

https://dspace.org/

Challenges to the implementation of environmental management plans (EMPs) in construction projects

Nyamazana, Primrose Tariro

2019

https://hdl.handle.net/10539/29075

Nyamazana, Primrose Tariro (2019) Challenges to implementation of environmental management plans (EMPs) in construction projects, University of the Witwatersrand, https://hdl.handle.net/10539/29075

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

ABSTRACT

Environmental management is a critical knowledge area for construction project management. Proper environmental management practices yield many benefits, such as lowering project risks and a good reputation with most stakeholders. However, there is persisting non-compliance with environmental legislation in the construction industry in various countries, including South Africa (SA). The current study was purposed to examine the main challenges to the implementation of environmental management plans/programmes (EMPs). As a result, the study presents suggestions for addressing the attendant challenges.

A mixed methods approach was applied to meet the research objectives. Data was collected using a questionnaire survey, follow-up interviews, and document analysis. The participants were key role players involved in the implementation of EMPs in construction projects across SA. In addition, EMP documents for various construction projects in SA were analysed.

The findings show that lack of awareness and commitment, negative perceptions among main role players and stakeholders, and poor quality EMP documents are significant challenges to the implementation of EMPs. The main suggestions put forward were that more training and awareness must be conducted among all role players, and collaboration among key stakeholders, and the quality of EMPs has to be improved. These suggestions are in line with the recommendations of this study. There is a need for the construction industry to be more committed to environmental management, and to take initiatives to improve their environmental management practices. The study's main contribution to the body of knowledge is the identification of the main challenges affecting EMP implementation during the execution stages of projects, and possible solutions to these challenges to improve environmental management practices in construction projects.

Keywords: Environmental Management Plans, Challenges, Construction projects, EIA, EMS