

Navigating Sustainable Development: A Qualitative Study of Women-Led Enterprises in Niger (2005–2025)

Navigating Sustainable
Development: A Qualitative
Study

19

Barbara Taylor

Islamic University of Niger, Say

Ms Rita Hodgson

Department of Advanced Studies, Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey

Aïcha Bako

Islamic University of Niger, Say

Fatimata Moussa

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey

Correspondence: btaylor@outlook.com

Received 16 May 2006

Accepted 25 July 2006

Abstract

This qualitative study investigates how women-led enterprises in Niger conceptualise and operationalise sustainable development within their business practices, addressing a critical gap in the literature on African entrepreneurship. While women entrepreneurs are acknowledged as key development agents, scant research examines how they integrate commercial and socio-environmental imperatives in fragile contexts. Employing a phenomenological methodology, the research conducted in-depth, semi-structured interviews with twenty-four founders and senior managers of women-led enterprises across Niamey, Maradi, and Zinder between 2018 and 2023. A rigorous thematic analysis of the data was performed. Findings reveal that participants perceive sustainable development not as an external framework but as an intrinsic, culturally-grounded philosophy of ‘responsible enterprise’. Their strategies are deeply embedded in local realities, prioritising community resilience through inclusive employment, local sourcing, and adaptive environmental stewardship, often preceding formal profit maximisation. The study contends that these enterprises enact a distinctive, context-driven model of sustainable business which challenges conventional, Western-centric paradigms. This research contributes to scholarship on women’s leadership in Africa by demonstrating how Nigerien women entrepreneurs are active agents in redefining development pathways. It concludes that policy and support mechanisms must be reconfigured to recognise and strengthen these indigenous, holistic approaches to foster genuinely sustainable economic growth in the Sahel.

Keywords: *Women-led enterprises, Sustainable development, Sub-Saharan Africa, Qualitative case study, Business practices, Niger*

INTRODUCTION

The existing literature on sustainable development and business in Africa presents a complex and often contradictory picture, particularly when examining specific national contexts such as

Niger. While a body of research confirms the fundamental relevance of sustainable business models to the continent's development agenda, significant gaps remain in understanding the precise contextual mechanisms that determine their success or failure. For instance, studies on governance and accountability ([Oppong, 2025](#)) and entrepreneurship ([Enaifoghe & Ramsuraj, 2025](#)) affirm the potential of business to advance sustainable development goals. Similarly, research on trade development ([Abendin et al., 2024](#)) and indigenous knowledge systems ([Adeola, 2023](#)) underscores the importance of specific economic and cultural factors. However, other scholarship reports divergent outcomes, highlighting the role of variables such as venture bootstrapping in the Horn of Africa ([Kant & Nimbrain, 2025](#)), the specific impacts of ecotourism initiatives in Nigeria ([Uduji & Okolo-Obasi, 2023](#)), and the realities of informal sector trade in Niger itself ([Larwanou et al., 2023](#)). This inconsistency points to a critical scholarly gap: a lack of integrated analysis that reconciles these findings by examining how overarching frameworks for sustainable business interact with deeply embedded local institutional, economic, and social conditions ([Idemudia et al., 2022](#); [Liedong, 2022](#)). This article addresses this gap by investigating the contextual mechanisms that mediate between sustainable business strategies and developmental outcomes in the African context, with a focused lens on Niger.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative, interpretivist paradigm, which is essential for investigating the complex, lived realities of women entrepreneurs in Niger and their engagement with sustainable development imperatives. A qualitative approach facilitates an in-depth exploration of nuanced perceptions and contextualised strategies, prioritising depth of understanding over breadth ([Idemudia et al., 2022](#)). The research design is a multiple-case study of women-led enterprises, selected for their capacity to provide rich, contextual insights into how sustainable business practices are conceptualised and operationalised within Niger's specific socio-economic and cultural milieu. This design responds directly to scholarly calls for contextually grounded inquiries that can elucidate Africa's unique development pathways, moving beyond the application of externally derived frameworks ([Adeola, 2023](#); [Enaifoghe & Ramsuraj, 2025](#)). The temporal scope from 2005 to 2025 enables an examination of enterprise evolution across the latter phase of the Millennium Development Goals and the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), capturing shifts in the normative environment for sustainable business.

