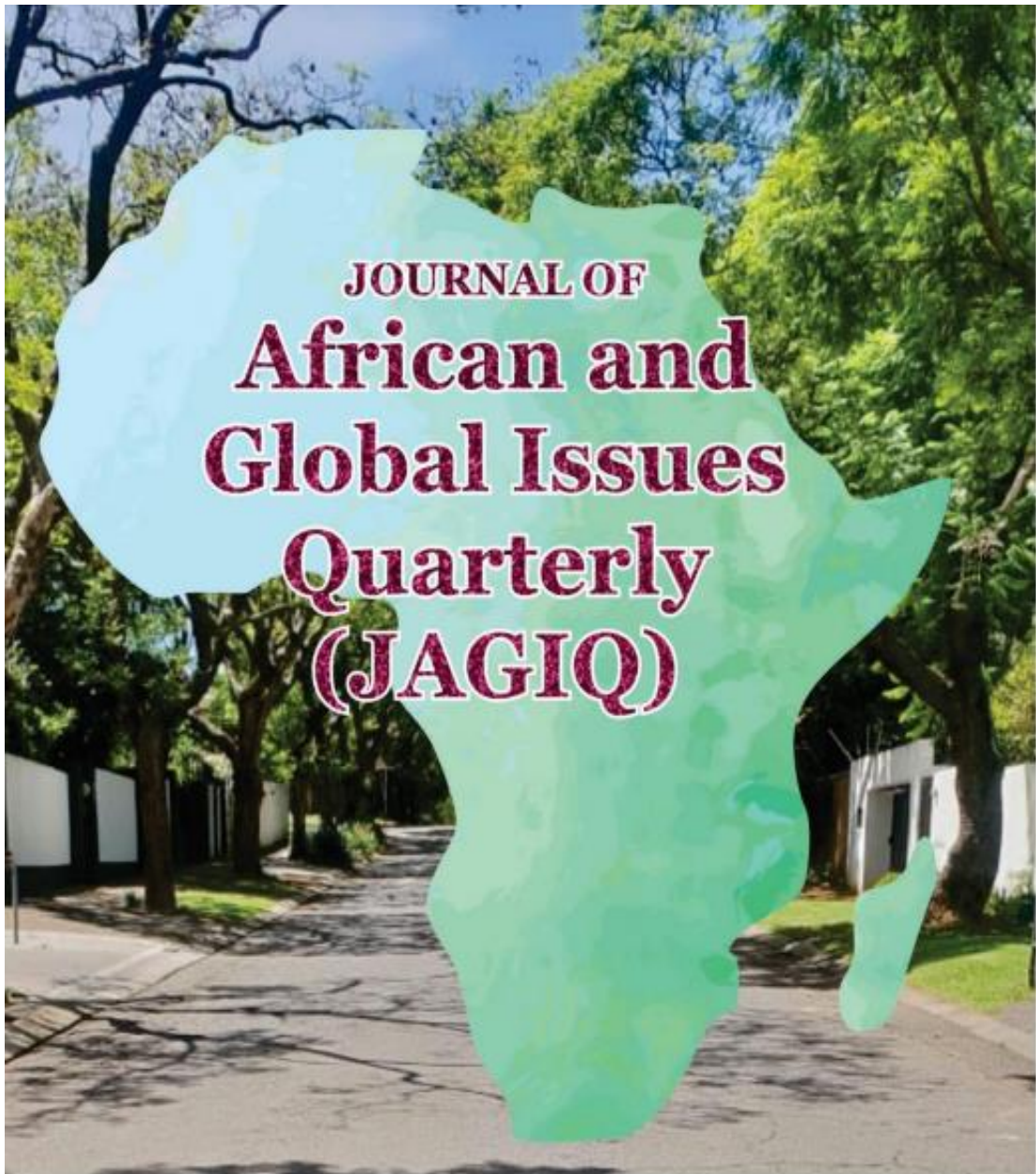




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Editorial Note

Indigenous Knowledge, Institutional Capacity, And Africa's Quest For Self-Determination

Welcome to the October 2026 issue of the African and Global Issues Quarterly. The collection of articles assembled here reflects the journal's enduring commitment to interrogating the multifaceted challenges and opportunities confronting the African continent and its place in the global order. The contributions in this volume share a common thread: a determination to look inward for solutions while engaging critically with external frameworks and legacies.

