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PS 3.2 001 Manyani
Changing spaces and places

HOW DO URBAN DWELLERS IDENTIFY WITH FEATURES WITHIN URBAN GREEN SPACES IN THE EASTERN CAPE?

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Where leaders learn

Interdisciplinary

This project is part of a bigger interdisciplinary project

A place to belong: urban planning, housing and greening

It aims to:

Understand and unpack the links between nature and humans within a developing context.

Human-nature interactions

(studies biased to the Global North)

- To date, interaction between people and nature within urban areas have mostly been viewed in western lens.
- Geographical focus in Europe and North America with poor representation in Africa and Asia.

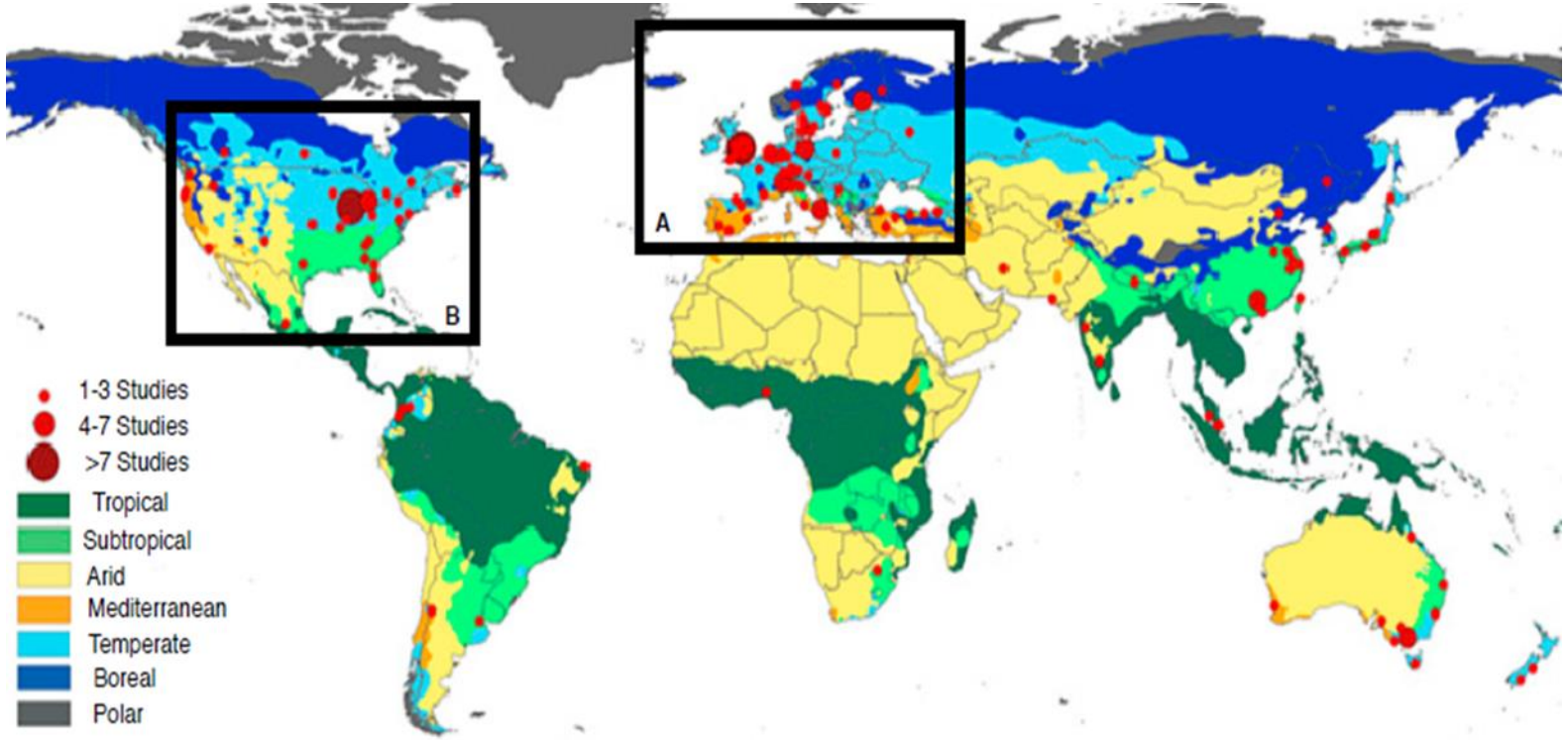


Figure 1.1. Geographic distribution of the 200 reviewed studies on the perception of urban biodiversity. (A, B) Main focus in Europe and North America (adapted from Botzat *et al.* 2016).

South African context: Urban green spaces.

Spatial apartheid is still very evident…

Figure 1.2. The state of housing in South Africa post apartheid.

Aim of the study

Research objectives & questions

The aim of the study was to understand and portray the sentiments of urban dweller's identification to features within green spaces.

2 To explore user attitudes and preferences towards features within urban green spaces

2.1 What features are identified as important and or necessary within different urban green spaces?

2.2 What sentiments are expressed towards different features contained within different urban green spaces?

2.3 What features and characteristics do users prefer or dislike about different urban green spaces?

2.4 What is the most preferred appearance of urban green space?

Study sites

Research methods

- Structured observations
- Household Survey

(360 interviews)

