

Public Policies to Implement the Sustainable Development Goals in Itabaiana, Sergipe

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Abstract: The prevailing crisis scenario underscores the imperative for initiatives aimed at ameliorating environmental predicaments within society, thereby harmonizing endeavors undertaken by diverse social actors. The 2030 Agenda encompasses 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which intricately interlace economic growth, social development, and environmental preservation. This study endeavors to ascertain the public policies underpinning the realization of SDGs in Itabaiana, while discerning the focal domains of priority. Our investigation scrutinized proclamations delineated in the Official Gazette spanning from January 2016 to December 2020. Our findings unveiled 147 referenced initiatives, with 38.64% of these enmeshing more than three distinct SDGs. These outcomes distinctly underscore the interdisciplinary complexion intrinsic to the 2030 Agenda, thereby affording latitude for the participation of disparate realms within the public administrative echelon, all converging to bolster its aspirations. In conclusion, the 2030 Agenda serves as a diagnostic instrument, facilitating the assimilation and territorialization of SDGs at the municipal stratum.

Keywords: 2030 Agenda; sustainable development; public administration; governmental authority; environmental policy.

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Introduction

Contemporary society faces numerous challenges, encompassing the surmounting of health, political, economic, social, and environmental crises, which have persisted as enduring trials within our nation's recent history (ALMEIDA, 2019; LAYRARGUES, 2020; SILVA, 2020). Amidst this tumultuous backdrop, it becomes imperative to establish priorities and seek viable means of monitoring and evaluating advancements and setbacks within the most pressing demands. In this regard, indicators assume a pivotal role, serving as a compass, delineating a course towards transcending or mitigating societal afflictions. Within the context of Sustainable Development (SD), decision-makers encounter a pivotal dual challenge at the juncture of project and public policy decision-making, underscoring the necessity for a well-defined strategy to infuse a modicum of rationality into political decisions. This assurance is secured through initiatives that address emergent SD demands and a participatory and accessible management monitoring apparatus (TABORDA; TIerno, 2020).

Against this backdrop, the need arises to reflect upon the significance of monitoring socio-environmental actions and their impacts, as well as the directional potential furnished by the 2030 Agenda, comprising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the formulation and assessment of environmental indicators (SACHS, 2004; DIAS, 2011; ALMEIDA JÚNIOR; GOMES, 2012). Nevertheless, before delving into the versatility of this SD agenda, it is imperative to trace a succinct historical trajectory leading to the establishment of this ambitious array of goals and targets. The United Nations (UN) has, since the 1972 Stockholm Conference, evolved into a global institution vested with the responsibility of steering deliberations and conferences accentuating emerging environmental concerns (SACHS, 2004; BERCHIN; CARVALHO, 2016). The landmark report "Our Common Future" in 1987 introduced the concept of SD as one that caters to the needs of the present generation without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations (ONU, 2016). Since that pivotal juncture, the term SD has been widely propagated, gaining perennial prominence.

Three decades ago, during the Eco-92 summit held in Rio de Janeiro, participating nations underscored the importance of formulating and executing efficacious measures to concretize SD within public actions and policies (BERCHIN; CARVALHO, 2016). Subsequently, in the 1990s, the UN facilitated and coordinated multiple environmental conferences following Eco-92, culminating in the Millennium Summit in the early 2000s, which gave rise to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Agenda.

The methodology delineated within the MDGs agenda aimed at articulating eight goals across diverse realms, with a pronounced emphasis on economic, ecological, and social dimensions. These goals sought to propel development and diminish global poverty. However, owing to both progress and limitations, the MDGs agenda became insufficient to grapple with the intricate panorama of global challenges. The Rio+20 Summit in 2012 marked a turning point, with participating nations and the UN initiating the groundwork for an "updated" iteration of the MDGs agenda, which had held sway from the 2000s until 2015 (ONU, 2015). In 2015, garnering support from 193 countries,

the UN unveiled the audacious SD agenda (2030 Agenda), encompassing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets, and 231 indicators. Up until that juncture, this agenda stood as the most intricate global instrument for SD devised by the UN and numerous world leaders (ONU, 2015; 2016). Considering the ongoing health, political, ecological, and socio-economic turmoil, the interdisciplinary nature of the 2030 Agenda bridges the chasm between the idealized and the real, a perspective crucial for confronting challenges, particularly within the post-pandemic global milieu (LAYRARGUES, 2020).

The genesis of the SDGs is rooted in a collaborative endeavor, rendering them multifaceted and offering a guiding framework. These goals are clustered within five axes, termed the “5 Ps”: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships (ONU, 2015; 2016; KRONEMBERGER, 2019). From a people-centered perspective, the focus revolves around individual empowerment and the combat of social vulnerability, emphasizing the eradication of poverty and hunger while concurrently striving for equity and dignity among all citizens. When directing attention toward Planet Earth, the ecological dimension commands precedence, centering on safeguarding natural resources and tackling the climate crisis. When Prosperity is emphasized, the social dimension takes prominence, underscoring the significance of income, employment, land, and shelter as fundamental prerequisites for a dignified existence in harmony with nature. Social justice is an immediate and prevalent demand in daily life. Moreover, Peace emerges as a foundational requisite, as the success of other endeavors hinges upon its establishment. Given the inherent challenges, the quest for avenues to implement the agenda assumes paramount significance within the Partnerships axis (ONU, 2015; BARBIERI, 2020; BERALDO, 2019).

