

# *Systems Thinking for SDGs:*


- ✓ Leaving no one behind
- ✓ Multistakeholder partnerships
- ✓ Inclusiveness and interdependence
- ✓ Interconnectedness & indivisibility

GIS is the **nervous system** for abstracting, perceiving, organizing, interpreting and anticipating events across space over time!

2021 GEOGEEK MAPP CHALLENGE | Mapping  
for a sustainable future

## Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The GIS Perspective

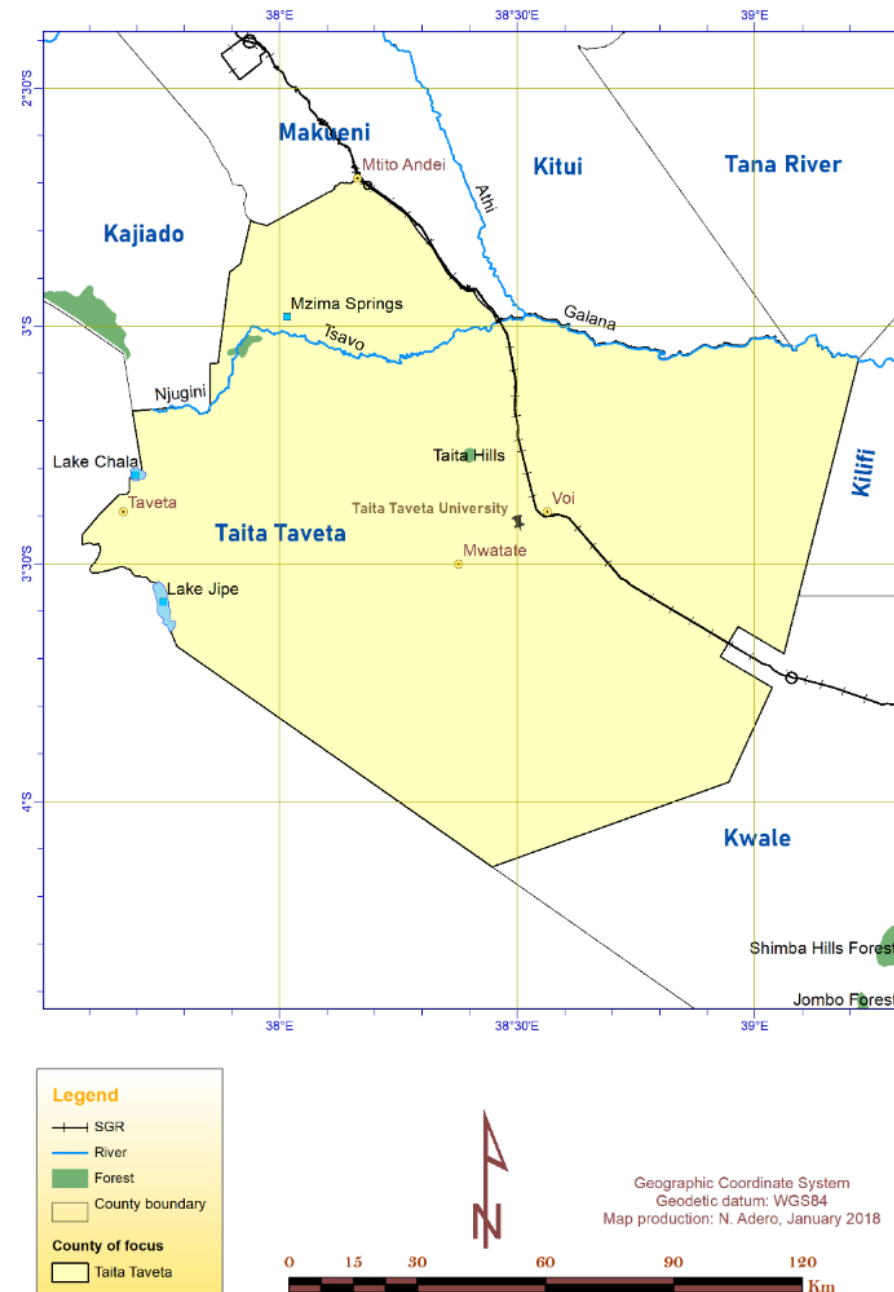
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 @hopadero

Date: 07 October, 2021  
12:00 – 13:00 EAT

*Empowering inclusive and sustainable transformation*

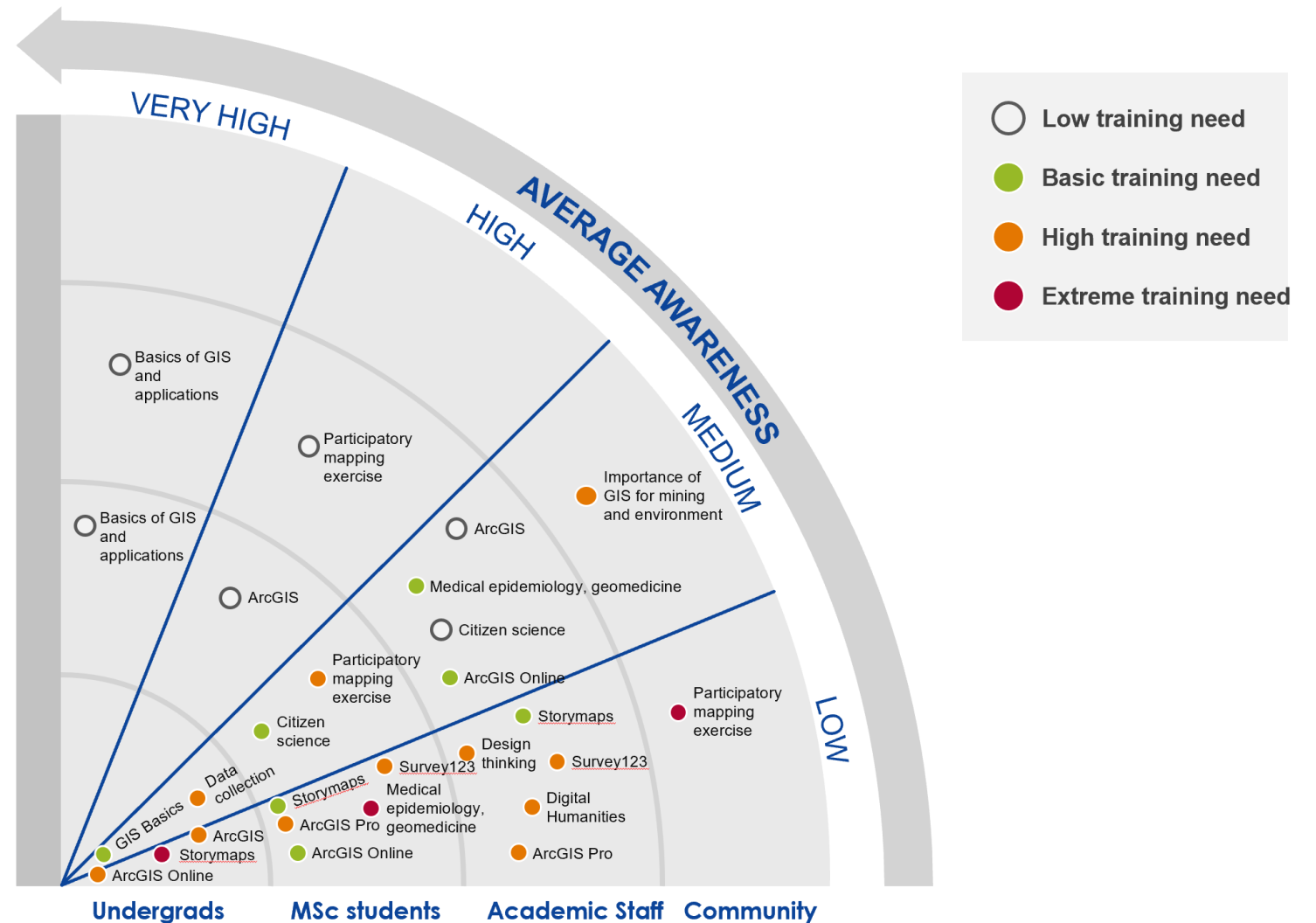
# Where is Taita Taveta University?



SYNTHESIS OF GIS TRAINING  
NEEDS FROM TEACHING AND  
INTERACTION EXPERIENCE

ADERO (2019)

## Mapping GIS by user training needs at TTU









# Background Highlights

Scale, location, trends and patterns

## Key points:

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Sustainability is an old concept with roots traceable to the linkages between mining and forestry in the early 18th century as a need arose to avert a looming wood crisis due to silver mining in Freiberg (Silver City).

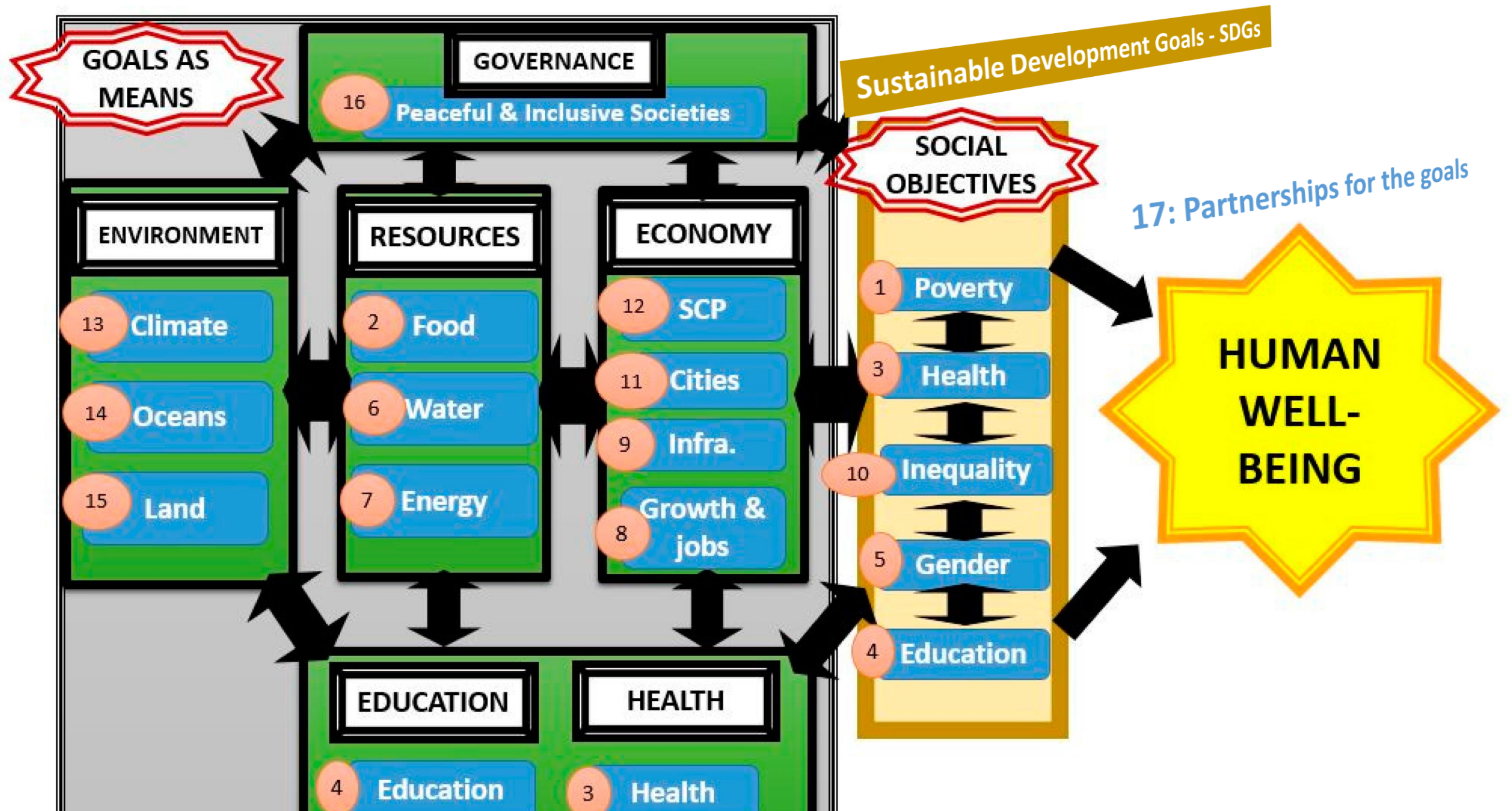
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We are all one with the rest of nature