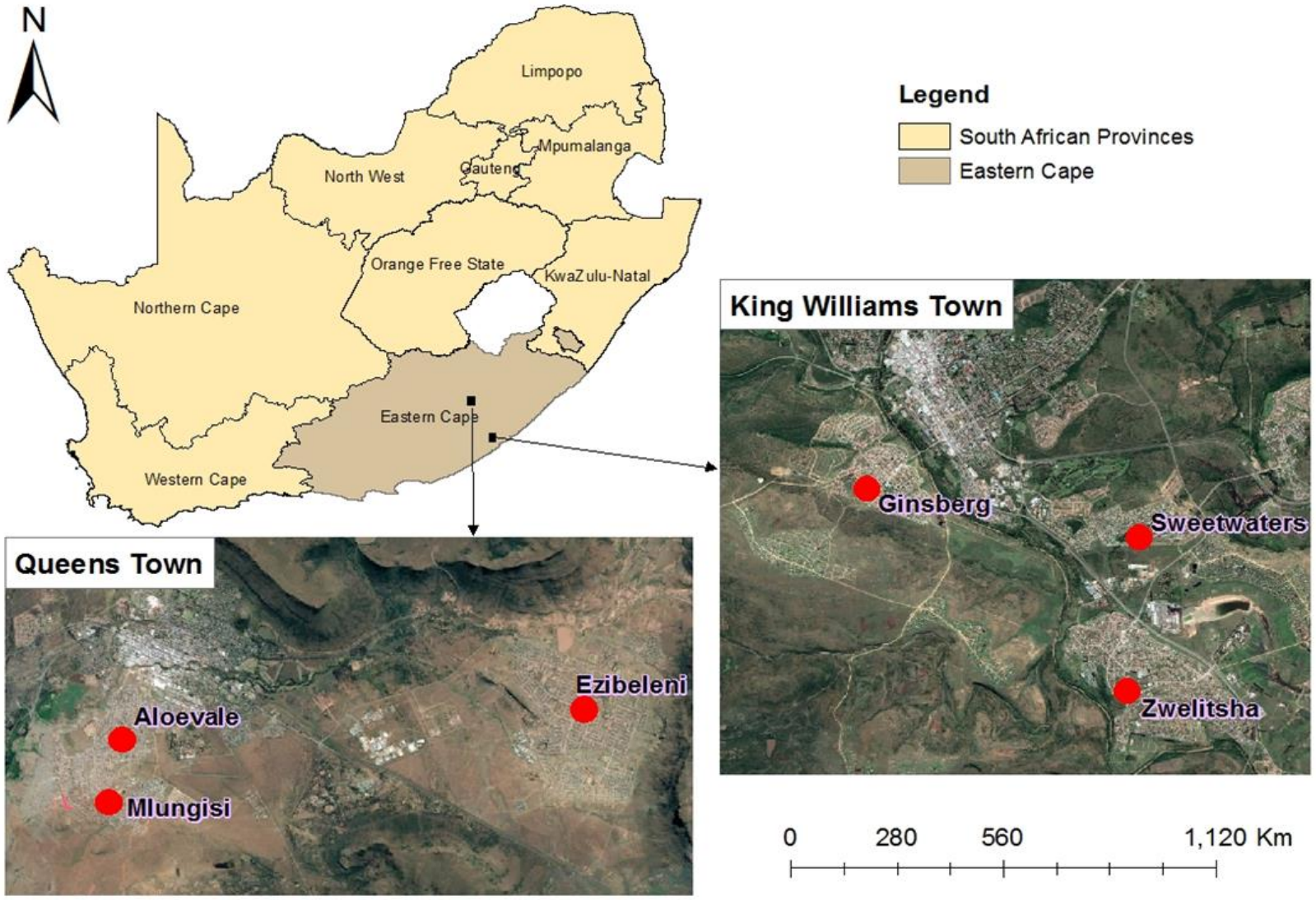


Figure 1.3. Location of the Eastern Cape and study towns.

The current picture

"Are the features available within the green spaces able to offer a better quality of life and well-being?

Figure 1.4. The appearance of some green spaces surveyed.

Results

Feature first noticed in green space.

