

Amasiko Lemvelo translates roughly as culture and environment. The not for profit trust was created over ten years ago at the Es'pakeni Open Air Theatre to try and provide a good arts infrastructure to support community arts groups and young people from the surrounding township. It is an urban project recognising the importance of creativity to the regeneration of the city and enhancement of the urban environment. We believe culture is an employer of young people, that Africa needs to export music and the arts and so create local wealth. The cultural industries are at the heart of future development in urban centres to create the new ideas for the future.

The centre also connects to the natural resources of the area that include the National Heritage site at nearby Khami. There is also a local nature reserve at Amazwi and basic youth accommodation at the local former scout Venture camp. We support more visiting groups from outside Zimbabwe and ensure they can also tour to the famous national park at Matopos with its many rock paintings and shrines as well as travelling North to Hwange National Park and the Victoria Falls.

As a learning organisation we facilitate arts workshops locally and nationally across schools and in local communities with other artists and teachers of the arts.

The centre provides both offices and a workshop space. The stage area supports live shows in a fantastic acoustic. We recently recorded Sunduza's new music at the Open Air and will be encouraging other groups to use the natural space as a recording facility.

Es'Pakeni Theatre, Bulawayo



Janet Wood develops *Sunduza Buya* with a new album launch in 2014



Workshop participants complete the three day training course in Arts Management at the Amasiko Expo 2014



The centre houses supports local artists through developing new wall murals

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