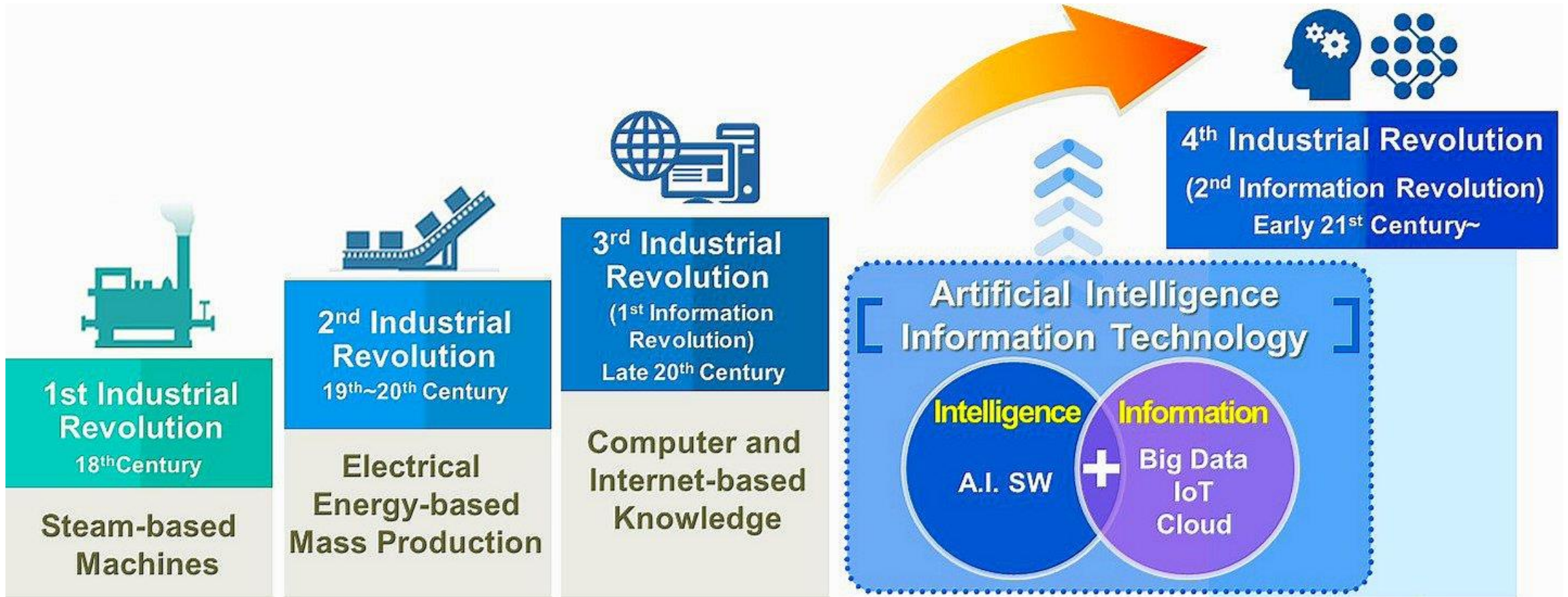
We live in an interconnected world

“Dividing an elephant in half doesn’t produce two small elephants” – **unintended consequences**

**Location-based intelligence** is the heart of today’s **geodata-driven** digital revolution







Source : WorldBank.org

shared via @pradeeprao\_



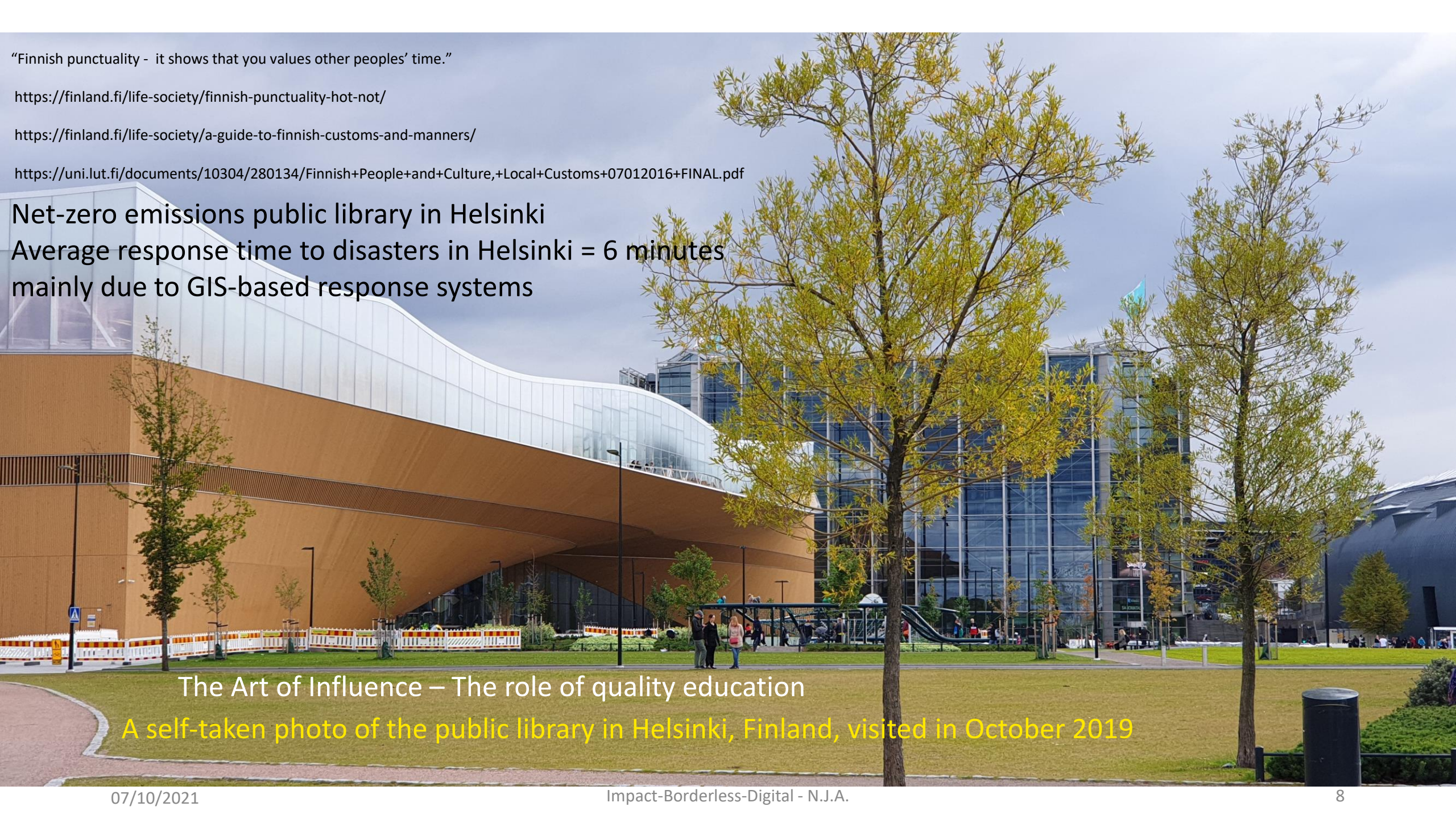
“Finnish punctuality - it shows that you values other peoples’ time.”

<https://finland.fi/life-society/finnish-punctuality-hot-not/>

<https://finland.fi/life-society/a-guide-to-finnish-customs-and-manners/>

<https://uni.lut.fi/documents/10304/280134/Finnish+People+and+Culture,+Local+Customs+07012016+FINAL.pdf>

Net-zero emissions public library in Helsinki  
Average response time to disasters in Helsinki = 6 minutes  
mainly due to GIS-based response systems



The Art of Influence – The role of quality education

A self-taken photo of the public library in Helsinki, Finland, visited in October 2019



# World Population by Region

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#	Region	Urban								
		Population (2020)	Yearly Change	Net Change	Density (P/Km <sup>2</sup> )	Land Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Migrants (net)	Fert. Rate	Med. Age	Pop % World Share
1	Asia	4,641,054,775	0.86 %	39,683,577	150	31,033,131	-1,729,112	2.2	32	0 % 59.5 %
2	Africa	1,340,598,147	2.49 %	32,533,952	45	29,648,481	-463,024	4.4	20	0 % 17.2 %
3	Europe	747,636,026	0.06 %	453,275	34	22,134,900	1,361,011	1.6	43	0 % 9.6 %
4	Latin America and the Caribbean	653,962,331	0.9 %	5,841,374	32	20,139,378	-521,499	2	31	0 % 8.4 %
5	Northern America	368,869,647	0.62 %	2,268,683	20	18,651,660	1,196,400	1.8	39	0 % 4.7 %
6	Oceania	42,677,813	1.31 %	549,778	5	8,486,460	156,226	2.4	33	0 % 0.5 %

Worldometer Dec 24, 2020

# Comparative Metrics on Africa

**19.4**

Median age in Africa, compare 38 in USA, 47 in Japan and Germany, Kenya 19.7

**1.3  
Billion**

Africa's population, compare 7.7 Billion world population

**61/64**

Africa's average male/female life expectancy in 2018, compare 70/74 global average, and 59 Kenya's average

**43%**

Urban Africa, compare 55% global, 49% Asia, 81% L.A.C, 77% Europe, 82% N.A, Kenya 27%

*Source: Statista 2019, Indexmundi 2019, Worldometer 2019, World Bank 2019.*

An African city from the night sky, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019





We are at a critical juncture on an exciting journey of generational succession.

The Silent Generation:  
**World War**  
Born 1925 - 1945

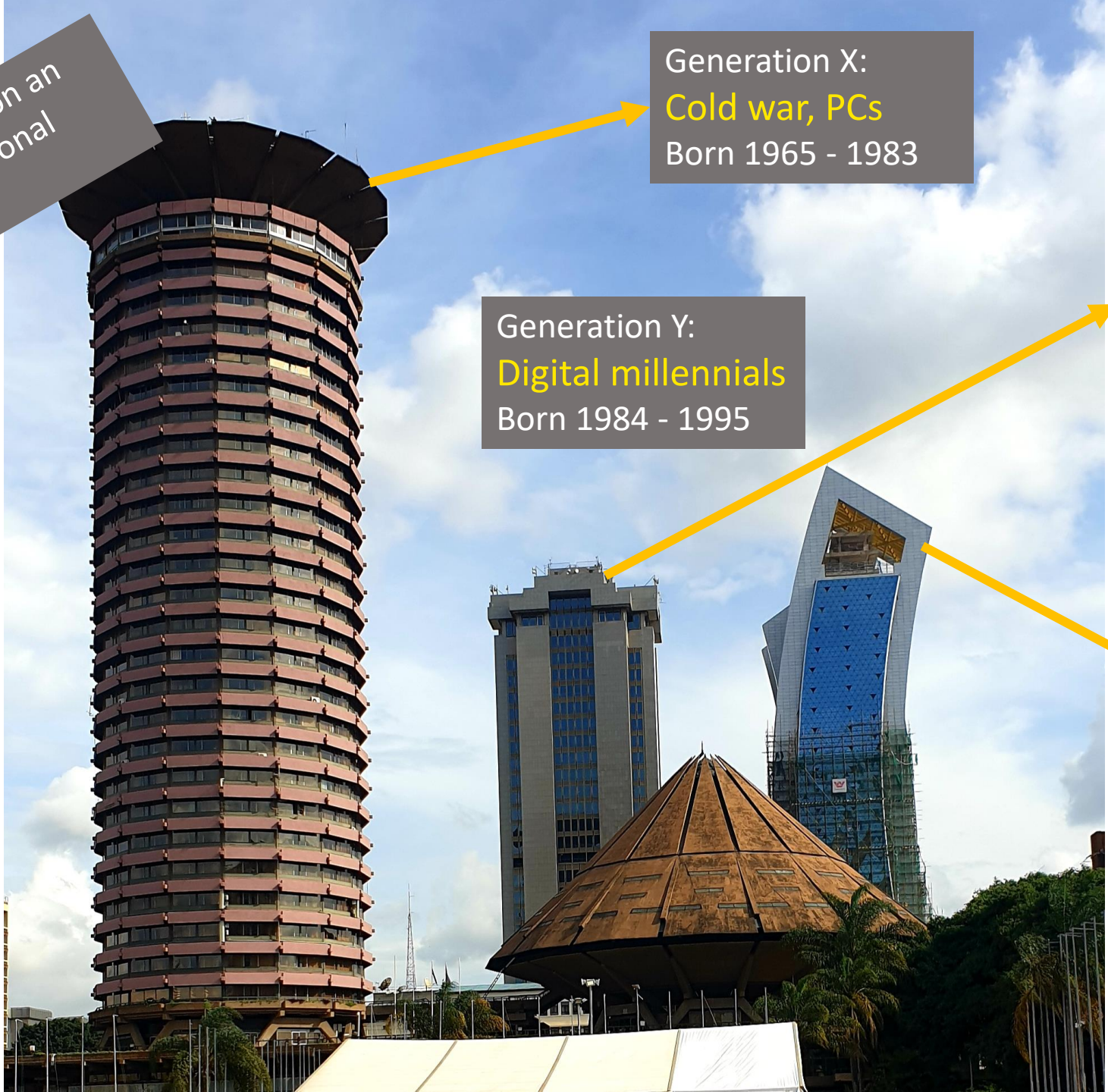
The Baby Boomers:  
**Space Age, post-war optimism**  
Born 1946 - 1964