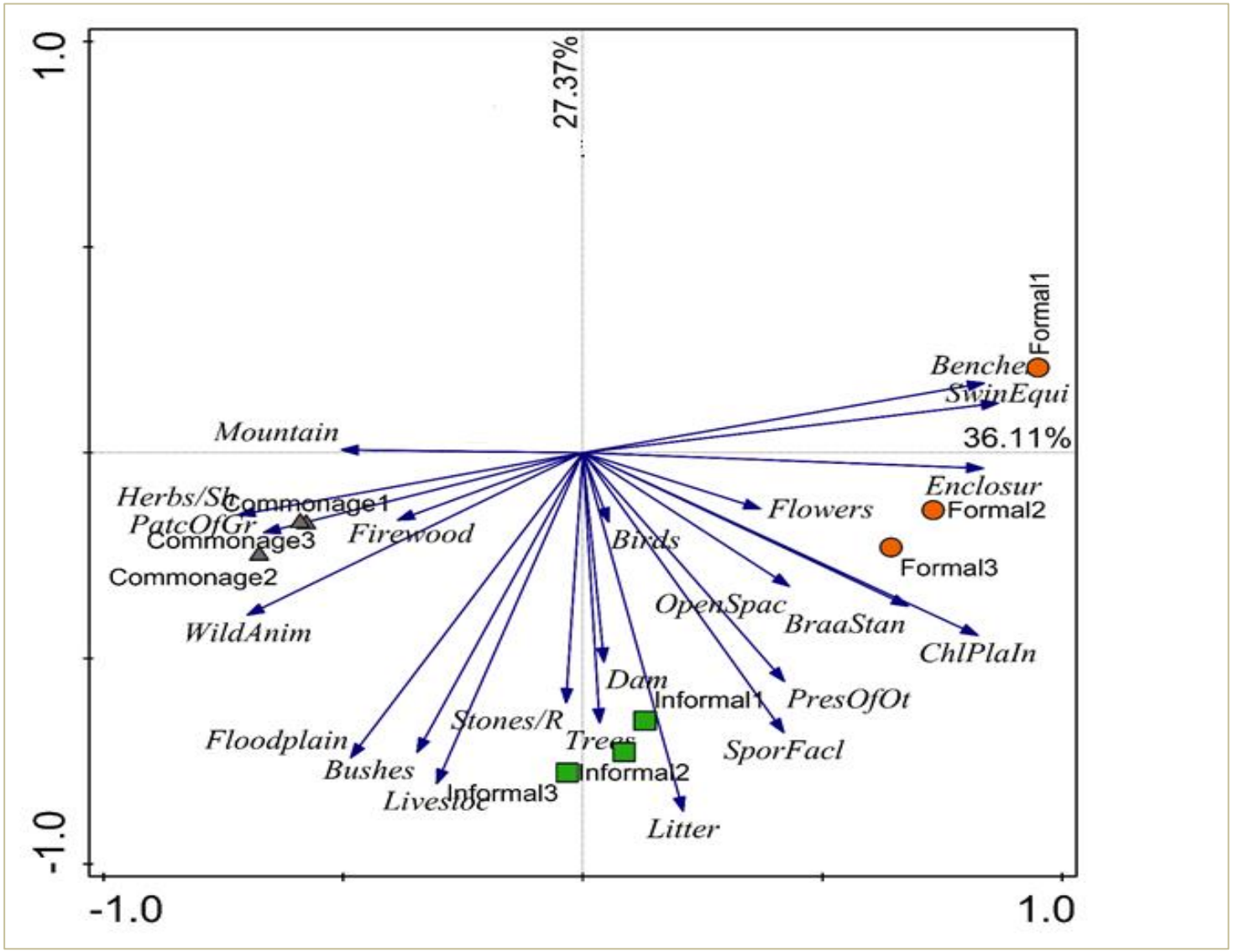


Figure 1.5. Biplot based on a principal component analysis (PCA) illustrating the relationship between the observed features and type of green space.

