

# Participatory Urban Greening in Arab Cities

A Methodological Guide For  
Inclusive Diagnosis, Co-Design  
& Community Stewardship of  
Public Spaces

**NATURIncMED** Promoting the  
naturalisation of public spaces with social  
inclusion and ecosystem services



## AUTHORS:

Insaf Ben Othman Hamrouni  
Nada Jouni  
Hassan Elmouelhi

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This guide was developed within the framework of the **NATURIncMed** project and finalized in **September 2025** following the participatory pilots conducted in **Madaba (Jordan), El Mina (Lebanon), and Gabès (Tunisia)**. The guide reflects the outcomes of the pilot phase and was finalized in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the service (MedCities, 2024).

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## Foreword

This guide was developed to support **Arab cities** in building **greener, more inclusive, and climate-resilient public spaces**. It brings together practical tools, participatory methods, and field-tested approaches designed to place communities at the center of planning and action. While rooted in the experiences of specific pilot cities, the lessons, strategies, and tools presented here are adaptable and replicable across diverse urban contexts. At its core, **this work reflects a collective commitment: to create public spaces that not only respond to environmental challenges but also strengthen equity, belonging, and local stewardship for generations to come.**

This guide was developed within the framework of the **NATURIncMed** Project, funded by **AECID** under the **Regional Masar Al'an Program**— an initiative that seeks to connect Mediterranean cities through social inclusion and ecosystem-based approaches.

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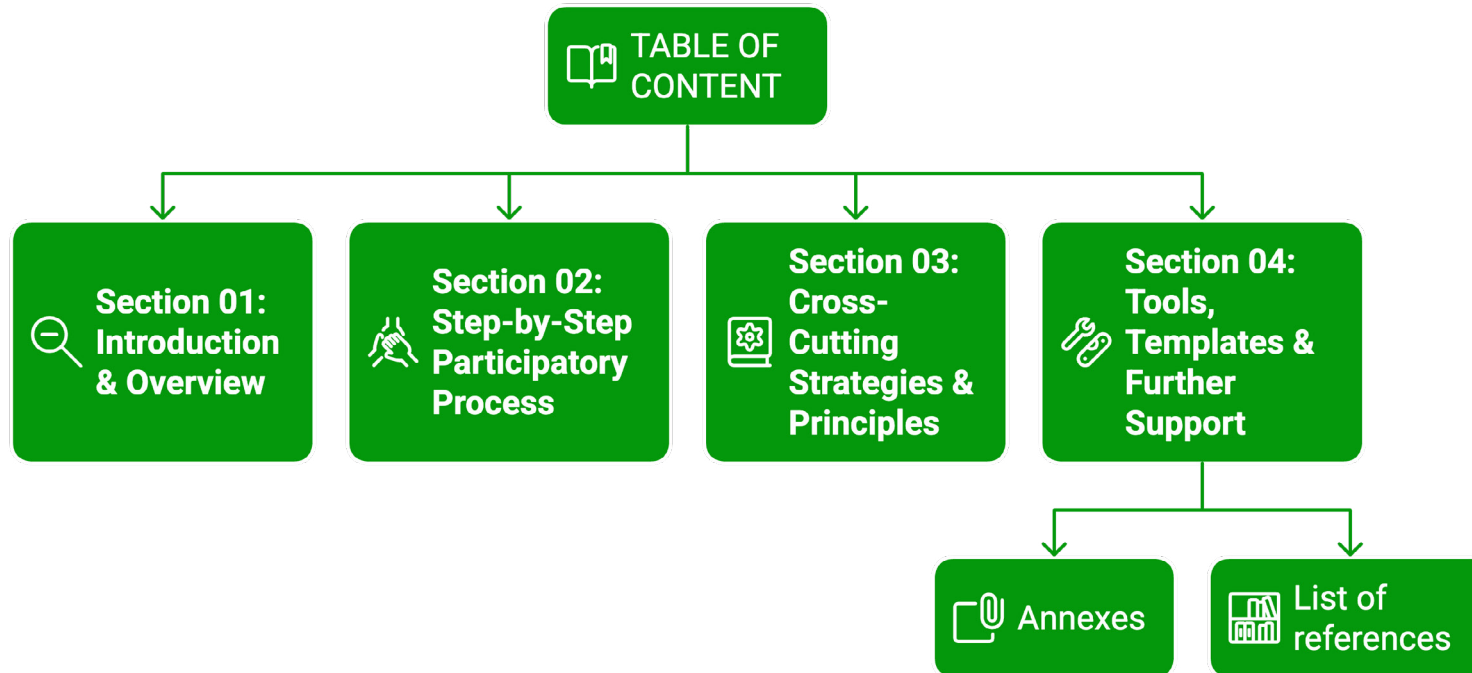
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# Section 1



## Introduction & Overview: Framing the rationale behind the guide

What is this guide about and why does it matter?  
(Why, What, For Whom, and How This Guide Matters)



## SECTION 1 – Introduction & Overview: The Case for Participatory Urban Greening in Arab Cities

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## Project Background

Arab cities face complex and overlapping challenges such as climate vulnerability, social inequality, water scarcity, and limited access to green spaces, especially in marginalized neighborhoods. At the same time, they host rich forms of vernacular knowledge, youth potential, and civic creativity. The NATURIncMed project was launched to promote nature-based solutions that center social inclusion and local agency in the design and care of green public spaces. This guide forms part of Deliverable D1 of the project and serves as a reference for implementation by pilot cities and beyond.

## Objective of the Project

To support three southern Mediterranean municipalities—Madaba, El Mina, and Gabès—in planning and designing green and socially inclusive public spaces by developing a context-sensitive participatory methodology. This process aims to serve as a lever for climate resilience and inclusive urban transformation.

**Special Note :** *This guide is more than a toolbox: it reflects a collective effort to contextualize participatory planning in the Arab region. It blends scientific knowledge, field-tested methods, and locally grounded insights to offer a flexible methodology tailored to the specific social, cultural, and environmental realities of Arab cities. At its core is a commitment to shaping inclusive public spaces—places that reflect community needs, foster social equity, and strengthen climate resilience. While developed for Madaba, El Mina, and Gabès, **the approaches here are designed to be replicable across the region—encouraging each city to adapt and transform the tools based on their own dynamics.***

## Objective of the Methodological Guide

This guide provides a step-by-step methodology, ready-to-use tools, and practical approaches for local expert teams and municipalities to engage communities in diagnosing, co-designing, and managing green public spaces. It is designed to be adaptable, inclusive, and applicable across diverse urban and socio-political settings in Arab cities. This guide does not only cover the diagnostic phase in depth, but also:

- Provides a comprehensive, end-to-end methodology for participatory urban greening in Arab cities;
- Covers all key phases: pre-assessment, co-design, implementation, capacity building, monitoring, and

# 1-0 GENERAL OVERVIEW

- adaptation;
- Integrates contextualised tools, capacity development, gender and inclusion considerations, and long-term sustainability;
- Introduces foundational principles, theoretical framing, and practical toolkits that go well beyond diagnosis.

### \*MedCities

Medcities is a network and unions of municipalities spread all around the Mediterranean region.



“Inclusive green spaces can act as platforms for **community empowerment**, enabling women, youth, and marginalized groups to participate in shaping their urban environments.”

— **UN-Habitat, 2021 – Cities and Pandemics Report.**

“Green infrastructure is **public** health infrastructure.”

— **World Bank, 2020 – Greening Cities**

“Green public spaces are **vital** to enhancing urban resilience and improving quality of life, especially in dense and underserved neighborhoods.”

— **UN-Habitat GPSP 2022, p. 4**

## About This Guide

This guide is more than a set of tools—it is a shared methodology, grounded in scientific insight, participatory practice, and real-world experience from Arab cities navigating urgent ecological and social challenges. Designed within the NATURIncMed project, it supports municipalities, civil society actors, and urban practitioners in shaping green public spaces that are inclusive, climate-resilient, and rooted in local realities. Urban greening today is not only about adding trees or green features—it is a strategic response to overlapping crises: rising temperatures, shrinking public space, water stress, and social fragmentation. Across the Arab region, these challenges are particularly acute, but so too are the region's assets: deep community ties, traditional ecological knowledge, and a rising civic awareness. This guide recognizes that green public spaces can serve as powerful levers for environmental restoration, social cohesion, and participatory governance.

### What does this guide offer?

It provides a step-by-step approach to planning, diagnosing, designing, implementing, and sustaining participatory urban greening projects—tailored to the context of Arab cities. Drawing from practices in the Arab region, it synthesizes diverse knowledge: environmental

science, community development, collective intelligence, and inclusive design. Its methodology is flexible, allowing for adaptation based on institutional maturity, community readiness, and cultural context.

## Who is this guide for?

The guide is written for municipal officials, urban planners, CSOs, neighborhood leaders, educators, and local experts committed to shaping greener, more inclusive cities. Whether you are initiating a new project or revitalizing an existing space, this guide will help you do so with and for the communities most affected.

### This guide is for:


- **Municipal Officials and Urban Planning Departments** : Local authorities and technical staff who seek to plan, implement, and maintain urban greening initiatives using tools tailored to their city's environmental, social, and spatial realities.
- **Urban Practitioners and Technical Experts:** Architects, landscape designers, planners, and environmental engineers engaged in shaping public spaces and integrating nature-based solutions into the urban fabric.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community Leaders:** Grassroots organizations

and trusted community figures who can mobilize local participation, build trust, and initiate collaborative action on the ground.

- **Educators, Youth Groups, and Environmental Clubs:** Schools, universities, and young people promoting environmental awareness, civic responsibility, and stewardship of green public spaces.
- **Women's Groups and Informal Social Networks:** Often underrepresented in formal planning processes, these actors play a vital role in sustaining community resilience, advocating for inclusive spaces, and ensuring that greening efforts reflect everyday needs.

**Participatory urban greening requires the engagement of diverse local actors who bring critical knowledge, networks, and capacities to co-create inclusive and climate-resilient public spaces.**

## How to use this guide?

 **This guide can be read non-linearly — users can move between sections according to their project's needs or stage.**

The chapters are organized around the full lifecycle of a participatory greening initiative—from preparing the ground



# 1-0 GENERAL OVERVIEW

to long-term care. Tools, checklists, and methods can be used in full or selectively. **Wherever you begin**, the guide invites you to treat urban greening not just as a technical task, but as a relational process—an opportunity to repair trust, share power, and regenerate ecosystems together. At its core, **this guide is an invitation: to co-create spaces that are not only greener, but fairer. It recognizes that participation is not a checkbox—it is a commitment to co-ownership, to dialogue across differences, and to building a collective urban future rooted in dignity, care, and ecological justice.**

**Note:** Participation is not only technical; it's political. Who is involved shapes what is prioritized.

### Women's Groups and Informal Social Networks

Advocates for inclusive spaces and community resilience

### Educators, Youth Groups, and Environmental Clubs

Schools and youth promoting environmental awareness

### Municipal Officials and Urban Planning Departments

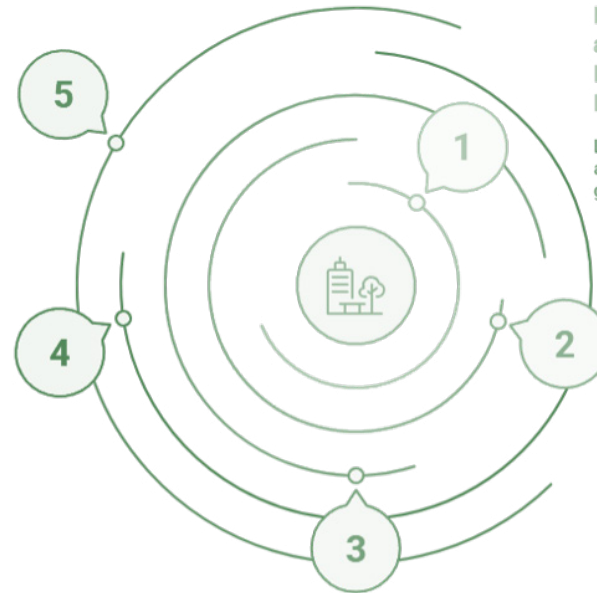
Local authorities planning and implementing greening initiatives

### Urban Practitioners and Technical Experts

Professionals integrating nature-based solutions into urban design

### Civil Society Organizations and Community Leaders

Grassroots groups mobilizing local participation



Diverse Stakeholders in Urban Greening

# 1-1 WHY GREENING MATTERS IN ARAB CITIES

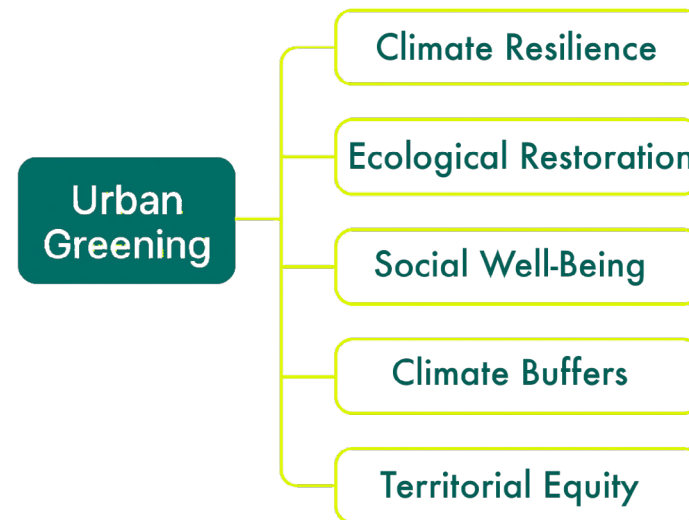
## Why Greening Matters in Arab Cities

**Urban greening** contributes to climate resilience, ecological restoration, and social well-being. Scientific studies show that green infrastructure mitigates the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, improves air quality, supports mental health, and encourages physical activity and social cohesion.

In Arab cities, challenges such as desertification, rapid urbanization, water scarcity, food security and inadequate infrastructure make nature-based solutions (NBS) particularly relevant. Green Public spaces can serve as climate buffers, especially in heat-prone areas, while enhancing territorial equity by improving access for marginalized communities.

Check Annex [3] : Urban\_Greening\_4\_Quadrant\_Why?

**Quick Reflection:** Think of your city—what kind of greening do you most often see? Where is it lacking, and for whom?



Unveiling the multifaceted Benefits of Urban Greening in Arab Cities

## 1.2 A COMMON CALL FOR GREENER, MORE INCLUSIVE URBAN FUTURES

### A Common Call for Greener, More Inclusive Urban Futures

Cities across the Arab region are increasingly confronted with complex environmental and urban challenges that impact the quality of life for their residents. Water scarcity, rising temperatures, and extreme weather events are placing pressure on already fragile urban ecosystems. At the same time, many neighborhoods—particularly informal or underserved ones—lack access to safe, inclusive, and green public spaces. These challenges are often compounded by planning practices that struggle to fully integrate community perspectives or respond flexibly to local needs. Recognizing these shared issues is a key step toward developing urban greening strategies that are both environmentally effective and socially inclusive.

