

IAIA 18

Presenting Author: Timothy Hart, thart@srk.co.za, SRK Consulting, South Africa

Preferred Session: Social Impact Assessment

Title of paper / presentation

Full project cycle SIA: optimising social outcomes

The discipline and practice of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has advanced significantly. There are many applications of SIA, but the most common is the *ex ante* identification and assessment of impacts associated with policies, projects or programmes. Typically, this form of social impact assessment informs mitigatory management measures and benefit enhancing social investments.

There is now growing interest in understanding the *post ante* outcomes of social investments, with a specialized suite of “impact” tools leading to the assessment of what is sometimes termed “social return on investment” (SROI).

Against this background, this paper reports on work in progress for application in the mining sector in South Africa. It describes an approach where SIA methods and tools are applied in an integrated manner to *the full project or investment cycle*, seeking to design, steer and implement projects and investments that promote just, real and lasting development in largely poor communities hosting and neighbouring large mining operations.

The full project cycle approach described draws on the toolkit of orthodox SIA and on methods emerging from the growing discipline of “impact investing”. It shows how these tools and methods can be used to anticipate, track and measure social impacts through the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation phases of social projects and investments.

Metrics are demonstrated that show “potential of social investment” (PotSI), “performance of social investment” (PerSI) and return on social investment (RetSI). Examples from operating mines will illustrate the application of the approach.

Summary Statement

This paper describes work in progress to develop and implement an integrated full project cycle SIA approach to optimizing the outcomes of social projects and investments in mining communities.

Presenting author bio

Tim Hart is a social and development specialist with SRK Consulting in Johannesburg, South Africa. With extensive experience, he advises mining and other clients on optimising development outcomes in communities.