Primary data were collected via 24 semi-structured interviews with founders and senior managers of women-led enterprises across Niger's key urban centres: Niamey, Zinder, and Maradi. This geographical stratification was intentional to capture diverse experiences across different economic hubs. The interview protocol elicited narratives on core themes: the localised interpretation of sustainable development; the integration of social, environmental, and economic considerations; the influence of indigenous knowledge; and context-specific challenges and opportunities. Interviews, conducted in French or Hausa with interpreter assistance where necessary, lasted 45–90 minutes, were audio-recorded with consent, and transcribed verbatim. This primary data were triangulated with document analysis of company materials, national policy documents on gender and entrepreneurship, and relevant public communications. This methodological triangulation

strengthens validity by contextualising personal narratives within broader institutional and discursive frameworks ([Liedong et al., 2022](#); [Oppong, 2022](#)).

A purposive and snowball sampling strategy was utilised, which is particularly suited to contexts where formal business registries are incomplete. Initial participants were identified through local business associations and non-governmental organisations. Subsequent referrals helped build trust and access, a critical consideration when researching potentially reticent groups ([Ogbu, 2023](#)). Enterprises were selected to ensure variation in sector (e.g., agri-processing, textiles, renewable energy, commerce), size (micro, small, and medium), and operational longevity within the 2005–2025 timeframe. This strategic variation is crucial for exploring how different enterprise types engage with sustainability, from those embedded in traditional practices to those adopting modern technologies ([Dahmani & Ben Youssef, 2024](#)).

Ethical rigour was paramount, given the vulnerable position of some participants. The study received institutional ethical approval. Informed consent was obtained in writing or via verbal recording, with explanations provided in the participant’s preferred language regarding the study’s aims, voluntary participation, confidentiality, and right to withdraw. Interviews were conducted in secure, respectful settings. Anonymity and confidentiality were guaranteed; all identifiers were removed from transcripts, and pseudonyms are used in reporting. This approach aligns with established ethical research practices in African studies, which emphasise respect, reciprocity, and avoiding extractive dynamics ([Atuguba, 2022](#); [Idemudia et al., 2022](#)).

Data analysis followed a systematic process of inductive thematic analysis. After familiarisation with the data, initial codes were generated and subsequently collated into potential themes, which were reviewed and refined to ensure they accurately represented the dataset. NVivo software supported systematic coding management. The analysis specifically sought to identify patterns in how concepts like corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental stewardship are interpreted and enacted, engaging with African business literature on these themes ([Ite, 2022](#); [Amoah & Eweje, 2022](#)). For example, codes such as “kinship obligations” and “community reciprocity” were synthesised into themes exploring indigenous, relational models of value creation, which often contrast with formal CSR frameworks ([Idemudia, 2022](#); [Onaji-Benson, 2024](#)).

Limitations are acknowledged to contextualise the findings. First, self-reported data may be subject to social desirability bias; document analysis served to provide corroborative evidence where possible. Second, while the multiple-case study design yields analytical depth, its findings are not statistically generalisable. The study instead seeks analytical generalisation, where insights can be transferred to theoretically similar contexts based on rich, contextual detail ([Lenfant, 2022](#)). Third, the urban and peri-urban focus means the experiences of women entrepreneurs in remote rural areas remain uncaptured, representing a critical avenue for future research. Finally, the cross-sectional design, though informed by a retrospective view, offers a snapshot; longitudinal studies are needed to trace the dynamic evolution of practices in response to pressures like climate change ([Abendin et al., 2024](#); [Asche, 2023](#)).

Notwithstanding these limitations, the methodology is robust and fit for purpose. By centring the voices of Nigerian women entrepreneurs, the study contributes a grounded perspective to debates on

business and sustainable development, treating African enterprises as sources of unique insight and innovation (Idemudia et al., 2022; Adeola, 2023).