Several articles in this issue foreground the imperative of harnessing indigenous knowledge and frameworks as vehicles for progress. Nkemakolam and Amaechi propose "Igbozealotism" as an indigenous framework for socio-political and economic advancement, challenging scholars and policymakers to centre African philosophical traditions in contemporary governance discourse. Similarly, Mthethwa, Kolanisi, and Singh explore the repositioning of indigenous knowledge in fostering "studentpreneurship," while Mahlala and colleagues examine indigenous governance systems through a public administration lens. Kilonzo and her co-authors contribute a profile of indigenous banana cultivars, reminding us that agricultural biodiversity and traditional knowledge are integral to food security and rural livelihoods. These contributions collectively affirm that sustainable development in Africa must be rooted in, rather than detached from, local epistemologies and practices.

The issue also engages critically with questions of institutional effectiveness and the delivery of public goods. Lamidi and Hofisi examine the implementation gap in South African public service delivery, highlighting the centrality of bureaucratic capacity. Malope's study of community health worker programmes illuminates the intersection of recruitment, governance, and the democratisation of public administration. These articles underscore that institutional strengthening is not merely a technical exercise but a deeply political one, requiring accountability, inclusivity, and responsiveness to community needs.

On the continental and global stage, Odaudu's analysis of post-Françafrique dynamics in the Sahel offers a penetrating account of shifting dependencies and external realignments in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, a region of immense strategic significance. Taleat, Lukamba, and Diedericks examine the localisation of the

Sustainable Development Goals, arguing that global agendas must be adapted to local realities if they are to deliver meaningful prosperity. Maeresera's study of strategic communication and nation branding during Zimbabwe's COMESA chairmanship illustrates the role of media in projecting regional leadership.

Finally, the issue addresses pressing social and demographic concerns. Omopo and Pillay investigate the psychological distress associated with food insecurity and housing conditions among school-going children and adolescents, while Ifanayajo, Palamuleni, and Adebowale provide a decomposition analysis of fertility rates among women of reproductive age in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Taken together, these thirteen articles offer a rich and diverse body of scholarship. They challenge us to think deeply about the relationship between indigenous agency and institutional effectiveness, between local realities and global agendas. We trust that this issue will stimulate further research and debate and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge on African and global affairs.

We thank our authors, reviewers, and readers for their continued support.

Editor

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AFRICA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: LOCALIZATION OF THE GLOBAL AGENDA TOWARDS FUTURE PROSPERITY

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Abstract

The introduction of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 offers a universal agenda, dealing with poverty, inequality, environmental sustainability and inclusive growth. These goals cannot be achieved by the policies established at the national level in Africa, where the development agenda remains worrisome due to weak institutions, infrastructure deficits, youth unemployment, and climate change vulnerability. The paper examines the way localization of SDGs can be implemented in the national and subnational systems to enhance the effectiveness of the development agenda. It also evaluates how institutions can be reinforced, participatory governance can be enhanced, resources mobilized, and multi-stakeholder cooperation can serve as a strategy for sustainable prosperity. The qualitative study design was desktop-based through the use of policy document analysis, development reports, and the available literature on sustainable development, decentralization, and public sector governance in Africa. The study revealed that localization can enhance policy relevance, accountability and citizen involvement, particularly in decentralization reforms, institutional empowerment, mobilization of domestic revenues, technological innovation and collaborative partnerships. The attainment of SDGs in Africa is hindered by perennial ineffective funding, data mismanagement, and political unrest. The paper concludes that the

development of Africa-SDGs can still proceed successfully based on successful integration of global agendas in the regional governance systems with high emphasis on the capacity of resilient institutions and the ownership of the community to provide a realistic, inclusive and sustainable development outcome.

Keywords: *Sustainable development, internationalization, localization, global agenda, decentralization, collaborative partnership,*

Introduction

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in 2015 signified a major change in global development policy, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to tackle the interconnected problems of poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and inclusive economic growth by 2030. The SDGs are universal and encourage a comprehensive approach that incorporates economic, social, and environmental aspects of development as opposed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), mainly aimed at developing countries. The key idea of this structure is the concept of leaving no one behind, which focuses on inclusive and equitable access to opportunities and resources (United Nations, 2015; Hak et al., 2016). With this broad framework, it is very difficult to achieve the SDGs in Africa because of the structural limitations that persist on the continent. The socio-economic and institutional issues in the continent have formed the development pattern of the continent, such as poverty, lack of governance, inadequate infrastructural facilities, and environmental susceptibility. Therefore, Africa plays a vital role in

the global SDG agenda, where its development has a great impact on the overall global performance (Sachs et al., 2022).

