In the midst of our mass producing world, imagine a wonderful tree that only grows where poor people live, ‘costs’ nothing, tolerates drought, dislikes cultivation and whose products decline in quality when factory produced.
Swazi Indigenous Products

2400 rural women suppliers

Producing Natural Skin care products

Where are we? Swaziland

Members of

not for profit Company
Our Mission

To be a sustainable Natural Products company owned by and generating income for rural Swazi women in line with the highest standards of Fair Trade and Environmental Sustainability
The Problem

- Poverty - 70% of Swazi Population are below poverty line
- Gender Inequality
- Drought - Climate is very dry
- HIV & AIDS
Timeline

• Established in 2004
• Started operation in 2005
• 2006 won the Ubuntu award (Phyto-trade Africa)
• 2007 Organically Certified
• 2008 exported both bulk oil and Cosmetics
• 2009 Ownership handed over to suppliers (women)
• 2012 won the Equator Initiative award in Brazil
The Process
The Process

- Monitoring against UEBT standards
- Track number of trees planted
- Trainings on Environmental issues, Economic and Social issues
- Organic Trainings
- Team work (Board, Staff and Rural women)
- Support from Local Authorities
Impacts Of Our Work

Ecosystems & Biodiversity
- Trees preserved due to economic value
- Enrichment tree planting
- Harvesters’ awareness of threats

Socio-economic
- EUR 400,000 paid out to rural women
- 15 permanent jobs created
- Rural women presented at board level
- Income is spent on food, education and health
- Enhanced social status thanks to ‘own income’
Challenges

- Climate becoming drier & less reliable
- Cash Flow
- Competition for raw material
- Misuse of pesticides
Achievements

- 100% owned by women
- Rural Factory in a 3rd world country producing cosmetics for 1st world countries
- 55 women saving groups
- Maintained organic Certificate for 3 years
- Members of UEBT (Union for Ethical bio-trade)
- Members of the world fair trade organization.
- Over 2000 indigenous Marula trees planted since 2011
- Winning the 2012 Equator Initiative award in women’s empowerment
Lessons

Through women;

- Ecosystem and biodiversity can be protected at community level
- Communities realize the potential of local resources
- Livelihoods improves through self-help initiatives
- Working together yield more results
Conclusions

Ways we have empowered:

- Income
- Confidence
- Skills
- Ownership
Siyabonga!!!!!!
Thank you!!!!
Website www.swazisecrets.com