

Conservancies: A Demonstrable Local Level Action for the Sustainable
Development Goals in an African Indigenous Frontier

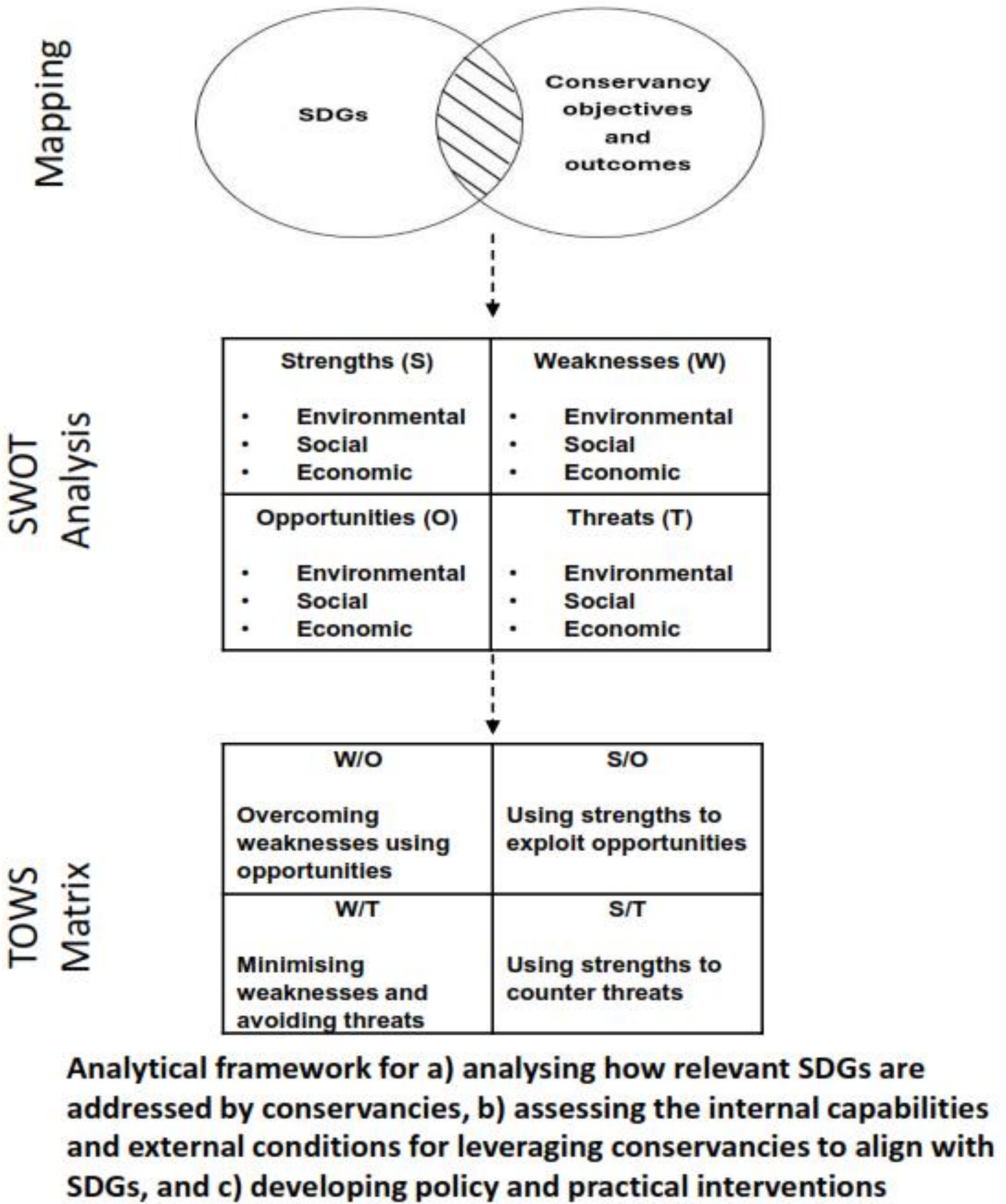
Alexander Omondi Imbo, Uta Wehn and Kenneth Irvine
IHE Institute for Water Education

INTRODUCTION & AIM

- SDGs: Actions for global sustainability challenges
- Role of multiple stakeholders and local level action
- Land-use governance is critical to the SDGs
- Conservancies: community-led land governance
- This paper assesses the contribution and capacity of conservancies as a land governance approach towards addressing the SDGs, using case studies from the Maasai Mara region in Kenya
- It explores what and how relevant SDGs are addressed by the conservancies, and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of leveraging conservancies to align their development objectives and outcomes with the SDGs