Despite the rich endowment of natural resources and economic potential in Africa, weak institutional capacity, corruption, and ineffective governance systems persistently plague many countries. The institutions of the public sector are usually ill-equipped in terms of resources, technical skills and accountability, and hence they are unable to effectively carry out development policies. These failure points within institutions impact the development interventions and policy outcomes throughout the continent (Allen et al., 2018). As a response to the above, scholars and practitioners have placed an increased focus on the localisation of the SDGs, outlining the importance of local governments and grassroots actors in sustainable development, for instance, Satterthwaite (2016) and Mitlin and Satterthwaite (2013) emphasise inclusive urban development at the local level, whereas Revi et al. (2014) pay attention to the need to incorporate climate resilience in the planning process. Swilling (2020) emphasises systemic governance reforms, Sachs

(2015) and McArthur and Rasmussen (2019) suggest national and subnational implementation frameworks. McNeill and Pedersen (2019) also highlight the notion of policy coherence and institutional alignment. The role of multi-level governance, participatory planning and policy integration is reinforced by development agencies like the United Nations Development Programme (2016), the United Cities and Local Governments (2018), the ICLEI (2015), and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2016). The existing empirical research proves that localization increases the relevance of the policy and its effectiveness in implementation, especially in African settings (Croese and Parnell, 2022; Fox and Macleod, 2021; Reuter, 2023).

Localization of the SDG entails the national and subnationalization of the global goals by aligning development plans with the SDG targets and facilitating participation of the stakeholders. UNDP (2020) reports that successful localization enhances accountability, promotes community involvement, and improves policy outcomes. The most important participants in this process are local governments, which provide services directly related to SDG targets, such as water, sanitation, infrastructure, urban planning, and public health. Nevertheless, numerous local governments are limited by such factors as lack of financial resources, poor administrative potential, and

inadequate autonomy (United Cities and Local Governments, 2021). The lack of strong multi-level governance coordination is one of the challenges in the implementation of SDGs. Although global frameworks are being adopted by the national governments, it involves cooperation between regional and local governments, civil societies, and the private sector. Such coordination is often impeded by institutional fragmentation, the lack of resources, and communication distances, which require stronger governance mechanisms (OECD, 2020).

These challenges notwithstanding, some African nations have gone a step further to incorporate SDGs into national systems. Rwanda is aligning SDGs with its national strategy of transformation (NST1), focusing on inclusive growth and institutional coordination (Republic of Rwanda, 2017). Kenya embraces SDGs in Vision 2030 via a multi-stakeholder strategy (Government of Kenya, 2018). Ghana incorporates SDGs in national planning via the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC, 2019), whereas South Africa does it with the National Development Plan (Government of South Africa, 2019). Nigeria has also institutionalized the SDGs with its Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and other structures, which are backed by stakeholder participation (Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, 2020). These strategies focus on institutional fortification, mobilization

of resources, participatory governance, and collaboration among multi-stakeholders (UNDP, 2020).

In conclusion, the SDGs in Africa will be reached through the proper incorporation of international systems into domestic and local governments. This needs to be better institutionalized, better coordination of policies, better data systems, and inclusive governance practices. In the absence of such reforms, it might be impossible to achieve the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda (Sachs et al., 2022). It is against this backdrop that this research analyzes the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the African governance systems by looking at how both national and subnational institutions can improve implementation by strengthening institutions, participatory governance, mobilizing resources and collaborative partnerships.

Literature review

Since their adoption in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have gained a lot of academic interest as a global tool for ensuring economic prosperity, social inclusivity, and environmental sustainability. The academic literature about the SDGs in Africa is dominated by three themes, namely, SDG localization and governance, institutional capacity and policy implementation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration towards sustainable development. This section discusses the major scholarly input to

these themes and outlines gaps that present a research rationale.

Theoretical Background of SDGs.

The hypothesis of this research relates to the SDG localization and sustainable development outcomes in Africa. The framework is constructed on the premise that proper execution of the global development agendas requires a robust governance system both at the national and sub-national levels. In this design, SDG localization will be an independent variable, and sustainable development outcomes will be a dependent variable. Localization of SDGs entails incorporating the global development goals in national policies, local development strategies and local governance systems at the community level. A good localization will make sure that global development priorities are based on local realities, institutional environments, and the needs of the community.

