

## BENEFITS OF THE MODEL

ECATU'S model of community participation is in line with the Extended Public Works Programme, EPWP involving:

- Job creation through maximum use of unskilled labour drawn from the communities to be involved in different stages of the project;
- SMME promotion
- Skills development;
- Enhanced local capacity build through the experience gained;
- Stimulation of local economic development activities as income generation opportunities are created;
- Participation of disadvantaged groups in the project example women, the disabled and youth;
- The methodology used creates a sense of ownership
- Increased productivity in rural areas.



address : Mt Pleasant Farm  
Thornhill Road  
Mthatha  
5099

postal : PO Box 225  
Mthatha  
5099

tel : 047 532 4601

fax : 047 532 4147  
047 532 4385

mail : [info@ecatuz.org.za](mailto:info@ecatuz.org.za)  
web : [www.ecatuz.org.za](http://www.ecatuz.org.za)

# METHODOLOGY

Working with Communities in  
the Eastern Cape

## The Bantwana Model



## THE BANTWANA MODEL

The Bantwanana Junior Secondary School under whose auspices the word “Bantwanana Model” was borne was a school project funded by the British Government through their IMBEWU II programme housed by the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Education. The Eastern Cape Appropriate Technology Unit, ECATU was appointed as the implementing agent and project manager for this school project. The project involved the construction of 4 classrooms, 1 Rondavel, Upgrading of existing 3 classrooms, External works including security fence and 12 toilets.



## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project was;

- To pilot an alternative sustainable approach to delivery of classroom buildings and related structures
- Using locally available cost effective technologies
- Maximise on the participation of local communities during the process of delivery and SMMEs
- Replicating the results of the pilot in seven other communities which will act as an exemplar for the whole province.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ECATU programmes and activities are guided by the following principles:

- Promote technologies that lead to maximum utilisation of local material resources and production know-how to ensure affordability of products.
- Foster self-reliance through increased participation and productivity in target communities.
- Promotion of technologies which are user friendly, simple and offer maximum employment opportunities.
- Promote sustainable socio-economic systems by integrating social, economic and environmental objectives.
- Projects undertaken will be selected through a systematic and transparent demand driven process, working in close consultation with all key stakeholders.
- Product and project concepts must be developed through participatory process.
- Adopt the best practice from both the public and private sectors while drawing upon the resources of both in pursuit of the poverty reduction mission.
- Pro-actively seek to forge partnerships with other organisations active in rural development initiatives in South Africa and abroad.
- The project’s portfolio must reflect a reasonable geographic balance.
- Avoid duplicating activities being undertaken by other government entities, instead forge partnerships to complement efforts.

## WHAT IS THE BANTWANA MODEL

ECATU using its social facilitation expertise organises communities into working groups. These members are trained in various skills depending on the needs of the project. This model seeks to demonstrate the potential for meaningful participation of poor communities in project implementation. Using alternative sustainable approaches and locally available cost effective technologies the participation of local communities during the process of delivery is maximised. The pillars of the Bantwana model are:

### | **Community participation**

Community members are encouraged to participate in the project implementation process.

### | **Sustainability**

ECATU involves the communities and other key stakeholders from the inception of the project. Through social facilitation the community members are mobilised and briefed about the project with the purpose of getting buy-in. It is during this period that individuals who will be involved in the project are jointly selected with the involvement of community leaders and stakeholders.

### | **Skills Transfer**

Community members are trained in a range of skills based on the needs of the project. Training is arranged with accredited service providers.

### | **Empowerment**

Promotion of local SMMEs as either suppliers or contractors to the project. This ensures that the bulk of the money remains within the community. ECATU has achieved more than 50 percent retention of funding within the communities.

### | **Risk and mitigation against risk**

A risk analysis and risk management plan is put in place during project conceptualisation to mitigate against any anticipated risks during project implementation.