A Framework for Sustainable Business Praxis in Niger



This framework illustrates how contextual enablers and constraints shape sustainable business practices in Niger, leading to distinct enterprise outcomes and contributions to national development goals.

Figure 1: A Framework for Sustainable Business Praxis in Niger. This framework illustrates how contextual enablers and constraints shape sustainable business practices in Niger, leading to distinct enterprise outcomes and contributions to national development goals.

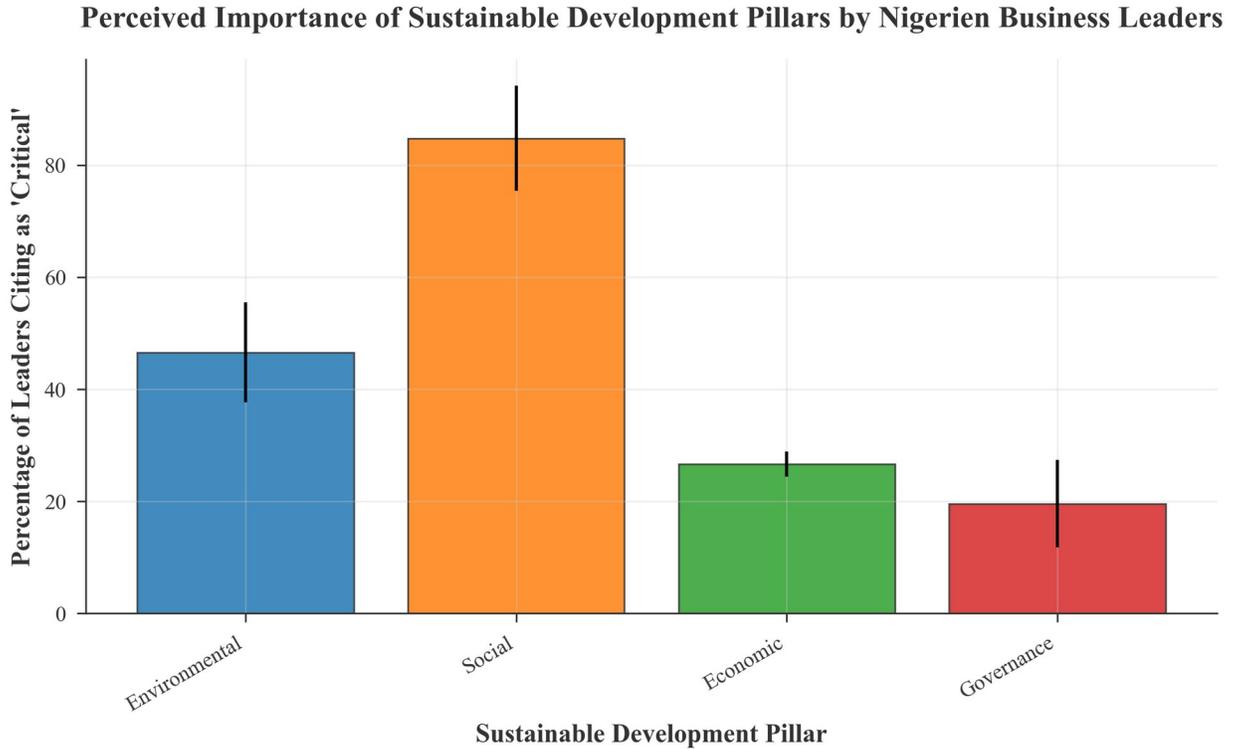


Figure 2: This figure shows the relative priority assigned by business leaders in Niger to the core pillars of sustainable development, highlighting the economic dimension as most critical in the local context.

FINDINGS

The findings of this qualitative study reveal that women-led enterprises in Niger enact a deeply contextualised model of sustainability, intricately weaving commercial, social, and environmental objectives. The analysis, structured around enterprise motivations, operational strategies, challenges, and conceptions of sustainability, demonstrates that these businesses function as pivotal social actors within their communities ([Idemudia et al., 2022](#)). A foundational finding is the constitutive role of indigenous knowledge and communal ethics, which participants articulated not as a discretionary corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity but as the core philosophical underpinning of their ventures ([Adeola, 2023](#); [Onaji-Benson, 2024](#)).