The interconnectedness of these goals grows stronger and more robust when disparate SDGs are linked to the local context. The plasticity of the 2030 Agenda draws attention, underscoring its potential in furnishing a framework for SD indicators (BARBIERI, 2020). Consequently, Faria and Carneiro (2021) postulate a conundrum for future research: “How can public policies be oriented towards Sustainable Development, facilitating the achievement of SDGs?” Furthermore, in concordance with the same authors, it becomes imperative to acknowledge that “public policies, for each SDG, should encompass three pivotal dimensions: equitable wealth redistribution, social recognition, and inclusive participation in decision-making.” Frey (2001) accentuates the pivotal role of public authorities in mitigating the discordant repercussions of economic developmental processes and rectifying entrenched damages. When scrutinizing the position of municipal administrations in relation to this global SD mandate, this inquiry emerges as a potential instrument, aiding in action planning and charting the extant public policies within this timeframe.

The Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988 enshrines fundamental rights encompassing health, education, ecological balance, and a multitude of other prerogatives for the nation’s citizens. Within this context, public policies aligned with SDGs herald a novel milestone in societal advancement (GOMES; FERREIRA, 2018). Hence, this study assumes a pivotal role, as it endeavors to delineate the local scenario regarding

the SDGs and, concurrently, proposes strategies to enable the municipal administration to achieve targets pertaining to biodiversity, health, and education. Consequently, this study aspires to address the aforementioned queries while endowing public administrators and society with an appraisal of the conformity with SDGs encapsulated within the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, our intent is to foster a broader discourse concerning this intricate SD agenda, thereby enabling the outcomes of our research to inform municipal environmental management, steering projects, initiatives, and public policies characterized by their sustainability orientation.

This investigation pioneers in the state of Sergipe, thereby augmenting its responsibility. However, the ramifications of this challenge extend to guide other Brazilian municipalities in their endeavors to adhere to the 2030 Agenda, utilizing the methodological framework as a universal analytical tool to direct public administration. Thus, our aspiration encompasses amplifying the discourse encompassing this intricate SD agenda, permitting our research findings to guide municipal environmental management, and generating projects, initiatives, and public policies underscored by sustainability. To achieve this aim, three overarching questions have been addressed: (1) What actions and public policies are being implemented by public authorities to ensure the implementation of SDGs within the municipality of Itabaiana? (2) How does the current linkage between public policies and the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda targets manifest? (3) What domains constitute the focal areas of emphasis within the city administration concerning the 2030 Agenda, thereby unveiling an intersectoral panorama? Hence, this study aims to diagnose adherence to the SDGs and disseminate actions that have guided the Itabaiana municipal administration along the path of sustainability from 2016 to 2020.

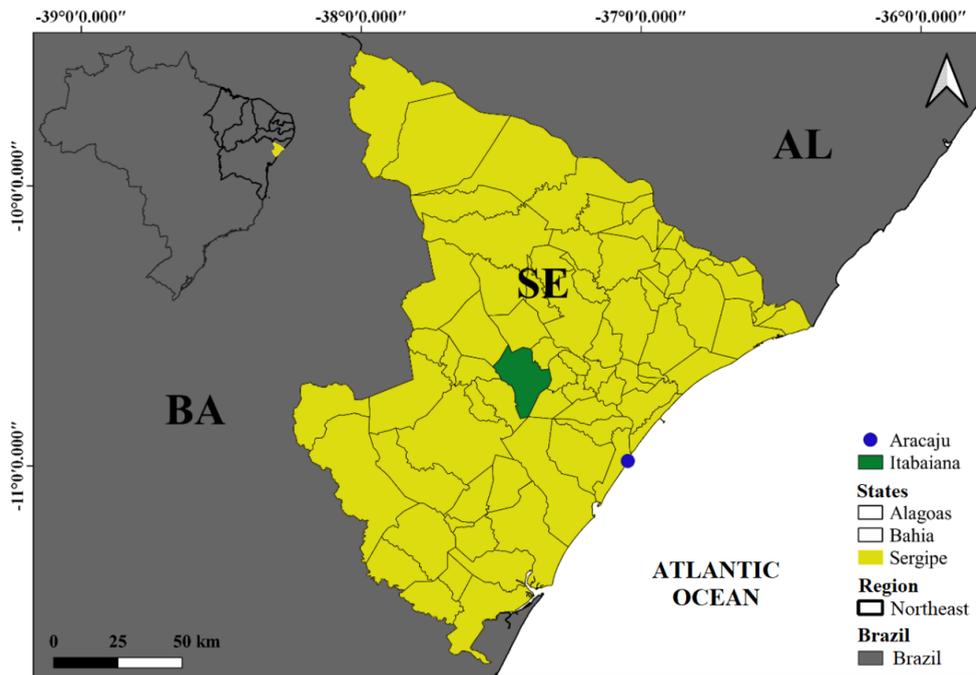
Materials and Methods

Research site

This study was conducted in the city of Itabaiana, situated in the interior of the state of Sergipe. Itabaiana emerged as a parish in 1675, becoming the second parish established in Sergipe under the designation of the Parish of Santo Antônio e Almas de Itabaiana. The elevation to the status of a Village occurred in 1697, by which time the settlement already boasted a City Council, detention facility, judiciary, and tax oversight. The municipal council of Itabaiana entered the political arena in 1822, and the village legislators were fervent proponents of Sergipe's emancipation (MENDONÇA, 2014).

