



SeraNova

SERANOVA PROJECT REPORT



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ABOUT US



WHO WE ARE

InfraSpotlight is a non-governmental organisation, a knowledge hub for infrastructure development across the African continent. With the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 at the centre of our vision and mission, InfraSpotlight provides accurate and reliable insights based on up-to-date data on infrastructure development in Africa. Awareness of any subject is the starting point for meaningful advocacy, engagement and change. We are on a journey to raising awareness of the state and trend of infrastructure in Africa, empowering people and communities with the right information to take local actions that can drive change and sustainable development. In addition to this, our mission is to bridge the infrastructure knowledge gap by being the one-stop digital hub for accurate, reliable and up-to-date information on infrastructure issues and trends in Africa. We aim to build the capacity of citizens on evidence-based advocacy across the continent by increasing their knowledge of infrastructure development.

WHAT WE DO

- 1. Knowledge Publications** - Publishing articles, reports and thought pieces on infrastructure-related news and trends across Africa. Simplifying topical infrastructure development issues for African citizens and their communities.
- 2. Workshops** - Organising learning sessions and knowledge series on infrastructure development led by industry experts.
- 3. Policy Analysis** - Analysing previous and current policies on infrastructure across African countries to uncover relevant policy trends to further educate and empower African citizens and communities.
- 4. Project Tracking** - Monitoring the progress of major infrastructure projects across Africa and reporting on project status to educate citizens and communities.



ABOUT SERANOVA



BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

A major contributor to the knowledge gap in infrastructure in Africa is the absence of accessible data and information. This creates a gap in public participation as the citizens are unable to access information about various existing policies in order to hold their governments accountable or monitor the implementation of existing policies. There is a disconnect between governments and citizens where infrastructure policymaking is concerned with policies that do not reflect citizen's needs.

This project identifies infrastructure-related policies across African countries, summarises key information about the identified policies, highlights the current statuses, analyses the legal effect of the policies and provides a link for users to access the full policy document. The project provides an online tool where individuals can perform a quick search based on their respective country of nationality (or interest).

The objective of this project is to contribute to infrastructure policy awareness by making information accessible to citizens. Furthermore, the project aids infrastructure research in Africa as well as increases citizen's knowledge on relevant infrastructure policies.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

SeraNova is Africa's pioneer digital repository for infrastructure-related policies across the continent. Coined from the Swahili word, 'Sera', which means policy, SeraNova is the gateway to Africa's infrastructure policy landscape. Designed to bridge the infrastructure knowledge gap, SeraNova offers a streamlined online search tool and unlocks the latest infrastructure policies across twenty eight (28) African countries. SeraNova is built on the premise that an informed citizenry is better positioned to demand accountability from the government. Thus, the project leverages technology, research insights and analytics to generate results on existing infrastructure policies in Africa to inform citizens.

KEY FEATURES OF SERANOVA

SeraNova has four (4) key features: policy snapshots, in-depth policy analysis, policy status updates, and legal insights.

1. Policy snapshots - This feature provides concise summaries of each country's policy. SeraNova offers a clear, high-level overview, making complex policies easy to understand at a glance. It also provides a link to the full policy document.

2. Policy status update - Provides updates on the progress of infrastructure-related policies in the respective country. SeraNova tracks policy development from formulation to implementation, ensuring citizens remain aware of any policy changes or milestones.

3. Legal insights - This feature highlights each policy's legal standing, indicating whether it is backed by law or not. Knowing the legal framework behind a policy empowers citizens with a stronger basis for advocacy and enforcement, offering clarity on their rights and the policy's enforceability.

SeraNova empowers citizens including policy advocates, researchers and development professionals to explore and understand the policies shaping the future of infrastructure development in Africa.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of SeraNova include the following:

- To increase awareness of infrastructure policies, their provisions and key reforms.
- To make infrastructure policies accessible to citizens
- To facilitate understanding of infrastructure policies by monitoring and providing updates regarding policy implementation.

Our mission is to democratise access to infrastructure-related policies across Africa, empowering citizens and stakeholders alike to drive informed decisions and meaningful engagements towards Africa's infrastructure future. **Our goal** is to make critical policy information accessible, enabling citizens and communities to actively participate in shaping Africa's infrastructure policies from formulation to implementation.



