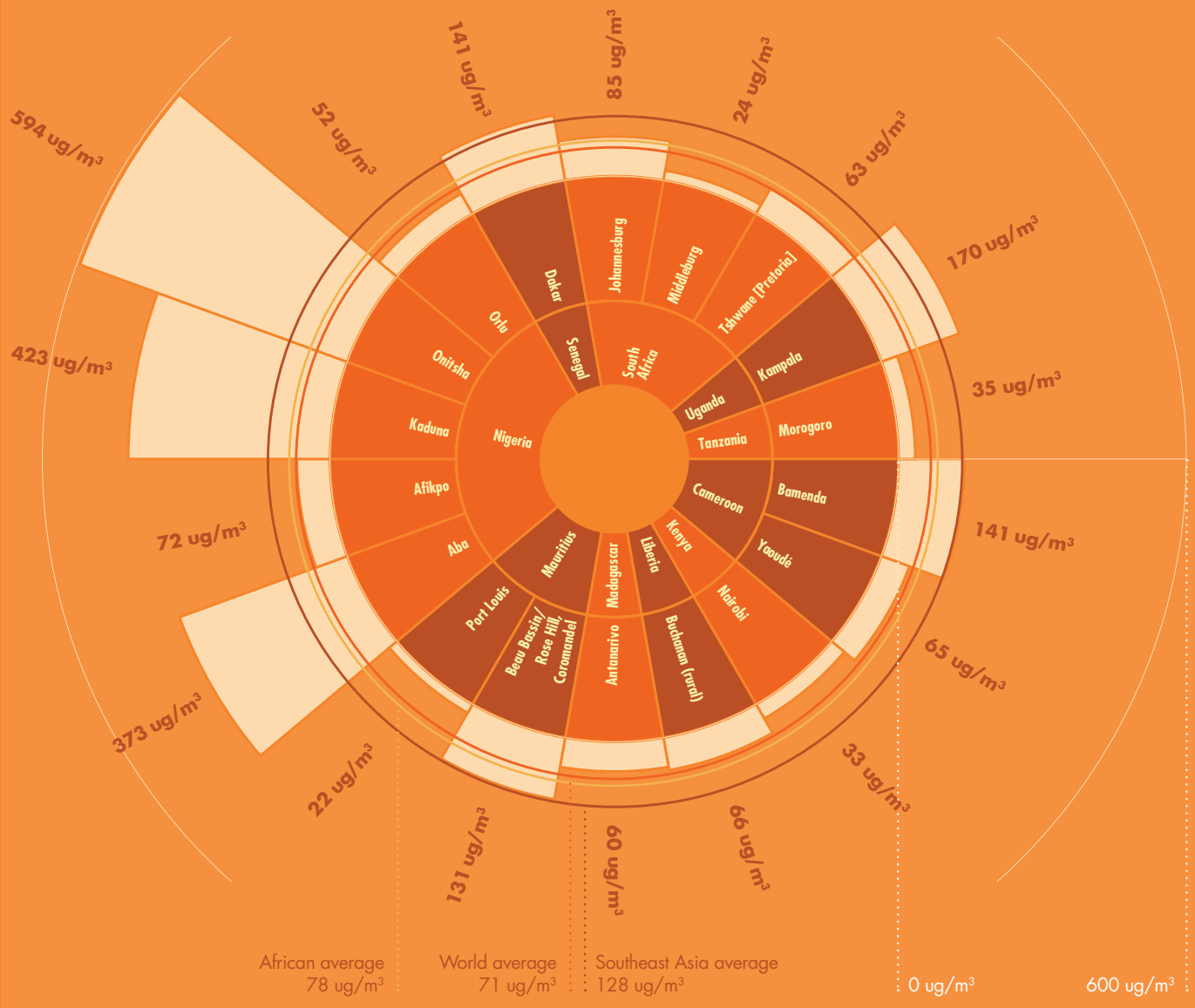
FIGURE 5.2.

POLLUTION IN SELECT AFRICAN CITIES

ANNUAL MEAN CONCENTRATION OF PARTICULATE MATTER

Pollution is becoming problematic in many African cities, though its prevalence varies from city to city. The following shows the annual mean concentration of particulate matter from selected African cities. In many cities the annual mean concentration of particulate matter smaller than 10 microns in diameter (PM10), a measure of pollution, is higher than the average city globally as well as similarly developing cities in Southeast Asia. Notably, population doesn't always determine pollution levels; for example, Nairobi, with 3.14 million citizens has far less particulate matter than Kampala's 1.6 million. In the below image the concentration of air pollutants are given in micrograms per cubic meter of air (ug/m^3).



Note: The concentration of air pollutant is in micrograms per cubic meter of air (ug/m^3).

Source: African Economic Outlook 2016 (available at: https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/AEO_2016_Report_Full_English.pdf) Ambient Air Pollution Database, WHO, 2014. Accessed on November 27, 2016. Primary source of data are official reporting from countries to WHO, official national/subnational reports and national/subnational web sites containing measurements of PM10 or PM2.5 and the relevant national agencies. Furthermore, measurements reported by the following regional networks were used: Clean Air Asia for Asia, and the Air quality e-reporting database from the European Environment Agency for Europe. In the absence of data from the previous sources, data from (a) U.N. agencies, (b) development agencies and (c) articles from peer reviewed journals and (d) ground measurements compiled in the framework of the Global Burden of Disease project were used. The dates for the data are not uniform and range from 2008-2014.