There are a number of intervening governance variables that determine the effectiveness of SDG localization. These include:

- **Institutional Capacity**

The capability of the governance institutions to design, implement and monitor the development policies. Good institutions facilitate coordination and accountability of policies.

- **Decentralization and Local Governance**

The extent to which there is a transfer of authority and resources to subnational governments. Decentralized governance structures enable the community to participate and enhance service delivery.

Resource Mobilization: Availability of financial and technical resources needed to carry out development initiatives. International development assistance and domestic revenue generation are vital.

- **Multi-Stakeholder**

Collaboration -Government-civil-private-international organization partnerships that help in funding policy implementation and development.

Data and Monitoring Systems: Trustworthy statistical systems that can inform evidence-based policymaking and tracking SDG progress.

Under conditions of the effective functioning of these governance factors, SDG localization may result in better development outcomes, such as poverty reduction, inclusive economic growth, environmental sustainability, and improved governance systems.

SDGs were a follow-up and broadening of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but with more focus on integrated and inclusive development. According to scholars,

the SDGs stand out compared to the previous development models in that they acknowledge the interdependence between social, economic, and environmental issues. To illustrate, a systematic review of SDG literature reveals the increasing interdisciplinarity of SDG literature, with more than 200 academic papers on SDG since 2015 analyzing different areas and regions of sustainable development implementation. These papers show that the SDGs have become the initial point of reference of global development policy and research (Khan et al., 2023).

The SDGs are of special importance in the African context since the continent has a lot of development challenges like poverty, lack of infrastructure, environmental degradation, and constraints in governance. Researchers note that the development of the African continent in terms of development indicators will play a crucial role in achieving the global SDG targets. As a result, the implementation of the SDGs in Africa has become a key focus of both policy debates and academic research (Annan-Aggrey et al., 2021).

Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

One of the prominent topics in SDG literature is localization of global development agendas. Localization entails the translation of global development objectives into national

and subnational policies that are indicative of local realities and development priorities. According to scholars, localization is necessary due to the fact that the majority of SDG targets are directly associated with the services provided at the local level, such as education, water supply, sanitation, healthcare, development of infrastructure, and environmental management. Thus, the ability of local systems of governance is a key to the success of SDGs (Tesso & Nzengya, 2023). The importance of local governments and decentralized governance structures in SDG localization in Africa has been highlighted in studies. The local governments are the main point of contact between the development policies and the needs of the community. Studies have shown that successful implementation of SDGs needs robust local institutions to plan, implement and monitor development projects. Nevertheless, most African local governments experience difficulties connected with the lack of financial resources, a weak administrative base, and a decrease in independence of central governments (Annan-Aggrey et al., 2021). Empirical evidence also shows that localization of SDGs can generate positive developmental results when well incorporated in the local planning procedures. Indicatively, a study on SDG localization in Ghana also revealed that around 78% of SDG targets were incorporated into local development plans with strong positive

relationships between localized development strategies and education, healthcare and economic opportunities (Akrofi, 2024).

Governance and Institutional Capacity for SDG Implementation

The other significant literature is on the role of governance and institutional capacity in the realization of the SDGs. It is a well-recognised fact among scholars that well-functioning institutions of governance are key in coordinating development policies, mobilizing resources and also accountability in development programs. The studies on governance and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa indicate that the quality of governance has a strong impact on the achievement of the SDG goals, in terms of economic growth, institutional accountability, and social development outcomes (Hussain et al., 2025). Institutional capacity is especially significant in the process of dealing with complex development agendas like SDGs that involve coordination of various sectors and government levels. Weak institutions may not be able to adopt integrated policies because of lack of technical knowledge, lack of data systems and lack of policy coordination systems. As a result, institutional capacity enhancement has been pointed out as a major area of focus towards enhancing the implementation of SDGs in the developing world. Recent scholarship also emphasizes the importance of

technological innovation and digital governance to improve the work of the public sector and aid in the implementation of SDGs. To illustrate, a scoping review of e-governance programs in various developing nations shows that the digital platforms have the potential to enhance transparency, civic engagement, and service delivery. These innovations also help in achieving SDG goals of inclusive government, institutional accountability, and equal access to services (Omweri, 2025).