Positioned at latitude 10°41'06" South and longitude 37°25'31" West, Itabaiana sits at an elevation of 188 meters above sea level. It stands as the most dynamic municipality in Central Sergipe (Figure 1). Encompassing a land area of 337.295 km², it is estimated to host a population of 96,839 (IBGE, 2021). The city's socio-economic progress stands out within the state scenario. Ranked as the third most important city within the interior of Sergipe due to its public authorities, political influence, business proliferation, and strategic positioning (FREITAG, 2008; SANTOS; SIQUEIRA PINTO, 2010; SANTOS, 2014).

Figure 1 - Location of the Municipality of Itabaiana, Sergipe State, according to the geographical map of Brazil and the Northeast region



Font: Hugo Andrade, 2022.

According to Menezes (2010), for over half a century, Itabaiana has been acclaimed as the “Barn of the State”, signifying a period wherein nearly all agricultural production was directed towards supplying Aracaju’s food needs. The open-air market, known as the “free fair,” is the central hub of commerce within the city. It stands as Sergipe’s largest open-air market and one of the most substantial within the Northeast region. Constructed towards the end of the 19th century, the Municipal Market galvanized the fair’s expansion at the state level, offering an extensive array of products ever since. Besides its commercial and industrial vitality, Itabaiana is distinguished in agriculture and livestock production, particularly in the domains of fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy. Some four decades ago, the state administration introduced irrigated zones across numerous villages, catalyzing a notable surge in agricultural output.

According to Secundo and Silva (2021, p. 50), the “regional significance and the burgeoning urban sprawl of the Itabaiana municipality” have escalated over recent years. Santos (2014) emphasized that the city’s historical prominence in the economic realm, rendering Itabaiana a prominent entity within Sergipe. The city stands apart across diverse arenas, encompassing sports, education, entrepreneurship, and logistics, among others. The recognition as the “National Truck Capital”, conferred through Law

No. 13,044/2014 (BRASIL, 2014), epitomizes the essence of this land and its people. The emblematic fruit and vegetable production and the open-air market substantiate its reputation as the “Capital of the Agreste Region”.

The terrain’s intrinsic natural beauty hints at untapped ecotourism potential. One prominent attraction is the Serra de Itabaiana National Park (PARNASI), established in June 2005, under the aegis of the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation. Its management blueprint delineates a spectrum exceeding 550 plant species and diverse animals, including the Pectoral Antwren [*Herpsilochmus pectoralis* Sclater, 1857 (Passeriformes: Thamnophilidae)], a critically endangered species in the vulnerable category. Beyond this natural expanse, the Pilões and Porções of Povoado Ribeira and the Parque dos Falcões, a sanctuary for raptor rehabilitation, further amplify the offerings.

Furthermore, the terrain holds promise for religious tourism, given that Itabaiana was the site of the first miracle attributed to Santa Dulce dos Pobres. Moreover, the city boasts potential for commercial tourism due to its numerous jewelry establishments, historically earning it the epithet of the “City of Gold”.

Conveying a precise contextualization of the research site is pivotal for comprehending socio-environmental actions. Furthermore, grasping the dynamics of both rural and urban domains enhances comprehension of diverse territorial contexts, culminating in the establishment of the local society’s identity (BARBOSA, 2013). Santos (2014, p. 19) highlights that “Itabaiana holds immense potential for social cartographic exploration”. This assertion emanates from the city’s unique characteristics. Although Itabaiana ranks among the most significant urban centers within Sergipe, it has yet to be classified as a medium-sized city (housing a populace between 100,000 and 300,000). Moreover, the Capital of the Agreste Region boasts essential attributes for this research, facilitating an adaptation conducive to assessing actions aligned with the 2030 Agenda, akin to those undertaken in analogous cities.

Content Analysis of the Official Gazette of the City of Itabaiana

The methodology employed in this study constitutes a form of Qualitative Research, with its objectives met through the application of Content Analysis (CA) as outlined by Bardin (2016). The data collection process involved a documentary analysis, encompassing a sequence of operations aimed at translating the content of a document into an altered format, facilitating its consultation and citation (BARDIN, 2016). As per Bardin:

“Documentary analysis entails the systematic processing of information found within accumulated documents. Its objective is to render this information in a manageable form and present it in a manner distinct from its original state, utilizing transformation procedures. This serves to store the data in a variable form, enhancing observer accessibility, thus maximizing both the quantity of information (quantitative aspect) and its relevance (qualitative aspect). Hence,

documentary analysis constitutes a preliminary phase in establishing a documentation service or a database” (BARDIN, 2016, p. 51).

According to Bardin (2016), the CA methodology unfolds in five sequential steps: (1) organization of the analysis; (2) coding; (3) categorization; (4) inference; and (5) computerization of the communications analysis (Figure 2). These steps are interwoven around three chronological stages: pre-analysis, exploration of the material, and treatment of results, inclusive of inference and interpretation.

Figure 2 - Illustration of the Methodological Procedure for Content Analysis with Detailed Steps

METHODOLOGY APPLIED IN THE DOCUMENTARY STEP

STEP 01 Organization of the Analysis

- Choice and organization of documents.
- Search in the e-Atos database - Official Gazette.
- Determination of the research corpus;
- Downloading and referencing the material.
- Floating reading.

STEP 02 Coding

- Clipping: Creation of Registration Units (RU) and Context Units (CU).
- Enumeration: Counting rule.
- Classification and aggregation: Choice of categories.

STEP 03 Categorization

- Categorization Criteria: Semantic.
- Categories created: 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda

STEP 04 Inference

- Controlled interpretation.

STEP 05 Computerization of the Analysis

- Spreadsheet creation.
- Table construction.

