

Conceptualizing Integrated Development Planning And Implementation In Rural Local Municipalities In South Africa

Wandile Sidaki

Business Administration Department

LIGS University

Wandile.sidaki@outlook.com

Abstract—This paper explores the conceptual frameworks and significance of integrated development planning (IDP) and its subsequent implementation within the context of rural Local Municipalities in South Africa. It delves into the fundamental principles of IDP, examines its role in fostering sustainable development, and outlines the challenges and opportunities specific to rural areas. This paper highlights the importance of tailored approaches, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration in successful IDP implementation. It underscores the transformative potential of integrating various developmental facets to drive positive change and improve the quality of life in often marginalized rural South African communities.

Keywords—*Integrated Development Planning, rural Local Municipalities, community engagement, sustainable development, participatory development, South Africa*

I. INTRODUCTION

The success of local municipal development projects is critical in developing countries, and in South Africa's Local Municipalities, the integrated development plan (IDP) serves as a cornerstone for comprehensive local socio-economic development strategies [1]. This is in accordance with the Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000) which advocates for a municipal planning model that calls for the development of an IDP, which outlines the development activities of a Local Municipality for a period of five years [2].

Integrated development planning is a systematic and participatory process that aims to coordinate various development initiatives within a Municipality [3, 4]. It integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions to create a holistic strategy for sustainable development. The core principles of inclusivity, transparency, and cross-sector collaboration are foundational to the successful implementation of IDPs [1, 5, 6].

Initially, understanding the function of the IDP might appear quite simple, yet complexities and uncertainties arise due to the politics underlying its formulation and the broader uncertainties concerning

the role of local government in South Africa. A crucial observation involves the paradox between establishing an independent domain for local government within a framework of cooperative governance, while simultaneously assigning local government a primarily technocratic role in executing national government policies and programs [7].

What is needed in a developmental local government is a greater political and policy-making role for Local Municipalities. Local Municipalities should have the autonomy to build local alliances and partnerships – including with the private sector and civil society organizations, and when possible, marshal their own resources to fulfill their obligations in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. This is a move away from the previous framing of local governance, which stressed the principal delivery function of third-tier government (the Local Government) [8]. However, critical to the success of the developmental Local Government is the capacity of the Local Municipalities to transform the political-economic function of Local Municipalities through building a hegemony of ideas around the developmental criteria and gathering together local resources, capacity, and expertise to attract private investments to meet the basic needs.

Given this background, the unique needs of rural communities necessitate a thoughtful conceptualization of IDPs and their subsequent implementation. This article utilizes theoretical frameworks that impact the execution of IDPs in rural Local Municipalities of South Africa, exploring the fundamental principles, challenges, and opportunities associated with theories and implementing IDPs. Comprehending these underlying theoretical principles allows policymakers and stakeholders to devise and enact IDPs that effectively address the distinct challenges and opportunities found in rural settings more adeptly. This paper explores five theoretical frameworks underpinning the implementation of IDPs in the rural Local Municipalities of South Africa, namely, the Sustainable Development Theory, the Participatory Development Theory, the Decentralization and Local Governance Theory, the Social Capital Theory, and the Multi-Level Governance Theory.

II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THEORY

The integrated development plan plays a crucial role in guiding the holistic development of communities, especially in rural areas where challenges such as poverty, inequality, and limited resources are prevalent [9]. Sustainable development theory serves as a guiding framework for the effective and balanced implementation of IDPs in these rural communities [3, 10-12].

Sustainable development theory centers on satisfying current generational needs while safeguarding the ability of future generations to fulfill their own requirements. In rural South Africa, where livelihoods heavily rely on natural resources and environmental sustainability, IDPs must harmonize with this theory [13]. Enforcing sustainable development practices within IDPs guarantees the enduring welfare of rural communities. This entails amalgamating economic, social, and environmental aspects, endorsing renewable energy options, conserving biodiversity, and advocating for sustainable agricultural and land use methods [14, 15].

One of the foundational principles of sustainable development theory is social equity and inclusion. In rural South Africa, where historical injustices and inequalities persist, IDPs offer an opportunity to address these issues comprehensively. By prioritizing access to education, healthcare, housing, and essential services for all residents, IDPs can uplift marginalized communities. Emphasizing social equity ensures that vulnerable populations are not left behind, thereby promoting social cohesion and stability [15, 16].

