

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

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School/ Centre:

Centre for Social Impact

University/ Institutions:

Business School, The University of Western
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Key themes:

Community and Environmental Sustainability

Key countries:

Africa

Completion:

August 2013

Research aims:

The aim of this research was to examine the emerging knowledge frontier in integrated, systemic, social-ecosystem approaches within and beyond the extractive industry, to establish whether the following strategies are applicable and teachable in the African mining development context:

- Social Impact measurement derived approaches
- Strategic and Integrated Community Development involving multiple stakeholder partnerships, enterprise development and the growth of small-medium businesses. Approaches focused on broader development priorities and supporting communities to take advantage of the opportunities created by private investment
- Social ecosystem development - Collective Impact, Epicentre Strategy, strategic community capacity and development
- Initiatives such as Knowledge Centres

For further information on this action research:

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Sustainable Mining Development: New Curriculum Options for Community and Economic Development in Mining Contexts

The African Mining Vision endorsed by the Heads of Government in 2009 calls for "Transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development". This Vision together with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative global standard for revenue transparency and accountability in the extractive sector appeals to the creation of broad development strategies that leverage Africa's vast mineral resources for sustainable social and economic development.

This project documented and recommended relevant sustainable community development models that can be taught as part of a training program offered by the IM4DC. The recommended sustainable development frameworks are derived from an extensive literature review and from interviews with stakeholders in government, industry and not for profit organisations involved in the African extractive sector. The recommendations, thus to a large extent, build on a body of knowledge within and outside the extractive industries and within and outside an African context. Suggested models include social impact assessment, enterprise development, new approaches to cross-sector collaboration and collective impact, and case studies of not-for-profit organisations that illustrate community development models in action.

This report is designed to assist the development of teaching programs that support practicable sustainable mining for economic and social development in Africa and overseas.