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Review on Southeast Asian Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Localisation Strategies

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Abstract
There is a scarcity of research on localisation strategies for the Southeast Asian Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ROSES review approach recommends 17 papers from the SCOPUS Journal for a Systematic Literature Review on discovering Southeast Asian SDG localisation strategies. After further thematic analysis of the articles, green initiatives and policy measures, stakeholder collaborations, and participatory procedures were revealed as three primary themes in Southeast Asia's SDG localisation efforts. Even though the review could not cover all Southeast Asia due to a lack of national reporting, it is nonetheless significant. Additional research into SDG localisation is needed.

Keywords: SDGs; Localisation; Southeast Asian; Systematic Literature Review

1.0 Introduction
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) localisation or SDG mainstreaming refers to implementing the 17 SDG global agenda at the lower level of governance. SDGs require a top-down implementation at a multi-governmental level to aspire to the "whole of nation" and "whole of society" approach. It is inevitably pertinent to ensure every governmental level and stakeholder are included in pursuing SDG localisation for its success. However, success is difficult to assess because few nations have reported on their SDG localisation efforts due to the voluntary nature of the process. This systematic literature review (SLR) paper aims to discover the SDG localisation strategies adopted in Southeast Asian countries. The finding shows there are review papers on SDG localisation. However, the discussion is still limited within SDG localisation programs in the regional context. Thus, this study holds significant value in discovering overall localisation strategies in Southeast Asia.

2.0 Research Methodology

The Reporting Standards for Systematic Evidence Syntheses' (ROSES) review approach guided this SLR. ROSES was created to conduct an SLR of environmental management (Haddaway et al. 2018) and is appropriate for locating correct material on a particular topic. The ROSES strategy ensures the proper level of detail can be derived from accurate data. The first step in this strategy is to develop a pertinent research question using PICo (Munn et al. 2018). PICo explored and justified the research question formulation process, problem, interest, and context. Following that, a systematic search approach for the papers to be examined is carried out, which entails a series of sub-processes.

Table 1: The Search String and Total Number of Publication

Database	Search string	No of Document	Acquisition Date
SCOPUS	TITLE-ABS-KEY (("engag*" OR "particip*" OR "invol*" OR "coopera*" OR "locali*") AND ("sustainable development goal" OR "sds" OR "sdg") AND ("Southeast Asia" OR "Malaysia" OR "Thailand" OR "Indonesia" OR "Singapore" OR "Vietnam" OR "Laos" OR "Cambodia" OR "Kampuchea" OR "Myanmar" OR "Burma" OR "Timor Leste" OR "Philippines" OR "Brunei"))	287	25 Nov 2021

Firstly, 287 articles from SCOPUS journals related to SDG localisation in Southeast Asia were identified and downloaded using the search string as shown in Table 1. These articles followed a screening procedure to determine inclusion and exclusion criteria, as shown in Figure 1. In deciding the resource eligibility, the selected pieces are subjected to a quality assessment to verify accuracy. Before describing the data abstraction analysis on the papers, ROSES requires a discussion of the article selection method, which involves a validation process on the abstracted data.
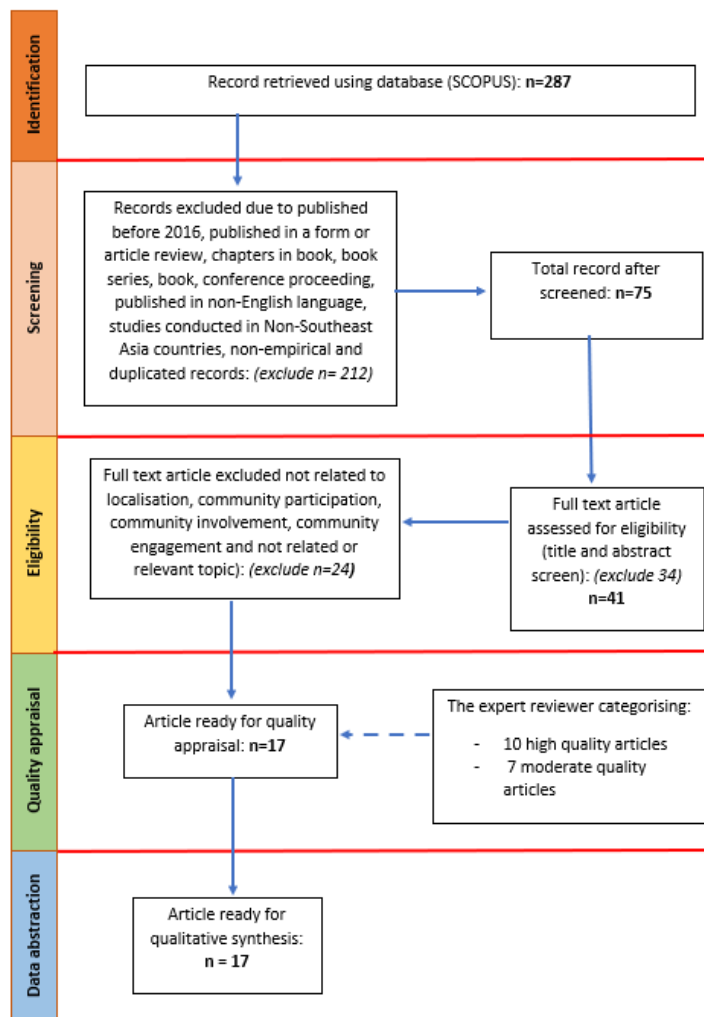