Sustainable development theory underscores the importance of economic viability in development initiatives. In the context of rural South Africa, IDPs should focus on projects that create jobs, support local entrepreneurship, and stimulate economic growth [17]. Investments in agriculture, agribusiness, and rural industries can provide sustainable livelihoods, reduce poverty, and contribute to self-reliance [18]. This economic empowerment not only improves living standards but also strengthens community resilience in the face of economic challenges [19].

Environmental sustainability is a critical pillar of sustainable development theory. Rural areas in South Africa often have fragile ecosystems that are vital for local livelihoods [20]. IDPs can champion environmentally friendly practices such as sustainable land use, renewable energy adoption, and ecosystem restoration [21]. By protecting natural resources and minimizing environmental degradation, IDPs ensure that future generations can thrive in a healthy and resilient environment [22].

Sustainable development theory prioritizes the long-term view, seeking to meet the needs of the present without compromising the well-being of future generations. IDPs in rural South Africa must be

designed with a focus on lasting impacts rather than short-term gains. This involves investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and sustainable resource management that lay the foundation for continued development and prosperity [15-17, 20, 23].

The application of sustainable development theory in integrated development plan implementation in rural areas of South Africa is paramount for achieving balanced and enduring development outcomes. By incorporating principles of social equity, economic viability, environmental stewardship, and long-term sustainability, IDPs can bring about positive transformation to communities that have historically faced challenges [12, 24]. As South Africa continues its journey towards a more inclusive and prosperous future, the integration of sustainable development theory into IDP implementation remains an essential driver of change.

Challenges and considerations

Rural areas in South Africa often grapple with high levels of poverty and unemployment. Sustainable development, while aiming for long-term benefits, might initially require substantial investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare. This can strain the limited resources of local governments and lead to conflicts over budget allocation.

Rural communities in South Africa are culturally diverse with distinct traditions, languages, and belief systems. Implementing a one-size-fits-all sustainable development plan might not account for these variations, potentially leading to resistance or unintended consequences. It is crucial to involve local stakeholders and respect their cultural values throughout the planning process.

Basic resources such as clean water, electricity, and transportation can be scarce in rural areas. Integrating sustainable technologies like renewable energy or efficient water management systems could be challenging due to infrastructural limitations and the initial costs involved.

Implementing sustainable development practices often requires changes in behavior and mindset. In rural South Africa, where access to education might be limited, there could be a lack of awareness about the benefits of sustainable practices. Effective awareness campaigns and capacity-building efforts are necessary to ensure the successful adoption of sustainable strategies.

To overcome challenges related to cultural diversity and resource limitations, involving the local community in the planning process is paramount. Participatory approaches empower residents to contribute their knowledge, needs, and aspirations, resulting in a more tailored and relevant IDP.

A rigid adherence to theoretical models might not be practical in the dynamic context of rural South Africa. The IDP should allow for flexibility and adaptability to accommodate unforeseen challenges and changing circumstances.

Effective implementation requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including

government bodies, NGOs, businesses, and community organizations. Collaborative governance can help pool resources, share responsibilities, and ensure a holistic approach to sustainable development.

While sustainable development is oriented toward long-term benefits, it is crucial to address immediate needs as well. Balancing short-term goals like poverty alleviation and job creation with long-term environmental sustainability requires careful planning and prioritization.

Building local capacity to understand, manage, and maintain sustainable initiatives is crucial. This involves providing training, technical assistance, and education to community members, ensuring the longevity of the projects beyond initial implementation.

III. PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT THEORY

Participatory development theory is a transformative approach that recognizes the importance of involving local communities in decision-making processes to ensure sustainable and effective development outcomes [25]. In the context of integrated development plan (IDP) implementation in rural areas of South Africa, participatory development theory plays a pivotal role in empowering communities, fostering ownership, and promoting equitable development [26]. IDPs that embrace participatory development principles guarantee that community members have a say in establishing priorities, recognizing necessities, and crafting developmental endeavors. By integrating the knowledge, abilities, and aspirations of residents, these IDPs can cultivate a sense of ownership and elevate the sustainability of development initiatives. [27].

Principles of Participatory Development Theory

a) Community empowerment.

