

FIDIC-GAMA 2017



Conference on Infrastructure

7 - 10 May | Cape Town | South Africa

African Partnerships for Sustainable Growth

MELISSA ADENDORFF

Global Interdisciplinary Collaboration – MDGs/SDGs



#FIDIC_GAMA2017



INTRODUCTION

- The MDGs and SDGs are not legally binding agreements.
- They represent a global, moral, practical, and ethical commitment.
- This commitment, however, cannot be enforced, and thus requires global cooperation between the private sector, as well as governments, and local and international investors.
- “Sustainability requires the leadership and responsibility of the private, civil, and public sectors” (Sachs 2012:2210).



CONTEXTUALISATION

- MDGs “established measurable and time-bound objectives” for the promotion of worldwide awareness and accountability, as well as the creation of improved metrics and opportunities for social feedback.
- MDGs may be achieved in isolation.
- The MDG progress is variable, however. The goals were formulated without intermediate targets, which impacts on data reporting, collection, and policy creation.
- SDGs embody the MDGs, and expand upon the implementation of interventions to eradicate poverty and hunger, as well as inequality; and ensuring inter alia food security and improved nutrition, as well as health, equitable education, gender equality, availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation, access to energy, economic growth, sustainable ecosystems, and sustainable consumption (United Nations 2016).



DISCUSSION

- The SDGs present an opportunity for global engagement because of the potential for the “mobilisation of global knowledge” (Sachs 2012:2211). The global community of practice in terms of research and innovation may be able to collaborate in “global problem-solving networks” related to the sustainable development of energy, food, urbanisation, climate resilience, disaster management, and vulnerability mitigation.
- Global collaboration in the achievement of the SDGs does not fall solely within the scope of research and development, but also in terms of public investments in infrastructure and technology, in order to empower low-income countries to “organise human activity to combine living standards and ecological imperatives” (Sachs 2012:2211).



DISCUSSION

- This potential development therefore depends on the global collaboration of the communities of practise, to use the data gathered from the MDG initiative in order to establish a framework for global environmental resilience, which may then broken down to a community level interventions, around the world, through the implementation of municipal environmental management frameworks, as well as local, national, and international targets for land oceans which require protection, and a universal set of indicators for natural resources.



COLLABORATION – EXEMPLIFICATION AND CASE STUDY

- An example of collaboration in the attempt to achieve SDG 6 is evidenced by the Zambian Western Water and Sewerage Company Ltd (WWSC) commissioning a South African civil engineering firm, SMEC South Africa, in order to mitigate the vulnerability of ten towns in the Western Province of Zambia with regard to water supply and sanitation services.
- The subject matter expertise applied to the aforementioned project comprised a socio-spatial investigation into the water poverty of the affected area in order to contextualise the vulnerability of the inhabitants of the area, as well as the environment of the affected area. This underpinned the engineering design process with regard to the design of bulk water supply abstraction points, the water distribution network, raw water treatment, and sanitation services.



CONCLUSION

- Sustainable development of resources is attainable through interdisciplinary approaches, as exemplified by the collaboration of SMEC SA and the WWSC where social sciences and engineering were used in conjunction in order to identify the vulnerability of a community and to mitigate that vulnerability.
- This example shows that regardless of the legal status of the SDGs, the goal to provide the sustainable access to resources in order to improve the quality of life in an impoverished area is possible, and that the SDGs create a platform for collaboration, because they are not considered in the relative isolation of individual countries.

FIDIC-GAMA 2017



Conference on Infrastructure

7 - 10 May | Cape Town | South Africa

Thank you for attending.



#FIDIC_GAMA2017