

Africa Evidence Network

NEWSLETTER || July 2017

South Africa's Minister Jeff Radebe launches a new knowledge resource for Africa

Africa's first knowledge resource aimed at linking development actors with evidence relevant to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was launched earlier this year.

The South African Sustainable Development Knowledge Hub (SA SD KH) was launched by Jeff Radebe, South Africa's Minister in the Presidency. The SA SD KH contains initially publicly-accessible research from a first cohort of South African universities. Support from South Africa's Department for Science and Technology enabled the addition of SDG-relevant African innovations. Partnerships aimed at expanding and replicating the SA SD KH beyond South Africa are currently being established. For more information, contact the SA SD KH coordinator Prof Willem Fourie through the SA SD KH

[website](#) , [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Minister Jeff Radebe speaking at the launch of the South African Sustainable Development Knowledge Hub in Pretoria, South Africa.

The latest [article](#) on [Care Insights](#) believes thinking differently about social accountability will avoid 'toolsplaining'. Toolsplaining is a term used to describe a tool that is over-explained on how cleverly it was used to cause social change. In practice how social change happens is a process that involves a multitude of casual pathways within a strategy that work together to influence change.

Colleagues from the [Africa Centre for Evidence \(ACE\)](#) authored two blogs this month. In the [first blog](#) director, Prof Ruth Stewart focusses on ensuring that research evidence is both useful and used. The [second blog](#) written by Dr Carina van Rooyen published by [Transparify](#) shares why accountability and transparency matters to ACE especially in the South African context.

Diana Warira [addresses](#) the lack of sexuality education for Kenya's youth. Research evidence shows that sexuality education plays a critical role in improving the sexual and reproductive health outcomes. Statistics from the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey reported that 15 percent of women and 22 percent of men aged 20-49 had sex by age 15.

The [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) Center for Africa](#) hosted a successful [conference](#) themed 'Mobilizing African Intellectuals Towards Quality Tertiary Education' on 5-6 July 2017 in Kigali in Rwanda. The purpose of the conference was to create a coalition of African intellectuals who will brainstorm solutions for the implementation of SDGs in Africa.

Evidence events

[25-26 July: Evidence to Action conference, Accra, Ghana](#)

[27-28 July: Introduction to systematic reviews and meta-analysis training, Accra, Ghana](#)

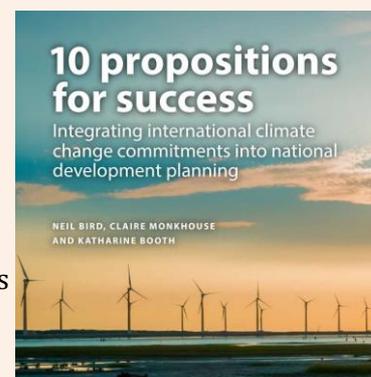
Announcements

- [The Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa](#) - Call for abstracts for the Biodiversity Research and Evidence Indaba in South Africa 17-18 August 2017. For more information contact Precious Motha at ace@uj.ac.za
- [Campbell Collaboration](#) seeks consultants for screening, coding, and writing plain language summaries

The latest [AEN blog](#) is by Kirchuffs Atengble from the Ghana Information Networks for Knowledge Sharing (GINKS) in Ghana. The blog discusses the journey of affirmative action in Ghana, with a particular focus on the evidence that informs the various policy interventions. Submit your AEN blog [here](#).

10 propositions to support the successful integration of National Determined Contributions

The [Overseas Development Institute \(ODI\)](#) has published a new [working paper](#) that examines what is necessary to support the successful integration of National Determined Contributions (NDCs) into national development planning. The approach taken has been to develop a set of ten propositions related to the effectiveness of policy and planning processes, and to the institutional architecture and allocation of resources. Each proposition is examined using evidence primarily from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Peru, and Uganda where ODI's Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) has supported the development and early implementation of NDCs. CDKN is a global initiative that aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development. It is important to note the ten propositions are considered to have general, but not universal, application. The propositions aim to provide a useful framework, supported by examples that countries can consider in their own specific contexts.



INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

Duncan Green [summarises](#) the debate on academics struggling to design their research for impact. The post challenges some people in the 'research for impact' community by suggesting that research had made no impact on 'practitioners' and policy. One academic commentator argued that it is no longer academics versus practitioners but rather about working together to produce research that will achieve change.

André Clarke from [Bond highlights](#) the need for NGOs to share and use evaluations to create change. According to Bond, the idea of using and sharing evaluations brings together the debates around transparency, accountability, and overall development organisations. Accessibility of timely and relevant information about organisations' activities and results can create openness that builds public trust in NGOs.

The latest [LSE Impact blog](#) explains why a more interdisciplinary approach could enhance understanding on why research evidence does or does not make it to policy. For instance the health discipline has embraced the uptake of evidence-informed policy-making and has a growing body of literature that aims to better understand the process of policy-making. However, there are other academic disciplines that can contribute to understanding the complexity of policy-making.

Evidence from academia

[Bless et al](#): 'Evaluation capacity assessment of the transport sector in South Africa: an innovative approach'

[Kabuye and Basheka](#): 'Institutional design and utilisation of evaluation results in Uganda's public universities: empirical findings from Kyambogo University'

[Larsen and Nilsson](#): 'Knowledge production and environmental conflict: managing systematic reviews and maps for constructive outcomes'

[Purtle et al](#): 'An audience research study to disseminate evidence about comprehensive state mental health parity legislation to US State policymakers: protocol'

The [Campbell Collaboration](#) has recently shared [presentations](#) given at the launch of Campbell UK & Ireland at Queen's University Belfast on 7 June 2017. The presentations provide an overview about systematic reviews and promoting evidence-informed policy and practice.