Multi-Level Governance and Stakeholder Collaboration

Another key message of the literature is the significance of multi-level governance and joint partnerships to the realization of sustainable development. The SDGs entail alignment of various actors such as national governments, local administrations, civil society organizations, institutions of the private sector, and international development partners. Researchers believe that efficient implementation of the SDGs requires the coordination of policies and activities among these actors. The studies on multi-level governance in African cities indicate that effective implementation of the SDGs will need both top-down and bottom-up methods of governance. The policy frameworks and financial resources are offered by national governments, whereas local authorities and community organizations promote

the development programs at the grassroots level. When such levels of governance work separately, there are gaps on implementation. Hence, sustainable development outcomes can only be attained with effective coordination and communication between the levels of governance (Croese et al., 2021). Another significant field of SDG scholarship has become urban governance. Development planning and policy implementation have been enhanced by the rapid urbanization in the African continent, making cities key developmental areas. The research on the localization of SDGs in urban centres in Africa emphasizes the significance of data structures, urban planning, and local policy innovation in solving such problems as housing shortages, transportation infrastructure, and environmental sustainability (Elias and de Albuquerque, 2022).

Data, Monitoring, and Evidence-Based Policy

The availability of reliable development data is another key issue highlighted in SDG literature. Strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are necessary to follow up on the achievement of SDG targets and make evidence-based policy. Nonetheless, African nations have to contend with considerable problems connected with data collection, management, and analysis. Researchers believe that the problem of data inequality and poor

statistical systems is an obstacle to the effective implementation of SDGs on the national and local levels. In the absence of relevant and timely data, government and development partners are unable to accurately measure the development outcomes or to develop suitable policy interventions. As a result, enhancing statistical systems and advancing open data efforts are becoming considered as key elements of sustainable development governance (Elias & de Albuquerque, 2022).

Research Gaps in the Literature

Although the body of literature about SDGs is increasing, there are still gaps in the research. First, most studies concentrate on the implementation at the national level, but a few studies investigate the dynamics of subnational and local governance in detail. Second, the interaction of institutional capacity with community participation and governance reforms concerning SDG outcomes in African cases is scarcely studied empirically. Third, the available literature tends to focus on the individual SDGs or individual sectors, instead of taking integrated strategies, as the SDG framework is interconnected. Besides, newer bibliometric reviews of SDG research in Africa suggest that the methodology used in SDG research in Africa is still quite homogeneous, with much of the research relying on descriptive studies as opposed to rigorous empirical research. A broader

range of methodologies and more context-specific research would greatly improve the knowledge about sustainable development processes within African governance systems (Khan et al., 2023).

The literature, on the whole, suggests that to meet the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, it is necessary to effectively localize the global development agendas and governance institutions, and to have multi-stakeholder collaboration. Although the current literature offers useful information on the challenges and opportunities linked to the implementation of SDGs, additional studies are required to identify ways in which governance reforms, institutional capacity building, and participatory approaches to development can improve sustainable development in African countries. This paper thus adds to the literature by looking at how localization of SDGs in national and subnational governance systems can enhance sustainable development in Africa.

Theoretical Framework

The paper is based on the Institutional Theory, Decentralization Theory, Governance Theory and each of these theories explains the role of governance structures, institutional arrangements and participatory mechanisms in the localization and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Institutional theory, in turn, focuses on how formal and informal institutions influence policy outcomes and development. Institutions are rules, norms and organizational structures that direct behaviour in political, economic and social systems (North, 1990). In the framework of sustainable development, effective institutions play a crucial role in coordinating development policies; mobilizing resources as well as accountability in the execution of development programs. The SDGs in themselves acknowledge the relevance of effective institutions, especially Goal 16, which advocates peace, justice, and strong institutions as an engine for sustainable development. The development planning and outcomes, as well as the gaps between the planning and the outcomes, have been historically present in most African countries due to poor institutional structures. The institutional theory is thus a good perspective on how, by empowering the institutions of governance, global development agendas can be better implemented at national and local levels.