Generation X:  
**Cold war, PCs**  
Born 1965 - 1983

Generation Y:  
**Digital millennials**  
Born 1984 - 1995

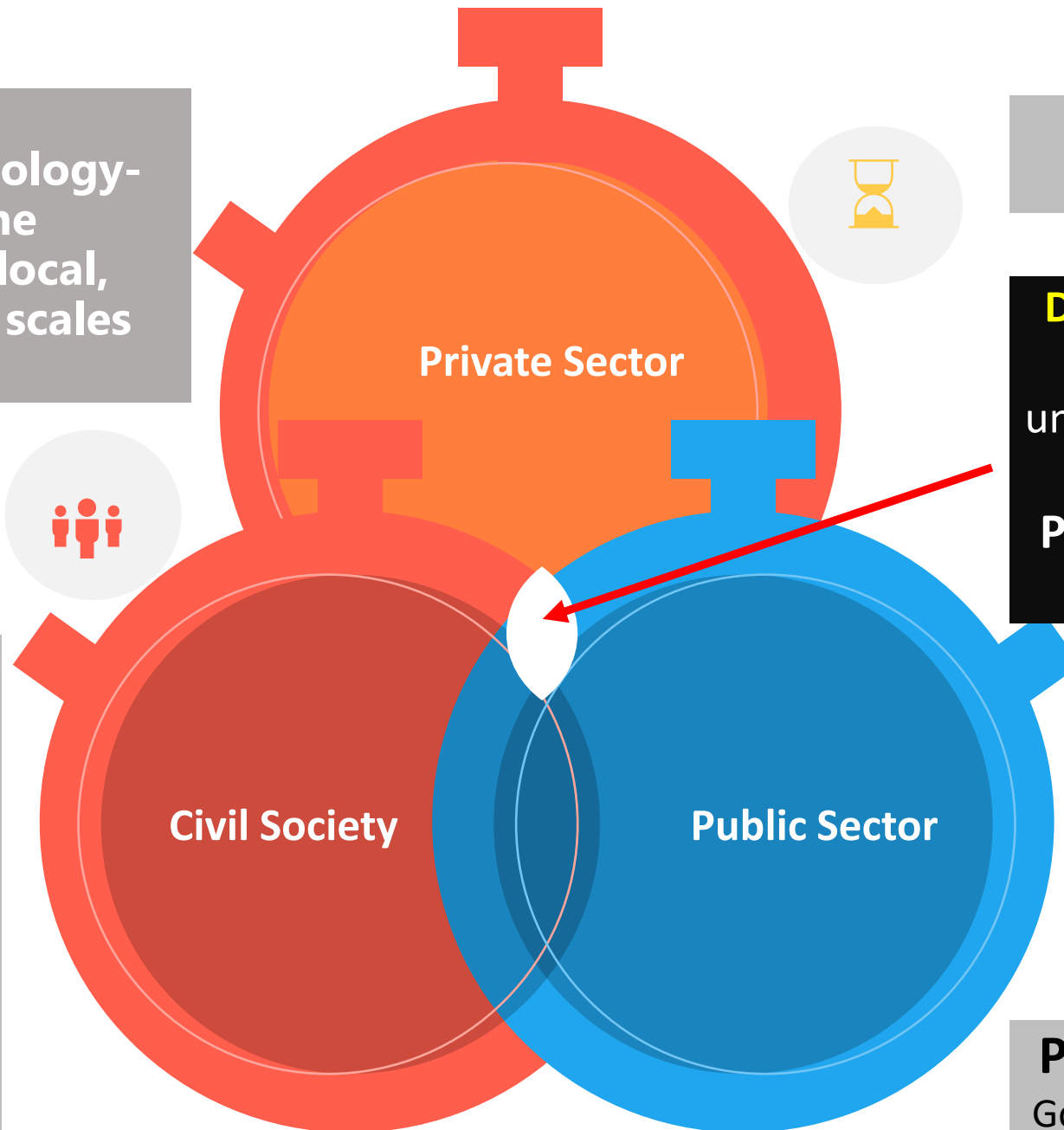
Generation Z:  
**Netizens**  
Born 1996 - 2012

Generation Alpha:  
**AI**  
Born 2013 - 2025



Knowledge and technology-led influence unites the spheres of impact on local, regional & planetary scales

**Civil Society:**  
Voluntary communities and social groups or movements:  
NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, trade unions, academic institutions, professional bodies, foundations and charities, humanitarian bodies, non-profits



**Private Sector:**  
Business, Commerce, Market

**Democratisation** of decision-making resources | Shared understanding & governance |  
5Ps of SDGs:  
**People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnerships**

**Decade of delivery**

**Vision 2030:**  
Social, Economic, Political Pillars

**Public Sector:**  
Government, State

Source: Constructed by Adero, 2019  
Impact-Borderless-Digital - N.J.A.



# GIS and Systems Thinking for Sustainability: 7Ps

A synthesis by Nashon Adero based on participation in 20 mining and natural resource management conferences across the world (2017 – 2020)



# Geography and health

Good health and well-being – **SDG 3**

**Geomedicine** = geography + health: where you live determines your health through the water, air, resources, etc. you consume and the social circles you interact with!

Dr John Snow's map of the 19<sup>th</sup> century for cholera research confirmed the critical place of mapping in health

**Biogeography** – Alexander von Humboldt used maps to study abstract aspects at the intersection of geography and biology



Dynamic modelling for  
health sector planning  
leveraged by GIS

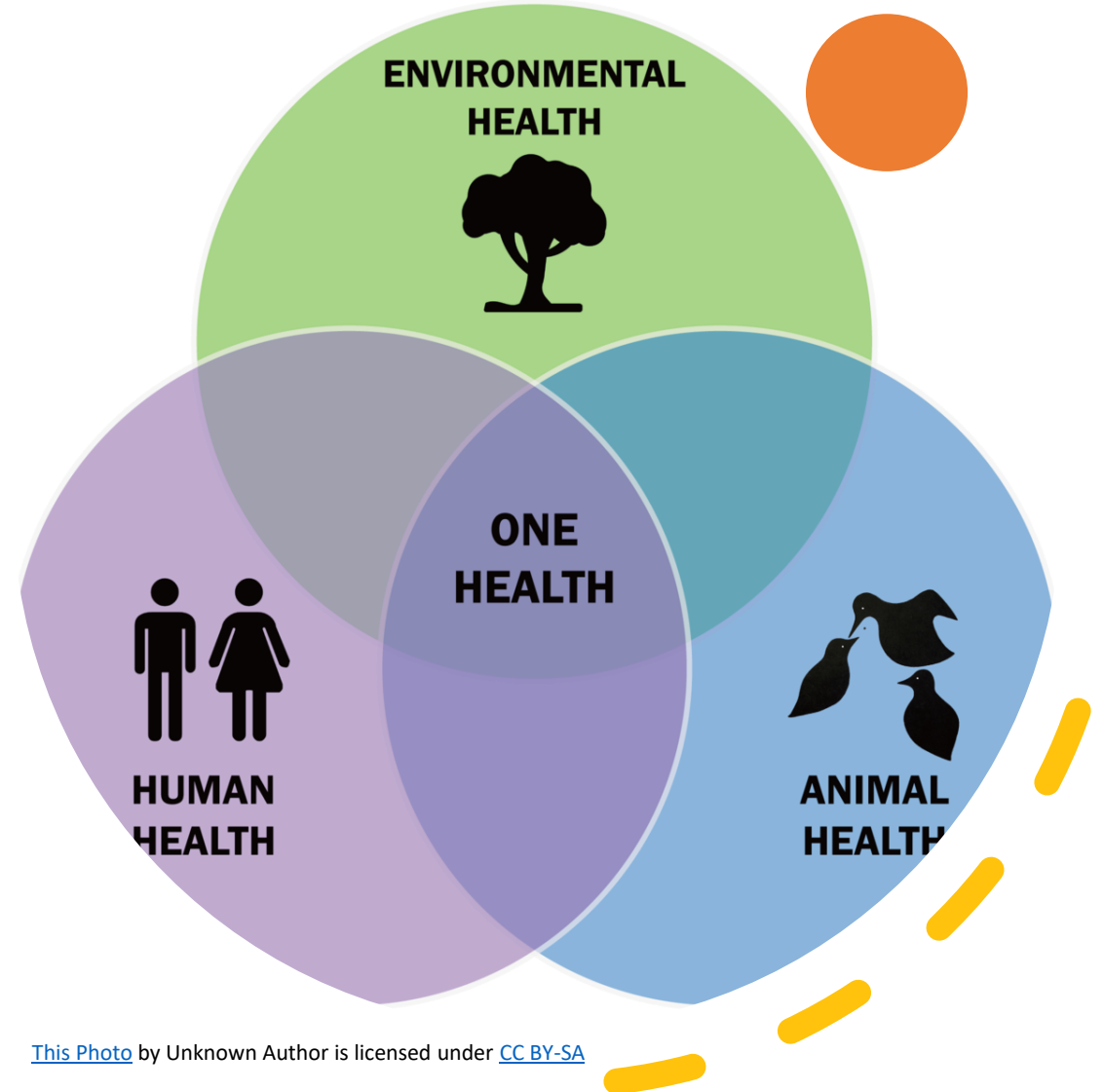
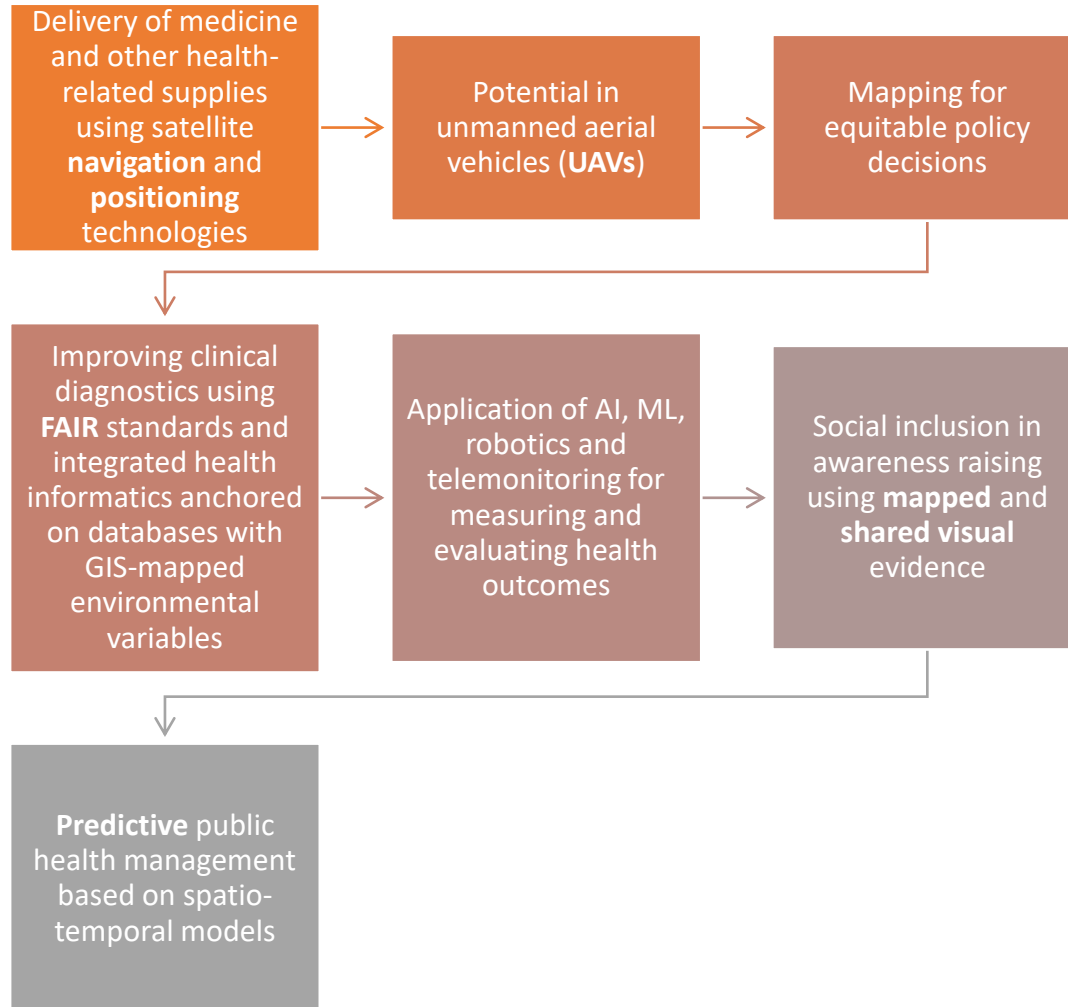
- SDG 3

