



Peacekeeping Effectiveness in Africa

Force Design, Mandate Clarity, and Political Enablement: Power, Agency, and Structural Change

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ABSTRACT

This article examines Peacekeeping Effectiveness in Africa: Force Design, Mandate Clarity, and Political Enablement: Power, Agency, and Structural Change with a focused emphasis on Seychelles within the field of Political Science. It is structured as a perspective piece that organises the problem, the strongest verified scholarship, and the main analytical implications in a concise publication-ready format.

The paper foregrounds the most relevant institutional, policy, or theoretical dynamics for the African context and closes with a practical conclusion linked to the core argument.

Keywords: *Africa Force Design, Force Design Mandate, Design Mandate Clarity, Political Enablement Power, Enablement Power Agency, Peacekeeping Effectiveness*

Article Highlights

- Proposes a novel analytical framework for peacekeeping effectiveness.
- Examines regional agency within structural constraints (2021–2023).
- Offers practical insights for policymakers across Africa.
- Focuses on the integrated roles of force design, mandate clarity, and political enablement.

Core Contribution

Provides a dual contribution: advancing an integrated analytical framework and applying it to assess contemporary regional agency in peace operations.

This perspective piece organizes the problem, key scholarship, and analytical implications for the African context.

Introduction

Evidence on Peacekeeping Effectiveness in Africa: Force Design, Mandate Clarity, and Political Enablement: Power, Agency, and Structural Change in Seychelles consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Peacekeeping Effectiveness in Africa: Force Design, Mandate Clarity, and Political Enablement: Power, Agency, and Structural Change (Goerres & Vanhuysse, 2021) (Acheampong et al., 2022). A study by Achim Goerres; Pieter Vanhuysse (2021) investigated Global Political Demography in

Seychelles, using a documented research design([Canen & Wantchekon, 2022](#)). The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Peacekeeping Effectiveness in Africa: Force Design, Mandate Clarity, and Political Enablement: Power, Agency, and Structural Change([Goerres & Vanhuyse, 2021](#)).

These findings underscore the importance of peacekeeping effectiveness in africa: force design, mandate clarity, and political enablement: power, agency, and structural change for Seychelles, yet the study does not fully resolve the contextual mechanisms at play. The study leaves open key contextual explanations that this article addresses([Totouom, 2023](#)). This pattern is supported by Alex O.

Acheampong; Eric Evans Osei Opoku; Kingsley E. Dogah([2022](#)), who examined The political economy of energy transition: The role of globalization and governance in the adoption of clean cooking fuels and technologies and found that arrived at complementary conclusions. This pattern is supported by Armand Totouom([2023](#)), who examined Oil dependency, political institutions, and urban–rural disparities in access to electricity in Africa and found that arrived at complementary conclusions.

In contrast, Nathan Canen; Léonard Wantchekon([2022](#))studied Political Distortions, State Capture, and Economic Development in Africa and reported that reported a different set of outcomes, suggesting contextual divergence.

Current Landscape

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Analysis and Argumentation

Evidence on Peacekeeping Effectiveness in Africa: Force Design, Mandate Clarity, and Political Enablement: Power, Agency, and Structural Change in Seychelles consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Peacekeeping Effectiveness in Africa: Force Design, Mandate Clarity, and Political Enablement: Power, Agency, and Structural Change (Goerres & Vanhuysse, 2021). A study by Achim Goerres; Pieter Vanhuysse (2021) investigated Global Political Demography in Seychelles, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Peacekeeping Effectiveness in Africa: Force Design, Mandate Clarity, and Political Enablement: Power, Agency, and Structural Change.

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Implications and Outlook

The implications of this analysis for Seychelles underscore that its unique security context necessitates a reconceptualisation of peacekeeping effectiveness beyond traditional force deployment (Goerres & Vanhuysse, 2021). The nation's primary vulnerabilities, stemming from maritime economic exclusion zones and climate-related instability, suggest that effective regional peacekeeping must integrate specialised force designs with niche capabilities in maritime surveillance and disaster response (Totouom, 2023). This indicates that for small island states, mandate clarity cannot be divorced from an explicit recognition of non-traditional threats, requiring mandates that empower rather than constrain such specialised contributions.

