

# TOWARDS SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN AFRICA



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Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES)  
And National Institute for Urban Planning (INAU)

# Introduction

Since 1995, eleven partner cities around the world are involved in the UNESCO Programme "Management of Social Transformations" (MOST):

## "Towards sustainable cities"

Including Cape Town and Nairobi in Africa

Goal: building an internationally comparable knowledge base for urban management

TOWARDS SOCIALLY  
SUSTAINABLE  
CITIES

Building a knowledge base  
for urban management  
in the 21st century



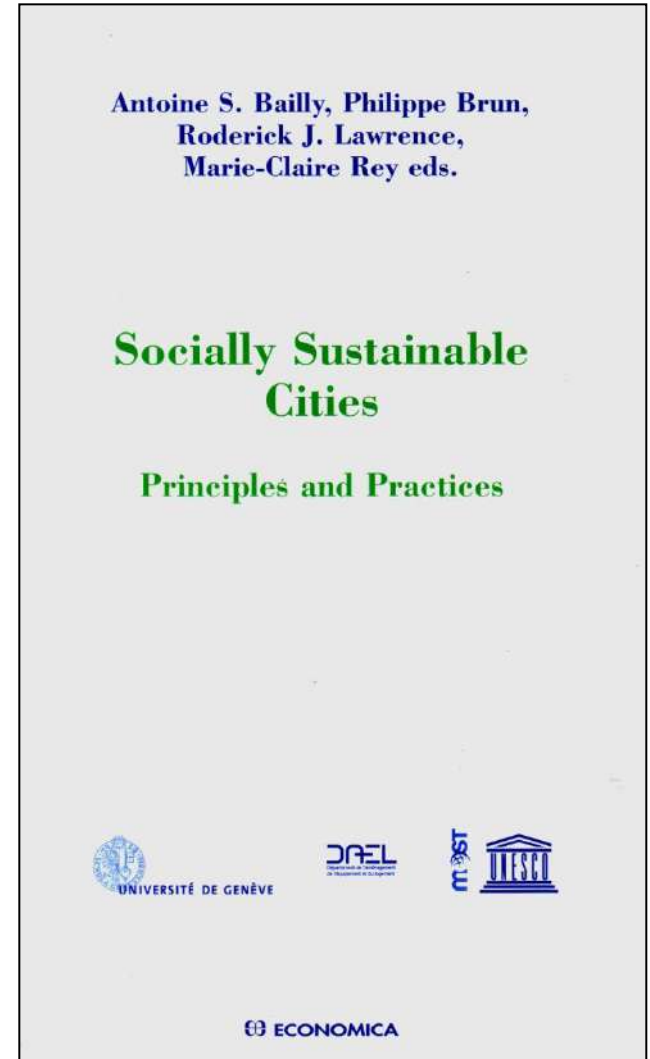
An international  
comparative research  
in collaboration with  
the MOST  
programme  
of UNESCO



# Why this programme ?

- 1987 Report for the U.N. "Our common future" (Bruntland Report) "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations..."
- 1991 OECD "Environmental Policies for Cities"
- 1993 E.U. programme "Towards sustainability..."

**A new challenge for cities**



# An agenda for sustainable policies 1

## The concept of sustainability:

A meaningful, but soft concept difficult to evaluate in quantitative terms

## Two main ways to approach it:

- Why are some cities more livable than others?
- Why some cities have been for a long time more livable than others?

## It raises the questions of:

- values
- culture
- governance
- quality of life

*Why are some cities pleasant to live in? Why have they kept a positive image, sometimes over centuries? This book looks at the key components of socially sustainable urban development including: poverty, equity, globalisation and economic revitalisation; cultural diversity and social integration; land policies, housing quality and affordability; public infrastructures and urban transport; urban governance and participatory decision-making.*

*It considers both the theoretical basis for social sustainability, and its applications in the local policies of cities in Africa, America, and Europe. It gives concrete perspectives for socially sustainable metropolitan governance.*

\*  
\* \*

Prepared by the Geneva Group, leaders of the UNESCO-MOST Project on Socially Sustainable Cities between 1996-2000, the book presents contributions towards social sustainability by ten partner cities of the MOST Network (Budapest, Cape Town, Geneva, Lyon, Montreal, Nairobi, Rotterdam, Sao Paulo, San Salvador, and Toronto). It is edited by A. Bailly and R. Lawrence, professors at the University of Geneva, P. Brun and M.-C. Rey of the DAEL (Planning Department) of the Canton of Geneva, with the help of the teams of the ten partner cities, and experts and officers of the UNESCO-MOST Project.

