



Hand-craft goes hi-tech

Hand-craft and hi-tech meet as skilled wood crafters from the Northern Cape village of Kharkams use alien vegetation to create fully-functional funky flash drives. **Sheryl Ozinsky**

USB ports and memory sticks are not what would normally flash across your mind when you think of technology coming out of the Kalahari. Neither are they all that the Kharkams Technology Crafters produce. The project, supported by Department of Water Affairs

and Forestry's Working for Water programme, is as much about creating jobs, fighting poverty and building pride as it is about manufacturing memory sticks.

Each item is crafted from start to finish by a single crafter who carefully hollows out a space in a piece of alien wood which is cut and delivered to the project each day by previously unemployed people. The electronic USB device is then inserted in place and bonded with a high-tech material. Once it has passed a number of

quality checks, the crafter's name and photograph is stored on the device.

The project which is also supported by Conservation International and the Development Bank of South Africa, demonstrates a successful synergy between existing craft skills in an under economically active area, and market-related design.

► Each 256 MB Memory Stick sells for R149.00 Enquiries and orders for memory sticks can be emailed to: info@technologycrafters.co.za