Attitudes towards the features

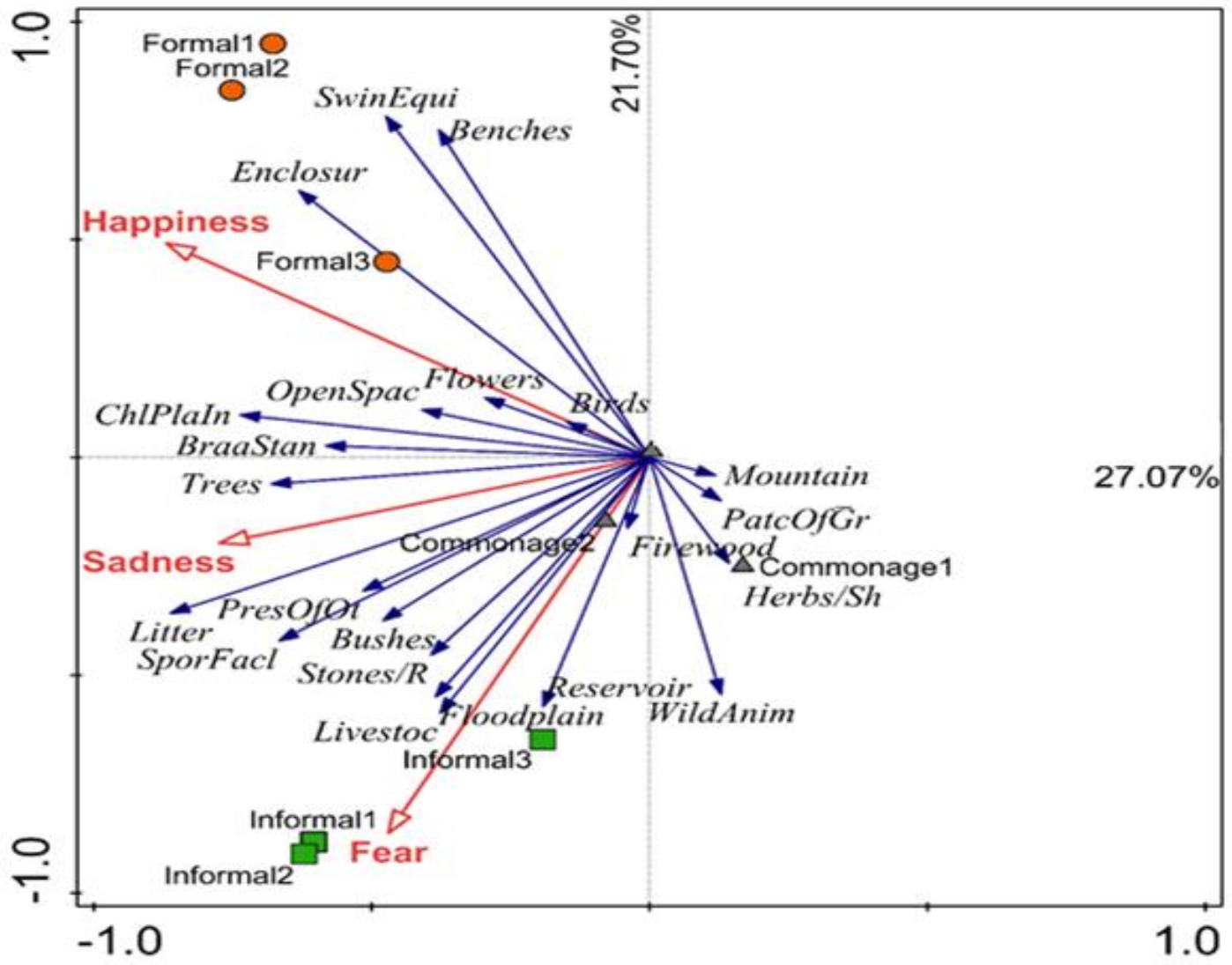


Figure 1.6. Ordination triplot for the Redundancy Analysis (RDA) of attitudes against features in green space and type of green space.

Negative sentiments

The park does not have facilities like gym, sports facilities and youth centre for us to go and learn different life skills rather just some broken equipment that is dangerous even for our young siblings to play on' (18-year old woman; King Williams Town, 2017).

It is scary to walk across this space when I am coming from school because they are guys who sit in there and they say all sorts of insults and sometimes they want to touch you even if you clearly tell them you are not interested' (19-year old woman, King Williams Town, 2017).

'There is no nature in these spaces next to our homes; some trees which have been there were cleared when people were erecting some informal settlements, when I want to really be in nature I go to the rural areas. There is no nature in the city' (45-year old man, Queenstown, 2017).

Positive sentiments

'This park is the only close place where my children can go and play in whilst I monitor them because other children play in streets and roads and that is not safe' (32-year old woman, King Williams Town, 2017).

'This space during the summer is so beautiful, many kinds of birds are available and when I walk to work, it is always interesting to see nature up close with various colourful birds and also they wake me up in the morning' (33-year old man, Queenstown, 2017).

'This space is the closest that resembles a natural environment to me, I grew up here in Zwelitsha and all I know is paved roads and buildings hence, this commonage makes my soul happy and at peace' (27-year old man, King Williams Town, 2017).

