Red Cedar Cosmetics CC

Red Cedar Cosmetics started in 2003 as a donor funded project. By 2006, when the donor funding came to an end the business was small, but sustainable. It started by manufacturing rooibos soap. Later their product range expanded to 11 different Rooibos based body products. Through difficult economic times, locally and globally, Red Cedar remained in business. Their secret was the unique and good products they manufactured, together with the fascinating and romantic setting of Wupperthal.

This story came to an abrupt halt on Sunday night, 30 December 2018, when a devastating fire swept through Wupperthal and destroyed 53 buildings in the historic village. One of the buildings destroyed was the Red Cedar factory. The five women from the Wupperhtal community who owned this business for the last 15 years did not only loose their place of work, but all the furniture, equipment and business documents of Red Cedar Cosmetics. Fortunately, nobody was injured, neither was there any loss of lives in the fire.

Red Cedar Cosmetics decided they want to rise from the ashes, and they can use the lessons learnt in the past to their advantage to start afresh. They have a skill, many satisfied and loyal customers and the will to stand up and rebuild the business. The first step will be to resume the manufacturing of products in bulk. For this they do not need retail bottles and jars and no labels. These are usually much more expensive when bought in small quantities than in larger quantities. With the help of guest houses who place orders with them they will be back in business and will slowly start rebuilding the manufacturing side. It will be important to save enough money to start with the manufacturing of rooibos soap, which was the first product they started manufacturing. Christoline Swartz made the newly built house of her and husband Collin available, where the industry can start up again in her modern kitchen.

Red Cedar realizes that it will be slow process to start up again, but they are willing to take the challenge.
Equipment needed for bulk and soap production

Surfactant base and glycerin base
Carrier lotion
Carrier cream (thickened)
Rooibos and Aloe gel
Essential oils
Rooibos extract

3 Measuring cylinder
6 Glass beakers
5 5 liter plastic jugs
8 10 liter plastic containers
6 Long and stiff plastic spoons
6 Long wooden spoons
6 Palettes (to "lick" jugs clean)
Balance
15 Kitchen cloths
10 Towels
Packing tape
Packing tape dispenser
1 Bubble plastic (roll)
24 Boxes
40 1 liter plastic bottles
20 2 liter plastic bottles
20 5 liter plastic bottles
Large plastic bath
5Chopping boards
5 Knives
10 Soap moulds
Microwave oven
Fridge
Trays
5 1 liter Pyrex jugs
Computer
Printer
Ink cartridges
Mobile phone

Approximate cost of above: R52,000
Approximate cost to replace the building:

Approximate size of new building:  52 square meters

(Store room, production room, display area, kitchenette, bathroom, reception area)

Building cost in South Africa (internet based research)  R7000,00/ square meter.

This might be more because of the area where Wupperthal is situated and the transport of building materials to the village.

Total cost – R364,000

List of stock items and equipment lost

Furniture
Desk
Chairs plastic 6
Steel fold up chairs 4
Wooden chairs 2
Wooden Benches 2
Tables, fold up camping 2
Large wooden (2m x 1 m) 1
Steel top 2
Smaller wooden 2
Display cabinets 4
Storage cupboards 7
Bookshelf 1
Steel stands/shelves 2
Display table 1
Large glass flower pot 1
Toilet, cistern and pot, not yet installed 1
Large drying oven 1
Mini kitchen 1
Fridge
Computer
Printer
Telephone/fax machine
Stationery
Files, with documents
Microwave oven, 42 liters 4
Scissors 20
Sellotape rolls 12
sellotape roll dispensers 6
Industrial cling wrap 2 rolls
Clingwrap dispensers 2
Heat sealers 2
Knives 12
Measuring cylinder 2
Glass beakers 7
5 liter plastic jugs 4
10 liter plastic containers 6
Long and stiff plastic spoons 8
Long wooden spoons 6
Palettes (to "lick" jugs clean) 6
Balance electronic 1
Small, battery operated 1
Kitchen cloths 13
Towels 8
Palette knives 6
Silicone moulds for soap 45
Chopping boards, plastic 10
Trays 16
Double boilers 2
Stainless steel pots 3
Stainless steel basins 3
Stainless steel jug, 1.5 liter 2
Stainless steel jug, 1 liter 2
Urn, 25 liter 1
Kettle
Petty cash box
Safe
Fans 4
Oil 6 fin heaters 3
Curtains, sets 3
Fire extinguisher 1
Safety door 1
Burglar proofing 6
Extension cords 3
Multi plugs 6

50 ml Plastic bottles 1050
150 ml Plastic bottles 1500
250 ml Plastic bottles 2000
Lip balm jars 500
Jars, shives, lids 750
Bottle tops 6000
Dispensers 1500
Spray heads 2000

Surfactant base 150 liter
Aloe gel 115 liter
carrier cream 100 liter
Thickened carrier cream 125 liter
Shea butter 10 kg
Fractionated coconut oil 65 kg
Apricot kernels 22 kg
Rooibos extract 1.2 kg
Green rooibos extract 2.7 liter
Vitamin E 8 liter
Grape Seed Oil 5 liter
Apricot seed oil 6 liter
Beeswax 10 kg
Essential oils, various 8.2 liter
Boxes, packaging 38
Bubble plastic 1.5 rolls
Corrigated cardboard 0.5 roll
Labels a lot!!!
Packaging tape 9 rolls
Packaging tape dispenser 2

Music centre
Hair nets
Protective clothing
Cups, plates, bowls
Knives, forks, spoons
Banners
Product photos
Vynil sheet with logo

**Approximate value of items lost: R335,000**

It is not necessary to replace all these items, but that is the value of what was lost. Some items can be reduced. There is not so much stock required as well.