

Get active about development!

This booklet is intended as a user-friendly guide to share the SDCEA's experience in mobilising community action around developments negatively affecting communities, including through engaging in EIA processes.

The SDCEA and communities across South Africa have voiced many frustrations about Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). Often communities feel that an EIA is just a rubber stamping process for developments to go ahead, with the consultants running the process biased in favour of the developers and the government, while developers feel that EIAs are an expensive and unnecessary hindrance to progress.

Nevertheless, it is important for communities threatened by developments that may not be in their best interests to actively and effectively engage with the processes if they are to have any control over what happens to them.

It is hoped that this booklet will help all communities to make full use of the opportunities that the law provides them.



A guide to community activism in Environmental Impact Assessment

 CDT Foundation Inc.



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Background

The South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) is a non-governmental coalition of sixteen community and environmental organisations concerned with environmental justice and sustainable development in south Durban and eThekweni (the broader Durban municipal area). The SDCEA was launched in 1995 to unite members in a common struggle for a healthy living environment and environmentally sustainable and socially just development in south Durban.

SDCEA affiliates include: Airport Farmers, Athlone Park Civics; Austerville Clinic Committee, Bluff Ridge Conservancy, Christ the King Church Group, Clairwood Ratepayers Association, Earthlife Africa eThekweni Branch, House of Worship, Isipingo Environmental Committee, Isipingo Ratepayers Association, Joint Action Committee of Isipingo, Merebank Clinic Committee, Silverglen Civic Association, Subsistence Fishermen of KwaZulu Natal, Treasure Beach Environmental Forum, and Wentworth Development Forum.

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