

Green Libraries as champions of Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya

Dr. Arnold Mwanzu
Regional Librarian, East Africa
Aga Khan University

Dr. Emily Kwamboka Bosire-ogechi
Moi University
Dr. Damaris J.N. Odero
Moi University



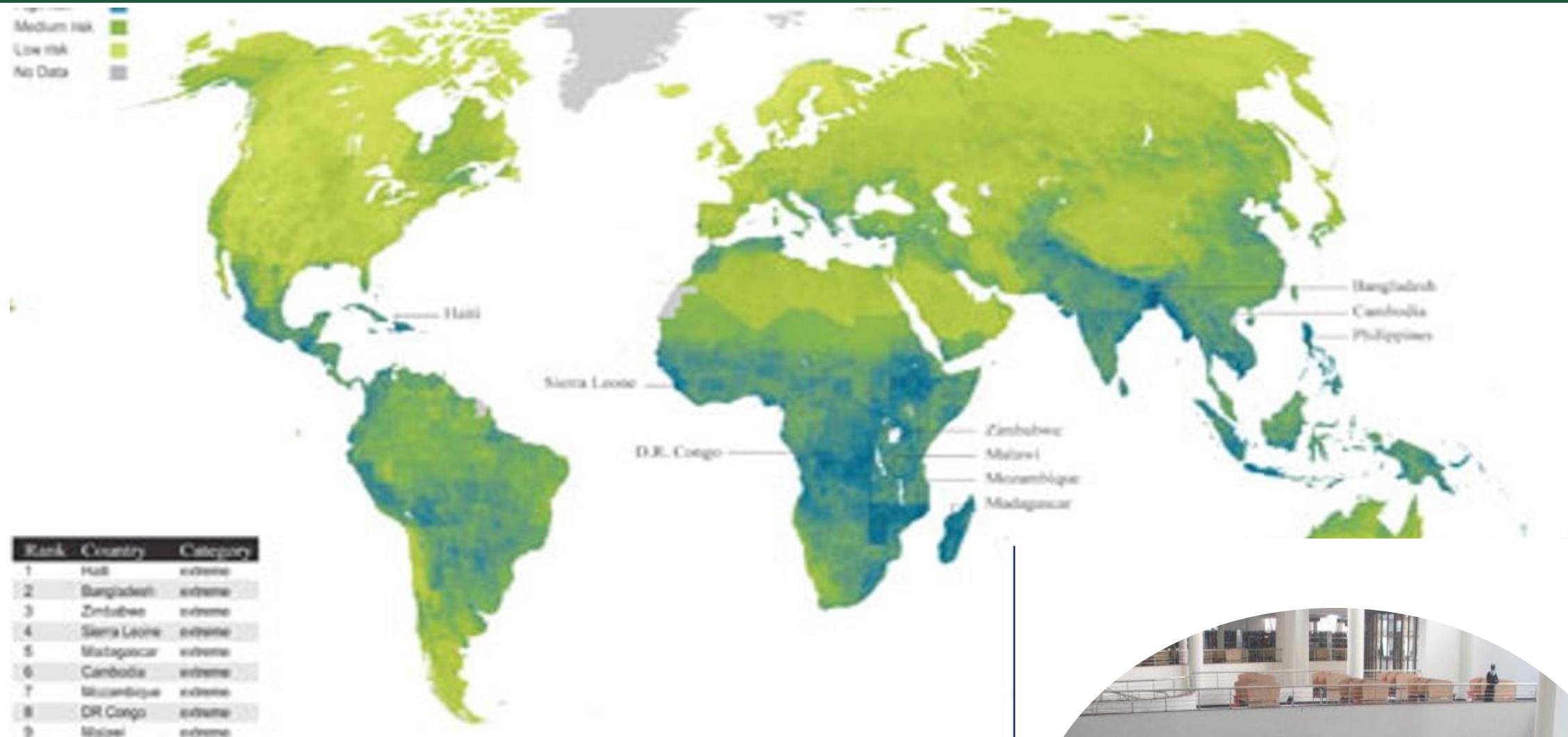
Going Green



INTRODUCTION

- Libraries in developed countries promote education, literacy and environmental sustainability, which are central to achieving several SDGs, such as quality education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), reduced inequalities (Goal 10), responsible consumption (Goal 12) and Climate change (Goal 13).
- Ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect, global climate changes or global warming, etc., are the main issues in the environment (Abbey, 2012).
- **More go green campaigns and a go green movement along with solutions.**
- **Libraries are community organizations, and this gives them a social responsibility of reducing harmful effects to the environment.**

BACKGROUND



Actions that should be taken in containing the effects of environmental changes.

Libraries should serve as an example to environmental sustainability, they should be first in line in incorporating values of sustainable construction (Chowdhury, 2012).



A graphic of a globe with a lush green tree growing on its top. The globe is partially obscured by a dark green, leafy shape on the left side of the slide. The background of the slide is white with a soft, golden bokeh effect at the bottom.