Ideal green space

A chosen by 73.1 %
B chosen by 0.8 %
C chosen by 23.9 %
D chosen by 2.2 %

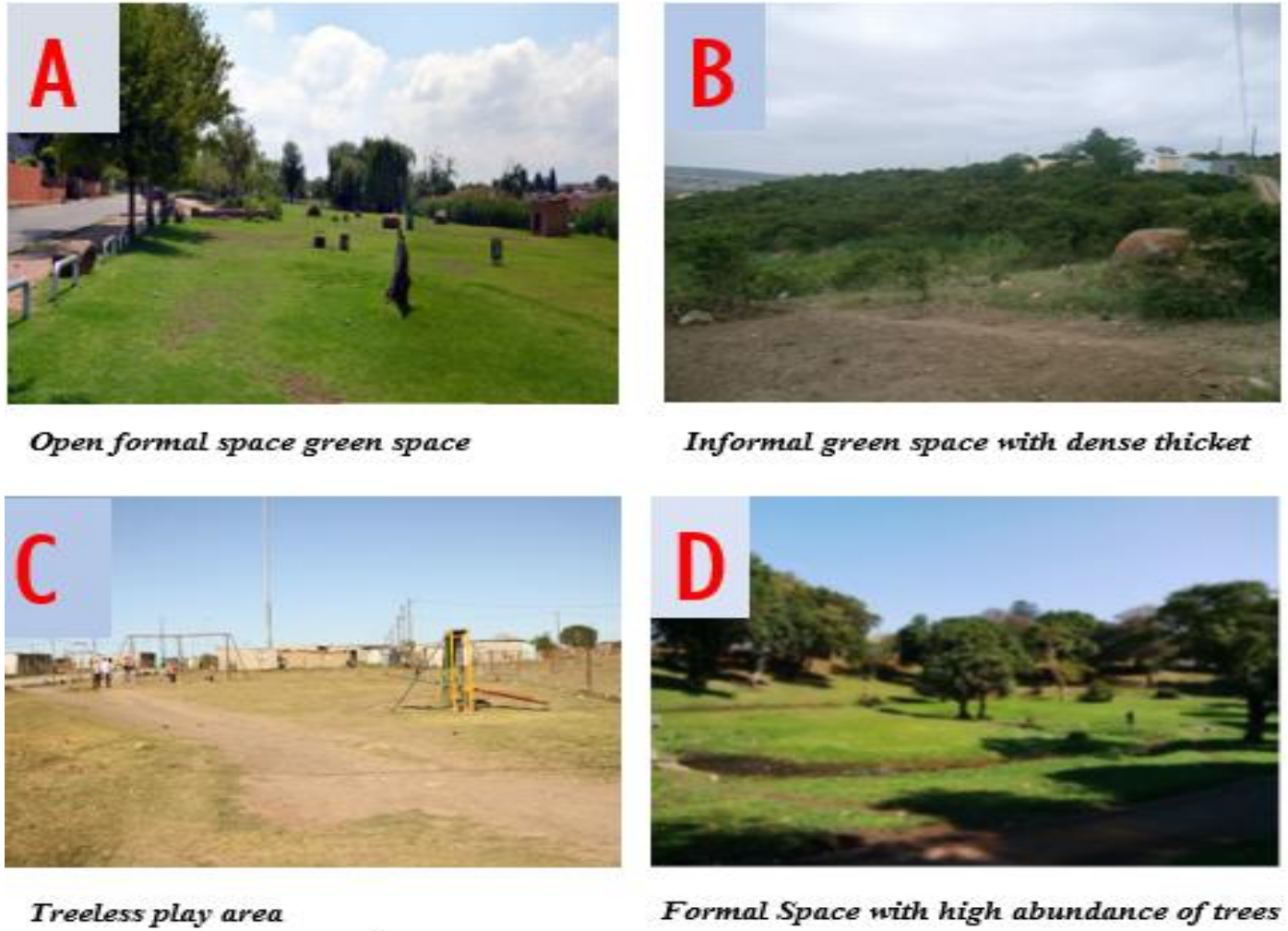
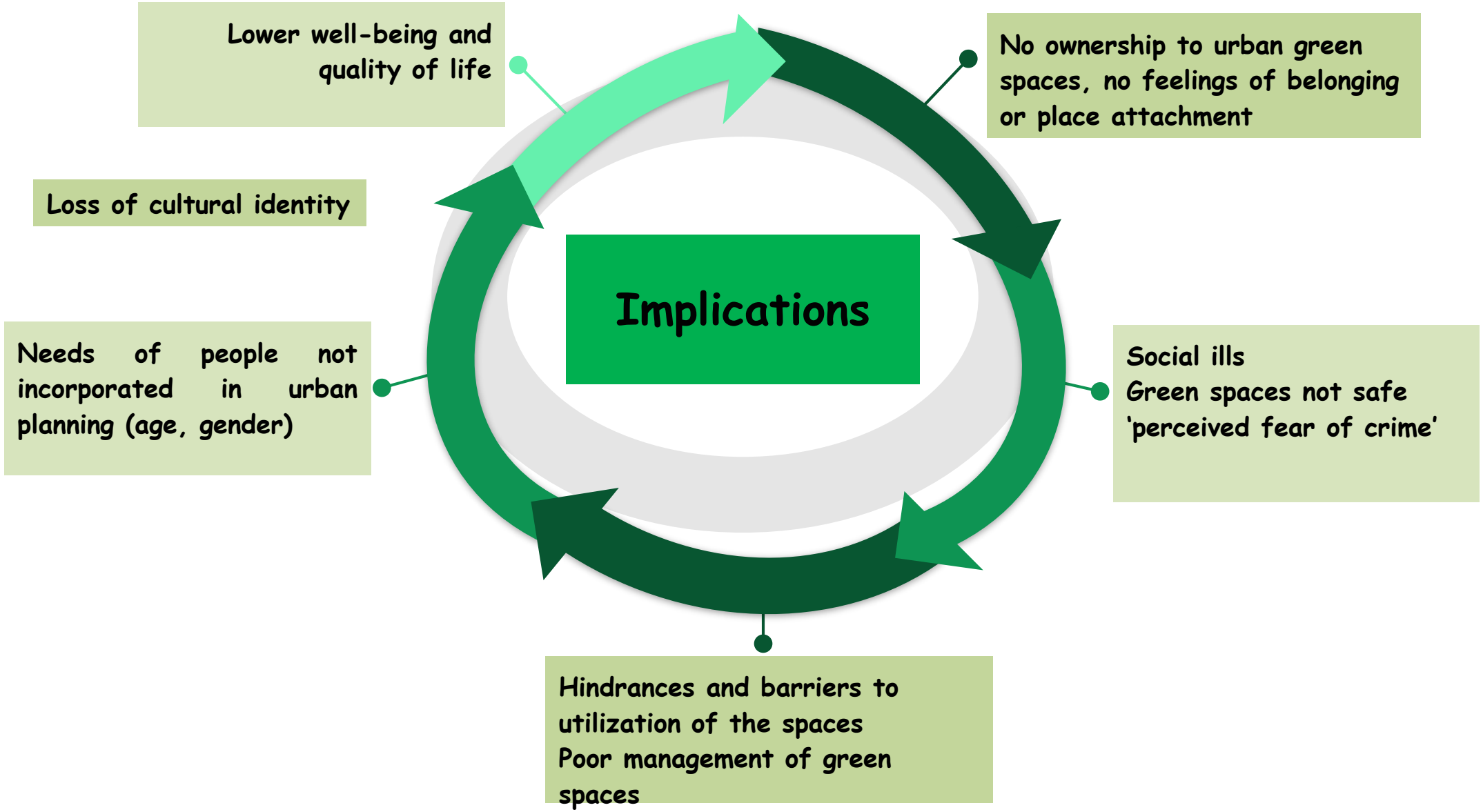


Figure 1.7. Photo choices offered to survey respondents to select which type of green space they preferred


Lower well-being and quality of life
No ownership to urban green spaces, no feelings of belonging or place attachment
Loss of cultural identity
Implications
Needs of people not incorporated in urban planning (age, gender)
Social ills
Green spaces not safe
'perceived fear of crime'
Hindrances and barriers to utilization of the spaces
Poor management of green spaces

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LETS TALK FURTHER

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