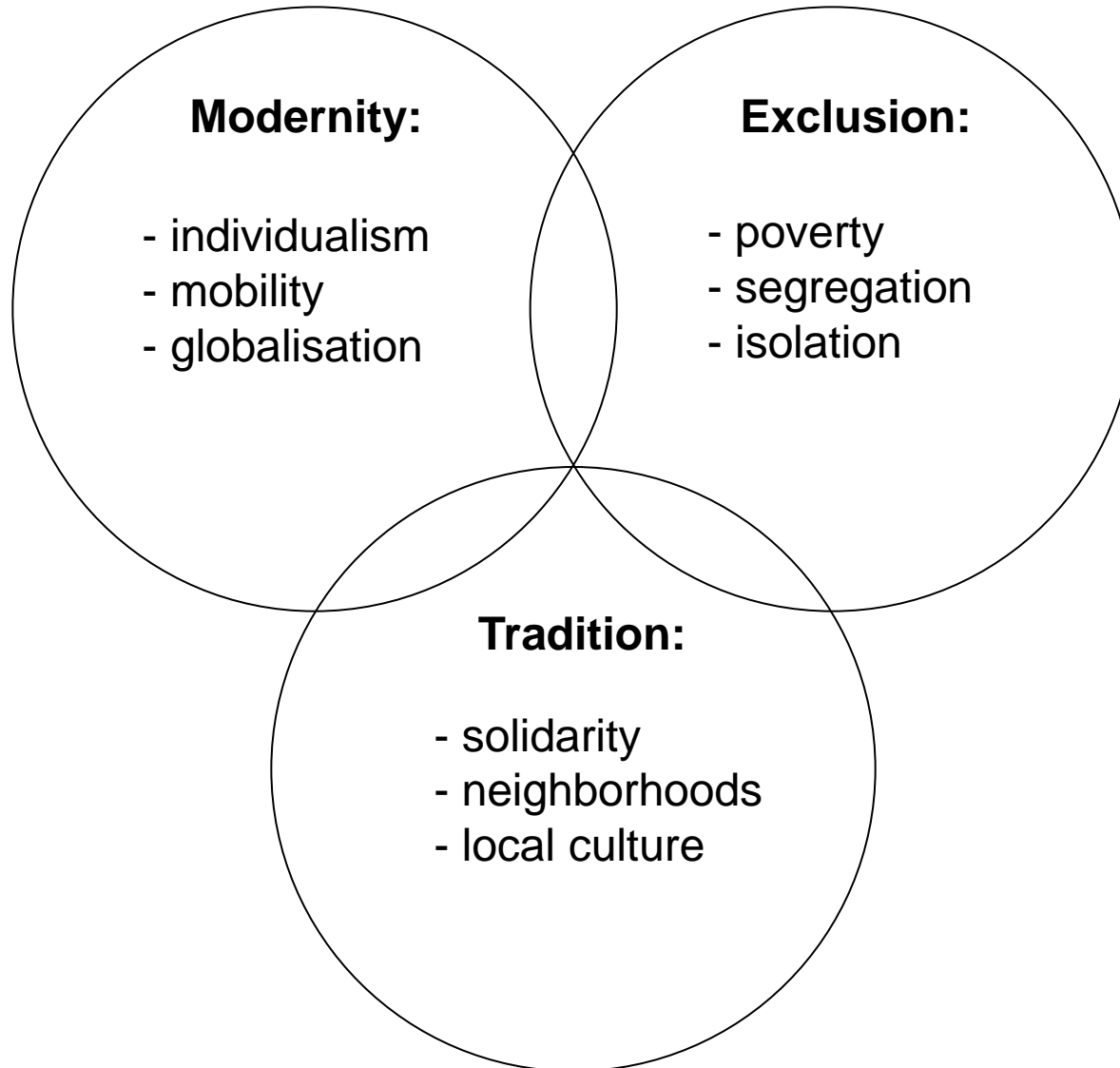
## **An agenda for sustainable policies 2**

