PUBLIC SPACE AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Supporting cities to develop city-wide strategies

Case of Wuchang District, Wuhan

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Significance of the City-wide Public Space Assessment: Global Agenda

- **SDG 11.4:**
  - “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage”

- **Target 11.7:**
  - “by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”

- **Indicator 11.7.1:**
  - “the average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by age, gender and disability”

Mentioned 10 times in 8 discrete paragraphs and 2 times in the vision

- With commitments to social, economic and environmental sustainability referenced to safe, inclusive, accessible green and quality public space for all
- Heritage preservation has been mentioned in 2 paragraphs (38 and 124)
Public space and heritage

- Public spaces are often part of the urban cultural heritage (places, parks, churches etc.)
- Public spaces have attributes that contribute to the definition of the value of the space (what kind of city would be Wuhan without its public spaces?)
- They are property, under responsibility and managed by the state (on the conservation level)
- Perceiving the space as a holistic concept
- Not always monuments and buildings:
  - Tangible heritage: archeology, art, moveable objectives, architecture and landscape
  - Intangible heritage: oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts
Process and tools

**Process**
- City-wide assessment
- Pilot projects
- Design principles
- Strategy and Policy
- Action plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation

**Tools**
- City-wide public space assessment tool
- Minecraft for community participation
- Place analysis tool
- Global Public Space Toolkit
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- Guide on City-wide Public Space Strategy
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- Compendium of best practices
Importance of City-wide public space assessment

• Determining the accessibility of public spaces in their respective cities and human settlements.
• Establishing the quantity of public spaces within their urban boundaries while providing a benchmark against which improvements can be measured. This particularly important in meeting local targets, and monitoring the implementation of SDG 11.7.
• Understanding the network of public spaces in their cities and identify enablers and barriers for connectivity and linkages.
• Understanding the distribution of public spaces and identify disparities.
• Assessing the quality of public spaces with a special focus on access, use, comfort, amenities, safety, and green coverage.
• Developing comprehensive and implementable city-wide public space strategies and policies.
The Methodology: Knowing where you are?

Identify gaps:

- Accessibility
- Safety
- Inclusivity

Monitor and Report on the SDG 11.7 and the NUA
WHAT IS A PUBLIC SPACE?

“Public spaces are all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive”

Charter on Public Spaces
Types of Public Space that are assessed

- Streets
- Public open spaces
- Public facilities
Adoption of the assessment tool

- Nairobi, Kenya
- Bamenda, Cameroon
- Kisumu, Kenya
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Wuhan, China
- Johannesburg, South Africa
- Kampala, Uganda
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Suleja and Minna, Nigeria
- Durban, South Africa
- Wuhan, China
The Work Plan

- Technical Support
- Survey
- Data Analysis
- Data Cleaning
- Questionnaire
- Student Training
- Inventory
- Report Writing and Identification of Gaps
- Pilot Projects
- Modeling
- Public Space Preparation
- Policy and Strategy
- Workshop Block by Block
Wuchang history
Wuchang District: Potential and Challenges

- Plenty of historical places
- Rich natural resources
- Good spatial connectivity in macro level.
- Loss of identity of space
- Lack of diversities in land use
- Lack of public green space
- Loss of public green space

2015 – 1,037,441
Data collection: snapshot

- **13 Sub-Districts**
- **140 Data entry points including streets**
- **122 Cleaned data points**

Area of Assessed public spaces: 3.3 sq Km
Data analysis: **City scale**

**Spatial Accessibility**
- % of land accessible within 400m (5mins walk)
- Street connectivity and density

**Quantity**
- Public Space per capita
- % of built up area that is public space including streets

**Location and spatial distribution**
- Number of public spaces per km2

**Environmental and Biodiversity**
- Green area per capita
- Mesh size of green patches (landscape connectivity)
- Ratio land consumption to pop growth
- Expend per cap preserve natural heritage
- % protected areas
- % permeable area
- Native biodiversity (birds) in built-up areas
- % invasive alien species

**Network**
- Number of public spaces per km2
Data analysis: Public space site scale / Quality

**Access**
- Accessibility level
- Infrastructure condition
- Proximity to residential/commercial areas
- Bicycle parking
- Vehicular parking

**Use**
- Number of users
- Type of activity

**Comfort**
- Air quality
- Noise level
- Cleanliness
- Visual amenity
- Safety

**Facilities**
- Lighting
- Seating
- Garbage bins
- Toilet facilities
- Signage
- Drainage
- Artificial shading

**Green coverage**
- Tree canopy coverage
Share of land that is open public space

Per capita open public space is **3.2m²/person**

Majority of the open public spaces were found in the historical area of Dengshengqiao
Share of land that is street

Majority of the areas in Wuchang are within 21 mins cycling distance and 25 mins walk. Land allocated to street is 14%
Wuchang historical area is very rich in historical and cultural resources. It has 2 national-class relic units, 23 province class relic units and 23 historical buildings.
Street connectivity

Majority of street intersections are within the historical areas of Dengsengqiao due to shorter block sizes.
Selected historical streets

- Yun Jian Qiao Street
- Taiping Shi Guanchong Fushan Xianggao Jia Xiang Street
- De Sheng Qiao Street
- Du Pi Di Street
- Yanzhi Lu Street
Natural heritage

11 open public spaces have more than a century of history

16 open public spaces have 50-99 years of history

83 open public spaces have less than 50 years of history
Proximity to destinations

58.3% of Wuchang district does not have open public spaces within 10mins walking distance.
Wuchang is the cradle of the regional Chu culture created by the people of Zhou Dynasty (1066B.C-223B.C.) Wuchang has several walking food streets such as Hubu alley and Wuchang streets that sell variety of local dishes including BBQ frog., events and festivals.
Diversity in open public spaces

Majority of public spaces in wuchang district are multi functional with 16 of them having both age and gender balance. 12 of these 16 open public spaces had a history of more than 50 years.
Way forward and recommendations

• Integration of culture and heritage into management plans of cities

• Strengthening decision-making capacities of local authorities on heritage and preservation

• Strengthening participatory management with different stakeholders (e.g. civil society, national agencies in charge of heritage and culture, private sector, education, professional sectors and international partnerships)

• Taking into account that cultural heritage is a non-renewable resource

• Broaden the concept: public space as merger of tangible and intangible heritage