

# Local Government Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Symposium



## Agenda 2030: The Global Sustainability Agenda and the Role of Local Governments

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which came into effect in 2015, represent an ambitious and remarkable universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030, with the overarching aim of leaving no one behind. There are 17 goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators. This brochure provides a snapshot of the framework and roadmap for their localisation, developed by ICLEI Africa.

The scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda mean that the process of localising the SDGs will require the participation of a wide range of stakeholders and partners. While the SDGs are global in nature, their achievement will depend on our ability to make them a reality in our cities and regions. This is why local and regional governments must be at the centre of the 2030 Agenda, as the foundation of South Africa's efforts aimed at achieving the SDGs.

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Localisation Framework

The SDGs Localisation Framework below highlights the critical role of local governments in two processes that are essential for the localisation of the SDGs.

1. Local Governments are the foundation of mainstreaming processes in contextually translating and aligning their planning and development processes and priorities with the SDGs.
2. It is also essential that the progress and contributions of local government in achieving the SDGs are captured as part of overall national monitoring and reporting efforts.

## Two components of the localisation framework

A cross-sector and sphere driven process supported by national, provincial and other support organisations (e.g. ICLEI)



Localisation and mainstreaming



Measurement and reporting



A nationally driven process to develop consistent indicators - supported by provinces and municipalities and other support organisations (e.g. ICLEI)



## ACRONYMS

SDG/s | Sustainable Development Goal/s

NUA | New Urban Agenda

NDP | National Development Plan

IUDF | Integrated Urban Development Framework

NSDF | National Spatial Development Framework

PSDF | Provincial Spatial Development Framework

PGDS | Provincial Growth and Development Strategy

MSDF | Municipal Spatial Development Framework

IDP | Integrated Development Plan

SDBIP | Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan

## What does “localising the SDGs” mean?

Alignment is needed at all levels in the South African context in order to achieve the ambitious global sustainability agenda through localisation mechanisms such as the Urban Development Framework (IUDF) and the National Development Plan (NDP).

Though the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets are often described as aspirational, it is at municipal level where they become tangible to regular citizens. Localisation relates to how the SDGs can provide an enabling framework within which local government mandated functions are carried out as a core component of the overall progress of the country, supported from the bottom-up.

The SDGs offer a useful basis for the integration of existing and planned local processes and priorities (i.e. IDP strategic objectives), in line with local government mandates that are encapsulated in the SDG targets and indicators. The table to the right shows an example of how IDP objectives can be aligned with the SDGs and Agenda 2063, NDP etc. It shows an example of how the current work of local governments can be mapped to demonstrate existing local contributions to the SDG targets and indicators, identify gaps, and inform context-specific future planning and programme design accordingly.

A flexible **roadmap for localisation of the SDGs** has been developed by ICLEI Africa in response to the two processes highlighted in the localisation framework:

### 1 Awareness & understanding

Communication and awareness campaigns  
Understanding what the SDGs mean for us (mandates)  
Understanding the nature of targets and indicators  
Connecting to current work  
Stakeholder engagements and discussions  
Interest, buy-in, support, and political will (SDG culture building)  
Status quo community needs assessment and analysis-  
understand contextual realities