AIM OF THE STUDY:

The purpose of this study was to establish the adoption of the green library concepts in Kenya, their role in championing UN SDGs, with a view of proposing strategies that can be used to guide libraries in going green.



**STUDY
OBJECTIVES**

Establish the
comprehension and
perception of Kenyan
librarians towards the
concept of greening
libraries for
environmental
sustainability

Propose strategies to
guide libraries in
transforming into
green libraries

Analyze the greening
methods/practices
adopted by Kenyan
libraries

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive research design and mixed-methods case study approach was adopted. Interviews were conducted with Head librarians from 12 green libraries purposively selected from a target population of 227 professionally qualified head librarians in Kenyan Libraries. An observation checklist was used to complement interviews. Framework analysis was the mode of data analysis used in line with the interpretivism paradigm that formed the pillar of the research.



RESPONDENTS' DISTRIBUTION BY CATEGORY

Library	Target Sample	Actual Respondent	Category
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Nairobi Graduate Research library • Kenyatta University postmodern library • Moi University Margaret thatcher library • Masinde Muliro University • Embu University 	<p style="text-align: center;">1 1 1 1 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 1 1 1 1</p>	Public University Libraries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Catholic University of Eastern Africa • United States International University – Africa • Adventist University Library 	<p style="text-align: center;">1 1 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 1 1</p>	Private Chartered Univeristy Libraries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya National Library Service- Upper Hill • Kenya National Library Service- Nakuru 	<p style="text-align: center;">1 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 1</p>	Public Libraries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mpesa Foundation Academy library • International School of Kenya library 	<p style="text-align: center;">1 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 1</p>	School and Special Libraries
TOTAL	12	12	

LIBRARIANS' COMPREHENSION AND PERCEPTION OF THE CONCEPT OF GREEN LIBRARIES

Most respondents considered their library green to some extent, as illustrated by some of the green library practices in their libraries.

“Our library is green as we make use of the available resources, for example, the saving of energy by using the sun, harvesting rainwater, and taking care of ventilation because we don't have air conditioning in this building.”

The sentiments of the respondent reflect the observation made on some of the physical library buildings under observation in the study.

- The buildings were fitted with adequate windows to let the sun light the building.
- The roofs were also provided with translucent roof iron sheets that allowed natural light into the library. This helps the libraries avoid relying on electricity and rely on natural sunlight.

While respondents used different terms such as lighting, renovating, ventilation, planting trees, redesigning, and digitalization, they all agreed that it focused on environmental sustainability and showed their understanding.

The study findings showed that Kenyan university libraries perceive the greening concept positively and have adopted it in their libraries, although it has not been fully implemented

USE OF NATURAL LIGHTING IN LIBRARIES



Greening Practices/Methods Used

- Environmental aspects: The concern over the environment was mainly linked to natural lighting, tree planting and the proper use of available resources. These environmental factors were considered an integral part of the library model, and there have been many strategies to incorporate greening in all the activities of the libraries.
- Harvesting water: - harvesting water, taking care of running taps and other aspects. One respondent reported that they try to put notices urging users to turn off the taps after using water;
- Planting trees: - The other aspect reported was planting plants. Interviewees mentioned that libraries planted trees as an aspect of greening
- They have fixtures that automatically produce water using sensors
- Use of digital libraries