Participatory development theory places communities at the centre of the development process. It recognizes that local residents possess valuable knowledge about their needs, challenges, and aspirations. In rural South Africa, where historical and cultural contexts are diverse, involving community members ensures that development initiatives are contextually relevant and address real issues [28].

b) Inclusivity.

This theory emphasizes inclusivity, aiming to engage all segments of the community, including marginalized groups such as women, youth, and indigenous populations. In rural areas of South Africa, where inequalities are often pronounced, inclusion ensures that the voices of those traditionally marginalized are heard and that their needs are adequately addressed in IDP implementation [29].

c) Participation in decision-making.

Participatory development theory advocates for active participation in decision-making processes. In the context of IDP implementation, local communities are not passive recipients but active contributors to planning, executing, and evaluating development projects. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and accountability among community members [30, 31].

Challenges and considerations.

While participatory development theory offers numerous benefits, its implementation can face challenges such as resource constraints, power dynamics, and varying levels of community engagement. It is important to ensure that the process is truly inclusive, respects local cultures, and provides the necessary support for effective participation.

IV. THE DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE THEORY

The theories of decentralization and local governance propose the delegation of decision-making authority and resources to local authorities and communities. In rural South Africa, where centralized governance systems might not effectively address local requirements, IDPs have the potential to empower Local Municipalities and communities. [32]. IDPs foster local ownership, accountability, and efficient service delivery by transferring duties and resources to the grassroots level. This theory acknowledges that solutions to challenges in rural development are most effectively devised and executed by those in closest proximity to the concerns. [33].

Decentralization and Local Governance Principles

a) Empowerment.

Decentralization shifts decision-making power and responsibilities from central authorities to local communities. This empowers communities to shape their own development trajectories based on their unique needs and priorities [34]. In rural South Africa, where development challenges can vary widely, empowering local governance structures enhances the relevance and effectiveness of IDPs [35, 36].

b) Participation.

Local governance theory emphasizes the active involvement of community members in planning, decision-making, and project implementation [37]. In the context of IDP implementation, involving local stakeholders ensures that projects align with the aspirations of the people they are meant to benefit. Participation fosters a sense of ownership and accountability, leading to more sustainable outcomes [38].

c) Efficiency.

Decentralization enables resources to be managed and allocated more efficiently at the local

level. Local governance structures often have a better understanding of local needs and priorities, which leads to more targeted and impactful development interventions. This approach ensures that limited resources are utilized optimally for the greatest benefit [35, 39, 40].

Challenges and considerations.

Implementing decentralization and local governance theory in IDP implementation can face challenges such as varying levels of capacity among local institutions, power struggles, and potential conflicts of interest. Balancing local autonomy with national priorities and ensuring equity in resource allocation are also key considerations.

V. THE SOCIAL CAPITAL THEORY

The social capital theory offers a valuable lens through which to view and implement development initiatives, particularly in rural areas where strong community networks can play a pivotal role in addressing complex challenges [41]. It emphasizes the significance of social interactions, networks, and community confidence in shaping developmental results. In the rural sectors of South Africa, where social cohesion and communal unity frequently play crucial roles, IDPs possess the potential to harness social capital for constructive transformation. IDPs can facilitate joint efforts, the gathering of resources, and shared commitment to developmental undertakings by nurturing established social connections and encouraging cooperation among community members (Adger, 2010). By cultivating social capital through IDP execution, it is possible to enhance community resilience, foster social inclusion, and establish a supportive environment for sustainable development (Soulard et al., 2018).

Social Capital Theory Principles

a) Networks and relationships.

The social capital theory recognizes that the strength of relationships among individuals and groups within a community is a valuable resource for development [41]. In rural South Africa, where communities are tightly knit, fostering these networks can provide a foundation for collective action and problem-solving [42].

b) Trust and cooperation.

Trust and cooperation are essential components of social capital [43]. Building trust among community members and fostering cooperation between different stakeholders can lead to more efficient and successful implementation of IDPs. Trust promotes shared goals and a willingness to collaborate for the greater good [7].

c) Information flow.

Social capital facilitates the flow of information within communities [44]. Access to information is crucial for making informed decisions, and well-

connected communities are better equipped to disseminate knowledge, share best practices, and learn from each other [41, 45].

Challenges and considerations.

