

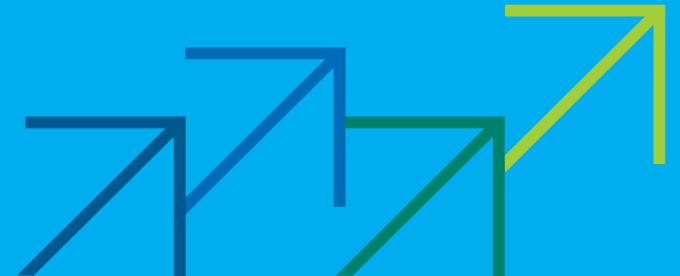






From Knowledge to Action: Building Mpumalanga's Mine Repurposing Pipeline

Min Ji Sohn, Environmental Specialist, World Bank



Learning from Korea's Integrated Approach

 In partnership with KOMIR, South African delegation visited the case studies in Korea (June 2025).

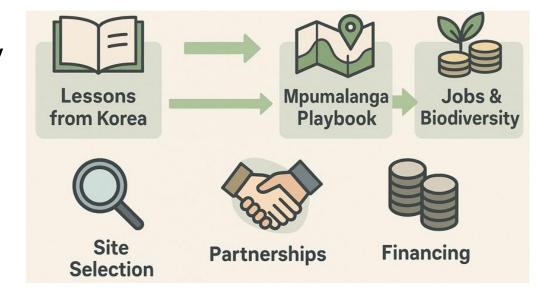
- Observed how integrated mine closure and nature-based tourism create jobs while expanding biodiversity.
- Key success factors:
 - Early site rehabilitation planning.
 - Nature-based solutions and ecotourism successfully adopted to retired mining sites.
 - Community-centered restoration and job creation.





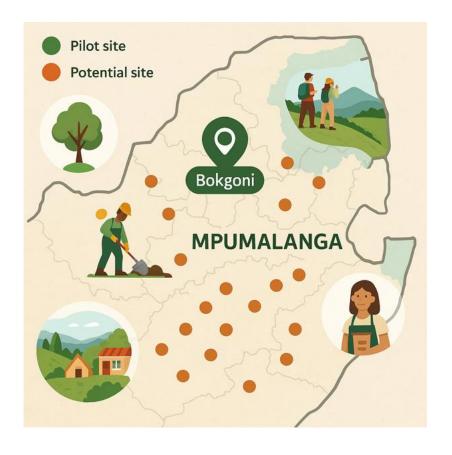
Embedding Lessons into Local Practice

- Supported by KGGTF, the grant activities work to translate Korean lessons into Mpumalanga's context.
 - Defines three key components:
 - Site selection criteria prioritizing biodiversity and tourism potential.
 - Operational models linking restoration work with local employment.
 - Financing pathways blending public, donor, and private funding (climate, tourism, biodiversity).





Turning Ideas into Pilot Sites



- Several candidate sites are being evaluated under the Playbook.
- Bokgoni Mine is the first pre-feasibility pilot exploring three focus areas:
 - Ecological restoration and protected habitat expansion.
 - Botanical garden and environment research.
 - Ecotourism and community livelihood opportunities.
- Objective: inform government decisionmaking on viable land use options for biodiversity and job creation.



Bokgoni Mine: Prototype for Nature and Jobs

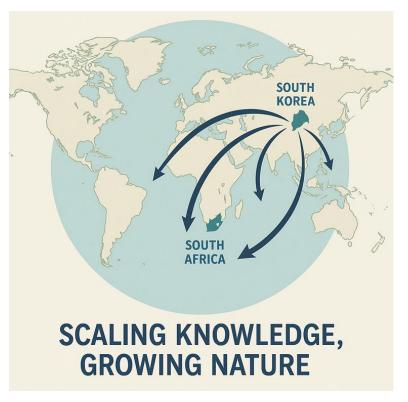
- Currently initiating pre-feasibility study with support from DARDLEA and World Bank.
- Focused on restoring degraded landscapes into biodiversity corridors connected to nearby reserves.
- Ecotourism and job creation embedded in the design.
- The pilot will generate data for scaling restoration—tourism models province-wide.



Pilot for a Replicable Model



A Shared Path: From Korea to Mpumalanga

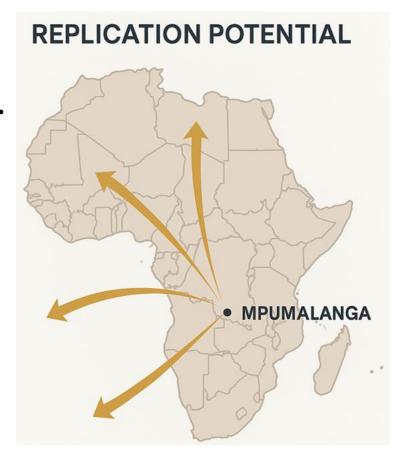


- KOMIR's role is to share Korea's lessons through joint technical missions, training programs, and pilot demonstrations.
- Next step: tailor Korean technologies to Mpumalanga's pilot sites — especially Bokgoni Mine.
- Collaboration with World Bank and DARDLEA aims to co-develop site-specific ecological and tourism designs.
- The ultimate vision: replicating "mine-to-nature" corridors across Southern Africa.



Toward a Replicable Investment Model

- Develop bankable, nature-positive projects combining ecological and economic outcomes.
- Link biodiversity finance and carbon markets with community tourism.
- Foster South Korea–South Africa collaboration for technology transfer and O&M efficiency.
- Scale lessons to other coal and mining regions across Southern Africa.





Knowledge Shared, Futures Restored



- Integrating Korean experience into Africa's green transition.
- Strengthening collaboration among governments, local communities, and technical partners.
- Restoring nature while generating sustainable livelihoods.

