely neglected field in rural areas with the result that many rural settlements experience high levels of litter and unplanned and environmentally unacceptable dumping of waste. New solutions are needed and these must be based on community based approaches if they are to be sustainable in rural areas. These solutions need to include improved 'in site' management of waste, collection arrangements (where needed) and the land filling or other land disposal methods. Further the waste stream from 'on site' sanitation systems (VIPs and the like) need to be considered.

The approach of the Mvula Trust *Gwebindlala!* Programme is to commence with research into suitable management arrangements and review current policies. This needs to be followed by implementation through forming partnerships with municipalities and communities to support the application of improved arrangements and hence upgrade the environmental conditions in rural settlements.

#### **Supporting communities to improve solid waste management techniques, including training and skills development**

Mvula Trust is well placed to work with communities to roll-out new arrangements. This will require engagement with local leadership and community representatives and the training and skills development of community members so that they can manage their own solid waste arrangements locally.

#### **Mobilising poor households to become self sustaining through improved productivity**

Both the management of solid waste and the use of waste for farming or gardening have the potential to improve local economic conditions. For example certain types of waste can be effectively used for soil quality enhancement and hence lead to the improvement of yields both from vegetable gardens and larger scale farming initiatives. These methods need to be tested and applied where appropriate.

#### **Strengthening policy and improve implementation guide on the use of waste**

Mvula Trust will work hand in hand with municipalities, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism to develop a policy and guideline concerning the use waste for food gardening purposes.

#### **Increasing job creation and rural economic development**

Rural areas are neglected when it comes to solid waste management and unfortunately the municipalities have limited capability to improve rural waste management arrangements. Yet, such initiatives have the potential to benefit the environment and have job creation potential. Aside from improved agricultural potential, mentioned above, jobs can be created through recycling of waste (re-use, recovered and composted) and the use of local labour for collecting and transporting waste..

#### **Appropriate technology choices to contribute to long term sustainable livelihoods**

Mvula's *Gwebindlala!* solid waste programme will adopt appropriate technologies such as the experiences gained in de-sludging existing VIPs in the North West and Integrated Algal Ponding Systems (IAPS), which utilise anaerobic and aerobic biological processes in wastewater treatment and epitomise the principles of both water and nutrient recovery and reuse. Further there is a need to apply appropriate technology thinking for small scale landfills.



**Honeysucker Machine used for Dislodging VIPs**

## Programme implementation and costing

Mvula's *Gwebindlala!* Solid Waste Management Programme is about adding value to existing MIG and DEAT funded projects. It thus involves funding to complement the above funding streams, for the following:

### Pilot and Gear-up Phase (2 years)

This phase is necessary in order for Mvula to gear up the capacity required for a full scale programme in a number of provinces. It will include the following:

- Agree draft implementation policy & guidelines with client
- Select pilot project sites and build stakeholder support
- Set up funding arrangements, with capital funding provided by municipalities from MIG
- Develop accredited training courses and materials
- Start pilot projects in at least 5 sites in the 5 poorest provinces within 6 months
- Implement pilot projects, to include:
  - mobilisation and training of village project committees to mobilise communities and co-manage projects
  - skills training and capacity building (project administration, etc)
  - support to village committees to recruit and supervise labour
  - support to village committees to set up maintenance systems with individuals or contract for specified activities
- Document and disseminate lessons
- Fine tune implementation policies and guidelines

The cost of each pilot project will vary considerably, depending on the time taken to build each road, which is a function of the length of each.

### Scaling up and Roll-out Phase

This phase will begin towards the end of the pilot phase. Key tasks will be:

- Expand programmes in pilot municipalities
- Support roll-out in other municipalities
- Support lessons learning, dissemination, advocacy
- Expand programme from direct implementation to providing support to municipalities and their implementing agencies to set up and implement projects
- Continue documentation and dissemination of experiences and advocacy of approaches

The cost of this phase will depend on the scale of each project.

## The Mvula Trust's *Gwebindlala!* initiative

### Objectives and Key Features:

- Increasing the job creation, local economic growth and skills development impact of government's basic services delivery programmes in rural and peri-urban areas, to support sustainable livelihoods and shared growth
- Developing social capital and sustainable businesses by prioritising the involvement of organised communities, households and local small business contractors and suppliers in programme delivery
- Training and skills development
- Developing practical partnerships between NGOs, CBOs and government
- Strengthening the EPWP approach, particularly in the MIG Programme, and government capacity to manage programmes
- Strengthening policy and improving implementation guidelines

### Programmes:

- Basic **sanitation**, as part of the MIG Programme
- Household-based **food gardening** using rainwater harvesting tanks
- Rural **access roads** linking communities to the formal network, also part of MIG
- **Solid waste** removal and disposal

### Role Players:

- **Political, administrative and funding responsibilities:** Municipalities and national and provincial government departments
- **Implementers:** Mvula, other NGOs and organised communities
- **Contractors:** CBOs, local artisans, local small businesses

### The Mvula Trust: a key development NGO and government partner

Mvula has been in existence for 14 years and has made a major contribution to the development of the water and sanitation sector in South Africa. We have successfully facilitated community based sanitation delivery in 31 municipalities, to a value of over R200m over the last five years. Since its establishment, Mvula has worked with village water and sanitation committees and their municipalities to provide over 750,000 people with a basic level of water supply and over 500,000 with improved sanitation and health.

Mvula is not only a major player in service delivery, however. Although most of our work has indeed been in establishing community based project delivery models, with a strong job creation emphasis, and implementing large programmes, we only seek to complement government efforts. Increasingly we are involved in initiatives to enhance the capacity of other service providers and of local government itself, to accelerate service delivery, and to promote the developmental impact of water supply, sanitation and related programmes.

With our considerable experience with community based service delivery and substantial existing capacity to undertake policy, advocacy and programme support work, Mvula believes that we can make a contribution at large scale to the following:

- Contributing to the Asgi-SA objectives with the emphasis on the **'shared' component of growth**. We believe that this sharing of economic development gains implies improving livelihoods in poor communities and water and sanitation are closely linked to such a goal.
- Supporting greater involvement of development NGOs and CBOs in implementing government poverty eradication programmes, by partnering with them and **transferring skills and experience**.
- Supporting local government in rolling out **community based sanitation programmes**. In this respect Mvula can add much greater value than through only acting as a project manager on individual projects.
- Through using our experience with community based projects to support the EPWP in achieving its objectives in the **infrastructure sector**.
- Supporting the MIG programme to ensure that developmental gains are devolved to local communities both in terms of building community **capacity to manage village scale infrastructure** and in creating jobs outside urban centres.
- Supporting DWAF to pilot cost effective and sustainable models for poor rural households to ensure **household food security** through food gardening using rainwater harvesting reservoirs, and scaling up this model with funding from diverse government and corporate sources.