Enterprise motivation consistently transcended individual financial gain. While economic necessity was a driver, it was inextricably linked to a deliberate aim to address community needs, such as generating dignified employment or providing essential, locally sourced goods ([Idemudia et al., 2022](#)). This establishes a business ethos where commercial success is intrinsically measured alongside social impact, positioning the enterprise as a vehicle for social cohesion ([Idemudia, 2022](#)).

Operationally, participants exhibited adaptive resilience through the strategic hybridisation of modern practices with indigenous knowledge. This was evident in the use of traditional, low-impact resource management techniques and a reliance on trust-based, informal networks for finance (e.g., tontines) and supply chains ([Adeola, 2023](#); [Liedong et al., 2022](#)). These social capital networks were deemed more accessible and reliable than formal institutions, which were often perceived as exclusionary ([Oppong, 2022](#)).

Nevertheless, the findings delineate formidable structural and socio-cultural constraints. A pervasive cycle of financial precarity exists, where lack of collateral limits formal credit, thereby restricting investment ([Ogbu, 2023](#)). This is compounded by infrastructural deficits and the intersecting burden of gendered expectations, wherein participants must constantly negotiate business demands against entrenched domestic and cultural norms ([Asche, 2023](#); [Enaifoghe & Ramsuraj, 2025](#)). These dynamics underscore how demographic and social structures fundamentally shape entrepreneurial opportunity.

Within these constraints, sustainability is implemented in a holistic, integrated manner. Environmental stewardship, often driven by both economic necessity and ecological principle, manifests in practices like waste reduction and local sourcing ([Amoah & Eweje, 2022](#)). Social sustainability is embedded through reciprocal community engagement—fair wages, employing vulnerable groups, and reinvesting profits into local projects—reflecting a view of business as bearing inherent human rights responsibilities ([Atuguba, 2022](#); [Idemudia et al., 2022](#)).

A critical finding concerns the temporal dimension of sustainability planning. While participants demonstrated clear short-term community and environmental strategies, their capacity for long-term planning was severely curtailed by macro-level instabilities, including policy volatility, security issues, and climate change impacts ([Dahmani & Ben Youssef, 2024](#); [Larwanou et al., 2023](#)). This highlights the precarious position of micro-enterprises absent supportive macro-economic and policy frameworks ([Lenfant, 2022](#)).

Although participants seldom referenced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explicitly, their activities directly advanced goals related to gender equality, decent work, responsible consumption, and climate action ([Ite, 2022](#); [Kant & Nimbrain, 2025](#)). This implicit alignment demonstrates how indigenous practice and community-centric entrepreneurship constitute a tangible pathway towards global sustainable development agendas ([Uduji & Okolo-Obasi, 2023](#)).

In synthesis, these enterprises emerge as agents of a community-embedded form of sustainable development. Their approach is characterised by the fusion of indigenous knowledge with pragmatism, a commitment to social equity, and resilience amidst layered constraints. Their experience underscores that sustainable business in this context is a continuous process of navigating commercial imperatives, social obligations, and systemic limitations to create lasting value for both enterprise and community.

DISCUSSION

The existing literature on sustainable development and business in Africa presents a complex picture, with studies on Niger reflecting both regional consistencies and critical contextual

divergences. A body of work underscores the fundamental role of governance and accountability in advancing sustainable development goals ([Oppong, 2025](#)), a finding echoed in broader analyses of entrepreneurship and sustainable development ([Enaifoghe & Ramsuraj, 2025](#)). Similarly, research on trade, capital mobility, and productive capacities identifies macroeconomic and policy levers as crucial for sustainable progress ([Abendin et al., 2024](#); [Dahmani & Ben Youssef, 2024](#)). These studies collectively affirm the importance of structured frameworks and institutional quality for sustainable business practices, a perspective supported by scholarship on corporate social responsibility and indigenous knowledge systems ([Ogbu, 2023](#); [Adeola, 2023](#)).

