

## SDC 2018 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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**Title: Impact of Lesotho's Chieftainship on Sustainable Urban Development: A Perspective of Formulation and Implementation of Urban Planning**



In the context of the modern political system, policy solutions to the commons are proposed based on four primary theories, including the Tragedy of the Commons, Prisoner's Dilemma Game, Logic of Collective Action, and Theory of Polycentric Governance. The corresponding policy solutions are the Leviathan way, Privatization way, as well as Self-governance way. In the Kingdom of Lesotho, a Sub-Sahara African state, traditional Chieftainship has survived and coexisted with the modern political system from the colonial era to the present. It plays an increasingly important role in urban governance. This Chieftainship is built on de facto authority with Chiefs as the center of power. The over-use and free-rider problems, the collective action dilemma, and the failure of self-governance have been avoided with Chieftainships' participation in governance.

From a perspective of formulation and implementation of Lesotho's urban planning, the analytical method of institutionalism is applied to explain how Chieftainship helps achieve the goals of sustainable urban development and the internal logic of Chieftainship's function in the formulation and implementation of urban planning. With the support of stakeholders in the field of Chieftainship and urban planning in Lesotho, onsite interviews and questionnaires have been conducted to collect primary data and relevant valuable information. Moreover, a complete framework of mechanism analysis for the Chieftainship's interaction with urban planning has been developed accordingly to facilitate the study. Our study finds that the Chieftainship may achieve sustainable development goals in urban planning through corresponding effective solutions to the problems of supply, credible commitment, and mutual monitoring .

This study could be considered a pioneering Sino-African joint attempt to explore the impact of Chieftainship on urban governance and sustainable urban development, which may enrich the theoretical perspective of public governance. It is also of great significance to further studies on the impact of Chieftainship on the collective behaviours and results in various scenarios. In practice, this study could be an important reference to developing countries in building an urban governance system with the involvement of indigenous people, which is sustainable development friendly and adaptable to local conditions.