

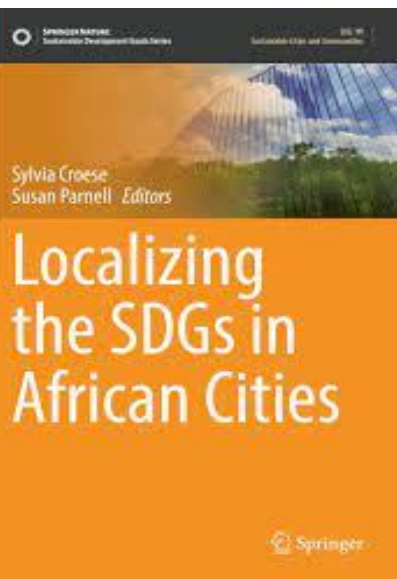


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GLOBAL NORMS, AFRICAN CONTEXTS: A Framework for Localizing Cities



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ADVANCING THE 2030
AGENDA IN AFRICAN CITIES
THROUGH KNOWLEDGE
CO-PRODUCTION



LIRA 2030
—
Africa

SDG Book Launch at the UN 8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum 2023)



The distinctive nature of African cities

Urban societies in Africa are enormously varied regarding history, demographic transitions, cultures, and governance arrangements.

The informality of settlements, multiplicity of ecologies, and intersecting inequalities add to the complex realities in which the SDGs must be grounded.

The localization of SDGs is not only subject to divergent approaches, but some of the goals may remain largely abstract due to stark urban differentiations across Africa.

- Whereas Northern Africa is highly urbanized, with most of its cities unevenly spread along its Mediterranean coastline and the Nile Valley and Delta, West African cities have a long history of cross-border mobility linked to factors such as long-distance trade.
- The urbanization patterns of cities like Bujumbura, Mogadishu, Kinshasa, Khartoum, Juba, Monrovia, and Freetown have been partly shaped by the dynamics of prolonged civil strife and drastic political transitions.
- Urban Africa is a combination of coastal, in-land, highland, and arid cities, which means that pathways to urban resilience not only differ on account of multiple ecologies but also illustrate the trade-offs among SDGs that require the protection of nature while calling for inclusive economic growth



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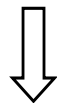
Dominant approaches to SDG localization

- **Normative SDG localization:** use of value-based principles such as policy coherence, leaving no one behind, Placing people, prosperity, and the planet at the center of SDG implementation
- **Data-driven SDG Localization:** use of indicators and frameworks of reporting progress through the Voluntary National Reviews by member states at the United Nations.
- **Financially-oriented SDG Localization:** emphasizing the role public and private investments, Integrated National Financing Frameworks and large-scale infrastructure for industrial development and information technologies.
- **Africa needs hybrid approaches to maximize the co-benefits and navigate the contradictions of universality that underpins each of the above approaches?**



The Analytical framework for localizing SDGs in cities

Mainstream interpretations



SDGs	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 11	SDG 13
Global normative statements	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Ensure affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Local SDG meanings	Ensure protection of water sources and safe reuse of water	Always save energy	Keep cities clean and pollution free	Educate people on climate change



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Counter-mainstream interpretations



SDGs	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 12
Global normative statements	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Reduce inequality within and among countries	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Local SDG meanings	Donate what you don't use	Avoid throwing away food	Recycle old materials	Don't discriminate	Use only what you need



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- TDR enabled the research team to work with local community and policy actors in appropriating local meanings to the SDGs, in line with the framework, resulting in the launch of Local Agenda 2030-Kampala City.
- Overstating expert terms and converseness in local SDG meanings at one time made local community actors recede to the background.
- Solutions from informal settlements empowered local actors to assert themselves as co-researchers. **SDGs had been localized in their communities long before the global pronouncements in 2015.**