PROJECT PHASES

The SeraNova project is divided into three (3) Phases:

1. Policy Research and Identification: As the first phase in the project process, research was conducted to identify infrastructure-related policies across all fifty-four (54) countries in Africa. A database was built to streamline data by countries, regions and the name of policies.

2. Policy Analysis: Identified policies were reviewed by a dedicated team of volunteer researchers who summarised key information about each policy including the date the policy was formulated, timeline of the policy, public bodies or departments responsible for implementing the policy, and policy reforms per infrastructure sub-sectors. In addition, the team, supported by Learn Politics, analysed the legal and political effect of the identified policies, providing an objective commentary to guide citizens on how to take action on the basis of the policy instrument.

3. Policy Repository Development: An online policy repository was developed with the manually researched and analysed content. The repository hosted on a web platform allows users to search policies by country name and provides a full breakdown of the country's policy.

METHODOLOGY

For best outcomes, a project methodology was designed by Learn Politics on areas of focus for the policy research and analysis which will eventually inform the development of the online platform. The key metrics for the policy research and analysis are -

- **Outcome Indicators:** What the policy aims to achieve.
- **Impact Indicators:** What will be the broader impact of the policy.
- **Cost Benefit Analysis:** Comparative analysis of the cost of policy implementation vis-a-vis the policy benefits.
- **Timeline of Policy:** The length of the policy, how many years and how realistic is this timeline?
- **Equity Analysis:** How well does the policy include different population demography for equitable outcome (women, youth, persons with disabilities)?
- **Implementation Metrics:** How will the policy be implemented across the key infrastructure sub-sector (transportation, electricity, ICT, water and sanitation, housing and urban development).
- **Sustainability Metrics:** What is the environmental impact of implementing the policy and what provisions exist for mitigating this impact? Is the policy financially sustainable?
- **Progress Indicators:** What progress has been made so far since the policy was first introduced?



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

PRE-LAUNCH

InfraSpotlight held a Virtual Stakeholder Dialogue with the theme, ***'Mainstreaming Infrastructure Development in National Development Plans and Policy Making'*** on **Friday, 24 January 2025**. The event discussed the pivotal role of infrastructure in national development and brainstormed on how to position infrastructure development in national development policies in Africa.

Infrastructure is the cornerstone for socio-economic growth and national development. While many African countries incorporate provisions for infrastructure development within their national policy frameworks, significant gaps remain in translating these provisions into tangible outcomes. A critical challenge lies in the absence of robust national policy frameworks and efficient political structures to drive effective implementation. Furthermore, citizen engagement in the national development policy process is often insufficient, and many policies are inadequately designed, failing to deliver optimal results. Thus, the event converged stakeholders such as representatives from civil society organisations, NGOs, advocacy groups, think tanks and young people to discuss the pathways for positioning infrastructure development in relevant national development plans.

At the event, **Dr. Tayo Aduloju**, CEO of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) delivered a keynote address on the topic, ***'Strategic Importance of Infrastructure in National Development Planning'***. Equally, there was a panel discussion on the topic, ***'Public Participation in the National Development Policy Process for Equitable Outcome'*** featuring:

Dolapo Agbede - *Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Expert*

Abiola Durodola - *Founder, Advokc*

Victoria Oladipo - *Founder, Learn Politics (Moderator)*

The Virtual Stakeholder Dialogue converged a total of 54 participants. A major highlight of the event was an exclusive showcase of the SeraNova platform to the audience further demonstrating the power of technology in increasing policy awareness.