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The initial chronological phase, pre-analysis, constitutes the cornerstone of step 1, involving the organization of the analysis. Its principal objective lies in operationalizing and systematizing the preliminary ideas to construct a well-defined framework for the sequential actions guiding the analysis. This pre-analysis task encompasses the selection and arrangement of documents slated for CA.

In the preliminary stage, we accessed the “e-Atos - Diário Oficial Eletrônico” database (<https://publicacoesmunicipais.com.br/eatos/itabaiana>) to source the editions of the Official Gazette of Itabaiana. The research *corpus*, encompassing the documents for analysis, was predetermined according to the non-selectivity principle, including all editions spanning January 2016 to December 2020.

Following the identification of the research *corpus*, we downloaded the files and organized the material by edition and year of publication. Subsequently, a preliminary reading of the documents was conducted, signifying the first textual engagement with the content, aimed at understanding the text and capturing initial impressions and orientations (BARDIN, 2016).

The second chronological stage, the exploration of the material, is aligned with steps 2 and 3 of CA (coding and categorization, respectively). Coding involves a systematic transformation of raw textual data, guided by predetermined rules, enabling a detailed depiction of attributes pertinent to the analyzed content. This stage is subdivided into three selections: clipping, encompassing the selection of Registration Units (RU) and Context Units (CU); enumeration, encompassing the selection of counting rules; and classification and aggregation, encompassing the choice of categories (BARDIN, 2016).

The RU entails coded units representing meaning and correspond to segments of content considered fundamental units, aiding in their categorization and frequency tabulation (Box 1).

Box 1 - Registration Units (RU) elaborated based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), corresponding to Context Units (CU)

SDG	REGISTRATION UNITS (Quantity)
01 - POVERTY ERADICATION	CRISIS, INEQUALITIES, FLOODS, HOUSING, DIGITAL INCLUSION, SOCIAL INCLUSION, OPPORTUNITIES, POVERTY, INCOME, VULNERABLE (10)
02 - NO HUNGER PROGRAM AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	AGROCHEMICALS, MALNUTRITION, HUNGER, WATER SUPPLY, SCHOOL MEALS, NUTRITION, ORGANIC, SMALLHOLDER, FOOD SECURITY (09)
03 - HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	ARBOVIRUSES, WELL-BEING, CHIKUNGUNYA, CONTAMINATION, CORONAVIRUS, DENGUE, ADDICTION, TRAFFIC EDUCATION, SANITATION, PREGNANCY, HIV/AIDS, HOMICIDES, ELDERLY, LONGEVITY, MORTALITY (NEONATAL, MATERNAL, INFANT), PANDEMIC, SPORTS PRACTICE, HEALTH, VACCINATION, ZIKA (20)

04 – QUALITY EDUCATION	ALITERACY, EDUCATION INEQUALITIES, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, EDUCATION, BASIC EDUCATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, TEACHING, SCHOOL DROPOUT, CONTINUED EDUCATION, AGE/YEAR, INCLUSION, RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY (13)
05 - GENDER QUALITY	DAYCARE, DISCRIMINATION, EMPOWERMENT, EMPLOYMENT, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, FEMINICIDE, GENDER EQUALITY, LEADERSHIP, MOTHERS, PREVENTION, SOCIAL PROTECTION, WOMEN'S HEALTH, VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE (14)
06 - WATER AND SANITATION	DRINKING WATER, WELL-BEING, SEWAGE, SPRINGS, WELLS, SANITATION (07)
07 - CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY	CLEAN ENERGY, SOLAR ENERGY, LIGHTING, STREET LIGHTING, LED, ENERGY MATRIX, SOLAR PANEL, SOCIAL TARIFF (08)
08 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, GROWTH, CULTURE, UNEMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, FAIR, GDP, INCOME, LABOR, CHILD LABOR, TOURISM (08)
09 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	RESILIENT STRUCTURES, INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE, INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY, TELEPHONY, TRANSPORT (07)
10 – INEQUALITY REDUCTION	ILLITERACY, DISABILITY, INEQUALITY, SPORT, ETHNICITY, EXCLUSION, INCLUSION, LEISURE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, HERITAGE, PERIPHERY, RACE, RELIGION, INCOME, HOUSEHOLDS (15)
11- SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	GREEN AREAS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, PLANNING, CITY PLAN, QUALITY OF LIFE, RECYCLING (07)
12 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	SELECTIVE COLLECTION, CONSORTIUM (CPAC), WASTING, LANDFILL, WASTE, SOLID WASTE, WASTE VOLUME (08)
13 - ACTION AGAINST GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE	CARBON CREDIT, CLIMATE CRISIS, ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS, FOREST MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE (05)
14 - AQUATIC LIFE	WATER POLLUTION, RIPARIAN FLORESTS, STREAMS, WATERWAYS (04)
15 - TERRESTRIAL LIFE	ARBORIZATION, BIODIVERSITY, HUNTING, DESERTIFICATION, ECOSYSTEM, EXOTIC, EXTINCTION, FAUNA, FLORA, FOREST, NATIONAL PARK, CONSERVATION UNIT (13)
16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS	CORRUPTION, SECURITY, CITIZENS, DRUG DEALING, TRANSPARENCY, VIOLENCE (06)

17 - PARTNERSHIPS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION	COOPERATION, INTERINSTITUTIONAL, INTERSECTORIAL, PARTNERSHIP (04)
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In alignment with a deductive CA approach, RUs were established before document collection within the research corpus. They were employed to identify actions and public policies executed by the municipal administration during the examined timeframe. These RUs comprised 145 words, grouped into 17 CUs, each linked to an SDG. In the CA framework, a CU serves as an understanding unit for coding and grouping RUs. The enumeration rules selected for this study involve the presence (or absence) and frequency of RUs in the examined documents, embracing a qualitative and quantitative approach to CA. Finally, categories were developed to amalgamate the RUs, marking the subsequent analysis phase (BARDIN, 2016).

