

Digital Matatus — Open-Source Transit Data for Nairobi's Informal Bus System

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Kenya

Quality score: 81/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

A university-NGO consortium GPS-mapped Nairobi's ~130 informal matatu routes and 3,000+ stops, producing the first standardised (GTFS) map of an informal transit system serving 3.5 million daily riders — later adopted into Google Maps and cited in peer-reviewed research.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation	3/3
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

[MIT, Columbia University, University of Nairobi & Groupshot \(funded by The Rockefeller Foundation\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

[Digital Matatus project site](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

[MIT News — Digital Matatus project makes the invisible visible](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

[Journal of Transport Geography \(2015\), ScienceDirect](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

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