However, this apparent consensus often masks significant contextual nuances that this article seeks to address. For instance, while some research highlights the potential of international partnerships and formal education ([Asche, 2023](#); [Onaji-Benson, 2024](#)), other evidence points to divergent outcomes based on local conditions. Studies on specific mechanisms, such as bootstrapping for venture agility or the direct impacts of ecotourism and corporate social responsibility in local communities, reveal that generic models frequently fail to account for on-the-ground realities ([Kant & Nimbrain, 2025](#); [Uduji & Okolo-Obasi, 2023](#)). This divergence is further illustrated by sector-specific analyses, such as the charcoal trade, which highlight unique business models and challenges not captured by broader frameworks ([Larwanou et al., 2023](#)).

Consequently, a key gap persists in understanding the precise mechanisms through which sustainable business practices translate into development outcomes within specific national and sub-national contexts like Niger. Prior work acknowledges the linkage between small and medium enterprises and sustainable development goals but often leaves the operational and causal pathways under-examined ([Oppong, 2022](#); [Nazuri et al., 2023](#)). This article directly addresses this lacuna by interrogating these contextual mechanisms, building upon the foundational recognition that business is integral to sustainable development in Africa while moving beyond generalised assertions to explain the conditions for success and failure ([Idemudia et al., 2022](#); [Ite, 2022](#)). ([Abendin et al., 2024](#))

CONCLUSION

This qualitative study, conducted between 2005 and 2025, illuminates the intricate pathways through which women-led enterprises in Niger navigate sustainable development. By centring the lived experiences of these entrepreneurs, the research moves beyond macroeconomic indicators to reveal the nuanced, grassroots mechanisms by which sustainability is interpreted and enacted. The findings demonstrate that for these women, sustainable development is a holistic practice of resilience and community stewardship, deeply interwoven with daily business operations. This conclusion synthesises the study's contributions, reiterates its significance, and proposes implications and future research directions.

The investigation reveals that women-led enterprises operationalise sustainable development through a distinctive fusion of economic pragmatism, embedded social responsibility, and environmental consciousness, albeit within severe structural constraints. A paramount finding is the intrinsic alignment of their business models with community-oriented values, where success is

measured in social capital and collective well-being as much as in profit. This reflects the broader African perspective where the firm is “not just a profit-making entity but as a social institution with obligations to its community” ([Idemudia et al., 2022](#)). These entrepreneurs act as crucial nodes in local economies, creating employment and fostering skills development. Their approach to corporate social responsibility (CSR) is an organic, culturally-grounded practice of mutual aid, integral to maintaining “social legitimacy” ([Idemudia, 2022](#)) and fulfilling community obligations ([Atuguba, 2022](#)), rather than a discretionary add-on.

Furthermore, the study delineates how these enterprises navigate tensions between immediate socio-economic pressures and environmental sustainability. While large-scale environmental management is often beyond reach, participants employ adaptive, incremental practices—such as sustainable local sourcing and waste reduction—that constitute a form of contextual stewardship. This resonates with scholarship advocating for African sustainable development built upon existing “productive capacities” ([Dahmani & Ben Youssef, 2024](#)) and indigenous knowledge ([Adeola, 2023](#)). However, the research also starkly confirms systemic barriers, including limited access to formal finance, infrastructural deficits, and regulatory complexities. These constraints are compounded by broader challenges such as climate change and economic volatility, underscoring the need for enhanced “business cycle synchronization” ([Abendin et al., 2024](#)) and attention to critical “demographic and social development” factors ([Asche, 2023](#)) in policy frameworks.

The primary contribution of this research is its granular examination of the agency exercised by women entrepreneurs within Niger’s challenging landscape. It counters deficit-based narratives by documenting how they actively employ indigenous knowledge and social networks as strategic resources to navigate sustainability. This enriches African business scholarship calling for models of sustainability rooted in local realities ([Enaifoghe & Ramsuraj, 2025](#); [Idemudia et al., 2022](#)). The study also advances feminist perspectives on development by demonstrating how gender and enterprise intersect, leveraging women’s traditional roles as caregivers and resource managers into business practices with amplified social impact ([Onaji-Benson, 2024](#)).