Figure 1: The Systematic Searching Strategy Flow Diagram (Adapted from Shaffril et al. (2020))

This study relied on an integrative review technique that allowed diverse research designs (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research) to be included in the review. The result consists of seventeen high and moderate-quality papers from the SCOPUS database

based on relevancy and journal criteria. Thematic analysis was applied to aid the SLR analysis but is limited to 4 countries: Malaysia (2), Indonesia (6), Thailand (5), Vietnam (4), resulting from the employed systematic searching strategy.

3.0 Findings

The following three themes are emanated from the journals reviewed. It was discovered that the localisation of the SDG in the region had been performed within the context of; a) green initiatives and policy measures, b) stakeholders' partnership, and c) public participation mechanism, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 The SDG Localisation Themes in Southeast Asia

Studies	Years	Country	Green Initiative & Policy Measures	Stakeholders Partnership	Public Participation Mechanism
Ari et al.	2021	Indonesia			/
Bunditsakulchai & Liu	2021	Thailand	/	/	
Elya et al.	2021	Indonesia	/	/	/
He & Mai	2021	Vietnam		/	/
Herawati et al.	2021	Indonesia		/	/
Hue & Sun	2021	Vietnam			/
Intason et al.	2021	Thailand	/	/	/
Kongboon et al.	2021	Thailand	/		
Lasso & Dahles	2021	Indonesia	/		/
Mungkung et al.	2021	Thailand	/	/	
Permatasari et al.	2021	Thailand	/	/	/
Pham et al.	2021	Vietnam		/	/
Rajadurai et al.	2021	Malaysia	/	/	
Sang	2021	Vietnam		/	/
Santoso et al.	2021	Indonesia		/	/
Sonet et al.	2021	Malaysia			/
Wongkumchai & Kiattisin	2021	Thailand	/	/	/

3.1 Green Initiatives and Policy Measures

Initiatives and policy arrangements that promote sustainable behaviour and practice will cultivate a sustainable community (Intason et al., 2021; Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Permatasari et al., 2021). Indirectly, it may contribute to SDG attainment through "green" programmes and policies that focus on the community. Policies on sustainability should be part of the national plan, and the government should be committed to it. Thailand has set an excellent example by integrating the Sufficiency Economic Philosophy (SEP) with SDG in its development plans (Wongkumchai & Kiattisin, 2021). The review delineated a few examples of green initiatives and policies that could nurture sustainable community behaviour in a country. They are the green product procurement policy (GPP) (Mungkung et al., 2021), food waste management policy (Bunditsakulchai & Liu, 2021) and sustainable event management (Intason et al., 2021).

Thailand and Malaysia have identified their green initiative and strategies, particularly sustainable consumption and production (SCP). In the Malaysian context, Rajadurai et al. (2021) has emphasised the importance of the community to engage in eco-purchasing. The authors have suggested the Nexus Eco-Purchasing Behaviour Index (NEPBI) in Malaysia to nurture a "green consumer society" and contribute to SDG 12 progression. The six indicators in NEPBI embrace environmental-friendly product criteria, product pricing, and consumer awareness. It was discovered that Malaysian consumers from the southern, northern and eastern zones showed a higher level of eco-purchasing behaviour due to the dominance of well-informed young green consumers on eco-friendly products (Rajadurai et al., 2021). In comparison, Thailand has designed and implemented a more comprehensive and strategic national plan for SCP and adopted GPP in specific sectors (Mungkung et al., 2021). The country is mandating eco-labels in selected organisations, with a total of 15591 products being categorised from 1 to 3 to persuade consumers' eco-purchase decisions (Mungkung et al., 2021).