Implementing social capital theory in IDP implementation may face challenges related to power dynamics, inclusivity, and the potential for excluding marginalized groups. Not all communities have equal access to social capital, and efforts must be made to ensure that the benefits of social networks are equitably distributed.

The social capital theory offers a valuable framework for enhancing the success of IDP implementation in rural areas of South Africa. By fostering networks, building trust, and promoting cooperation, social capital theory enables communities to drive their development. Leveraging the power of social relationships not only improves the effectiveness of IDPs but also contributes to the resilience, unity, and prosperity of rural communities. As South Africa seeks to create meaningful and sustainable change in its rural areas, the application of social capital theory remains an important strategy for achieving these goals.

VI. THE MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE THEORY

The concepts of multi-level governance acknowledge the interrelatedness, interdependencies, and interactions spanning various tiers of government, civil society entities, and community stakeholders within decision-making processes (Harrison, 2001). Within the rural South African context, the effective execution of IDPs necessitates cooperation and synchronization across diverse governance levels. This theory underscores the importance of partnerships, information exchange, and collective troubleshooting to address intricate developmental issues (Westman et al., 2019). By creating avenues for dialogue and cooperation, IDPs can facilitate the amalgamation of local, regional, and national development priorities, ensuring unified and harmonized endeavors toward rural development (Veeneman & Mulley, 2018).

Multi-Level Governance Theory Principles

a) Interconnectedness.

Multi-level governance theory emphasizes the collaboration and interaction among different tiers of government, including local, regional, and national levels [46]. Additionally, it recognizes the importance of involving non-governmental actors, such as community-based organizations and civil society groups, in the decision-making process [47].

b) Partnerships.

A key principle of multi-level governance theory is the establishment of partnerships and networks among different stakeholders [7, 48]. This collaborative approach ensures that diverse

perspectives are considered and integrated into development plans, making them more comprehensive and effective [47].

c) *Subsidiarity.*

Subsidiarity refers to the idea that decisions should be made at the most appropriate level of government, taking into account the specific needs and capacities of each level [49]. In the case of rural South Africa, this principle ensures that decisions related to IDP implementation are made in a way that reflects local realities [50].

Challenges and considerations.

Implementing multi-level governance theory in IDP implementation may face challenges related to power dynamics, communication barriers, and the need for clear mechanisms for decision-making and accountability. Balancing the interests and priorities of various stakeholders can also be complex. However, multi-level governance theory offers a robust framework for enhancing the success of IDP implementation in rural areas of South Africa. By fostering collaboration, coordination, and inclusivity among different levels of government and non-governmental actors, multi-level governance theory ensures that development initiatives are well-aligned, efficient, and responsive to local needs. As South Africa strives for meaningful and sustainable development in its rural regions, the application of multi-level governance theory remains an essential strategy for achieving these objectives.

CONCLUSION

The integrated development plan (IDP) emerges as a pivotal instrument within South African Local Municipalities, reflecting the visionary framework stipulated by the Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000). However, even within this progressive framework space, rural Local Municipalities in South Africa often face unique challenges, such as limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and historical inequalities. Nevertheless, these challenges also present opportunities for innovative solutions and injection of finances, expertise, resources, including human capital, and political-economic will from policymakers, politicians, the private sector, civil society organisations, and community stakeholders. Engaging communities, leveraging traditional knowledge, and promoting local entrepreneurship are avenues through which rural areas can overcome obstacles and stimulate development. Conceptualizing and implementing IDPs in rural areas requires tailoring strategies to suit local contexts.

Engaging community members in the planning process ensures that the development initiatives align with their needs and aspirations. Community participation fosters ownership and creates a sense of commitment to the success of the IDP. Effective IDP implementation relies on collaboration between government bodies, civil

society organizations, and the private sector. These partnerships bring diverse expertise and resources to the table, enhancing the potential for holistic development. Integrated approaches that address multiple dimensions of well-being lead to sustainable outcomes.

In synthesizing the five theoretical underpinnings discussed in this paper, IDP implementation in rural South Africa becomes a nuanced tapestry of sustainable practices, community-driven decision-making, decentralized governance, fortified social bonds, and effective multi-level coordination. While these theories provide a strong foundation, their successful realization depends on the commitment of policymakers, community leaders, and various stakeholders to collaborate, innovate, and adapt in the face of ever-evolving challenges. By weaving these theories into the fabric of rural development, South Africa has the potential to not only address existing disparities but also pave the way for vibrant, self-reliant, and resilient rural communities.