**Participation is often informal, politicized, or tokenistic. Local frameworks such as CONSULTATION FRAMEWORKS (cadres de concertation)—multi-stakeholder coordination platforms that bring together municipalities, civil society, and local actors—can help anchor inclusive processes by providing structured spaces for dialogue, planning, and joint decision-making.**

*Reference:* UN-Habitat (2020). “Urbanization and Climate Change in the Arab Region.” The State of Arab Cities Report 2022 UN-Habitat: > [Download PDF](#)

### Shared Urban Challenges

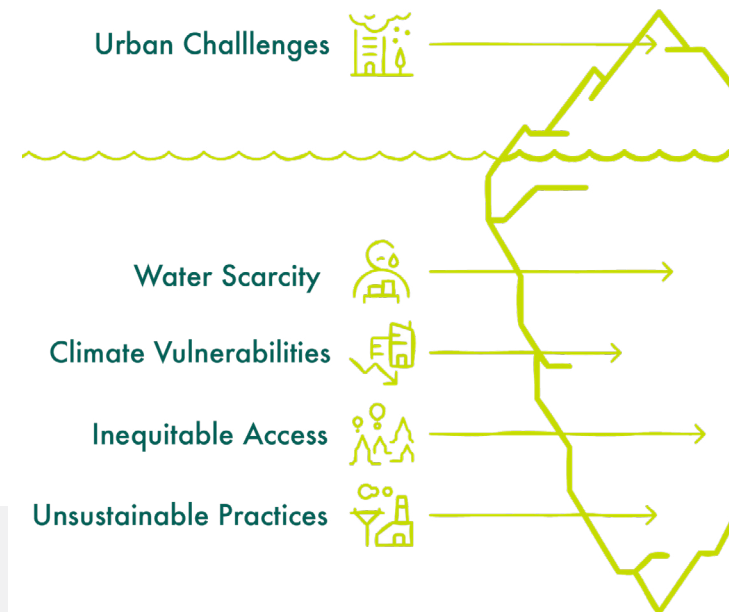
**Water Scarcity:** As per the FAO, over 80% of Arab countries fall below water poverty lines.

**Climate Vulnerabilities:** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports show that cities in MENA are among the most exposed to temperature rise and extreme weather.

**Inequitable Access to Green Space:** Informal settlements often lack basic infrastructure, let alone public parks or green buffers.

**Unsustainable practices :** Centralized planning; Exclusion of informal communities and gendered inequity; Lack of legally enforced participation mechanisms in many countries

☀️ **Participatory, culturally rooted urban greening offers powerful solutions for Arab cities facing climate risks, social inequities, and complex urban histories.**



The Iceberg of Urban Vulnerabilities

# 1-3 URBAN GREENING IN ARAB CITIES

## Urban Greening In Arab Cities

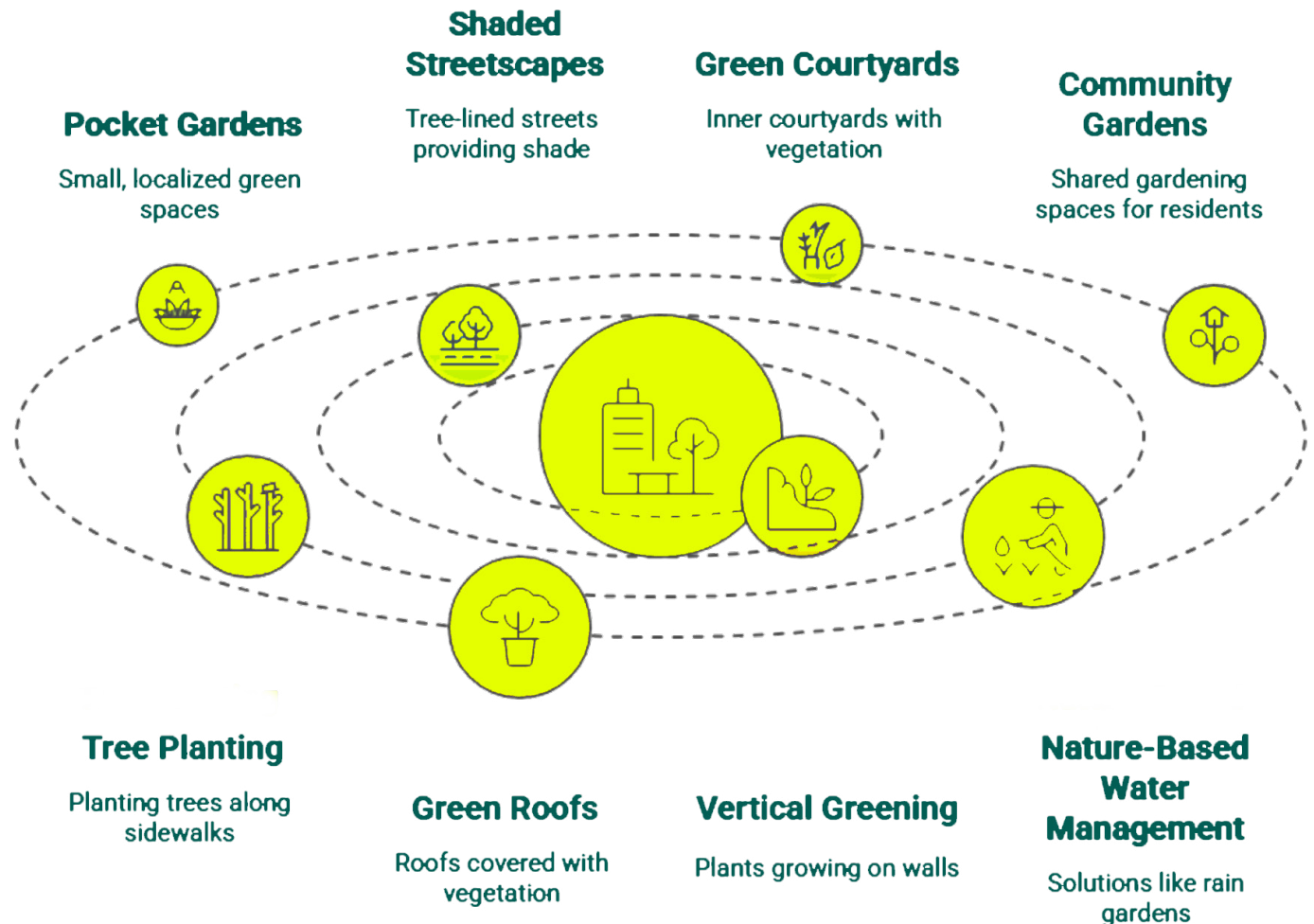
Building on the shared challenges outlined above, urban greening is increasingly seen as a vital strategy for improving neighborhood-level resilience, environmental health, and social cohesion in Arab cities. At this scale, greening initiatives go beyond large parks and include **pocket gardens, shaded streetscapes, green courtyards, community gardens, tree planting along sidewalks, green roofs, vertical greening, and nature-based water management solutions such as rain gardens and bioswales.**

These localized interventions not only help reduce urban heat and improve air quality but also activate underutilized spaces and foster stronger community ties.

**Ensuring the active participation of residents in planning, implementing, and maintaining these green spaces is key** to their sustainability and impact.

By embedding nature into the everyday fabric of neighborhoods, cities can address environmental and social challenges in an integrated, people-centric way—while advancing toward global sustainability goals.

Source: [GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME](#)



Enhancing Urban Resilience through Green Initiatives



# 1-4 CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS

## Challenging Perceptions: What We Often Hear About Urban Greening

This diagram captures the six recurring dialogues that often surface in participatory urban greening discussions across Arab cities. They reflect the tensions, doubts, and counter-arguments that shape community perceptions—from “People don’t care about greening, there are more urgent needs” (Dialogue 1) to “We should wait until there is stability” (Dialogue 6). Each dialogue highlights skepticism—about priorities, politics, funding, ownership, technicality, or timing—yet also opens the door to counter-voices that reframe greening as survival, ownership, visibility, simplicity, and urgency. These exchanges remind us that urban greening is not only technical but also deeply social and political, rooted in dialogue, negotiation, and shared meaning.

What reality shows

What reality shows



## 1-4 CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS

### What we often hear about Greening

What we often hear	What some actors might believe	What reality shows
“People don’t care about greening—there are more urgent needs.”	“Basic survival comes first. Greening is a luxury.”	In many fragile settings, green spaces offer dignity, mental health, and informal economic activity. Residents often initiate micro-gardens, plant shade trees, or reclaim neglected spaces—because they matter, especially when systems collapse.
“Green spaces will just be vandalized or politicized.”	“Better not to raise expectations.”	Vandalism is often <b>linked to exclusion</b> . When people are genuinely involved, <b>co-owned spaces are protected</b> —sometimes fiercely. And yes, green spaces are political—but so is their absence.
“There’s no funding for that.”	“Donors want impact; greening seems soft.”	Greening brings multiple co-benefits—climate resilience, food security, water retention, and health. Many agencies now support nature-based solutions in conflict zones as cost-effective long-term investments.
“People won’t take care of it.”	“Communities are too fragmented or traumatized.”	Community care often emerges precisely because systems are broken. Elders, youth, or women’s groups step up when space is meaningful. What’s needed is facilitation, not control.
“Urban greening is too technical.”	“It’s risky without professionals.”	Traditional and <b>vernacular knowledge</b> around trees, water cycles, and shade management is widespread. Greening does not start with permits—it starts with people, land, and intention.
“We should wait until there is stability.”	“It’s too volatile now.”	If we wait for stability, <b>nothing ever starts</b> . Greening can be a <b>seed of stability</b> —a symbol of return, recovery, and agency in broken urban fabrics.

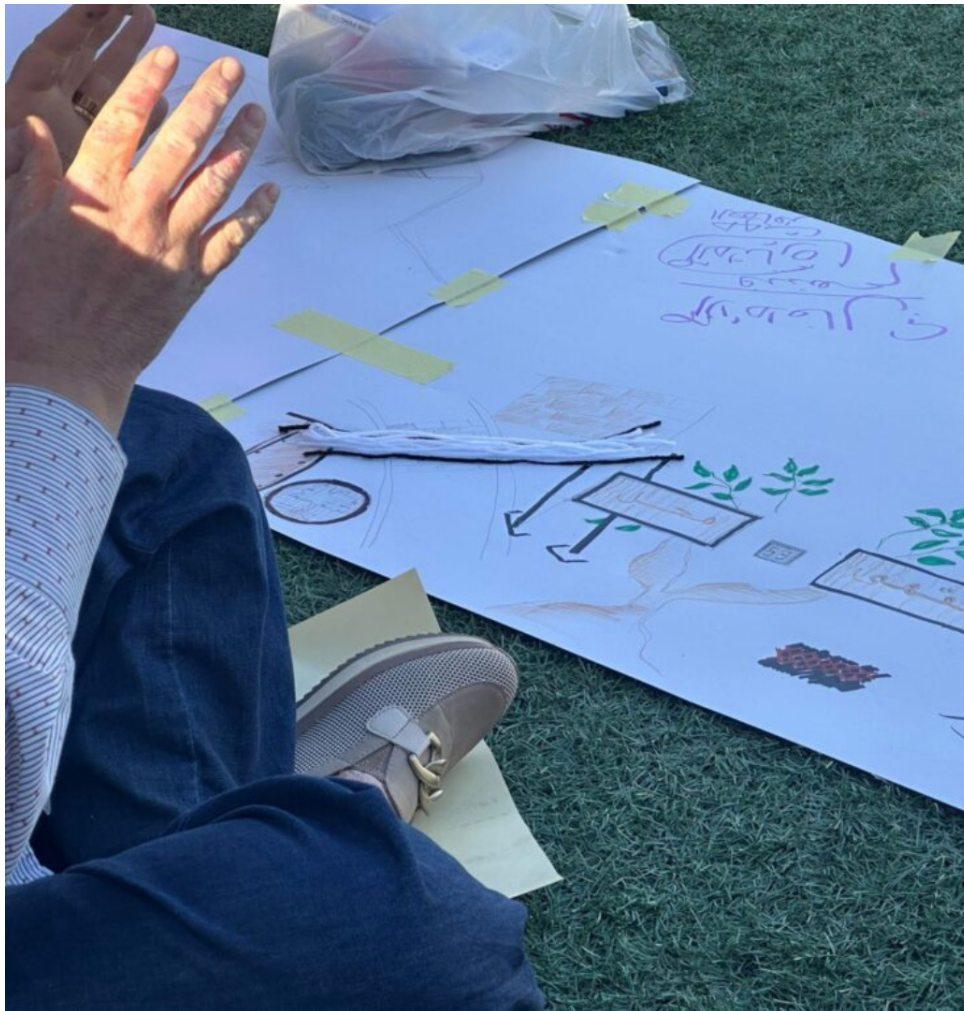


Photo credit: Authors  
Madaba Workshop June 2025  
NaturIncMed program

*Participation is not about slowing projects down or indulging private interests. When designed with care, it uncovers hidden knowledge, reduces future conflicts, and builds collective ownership. What is often mistaken for disinterest is actually a response to exclusion—authentic engagement transforms this into trust, equity, and lasting stewardship.*

# 1-5 ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES FOR ADAPTIVE URBAN GREENING

## Ecological Principles for Inclusive and Adaptive Urban Greening

Urban greening in Arab cities must extend beyond aesthetics and recreation to address pressing ecological, environmental, and social imperatives. The following guiding principles establish a foundation for designing resilient, inclusive, and locally grounded green public spaces that can adapt to climate challenges and foster long-term sustainability:

### Climate Adaptation

Rooted in adaptive planning approaches, this principle supports flexible, low-impact design strategies that respond to evolving climate conditions—such as heatwaves, water scarcity, and flooding. It highlights the importance of integrating local ecological knowledge to develop context-specific, practical, and culturally resonant solutions.

### Environmental Inclusivity

Informed by feminist<sup>(1)</sup> and inclusive planning theories—which emphasize the importance of equity, care, and the lived experiences of diverse social groups in urban design—this principle challenges structural inequalities and aims to ensure that urban greening initiatives reflect the needs, perspectives, and realities of marginalized groups, particularly women, youth, and informal communities. It advocates for green spaces that are safe, accessible, and socially meaningful for all.

### Co-Production and Collective Stewardship

Drawing on Elinor Ostrom's (1996) theory of collective action, this principle promotes the co-creation and shared governance of green spaces among citizens, local authorities, and civil society. This participatory model fosters a sense of ownership, strengthens community ties, and enhances the long-term sustainability of urban green assets.

### Territorial and Ecological Justice

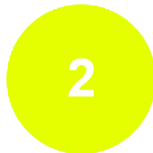
Grounded in Edward Soja's (2010) concept of spatial justice, this principle calls for the equitable distribution of ecological benefits—such as shade, clean air, and biodiversity—across all urban areas. It seeks to reduce disparities between underserved and privileged neighborhoods, ensuring that the advantages of green infrastructure are universally accessible, regardless of geography or socioeconomic status.

(1) Feminist planning theory critiques traditional urban planning's gender-blindness and promotes policies and spatial practices that respond to the diverse, everyday needs of all genders. It advocates for participatory, care-centered, and inclusive approaches to public space design (see Sandercock, 1998; Hayden, 1980)

- Sandercock, L. (1998). *Towards Cosmopolis: Planning for Multicultural Cities*. Wiley.
- Hayden, D. (1980). What Would a Non-Sexist City Be Like? *Signs*, 5(3), 170–187.
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). *Feminist Planning*

## Environmental Inclusivity

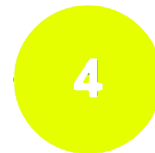
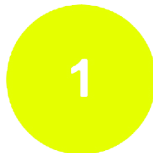
Ensuring green spaces are accessible to all



## Co-Production

Collaborative management of green spaces

**Climate Adaptation**  
Strategies to respond to climate changes



**Territorial Justice**  
Equitable distribution of ecological resources

Guiding Principles for sustainable Urban Greening<sup>(2)</sup>

- Yazar, M., & York, A. (2023). Nature-based solutions through collective actions for spatial justice in urban green commons. *Environmental Science & Policy*, Elsevier. => [Read the paper](#)
- Anguelovski, I., Calderón-Argelich, A. (2023). Greening plans as (re)presentation of the city: Toward an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach to urban spaces. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*. => [Read here](#)
- Bellè, B.M., Deserti, A. (2024). Urban greening plans: a potential device towards a sustainable and co-produced future. *Sustainability*, MDPI => [PDF Access](#)
- Hamann, M., Derickson, K., Anderson, P. (2024). The intersection of justice and urban greening: Future directions for research and practice. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*. => [Read article](#)

# 1-6 PARTICIPATION & DECISION-MAKING IN THE ARAB URBAN CONTEXT

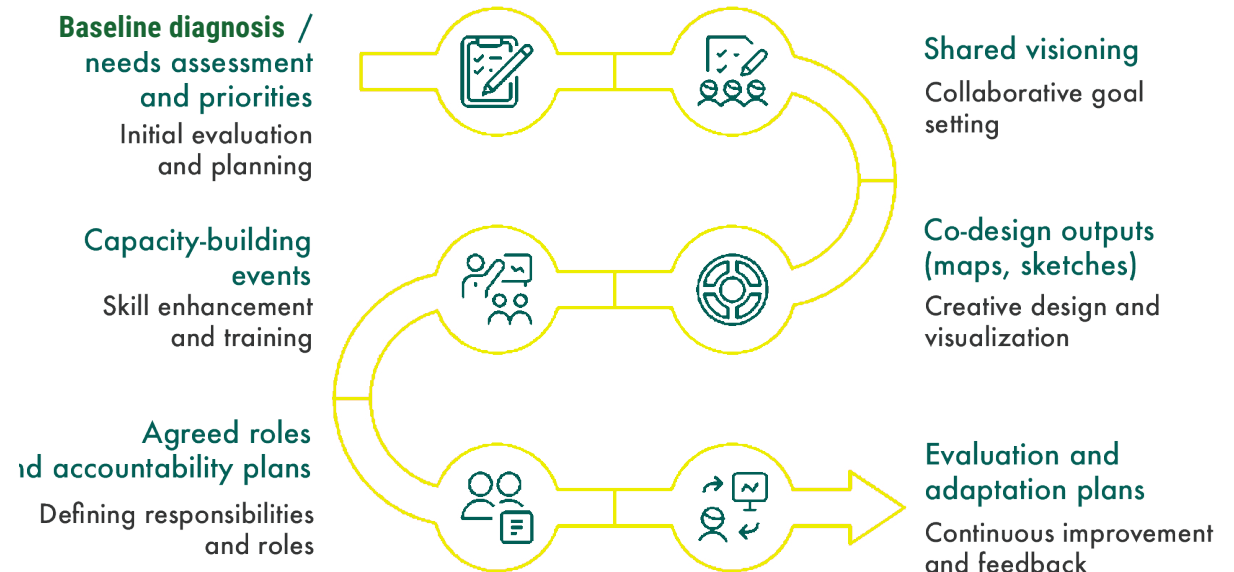
## Why Participation?

**Participation improves the legitimacy, sustainability, and resilience of interventions.**

Participatory methods address the “last mile” of urban policy (Cornwall, 2008)—ensuring that plans reflect actual needs. The involvement of the users should be through different phases along the process. This can enhance the trust-building and increase the sense of ownership of the users towards the project.

## Key Milestones & Outputs of Participation/Co-production

1. Baseline diagnosis/needs assessment and priorities,
2. Shared visioning,
3. Co-design outputs (maps, sketches),
4. Capacity-building events,
5. Agreed roles and accountability plans,
6. Evaluation and adaptation plans.



Achieving Effective Participation

## Rethinking Participation: From Assumptions to Evidence

This table highlights the gap between common assumptions about participation and the realities observed in practice. Planners and municipalities often believe that residents are uninterested, unskilled, or too self-interested, while communities are instead deeply invested when issues affect their daily lives. The evidence shows that well-designed participatory processes—through inclusive outreach, iterative dialogue, and creative methods—can reduce conflict, save resources, and generate more equitable solutions. Participation, when authentic and transparent, is not a symbolic act but a pathway to trust, ownership, and collective impact.

What we often hear	What we (planners/municipalities) might think	What reality shows
<b>“People aren’t interested.”</b>	“They’re too busy or don’t care.” “We’ve tried before, and it didn’t work.”	People are deeply invested when the issue affects their everyday life, especially in underserved or climate-vulnerable areas. Lack of participation is often a response to exclusion, not indifference.
<b>“It takes too long.”</b>	“We have tight deadlines; it’s inefficient.”	While participatory processes take time upfront, they reduce conflicts, redesigns, and rejection later—saving time and cost over the project lifecycle
<b>“Only the usual voices show up.”</b>	“It’s not worth it if we don’t get diversity.”	Well-designed outreach methods, like targeted walks, women’s circles, or informal cafés, bring in unheard voices. It’s not about who comes—it’s about how you invite and hold space.

## 1-6 PARTICIPATION & DECISION-MAKING IN THE ARAB URBAN CONTEXT

What we often hear	What we (planners/municipalities) might think	What reality shows
<b>“People don’t have the technical skills.”</b>	They might derail the process.”	Residents may lack formal training but hold powerful experiential and ecological knowledge. Design methods like PGIS, models, or storytelling bridge the gap
<b>We’ve already consulted them.”</b>	“They’ve had their say.”	One-way consultation ≠ participation. Real engagement involves iterative dialogue, shared decision-making, and visible influence over outcomes.
<b>“They just want their own interest.”</b>	“They’ll block public interest with demands.”	Local priorities often reveal blind spots in planning and help integrate social equity. With facilitation, individual concerns can lead to collective solutions.
<b>“Participation is just symbolic.”</b>	“It’s for show; nothing will change.”	When participation is authentic and transparent, it builds trust, collective memory, and long-term stewardship—even if not all suggestions are adopted.

*Participation is not about slowing projects down or indulging private interests. When designed with care, it uncovers hidden knowledge, reduces future conflicts, and builds collective ownership. What is often mistaken for disinterest is actually a response to exclusion—authentic engagement transforms this into trust, equity, and lasting stewardship.*

## The Quality of Participation: Toward Inclusive Urban Governance

Participatory processes in Arab cities must be read through the lens of urban dynamics. According to Arnstein’s ladder of citizen participation (1969), which is still widely referenced in concertation practice (see Lisode, 2017), participation ranges from tokenistic consultation to genuine citizen power. In Arab cities, where decision-making remains largely centralized, most participation occurs in the lower rungs of this ladder. Rather than simply seeking feedback, this guide advocates for forms of **concertation\*** (**Check the following highlighted box**) that allow citizens to generate proposals, share knowledge, and influence implementation.

While final decisions often lie with municipal or national authorities, the **quality of the process matters**, including transparency, feedback loops, and recognition of citizen input.

### Reflections: Who Shapes Greening?

“Participation is not a checklist—it’s a redistribution of power.”

#### Reflect on:

- Who has been included in previous greening projects?
- What forms of knowledge (scientific, vernacular, lived) were valued?
- How can you create space for underrepresented groups (youth, women, migrants)?

“**Cadre de concertation**” is a French term commonly used in participatory urbanism and public policy, which refers to a **structured, institutionalized framework** for dialogue and collaboration among different stakeholders—such as local governments, civil society, urban professionals, and citizens—during the urban planning process.

**It is not just a meeting or a single consultation event;** it is a long-term, organized mechanism designed to ensure ongoing communication, negotiation, and decision-making. The aim is to promote inclusion, transparency, and shared governance in shaping urban spaces.

#### This framework:

- Helps prevent top-down decisions by authorities without citizen input.
- Encourages co-creation of urban solutions, especially in complex or conflict-prone contexts.
- Functions through committees, workshops, round tables, public forums, etc.

#### Equivalent Terms

Language	Term	Contextual Use
English	Consultation Framework or Dialogue Platform	Used in participatory planning and community-based governance.
Arabic	إطار التشاور ( <i>Itār al-Tashāwur</i> ) or إطار	

# 1-6 PARTICIPATION & DECISION-MAKING IN THE ARAB URBAN CONTEXT

## Cultural Tips for Participation

Anthropological literature highlights the importance of grounding participation in local culture, trust, and everyday rhythms. In Arab cities, this means:

- **Storytelling as a tool:** Use narrative-based mapping, oral histories, and visual cards to engage participants.
- **Respect for elders:** Recognize and involve elders as custodians of memory and knowledge who can legitimize the process.
- **Language and accessibility:** Facilitate sessions in local Arabic dialects to ensure comfort, inclusivity, and authenticity.
- **Cultural and religious rhythms:** Align meetings and activities with religious, seasonal, and cultural calendars to maximize attendance and relevance
- **Trust-building practices:** Allow time for informal exchange, hospitality, and relationship-building, which are essential for sustained engagement.

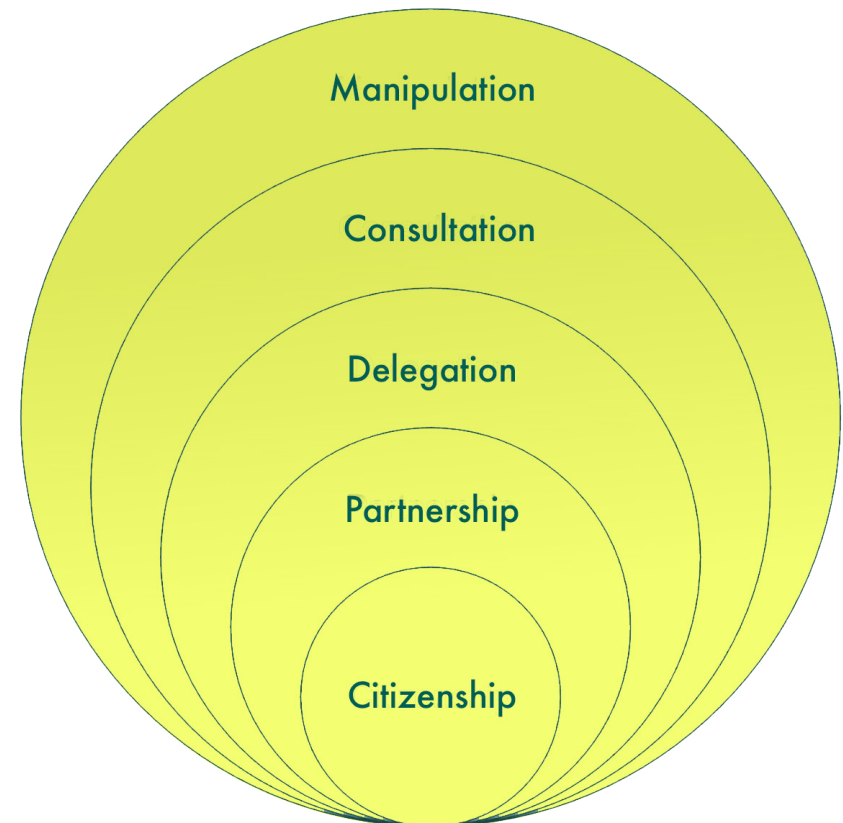
Tokenistic participation

Feedback sought from citizens


Citizens manage specific projects

Shared decision-making with authorities

Citizens have decision-making authority



Simplified Diagram of Arnstein's Ladder for Citizen Participation

 **Suggested activity:** "At what stage are we on the participation ladder—and where do we want to be?"

## Know-Being in Participation: Navigating Conflict Through Dialogue and Presence

### IMPORTANT:

Before we start: Participatory Greening as a Proven Scientific and Contextual Paradigm

Participatory greening is not a speculative approach—it is a globally and scientifically recognized paradigm deeply rooted in the field of participatory urbanism, community development and collective action. From Elinor Ostrom’s Nobel-winning work on commons governance (*Governing the Commons*, 1990) to contemporary studies in environmental psychology, behavioral science, and socio-ecological systems, it is well established that inclusive co-creation leads to more equitable, sustainable, and resilient urban environments. Contrary to common skepticism in some local contexts, participatory greening has found fertile ground across the Arab region—in cities like Tunis and Beirut—where civic networks, youth groups, and municipal actors have successfully collaborated to reclaim and revitalize green spaces. The challenge is not whether it works, but how to adapt and institutionalize it meaningfully in each unique setting. This requires deliberate blending of behavioral sciences, community development practices, collective intelligence tools, and deep respect for local values such as dignity (**كرامة**), mutual respect (**احترام**), and solidarity (**تضامن**). A strong participatory process is therefore not an imported model but a culturally attuned co-production, grounded in shared responsibility and plural forms of knowledge.

### Decision-Making and Expert Roles in Participatory Planning

Participatory planning does not negate the role of experts—it reframes it. Rather than positioning professionals as sole decision-makers, participatory greening invites them to serve as facilitators, enablers, and translators of technical knowledge into accessible, actionable information. Experts contribute essential insights into ecological design, climate resilience, and spatial planning, but effective decision-making must also reflect the lived realities, aspirations, and constraints of local communities. A quality participatory diagnostic thus includes not only a technical assessment of site conditions but also a socio-cultural understanding of group dynamics, informal governance, and local assets. It is a process that balances evidence-based design with deep listening—where decision-making emerges through iterative co-learning and trust.

### How should experts contribute to participatory planning?



**Traditional Role**  
Sole decision-makers,  
technical focus



**Participatory Role**  
Facilitators, enablers,  
community focus

### Structured Options: Avoiding Overload and Chaos

Participation does not mean asking residents to start from a blank page. One of the key responsibilities of technical teams is to curate a range of grounded, context-sensitive design options that reflect both constraints and possibilities. These options should be developed transparently and shared clearly—ideally through visual tools such as models, sketches, and participatory mapping—to allow informed community deliberation.

> Offering structured choices empowers residents while avoiding decision paralysis or chaotic inputs. It also ensures that the process respects time, emotional energy, and cognitive load—especially important when working with vulnerable groups. Without clear, facilitated options, participatory processes risk collapsing into either tokenism or confusion.

## **Participation Risks: Tokenism, Manipulation, and How to Prevent Them**

Participation, when poorly designed or politically instrumentalized, can easily fall into tokenism—where engagement is superficial, extractive, or performative. Signs of manipulation include one-way consultations disguised as dialogue, over-promising without follow-through, or selective inclusion of only favorable voices. To prevent this, participatory greening must be underpinned by three pillars:

- trust,
- knowledge sharing, and
- transparent communication.

Trust is built over time through genuine listening, responsiveness, and accountability. Knowledge sharing must be non-hierarchical and continuous—allowing all actors to make sense of the process and feel ownership.

Communication should avoid jargon and use multiple accessible channels:

- local radios,
- community newspapers,

- WhatsApp groups, and even
- cafés and markets.

Crucially, participation facilitators must be trained in ethics, neutrality, and power dynamics—especially in contexts marked by social tensions or past exclusions.

## **Tactical Engagement and Conflict Mitigation**

Participatory greening works best when it is embodied, visible, and lived. Temporary, low-cost tactical interventions—such as pop-up green spaces, public exhibitions, mobile workshops, and street activities—are powerful tools to prototype ideas, test community preferences, and foster excitement. These spaces become laboratories for shared imagination, risk mitigation, and even pre-implementation conflict resolution.

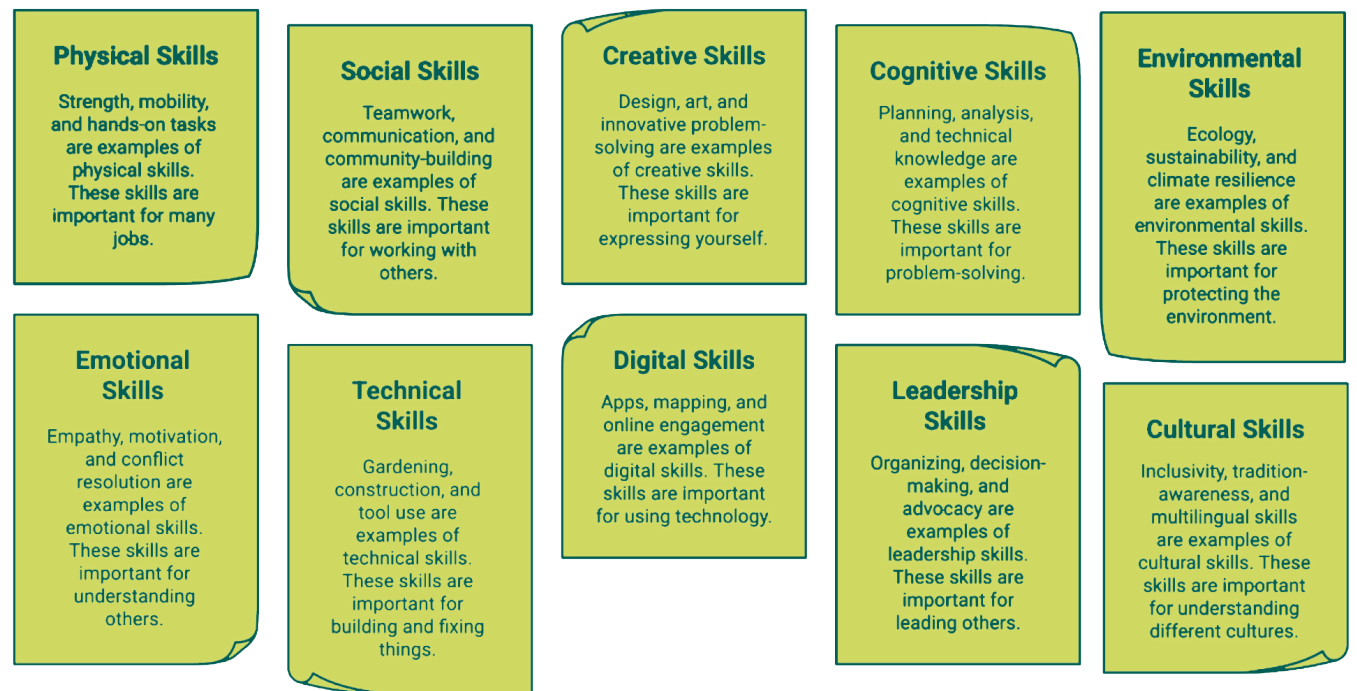
However, such processes are not friction-free. Community dialogue may surface latent tensions, power struggles, or conflicting visions. Managing these dynamics requires trained moderators and conflict-sensitive facilitation—skills that cannot be improvised by untrained municipal staff.

Successful participatory greening thus relies not only on method but also on skilled human presence: facilitators who can navigate uncertainty, mediate disagreements, and hold space for collective meaning-making.

## Key Know-Being Skills for Participatory Urban Processes

Participatory processes in urban greening are not only technical or procedural—they are relational. In diverse and often unequal urban contexts, dialogue can bring tensions to the surface: between authorities and communities, between visions for space, or between different social groups. Effective participation requires more than good tools; it calls for a shared culture of “know-being”—a mindful, relational approach that helps participants navigate conflict, build trust, and co-create with respect. This approach invites all participants—regardless of their background, role, or expertise—to show up with humility, empathy, and a willingness to listen. It reminds us that no single perspective holds all the answers and that constructive engagement depends as much on how we relate to others as on what we know.

Participatory urban greening and inclusive public space projects benefit from diverse skills: Physical (hands-on labor), Social (teamwork), Creative (design), Cognitive (planning), Emotional (empathy), Technical (gardening), Digital (mapping), Leadership (advocacy), Cultural (inclusivity), and Environmental (sustainability). Together, they ensure holistic community engagement and project success.



Skills Categories

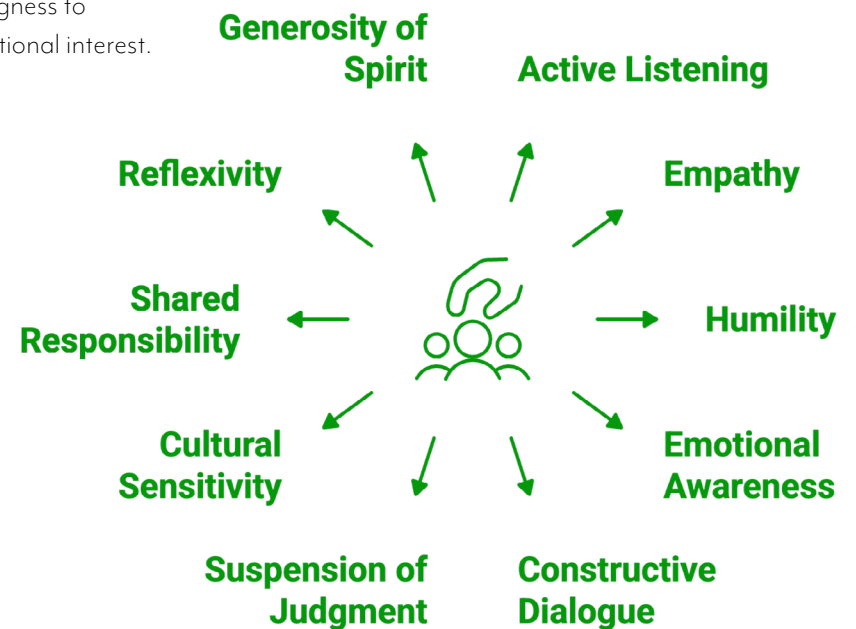
# 1-6 PARTICIPATION & DECISION-MAKING IN THE ARAB URBAN CONTEXT

## Foundations of active participation:

- **Active Listening:** Paying full attention to others, listening without interruption, and acknowledging what is being said before responding.
- **Empathy:** The ability to understand and share the feelings and perspectives of others, especially those whose experiences differ from one's own.
- **Humility:** Recognizing the limits of one's own knowledge and being open to learning from others, including non-experts and community members.
- **Emotional Awareness:** Being mindful of your own emotions and how they influence interactions, while respecting the emotional expressions of others.
- **Constructive Dialogue:** Engaging in conversations that are respectful, inclusive, and open to disagreement—focusing on shared understanding rather than winning arguments.
- **Suspension of Judgment:** Holding back quick assumptions or evaluations to allow space for deeper understanding of different perspectives.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Being aware of and respectful toward cultural norms, values, and communication styles that shape how people engage in public processes.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Understanding that the

quality of participation depends on everyone's conduct—not only facilitators or authorities, but all involved.

- **Reflexivity:** The capacity to self-reflect on one's role, power, and impact in the process and to adjust behavior accordingly.
- **Generosity of Spirit:** Approaching participation with openness, kindness, and a willingness to contribute beyond personal or institutional interest.



Foundation of Effective Participation

# 1-7 MAKING PARTICIPATION STICK: A PATH TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION

## INSTITUTIONALIZING PARTICIPATION: FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE

Meaningful participation doesn't happen by chance—it must be nurtured, structured, and legitimized. This guide proposes a step-by-step framework for municipalities and community actors to institutionalize participatory urban greening, even in the absence of formal legal mandates.

From mapping power dynamics and identifying legitimate local partners to creating voluntary charters, consultative frameworks, and green visions, this process helps ensure that participation is inclusive, transparent, and resilient—even in fragile or transitional governance contexts.

## KEY ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

**Municipalities** are central actors in shaping urban greening efforts. As the closest level of government to residents, they have a unique capacity to convene diverse actors, allocate resources, and embed participatory approaches into planning and implementation. **However, their effectiveness depends on their ability to navigate complex relationships with other institutions and community stakeholders.**

This section outlines the key functions of municipalities and the collaborative dynamics needed for inclusive and resilient urban greening.

### Key Roles of Municipalities in Urban Greening

#### **1-Institutional Anchor**

Municipalities provide the governance structure to legitimize participatory processes and integrate outcomes into formal planning tools (e.g., local development plans, budgets, maintenance strategies).

#### **2-Facilitator of Participation**

Beyond managing infrastructure, municipalities can convene and support participatory frameworks such as Consultation Frameworks, charters, and citizen-led diagnostics.

#### **3-Connector Across Scales**

Municipalities serve as intermediaries between local communities and higher-level institutions (governorates, ministries, funders), helping align grassroots needs with broader development agendas.

#### **4-Enabler of Implementation**

Through policy, procurement, and project delivery, municipalities play a critical role in transforming participatory visions into tangible, maintained green spaces.

# 01

## Collaborative Dynamics with other Stakeholders

Effective urban greening requires a multi-actor ecosystem where roles are complementary rather than competitive:

- **Civil Society and Community Groups:** Offer knowledge of local needs, facilitate community mobilization, and act as watchdogs for transparency and equity.
- **Technical Experts and Urban Practitioners :** Contribute specialized design and environmental knowledge but must work in co-production with community and municipal actors.
- **Educational Institutions and Youth Networks:** Bring innovation, environmental stewardship, and long-term investment in urban sustainability.
- **Private Sector and Donors:** Can offer resources and innovation but should align with community and municipal priorities through transparent partnerships.

# 02

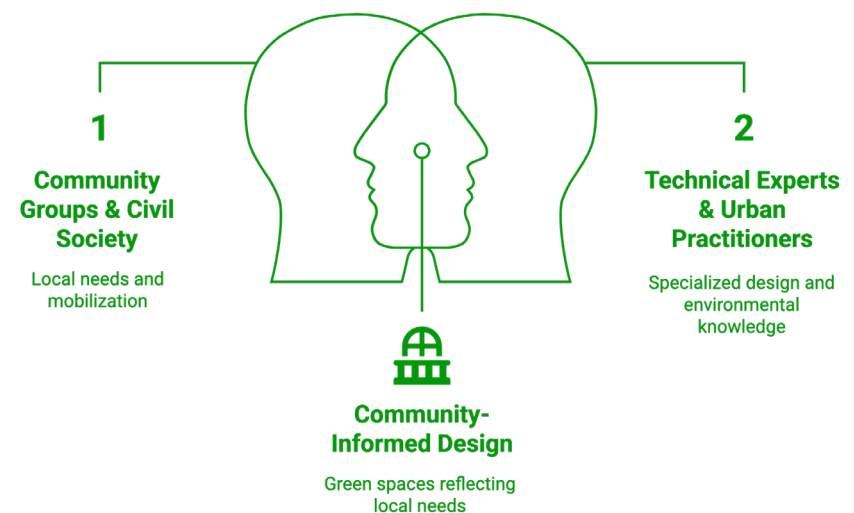
## Balancing Power and Building Trust

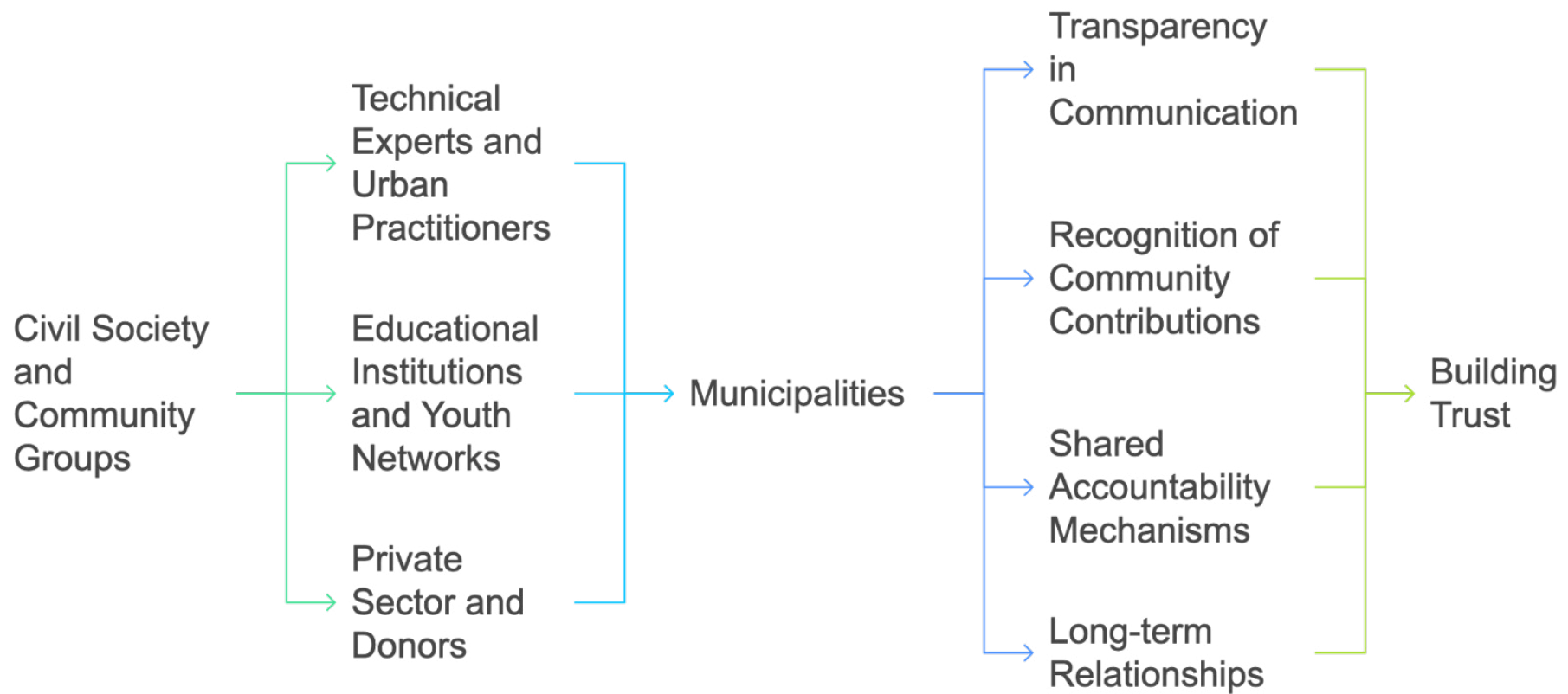
While municipalities often **retain decision-making authority**, effective collaboration depends on:

- Transparency in communication and expectations
- Recognition of community contributions as legitimate knowledge
- Shared accountability mechanisms
- Long-term relationships, not just project-based interactions

**Urban greening** can become a platform for building trust, especially in cities where past experiences with participation have been limited or symbolic.

## The Power of Collaborative Urban Greening





Collaborative Dynamics in Urban Greening

# 1-7 MAKING PARTICIPATION STICK: A PATH TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION

**Participatory urban greening** requires a multi-layered, interconnected ecosystem of actors, each playing a distinct but complementary role. The success and sustainability of green public space initiatives depend on recognizing these stakeholders not as passive recipients or technical implementers, but as co-creators, stewards, and decision-makers.

## Municipal Institutions

- **Urban Planning & Environment Departments:** Lead policy integration, technical oversight, and land-use alignment.
- **Gardening, Infrastructure, and Maintenance Units:** Provide implementation capacity and technical maintenance post-intervention.
- **Elected Officials and Mayors:** Grant legitimacy, ensure political support, and link to strategic urban agendas.
- **Municipal Focal Points:** Act as anchors for coordination, transparency, and community liaison.

## Community Members & Local Users

- **Residents:** The primary users of the space, whose needs and aspirations guide the design.
- **Youth, Women, Elders, and Children:** Each group brings unique perspectives, often shaped by social dynamics, exclusion, or care responsibilities.

- **People with Disabilities:** Must be included to ensure accessible, inclusive design.
- **Informal Workers and Vendors:** Often overlooked but deeply embedded in the social and spatial logic of public spaces.
- **Visitors & Commuters:** Temporary users whose needs (orientation, comfort, safety) can influence certain design decisions.

## Experts and Technical Professionals

- **Urban Planners, Landscape Architects, and Environmental Engineers:** Offer ecological, spatial, and design expertise.
- **Social Scientists, Anthropologists, Psychologists:** Provide insight into social dynamics, group behaviors, and inclusive engagement.
- **Conflict Mediators and Facilitators:** Key to resolving tensions, building consensus, and ensuring ethical engagement.

## Civil Society and Grassroots Actors

- **Local NGOs and CBOs:** Mobilize communities, amplify voices, and ensure continuity of care.
- **Youth-led and Women-led Initiatives:** Catalysts for innovation, creativity, and social sustainability.
- **Religious, Cultural, and Neighborhood Leaders:** Gatekeepers of trust and cultural

legitimacy.

- **Environmental and Education Clubs:** Create awareness and promote intergenerational stewardship.

## Private Sector and Economic Actors

- **Local Businesses & Shop Owners:** Often adjacent to or impacted by green spaces, they can be allies in care and security.
- **Social Enterprises & Contractors:** Deliver services, build infrastructure, or implement maintenance.
- **Sponsors & Donors:** May fund small-scale greening components, provide materials, or support public campaigns.

## External and Institutional Partners

- **Universities and Research Centers:** Contribute scientific input, data collection, monitoring tools, and student engagement.
- **National Agencies and Ministries:** Influence funding, policy alignment, and regulatory approval.
- **International Cooperations & Donors:** Bring technical assistance, networks, and multi-city knowledge exchange.

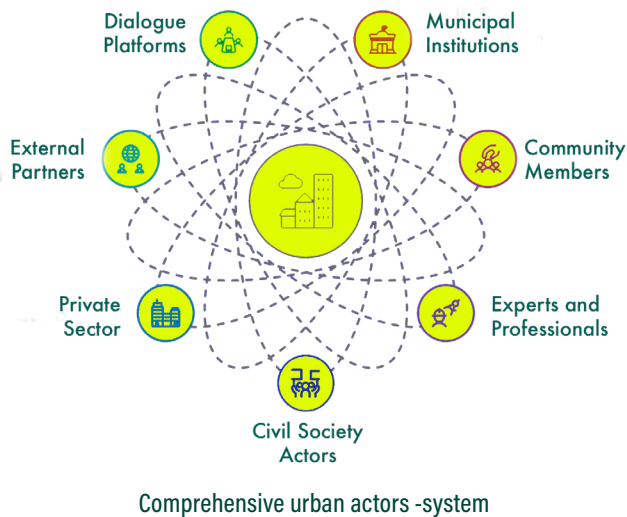
## Platforms for Dialogue and Decision-Making

- **Consultation Frameworks / Participation**

**Committees:** Ensure structured, regular, and inclusive collaboration among actors.

- **Charters of Engagement:** Clarify shared values, commitments, and co-responsibilities.

**A healthy stakeholder ecosystem** functions like a **living system**—each part influences and supports the others. **Effective greening** is not the result of any single actor but emerges through collaboration, mutual respect, and shared accountability.



## Checklist: Municipal Readiness for Participatory Urban Greening

Use this list as a self-assessment tool to evaluate whether a municipality is prepared to support participatory, inclusive, and ecological greening processes.

✓	Question	Notes/Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do we have a clear mandate or internal commitment to promote urban greening?	• Even if not formalized in law, a mayoral or council statement can help
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a designated municipal focal point or unit for public space or greening?	• Helps ensure accountability and continuity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have we mapped key local stakeholders (CSOs, schools, informal actors)?	• Needed to initiate a representative process
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there mechanisms for regular dialogue (e.g. Consultation Framework, public forums)?	• Enables shared ownership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do we have the capacity (staff, time, technical support) to implement participatory processes?	• May require partnerships with NGOs or experts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are we open to sharing decision-making or co-producing solutions with the public?	• Requires internal reflection on power and process
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do we have a basic communication strategy (online/offline) to keep communities informed?	• Visibility builds trust
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are we documenting processes to ensure transparency and build institutional memory?	• Useful for replication, donor reporting, and evaluation

Ready for section 2 ?



# Section 2

## Step-by-Step Participatory Process

From pre-assessment to adaptation



## SECTION 1 – Step-by-Step Participatory Process

### **Table of Content**

2.0 A framework for greening together

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2.1 How greening projects take shape

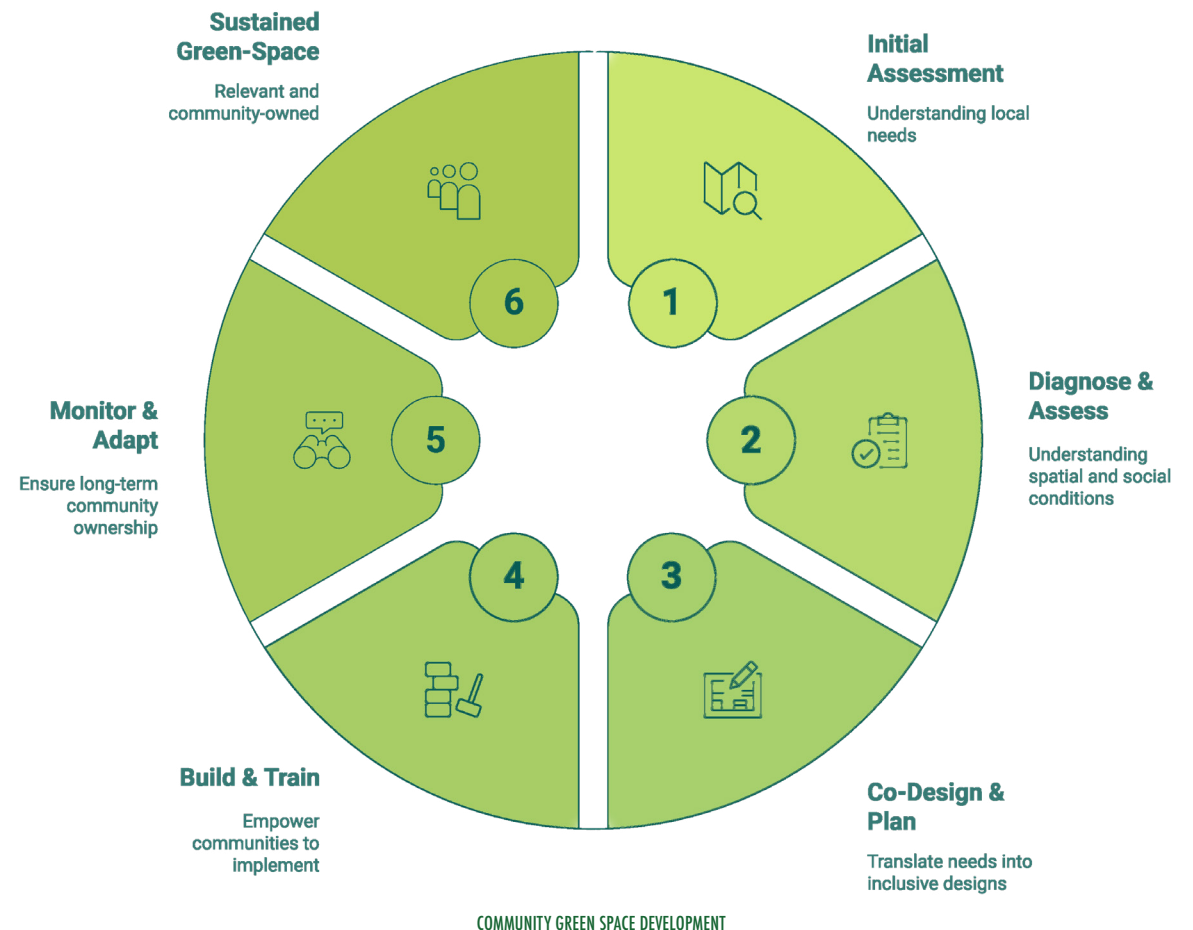
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2.2 Special detailed section: Participatory urban diagnosis methodology

## 2-1 A FRAMEWORK FOR GREENING TOGETHER

**Participatory urban greening** is not just about planting—it's about **building trust, knowledge, action, and care through collaboration**. This guide follows a **five-phase approach** designed for Arab cities, combining climate resilience, social inclusion, and local creativity. Each phase supports community actors, municipalities, and practitioners in shaping and maintaining green spaces that are rooted in lived experience.

-  **Seeds of Change** -> Start with local needs (Initial Assessment)
-  **Grounding** -> Understand spatial & social conditions (Diagnose & Assess)
-  **Co-Design** -> Translate needs into inclusive designs (Co-Design & Plan)
-  **Action** -> Empower communities to implement (Build & Train)
-  **Care** -> Ensure long-term ownership (Monitor & Adapt)
-  **Flourish** -> Achieve sustained, community-owned green spaces



## Translating Between Planners and People: The 5-Step Methodology

To support a **shared understanding** among diverse **stakeholders—municipal staff, planners, civil society, and private actors**—this 5-Step Methodology offers a simple, intuitive framework for designing and implementing participatory urban greening initiatives.

**However, they are not standalone.** Each step corresponds directly to **recognized urban project development phase(s)**, which follow a logical sequence from site selection to long-term care and reflection. At the same time, the steps are mapped to key human-centered design phases—such as **Listen, Understand, Imagine, Co-Create, and Sustain**—to capture the iterative, inclusive, and adaptive nature of participatory planning. By bridging these three approaches, we ensure the methodology speaks to both technical planners and municipal decision-makers, who are

familiar with project cycles, as well as community facilitators and design practitioners, who work with participatory and co-creative tools.

The matrix that follows illustrates these correspondences, showing how each step aligns with specific phases of project development and values the lived experiences, aspirations, and capacities of the communities involved.

**HIGHLIGHT:** For further operational details—such as specific tasks, responsible actors, guiding questions, and outputs—please refer to the companion document: “Urban\_Greening\_Project\_Development\_Phases.” It provides an in-depth breakdown of each phase to help teams translate this framework into actionable processes.

*From identifying community needs to sustaining inclusive green spaces, this process empowers people to co-design, build, and care for urban nature together.*

### Greening Methodology Alignment Matrix

	Our 5-Steps Phase	Steps from the Participatory Urban Diagnosis	Corresponding Urban Greening Phase	Purpose in Urban Greening
1	<b>1 – PREPARE &amp; LISTEN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stakeholder &amp; power mapping</li> <li>- Community/gender-sensitive walks,</li> <li>- Water mapping, PGIS, ABCD asset mapping,</li> <li>- Participatory site-selection,</li> <li>- Participation charter</li> </ul>	<b>Phase 1 – Participatory Site Identification &amp; Selection and Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis &amp; Opportunity Mapping</b>	Build trust and a shared understanding of needs, assets, risks, and opportunities before any design Clarify the institutional landscape, engage partners, and co-select relevant sites.
2	<b>2 – DIAGNOSE &amp; ASSESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participatory site scoping</li> <li>- Community mapping</li> <li>- Environmental and social diagnostics</li> <li>- Mapping exclusions and vulnerabilities</li> </ul>	<b>Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis &amp; Opportunity Mapping and Phase 3 – Feasibility Assessment &amp; Prioritization</b>	Diagnose environmental and social challenges and identify opportunities and constraints. Combine lived experience with technical evidence to reveal priorities and test feasibility.
3	<b>3 – CO-DESIGN &amp; PLAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of collective aspirations</li> <li>- Urban perception surveys</li> <li>- Visualizations of space usage and narratives</li> </ul>	<b>Phase 4 – Co-Design &amp; Stakeholder Mobilization and, Phase 5 – Technical Design &amp; Regulatory Pathways</b>	Translate diagnostic insights into inclusive, climate-responsive green interventions and prepare permit-ready technical designs. (Develop a shared design vision and technically feasible plans.)
4	<b>4 – BUILD &amp; TRAIN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Translate diagnosis into design criteria</li> <li>- Establish collective criteria and desired functions</li> </ul>	<b>Phase 5 – Technical Design &amp; Regulatory Pathways (execution prep) and, Phase 6 – Implementation &amp; On-Site Mobilization</b>	Turn drawings into reality while training and empowering local actors for long-term stewardship. (Mobilize resources, execute interventions, and ensure inclusive participation.)
5	<b>MONITOR, ADAPT &amp; REFLECT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring participation quality</li> <li>- Shared learning sessions</li> <li>- Documentation and storytelling</li> </ul>	<b>Phase 7 – Maintenance, Monitoring &amp; Adaptive Management and Phase 8 – Transition, Reflection &amp; Replication</b>	Ensure the green space evolves with community needs through participatory monitoring and adaptive management. (Strengthen long-term impact through monitoring, reflection, and scaling.)

