



Toolkit for Eco-industrial Parks: **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

The eco-industrial park (EIP) concept is about creating more resource efficient and cost-effective industrial parks that are more competitive, attractive for investment, and risk resilient. The uptake of EIPs is rapidly increasing internationally and in South Africa.

The Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP) demonstrates the viability and benefits of greening industrial parks by improving resource productivity and economic, environmental, and social performance of businesses.



LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAPTURING OPPORTUNITIES AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

Local community collaboration is a key component of EIPs and forms part of a healthy and integrated work force and urban-industrial synergies.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OF ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Good social management practices should be implemented at eco-industrial parks, including:

- Decent work;
- Social infrastructure;
- Community infrastructure;
- Good relationships with the local community; and
- Joint community projects and programmes that support community development and cohesion.

Urban-industrial synergies are also part of community involvement, i.e. interlinkages and collaborations between companies and cities or municipalities on the collection, processing and reuse of materials, wastes, energy, and water streams.

SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF EIPS

Based on the International Framework for Eco-Industrial Parks, the following should be considered to strengthen the social performance of an industrial park:

- **Social management systems:** This is to address social, occupational health and safety, grievance procedures, and their impacts. Continuous improvement is required. Working and labour conditions must be in line with national and sectoral requirements.
- **Social infrastructure:** Essential social infrastructure such as local shops, restaurants or cafeterias, recreational areas, medical facilities, banks, postal offices, and emergency fire facilities should be provided in industrial parks or its surrounding areas for its workers and the local community to function properly.

Social infrastructure should also include:

- Gender equality such as equal employment and capacity building opportunities, and safe working conditions for the specific needs of women;

- Providing personal security for employees and security for firms in the park;
- Skills development and capacity building.
- **Local community dialogue and outreach:** Positive contributions can flow from the engagement of firms in community activities, and it can also strengthen the trust and relationships between local communities and industry.

SOCIAL PERFORMANCE BENEFITS

Working on social issues may have several benefits, e.g.:

- Minimization of negative social impacts on labour and the local community can lead to greater stability and more benefits for the region and the community;
- Better social conditions may contribute to a more resilient and efficient industrial park;
- Social risk aversion may enhance the reputation of the park and relationships with investors, customers, and the community; and
- Collaboration between communities, the industrial park, city/municipality, and other institutions can support innovation, greater efficiency of resources and impact of initiatives, projects, and programmes.

CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

Some challenges identified with local communities in a South African context are as follows:

- Unions, strikes, and labour demands;
- High unemployment levels of community members with low skills levels that do not match industry needs;
- In some cases, there are unrealistic demands of communities (e.g. to have shares in industrial parks);
- Illegal and informal settlements in park areas;
- In some industrial parks, roads within the parks lead to residential areas, and therefore, the parks cannot be closed with fencing and access control; and
- Political and local pressure groups with egotistical agendas.

Each industrial park is unique in addressing these challenges, with support required from national government, local government (municipalities), non-governmental organisations, the legal system, the South African Police Service, and other organisations.

URBAN-INDUSTRIAL SYNERGIES

Park management and government agencies play an important role in facilitating urban-industrial synergies which may also bring benefits to the local community.

This facilitation process should include:

- Bringing companies together in synergy identification and evaluation workshops;
- Seeking private investor involvement;
- Seeing urban-industrial synergies as business development and job creation opportunities;
- Driving strategic industrial synergy opportunities for the industrial park; and
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder discussions (e.g. with private, government, and financial institutions).

SOUTH AFRICAN GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Atlantis Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

In addition to jobs and investments, Atlantis SEZ also focuses on:

- Developing and growing skills to ensure local skills and businesses meet the needs of industry located in Atlantis;
- Developing youth and community skills to tap into "Greentech" (i.e. technologies that reduce or reverse the impact of people on the planet) through:
 - The IkamvaYouth tutoring programme to improve learners' marks;
 - Sector focussed knowledge sessions; and
 - Early childhood development training.

AECI Umbogintwini Industrial Complex

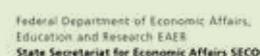
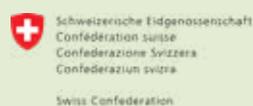
The AECI Umbogintwini Industrial Complex (UIC) has two impoverished communities on its border. These communities share a common river, which is also used for water provision of tenant companies at the UIC.

The AECI Wise Wayz Water Care (WWWC) Programme addresses water security as well as community employability.

The two communities work together to protect the aquatic ecosystems whilst aspiring towards creating sustainable livelihoods.

Through WWC hundreds of beneficiaries have received training in subjects ranging from water safety to basic vegetable production.

Several participants have been employed by the eThekweni Municipality to draw on their skills acquired through the



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