

An evaluation of the Contractor Development Model of Working for Water

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Abstract

The Working for Water programme of the South African Department of Environmental Affairs has as its major objective the eradication of invasive alien plant species. However, it also has a social development component, which aims at the promotion of small business and entrepreneurship development. This paper explores the socio-economic rationale of one component, the Contractor Development Model. It does so via an examination of the programme's assumptions, and the development of its impact theory. The study revealed a shortcoming in monitoring data for the programme, and a relative lack of assessment of the effectiveness of its activities. It is suggested that the selection criteria for contractors be re-examined, and that consideration be given to two additional elements that may strengthen the effectiveness of the training: mentoring and networking.

Keywords: Working for Water, programme theory, entrepreneurship, social development, training