REFERENCES

- [1] Adonis, V. and F. Van der Walt, *Measurement of implementation of integrated development planning: A conceptual framework for South African municipalities.* African Journal of Public Affairs, 2017. **9**(7): p. 41-52.
- [2] Government of South Africa, *Local Government: Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000).* 2000, Government of South Africa: Pretoria.
- [3] Valencia, S.C., et al., *Adapting the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda to the city level: Initial reflections from a comparative research project.* International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development, 2019. **11**(1): p. 4-23.
- [4] Khumalo, N.N.Y., *A review of the alignment between the Integrated Development Plan and the performance management system of Capricorn District Municipality.* 2015, Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.
- [5] Mafunisa, M. and B. Xaba, *Public participation and the integrated development planning: the case of Limpopo province.* Journal of public administration, 2008. **43**(si-2): p. 452-460.
- [6] Mnguni, S., *The role of public participation in facilitating integrated development planning for improvement of services in uMhlathuze Local Municipality (Doctoral Thesis).* 2018, University of Zululand.
- [7] Harrison, P., *The genealogy of South Africa's integrated development plan.* Third World Planning Review, 2001. **23**(2): p. 175-193.
- [8] Govender, K.K. and T. Ramodula, *A review of the evolution of the local government system in South Africa: towards developmental local government.* Journal of Public Value and Administrative Insight, 2020. **3**(3): p. 50-65.

- [9] Aklilu, A. and K. Makalela, *Challenges in the implementation of integrated development plan and service delivery in Lepelle-Nkumphi municipality, Limpopo province*. International Journal of Economics and Finance Studies, 2020. **12**(1): p. 1-15.
- [10] Abrahams, D., *Local economic development in South Africa: A useful tool for sustainable development*, in *Local economic development in the changing world: The experience of Southern Africa*, E. Nel and C.M. Rogerson, Editors. 2018, Routledge: New York. p. 131-145.
- [11] Atkinson, D., *Local government, local governance and sustainable development: getting the parameters right*. 2002, Cape Town: HSRC Press.
- [12] Haywood, L.K., et al., *The Sustainable Development Goals in South Africa: Investigating the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships*. Development Southern Africa, 2019. **36**(5): p. 555-569.
- [13] Duran, D.C., et al., *The components of sustainable development-a possible approach*. Procedia Economics and Finance, 2015. **26**: p. 806-811.
- [14] Government of South Africa, *Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013)*. 2013, Government of South Africa: Pretoria.
- [15] Hedlund-de Witt, A., *Worldviews and their significance for the global sustainable development debate*. Environmental Ethics, 2013. **35**(2): p. 133-162.
- [16] United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The Sustainable Development Goals: Report 2022*. 2022, New York: United Nations.
- [17] Khan, H.U.R., et al., *Pro-poor growth and sustainable development framework: Evidence from two step GMM estimator*. Journal of Cleaner Production, 2019. **206**: p. 767-784.
- [18] Masuku, M., N. Jili, and B. Selepe, *The implementation of local economic development initiatives towards poverty alleviation in Big 5 False Bay Local Municipality*. African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure, 2016. **5**(4): p. 1-11.
- [19] Jili, N.N., M.M. Masuku, and T.I. Nzimakwe, *Enhancing pro-poor local economic development initiatives towards expediting sustainable development goals: King Cetshwayo District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal*. Journal of Public Administration, 2019. **54**(4-1): p. 790-801.
- [20] Adams, B., *Green development: Environment and sustainability in a developing world*. 2008: Routledge.
- [21] Strydom, H.A., et al., *Environmental Management in South Africa*. 2009: Juta and Company Ltd.
- [22] Fabricius, C., et al., *Rights resources and rural development: Community-based natural resource management in Southern Africa*. 2013: Routledge.
- [23] Nhamo, L., et al., *The water-energy-food nexus: Climate risks and opportunities in southern Africa*. Water, 2018. **10**(5): p. 567.
- [24] Chuang, F., E. Manley, and A. Petersen, *The role of worldviews in the governance of sustainable mobility*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 2020. **117**(8): p. 4034-4042.
- [25] Davids, I., *Participatory development in South Africa: A development management perspective*. 2012.
- [26] Molale, T.B., *Participatory communication in South African municipal government: Matlosana local municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) processes*. Communicare: Journal for Communication Sciences in Southern Africa, 2019. **38**(1): p. 57-75.
- [27] Khawula, B.M.S., *An evaluation of community participation in the integrated development planning (IDP) process: A case study of Umzumbe municipality in the province of Kwazulu-Natal in South AFRICA*. 2016.
- [28] Nzimakwe, T. and P. Reddy, *Community participation in eThekweni municipality with particular reference to ward committees*. Journal of public administration, 2008. **43**(si-1): p. 667-679.
- [29] Grant, M. and H. Barton, *No weighting for healthy sustainable local planning: evaluation of a participatory appraisal tool for rationality and inclusivity*. Journal of environmental planning and management, 2013. **56**(9): p. 1267-1289.
- [30] Michels, A. and L. De Graaf, *Examining citizen participation: Local participatory policy making and democracy*. Local Government Studies, 2010. **36**(4): p. 477-491.
- [31] Mansuri, G. and V. Rao, *Localizing development: Does participation work?* 2012.
- [32] Melo, M.A. and G. Baiocchi, *Deliberative democracy and local governance: towards a new agenda*. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 2006. **30**(3): p. 587-600.
- [33] Fischer, F., *Participatory governance as deliberative empowerment: The cultural politics of discursive space*. The American review of public administration, 2006. **36**(1): p. 19-40.
- [34] Ahmad, M.S. and N.B. Abu Talib, *Empowering local communities: decentralization, empowerment and community driven development*. Quality & Quantity, 2015. **49**: p. 827-838.
- [35] De Visser, J., *Developmental local government: A case study of South Africa*. 2005: Intersentia nv.