The GPP policy in Thailand, with its targeted indicator and monitoring mechanism, has proven applicable in various sectors and supported by the community with appropriate policy and legislation. It became the national agenda and was led by government organisations. It was implemented in phases, promoted at all governmental levels, and reinforced by the online infrastructure (i.e., informative eco-labelling product database, online application, and reporting system) (Mungkung et al., 2021). It is suggested that a similar policy on GPP and eco-purchasing could benchmark other ASEAN countries to strengthen their SCP roadmap and elevate their position in supporting global green conventions and SDG 12 (Mungkung et al., 2021; Rajadurai et al., 2021).

Thailand is also looking forward to a food waste separation and reduction policy (Bunditsakulchai & Liu, 2021). This policy could cater for the community to manage their household food waste and serve as a standard guideline for promoting environmental sustainability at the organisational level. A seven-stage action-based model of integrated strategies to reduce household food waste was proposed for strategising food management and controlling the community's daily food consumption activities. It begins with food planning, food purchasing behaviour, food storage and preservation, food preparation, food consumption, and recreating/recycling the leftovers. It is intended to be a sustainable solution for tackling and reducing food waste problems in urban areas and extending the food life span.

Intason et al. (2021) highlighted the need to promulgate legislation to conduct sustainable events for popular festivities (i.e. sustainable Songkran) and incorporate SDG into the event guideline and management. Adopting this sustainable event policy will promote sustainable community behaviour, sustainable funding in festival arrangements, and minimise resource usage. Local-based festivities such as

Songkran celebrations have excessively used water and wasted natural resources to create temporary festival enjoyment. Intason et al. (2021) emphasised the importance of minimising water usage during the festivities while keeping its tradition as a tourist attraction, thus, suggesting water-saving campaigns, water-saving education, and water-splashing prohibitions. However, the community's lack of awareness towards water deficiency issues and water-splashing as the community culture has impeded the sustainability practices. Thus, balancing the inherited culture and the call for environmental protection is challenging without compromise between stakeholders.

Other green initiatives towards sustainable community behaviours are related to 3R activities and SDG 6-related programmes to promote clean water and sanitation (Elya et al., 2021). In addition, in realising the SDG at the local government level, an online database like EcoCitOpia is used by Thailand municipalities to self-assess and measure their environmental performance index. The data are available for the public. It could support urban policy development that conforms to SDG-related environmental on air, water, land, and energy (Kongboon et al., 2021).

3.2 Stakeholders Partnership
This review proved that stakeholders' partnership and collaboration are crucial to implementing policy/programmes related to sustainable development and SDGs localisation (Mungkung et al., 2021; Permatasari et al., 2021; Santoso et al., 2021). However, the commitment towards sustainable development should first become the national agenda and be pioneered by the government institutions.

More top-down stakeholders are being mentioned in a policy-based approach that focuses on the community as the target group. This is because the policy mandated the community behavioural changes towards becoming more sustainable. Three essential stakeholders in fostering sustainable development in Thailand are public organisations, private entities and the local community (Wongkumchai & Kiattisin, 2021). By referring to the green and eco-purchasing policy in Thailand, a partnership and support from various layers of governance (central, regional, national and local administrative organisations), universities, and private sector organisations that adopted environmentally friendly-labelled products and sustainable infrastructure are first to prove the success of GPP policies (Mungkung et al., 2021). The policy is then applied at the community level by informing and guiding people to buy environmentally friendly products and subscribe to environmentally friendly services. (Mungkung et al., 2021). In Malaysia, Rajadurai et al. (2021) has highlighted that the business sectors, government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and the community should pursue eco-purchasing behaviour to support green products and services.

Bunditsakulchai & Liu (2021) suggested food waste policy in Thailand also needs to be on the national agenda. Its implementation at the local levels requires collaboration between government institutions, private sectors, and communities to reduce household food waste. In SDG 6-related community-based programmes, a partnership between the community, government institutions and mediators (influential figures) are proposed (Elya et al., 2021; Herawati et al., 2021). In a community-based local water infrastructure project, the rural communities are regarded as government partners (Herawati et al., 2021). They were empowered to initiate, lead, own and sustain their projects for the community's betterment. The government's roles are to provide education, training, counselling, and materials (Elya et al., 2021; Herawati et al., 2021). In the end, it aims to promote community-led projects and lessen the government-dependent.

In promoting sustainable tourism at the forest, national parks, coastal area and during special festivities, the stakeholders are government institutions (local government, federal park/forest authorities) (Intason et al., 2021), various groups of the local community (i.e. the community leader, rural community, ethnic minorities and the indigenous people) (He & Mai, 2021; Intason et al., 2021; Sang, 2021) the private sector and investors (He & Mai, 2021), the NGOs (He & Mai, 2021), event organiser (Intason et al., 2021) and tourists (Intason et al., 2021).