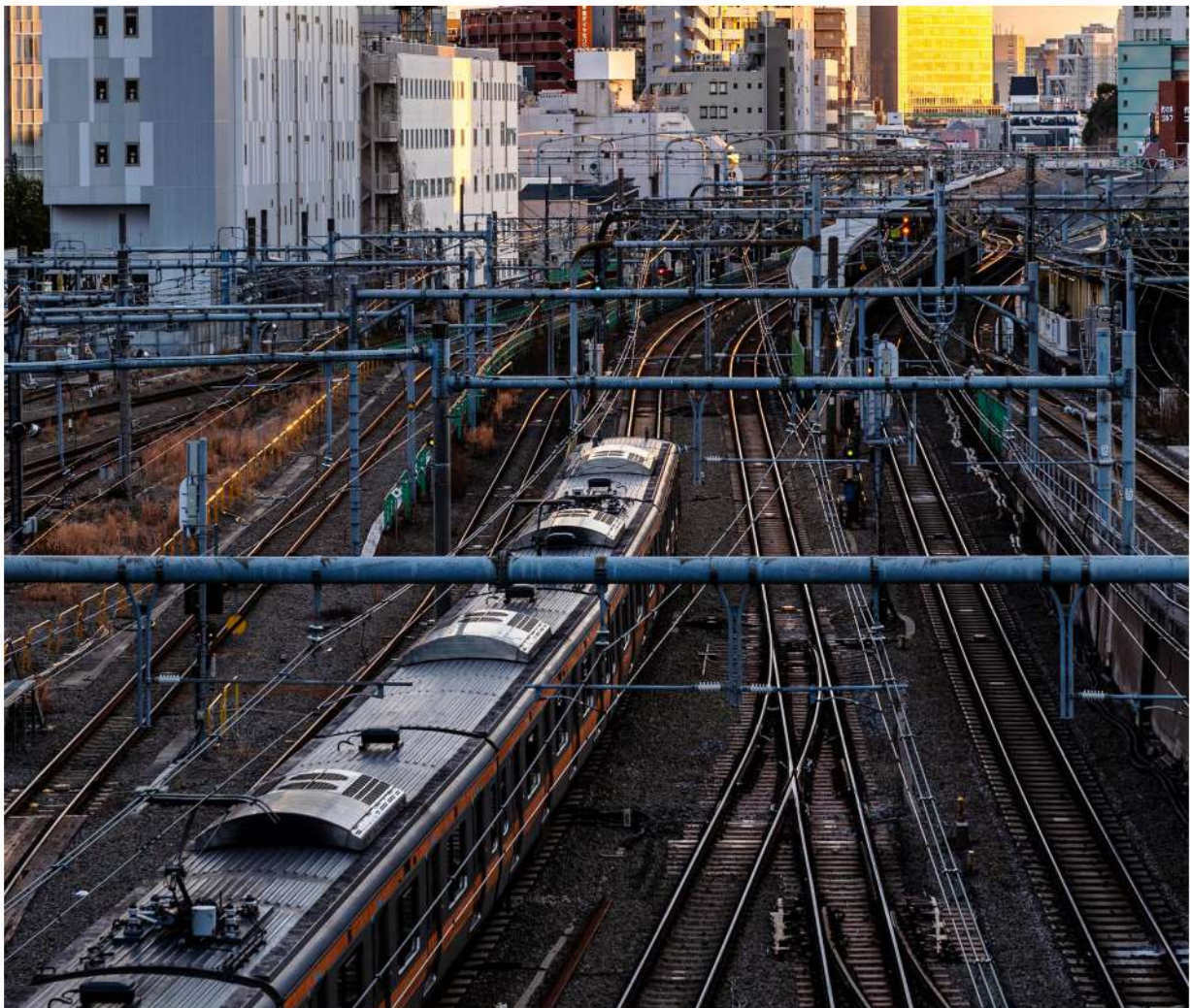
LAUNCH

SeraNova officially launched on **Friday, 31 January 2025**. As part of the launch activities, a demo video was released across all InfraSpotlight social media platforms to show the public how to access and navigate the online platform.

POST LAUNCH PLANS

After the launch date, InfraSpotlight is undertaking a series of training sessions for various stakeholders and online advocacy campaigns.

- **Training Sessions** - InfraSpotlight will organise webinars to train various stakeholders such as but not limited to activists, policy advocacy groups, students, lawyers, journalists and media professionals on how to use the SeraNova platform. The training sessions will also be an opportunity to discuss critical issues around infrastructure policy reforms as well as seek feedback on how to improve the online platform.
- **Online Advocacy Campaigns** - InfraSpotlight's Research Team in conjunction with the Communications Team will undertake monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure-related policies across the 28 African countries covered by SeraNova to provide periodic updates on the state of policy implementation.



IMPACT FIGURES

Number of Visits - 727

Unique Visitors - 368

Attended pre-launch Stakeholder Dialogue - 54

Social media content - 15

*Top performing content in January 2025 was
'The Story Behind SeraNova' video demonstrating
the power of compelling storytelling.*



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Learn Politics is an organisation aimed at fostering an engaged citizenry and providing comprehensive political education. There is a need for a more politically educated citizenry who can map out complex political issues and actively participate in the democratic process with equipped knowledge. Learn Politics is designed to address this need and provide tools in the form of courses to help shape the future of our communities and country, Nigeria at large.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDINGS

The implementation of the SeraNova project uncovered several critical insights into the infrastructure policy landscape in Africa. These findings are invaluable for developing a deeper understanding of the various policy frameworks and their implications.

