

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

For the Manuscript:

Creative Economy and Sustainability Transitions: Policy, Innovation and Governance Implications for Developing Economies

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE A

PRISMA 2020 CHECKLIST

Table A1: Completed PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section	Item	Description	Reported in Manuscript
Title	1	Identify as a systematic review/literature review	Yes
Abstract	2	Structured summary	Yes
Introduction	3	Rationale	Yes
Introduction	4	Objectives	Yes
Methods	5	Eligibility criteria	Yes
Methods	6	Information sources	Yes
Methods	7	Search strategy	Yes
Methods	8	Selection process	Yes
Methods	9	Data collection process	Yes
Methods	10	Data items	Yes
Methods	11	Risk of bias	Limited
Methods	12	Effect measures	N/A
Methods	13	Synthesis methods	Yes
Results	14	Study selection	Yes
Results	15	Study characteristics	Yes
Results	16	Synthesis results	Yes
Discussion	17	Interpretation	Yes
Discussion	18	Limitations	Yes
Other	19	Funding	Not applicable

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE B

PRISMA FLOW DIAGRAM

Figure B1: Study Selection Flow

Screening Stage	Number of Records
Records identified through database searching	412
Additional records from reports/policy documents	76
Total records identified	488
Duplicates removed	84
Records screened	404
Records excluded after title/abstract screening	287
Full-text reports assessed	117
Full-text reports excluded	59
Final studies included in synthesis	58

Reasons for Exclusion at Full Text

- Irrelevant to creative economy: 17
- Weak sustainability focus: 14
- Insufficient methodological rigour: 11
- Duplicate institutional reports: 9
- Inaccessible full text: 8

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE C - FULL SEARCH STRATEGIES

Databases Consulted

- Scopus
- Web of Science
- Google Scholar
- JSTOR
- ScienceDirect
- UNCTAD Repository
- UNESCO Repository
- World Bank Open Knowledge Repository
- OECD Library
- Brookings Institution Repository

Search Strategy 1 (Scopus)

TITLE-ABS-KEY (“creative economy” OR “creative industries” OR “cultural industries”)

AND

TITLE-ABS-KEY (“sustainability” OR “ESG” OR “circular economy” OR “green transition”)

AND

TITLE-ABS-KEY (“developing economies” OR “Africa” OR “Nigeria”)

Records Retrieved: **126**

Search Strategy 2 (Web of Science)

TS= (creative economy OR creative industries)

AND TS= (sustainability OR ESG OR digitalisation)

Records Retrieved: **98**

Search Strategy 3 (Google Scholar)

“Creative Economy” + Sustainability + Governance + Africa

Records Retrieved: **143**

Search Strategy 4 (Institutional Sources)

Keywords:

- Creative economy sustainability
- ESG in creative industries
- Digitalisation and sustainability
- Circular fashion systems
- Sustainable film production

Records Retrieved: **121**

SUPPLEMENTAL FILE D

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Table D1: Inclusion Criteria

Criterion	Inclusion
Publication Period	2010–2026
Language	English
Study Type	Peer-reviewed articles, books, policy reports
Focus	Creative economy and sustainability
Geography	Global + Developing economies
Relevance	Directly addresses sustainability transition

Table D2: Exclusion Criteria

Criterion	Exclusion
Non-English	Excluded
Opinion pieces	Excluded
Newspaper articles	Excluded
Blog posts	Excluded
Duplicate records	Excluded
Weak relevance	Excluded

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE E - SCREENING LOG

Table E1: Screening Outcome

Screening Level	Included	Excluded
Title Screening	220	184
Abstract Screening	117	103
Full Text Screening	58	59

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE F

DATA EXTRACTION FORM

Table F1: Extraction Template

Variable	Description
Author	Study author(s)
Year	Publication year
Title	Study title
Region	Geographic focus
Industry	Fashion/Film/Music/etc
Sustainability Theme	ESG/Climate/Circularity
Methodology	Qualitative/Quantitative
Key Findings	Main findings
Policy Implication	Recommendations

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE G

EXTRACTED STUDY DATABASE (Sample)

Table G1: Sample Extracted Studies

Author	Year	Sector	Theme	Key Findings
Niinimäki et al.	2020	Fashion	Circularity	Fast fashion increases emissions
Albert	2021	Film	Green Production	Sustainable filming reduces carbon footprint
UNCTAD	2024	Creative Economy	Governance	Creative industries are major economic drivers
UNESCO	2023	Fashion	Sustainability	African fashion has strong green potential
OECD	2024	Digital Economy	AI Sustainability	AI increases productivity, but energy demand

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE H

SYNTHESIS TABLES

Table H1: Thematic Synthesis

Theme	Evidence Strength	Key Findings
Creative Economy Growth	Strong	Major contributor to GDP and jobs
ESG Adoption	Moderate	Increasing but uneven
Circular Economy	Strong	Especially strong in fashion
Digitalisation	Strong	Expands opportunities but increases energy demand
Sustainability Constraints	Strong	Financing and infrastructure are key barriers

Table H2: Major Themes and Sub-Themes

Theme	Sub-theme
Sustainability Practices	Circular economy, green production
Governance	ESG, policy, regulation
Digitalisation	AI, streaming, cloud systems
Constraints	Financing, infrastructure, informality

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE I

QUALITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

Table I1: Quality Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Assessment
Relevance	High / Medium / Low
Methodological Rigour	High / Medium / Low
Citation Strength	Strong / Moderate / Weak
Policy Relevance	High / Medium / Low