In the case of educating the coastal community and sustaining the mangrove area, the following stakeholder's engagement is required; government, universities, religious and community leaders, schools, youth, and academia (Santoso et al., 2021). The local government's influential role in promoting community awareness towards local natural disaster management and its implication is also essential (Pham et al., 2021). The role of the local government is also vital in educating the participants on preserving the natural resources during the community festivities.

3.3 Participatory Mechanism
Public and citizen participation are vital in enhancing democratic governance to realise sustainable development and SDGs progression (Hue & Sun, 2021; Permatasari et al., 2021; Sonet et al., 2021). The articles reviewed have discussed the role of local government and public participation in creating a sustainable community in urban or rural settings (Hue & Sun, 2021; Permatasari et al., 2021; Pham et al., 2021; Sonet et al., 2021). Various public participation approach is highlighted in dealing with issues related to sustainable mangrove conservation (Santoso et al., 2021), sustainable coastal development (He & Mai, 2021), community awareness towards natural disasters (Pham et al., 2021), parks management (Sonet et al., 2021), forest management and national parks (Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Sang, 2021), community empowerment towards SDG 6 (Elya et al., 2021; Herawati et al., 2021), and SDG localisation (Permatasari et al., 2021).

Sonet et al. (2021) highlighted that public participation exercise (PPE) via public opinions and community decision making is one way to improve the usage of public parks in Malaysia and its policy development. By referring to Public Consultation Index (PCI), the following criteria are considered to strengthen the PPE indicators (accessibility, openness, the effectiveness of the public consultation process, accountability, diversity of participants, and public engagement or interest).

Permatasari et al. (2021) explain Indonesia localises its SDG through the "Village SDGs" programmes to strengthen its community leaders' roles and understanding of SDG. The programmes align the global and national SDG with their local SDG's cultural, social and environmental dimensions. The 18th SDG goal was introduced under the "Village SDGs" to create dynamic and adaptive village institutions without neglecting their rural culture. It signifies the importance of culture as the fourth sustainability dimension other than economic, social and environmental. Specific Indonesian Village Fund was also provided to assist these SDG-related programmes at the community level.

The fund was mainly used for infrastructure development. However, it is advised that public participation in the SDG localisation process focus on women's empowerment, which has previously been overlooked.

In achieving SDG 6 programmes, Elya et al. (2021) and Herawati et al. (2021) proposed community empowerment to ensure their localities are secured with clean water and proper sanitation. Herawati et al. (2021) highlighted that the self-service strategies that stemmed from community participation must be strategic and integrated to develop the community-based water infrastructure (i.e., canal blocking). Elya et al. (2021) assessed community participation in SDG 6-related programmes by analysing the participation rate (RoP) and degree of centrality. The community participation rate is more active during the implementation stage than pre-and post-implementation. The role of actors and role models to influence and invite the community into sustainable development activities is also vital, explaining the degree of centrality in community participation. Both studies identified positive implications through public involvement and public empowerment during the project implementation phases; there is a transfer of knowledge, skills development, socialisation and networking, and practical training (Elya et al., 2021; Herawati et al., 2021). It will enable these communities to own and sustain their local projects, expand the tasks to other vicinity and support the SDG 6 progression (Herawati et al., 2021).

Community participation in managing forests, natural parks and mangrove areas is also being studied (Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Sang, 2021; Santoso et al., 2021). The study by Sang (2021) revealed that even though SDGs have not yet been achieved, the forest management authorities' efforts to adopt collaborative resource management and participatory community approach have a positive result. The ethnic minorities within the national park area were directly engaged. They participated in income generation activities (community-based eco-tourism, which portray the local community culture and products), forest management activities (patrolling, monitoring, board, forest maintenance, forest regeneration and forest fire watching) and low-level decision-making processes (planning, member discussion and decision making). However, the result is contradicted in a study by Lasso and Dahles (2021) as it was discovered that the national parks authorities have failed to capitalise on the local participation, was unable to recognise the local community as a stakeholder and failed to empower local people within the national park territories. Even though the community in the study pioneering the national park eco-tourism activities, the authorities did not consider their participation essential and neglected the full community potential – this indicates the authorities' responses in opening their doors towards community participation is vital.

