

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

Researchers:

Angus Morrison-Saunders

School/Centre:

School of Veterinary and Life Sciences

University/Institutions:

Murdoch University

Key themes:

Governance and Regulation

Key countries:

Africa

Completion:

June 2015

Research aims:

This project enabled targeted workshops to be held to explore the potential for mining industry partners to collaborate with leading HIV researchers and EIA practitioners to develop effective measures to translate enhanced EIA policy to be implemented at the mining and infrastructure operational level.

For further information on this action research:

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Integrating HIV and Gender-Related Issues into Environmental Assessments for Australian Mining Companies Operating in Africa

Eastern and southern Africa is heavily impacted by HIV and AIDS with over 20 million people living with HIV, representing approximately half of global HIV infections. Large-scale development projects are known to increase the risk of HIV transmission, primarily due to the presence of a mostly transient male workforce.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa recently investigated environmental impact assessment (EIA) practice with respect to the inclusion of HIV, in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia. EIA is now required to be undertaken for major new developments in virtually all countries worldwide. This research project builds upon the UNDP work by focusing on Australian mining companies currently operating in Africa and aims to understand how enhancing planning for HIV prevention might be integrated into future EIA processes.

The Africa Research Group at Murdoch University has established a collaborative network of industry and HIV experts that includes the Kheth'Impilo-Murdoch University HIV Alliance, the Australian African Mining Industry Group, the University of Pretoria, Makerere University and the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment.

Supported by a grant from the Australia Africa Universities Network, focused workshops took place in Perth, Western Australia prior to and as part of the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne in July 2014. Potential exists for mining industry partners to collaborate with leading HIV researchers and EIA practitioners to develop effective measures to translate enhanced EIA policy to be implemented at the mining and infrastructure operational level.