

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

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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IM4DC Action Research Report



Summary of Action Research Activity

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.

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

29 June 2015

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| Delivery organisation and personnel | Angus Morrison-Saunders (project lead) School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, Murdoch University | | | | | |
| Collaborating Organisation(s) and Key Personnel | <p><i>Murdoch University, Western Australia:</i> Prof. Ian James, Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases Dr Ryan Admiraal, School of Engineering and IT Dr Anne Surma, School of Arts Ms Renae Desai, School of Arts Mr David Doepel, Chair of the Australian Chapter of the African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) Network Dr Mark McHenry, School of Engineering and IT</p> <p><i>The University of Pretoria, South Africa:</i> Prof. Frans Viljoen, Professor in International Human Rights, Director of the Centre for Human Rights Mr Josua Loots, Centre for Human Rights Ms Meetali Jain, Centre for Human Rights</p> <p><i>Makerere University, Uganda:</i> Dr Patrick Mangeni wa'Ndeda, Head of the Music, Dance and Drama Dept.</p> <p><i>The Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment:</i> Bryony Walmsley, Director</p> <p><i>Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group (AAMIG):</i> Bill Turner, Chairman of the Board Trish O'Reilly, CEO</p> <p><i>Kheth'Impilo:</i> Dr Ashraf Grimwood, Chief Executive Officer</p> | | | | | |
| Summary of Action Research Activity | Commission through the Australia Africa Universities Network, targeted workshops took place in Perth, WA prior to and as part of the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne in July 2014, to explore the opportunity with mining companies to develop multi-institution proposals to external funding agencies. | | | | | |
| Relevant IM4DC Key Theme | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance and Regulation | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community and Environmental Sustainability | | <input type="checkbox"/> Operational Effectiveness | |
| Relevant IM4DC Strategic Programing Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional and local economic and social development | <input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national governance of the mining sector | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minerals policy, regulation and agreements | <input type="checkbox"/> Community engagement and consultation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and safety of workforces and resources communities | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental management and regulation |
| Keywords (Maximum 5) | HIV, gender issues, environmental assessment, mining | | | | | |
| Dates of activity | Commencement | | | Completion | | |
| | February 2014 | | | October 2014 | | |
| Status | <input type="checkbox"/> Yet to commence | | <input type="checkbox"/> On Going | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed | |

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| Progress in activities | Planned | Undertaken to date We held an inception workshop in Perth, sponsored a special session as part of the AIDS 2014 conference in Melbourne and held a seminar in Perth. |
| Budget | <i>Total budget</i> \$14,000 | <i>Payments to date</i> \$14,000 |
| Summary of findings to date | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | |
| Key regions and/or countries visited or involved and key people and organisations engaged to date | <p>Integrating HIV and Gender-Related Issues Into Environmental Assessments for Australian Mining Companies Operating in Africa Workshop: July 16-17, 2014 <i>Murdoch University, Perth</i></p> <p><u>Participants:</u></p> <p><i>Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group (AAMIG)</i> Annie Halsted (Programmes Manager) Trish O'Reilly (Chief Executive Officer)</p> <p><i>Golden Rim Resources Ltd.</i> Hayley Butcher (Company Secretary)</p> <p><i>Kheth'Impilo</i> Ashraf Grimwood (Chief Executive Officer)</p> <p><i>Makerere University</i> Patrick Mangeni wa'Ndeda (Senior Lecturer, Drama)</p> <p><i>Murdoch University</i> Ryan Admiraal (Lecturer, Mathematics and Statistics) Renae Desai (Lecturer, Public Relations) David Doepel (Chair, Africa Research Group) Susan Herrmann (Studies Manager, Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases) Ian James (Professor, Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases) Mukuka Kasonde (Student) Mark McHenry (Postdoctoral Report Gorilla) Anne Surma (Senior Lecturer, English and Creative Arts)</p> <p><i>Paladin Energy Ltd.</i> Gill Swaby (Company Secretary, EGM Corporate Services) Cathy Paxton (General Manager, Sustainable Development)</p> <p><i>Resolute Mining Ltd.</i> Jim Bawden (Group Manager, Safety Health and Environment)</p> <p><i>Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA)</i> Bryony Walmsley (Director)</p> <p><i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i> Benjamin Ofosu--Koranteng (Senior Policy Advisor for HIV, Health and Development Practice)</p> | |