The reviewed journals show the community participatory, and decentralisation mechanisms have successfully strengthened community-stakeholders social relationships (Sang, 2021), adding community income and improving livelihood (Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Sang, 2021), raising biodiversity conservation awareness (Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Sang, 2021), and promoting a sustainable economy (Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Sang, 2021). However, societal trust (Elya et al., 2021; He & Mai, 2021; Sang, 2021; Santoso et al., 2021), monetary factors (Sang, 2021), time constraints (Sang, 2021), technology advancement (He & Mai, 2021), limited community participation (Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Sang, 2021) and community lack of knowledge and awareness (He & Mai, 2021; Intason et al., 2021; Pham et al., 2021; Santoso et al., 2021) may impede active community participation in reaching biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development goals – which explicit and implicitly connected to the SDGs localisation.

Thus, the following recommendations are being highlighted and suggested towards improving community-based sustainable development programmes and initiatives such as strengthening the roles of the institutions (i.e., local government and other institutional arrangements) (He & Mai, 2021; Pham et al., 2021; Sang, 2021), creating attractive, flexible and inclusive programmes to entice higher community participation levels (Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Sang, 2021), providing community development programmes (i.e., education, training and informed community) (Intason et al., 2021; Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Pham et al., 2021; Santoso et al., 2021), improving community capacity building (Santoso et al., 2021), empowering the community (Elya et al., 2021; Herawati et al., 2021; Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Santoso et al., 2021), embedding culture and religious components into sustainable development initiatives (He & Mai, 2021; Permatasari et al., 2021; Santoso et al., 2021; Wongkumchai & Kiattisin, 2021), conflict resolution strategy (Santoso et al., 2021), the need of tools for data analysis in evaluating community-oriented sustainable development activities (Wongkumchai & Kiattisin, 2021), environmental campaign and conservation awareness (Intason et al., 2021; Santoso et al., 2021), and strengthening social relationships towards trust-building (Ari et al., 2021; Elya et al., 2021; He & Mai, 2021; Lasso & Dahles, 2021; Santoso et al., 2021).

4.0 Discussion

From the review, it can be concluded that most of the articles discuss localising strategies through programmes indirectly related to SDG. Only a report by Permatasari et al. (2021) focuses on the exact topic of SDG localisation within a village context. Other articles discussed environment-related SDGs (SDG 6, 12, 13 and 15) towards sustainable cities and communities (SDG11) and partnership (SDG17). The journals reviewed is also confined to only four countries. Most of the SDG discussions of this review are from Thailand and Indonesia. These two countries are the most committed to reporting to the UN's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the country's progress toward the SDGs, apart from having more structured SDG implementation. This includes aligning SDG with their development plan (Thailand) and the Presidential Decree on SDG (Indonesia). This indicates that SDG as the central theme of academic discourse is still limited and require more exploration.

This review also shows that SDG-related localisation strategies in the region were made using policy measures and initiatives, stakeholder partnerships, and numerous community participation mechanisms. Few articles illustrate the need for sound policies and institutional arrangements to formalise SDG-related initiatives to promote sustainable community behaviour, indicating a need for a top-down approach in localising the SDG. There is also evidence that community-based activities will further localise SDG-related activities. However, the community needs to be intensified with proper SDG knowledge and support system from the government institution (especially by the local government) before the ownership of the SDG-related programmes can be transferred and sustained. The learning

process is vital for the community to participate in the implementation process. This indicates that the SDG-related strategies should be localised in programme management and implementation to give significant implications, either at the household or community level.

Nevertheless, the limited level of public participation is still being highlighted in most articles, signifying that a more effective participatory approach is required in localising the SDG (i.e., designing, planning, and monitoring process) based on trust and community socialisation. More community categories could be explored on their SDG commitment, and the cultural dimension has been highlighted as an essential element in sustainable development, as presented in a few articles. A few authors also highlight useful SDG indicators, indexes, and tools to measure community participation in SDG.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

Discussion on SDG localisation is still limited and has the potential to be researched. Findings from this review paper cannot generalise to the whole Southeast Asian SDG localisation strategies as it is only confined to four countries. More studies on SDG localisation within the region, especially Malaysia, are needed to enrich the literature. In the country's efforts towards SDG localisation at the state and local government level, future empirical studies could provide insight into various SDG stakeholders' commitment towards the global agenda progression at the intermediate and lower governmental system. SDG localisation is a central concept after 2020, with most publications occurring in 2021. Furthermore, because the search string ended in November, no publication in 2022 was retrieved. Apart from that, due to limited resources in SCOPUS, a further review should compare other databases, such as the Web of Science or even grey literature publication such as Google Scholar since this topic is mainly under-explored in Southeast Asia region.

Acknowledgement

Paper Contribution to Related Field of Study

This paper has identified a few research gaps; on the need to activate the SDGs localisation process at the subnational and local levels. The findings in this study could enrich the literature related to SDGs and their localisation process.

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