METHOD

- Qualitative case study

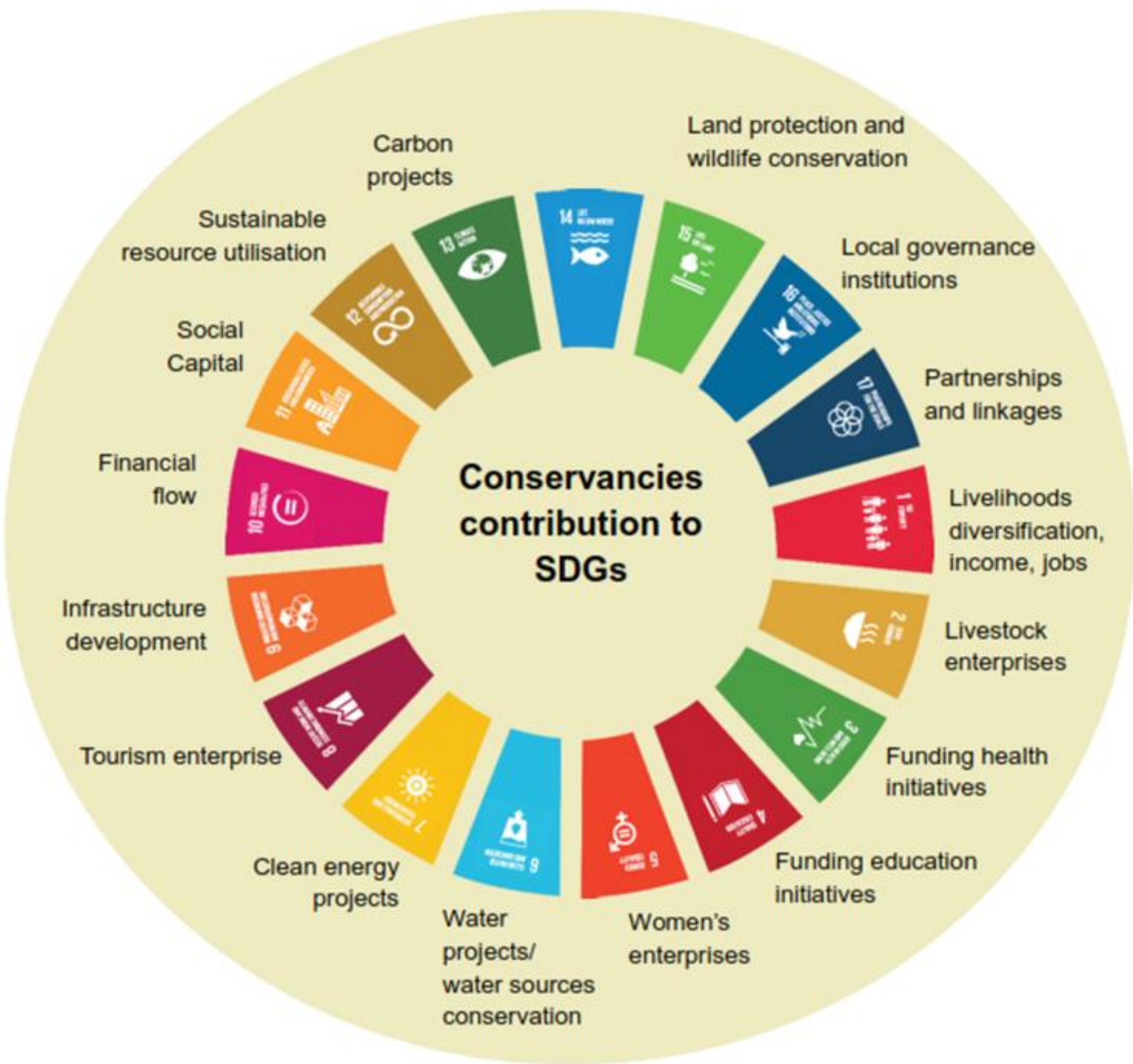


REFERENCES

Sammut-Bonnici, T., & Galea, D. (2015). SWOT analysis. In C. L. Cooper (Ed.), *Wiley Encyclopedia of management* (Vol. 12, pp. 1-8), John Wiley & Sons, Ltd
UN. (2015). *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, The United Nations, sustainabledevelopment.un.org.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Linking SDGs with conservancy objectives/outcomes



- Main SWOTs and key recommendations based on TOWS

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural resources endowment (land and abundant mega-fauna)• Community cohesion (ethnic and cultural homogeneity, and strong social capital)• Established tourism enterprise/ infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seasonal variability of livelihood resources (pasture/ water for livestock)• Structural and systemic barriers that encumber participation e.g. elite capture and gender marginalisation• Overdependence on natural resources/ tourism
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental conservation• Partnerships (tourism entrepreneurs, NGOs and government) and capacity building• Growing global carbon markets and payments for ecosystem services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental degradation and climate change impacts• External interests (capture by external actors such as tourism investors)• Tourism industry vulnerability
TOWS Strategy	Proposed Action
WO (overcoming weakness using opportunities)	Diversify revenue streams by incorporating other forms of payment for ecosystem services; capacity building to build critical mass and enacting gender empowerment approaches that critically challenge social norms
SO (using strengths to exploit opportunities)	Leverage landscape resources to enter carbon markets
ST (using strengths to counter threats)	Mobilise informal institutions to promote collective action towards conservation (to reverse environmental declines)
WT (minimising weaknesses and avoiding threats)	Explore strategies to reduce resource dependence e.g. superior livestock breeds and alternative livelihood activities

CONCLUSION

Conservancies address SDGs related to advancing human well-being, enhancing environmental conservation, and climate change action. They are however susceptible to structural and systemic barriers which encumber inclusive participation, raising social justice concerns.