As elucidated by Bardin (2016), step 3 (categorization) entails the classification of constituent elements according to predefined criteria established in the prior step. Categorization criteria may adopt a semantic approach, yielding thematic categories; a syntactic approach, emphasizing verbs or adjectives; a lexical approach, sorting words based on meaning; and an expressive approach, which categorizes diverse language phenomena. In this study, semantic categorization criteria were adopted, resulting in thematic categories aligned with the themes of each of the 17 SDGs within the 2030 Agenda (PIMENTEL, 2001; ZANELLA, 2006; OLIVEIRA, 2007; SOUZA et al., 2011; BARDIN, 2016).

The third chronological phase, the treatment of results, engenders the inference (step 4) and computerization (step 5) stages of the communications analysis. According to Bardin (2016), inference signifies a controlled interpretation drawn from the perspectives of the message sender or creator, the recipient, and the inherent message content interpretation. Grounded in these three facets, inferences pertaining to the outcomes were crafted post the categorization phase. Subsequently, all data extracted from CA were organized within spreadsheets, crafting tables to synthesize analyses and assist in collating inferences, constituting step 5 encompassing the computerization of communications analysis (BARDIN, 2016).

This process of data compilation is both cost-effective and a reliable data source (LÜDKE; ANDRÉ, 1986). Within this study, the actions, and public policies of the municipal administration were aligned with the targets of the 2030 Agenda. The information obtained herein offers a panoramic insight into the municipal administration of Itabaiana, spotlighting both its strengths and areas necessitating heightened attention from public authorities during forthcoming administrative terms.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 presents a comprehensive overview of the number of editions, pages, and

SDG-related actions published in the Official Gazette of the City of Itabaiana between January 2016 and December 2020. The Official Gazette serves as a transparent and open communication channel between the city's public administration and its residents, fulfilling a requirement for public accountability. The analysis encompassed a total of 1,191 editions, spanning 26,228 pages, with distribution varying across the years, for instance, 2,789 pages in 2016 and 7,447 pages in 2017 (Table 1).

Table 1 - Analysis of the Official Gazette of the City of Itabaiana (SE) from January 2016 to December 2020

YEAR	EDITIONS	PAGES	QUANTITY OF ACTIONS LINKED TO THE 2030 AGENDA
2016	211	2789	33
2017	247	7447	43
2018	241	5133	32
2019	246	6145	37
2020	246	4714	31
Total	1191 editions	26228 pages	176 actions

Font: Authors' Compilation.

Assessing the distribution of actions linked to SDGs over the years, it is evident that 2020 witnessed a decrease in actions directly associated with the 2030 Agenda. This decline can be attributed to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which considerably influenced various projects and initiatives. The year 2017 saw the re-election of the mayor, fostering self-assurance and credibility within public administration. This was reflected in the consistent momentum and continued pace of city governance activities. This factor likely contributed to the heightened activity in the Official Gazette and, subsequently, the number of SDG-related actions for that year. Notably, 43 actions were recorded, constituting 24.43% of the actions within the first five-year span of the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, only three months (August 2016, November 2016, and November 2018) had no published actions or public policies associated with SDGs, accounting for 5% of the evaluated period. This trend signifies an ongoing commitment by the municipal administration of Itabaiana towards issues pertaining to the 2030 Agenda.

Among the 147 enumerated actions, one stands out for its negative impact on achieving the pre-established SDG targets set by the UN. Decree 13/2019, mandating the city's withdrawal from the Public Solid Waste Consortium of Central Sergipe (CPAC), is a measure with detrimental consequences for six SDGs: SDG 06, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 16, and SDG 17. This decision, published in the Official Gazette, raises concerns as the initiation and cessation of actions can both contribute to or hinder SDG accomplishments.

The departure of Itabaiana from CPAC has ripple effects on advancing and ad-

hering to the National Solid Waste Policy (PNRS), not only within the city but also in neighboring areas heavily reliant on the Capital of the Agreste Region of Sergipe. This exit diminishes the consortium's influence, akin to a company losing a major partner. As a result, CPAC's potential for actions promoting environmental sustainability is significantly curtailed, ultimately distancing other municipalities from fulfilling these objectives. Despite widespread discourse and awareness surrounding solid waste and sanitation issues, there is an imminent necessity to reevaluate and formulate strategies to tackle this challenge, both within Itabaiana and across other associated municipalities.

An intriguing facet is that, rooted within the SD triad, this effort possesses inter-municipal implications, even when confined to a single city. The scope of SD and the 2030 Agenda extends beyond borders, delineations, or boundaries. The impacts, whether positive or negative, of an action or initiative frequently reverberate across neighboring areas, other states, and even nations. This observation extends to positive actions and actions yielding negative impacts on a smaller scale, underscoring the significance of collaborations among public administrators of neighboring cities in devising and executing actions to benefit the entire region.

