Call for book chapters (Unisa Press/Springer)

Book title: Sustainable Development Goals for Society

Godwell Nhamo (PhD) Editor-in-Chief
Exxaro Chair on Business & Climate Change
Institute for Corporate Citizenship,
University of South Africa
P O Box 392, UNISA, 0003
email: nhamog@unisa.ac.za or
Tel: +27(0) 12- 433-4725
Cell: +27 (0) 73-163-1114

Muchaiteyi Togo (PhD) Editor
Department of Environmental Sciences
University of South Africa
P O Box 392, UNISA, 0003
email: togomn@unisa.ac.za
Tel: +27(0) 11- 471-3934
Cell: +27 (0) 72-779-1350

and

David Chikodzi (PhD) Editor
Exxaro Chair on Business & Climate Change
Institute for Corporate Citizenship
University of South Africa
P O Box 392, UNISA, 0003
email: dchikodzi@hotmail.com
Cell: +263712777317

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Background

The history of the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) dates back to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) Conference held in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro. The need for a post-2015 Agenda was highlighted in the Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want*. From the Rio+20 Conference, the UN General Assembly re-affirmed “the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages” and noted the fact that people are at the centre of sustainable development (United Nations, 2012: 2). The commitment to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was made. The MDGs implementation process therefore remains the foundation for implementing the SDGs. Designed along a similar architecture to the MDGs, the SDGs seek to complete what the MDGs could not attain based on a balance of the three dimensions of sustainable development at a much more enhanced and ambitious level. The SDGs are universal in nature, more inclusive and they include a well-defined means of implementation. The SDGs are interlinked and through them, the world looks to involve every citizen and organisation. Hence the motto ‘Let no one be left behind’.

The 2030 for Sustainable Development (AfSD) that enshrines the 17 interwoven SDGs and their 169 targets and many more indicators, is broad. It covers a wide range of goals including (United Nations, 2015), poverty eradication; economic growth; social inclusion; environmental sustainability and peace for all by 2030 (Figure 1).

![The SDGs animated](image)

Figure 1: The SDGs animated

Post-2015, countries are working towards meeting the SDGs. Across the globe, the challenge of domesticating and localising the SDGs in terms of national and local development priorities
requires a combination of technical, scientific as well as administrative and political input. It is clear that a collaborative research approach is needed in order to stay true to the SDGs’ inclusive and bottom-up approach. Of particular interest is the notion that the SDGs represent a development agenda that should be realised by both the developed and developing countries. This provides researchers across and within disciplines with endless novel opportunities to engage with the SDGs. Given the foregone, the SDGs remain and agenda for society. Hence the need to document their implementation across societies in the book Sustainable Development Goals for Society (SDGs4S).

The world has gone past four years of SDGs implementation and 2030 is fast approaching. To this end, it is high time to take stock and report what is on the ground so as to inform further implementation and to scale up implementation activities going forward. The state of progress towards the SDGs is best explained by two statements from the UN Secretary-General’s 2019 Progress Report (United Nations 2019: 1):

The report demonstrates that over the past four years, progress has been made in a number of Goals and targets and a wealth of action has been undertaken by Governments and other stakeholders to respond to the 2030 Agenda more broadly.

Yet there is more to come from the other side.

The report also demonstrates, however, that progress has been slow on many Goals, that the most vulnerable people and countries continue to suffer the most, and that the global response thus far has not been ambitious enough.

To this end, the following twin main research questions informing the call for the SDGs4S are stipulated:

(1) How are key stakeholders (government, civil society, business, local government, education etc.) engaging, domesticating, localizing and implementing the SDGs?

(2) What innovative ways are being employed to scale up SDGs implementation, especially at local levels but within the context of national development plans and visions?

Aim of the book

This book is aimed at documenting SDGs research focussing on how key stakeholders are engaging, domesticating, localizing and implementing the SDGs. The editors are looking for innovative ways being employed to scale up implementation. At the moment, there is not much documented research on SDG implementation, especially from developing regions like Africa. The centrality of people (society) is emphasised in the 2030 AfSD. Chapters must clearly show how the research contributes towards creating a better world for people and our planet now and into the future.
The output will be a peer reviewed book with a compilation of separate chapters. The draft chapters of the book are expected to be ready by end of April 2020. The book is intended to be published by the Unisa Press in the 3rd or last quarter of 2020.

Call for book chapters and/or abstracts

The chapters and/or abstracts should be based on any or a combination of the 17 SDGs as captured herein. The Editors will prioritise publishing chapters documenting experiences at sub-national levels like local government, provincial and state scales.

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

**NB:** Specialised chapters like those focusing on the role of techniques like GIS and remote sensing, and other areas like the role of the media etc. in SDGs implementation are also welcome.

Author guidelines

The Unisa Press/Springer guidelines will be used and provided in due course to authors with accepted chapters and/or abstracts.
Writing time lines

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<tr>
<th>Activity/output</th>
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<tr>
<td>Extended chapter abstracts of up to 500 words in Word, including sufficient</td>
<td>30 October 2019 or earlier</td>
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<td>details on methodology and chapter outlines.</td>
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<td>Feedback on abstracts and chapter outlines to authors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Chapters</td>
<td>30 April 2020</td>
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<td>Peer review feedback</td>
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<td>Reviewed chapters back from authors</td>
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<td>The book volume is ready for submitting to the publisher</td>
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Contacts

Please forward all the chapter and/or abstracts to:

Prof Godwell Nhamo (PhD)
Programme Leader and Editor-in-Chief
Email: nhamog@unisa.ac.za
Cell: +27-(0)73-163-1114

And please copy

Ms Desiree Sehlapelo
Email: desiree.sehlapelo@gmail.coms and siboudlm@unisa.ac.za
Cell: +27 (0) 71-683-5457
Tell: +27- (0) 12 433 4736

References

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/733FutureWeWant.pdf


United Nations (2019). *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General.* Available at: