



Legal and Policy Issues in the Protection of Green Spaces in a Megacity

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Roundtable on Green Spaces in a Megacity
An Initiative of Community Conservation
Development Initiatives (CCDI)

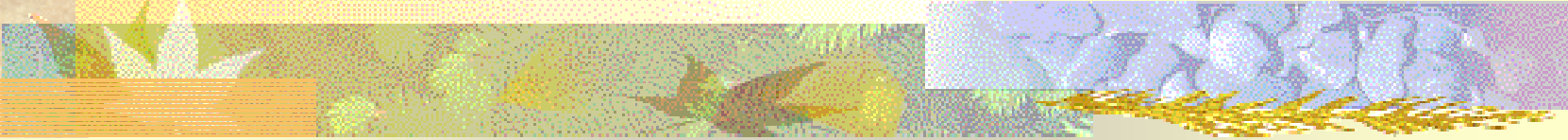
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Green Spaces as Survival Spaces for Cities

Benefits:

- Health promotion
- Leisure & recreation
- Nature conservation
- Educational opportunities
- Community focal points: social cohesion
- Improvements to the cityscape
- Urban agriculture/improving food security



Green Spaces as a Multidimensional Concept

- Private gardens, allotments
- Public: parks, playing fields, city squares, protected areas
- Natural: wetlands, marshes, waterfronts
- Man-made: gardens, parks



The Global Policy Perspectives

United Nations Urban Environmental Accords of 5th June 2005 adopted on World Environment Day by signatory mayors in San Francisco, USA

- Action 10 Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within half-a-kilometre of every city resident by 2015.
- Action 11 Conduct an inventory of existing canopy coverage in your city; and, then establish a goal based on ecological and community considerations to plant and maintain canopy coverage in not less than fifty percent of all available sidewalk planting sites.

Nigerian LGA Chairpersons were not represented at the signing!!



Local Policy Perspective

National Urban Development Policy:

Recommendation that Government should institute programmes for the deliberate development of recreational facilities and open spaces in urban centres.

But lacks specificity as to targets and timeframes for implementation and will be difficult to ascertain the extent of compliance.



Responsibilities for the Protection of Green Spaces

- See, town & urban planning laws/regulations
- Constitutional function of the municipalities, i.e. LGAs to construct and maintain parks, gardens and open spaces: Fourth Sched. to 1999 Constitution
- Planning powers are exclusively State-focused: landmark June 2003 decision of the Supreme Court, see further LURP Law
- Private action important too: e.g. CSR of the OPS and communities in providing funding for construction and maintenance




The Problems

- Federal/State contestations on land and funding of LGAs – The Land Use Act 1978
- Practice of planning condonations
- Lack of public participation in planning processes
- Community apathy: “my four walls syndrome.”
No outrage at loss and decline of green spaces



What can we do?

- Implementation of Urban Env. Accords. Green Spaces Declaration or Plan of Action.
- Documenting green spaces, *Cf*, the Legacy example on historical and cultural sites in Nigeria
- Green Spaces Watch by local NGOs and CDAs. Adopt a Green Space scheme
- Environmental education: lectures in schools, LGAs and CDA meetings, etc and the use of IEC materials
- Target local councillors on LGA's Parks Committees
- Collaborate with mass media
- Advocacy/campaigning for open and participatory town planning decision-making: law and policy reforms



.....Thank you for listening

If you would would like more information on the policy and legal issues discussed in this presentation, please contact:

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