## HEALTH 4.0 The GIS Perspective



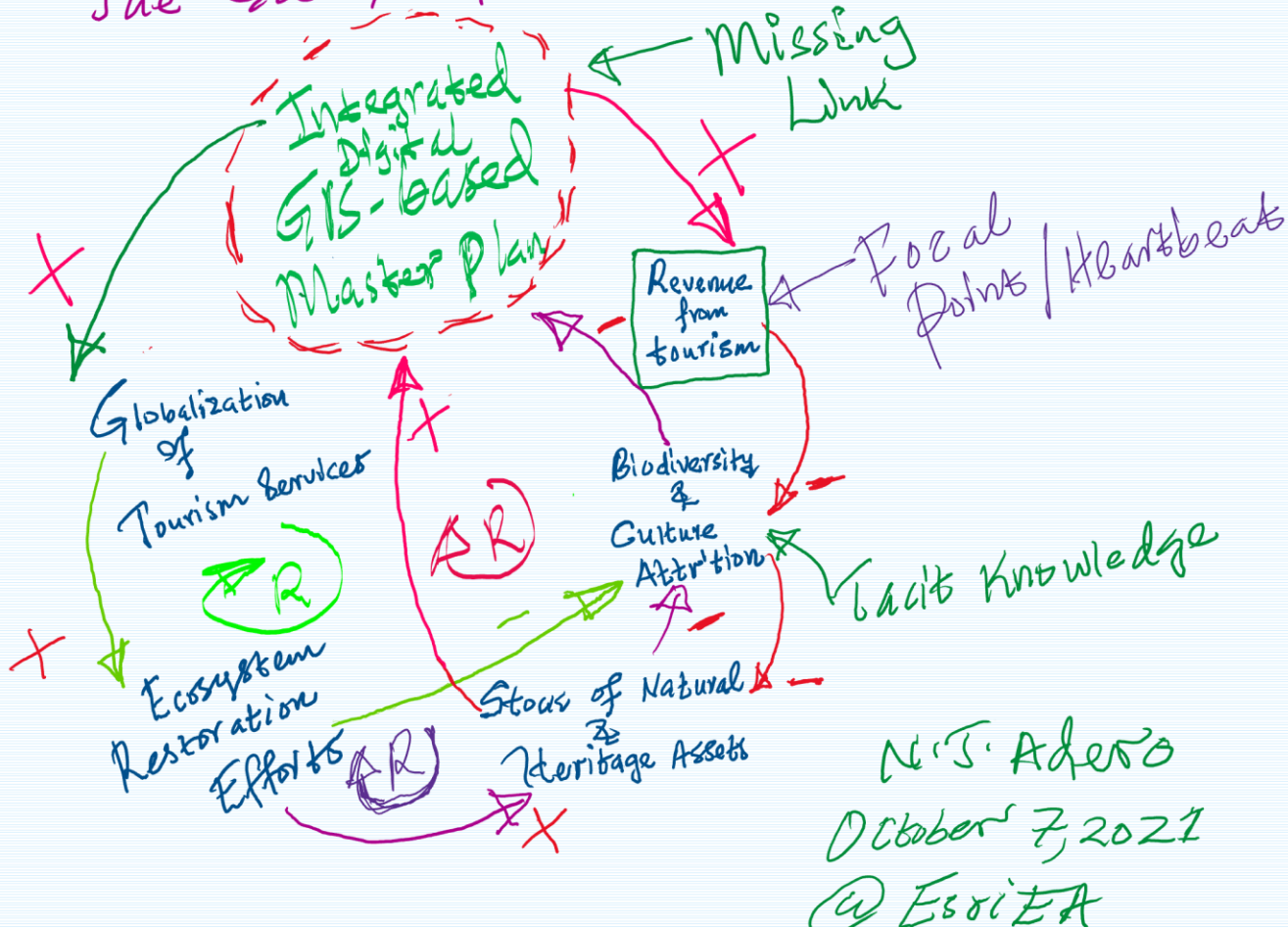
presented at the  
2021 GeogeeK Mapp Challenge  
@ Esri EA | Nairobi, October 07, 2021

# Way forward in eHealth





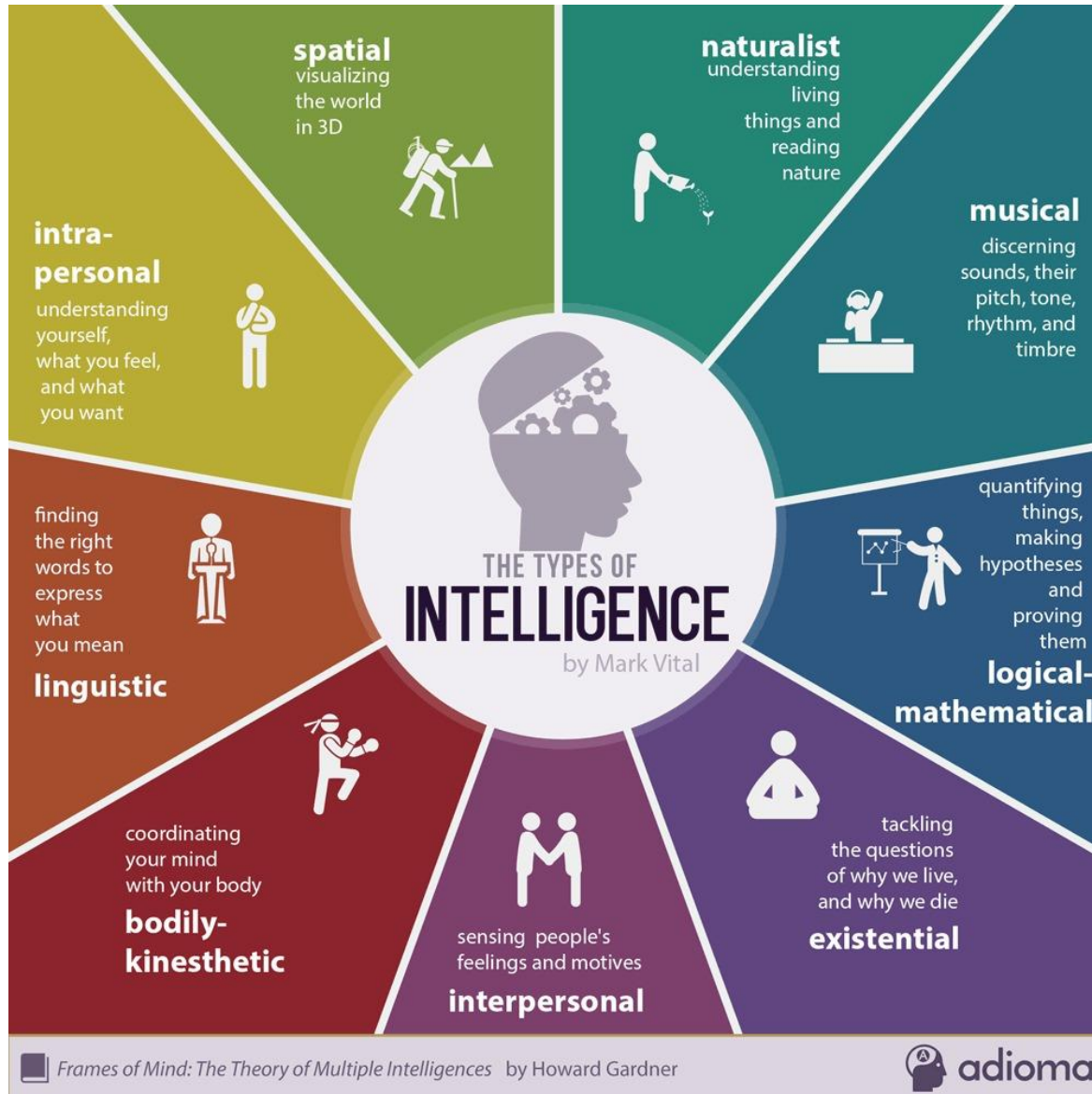
# Sustainable Ecotourism The GIS Perspective