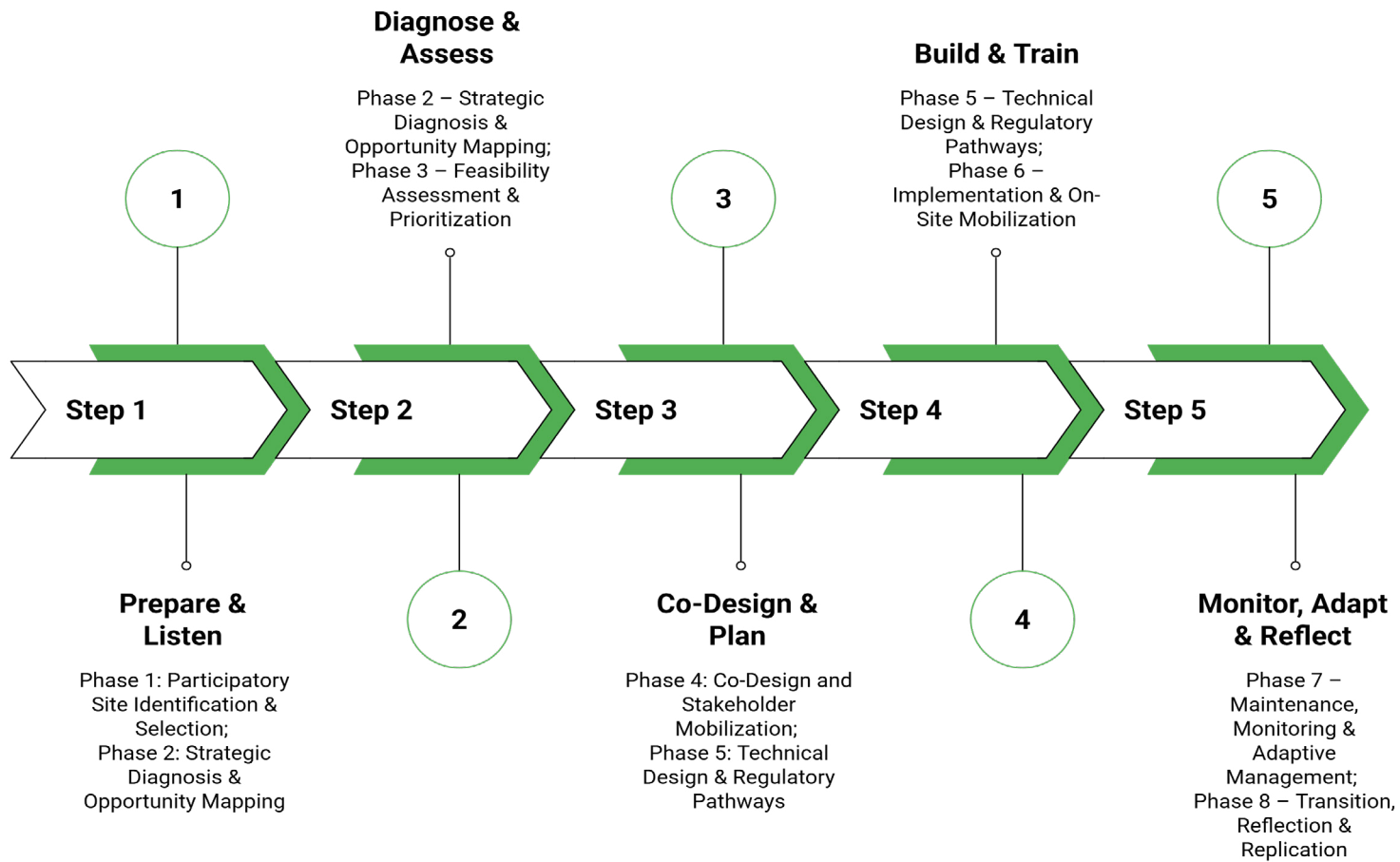
**Use This Framework if:**

- You want to showcase participatory diagnosis as an entry point into a broader human-centered greening process.
- You're submitting to donors or institutions familiar with design thinking, participatory planning, or governance innovation.
- You're working with youth, civil society, or NGOs using facilitation language like empathy, iteration, co-creation, etc.






## 2-1 A FRAMEWORK FOR GREENING TOGETHER



5-Step Method - Greening Methodology Alignment Matrix

# Before we start: Before Participation Begins: Strategy, Stakeholders, and Shared Commitments

**Participation strategy**  (not participatory design) needs to be developed to ensure the success of the different steps.

**Before** launching any participatory activities, it is essential to take the time to map and mobilize key stakeholders, including municipal departments, community leaders, technical experts, and civil society actors. **This early step ensures** that the right people are involved from the outset—not just during events. Together, they should co-develop a shared action plan and participation strategy, clearly defining roles, responsibilities,

timelines, and communication flows. Just as importantly, this is the moment to identify any missing roles or capacities that may hinder project success—such as facilitation, mediation, or technical expertise—and plan how to fill those gaps. Laying this groundwork collectively builds ownership, trust, and accountability, setting the stage for meaningful and sustained collaboration.

## **Language Shapes Participation**

In participatory projects, **the words we use matter** as much as the tools

we apply. Language can open space for collaboration—or unintentionally close it. Whether you're a municipal officer, technical expert, or community facilitator, **being mindful of how we speak helps build trust, encourage honest dialogue, and prevent conflict.** This is especially important in diverse or sensitive contexts, where power dynamics and past exclusions may be present. Following, are common expressions to avoid—and respectful, constructive alternatives **that support inclusive participation and shared learning.**



## 2-1 A FRAMEWORK FOR GREENING TOGETHER

Expressions to Avoid—and What to Say Instead		
✘ Instead of saying...	✔ Try saying...	💡 Why it matters
“I don’t agree with you.”	“That’s an interesting point. Can you say more?” or “I see it differently; may I share why?”	Direct disagreement can shut people down, especially in hierarchical or community-based contexts. Encourage dialogue, not debate
“We already tried that; it didn’t work.”	“We’ve tried something similar—what do you think we could do differently this time?”	Keeps the door open for new perspectives and shows respect for the speaker’s idea.
“Let’s be realistic.”	“Let’s explore how we can make this idea feasible.”	“Realism” is often used to dismiss bold or visionary ideas. Reframe toward collaborative problem-solving.
“This is not your role.”	“Let’s clarify roles so everyone knows how they contribute.”	Avoid policing contributions. Everyone’s voice has a place; it’s about structuring participation, not excluding it
“The community doesn’t understand.”	“There are different types of knowledge—we need to make sure technical info is shared clearly.”	Never assume ignorance. Assume that knowledge may differ and adapt your communication.
“That’s just your opinion.”	“Thank you for sharing your perspective. Let’s see how others relate to it.”	Dismissiveness can silence participation. Treat lived experience as valuable.
“Let’s not go off-topic.”	“That’s a valuable point. Let’s note it and come back if time allows.”	Keeps discussions respectful without shutting people down. Often, “off-topic” points reveal deeper issues.
“We don’t have time for that.”	“Let’s prioritize together and decide what’s most urgent for today.”	Participation requires shared pacing and agenda ownership.
“It’s too complicated for now.”	“How can we break this down together?”	Empower people to engage; don’t pre-decide their capacity.
“Trust us, we know what’s best.”	“Here’s what we know—what do you think?”	Shift from authority to transparency and co-learning.

## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

#### Step 1: Prepare & Listen | “Start with ears, not plans.”

*\*Corresponds to:*

*Phase 1 – Participatory Site Identification & Selection*

*Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping*

##### Understanding the phase

In this foundational step, facilitators take time to **listen deeply** to the community. By mapping power dynamics, walking the streets, observing the environment, and recognizing informal assets, participants and partners build a **shared understanding** of local needs, risks, and opportunities. **Preparation is not passive**—it’s a powerful step to ensure future actions are locally anchored, socially accepted, and **ecologically smart**.

##### Who is involved?

- Municipal staff (urban planning, environment)
- Community leaders (formal and informal)
- Youth groups, local NGOs
- Elders, educators, shop owners, women’s groups

##### Learning Goal

**Understand the local context** by listening first, mapping assets, and identifying priorities **collaboratively**.

##### What are we doing?

We’re assessing the socio-environmental landscape—**needs, resources, constraints**, and potentials—through participatory methods.

##### Why does this matter?

Because greening that is not context-sensitive risks being ignored, misused, or dismantled. Preparation grounds the project in **reality** and helps build **trust**.

##### How do we do it?

There are many ways to explore and understand urban challenges, and these tools come from different domains—ranging from anthropology and participatory planning to critical thinking methods, and digital mapping practices. What unites them is their purpose: to make local knowledge visible, to shift power toward communities, and to ensure decisions are collective, transparent, and grounded in lived realities. Each tool is an invitation to co-authorship and shared responsibility. They are not recipes to be followed blindly, but methods to be tailored to local contexts, cultures, and priorities, so that communities can shape urban greening on their own terms. In this guide, we will look at a selection of tools that can be adapted to each context:

- **Community Walks (Transect Walks)**
- **Water Mapping**
- **Participatory GIS (PGIS)**
- **ABCD – Asset-Based Community Development**
- **Site Selection Checklists**


**SOME TOOLS**

## Step 1: Prepare & Listen | “Start with ears, not plans.”

*\*Corresponds to: Phase 1  
Phase 1 – Participatory Site Identification & Selection and  
Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping*

### 1 Stakeholders Mapping

**Use a power-interest grid to identify:**

- Who influences the project?
- Who will be affected?
- Who can support implementation?

**Tool:** Stakeholder Mapping Sheet

✔ **Do:** Include voices not usually invited—waste pickers, migrants, mothers, youth.

✘ **Don’t:** Assume one meeting with a local leader represents everyone’s views.

🔥 **Tip:** Use the “Interest/Influence Matrix” provided in the toolbox to map stakeholders based on their level of interest in the project and their capacity to influence it. This tool helps you identify not only the formal actors but also informal or symbolic figures—such as a kiosk owner—who may hold significant sway within the community.

### 3 Water Mapping

Ask locals where water flows, floods, or is wasted.

**Materials:** Transparent maps + colored stickers

**Output:** A visual story of the water system

✔ **Do:** Use simple symbols or emojis if participants have low literacy.

✘ **Don’t:** Only rely on technical maps—these miss lived experience.

### 5 Asset-Based Community Development - (ABCD)

List existing skills, materials, spaces, and stories.

**Example:** In a Tunisian medina, artisans contributed old tools and ideas for repurposing spaces.

### 2 Community Walks (“Transect Walks”)

**Goal:** Observe microclimates, shade, heat, dust, smells, and uses.

**Activity:** Residents walk in pairs and mark:

- Hot zones
- Water puddling/flood points
- Dust-prone streets
- Desire paths (informal walkways)

**Example:** In Zarqa (Jordan), women mapped shade gaps near schools and markets.

👤 **For sensitive gender-related spaces, consider adapting the “Marche Exploratoire (Exploratory Walk)” method.** This involves organizing separate walks for women, where they can safely express concerns about lighting, visibility, safety, and accessibility.

✔ **Each walk is followed by a focus group to turn observations into design suggestions.** These methods center lived experience and help articulate “right to the city” claims from a feminist perspective.

### 4 PGIS (Participatory GIS)

Use tools like **QGIS**, Mapillary, or Google MyMaps.

Using mobile phones, Combine resident observations with satellite imagery for precise advocacy. For a digital accurate mapping the current situation

### 6 Select a Site

Use a Site Selection Checklist based on:

- **Visibility & Accessibility**
- **Community Interest**
- **Vulnerability (heat/flood)**
- **Availability of Water Source**

✔ **Do:** Discuss risks (e.g., potential demolition, unclear ownership).

✘ **Don’t:** Pick a site based only on municipal preference.

## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

#### Step 1: Prepare & Listen | “Start with ears, not plans.”

*\*Corresponds to: Phase 1  
Phase 1 – Participatory Site Identification & Selection and  
Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping*

#### Highlight:

Incorporate legal/institutional tools like:

- Consultation framework (multi-stakeholder)
- Charter of Engagement (shared values and roles)
- Stakeholder mapping, community walks, and PGIS.
- Expanded focus on choosing the site with the community.

#### Summary Box

#### Step 1: Prepare & Listen

#### (Pre-Diagnosis / Stakeholder Engagement/ Grounding the Process)

- Stakeholder mapping and power analysis
- Community walks (including gender-sensitive or exploratory walks)
- Water flow and access mapping
- Participatory GIS (PGIS) and visual tools
- Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)
- Site selection using participatory criteria
- Establishing a participation charter and steering group (Consultation/ Participation Framework)

**Goal:** Build trust, legitimacy, and a shared understanding of needs, assets, risks, and priorities.

## Step 1: Prepare & Listen | “Start with ears, not plans.”

*\*Corresponds to: Phase 1  
Phase 1 – Participatory Site Identification & Selection and  
Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping*

### Corresponding Greening Project Phase:

#### Corresponding Greening Project Phases: Phase 1 – Participatory Site Identification & Selection and Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping

🚩 Launch the formal project cycle by listening first—identifying priority zones for greening, mapping informal dynamics, and surfacing risks and opportunities that top-down planning often overlooks.

💡 Activities such as stakeholder mapping, exploratory/gender-sensitive walks, and site scoping lay the groundwork for a full territorial diagnosis and participatory site selection.

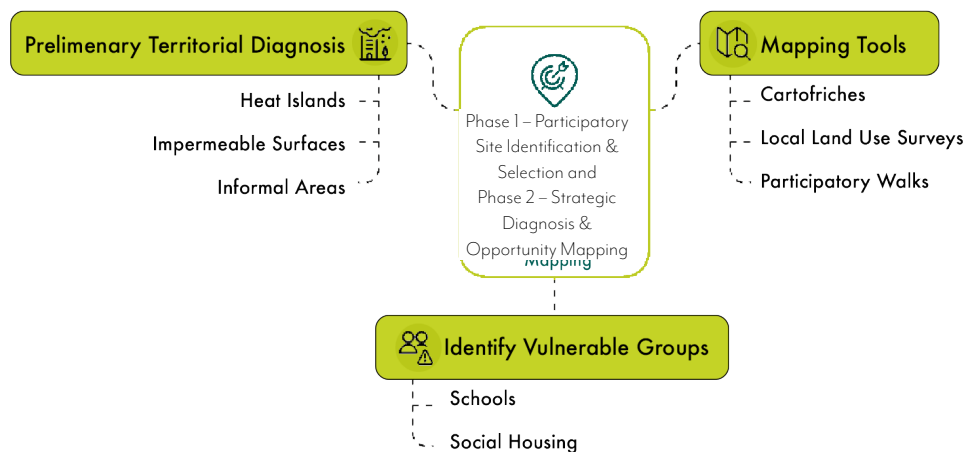
**Phase 1+2 :** Participatory Site Identification **and** strategic Diagnosis and Opportunity Mapping

🎯 Objective: Locate sites with high ecological, social, and climate value and build a shared understanding of local needs and assets.