The theory of decentralization, on the other hand, offers a valuable theoretical base to this research. Decentralization is referred to as the process through which central governments are deprived of their power, duties, and resources to subnational governments like the regional and local governments (Rondinelli, 1981). The proponents of decentralization believe that local

governments are more suited to know the needs and priorities of their community. Decentralization, thus, can enhance service delivery, citizen involvement in governance and accountability in development programs. Decentralization enables global development goals to be converted into context-specific policies and programs at the grassroots level in the context of SDG implementation. The success of decentralization, however, heavily relies on the financial strength, administrative skills, and political independence of the local governments.

Governance theory also adds to these views by highlighting the importance of collaboration and multi-stakeholder involvement in policy enforcement in the addendum. Governance goes beyond the formal government institutions to encompass networks of actors, including civil society organizations, the private sector institutions and international development partners (Rhodes, 1996). In the SDG framework, the governance theory emphasizes the significance of partnerships and coordination of policy at various sectors and levels of governance. To ensure the SDGs are achieved, governments, communities, players in the private sector, and international organizations will have to work together. In Africa, with development issues that are multidimensional and complex, the role of governance networks in mobilizing resources and collective

action towards sustainable development is important.

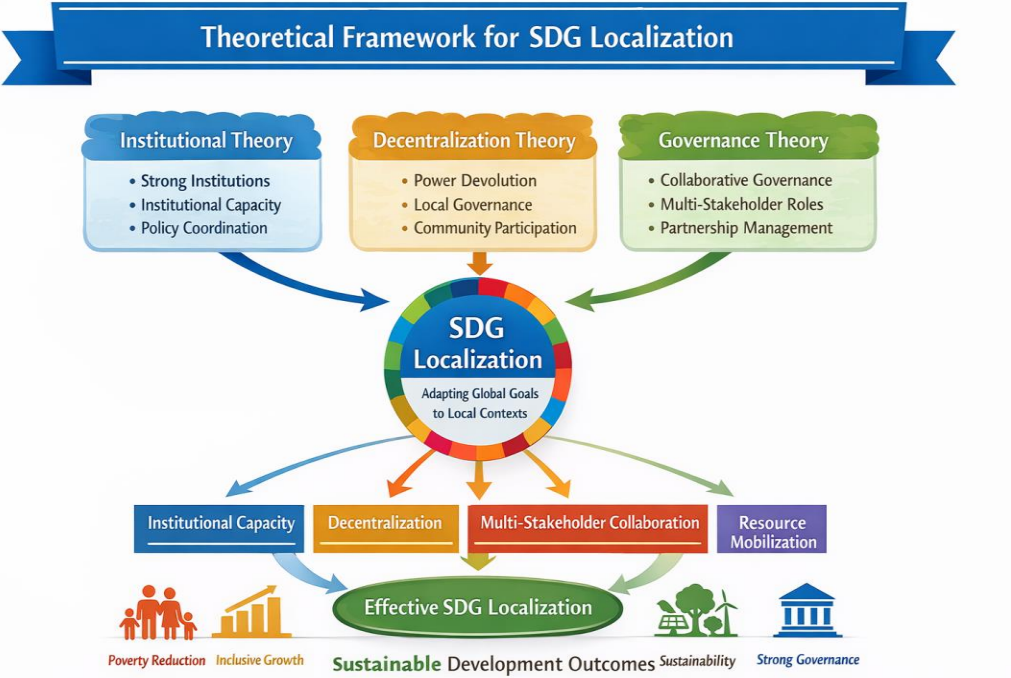


Fig I: Theoretical Framework for SDG Localization.

These theoretical perspectives, as illustrated in the above diagram, present a holistic framework of understanding localization of SDGs. The institutional theory justifies the significance of governing structures, the decentralization theory illustrates the significance of local governments in the implementation of development, and the governance theory justifies the significance of collaborations between local governments. All of these theoretical understandings are used to inform the analysis of the ways in which national and subnational institutions can boost the implementation of SDGs in Africa.

Methodology

This research uses a qualitative research design based on desktop research. The qualitative design is suitable since the research aims to examine policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, and governance practices that relate to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. Qualitative research will allow the researcher to analyze the complex social and institutional phenomena using the interpretation of policy documents, scholarly literature, and development reports. The research is based on secondary sources of data, such as academic journal articles,

policy reports, international development publications, and institutional publications on sustainable development, governance, and decentralization in Africa. Among the important sources are reports of international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). These sources contain valid and extensive information about the implementation of SDGs, governance reforms, and development policies in African countries.