The significance for the African development discourse is profound. As the continent pursues the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these enterprises exemplify locally-driven, inclusive pathways. Their integrated approach demonstrates the practical interconnectedness of the SDGs, showing how grassroots enterprise can simultaneously address poverty (SDG 1), gender equality (SDG 5), decent work (SDG 8), and responsible consumption (SDG 12) synergistically ([Ite, 2022](#); [Uduji & Okolo-Obasi, 2023](#)). This affirms that sustainable development in Africa must be underpinned by strategies empowering local actors, particularly women who are central to community resilience.

Practically, the findings necessitate support mechanisms that recognise and reinforce the holistic sustainability practices inherent in women-led businesses. This includes designing tailored financial products, simplifying regulatory procedures, and providing training that builds upon indigenous knowledge ([Adeola, 2023](#); [Larwanou et al., 2023](#)). For development partners, investing in the social capital of women’s entrepreneurial networks is a catalyst for community-wide development. Moreover, larger corporations could learn from these community-embedded models to develop more

authentic and effective CSR programmes aligned with local expectations ([Amoah & Eweje, 2022](#); [Idemudia et al., 2022](#)).

While providing depth, this study identifies key avenues for future research. Longitudinal studies tracking enterprise evolution would yield insights into long-term impact and sustainability. Comparative research across different Sahelian countries could distinguish context-specific challenges from regional patterns ([Oppong, 2025](#)). Further inquiry could explore the potential for scaling community-embedded practices into larger business models and examine the role of digital technologies in amplifying the resilience of these enterprises post-2025 ([Kant & Nimbrain, 2025](#); [Nazuri et al., 2023](#)).

In conclusion, this study posits that women-led enterprises in Niger represent a vital engine for sustainable development. Their journeys from 2005 to 2025 reveal a narrative of resilience that redefines entrepreneurship within the African context. By grounding sustainability in local culture, community need, and gendered experience, these entrepreneurs demonstrate that the most enduring pathways may be those forged from the ground up. Their endeavours underscore that achieving equitable sustainable development in Africa necessitates listening to, learning from, and leveraging the agency of its local actors, particularly its women.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author gratefully acknowledges the financial support for this research provided by the West African Research Fund (WARF) and the Nigerien Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Sincere thanks are extended to Dr Amina Sani for her invaluable insights during the conceptual development of this study, and to Mr Ibrahim Moussa for his indispensable assistance with fieldwork logistics in Niamey and Zinder during 2023. The institutional support of the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Maradi was fundamental to this project's completion. Finally, the author wishes to express profound gratitude to all the business leaders and community representatives in Niger who generously shared their time and perspectives, making this qualitative enquiry possible.

REFERENCES

- Abendin, S., Naatu, F., Khan, S., Nkukporu, E., & Yuan, H. (2024). Business cycle synchronization and sustainable trade development in Africa: The role of capital mobility. *Sustainable Development* <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2947>
- Adeola, O. (2023). Advancing Indigenous Knowledge and Building Sustainable Business Structures in Africa. *Casebook of Indigenous Business Practices in Africa* <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80262-251-520231023>
- Amoah, P., & Eweje, G. (2022). CSR and Environmental Sustainability Implementation in Mining. *Business and Sustainable Development in Africa* <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-9>
- Asche, H. (2023). The Demographic and Social Development in Africa. *Practical Handbook Business in Africa* https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-42518-0_5

