

Principles for Investing in Ecological Infrastructure

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From payments for ecosystem services to
investing in ecological infrastructure...

What is investing in ecological infrastructure?

- The term 'investing' in investing in ecological infrastructure is not restricted to purely allocating budget to certain activities
- Devoting time, effort, finances &/or making decisions in support of a particular undertaking with the expectation of a worthwhile result
- Investing in ecological infrastructure involves maintaining functioning ecological infrastructure, as well as rehabilitating degraded ecological infrastructure

Draft principles developed through a
collective process

DEA, SANBI, CSIR, CSA, EKZNW, DEA:NRM,
WWF-SA, EWT

Principles for investing in ecological infrastructure

Investing in ecological infrastructure ...

1. should focus on achieving clearly defined benefits & outcomes
2. should focus on systematically identified spatially strategic areas
3. requires a collaborative & multi -disciplinary approach
4. should build on & learn from existing experience & programmes
5. should take place in a participatory, socially sensitive & durable manner
6. should optimise its contribution to job creation, poverty alleviation & rural development
7. must include monitoring & evaluation

Principle 1

Investing in ecological infrastructure should focus on achieving clearly defined benefits & outcomes

- Assist with identifying exactly how & where investment should take place, who benefits, & what aspects should be monitored
- Credibility

Principle 2

Investing in ecological infrastructure should focus on systematically identified spatially strategic areas

- Prioritization should be informed by landscape features, as well as pragmatic requirements for implementation, likely beneficiaries & other social and economic outcomes
- Use best available science
- Land tenure should not be a limiting factor

Principle 3

Investing in ecological infrastructure requires a multi- & trans- disciplinary approach

- Different disciplines working together
- Ultimately integrating knowledge systems as ecological infrastructure becomes a fundamental component of the broader infrastructure landscape

Principle 4

Investing in ecological infrastructure should build on & learn from existing experience & programmes

- Natural Resource Management programmes have an integral role to play
- Existing practices, institutions & technologies include the practice of
 - mainstreaming critical biodiversity areas into decision making
 - biodiversity stewardship
 - biodiversity offsets

Principle 5

Investing in ecological infrastructure should optimise its contribution to rural development, job creation & poverty alleviation

- Diversify rural livelihood options
- Generating work
- Skills
- Cash in cash poor systems
- Access to ecosystem services
- Improved services

Principle 6

Investing in ecological infrastructure should take place in a participatory, socially sensitive & durable manner

- Context specific - take cognisance of the socio-economic factors & needs of the area & the beneficiaries

Principle 7

Investing in ecological infrastructure must include monitoring & evaluation

- Biophysical & socio-economic
- Use, revive, &/or tweak existing M&E structures where suitable
- Forms part of good project management & demonstrates returns on investment

Some potential sources of funding

- Water sector
- SIP 19
- DEA: Natural Resource Management programmes
- Disaster mitigation