Authors:

**Title:** ‘Does the poor matter’ in pro-poor driven African cities? Toward progressive pro-poor tourism

The ‘poor’ are always within the communities and it takes a community to minimise the impact of poverty on the populace. The pertinent question among researchers and policymakers is on the extent to which ‘pro-poor' approaches are benefiting the intended ‘poor people’ at the micro-community. Inspired by the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 11; making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, this study questions the extent to which Sub-Saharan African cities are progressing toward promoting pro-poor economies through pro-poor tourism. It specifically examines how African cities are resilient toward attaining sustainable urban tourism destinations in light of high urbanisation. The methodological framework adopted in analysing the urban-pro-poor tourism nexus is interpretive in nature and qualitative in operational form. It uses meta-synthesis to evaluate the causal relationships observed within Sub-Saharan African pro-poor economies to enhance Pro-Poor Tourism approaches, using Accra, Ghana, Johannesburg, South Africa and Harare, Zimbabwe as case studies. Our study finds out that tourism development in Sub-Saharan Africa has been dominantly underpinned by neoliberal development strategies which threaten the sustainability of tourism in African cities. It, therefore, argues for good governance through sustainability institutionalization which strengthens the regulative mechanisms, processes and organizational culture. Sustainable tourism approaches, that are resilient centered have a potential to promote urban tourism in Sub-Saharan African cities. These findings contribute to the building of strong and inclusive Institutions for Sustainable Development in the Sub-Saharan African cities to alleviate poverty.