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WORK PACKAGE FOR APPROVALS AND EXPERT OPINIONS

Project: Drakenstein (South Africa) – Neumarkt (Germany)

Develop a climate park at the Berg River in Drakenstein

This project was about upgrading the Paarl Arboretum, a large green space on the eastern bank of the Berg River in Drakenstein. The area was developed into a climate-smart public park that promotes climate protection and education for sustainable development. One major factor that helped make the project a success was that right from the beginning, the project team included a work package for overcoming bureaucratic obstacles when planning and obtaining approvals for the park.

An eco-centre with rainwater harvesting and solar energy systems, additional tree planting, cycling and exploration routes, plus an interactive app and a signage system to provide environmental education and awareness raising: In the Paarl Arboretum, many measures were implemented to make the area attractive for visitors and to raise awareness of climate change.

However, this did require numerous approvals and expert opinions. The Drakenstein/Neumarkt partnership responded to this challenge with a special work package that had already been considered during the planning phase, and included the necessary resources right from the outset. One year was set aside to obtain all the necessary permits and to formulate expert plans. The project used several service providers for this: to conduct the environmental impact assessment and obtain approval from the environmental authority; to study the effects on the water balance, and to obtain general approval from the water authority. This also included preparing and submitting construction plans for all construction measures, and obtaining building approval.

Success factors

- Use of service providers to take pressure off the partner municipality
- Realistic expectation management regarding the duration and costs of obtaining the necessary approvals
- Budget planning certainty and avoidance of unplanned costs
- Risk reduction through planning certainty for the entire project right from the start

Practical tips

1. For larger, more complex projects, formulate a separate work package for obtaining approvals and expert opinions as part of the joint project.
2. Use this especially for land-intensive projects in the field of climate adaptation/biodiversity.
3. Depending on the size of the project, plan a period of up to one year for this.
4. N.B.: Expenditure on preliminary studies (up to 5% of the total costs) is eligible under Service Agency funding projects, even if it is incurred before the start of the project period. This is conditional upon the costs being itemised in detail. However, the funding recipient, i.e. the commissioning municipality, bears the risk that the Service Agency might subsequently not approve funding for the project.

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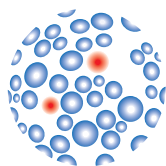
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