Due to its encompassing nature and ambitious scope, the 2030 Agenda underscores a comprehensive fusion of domains and government sectors, spanning from addressing socio-economic disparities to combatting climate change. Two initiatives undertaken by the Itabaiana municipal administration merit attention. Firstly, the completion of the Serapião Antônio de Góis Housing Complex, linked to SDG 10 (Reduction of Inequalities), which rendered suitable housing for 281 families, thereby reducing social disparities within the city. Secondly, the establishment of the Urban Forestry Committee of Itabaiana through Decree 017/2019 in January 2019, aligned with SDGs 11, 13, 15, and 17. The prime objective of this committee was to assess the city's urban forestry status and formulate effective strategies to address prevailing issues and facilitate the sustainable expansion of municipal forestry.

Furthermore, owing to its intricate nature, this SD agenda embodies interdisciplinary and cross-cutting dimensions. While each of the 17 SDGs inherently encapsulates interdisciplinarity, this study introduced three categories to manifest the interdisciplinary essence of SDG-associated actions. The first category pertains to initiatives aligned with a single SDG, encompassing 19.32% of the total actions assessed, signifying the lowest percentage. The intermediary category, grouping actions aligned with two or three SDGs, registered the highest proportion, accounting for 42.04% of all public policies scrutinized within the specified timeframe. Astonishingly, actions involving four or more SDGs constituted 38.64% of the total. A direct inference suggests that over 80% of the actions documented in the Official Gazette were related to multiple SDGs, reaffirming the interconnected nature of the SDG framework.

The establishment of the Selective Collection Program emerged as the most interdisciplinary initiative throughout the studied period, encompassing a multitude of SDGs. This endeavor holds the potential to yield numerous advantages, including poverty alleviation, hunger reduction, and enhancing the quality of life and dignity for

vulnerable populations. Furthermore, it can provide environmental benefits aligned with SD objectives within the community, bolster institutional frameworks, and foster collaborations for successful implementation. In this context, Santos and colleagues (2021, p. 11) asserted, “SDG 10 could be deemed partially accomplished as the city fosters social inclusion and generates employment and income through its support for the work undertaken by Recyclable Materials Collectors, thereby empowering and promoting the social and economic integration of these individuals”.

An action that converged between two and three SDGs emerged in the analysis of the Official Gazette of the City of Itabaiana in August 2017. Decree 109/2017 - Operation of the Free Fair with the involvement of the Health Surveillance Agency correlated with SDG 03, promoting health and well-being; SDG 08, fostering sustainable economic growth and decent work; and SDG 12, instating sustainable consumption patterns. This initiative by the city administration contributed to community benefits, countering Minnaert and Freitas’s (2010) assertion that “sanitizing the fair entails eradicating its informal nature, imposing order on the environment, standardizing not only the stalls but also behavioral norms”. Yet, this perspective presented by the authors contrasts with the city’s reality over the past five years. The fair is now organized and orderly, while still retaining the lively character of the participants involved in the exchanges.

Of the actions identified, where only one SDG was implicated, the publication of the Bylaws of the Municipal Education Council in January 2016 merits attention. This measure aligns with SDG 04, advocating for inclusive, equitable, and quality education and fostering lifelong learning opportunities for all. This action corroborates the thinking of Werle and colleagues (2008, p. 96), who stated that “the institutionalization of Municipal Education Systems and the consideration of the city’s social dynamics transcend mere rhetoric about the significance of local governance.” Actions tied to SDG 04 persisted, even amid the Covid-19 pandemic, such as the live event “Advances and Challenges in the 30 Years of the Child and Adolescent Statute (ECA),” broadcast simultaneously on the City Hall’s social media platforms.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 05 - Gender Equality) exhibited fewer actions, particularly within the past two years, warranting heightened attention from the municipal administration. One noteworthy SDG 5-associated action was the “V Intermunicipal Conference on Public Policies for Women”, conducted in Itabaiana in 2020.

When evaluating the number of actions identified during the pre-analysis phase, a total of 176 actions emerged. However, post-categorization, this tally surged significantly to 517 actions. This marked increase results from the fundamental characteristic of the 2030 Agenda, characterized by interdisciplinarity and cross-cutting themes. Consequently, it is likely for an action to correspond to two or more SDGs, given that merely 19.32% of actions from public authorities aligned with a sole SDG. Interestingly, only the year 2017 saw municipal-level actions published in the Official Gazette encompassing all SDGs. Notably, 2017 marked the highest number of actions, both within the gross classification (Table 1) and detailed categorization (Table 2).

Table 2 - Categorization of actions related to the Sustainable Development Goals published in the Official Gazette of the City of Itabaiana (SE) from January 2016 to December 2020

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	ACTION PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
1	02	07	03	05	01	18
2	01	02	-	04	01	08
3	15	25	16	19	19	94
4	10	16	14	15	10	65
5	02	06	05	02	02	17
6	04	02	04	01	03	14
7	-	01	-	-	-	01
8	12	06	03	08	07	36
9	09	01	-	01	01	12
10	03	15	08	11	05	42
11	05	07	02	09	03	26
12	05	05	01	03	03	17
13	-	02	02	02	02	08
14*	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	04	-	03	-	07
16	04	16	15	20	19	74
17	14	23	15	20	16	88
Sum of actions	76	138	88	123	92	517
% of SDG involved **	81.25	100	75	93.75	87.5	-

*SDG 14 does not apply in the context of the municipality, as it is not a coastal city.

**SDGs that may apply to Itabaiana (SE).

Source: Authors' Compilation.

Although only one year featured actions aligned with all SDGs, the prevalence of SDGs within Itabaiana's administrative actions remain significant. On average, 87.5% of SDGs pertinent to the city were addressed over the study period.

