

Zenzeleni Networks – Rural Cooperative-Owned ISP

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 96/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

South Africa's first rural cooperative-owned ISP, Zenzeleni built a solar WiFi mesh network in Mankosi, Eastern Cape, selling access far below incumbent prices. Over 13,000 people and 10 institutions are connected, though the shift to full self-sustainability remains incomplete.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	4/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

[Zenzeleni Networks NPC / University of the Western Cape](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

[The Conversation – how the cooperative ISP was built](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

[APC.org – Zenzeleni user profile](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

[News24 – R25 uncapped WiFi bridging the divide](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

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