Data collection was done through systematic identification and review of the relevant literature in the academic databases of Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar and JSTOR. International organizations and government institutions' policy documents and reports on development were also examined to give a contextual understanding of SDG implementation in Africa. The literature criteria used were that the data had to be related to SDG localization, governing institutions, decentralization policies and sustainable development strategies in the African context. The thematic analysis method was used to analyze the data, and this method entails the identification of recurrent themes, patterns and concepts in the literature. The thematic analysis procedure

involved several steps that included familiarization with the literature, coding of the relevant concepts, classification of the themes and interpretation of the findings. Themes the analysis revealed are institutional capacity, participatory governance, mobilizing resources, policy coordination, and collaboration among multi-stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs. There are several benefits of the desktop research method. It enables synthesis of various sources of information as well as having a holistic picture of the dynamics of governance that drive the implementation of SDGs in Africa. Nevertheless, the study also recognizes some limitations that are related to the use of secondary data. The results will be based on the accessibility and credibility of literature and policy reports available, which might not be consistent across different countries and regions. Despite these weaknesses, the methodology offers a strong basis to study the governance strategies for SDG localization in Africa.

Discussion of Findings

The results indicate that the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa is not just a technical task of matching global SDG targets with local plans, but also a governance process that is influenced by several factors, including institutional capacity, political will, the availability of resources, and the

quality of state-society relations. Although localization is generally presented in the SDG literature as making the SDGs more relevant, more accountable and more participatory, new evidence suggests a more complicated picture. Local outcomes of sustainable development can be achieved with localization efforts, but only with substantive governance improvements that strengthen local institutions and governance systems (Croese et al., 2021; OECD, 2020).

One important finding from the review is that despite the normativeness of decentralization, there is a disconnect between this norm and its application in many African countries. Local governments are closer to the needs of the community and able to provide services that are more context-specific, according to decentralization theory (Rondinelli, 1981). There are empirical examples of countries like Ghana, Rwanda and Kenya where localized planning has been shown to enhance development outcomes by involving communities more and being responsive to policy (Akrofi, 2024; UNDP, 2020). Other studies, however, suggest that decentralization does not necessarily come with fiscal, administrative or political autonomy, which reduces the effectiveness of local government in delivering development programmes (Croese & Parnell, 2022; UCLG, 2021). This contradiction implies that decentralization is not enough; rather,

effective SDG localization requires the real devolution of political, administrative and fiscal powers to subnational governments.

The results also question the notion that performance on SDGs is always linked to the strength of institutions. The institutional theory focuses on the role of formal institutions, rules and governance processes in influencing policy outcomes (North, 1990). But studies conducted in Africa in the development field indicate that the effectiveness of institutions is not only linked to institutional structures but also to the quality of governance, leadership commitment, transparency and accountability systems (Allen et al., 2018; Hussain et al., 2025). Countries with relatively less institutional capacity have shown significant gains by having coherent policy coordination and political commitment, while others with more complex governance systems still report implementation and capacity gaps. The result reinforces the claim that there is more to institutional functionality and adaptive capacity than institutional expansion (McNeill & Pedersen, 2019).

A second tension is the involvement of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Partnerships are key to the SDG framework to enable knowledge sharing, resource mobilization and policy coordination (United Nations, 2015). Although in literature

collaborative governance is often seen as a positive development, the evidence reviewed indicates that partnerships can also be an amplification of power asymmetry. Funding conditionalities and programme design at the local level can be used to influence local priorities, which can constrain local ownership of development projects, as can donor agency agendas at the global level that can shape local priorities in certain contexts (Sachs, 2015; OECD, 2020). Effectiveness of collaborative governance therefore relies on the existence of the partnerships as well as the 'influence of local actors'.

The findings also show that resource mobilization must be seen beyond just a financial problem, but also a governance problem. While lack of funding is a significant constraint to SDG implementation, the literature also shows that the allocation, management and monitoring of resources are also important determinants of the development outcome (UNECA, 2019; World Bank, 2020). Countries with strong domestic resource mobilization efforts and open public financial management and accountability are more likely to achieve sustainable development results than countries that depend heavily on foreign assistance. This observation echoes the idea that money by itself is not the answer to sustainable development and that there must be governance change.