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| | <p><i>University of Pretoria</i> Josua Loots (Project Manager, Business and Human Rights, Centre for Human Rights)</p> |
| <p>Summary of activities to be completed and expected completion date</p> | <p><u>Summary of completed activities:</u></p> <p><i>Inception Workshop, Perth (July 16-17, 2014)</i> The inception workshop was held at Murdoch University to bring together academics, mining industry representatives, non-government organisations and environmental consultants. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss pressing issues around mining, HIV and gender in the African context and explore how the shared knowledge of participants could be used to formulate clear research directions to address these issues.</p> <p>As a first step, it was important to first understand previous experience, research and engagement of participants with the mining sector and HIV- and gender-related issues. The engagement of key stakeholders, particularly mining industry representatives (AAMIG, Golden Rim Resources, Paladin Energy, Resolute Mining), the UNDP and Kheth’Impilo, proved valuable in understanding not just the disparate views of the mining sector and non-government organisations/civil society but also the areas where there was clear agreement when it came to the responsibilities of the mining sector in addressing issues.</p> <p>There was acknowledgement that mining brings with it the potential to transform communities. In the African context, historically this transformation has all too frequently been negative with resettlement of entire communities, reconstitution of prime farm land for mining, rapid population growth in nearby communities putting excessive pressure on infrastructure and resources and a slew of other problems. Additionally, royalties paid to governments tend to be divested in large urban settlements rather than the communities that are directly affected by mining ventures. In spite of these negatives, it is also clear that mining can be a positive force for both countries and local communities. Mining dollars can provide a massive boost to poor African nations. This money can come not only in the forms of royalties or mining taxes but also increased job prospects for locals, both in mining and in support services, thereby helping to diversify the economy. At the same time, mining ventures are typically accompanied by rather substantial infrastructure projects (road, rail, water, etc.) that can be of benefit to locals as well. Finally, most mining outfits invest some of their own money in local communities as part of corporate social responsibility (CSR).</p> <p>In spite of this, there is some uncertainty in terms of what responsibilities are to be assumed by the government and what responsibilities are to be assumed by the mining organisation when it comes to the impact of mining on communities, and this is evident in issues entering around HIV and gender.</p> <p><i>AIDS 2014, Melbourne (July 20-25, 2014)</i> As part of AIDS 2014, Murdoch University sponsored the special session ‘The Role of Extractive Industries in Building Sustainable Health Programmes’. Bryony Walmsley was a co-chair, with Benjamin Ofosu-Koranteng being a panellist with Brian Brink (Chief Medical Officer, Anglo-American), Rob McDonald (Vice-President Health and Hygiene, BHP Billiton) and Blair Sands (Head of Health and Environment, Newcrest Mining).</p> <p>Contacts made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Jayne Luck (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society [ARCSHS], La Trobe University). • Individuals at the Ford Foundation with potential to submit a proposal to them in 2015 <p><i>HIV and Mobile Populations Seminar, Perth (July 29, 2014)</i> Contacts made: Members of Western Australian Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network (SiREN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham Brown (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society [ARCSHS], La Trobe University) • Sue Laing (Western Australia Department of Health) • Roanna Lobo (School of Public Health, Curtin University) • Gemma Crawford (School of Public Health, Curtin University) |
| <p>Outputs, such as publications, software, systems, databases, and training programs</p> | <p>Morrison-Saunders A, R Admiral, M McHenry and D Doepel (2014). Planning for HIV prevention in the extractive industry in Africa through enhanced environmental impact assessment. Presented at: Africa: Diversity and Development, African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific, 37th AFSAAP Conference, 25th–26th November 2014, St Margaret’s College, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.</p> |
| <p>In-kind contributions provided to activity</p> | <p>Hosting of workshops at Murdoch University</p> |