An overarching categorization emerges when analyzing the SDGs based on the number of associated actions. Averages were computed by summing the yearly actions over the five-year span and the 16 applicable SDGs for Itabaiana. The result, approximately 32 actions/five-year span/SDG, serves as a benchmark distinguishing SDG group

with above-average engagement (≥ 32 actions between 2016-2020), represented solely by Group 1, and those with below-average engagement (≤ 32 actions between 2016-2020), encompassing all other described groups below.

Within the framework of SDG evaluation across the studied years, five distinct classifications emerge. Groups 1 and 2 encompass actions undertaken over the entire five-year period, encapsulating 11 SDGs (64.7%). Group 3 encompasses SDGs with actions spanning four out of the five years, encompassing three SDGs (18.75%). Group 4 involves SDGs featuring actions within two out of the five years. Lastly, Group 5 comprises SDGs with actions transpiring solely in a single year out of the five. Notably, SDG 14 is not applicable to Itabaiana's context due to the city's non-coastal location, as SDG 14 pertains to oceans. As a result, we consider 100% coverage of the 16 plausible SDGs.

The SDGs fall into five distinct groupings concerning the actions developed and published in the Official Gazette, as described below:

- **Group 1:** SDGs addressed between 2016-2020 with above-average engagement (32 actions/five-year period/SDG): SDG 03 - Health and well-being; SDG 17 - Partnerships and means of implementation; SDG 16 - Peace, justice, and effective institutions; SDG 04 - Quality education; SDG 10 - Inequality reduction; and SDG 08 - Decent work and economic growth.
- **Group 2:** SDGs addressed between 2016-2020 with below-average engagement (32 actions/five-year period/SDG): SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities; SDG 01 - Poverty eradication; SDG 05 - Gender equality; SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production; and SDG 06 - Drinking water and sanitation.
- **Group 3:** SDGs addressed during four out of the five years studied with below-average engagement (32 actions/five-year period/SDG): SDG 09 - Industry, innovation, and infrastructure (except 2018); SDG 02 - No Hunger Program (except 2018); and SDG 13 - Action against global climate change (except 2016).
- **Group 4:** SDGs addressed during two out of the five years studied with below-average engagement (32 actions/five-year period/SDG): SDG 15 - Terrestrial life (only in 2017 and 2019).
- **Group 5:** SDGs addressed during only one out of the five years studied with below-average engagement (32 actions/five-year period/SDG): SDG 07 - Clean and affordable energy (only in 2017).

SDGs categorized within Groups 4 and 5 (Terrestrial life and Clean and affordable energy) need heightened attention from the City Administration in the forthcoming years. Moreover, public authorities must prioritize actions while considering the interdisciplinary nature of the 2030 Agenda to ensure efficacy and cost-effectiveness. Souza (2020, p.

68) proposed that stimulating “Small businesses and family farming, for example, so they could have more resources to become energetically self-sufficient. Even better if public policies aimed at this purpose provide technological support for clean energy production”, could be an avenue to fulfilling SDG 07 (Clean and affordable energy).

An SDG deserving heightened attention from the city administration is SDG 15. This goal safeguarding terrestrial life embodies extensive action possibilities. The city administration should enact initiatives to protect the Serra de Itabaiana National Park (PARNASI) within its municipal boundaries, a region replete with ecotourism potential. Furthermore, forging a stronger partnership with PARNASI’s environmental management is essential to harness this potential. SDG 15 assumes significance for its focus on forest protection, ecological restoration, combating desertification, deforestation, and biodiversity threats.

Cities serve as crucibles where environmental, demographic, and economic transformations converge, often exerting pressure on natural resources due to urbanization. Consequently, diagnosing municipal public policy implementation concerning SDGs becomes pivotal in pinpointing avenues for effective 2030 Agenda achievement (KRELENBERG; KOCH, 2021).

The 2030 Agenda and SDGs stand as global compass points guiding the transition to sustainable development, necessitating structural transformations across all nations through collective effort. Parallel to civil society, public authorities at various levels must assume a pivotal role in realizing the 2030 Agenda’s goals (WEILAND et al., 2021). Despite the widespread recognition of sustainable development’s import on government agendas, gauging its progress remains intricate, particularly due to the multi-faceted nature of some goals (HALISÇELIK; SOYTAS, 2019). Several nations have devised custom indicator sets to monitor their national SDG implementation progress, frequently aligned with Voluntary National Reviews (MIOLA; SCHILTZ, 2019).

Navigating the complexity of the 2030 Agenda poses challenges even in European countries. Spain, for instance, grapples with political and societal turmoil that undermines goal attainment (BOTO-ÁLVAREZ; GARCÍA-FERNÁNDEZ, 2020), echoing a similar scenario in our context. Boto-Álvarez and García-Fernández (2020) underscore Spain’s need to adopt prompt regulatory and public policy measures to fulfill its 2030 Agenda commitments; neglecting these measures risks failing to meet European-average benchmarks for most indicators (BOTO-ÁLVAREZ; GARCÍA-FERNÁNDEZ, 2020).

Global data unequivocally indicates an environmental downturn and heightened unsustainability, particularly concerning climate issues. A global environmental and climate emergency confronts us. Implementing evidence-based targets and solutions at micro and macro scales emerge as vital, necessitating innovative measures (ARORA; MISHRA, 2019).

It is important to note that the discourse on SDG indicators is ever evolving. While Brazil remains in a preliminary stage, the framework presents a comprehensive high-level perspective and impetus to gauge structural drivers, social norms, bolster protective elements, and diminish violence-associated risks (LEE et al., 2016). Local-level indicators, as

demonstrated here, furnish a holistic community profile, encompassing social dimensions, economic attributes, values, norms, and perceptions, thereby serving as a cornerstone for sustainable management endeavors (LEE et al., 2016).