One important contribution that comes from this synthesis is to consider SDG localization in Africa as an institutional adaptation process instead of a mere translation process. Many existing works tend to operationalize localization in terms of the convergence of national and local development plans with SDG universal goals (UNDP, 2020; UCLG, 2018). The evidence examined, however, indicates that success is achieved where global development goals are grounded in local governance contexts, socio-economic conditions and community priorities. However, when localization is seen as a compliance process, focusing on plan alignment and indicators rather than governance constraints, implementation difficulties become apparent. This interpretation builds on current research, highlighting the transformative, not procedural, aspect of SDG localization.

The overall findings indicate that the future of SDG implementation in Africa goes beyond new global governance structures and looks at the formation of adaptive governance institutions to balance global aspirations with local realities. Sustainable development does not result from any single governance action, but from the interplay between institutional capacity, political leadership, resource governance and citizen participation. It gives a more nuanced view of localization and helps to continue the discussion on how

global development agendas can be effectively translated into meaningful local development outcomes in different governance contexts in Africa (Croese et al., 2021; Sachs et al., 2022).

Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals are a bold international agenda to tackle the multifaceted issues of poverty, inequality, environmental sustainability and inclusive development. In the case of Africa, these objectives need to be met through proper incorporation of global development agendas in national and local governance systems. This research emphasizes that institutional capacity, decentralization, mobilization of resources and multi-stakeholder cooperation are critical in ensuring localization of the SDGs. The results indicate that improving institutional capabilities of governance and empowering local authorities are important to transforming SDG commitments into tangible development outputs. Furthermore, increased mobilization of domestic resources and encouraging joint efforts among stakeholders in development can make sustainable development efforts more effective throughout the continent. Finally, the achievement of the SDGs in Africa will rely on the capacity of governments, institutions, and communities to collaborate in ensuring inclusive and sustainable development. Empowering the systems of governance and fostering participatory development modalities would thus continue to be key strategies

towards meeting the goals of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

Policy recommendations

Following the results of this research, several policy recommendations are made on how to increase localization and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity

Institutional reforms to enhance the effectiveness of the public sector institutions in development planning and implementation should be given priority by the African governments. Institutional efficiency and accountability can be improved through capacity-building programs, reform of administration and professional training of public officials. Another way of ensuring that there is coordination of SDG-related policies and programs is strengthening the institutions of governance.

Improving Local governance and decentralization

Local governments are central in transforming the global development objectives into community-based development initiatives. Governments are therefore advised to reinforce policies of decentralization through giving more administrative autonomy and financial powers to local governments. Better decentralization will improve service delivery, citizen participation and accountability within development programs.

Improving Domestic Resource Mobilization

The SDGs need a lot of financial resources to be achieved. Countries in Africa need to enhance mobilization of domestic resources by enhancing tax collection, decreasing the amount of illegal money transfers, and increasing the number of public-private partnerships. Sustainable development projects can also be financed using innovative financing mechanisms like green bonds, development funds and blended finance initiatives.

Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

Government-to-government, government-to-business, government-to-civil society and government-to-international development agency collaborative partnerships are essential in realizing sustainable development. Governments need to promote inclusive policy discussions and joint development projects exploiting the skills and resources of various players.

Enhancing Data System and Surveillance

Monitoring and evaluation are necessary to monitor progress towards SDG targets. Governments ought to invest in national statistical systems, data infrastructure and digital technologies to enhance data collection and analysis. The enhancement of data systems will help in evidence-based policymaking and increase accountability in development programs.

Implications for Public Administration in Africa

The results of this research are of great impact on the sphere of studying and

governing Africa. To begin with, the SDGs implementation emphasizes the growing role of the practice of collaborative governance in solving complex development issues. Administrators in the public sector should thus be able to develop the skill of partnering, engaging stakeholders as well as coordinating policies in the various sectors. Second, the paper highlights the significance of institutional changes and capacity building in the institutions of the public sector. Good governance must be based on quality bureaucracies that are capable of designing and executing integrated development policies. Enhancing administrative capacity is hence necessary in order to achieve better governance performance and development results. Third, the research focuses on the importance of decentralized forms of governance in facilitating participatory development. Local governments are important institutions of carrying out development activities and involving communities in decision-making activities. Empowerment of local governance systems can thus empower citizen involvement and better service delivery to the people. Lastly, the SDG framework promotes the use of evidence-based policymaking in the system of public administration. There must be reliable data, monitoring systems, and evaluation frameworks to evaluate progress in development and inform policy decisions. Data-driven methods should thus be incorporated by public administrators in the planning and governance processes of development.

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