### 4 Reviewing, measuring, monitoring & reporting

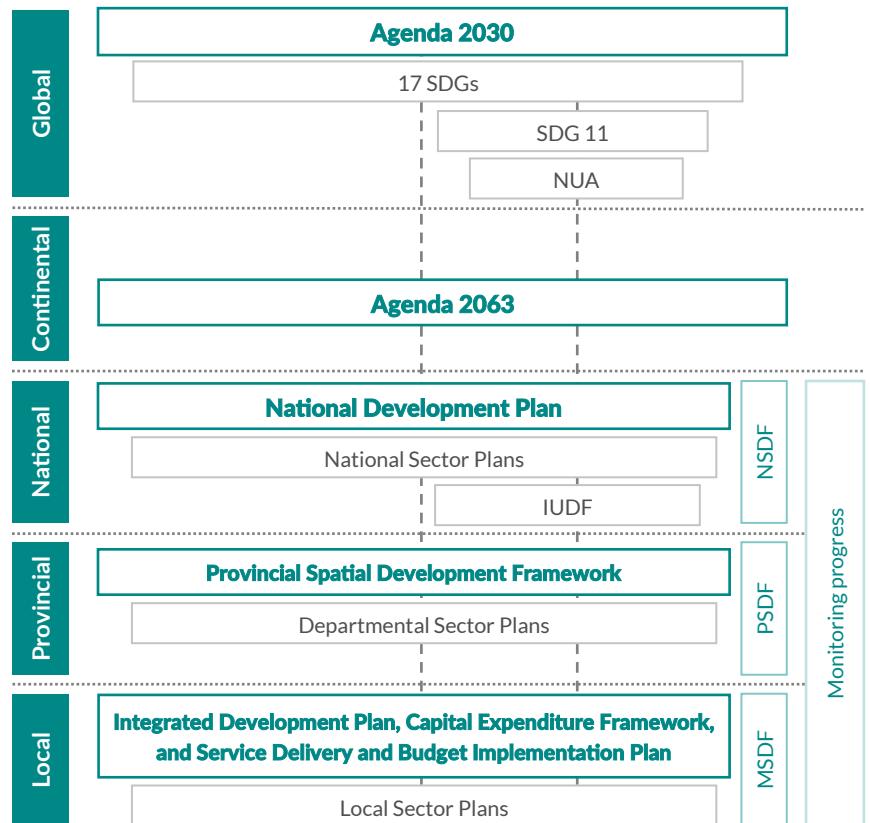
Data collection and analysis (support national reporting efforts)  
Evidence-based decision making and autonomy through monitoring, reviewing, and learning mechanisms (measure progress)  
Performance reviews  
Reporting on municipal performance and efforts  
Pause, reflect, learn, adapt processes and mechanisms

Refinement



Localisation of the SDG targets and indicators is therefore, in essence, about alignment and mainstreaming of current and existing planning efforts. It is not always about re-planning to incorporate the full extent of the SDGs' seemingly onerous and exhaustive list of targets and indicators.

In this way, municipal priorities are not necessarily determined directly by the SDG targets and indicators themselves. Instead, priorities in each context should be locally determined and then aligned in terms of demonstrating their contributions to overall national progress. If local efforts are aligned in a compounding manner, they have the potential to realise collective action towards achieving the global sustainability agenda.



## Capacity building (training and education)

Strategic considerations for embedding the SDGs in policy and plans

Evaluate existing plans (desktop)

Understand current efforts and gaps

Link SDGs to goals in IDP, SDF, SDBIP etc.

Mainstreaming the SDGs (policy alignment)

## Strategic embedding

2

Integrated planning (horizontal and vertical integration and collaboration)

Establishing local government functions in relation to the SDGs

Who needs to be involved?

Partnership building

Champions and governing structure

Institutionalisation (roles, responsibilities, mandates, performance management, budgeting)

## Implementation

3

Strategic interventions (programme and project design)

“We do not implement the SDGs, we implement programmes and projects to achieve them.”

An example of a tool to align IDP goals and objectives to the SDGs as a first step to mapping local government contributions to achieving the targets and indicators, and identifying gaps that planned programmes could fill:



**IDP Goals and Objectives**

SDG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Municipal Transformation and Organisational Development				●	●		●			●	●	●					●	●
Service Delivery and Infrastructure				●		●	●		●		●		●		●			
Local Economic Development and Social Development	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●							
Good Governance and Public Participation						●	●			●	●						●	●
Municipal Financial Viability and Management	●	●	●	●			●				●							●
Cross Cutting Issues	●					●			●			●	●	●	●		●	●

**About ICLEI Africa**

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

At ICLEI Africa, we serve our African members, working with cities and regions in more than 25

countries across the continent. We offer a variety of urban sustainability solutions through our dynamic and passionate team of skilled professionals

ICLEI Africa is well-positioned to provide support to local governments on the localisation and implementation of programmes and projects aimed at achieving the SDGs and, in turn, the global sustainability agenda. As such, ICLEI has developed a range of tools in this regard. For inquiries or to learn more please contact [iclei-africa@iclei.org](mailto:iclei-africa@iclei.org) / 021 202 0381.

