

ABSTRACT

At this moment, there are more than a billion (1,000,000,000) adults, infants and children across the globe living in impoverished conditions. Two and a half billion (2,500,000,000) human beings live in environments that lack basic sanitation. Each day, more than 22,000 children die because they fail to overcome the challenges of living in poverty. In 2014, the United Nations (UN) identified seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with corresponding indicators as a means of uniting efforts to address global development issues. These SDGs seem overwhelmingly applicable to the profession of landscape architecture, yet landscape architects are not often identified as members of the international community of experts and professionals addressing concerns of poverty and standards of living. This paper presents survey-based research that asks landscape architecture practitioners and scholars to identify both their level of involvement with projects that address the SDG indicators and their opinions on the relevance of the indicators to the practice and theory of landscape architecture. The results indicate that while most of the SDGs are identical to many of the goals that guide the discipline of landscape architecture, few landscape architects classify their work as specifically directed towards alleviating poverty or improving the standard of living for poor communities across the globe. While there is a strong commitment to the wellbeing of the physical environment within landscape architecture practice, there is a clear opportunity for the profession to advance and refine its interactions with the socio-ecological components of development, especially as it applies to the world's marginalized communities.