1. Diverse Sources of Infrastructure Policies - Infrastructure policy frameworks across Africa stem from a range of sources, including:

- **National Development Plans:** These outline a nation's overarching development objectives, with infrastructure positioned as a critical enabler. Examples include *Vision Burundi 2025*, *Djibouti Vision 2035*, and *Egypt's Vision 2030*, which emphasise infrastructure as central to achieving national economic growth goals.

- **Infrastructure Master Plans:** These serve as guiding documents for policy actions and reforms across multiple infrastructure sub-sectors over an extended period. Examples include *Ghana Infrastructure Plan (GIP) 2018–2047* and *Nigeria's National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (NIIMP) 2014–2043*.

- **Sector-Specific Plans:** These focus on individual infrastructure sub-sectors, such as *Gambia's National Transport Policy (NTP) 2018–2027* and *Malawi's National Transport Master Plan (NTMP) 2017–2037*.

2. Actionability of Policy Commitments - The degree of specificity in policy objectives varies significantly between countries. While some policies incorporate detailed action plans and lists of reforms, others remain vague. For example:

- *Botswana's Second Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP)* includes a general commitment to "increase access to potable water and sanitation services," which lacks measurable benchmarks.

- In contrast, *South Africa's National Infrastructure Plan (NIP) 2050* explicitly identifies actionable projects, such as the *Phase 2A Mokolo Crocodile River (West) Augmentation Project – Limpopo*.

3. Policy Timelines and Realism - The timeline of infrastructure policies often determines their feasibility. Key observations include:

- Short timelines, such as *Benin's Government Action Programme (GAP) 2021–2026*, appear overly ambitious given the extensive list of projects outlined.
- Conversely, very long timelines, like *Nigeria's NIIMP 2014–2043*, lack interim milestones to ensure progress towards long-term goals. The absence of short- and medium-term benchmarks undermines accountability and effective monitoring of progress.

4. Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement - The extent of public consultations during policy development varies across countries. Some nations, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, and Somalia, engaged citizens and key stakeholders to ensure that policy objectives align with public priorities. However, this practice is not consistently applied, potentially resulting in a disconnect between policy aspirations and the needs of citizens.

5. Clarity of Implementation Responsibilities - Clearly defining the government bodies responsible for policy implementation is essential for accountability and transparency. Policies that explicitly identify implementing agencies enable citizens to monitor progress and engage with relevant authorities. For example:

- Benin's policy assigned the Ministry of Development and Coordination of Governmental Action, alongside other ministries, as responsible for implementation.
- Nigeria's NIIMP establishes the Infrastructure Delivery Coordinating Unit (IDCU) under the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning as the coordinating body for programmes and projects.
- In contrast, policies that fail to specify implementation responsibilities risk being perceived as aspirational documents without actionable strategies.





RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the project's key findings, the following are our recommendations to revolutionise infrastructure policy formulation and implementation in Africa:

1. Advocate for infrastructure policies to include detailed action plans, measurable goals, and specific project lists. This will ensure citizens and stakeholders can evaluate progress against tangible benchmarks.
2. Countries develop realistic timelines that balance ambition with feasibility. Policies should include short-, medium-, and long-term milestones to bridge overarching goals with achievable interim targets.
3. Ensure periodic reviews and updates to ensure policy timelines remain relevant in the context of evolving economic and political conditions.
4. Institutionalise public consultation processes during policy development. This would ensure infrastructure policies reflect the aspirations and needs of citizens and key stakeholders. To this end, support capacity-building initiatives for public officials to design and manage inclusive consultation processes effectively.
5. Advocate for infrastructure policies to explicitly designate the government agencies, ministries, or bodies responsible for implementation. This clarity will enhance accountability and facilitate public monitoring. We recommend creating or strengthening central coordinating units, such as Nigeria's Infrastructure Delivery Coordinating Unit (IDCU), to oversee the execution of cross-sectoral infrastructure plans.
6. Promote transparent reporting mechanisms for responsible agencies to regularly update the public on progress.
7. Encourage governments to publish annual progress reports that include metrics aligned with the policy's stated objectives.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

There are incredible people behind this vision without whom SeraNova would remain only a dream, thank you for your invaluable support.

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Seranova

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