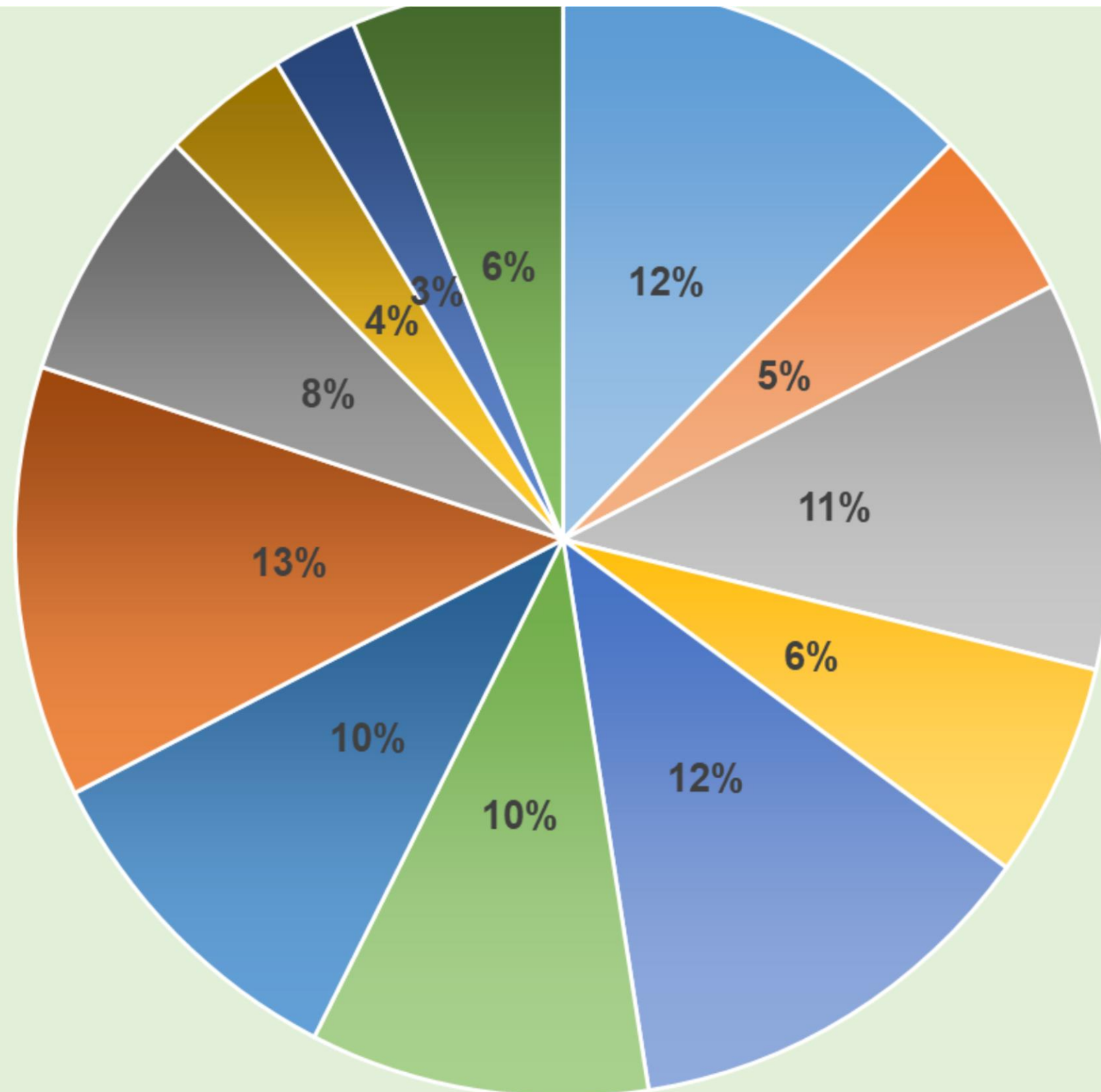
TREE PLANTING INSIDE THE LIBRARY:



LIBRARY CONTRIBUTION TO ECOFRIENDLY / ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Re-Using and Recycling Materials
- We have been encouraging people to put the plastic bottles in one place, where slum dwellers collect them and reuse them to make chairs and lampshades and things like that
- Library Involvement in Environmental Sustainability and its Practices
- Architectural Designs – Atriums
- Green Roofing
- Maintenance-friendly Construction
- Redesigning using intelligent arrangement to utilize space maximally.
- Zoning of Lights According to Requirements
- Bicycle Parking Spaces
- Green services

PERCENTAGE OF ADOPTION OF GREEN INITIATIVES IN LIBRARIES IN KENYA:

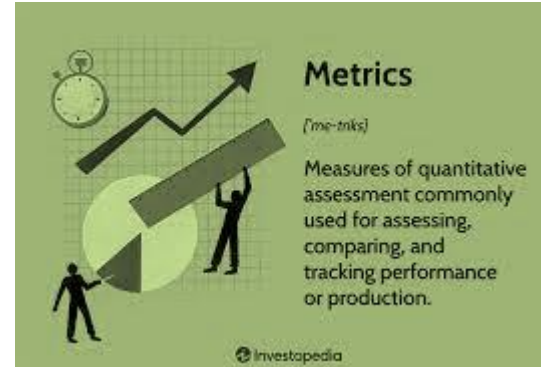


- Greening of site and surrounding area
- Places for personal transport (bicycles)
- Environmental impact on the immediate surrounding
- Sustainability through compactness ('fat buildings')
- Economic exteriors / building skin
- The atrium as a typical feature of libraries
- Using a pleasing sense of space
- Minimizing the space consumption of building techn
- Minimization of energy use through zoning
- Green roofs and solar energy
- Extensive resource saving compact storage
- Maintenance-friendly construction

PROPOSED STRATEGIES TO GUIDE LIBRARIES IN TRANSFORMING INTO GREEN LIBRARIES ---



Networks and Partners in Environmental Sustainability and their Contributions



Improve performance and Growth Measuring Metrics



Attendance to Special Greening Events



User Involvement



Maintain Green Library standards as guided by the IFLA ENSULUB Green Library Checklist

CONCLUSION

This research sought to fill the gap of knowing the extent to which libraries in Kenya have adopted green initiatives for environmental sustainability.

The findings sufficiently demonstrated that green libraries had been embraced and adopted partially.

Libraries are actively involved in environmental sustainability with practices aimed at reducing the carbon footprint in the environment

The adoption of green libraries is playing a big role in reducing the climate change effects and responding to Sustainable Development Goals

**THANK
YOU**