Dynamic modelling for  
Sustainable ecotourism  
leveraged by GIS

- SDG 8
- SDG 15

# Education 4.0: Contextual Intelligence





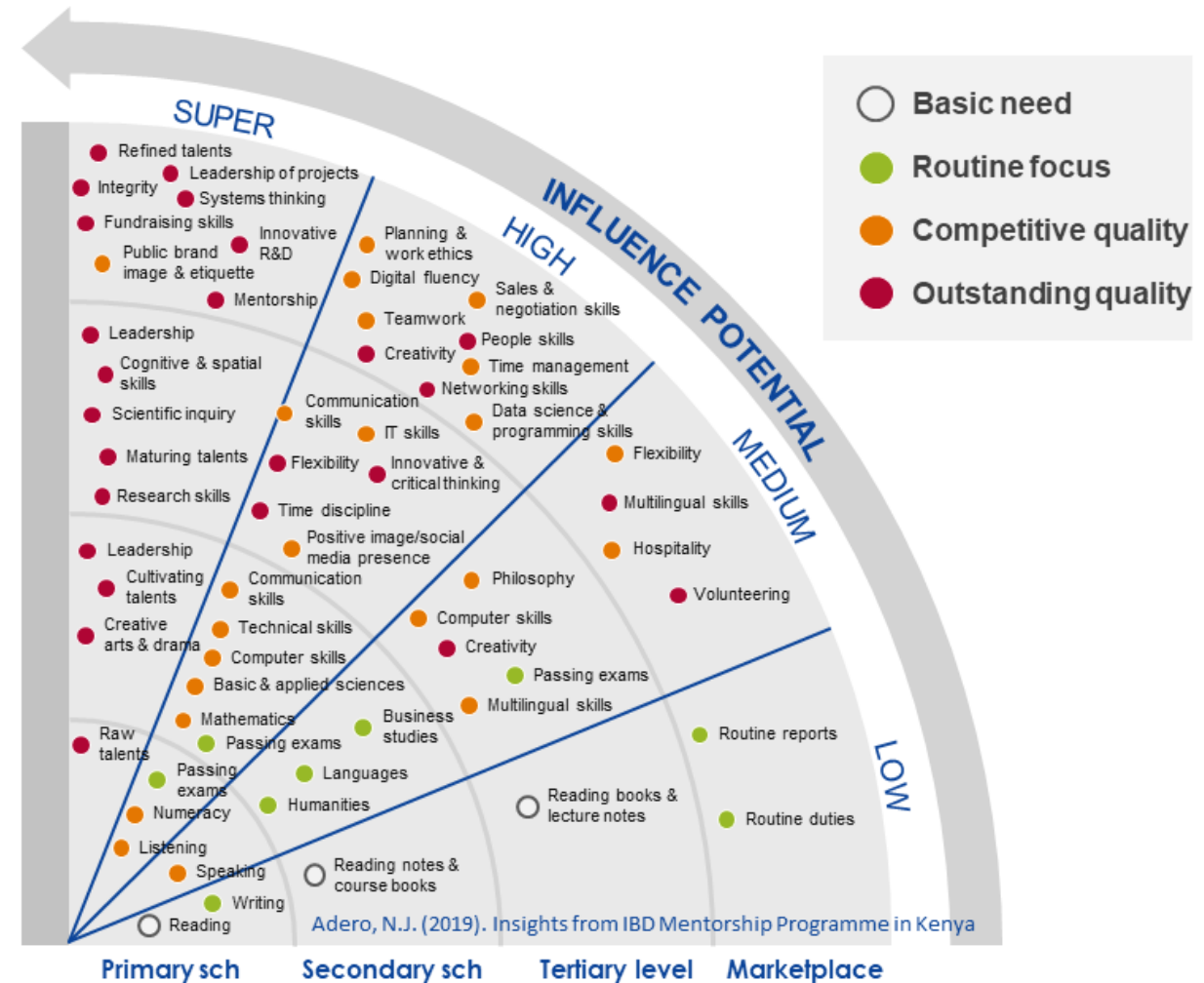
# The Future of Work

The **Future of Work** requires a radical shift in Kenya's education and skills development paradigm.

**65%**

Primary school pupils who will be engaged in jobs which still don't exist yet! (Davison, 2012)

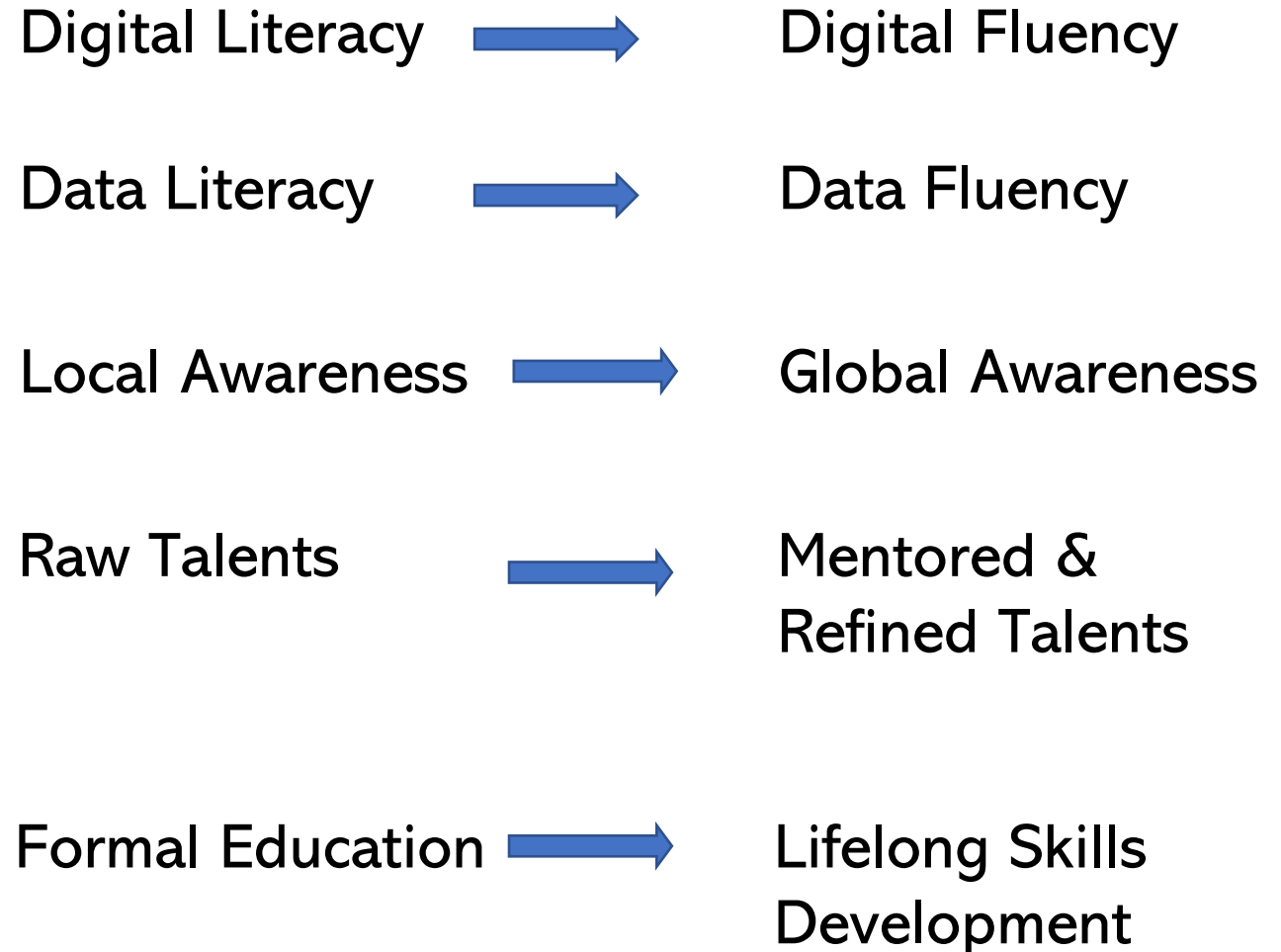
## The Curve of Influence vs. the Crux of Formal Education



Are you equipping yourself with the competencies needed to face the future: **digital fluency, lifelong learning, automation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data**, etc.?

# GLOBALISATION AND TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

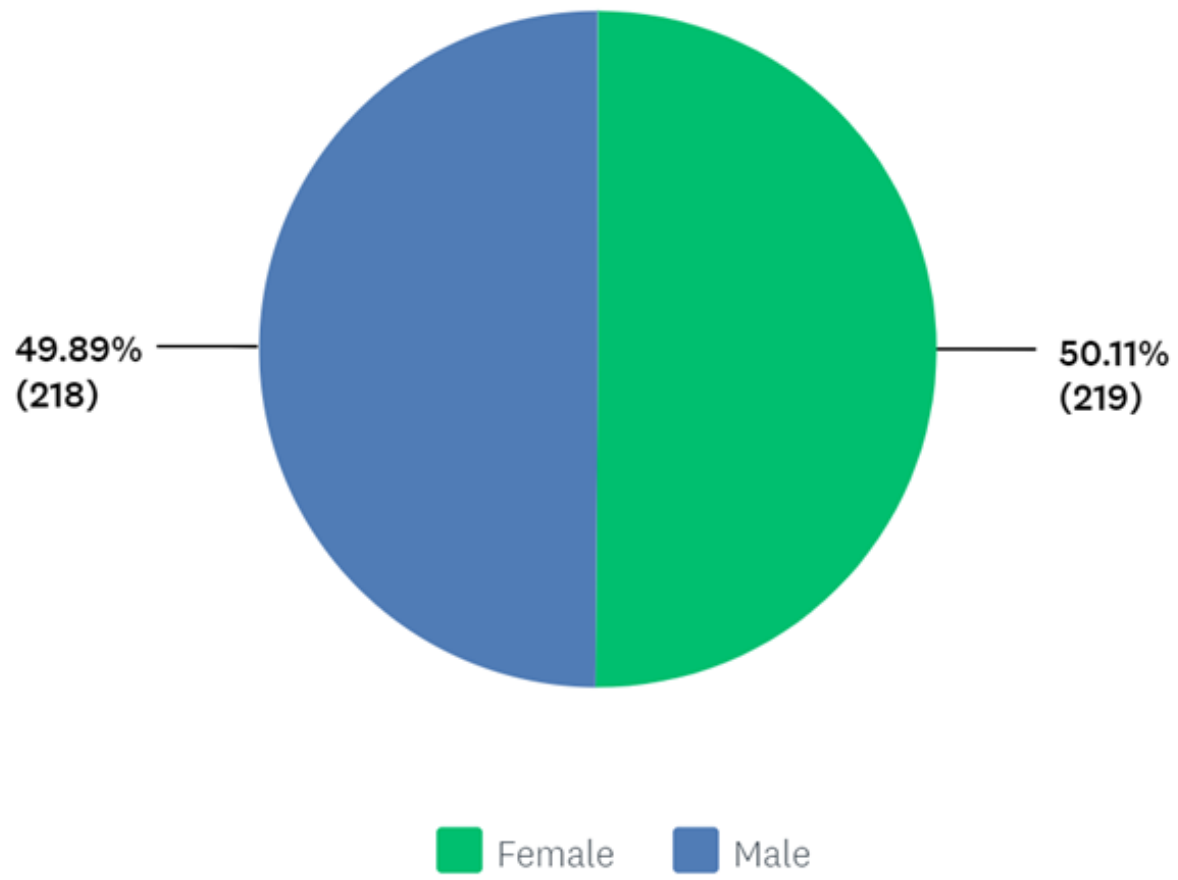
Seeing **#results**, worrying about the **#reason**, mismanaging the **#resource**, and neglecting the **#source**?  
The challenge progressive **#education** must address in the post-pandemic era of **#DigitalTransformation**