- Conduct preliminary territorial diagnosis (e.g., heat islands, impermeable surfaces, informal areas).
- Identify vulnerable groups and under-greened zones (schools, social housing, markets, etc.).
- Use participatory mapping tools (Cartofriches, local land-use surveys, PGIS, and community walks) to capture both technical and lived knowledge.

#### 🖍️ Mini Self-Evaluation (end of Step 1)

- “Can I name at least **3 types of knowledge I gathered from the community?**”
- “Did I identify both **technical and informal stakeholders?**”
- “What **surprised** me during the walks or mapping?”



## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

**Step 2 : Diagnose & Assess | “Diagnosis is not only about what we see — it’s about how people experience space.”**

*Phase 2 - Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping and  
Phase 3 - Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization*

#### Understanding the phase

In this step, we **move from listening to co-analyzing** the reality of the site and the city through spatial, ecological, and social lenses. By combining **technical tools** with **lived experience, communities and facilitators** identify patterns, barriers, and priorities for action. This phase also refines the feasibility of interventions by aligning desire, need, and possibility.

#### Learning Goal

Build a shared, evidence-based understanding of local challenges, spatial inequalities, ecological dynamics, and community priorities through participatory diagnosis.

#### What are we doing?

- Mapping environmental, social, and spatial conditions
- Identifying barriers, exclusions, and usage patterns
- Collecting experiential data (memories, fears, aspirations)
- Assessing trust in institutions and capacity for future co-maintenance

#### Why does this matter?

Participatory diagnosis reveals realities often missed in formal assessments. It builds the legitimacy of the project and supports equitable decision-making. It ensures that greening interventions respond to real needs — not assumptions.

#### Who Is Involved?

- Local residents (Focus to include women, elders, youth, people with disabilities)
- Community-based organizations and informal groups
- Municipal departments (eg:environment, infrastructure, planning)
- Local facilitators and design professionals
- Academic or technical support actors

#### How do we do it?

Every place tells its story through layers of space, memory, and power. To engage with it meaningfully, we need to learn how to listen, to map what is visible and invisible, and to recognize who is present and who is absent. This process is not about ticking boxes, but about cultivating awareness—of the environment, of community voices, of patterns of use and exclusion, and of the institutional histories that shape trust. Only then can participatory design move from intuition to evidence, from assumption to grounded action.

**SOME TOOLS**

**Step 2 : Diagnose & Assess | “Diagnosis is not only about what we see – it’s about how people experience space.”**

*Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping and  
Phase 3 – Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization*

**1 Spatial & Environmental Mapping**

**Goal:** Visualize site conditions (shade, vegetation, flooding, pollution, soil, microclimate).

**Steps:**

- Mark site boundaries,
- Observe shade/vegetation ,
- Note flooding, dust, soil issues,
- Overlay access and use patterns,
- Validate with residents.

**Tool:** Spatial & Environmental Mapping – Tool

✔ **Do:** Involve diverse users, use simple symbols, check with community.

✘ **Don’t:** Don’t rely only on tech data, don’t ignore seasons, don’t finalize without validation.

🔥 **Tip:** Walk the site at different times of day – conditions of shade, heat, and comfort change dramatically.

**3 Community Knowledge Collection**

Capture lived experiences through stories, memories, and everyday routes.

**Steps:**

- Organize storytelling or focus group sessions.
- Collect timeline histories (past – present future).
- Ask participants to draw mental maps (places they use, avoid, or imagine).
- Compare experiences across age, gender, and groups.

✔ **Do:** Encourage drawing and local words; listen more than you talk; validate different memories.

✘ **Don’t:** Don’t limit to “loud voices”; don’t dismiss emotions or subjective stories.

🔥 **Tip:** Stories often reveal hidden rules of space — ask “why” when people avoid or cherish a place.

**Social Inclusion & Exclusion Assessment**

**Goal:** Understand who benefits from the space — and who is left out.

**Steps:**

- Observe who uses the space (time of day, activity).
- Interview different groups about their habits and feelings.
- Ask directly: who avoids this place, and why?
- Cross-check answers with observation.

✔ **Do:** Include women, youth, elders, people with disabilities; notice patterns of absence.

✘ **Don’t:** Don’t assume presence = inclusion; don’t ignore fear, safety, or cultural norms.

🔥 **Tip:** Absence speaks loudly — ask “who is missing here?” and listen to the silences.

🔧 **Tool:** User Presence & Absence Matrix

**4 Institutional & Perception Scan**

**Goal:** Identify how institutions and groups are perceived, and how power and trust shape collaboration.

**Steps:**

- List key actors (municipal, NGOs, informal groups, etc.).
- Discuss past successes and failures.
- Assess community trust and willingness to engage.
- Place actors on a simple **Power/Interest grid**.

✔ **Do:** Capture both formal and informal influence; note perceptions of trust or mistrust.

Don’t: Don’t rely only on official roles; don’t overlook hidden/local leaders.

🔥 **Tip:** Perception matters as much as mandate — trust can empower small actors, while distrust can block big ones.

🔧 **Tools**

- Power-Interest Grid (axes: low → high power / low → high interest)
- Notes box for “trust level” or “past experience” per actor.

## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

Step 2 : Diagnose & Assess | “Diagnosis is not only about what we see — it’s about how people experience space.”

*Phase 2 - Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping and  
Phase 3 - Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization*

 **Highlight:** Go **beyond visible conditions**—capture how residents feel, move, and interact by combining sensory walks, empathy interviews, and community-led mapping. **This ensures the diagnosis reflects lived experience, not just surface observations.**

Summary Box

### Step 1: Participatory Urban Diagnosis

During the Participatory Urban Diagnosis phase, we gather rich, place-based evidence to reveal how people perceive, use, and value their surroundings. **This step blends lived experience with measurable data, creating the foundation for collective analysis and future design choices.**

- Collecting community knowledge through storytelling, mental maps, and timeline histories
- Mapping public space quality (shade, vegetation, accessibility)
- Environmental overlays (e.g., urban heat, water, pollution)
- Biodiversity, inclusion, and exclusion analysis
- Institutional trust assessment
- Synthesis of spatial, ecological, and social conditions

**Goal:** Co-create a multi-layered understanding of the space and community priorities.

## Step 2 : Diagnose & Assess | “Diagnosis is not only about what we see — it’s about how people experience space.”

Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping and  
Phase 3 – Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization

### Corresponding Greening Project Phase:

#### Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping and Phase 3 – Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization

🚩 This phase bridges the Urban Greening phases—Phase 2 Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping and Phase 3 Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization—by generating spatial, ecological, and social evidence through participatory tools such as mapping, storytelling, and empathy exercises.

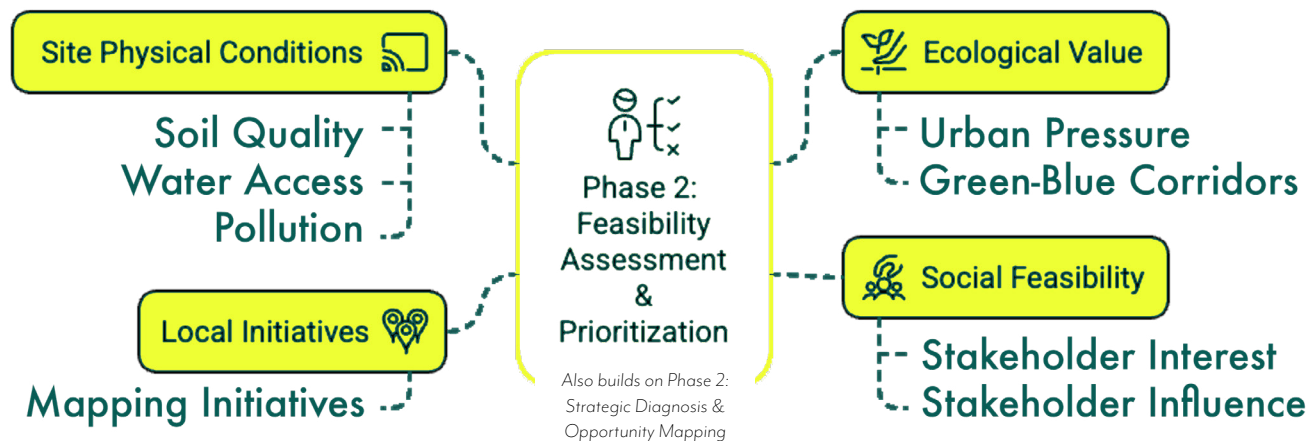
🎯 Objective: Build a shared, evidence-based understanding of site conditions and select actionable greening interventions with multiple co-benefits.

- Evaluate site physical conditions (soil quality, water access, pollution, micro-climate).
- Prioritize areas based on ecological value, urban pressure, and potential links to green-blue corridors.
- Assess social feasibility: stakeholder interest, influence, and community readiness.
- Identify and map existing local initiatives and informal practices that can support or inspire action.

🔥 Tip: Use a matrix of feasibility × impact to guide selection.

### 🖍️ Mini Self-Evaluation (end of Step 2)

- “Can I **identify at least 3 different types of exclusion** in the space?”
- “Did we validate our maps and interpretations **with the community**?”
- “Do we have a **mix** of stories, spatial data, and ecological observations?”
- “Are our findings visual, shareable, and grounded in **local language**?”



## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

#### Step 3 : Co-design & Plan | "Design is a dialogue."

*Phase 4 - Co-design and Stakeholder Mobilization and,  
Phase 5 - Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways*

##### Understanding the phase

Each area has its own specific characteristics and context. Users and their needs also might differ from one area to another, even in the same city. Design should be tailor-made to respond to those specifications. In Step 1, ideas and needs gathered earlier are translated into co-created green interventions. The process focuses on inclusion, accessibility, and climate relevance, using visual tools, scenario mapping, and participatory voting. Rather than importing fixed solutions, this phase ensures the green space reflects community priorities and identities while defining clear roles for care and maintenance.

##### Learning Goal

Enable communities and stakeholders to collaboratively design green interventions that are inclusive, context-sensitive, and climate-resilient.

##### What are we doing?

- Co-creating green space layouts or zoning of activities, selecting appropriate Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), material selection, appropriate native plants, defining roles and responsibilities of actors, and embedding inclusion principles in the design.


##### Why does this matter?


Communities know best what will work in their environment. Collaborative design fosters ownership, encourages long-term maintenance, and reduces conflict or exclusion.

##### Who Is Involved?

- **Local Residents and Citizens :** Including children, elders, women, migrants, and other community members with lived experience of the space.
- **Relevant Municipal Departments:** Such as public gardens, environmental services, public space management, and urban planning and design units.
- **Design and Planning Professionals:** Landscape architects, urban designers, and architects engaged in site-specific interventions.
- **Students and Emerging Professionals:** From fields such as urban ecology, landscape architecture, urban planning and design, architecture, and environmental studies.
- **Civil Society Organizations and Grassroots Groups:** Including NGOs, neighborhood associations, youth-led initiatives, and environmental advocacy groups.
- **Informal and Community-Based Practitioners** Individuals and collectives engaged in local greening, community gardening, care work, and public space stewardship.

##### TIP

 **Co-design is not about consulting.** It's about sharing power and authorship.

 **Participatory Tool Addition:** Integrate "Four Corners Debate" or "Preference Matrix" to collectively discuss controversial design choices (e.g., fence/no fence, shaded/open, decorative/useful). These interactive debate tools can help surface divergent opinions and avoid design-by-default or domination by louder voices.

**SOME TOOLS**

**Step 3 : Co-design & Plan | "Design is a dialogue."**

*Phase 4 - Co-design and Stakeholder Mobilization and, Phase 5 - Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways*

**1 Explore NBS Options for Arab Cities**

**Goal:** This activity helps communities and planners collaboratively identify greening options rooted in both ecological potential and cultural relevance.

- ✔ **Do:** Involve elders to validate traditional ecological knowledge.
- ✘ **Don't:** Push exotic or water-intensive species.

**3 Agree on Roles & Responsibilities**

📄 **Tool:** Role Sharing Template  
Use a **Role Matrix** to decide:

Task	Who Does It?	Frequency
Water trees	School eco-club	2x/week
Report damage	Shopkeeper	As needed
Host garden tools	Café owner	Ongoing

- ✔ **Do:** Let participants self-assign roles based on availability, not imposed duties.
- ✘ **Don't:** Rely solely on municipal staff for maintenance—they often lack capacity.

**2 Sticker Voting Facilitation Plan**

**Goal:** Let participants mark preferences interactively.

**Method:**

Spread a printed or hand-drawn map.

Use different stickers: 🌳 for trees, 💧 for water, 🚶 for paths, and 🚫 for issues.

Discuss each cluster's choices.

🎯 **Example:** Young participants proposed transforming a neglected corner of a local park into a palm-shaded storytelling circle, drawing on cultural traditions and the need for intergenerational gathering spaces.

- ✔ **Do:** Involve elders to validate traditional ecological knowledge.
- ✘ **Don't:** Push exotic or water-intensive species.

**4 Design Safeguards for Inclusion**

**Design public spaces with:**

- Shaded seating and gender-safe zones.
- Access for wheelchairs, carts, and children.
- Social cohesion zones (picnic space, storytelling benches).

🎯 In Tunis, benches were placed to face each other to encourage conversations between people from different neighborhoods.

💡 **Educational Tip:** Introduce the concept of "human scale design" using simple diagrams. **Compare:**

- Narrow path with trees vs. wide concrete street.
- Bench under sun vs. shaded storytelling bench.

**Use roleplay or mock-up models** for low-literacy groups.

**Do's & Don'ts Summary**

✔ <b>Do</b>	✘ <b>Don't</b>
Use visual materials & maps	Rely on technical jargon
Let people dream with practical constraints	Present fixed designs
Integrate both local and scientific knowledge	Ignore local stories or taboos
Design inclusive, safe, and accessible spaces	Assume one-size-fits-all solutions

## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

### Step 3 : Co-design & Plan | “Design is a dialogue.”

*Phase 4 - Co-design and Stakeholder Mobilization and,  
Phase 5 - Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways*

**Highlight:** Design is a **dialogue** that transforms community insights into tangible, climate-resilient green spaces. By co-creating layouts, selecting locally relevant solutions, and sharing responsibilities, this step ensures **the space truly reflects community priorities**, fosters ownership, and embeds inclusion from the start.

#### Summary Box

#### Summary—Step 3: Co-Design & Plan

(From Insight to Design)

- Design workshops using maps, drawings, and sticker voting
- Co-selecting nature-based solutions (NBS)
- Developing inclusive, climate-responsive layouts
- Creating a role matrix (who waters? who plants? who reports damage?)
- Emphasizing human scale, gender safety, and multi-generational access
- Use of facilitation tools like “Four Corners Debate” and “Preference Matrix”

**Goal:** Translate community needs and ecological realities into inclusive, co-designed green interventions.

## Step 3 : Co-design & Plan | "Design is a dialogue."

Phase 4 – Co-design and Stakeholder Mobilization and, Phase 5 – Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways

### Corresponding Greening Project Phase:

#### Phase 4 – Co-Design & Stakeholder Mobilization

#### Phase 5—Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways

 This phase corresponds to the collective shaping of the project.