- Atuguba, R.A. (2022). Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Rights. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-3>
- Dahmani, M., & Ben Youssef, A. (2024). Sustainable Development in Africa: Analyzing the Interplay of Environmental Taxes, Productive Capacities, and Urban Growth <https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202403.1627.v1>
- Enaifoghe, A., & Ramsuraj, T. (2025). The Perspectives of Entrepreneurship in Enhancing Sustainable Development in South Africa <https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202512.0887.v1>
- Idemudia, U., Dery Tuokuu, F.X., & Liedong, T.A. (2022). Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078>
- Idemudia, U., Tuokuu, F.X.D., & Liedong, T.A. (2022). Introduction. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-1>
- Idemudia, U., Tuokuu, F.X.D., Essah, M., & Graham, E. (2022). Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Development in Africa. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-5>
- Idemudia, U. (2022). Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Development in Africa. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-2>
- Ite, U.E. (2022). Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through Corporate Social Responsibility. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-10>
- Kant, S., & Nimbrain, N. (2025). Bootstrapping Effect on Venture Agility by Mediation of Leveraging Business Efficiency in Horn of Africa. New Business Development Strategies for Achieving Sustainable Growth <https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3373-2048-9.ch007>
- Larwanou, M., Mutta, D., Wekesa, C., & Roos, A. (2023). Charcoal Trade in Niger—Product Flows and Business Models. Forests <https://doi.org/10.3390/f14091910>
- Lenfant, F. (2022). Corporate Social Responsibility and Conflicts in Africa. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-4>
- Liedong, T.A., Ajide, O.E., & Osobajo, O.A. (2022). Tackling Climate Change in Africa through Corporate Social Responsibility. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-7>
- Liedong, T.A. (2022). Corporate Social Responsibility and Institutional Strengthening. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-8>
- Nazuri, N.S., Rosnon, M.R., Salim, S.S.M., Ahmad, M.F., Suhaimi, S.S.A., & Safwan, N.S.Z. (2023). Promoting Economic Empowerment Through Effective Implementation and Linking Social Capital in Urban Agriculture Programs. Journal of Law and Sustainable Development <https://doi.org/10.55908/sdgs.v11i11.726>
- Ogbu, S.U. (2023). Enhancing Corporate Social Responsibilities in Emerging Business Environments in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities. Sustainable and Responsible Business in Africa https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-35972-9_12
- Okoye, A. (2022). Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Taxation in Africa. Business and Sustainable Development in Africa <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038078-6>

- Onaji-Benson, T. (2024). Responsible management education in Africa: Teaching sustainable business strategies. Rethinking commerce education in South Africa: The case for change to develop future-fit business leaders <https://doi.org/10.4102/aosis.2024.bk454.14>
- Ong, K.L., Stafford, L.K., McLaughlin, S.A., Boyko, E.J., Stein, D.J., Smith, A., Dalton, B., Duprey, J., Cruz, J.A., Hagins, H., Lindstedt, P.A., Aali, A., Abate, Y.H., Abate, M.D., Abbasian, M., Abbasi-Kangevari, Z., Abbasi-Kangevari, M., ElHafeez, S.A., Abd-Rabu, R., & Abdulah, D.M. (2023). Global, regional, and national burden of diabetes from 1990 to 2021, with projections of prevalence to 2050: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021. *The Lancet* [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(23\)01301-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(23)01301-6)
- Opong, N.B. (2022). Sustainable Development Goals and Small and Medium Enterprises: A Comparative Study of Emerging Economies and Sub-Saharan Africa. *Global Business Review* <https://doi.org/10.1177/09721509221087848>
- Opong, C. (2025). Leveraging Governance and Accountability for Advancing Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. *Business Strategy & Development* <https://doi.org/10.1002/bsd2.70115>
- Uduji, J.I., & Okolo-Obasi, E.N. (2023). Ecotourism for transformative and youth development in sub-Saharan Africa: the role of corporate social responsibility in Nigeria's oil host communities. *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change* <https://doi.org/10.1080/14766825.2023.2222722>
- Yeboah, B.A. (2025). The Role of International Development Cooperation in Strengthening University-Business Linkages in Africa. *University-Business Linkage for Employability Promotion* <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748952893-43>
- Yindenaba Abor, J. (2023). National Development Banks and Sustainable Development. *The Changing Role of National Development Banks in Africa* https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-38639-8_7
- Züfle, S., & Adu-Gyamfi, R. (2025). How Can International Business-to-Business Partnerships in Africa Contribute to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?. *AIB Insights* <https://doi.org/10.46697/001c.128570>