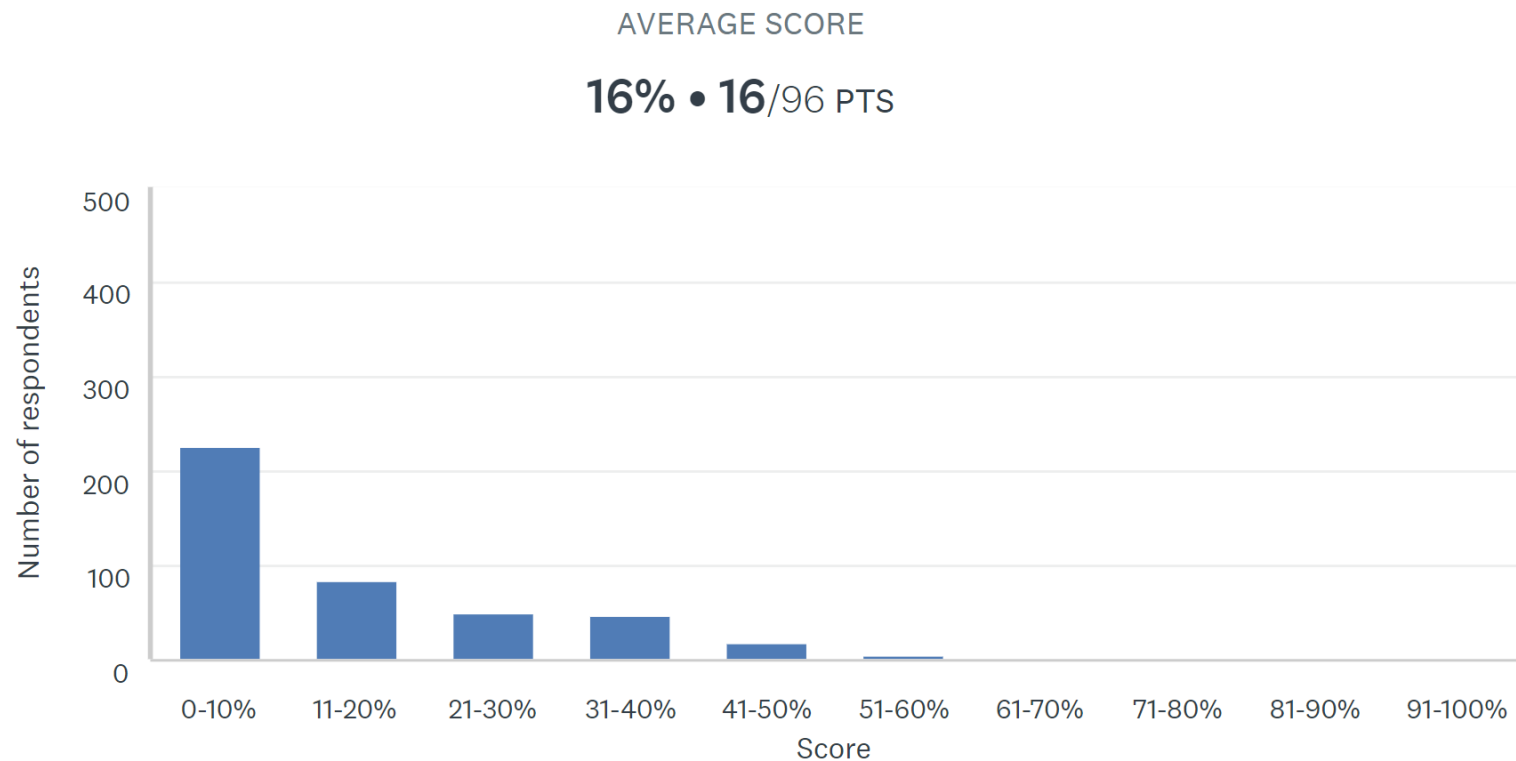
# Sex

Answered: 437    Skipped: 0



## Gender parity in responses

Source:  
Adero (2021).  
Nationwide youth (18-35) skills and unemployment survey under the ACCESS University of Ideas Competition for African Lecturers, March – April 2021



Work-ready digital skills based on 63 questions with 96 points

Source:  
Adero (2021).  
Nationwide youth (18-35) skills and unemployment survey, March – April 2021

STATISTICS

Lowest Score	Median	Highest Score
1%	13%	82%

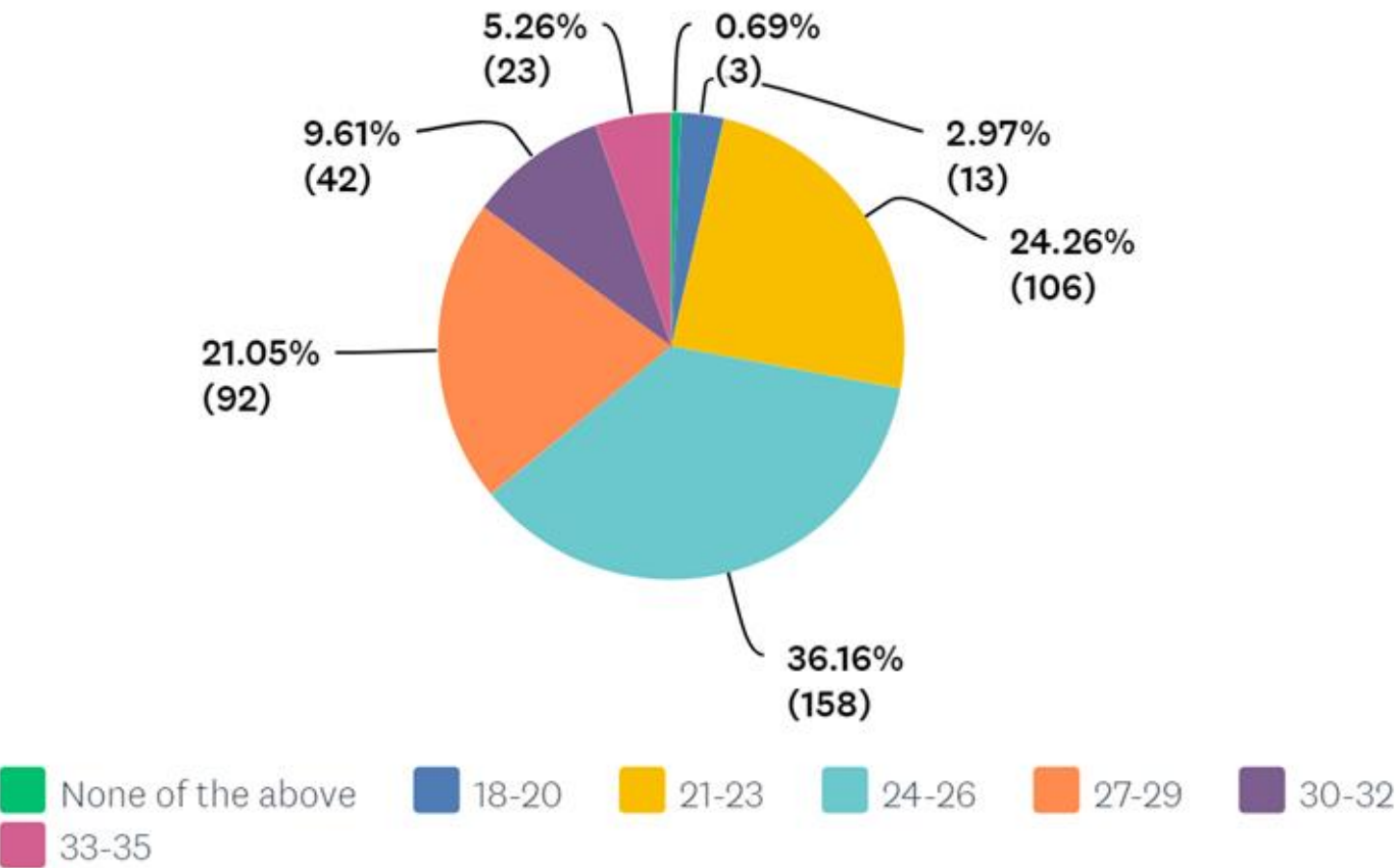
Mean: 16%

Standard Deviation: 15%



# Age bracket (select)

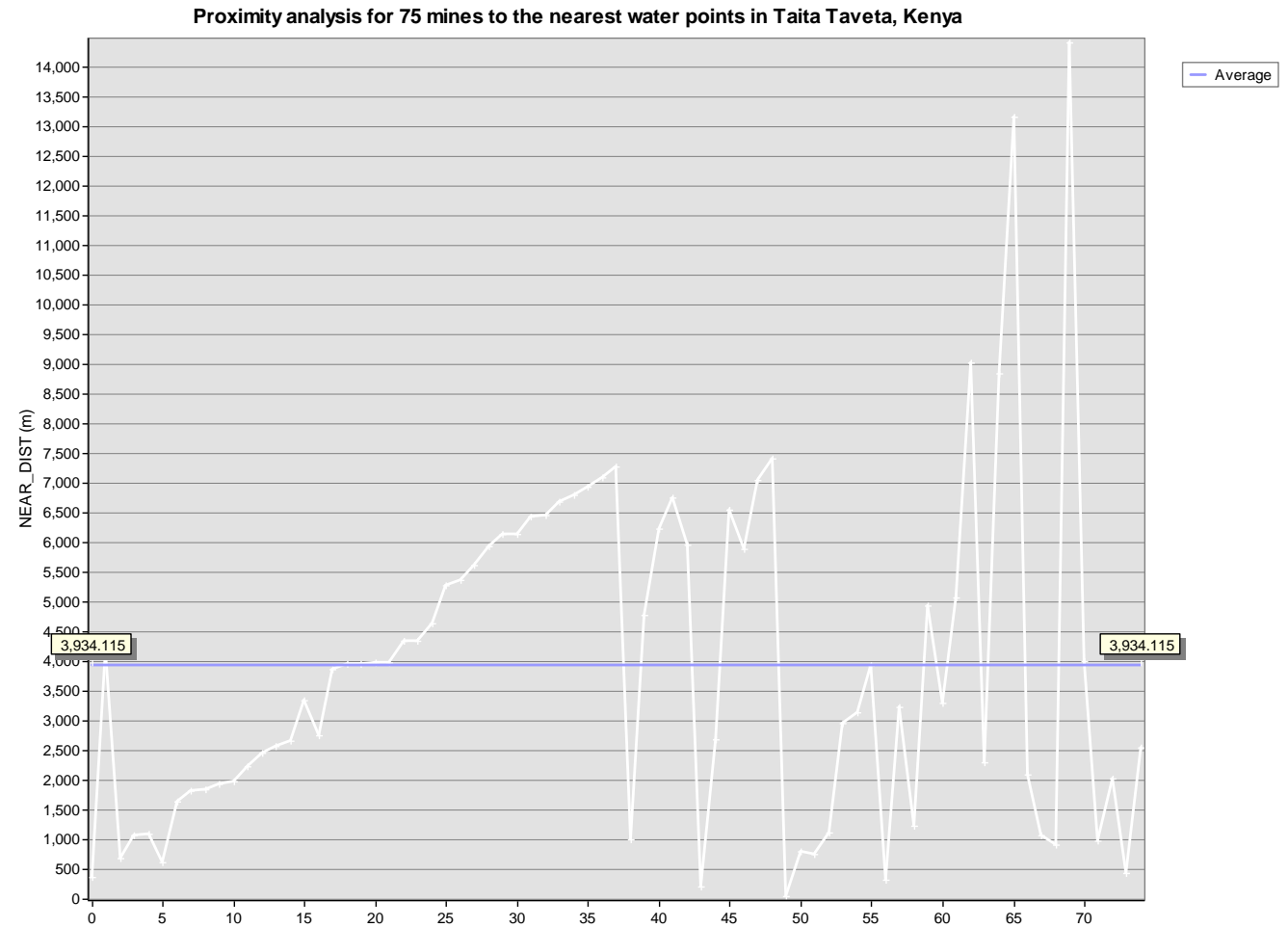
Answered: 437    Skipped: 0



Mainly youths in their 20's

Source:  
Adero (2021).  
Nationwide youth (18-35) skills and unemployment survey, March – April 2021