Conclusions

The SDG agenda stands as a mosaic interweaving economic, ecological, and social imperatives, aspiring to foster comprehensive development and dignified living conditions on a planet less scarred by environmental degradation. From an interdisciplinary perspective, envisioning the 2030 Agenda involves recognizing that no single knowledge domain, expertise, or discipline holds greater value than the synergy of multiple, harmoniously aligned endeavors directed towards a common goal.

Fields like Biology, Environmental Management, Social Work, Administration, Geography, Ecology, Pedagogy, Health Sciences, and myriad other areas of knowledge discover within the folds of Agenda 2030 an arena for meaningful action. This agenda, therefore, becomes a platform for realizing interdisciplinarity, a bridge uniting diverse domains of knowledge that has been steadily gaining prominence. Additionally, as Ferreira and Monteiro (2018) emphasize, it is “strengthening, embracing the integration of knowledge in all its diverse and intricate facets, acknowledging that while the distinct attributes of various disciplines warrant exploration, they must also harmoniously integrate with other spheres.”

(Re)thinking the 2030 Agenda in the context of public administration beckons us into an ongoing and dynamic process of consolidating and flexibly shaping the subject of contemplation. Beneath the veneer of interdisciplinarity’s adaptability, the complexity of this agenda offers entry into an intellectually challenging and robust realm that seeks to reveal both the constraints and potentialities of the 2030 Agenda, leaving an impact on societal life, professional orbits, and academic realms. As Coimbra (2005) pointed out: “the shared theme, extracted from everyday existence, harmonizes and catalyzes interaction among individuals, domains, and disciplines, birthing a broader, collective understanding.”

Fazenda (1998) introduced several interpretations of interdisciplinarity, with its relational, expansive, and radical attributes. In examining the SDG agenda, the relational epistemological approach assumes prominence for its ability to forge connections, intersections, and convergences. Therefore, the comprehension of interdisciplinary complexities and their application, akin to a lens, to a fluid, comprehensive, and dynamic subject of scrutiny—such as the 2030 Agenda—encourages us to embark on an enriching discourse that this text’s culmination merely initiates. Yet, it does not denote an endpoint due not to a lack of comprehension but owing to the intricate nature and extent of these concepts.

Over 500 actions aligned with the 2030 Agenda were proposed during the 2016-2020 quinquennium, underscoring the municipal administration’s dedication to realizing these aspirations in Itabaiana. Nearly 80% of these actions, as recorded in the Official Gazette, encompassed more than one SDG, with approximately 40% encompassing

four or more SDGs, illustrating an intersectoral panorama of endeavors undertaken by public authorities. However, certain SDGs have garnered insufficient attention from the municipal administration, and given their significance, we advocate for heightened commitment and fresh initiatives in these spheres. Clean and affordable energy (SDG 07), Action against global climate change (SDG 13), and Terrestrial life (SDG 15) resonate acutely in the discussion of global sustainable development. Consequently, they warrant focused attention from forthcoming administrations, with the formulation of enhanced public policies to comply with the 2030 Agenda's aspirations.

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Políticas públicas para a implementação dos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável em Itabaiana, Sergipe

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Resumo: O cenário atual de crise evidencia a necessidade de iniciativas que minimizem problemas ambientais da sociedade, alinhando ações desenvolvidas pelos diferentes atores sociais. A Agenda 2030 contempla 17 Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS) que permeiam a esfera do crescimento econômico, desenvolvimento social e preservação ambiental. O objetivo desta pesquisa foi determinar as políticas públicas que assegurem a implementação dos ODS em Itabaiana, identificando áreas prioritizadas. Foram analisadas ações publicadas no Diário Oficial, de janeiro de 2016 a dezembro de 2020. Foram encontradas 147 ações citadas e 38,64% dessas ações envolveram mais de três ODS. Esses resultados demonstram o caráter interdisciplinar da Agenda 2030, que possibilita o envolvimento de diferentes setores do poder público em prol de seus objetivos. Conclui-se que a Agenda 2030 pode fornecer um diagnóstico que auxilie na inserção e territorialização dos ODS no âmbito municipal.

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Artigo Original

Palavras-chave: Agenda 2030; desenvolvimento sustentável; gestão pública; poder público; política ambiental.

Políticas públicas para la implementación de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en Itabaiana, Sergipe

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Resumen: El actual escenario de crisis pone de relieve la necesidad de iniciativas que minimicen los problemas ambientales en la sociedad, alineando las acciones desarrolladas por los diferentes actores sociales. La Agenda 2030 incluye 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) que permean la esfera del crecimiento económico, el desarrollo social y la preservación del medio ambiente. En esta investigación, se determinó las políticas públicas que aseguran la implementación de los ODS en Itabaiana, identificando áreas prioritizadas. Se analizaron las acciones publicadas en el Diario Oficial, desde enero de 2016 hasta diciembre de 2020. Se encontraron 147 acciones citadas y el 38,64% de estas acciones involucran más de tres ODS. Estos resultados demuestran el carácter interdisciplinario de la Agenda 2030, que posibilita el involucramiento de diferentes sectores de gobierno en apoyo a sus objetivos. Se concluye que la Agenda 2030 puede brindar un diagnóstico que ayude en la inserción y territorialización de los ODS a nivel municipal.

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Palabras-clave: Agenda 2030; desarrollo sostenible; gestión pública; poder público; política ambiental.