



PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT



JIANGHAN | WUHAN | CHINA

THE FIRST ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES IN A DENSE URBAN AREA

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The methodology used in this report is based on the UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme City-wide public space inventory and assessment. UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative uses the City Prosperity Index which is a sampling methodology and there is a difference in the data reported. The data is also based on time and day of the survey and may vary due to weather condition and user perception.

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CHINA · WUHAN

JIANGHAN DISTRICT

A CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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- CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT
- WUHAN LAND USE AND SPATIAL PLANNING RESEARCH CENTER
- UN-HABITAT AND WUHAN LAND USE AND SPATIAL PLANNING RESEARCH CENTER

“Culture and climate differ all over the world, but people are the same.
They will gather in public if you give them a good place to do it.”

Jan Gehl

BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

Public space plays a vital role as a structural element of cities. This fact has lead authors, such as Lynch (1960), Jacobs (1961), Portas (1968), Lefevre (1973), Borja (1977), to consider that “the city is the public space”. It is therefore notable that public spaces plays an important role regarding formal, economical, social and environmental issues.

The quality of life in urban areas depends upon the availability of, and accessibility to social amenities. As such, high quality public spaces represent an excellent indicator of improved standards of urban life including physical and mental well being for all citizens. Public space provides a common platform through which city authorities, diverse groups including NGOs, CBOs the business community, academia and various government and intergovernmental agencies can collaborate and critically engage through a democratic process for sustainable development.

There is a need for public space to be created,protected and managed in a sustainable manner. The liveliness and continuous use of public space as a public good leads to an urban environment that is well-maintained and safe, making

It is in regard of the growing attention to public space that in 2011, at the 23rd Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), member states were at the forefront in supporting the resolution that mandated UN-Habitat to consolidate agency-wide work on public space, to develop and promote public space policy, coordination, disseminate knowledge and directly assist cities in public space initiatives.

In 2012, UN-Habitat’s Global Public Space Programme was established. Since then the Programme has grown to be active in a range of operational and normative activities in more than 30cities in over 20 countries.

A great milestone achieved in 2015 was the adoption of a target related to public space as part of SDG 11,

“By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”.

PROGRAMME FOCUS AREAS

The Global Public Space programme is organized around three main areas:

Partnerships and networking – An important part of the Programme is to bring together a broad global network of partners working on the issue of public space, and UN-Habitat has agreements and ongoing activities with various organizations. These partners are brought together annually at either the World Urban Forum and/or the Future of Places Conference.

Knowledge management, advocacy and tools – To institutionalize public space in the normative work of partner organizations and cities, UN-Habitat promotes a policy approach, develops tools and indicators and runs capacity building programmes.

Public space demonstration projects and city-wide strategies – To show the importance of public space on the ground, UN-Habitat supports cities in implementing public space demonstration projects, city-wide strategies and sectoral development plans. These activities are

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