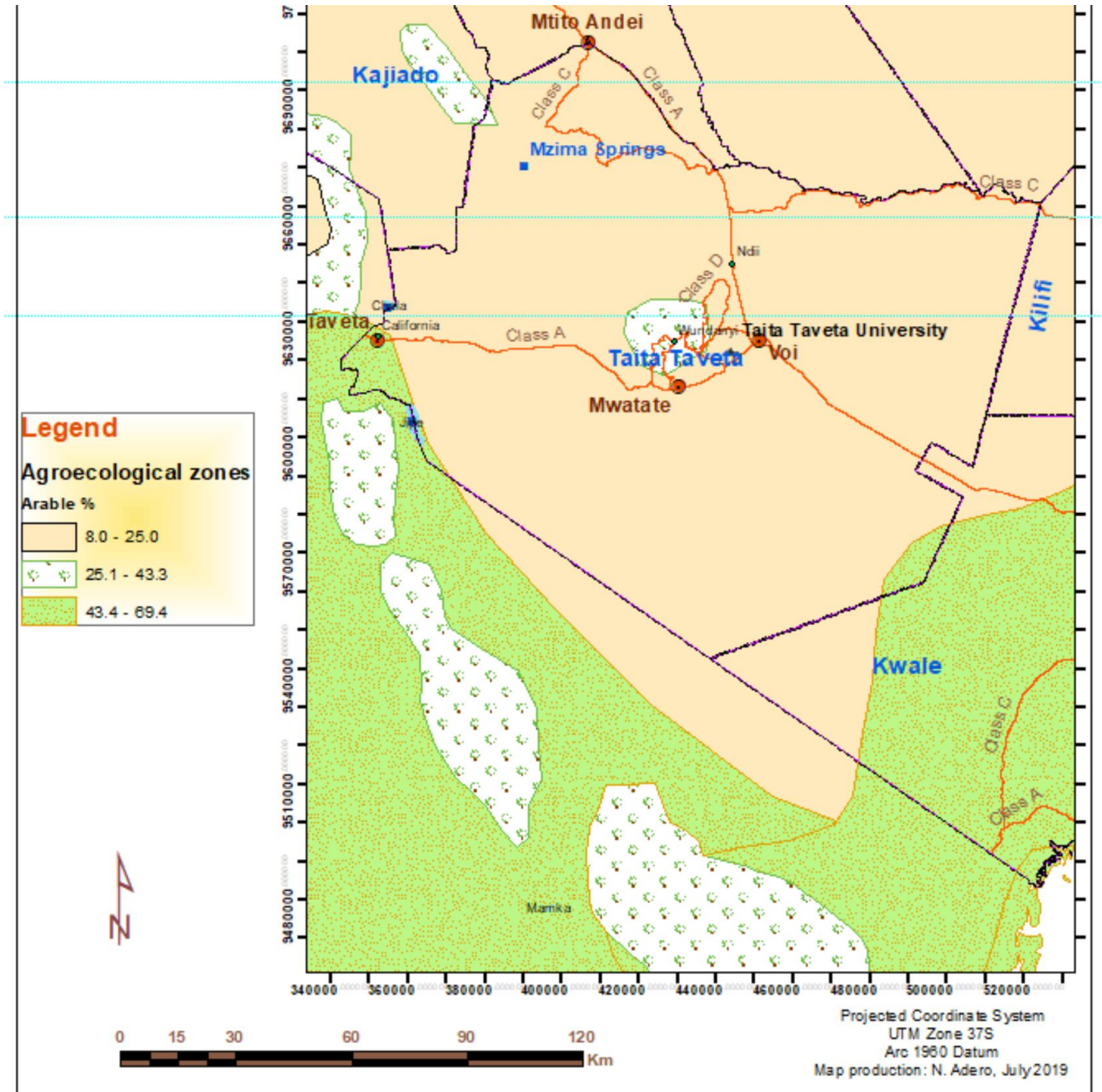
Central  
tendency -  
mean





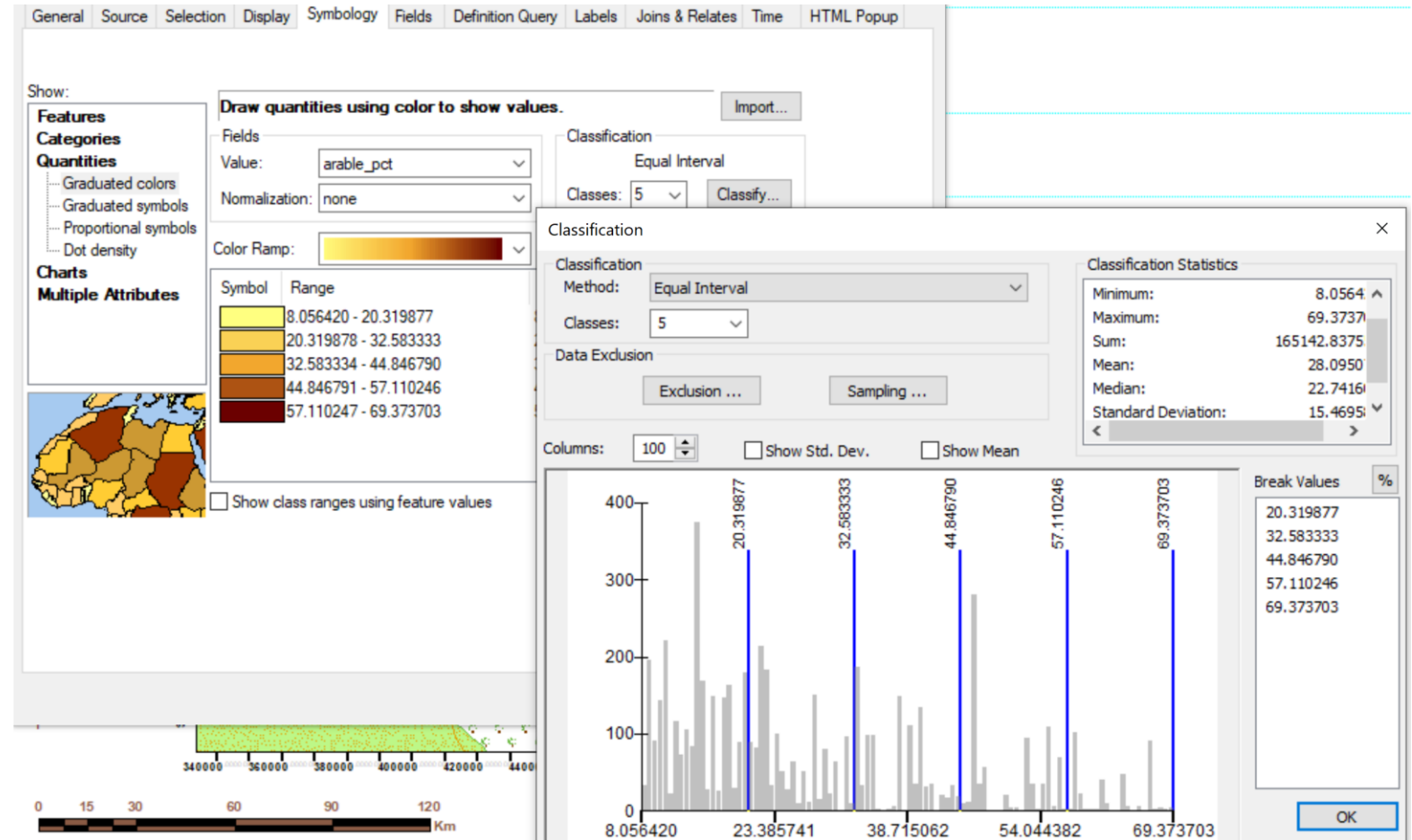
# Working with real data

- Arable percentages varying from approximately 8% to 70%
- Non-uniform distribution
- Classification intervals – to become clearer by plotting a histogram
- Why Natural Breaks (Jenks)?



# Equal intervals

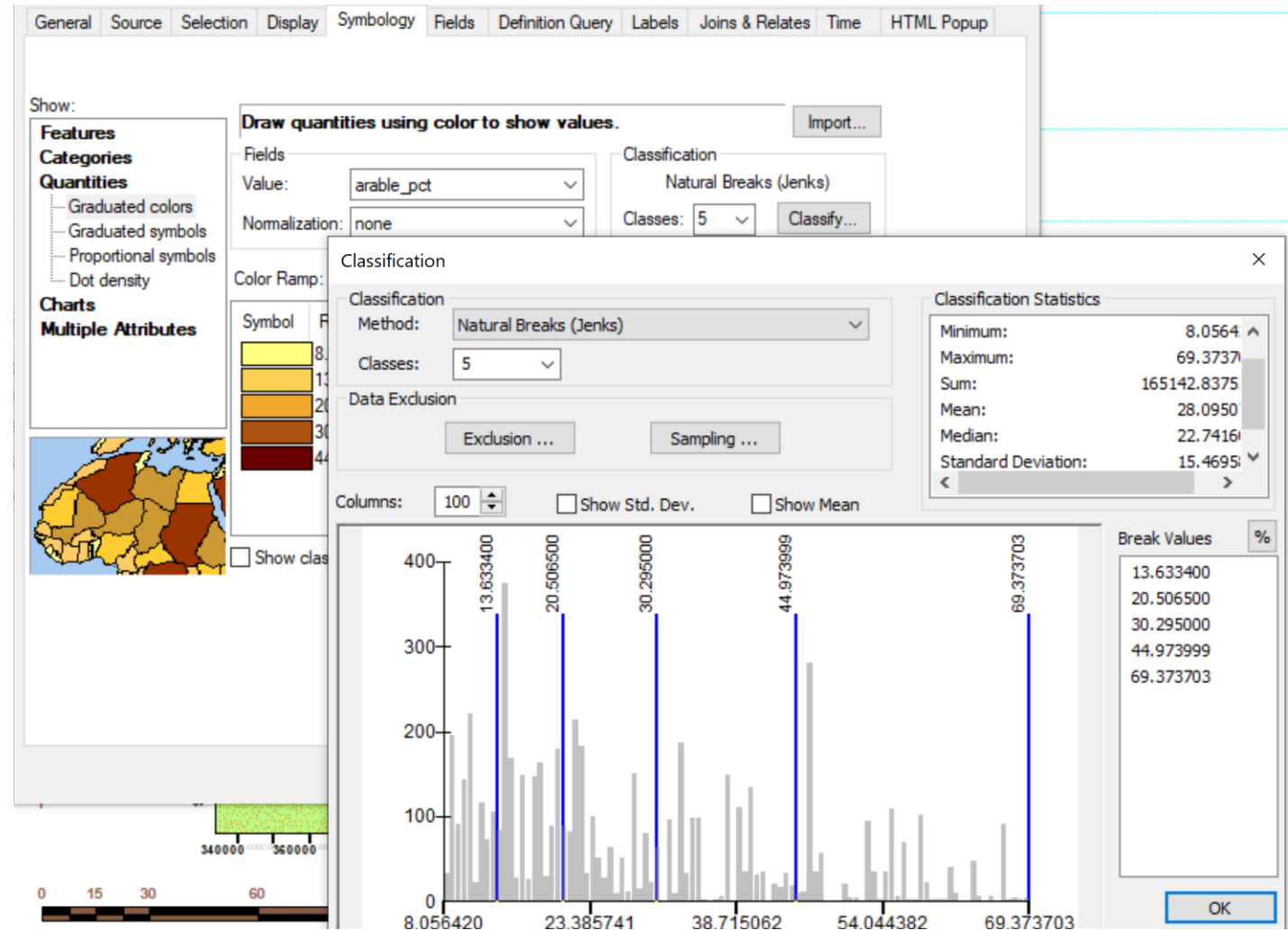
- Arable percentages varying from approximately 8% to 70%
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# Natural breaks (Jenks)

- Arable percentages varying from approximately 8% to 70%
- Non-uniform distribution
- Classification intervals – to become clearer by plotting a histogram
- Why Natural Breaks (Jenks)?

