Plenary Session: Reflections – Key Lessons Learned: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly, & Guiding Principles for Improvement

Presented by Eddie Smyth, Intersocial Consulting

IAIA Resettlement and Livelihoods Symposium

Skukuza: Kruger Park, South Africa, 22nd October 2014
The Big 5:
1. Resettlement is Failing Communities

Testimonies of Impacted People:
- Food insecurity – no access to quality land
- Limited access to services
- No access to jobs
- Social disarticulation - no voice in the process

Civil Society:
- Community voices are often absent in resettlement decisions.
- Participation takes time and ensuring legitimate representation is difficult
- There is a ‘lack of will’ by companies and governments to recognise community participation involves decision-making and responsibility for decisions
- FPIC is a collective right of indigenous people - not fully accepted

The Big 5:
2. Increasing Alignment of Standards and Legislation

- Convergence of IFI Standards
- IFC standards are the Gold Standard for private sector projects
- Companies need to comply with standards – ‘Alignment’ is not enough
- Practitioners need to use accessible language – acronym soup - CRAP

- Governments are Increasingly Introducing Legislation to Govern Land Access and Resettlement Processes

- Issues Around Government vs Company Managed Projects

- All stakeholders must work together to advocate for and support the capacity of global communities to stand up for their rights in accordance with legislation
The Big 5:
3. Livelihood Restoration is Not Being Properly Planned or Implemented

- Finding the Quantity and Quality of Replacement Land is Increasingly Difficult
  - Intensification may be successful initially but not sustainable
- Women, Youth & the Vulnerable Need a Voice on Projects and more Livelihood Support
- Rural and Urban Livelihoods need equal consideration. Issue of bringing resources to remote areas
- Livelihood Restoration is a Long-term Process – 10 years a more realistic timeframe, integrated with wider community development initiatives
- Projects Need to Take Training, Employment, and local procurement Seriously

The Big 5:
4. Professional Planning and Proper Community Negotiations are Keys to Project Success

- Projects Need to Start Planning and Community Consultations Early
  - Need an experienced, skilled and adequately resourced Land Access & Resettlement Team
  - Realistic schedule and Budget
- Resettlement is One Big Internal & External Negotiation:
  - Comprehensive negotiation strategy, plan and agenda – a well-planned negotiations process will be quicker
- Proper community representation and participation is key
- Build stakeholder capacity - Communities, industry, government & civil society
- Few courses to train resettlement experts – consultants need to build capacity of local consultants and clients who should lead the RAP
The Big 5:
5. Resettlement Practice is Improving but Requires More Resources

- Over the 2 Days Many Examples of Improved Practice on Projects
- However, many Projects are being implemented to a very poor standard – issues of ASM, influx, speculation, conflict all causing difficulties
- Improving Practice Requires Sharing of Experience
  - IAIA Symposium and Training Provide a Welcome Forum to Share Ideas
  - Intersocial’s Guide to Best Practice is our Contribution to Improving Standards in the Industry
- Resettlement Planning is Difficult – don’t do it unless you have the right values – empathy with the impacted communities.
- Resettlement can be successful from a project and community perspective