Cities must now frame their short term policies to contribute to sustainable global development

### **Challenges for the future:**

- social integration and equity
- balanced urban development
- economic restructuring and globalisation
- environmental sustainability

# Fragmentation and integration in african cities



# **Main issues for sustainable urban development**

## **A way of looking at the future of our cities through:**

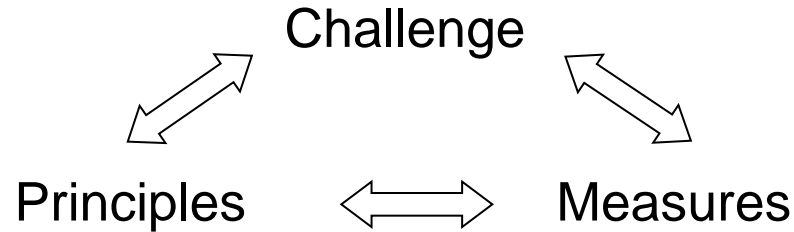
- a new governance at the city level:  
broader scale of governance
- a social agenda:  
social equity and cultural diversity
- an integration of flows and territories:  
the integrated city
- partnership between actors (economic, political, social...):  
co-operation, culture of negotiation

# Policy targets for sustainable urban development

Policy targets	Theme 1 Competitive and balanced urban system	Theme 2 Urban job opportunities	Theme 3 Innovation and know-how	Theme 4 Equality and social inclusion in urban areas	Theme 5 Urban environment	Theme 6 Efficient urban transport	Theme 7 Urban-suburbs-rural relations	Theme 8 Urban governance and local empowerment
Measures								
Legislation								
Financing conditions								
Development of know-how								



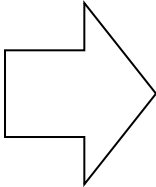
# Sustainable urban development



## Six Principles:

- Integration (social, spatial...)
- Partnership (between cities, actors...)
- Subsidiarity (democracy, community based approach)
- Economic efficiency (private, public jobs)
- Environmental efficiency (who pays for pollution, prevention...)
- Social justice

## Measures:

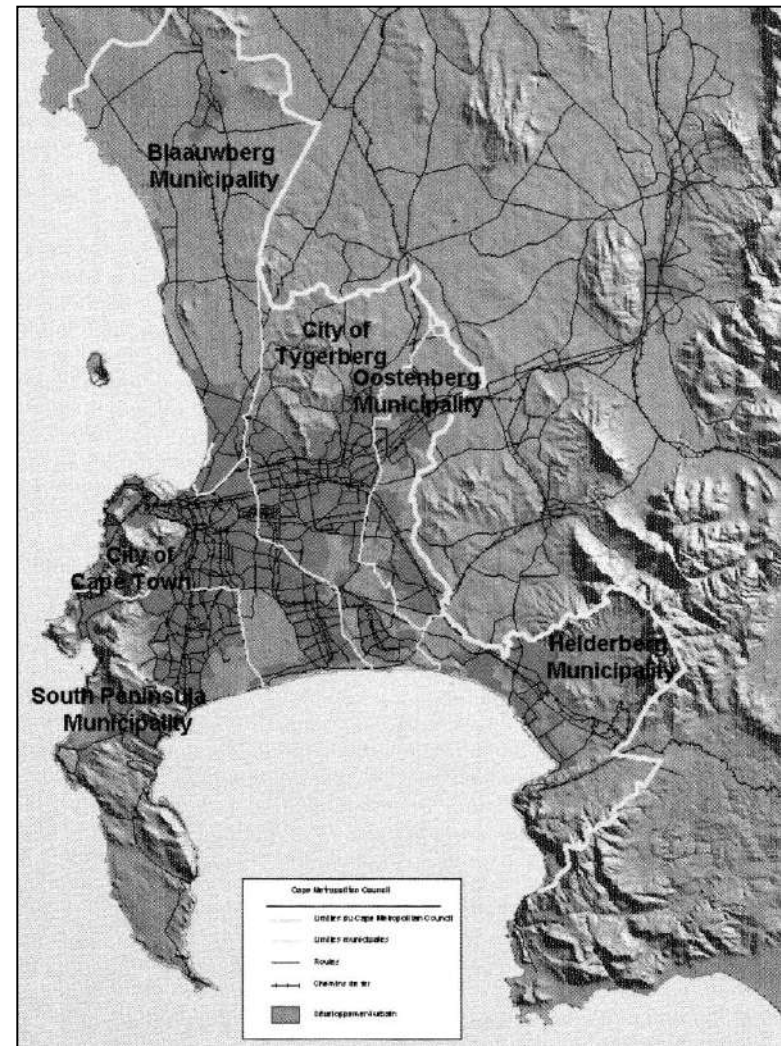
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- Legislation
  - Financing conditions
  - Development of know-how