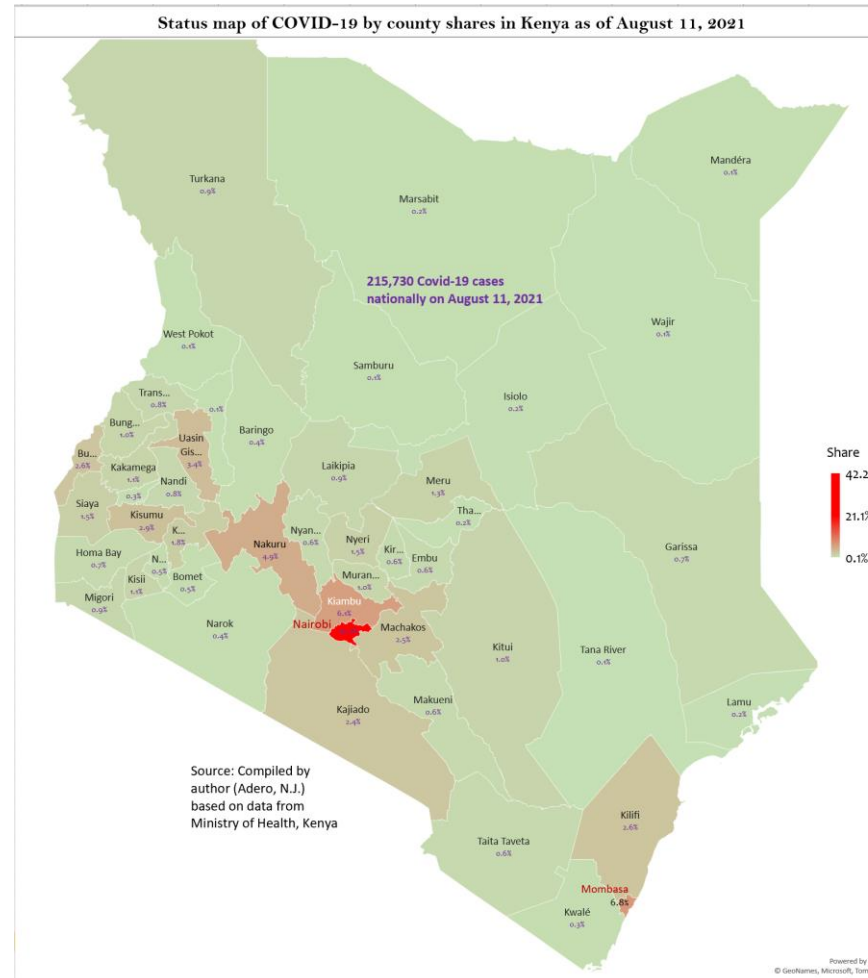


# GIS – Visualisation ensures inclusivity

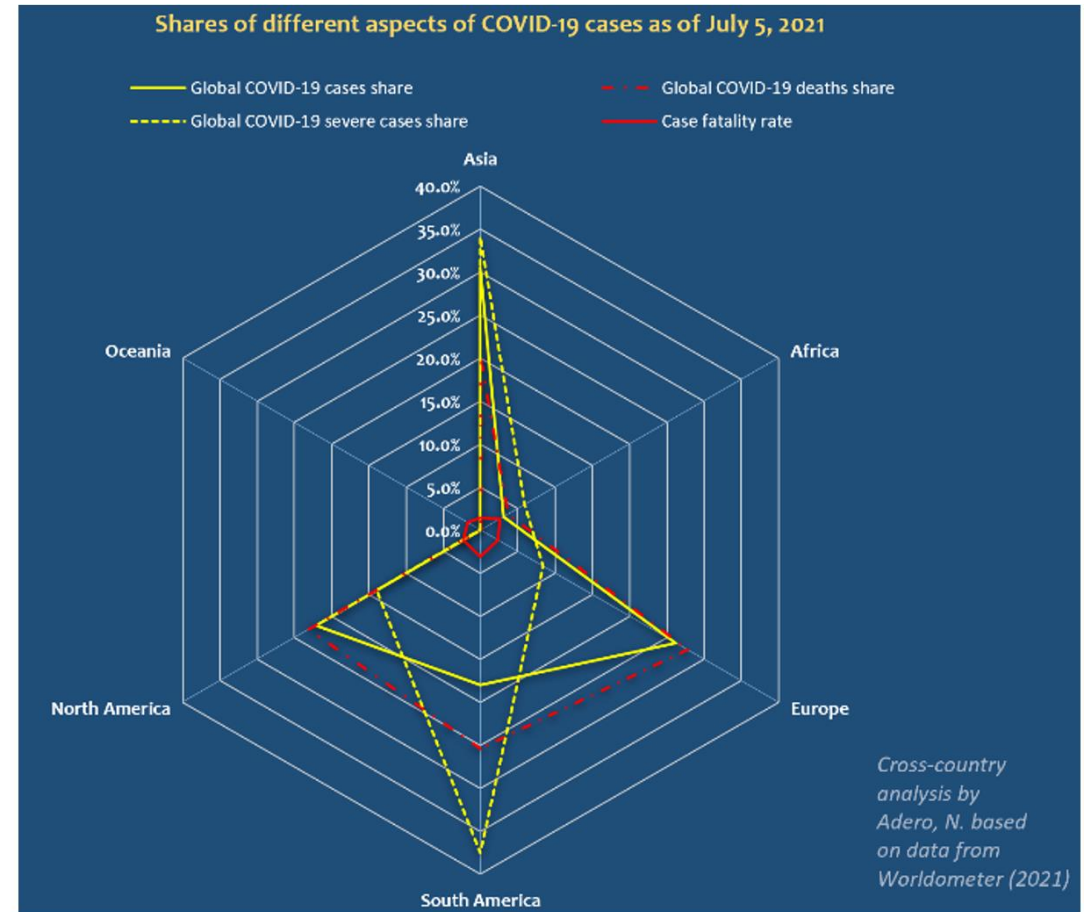
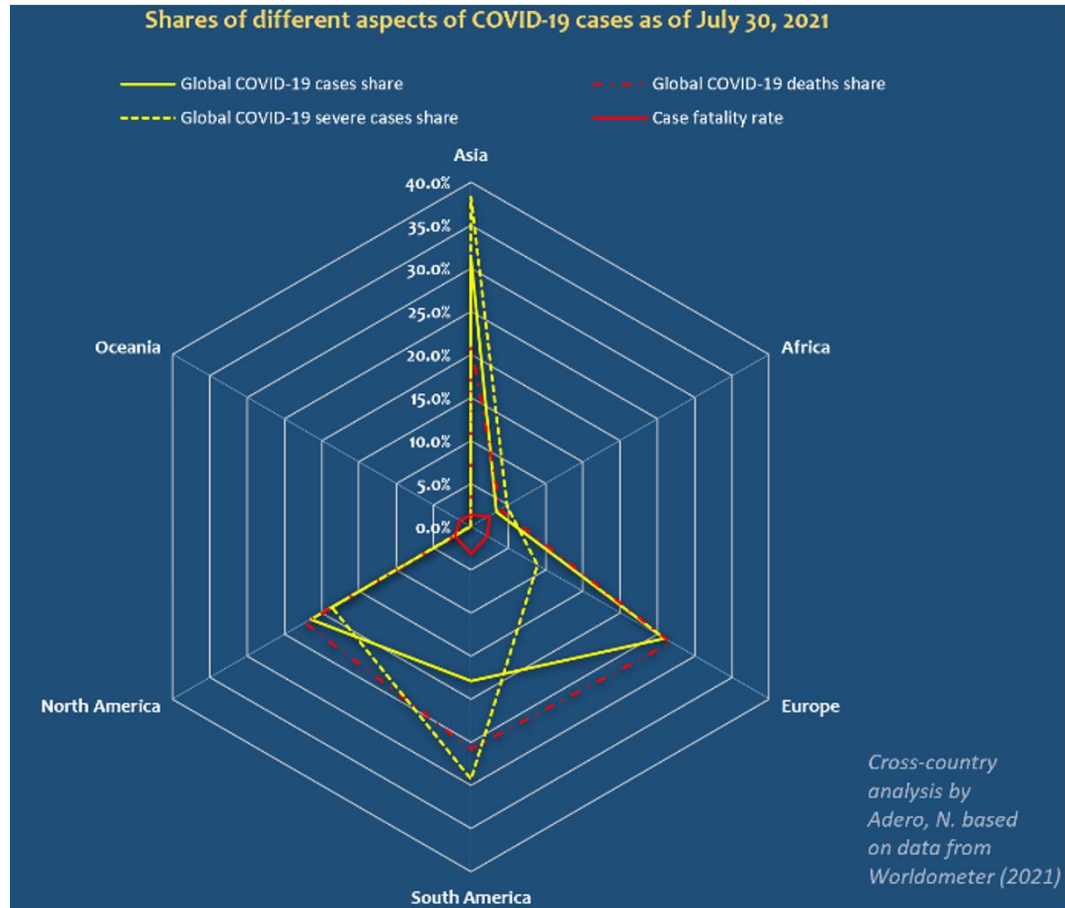
- GIS provides sound facilities for multistakeholder participation using visual maps as opposed to numbers/statistics alone
- Shared visual evidence with location makes robust decision support systems
- Compare the following figures in terms of ease of understanding and effectiveness of communication across **diverse stakeholder profiles**



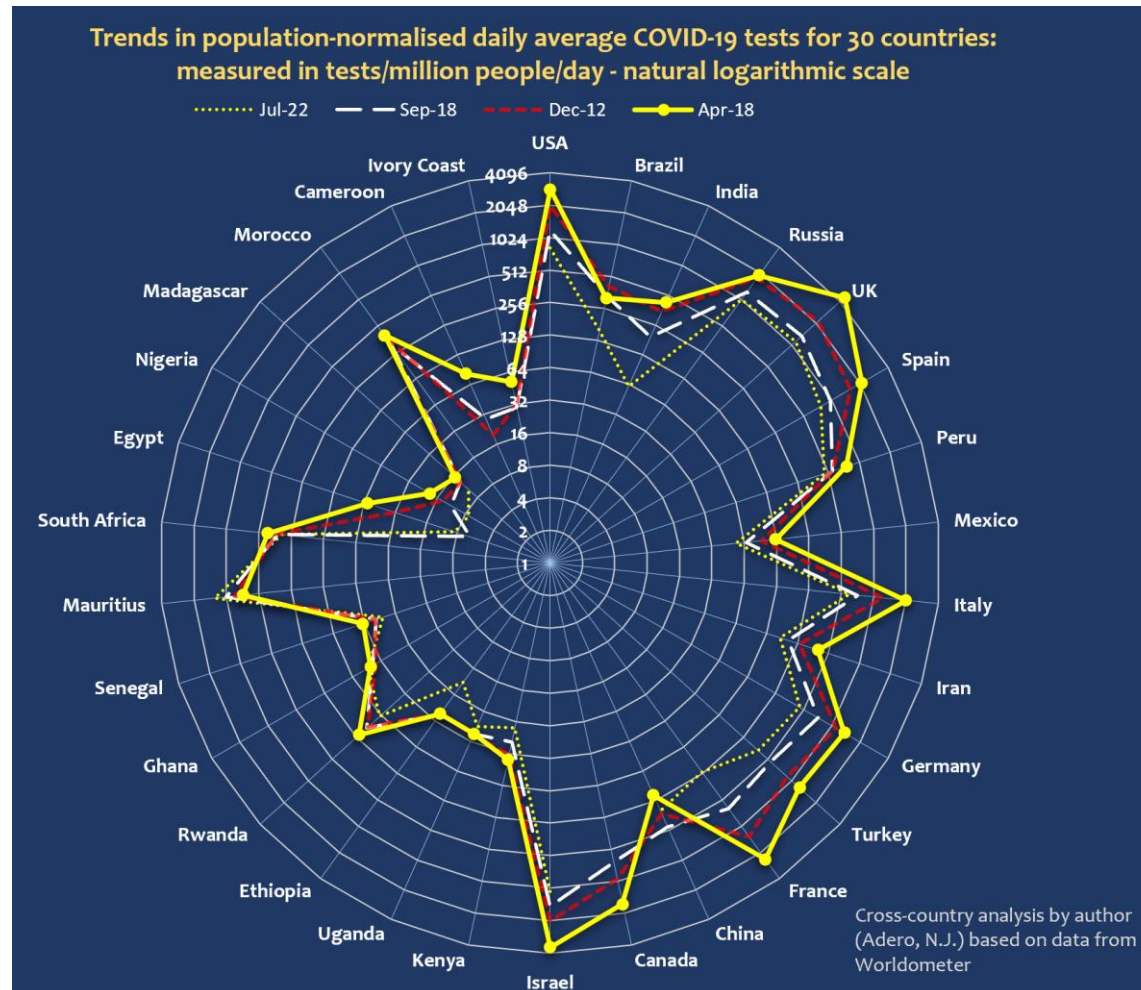
# Visualisation at spatial scales using maps



# Radar plots



# Choice of plotting scale for visualisation - logarithmic





# Acknowledgement, further resources, contact

**Esri Eastern Africa** (& Prof. S. Onywere ) for helping promote GIS education at Taita Taveta University

**Taita Taveta University (TTU) & TAITAGIS** – platform for thought leadership and knowledge-led influence

**System Dynamics Society (SDS)** – for global networking in system dynamics and **Elsevier Researcher Academy** – platform for research networking and capacity building in modern research

**FORCE11** – forum and community for open science communication and e-scholarship

Links to further reading: [Journal paper recommending GIS for COVID models](#)

| [Website with web version of GIS and eHealth presentation](#) | [Book on COVID-19](#) | [nashon.adero@gmail.com](mailto:nashon.adero@gmail.com)