

NAME OF FIRM: OABS Development Pty Ltd
NAME OF STAFF: Ken Bern
PROFESSION: Project Facilitator/ Manager
DATE OF BIRTH: 26 September 1950
YEARS WITH FIRM: 4 months as an Associate
NATIONALITY: South African

QUALIFICATIONS

1975 B Ecom. Rhodes University

EXPERIENCE

Ken retired after 29 years with the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) at the end of February 2013. For the last 12 years Ken was in the Projects unit, which he helped set up from scratch and which at the time of retiring employed nine employees. The objective of the Project unit is to create job and wealth opportunities mainly in rural areas by identify possible projects, facilitating the scoping phase and secure funding to implement.

During this period, Ken gained vast experience in the assessment of business plans and risk analysis.

Ken worked on many projects whilst with the ECDC. Only the major projects are listed below.

Project name: Berry Corridor development programme

Description: With private sector drivers and funders, came up with the concept of developing a berry outgrowers programme that could produce various berry types and feed a centralised pack house and processing plant. To date five outgrowers are in various stages of development. This is besides Amathole Berries, which plans to expand the current 32 ha,'s to 215 over the next few years. At the time of retiring, Ken was a director in four berry projects.

Project name: Eastern Cape Bamboo Initiative

Description: To establish bamboo as a new industry in the Eastern Cape. This has now become a national initiative. The concept is to establish the full value chain from encouraging farmers to plant bamboo up to making finished products for the local and export markets. To date four farming projects and two handcraft co-operatives have established.

Project name: Eastern Cape Essential Oil Initiative

Description: To establish an essential oil industry in the Eastern Cape covering the entire value chain from farming, oil extraction and beneficiation of oil. A number of community projects have established in the Eastern Cape.

Project name: Camdeboo Bream

Description: Developing a fresh water fish project in the Karoo that will include the full value chain, including processing of the final product

Project name: Restructuring of the Eastern Cape Pineapple Industry

Description: Involved in project facilitation of numerous business plans and pilot projects to determine business opportunities from farm and factory waste.

Since retiring from ECDC, Ken has been involved in drawing up business plans and sourcing funding for a number of business opportunities including an abattoir, waste recycling and value adding, beef production and a feed lot and property development.