Can you describe the role of an Investment Specialist?

My role involves all aspects of the investing process – from sourcing projects for funding, and screening and analysis of funding opportunities and companies, to implementing and monitoring a transaction. It does not end there – as investment specialists, we are also involved in post-close activities, such as ongoing monitoring of our investments and restructuring in distress scenarios.

How do you feel EAIF is on a mission of such importance that makes it different from mainstream corporate finance organisations?

Absolutely! There are very few (if any) organisations that makes it different from mainstream corporate finance organisations? Projects carry unique risks that are different to other risk profiles and political, social, technical, environmental, and legal aspects aspects), we have to be innovative and come up with elegant solutions to manage this risk. Projects also carry unique risks that are different to other risk profile and political and social, technical, environmental, and legal aspects.

What gives you the greatest satisfaction when you witness your projects realise?

What gives you the greatest satisfaction when you witness your projects realise what is incredibly heart-warming to Finishing projects. It’s incredibly heart-warming to hear stories of how the infrastructure projects have transformed communities and regions where they are demonstrated.

Sinenhlanhla Zulu has a core part of the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF) team involved in multi-million dollar infrastructure transactions. She spoke to Martin Roche about her work and the impact of EAIF-backed projects.

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I find the challenge exhilarating! There is a multi-step approval process in place, to make sure that our recommendations are accurate. When I first joined, I would present my recommendations to the team and a robust conversation usually follows. Credit approvals always give me a sense of achievement!

The EAIF finances impactful infrastructure projects – keeping development impact top of mind whilst staying nimble and commercial. That infrastructure culture will begin to change.

Absolutely! There are very few (if any) organisations.

The purpose of my career is to work in international development and corporate finance are male-dominated. What attracted you to work with the EAIF team at Investec?

As an African woman, what do you see as the biggest barriers to accessing the top of business and finance across the continent?

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Sharing knowledge

Martin Roche about her work and the impact of EAIF-backed projects.

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EAIF lends between US$10 million and US$65 million to technically intense infrastructure projects (such as renewable energy projects) that are in the embryonic stage to final construction. Developmental projects are in a major part of our portfolio. We also do longer term projects at affordable rates, even in the most sensitive regions where no mainstream bank is willing to provide finance. The EAIF resolution is very important to the economies and people of our continent.

What is your role at the investment organisation where you work?

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EAIF lends between US$10 million and US$65 million to qualifying infrastructure projects. How are you involved in the process that recommends a loan?

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