- [36] Visser, G., *Social justice, integrated development planning and post-apartheid urban reconstruction*. Urban Studies, 2001. **38**(10): p. 1673-1699.
- [37] Williams, J.J., *Community participation: Lessons from post-apartheid South Africa*. Policy studies, 2006. **27**(3): p. 197-217.
- [38] Van Donk, M., *Consolidating developmental local government: Lessons from the South African experience*. 2008: Juta and Company Ltd.
- [39] Monkam, N.F., *Local municipality productive efficiency and its determinants in South Africa*. Development Southern Africa, 2014. **31**(2): p. 275-298.
- [40] Bardhan, P. and D. Mookherjee, *Decentralization and local governance in developing countries: A comparative perspective*. 2006: Mit Press.
- [41] Aldrich, D.P. and M.A. Meyer, *Social capital and community resilience*. American behavioral scientist, 2015. **59**(2): p. 254-269.
- [42] Dasgupta, P., *Economics of social capital*. Economic Record, 2005. **81**: p. S2-S21.
- [43] Burnett, C., *Building social capital through anActive community club'*. International review for the sociology of sport, 2006. **41**(3-4): p. 283-294.
- [44] Pronyk, P.M., et al., *Can social capital be intentionally generated? A randomized trial from rural South Africa*. Social science & medicine, 2008. **67**(10): p. 1559-1570.
- [45] Adger, W.N., *Social capital, collective action, and adaptation to climate change*. Der klimawandel: Sozialwissenschaftliche perspektiven, 2010: p. 327-345.
- [46] Heydenrych, P.W., *Deepening democracy and enhancing multi-level governance: deficiencies of and prospects for local government ward committees in South Africa*. Koers, 2008. **73**(4): p. 701-728.
- [47] Croese, S., et al., *Bringing the global to the local: The challenges of multi-level governance for global policy implementation in Africa*. International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development, 2021. **13**(3): p. 435-447.
- [48] Vedeld, T., et al., *Multi-level governance, resilience to flood risks and coproduction in urban Africa*. Urban vulnerability and climate change in Africa: A multidisciplinary approach, 2015: p. 287-318.
- [49] Ryan, R. and R. Woods. *Decentralisation and Subsidiarity: Concepts and frameworks for emerging economies*. in *Forum of Federations Occasional Paper Series*. 2015. Forum of Federations.
- [50] Borońska-Hryniewiecka, K., *Multi-level governance and the role of the regions in the European Union: conceptual challenges and practical applications*. Cuadernos Europeos de Deusto, 2011(45): p. 177-207.