# Cape Town case study

- **Economic development framework 1999**

## Five key themes for 6 municipalities (new governance)

- Poverty and homelessness
- Strengthening the economic position
- Enhancing the environment
- Building civic responsibility
- Developing local governments

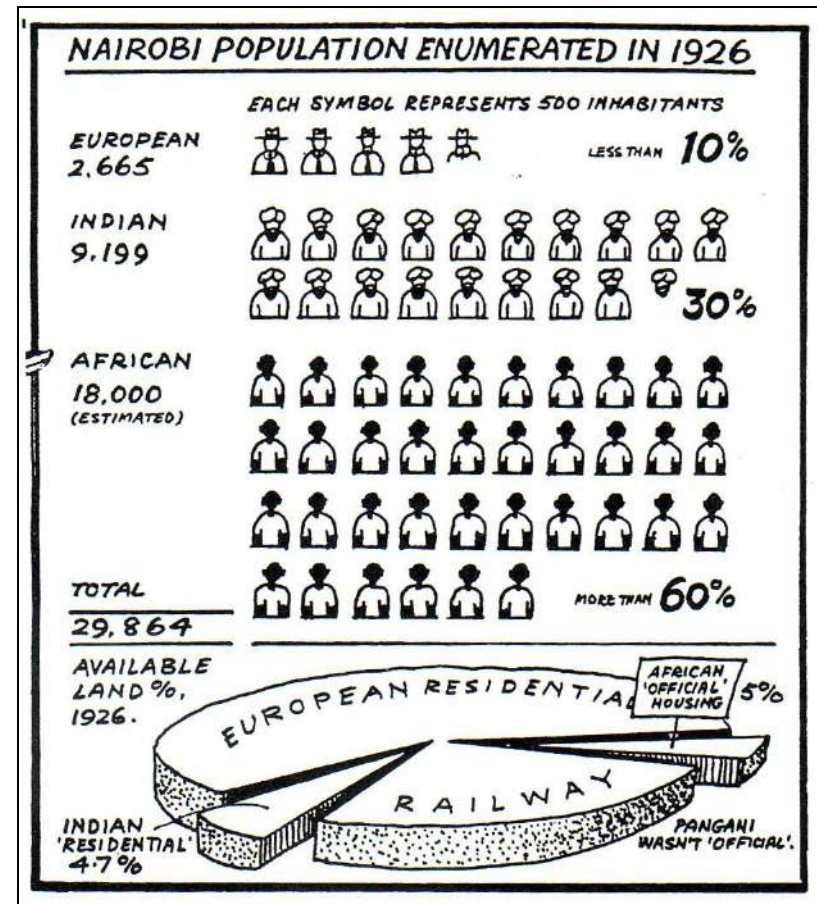


Cape Metropolitan Local Authorities

# Nairobi case study

## A long history of urban tensions

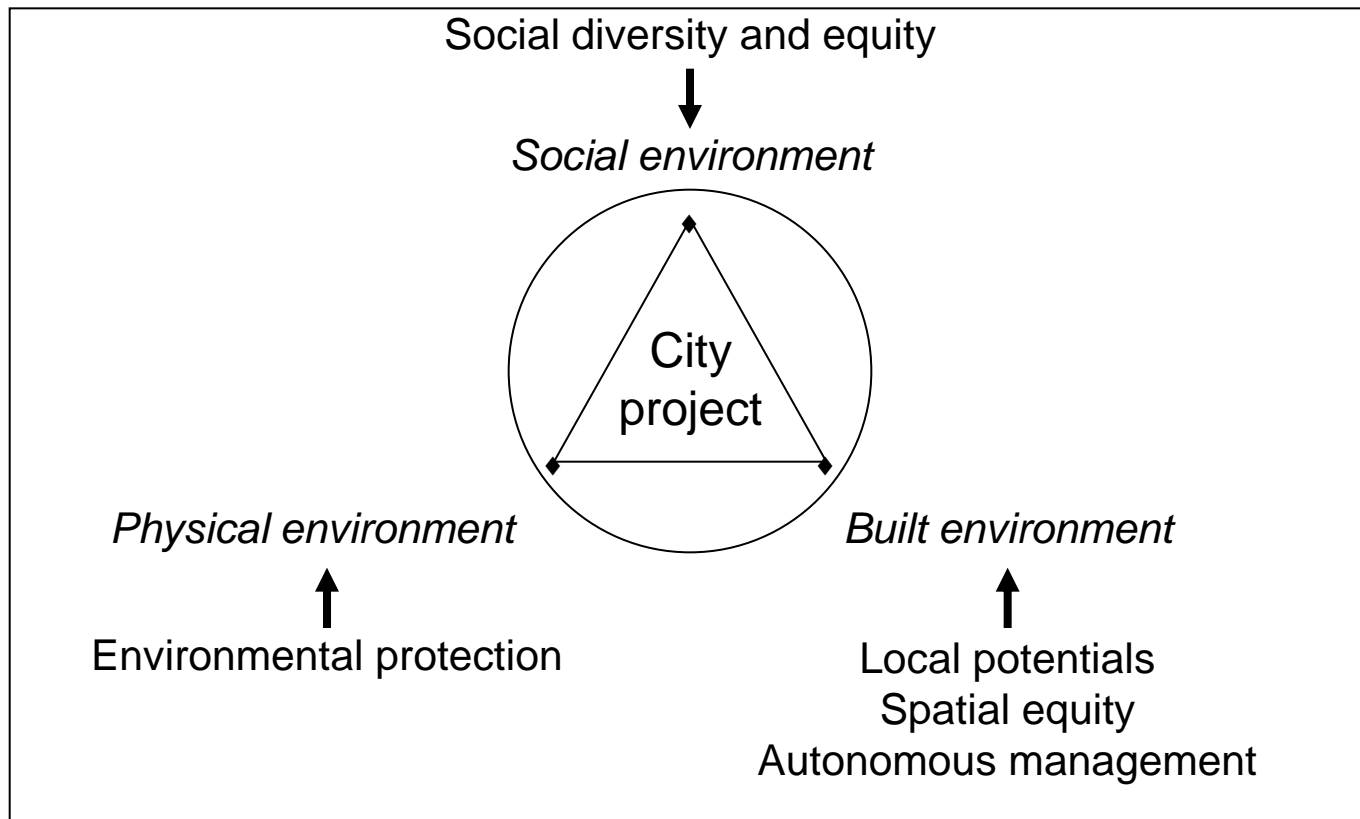
- Civil society activism for social reform 1992
- Pressure for change (cooperation instead of conflicts)
- Neighborhood associations and new city governance
- Ethnic confrontations and political solutions in 2010



Unequal share of available land in Colonial Nairobi:  
City population and land distribution in 1926

## A new sustainable city model in African cities

- Implementing an integrated metropolitan governance
- Providing housing and jobs: economic, social and cultural environment
- Struggling against crime and poverty: spatial and social equity
- Integrating transport and planning
- Environmental preservation



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