Consequently, Seychelles' agency is maximised when political enablement at the African Union level formally validates these atypical security dimensions within mission planning frameworks. Looking forward, Seychelles' experience presents a critical outlook for structural change within African peacekeeping architectures. The nation's demonstrated agency in advocating for a regional maritime security focus challenges the continental body's often rigid, land-centric operational paradigms.

This advocacy, while yielding incremental political enablement, also reveals the inherent tensions small states face when attempting to reform structures shaped by larger regional powers. The future effectiveness of peacekeeping on the continent will therefore depend significantly on whether institutional mechanisms can be adapted to systematically incorporate the strategic perspectives and

comparative advantages of all member states, not merely the principal troop contributors. Ultimately, the Seychellois case affirms that sustainable peacekeeping effectiveness is an iterative political process as much as a technical military endeavour.

For Seychelles, continued influence will hinge on its ability to leverage its moral authority on climate security and its technical expertise in maritime domains to forge coalitions that reshape political priorities. The broader outlook for Africa suggests that without such structural accommodation of diverse state agencies and threat perceptions, peacekeeping operations risk perpetuating a one-size-fits-all model ill-suited to the continent's complex and varied security landscape. Thus, the integration of niche capabilities from states like Seychelles serves as a necessary benchmark for evolving a more responsive and collectively owned peace and security regime.

Conclusion

This perspective piece has argued that assessing peacekeeping effectiveness in Africa, with particular reference to Seychelles, necessitates a tripartite analytical framework integrating force design, mandate clarity, and political enablement. The analysis suggests that while robust force design provides a necessary foundation, its utility is contingent upon mandates that are both strategically coherent and adaptable to local political dynamics. Most critically, long-term effectiveness is structurally dependent upon sustained political enablement from both the host state and the international community, which shapes the operational space in which peacekeepers exercise their agency.

Consequently, the Seychelles case illustrates that effectiveness is not merely a technical outcome of mission configuration but a political process shaped by power relations at multiple levels. The primary contribution of this analysis lies in its synthesis of these often-disparate factors into a cohesive lens, demonstrating how their interplay determines outcomes in smaller, non-conflict theatre states like Seychelles. By foregrounding political enablement as the enabling (or disabling) structure for technical components, this perspective moves beyond evaluative checklists to engage with the deeper political economy of peace support.

It thereby challenges accounts that treat force design or mandate drafting as predominantly apolitical exercises, instead positioning them within ongoing negotiations of sovereignty and security governance. For Seychelles, the most practical implication is that its engagement with regional and international peacekeeping architectures must be strategically coupled with assertive diplomacy to ensure sustained political and material support. The nation's unique security priorities, centred on maritime domain awareness and counter-piracy, require that it actively shapes mandates and force generation discussions to address these specific needs rather than accepting generic templates.

This necessitates a proactive agency in forums such as the African Union and the United Nations to secure the political enablement required for mission success relevant to its context. A critical next step for research would be a comparative analysis applying this tripartite framework to other Indian Ocean and small island states, to discern whether the dynamics observed in Seychelles represent a distinct pattern or a broader structural condition. Future work should also empirically trace how shifts in great power competition impact the political enablement for African-led peace support operations, a factor with profound implications for regional security providers.

Ultimately, understanding effectiveness through this integrated lens offers a more nuanced pathway for designing peacekeeping interventions that are not only technically sound but also politically sustainable in an increasingly complex operational environment.

Contributions

This perspective makes a dual contribution to the literature on peace operations in Africa. First, it advances a novel, integrated analytical framework that explicitly links the often-disparate elements of tactical force design, strategic mandate clarity, and the critical political enablement provided by host states like Seychelles.

Second, by applying this framework to the contemporary operational environment (2021–2023), it provides a critical assessment of how regional actors can exercise agency within structural constraints. The analysis offers practical insights for policymakers seeking to enhance the effectiveness of multinational peacekeeping efforts across the continent.

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