It begins with participatory workshops to transform diagnostic insights into shared visions and inclusive design concepts and leads into the technical design phase.

Communities contribute ideas, select nature-based solutions (NBS), and co-develop layouts that reflect social and climate priorities. Meanwhile, planning professionals translate these inputs into formal drawings, species choices, and permit-ready documents—laying the groundwork for implementation.

Key activities include sticker voting, role assignment, visual planning, and negotiating inclusive and accessible public space designs.

#### Phase 4: Co-Design and Stakeholder Mobilization

Objective: Develop a shared vision and program with the community.

Identify, analyse and Engage users (i.e., residents, schools, women's groups, and municipal staff from relevant departments).

Use design thinking, empathy mapping, and visual planning tools.

Address potential conflicts (e.g., informal uses, land ownership).

Translate visions into concept plans.

**Note:** Participation here is political. Who joins the table shapes outcomes.

#### Phase 5: Technical Design and Regulatory Pathways

**Objective:** Translate concepts into actionable technical plans.

Adopt needs of different user groups in the design

Apply principles of ecological engineering—not just aesthetic landscaping.

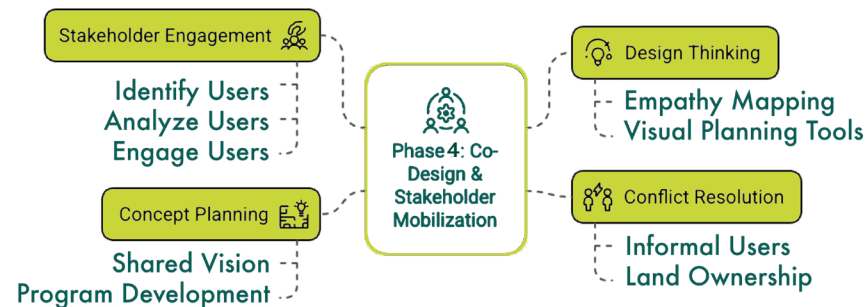
Adopt needs of different user groups in the design

Apply principles of ecological engineering—not just aesthetic landscaping.

Select appropriate species (local, drought-resistant).

Design for resilience: infiltration, shading, wind buffers.

Identify needs for permits or exemptions.



### Mini Self-Evaluation (end of Step 3)

- Mini Self-Evaluation
- “Can I name at least two NBS types relevant to this site?”
- “Did our team agree on who is responsible for what?”
- “Does the design include at least three inclusive features?”

## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

#### Step 4 : Build & Train | "Turning drawings into life."

Phase 5 – Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways and,  
Phase 6 – Implementation & On-Site Mobilization

##### Understanding the phase

This step transforms plans into real spaces. Whether it's planting trees, building benches, or greening a neglected corner, the emphasis is on local materials, hands-on activities, and joyful learning. Training isn't a top-down transfer—it's a shared experience that builds confidence, responsibility, and leadership across the community. Even in low-resource settings, small actions can spark long-term impact.

##### Learning Goal

Guide stakeholders through the practical implementation of greening projects and build local capacity for care, adaptation, and knowledge transfer.

##### What are we doing?

- We're **turning ideas into action** by installing green interventions and **training communities** to manage, maintain, and replicate them

##### Why does this matter?

Implementation without community capacity-building leads to abandonment or failure. Greening efforts must be locally rooted and owned to be sustainable.

##### Who Is Involved?

- **Local residents (especially youth and women)**
- **Municipal services (technical support)**
- **Skilled workers, artisans, masons**
- **Teachers, environmental clubs**
- **Volunteers and NGO facilitators**

##### TIP



- Treat training sessions as community-building events—not just technical workshops.
- **Co-Creation:** The "rhizome" metaphor—used in co-creation literature—can help explain community networks. Like rhizomes in nature, each participant contributes from their node, and if one connection weakens, others continue growing. This non-hierarchical image can inspire sustainable, distributed leadership in green space care.






## SOME TOOLS


### Step 4 : Build & Train | "Turning drawings into life."


Phase 5 - Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways and,  
Phase 6 - Implementation & On-Site Mobilization

#### 1 Hands-On Implementation Activities

Examples of Simple, Low-Cost Interventions:

-  Tree planting: Use native species (carob, fig, jujube, tamarisk)
-  Bioswale digging: For drainage and flood absorption
-  Bench building: Use upcycled materials
-  Community gardens: Herbs, drought-tolerant edibles
-  Permeable paving: Reduce heat and flooding

 **Do:** Schedule activities at times when most residents are available (e.g., weekends, post-market hours).

 **Don't:** Start implementation before confirming community roles and water access.

#### 3 Train-the-Trainer (ToT) Sessions

**Focus on:**

- Basic care: watering, pruning, composting
- Storytelling for stewardship: link greening to heritage
- Upcycling for greening: using tires, bottles, bricks
- Monitoring tools: using phones to document changes
- Climate literacy: relate greening to flood/heat risk

**Participants:** Youth ambassadors, teachers, municipality workers, and local leaders.


 Use analog games and visuals if digital tools are inaccessible

 **Don't:** Lecture without interaction—include demonstration and practice



#### Quick Wins & Pilot Projects

**Why:** Quick, visible results build **momentum and credibility.**

**Examples:**

- "One-week Greening Challenge" with school and youth groups
- A shade corridor between two blocks
- A mini pocket park in a neglected corner
- A storytelling bench circle with shade trees
-  In Tripoli, a mural wall with vertical herb planters was installed by youth in just four days, attracting widespread community praise.

#### Do's & Don'ts Summary

 Do	 Don't
• Provide multilingual, illustrated guides	• Use only text-heavy documents
• Offer hands-on training in real sites	• Limit training to classrooms
• Build with what's available locally	• Over-specify expensive solutions
• Start with a visible, low-risk pilot	• Try to implement everything at once
• Use training to create joy and trust	• Treat it as a one-off requirement



## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

#### Step 4 : Build & Train | “Turning drawings into life.”

Phase 5 - Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways and,  
Phase 6 - Implementation & On-Site Mobilization

**Highlight:** This phase **brings plans into action**—planting trees, building benches, and creating gardens with local materials. **Training is hands-on and shared**, turning each activity into a moment of learning, confidence, and joy. **Quick wins build momentum**, while community-led training ensures skills and care last beyond the first planting.

#### Summary Box

#### Summary—Step 4: Build & Train

(Bringing Designs to Life through Community Action)

- Implementing tactical and permanent interventions (trees, bioswales, pocket parks, benches)
- Use of local, low-cost, and recycled materials
- Engaging local labor, social enterprises, youth groups
- Organizing “Greening Weeks” or “Rapid Action Challenges”
- Train-the-trainer sessions for watering, composting, storytelling, and monitoring
- Introducing visual guides for basic construction and planting steps

**Goal:** Empower local actors to build and care for public green spaces with joy and confidence.

## Step 4 : Build & Train | “Turning drawings into life.”

Phase 5 – Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways and, Phase 6 – Implementation & On-Site Mobilization

### Corresponding Greening Project Phase:

#### Phase 5 – Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways and, Phase 6 – Implementation & On-Site Mobilization

**Objective:** Translate co-designed concepts into technical plans and bring them to life (Physical outputs) through community-engaged construction and planting.

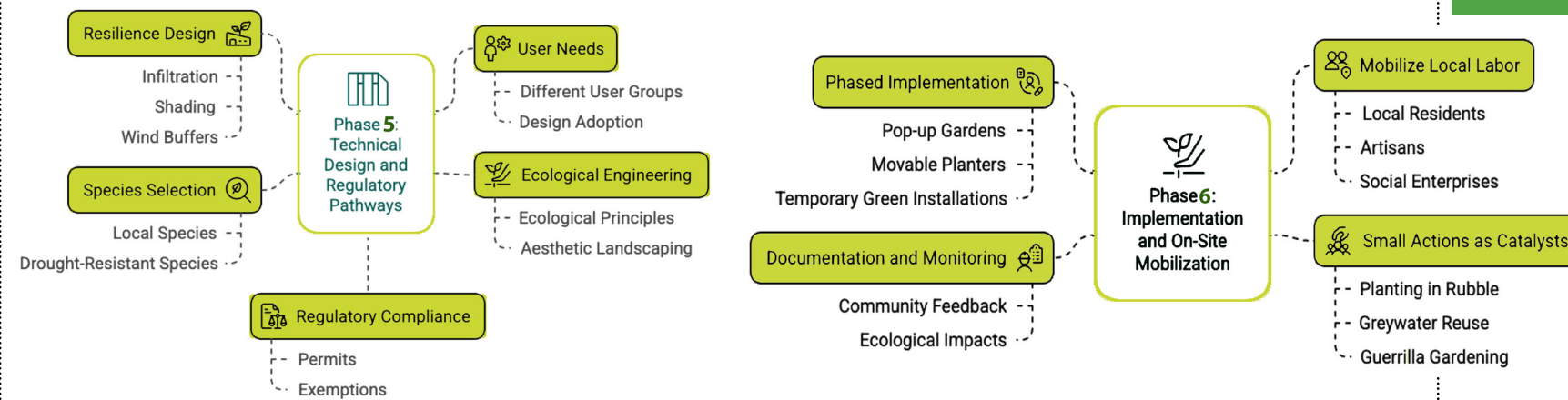
This step begins with **phase 5**: participatory workshops that turn visions into actionable technical drawings and permit-ready documents. Plans integrate the needs of different user groups and apply principles of ecological engineering—not just aesthetic landscaping.

Species are carefully selected for resilience (local, drought-resistant, shade-providing), and requirements for permits or exemptions are identified.

Once the groundwork is set, the process shifts to implementation (**phase 6**). Local artisans, volunteers, and social enterprises are mobilized to build and plant using accessible, low-cost materials. Communities participate directly in construction and care, with training sessions that foster practical skills, confidence, and leadership. Quick-win pilots and tactical interventions may be used to showcase, test, and adapt designs on-site, while longer-term works secure durability and ownership

### Mini Self-Evaluation (end of Step 4)

- “Did participants learn one new practical skill?”
- “Are local actors confident in maintenance tasks?”
- “Was the project site made more accessible or welcoming?”



## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

Step 5 : MONITOR, ADAPT & REFLECT | “Greening is not a one-time event.” Phase 7 – Maintenance, Monitoring & Adaptive Management  
Phase 8 – Transition, Reflection & Replication

#### Understanding the phase

The final step sustains the process by encouraging ongoing reflection, adaptation, and stewardship. Together, communities track what’s working, make improvements, and celebrate progress. Monitoring is collaborative and low-tech, using tools like photo logs, storytelling, or success walls. Adaptation isn’t failure—it’s a sign of growth, just like a plant finding new light.

#### Learning Goal

Support communities and institutions in tracking outcomes, reflecting on lessons learned, and adapting greening interventions to remain relevant, inclusive, and resilient over time.

#### What are we doing?

- We’re observing the results, capturing learning moments, documenting impact, and adapting as needed—with the community, not just for them.

#### Why does this matter?

Sustainable greening projects are dynamic, evolving with time and feedback. Monitoring isn’t about control—it’s about learning, improving, and re-engaging.

#### Who Is Involved?

- **Residents** (daily users and caretakers)
- **Youth and school groups** (monitoring clubs)
- **CSOs** and local NGOs
- **Urban planning** departments
- **Academic partners** or interns (data analysis support)

#### TIP



- Include maintenance workers and cleaning staff—they’re often the best observers of what’s working and what’s not.

**SOME TOOLS**

**Step 5 : MONITOR, ADAPT & REFLECT | “Greening is not a one-time event.”** Phase 7 – Maintenance, Monitoring & Adaptive Management  
Phase 8 – Transition, Reflection & Replication

**1 Track Progress Together**

Use easy, participatory tools to track:

- Plant survival rates
- Shade and comfort levels
- Frequency of use and events
- Water usage and runoff
- Incidents of vandalism or neglect

**Tools & Methods:**

- Greening Success Checklist
- Photo documentation: Before/after photos taken seasonally by residents

- Community-led surveys: Conducted by youth or women’s groups
- Usage diaries: Residents log how and when spaces are used

✔ **Do:** Let users define what “success” means to them.

✘ **Don’t:** Impose external evaluation frameworks without adaptation.

**3 Adapt Designs & Roles**

Based on what you learned:

- Add new elements (e.g., compost bins, more shade, signage)
- Reassign or rotate maintenance roles
- Adjust watering schedules for dry/hot seasons
- Introduce seasonal planting events or storytelling festivals

✔ **Do:** Document changes visually and

share back with the community

✘ **Don’t:** Treat adaptations as failures—they are signs of growth

💡 **Educational Tip**

- Teach adaptive thinking using nature metaphors: “Just like a plant bends toward the sun, our plans must bend toward community needs.”
- Encourage communities to build a “Living File”: A folder (digital or paper) that includes photos, maps, notes, feedback, and memories of the space.

**Community Co-Evaluation Sessions**

Hold a seasonal or annual reflection event:

- **What worked well?**
- **What needs attention or redesign?**
- **Did new needs or problems emerge?**
- **Who is still involved? Who dropped off—and why?**

**Methods:**

- “Success Wall” with sticky notes or short stories
- Mini model updating: use paper or cardboard to “fix” the original model

- Community theatre or storytelling sessions
- Elders’ circles for reflection

**Evaluation Tool Additions:**

- “Keep / Change / Add” wall – Participants sort ideas into what should be kept, what needs change, and what could be added.
- “Rose, Thorn, Bud” – Identify positives (roses), challenges (thorns), and opportunities (buds).
- “Dot Voting on Impact vs. Enjoyment” – Use a simple 2x2 chart to rate activities by both their effect and their fun.
- “River of Life” timeline – Draw a river showing highs, lows, and turning points of the project.

These tools are playful, visual, and inclusive, making them suitable for youth, elders, and groups with mixed literacy levels.

**Do’s & Don’ts Summary**

✔ Do	✘ Don't
Celebrate small successes	Focus only on problems
Let locals define success indicators	Impose rigid KPIs
Use visuals to show change over time	Keep reports hidden from communities
Adapt based on lived experience	Stick blindly to original plans
Involve youth in data collection	Rely only on expert evaluations

## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

#### Step 5 : MONITOR, ADAPT & REFLECT | “Greening is not a one-time event.”

Phase 7 - Maintenance, Monitoring & Adaptive Management  
Phase 8 - Transition, Reflection & Replication

**Highlight:** Sustaining greening means more than planting—it requires **watching, learning, and evolving together**. Communities **track progress** with simple tools like photos, success walls, and surveys, while **seasonal reflection sessions** create space to celebrate achievements and adjust plans. **Adaptation is embraced as growth**, not failure: benches can be moved, roles rotated, watering schedules updated. By involving residents, youth, NGOs, and municipal staff—including cleaners and maintenance workers—the process builds shared responsibility and keeps spaces relevant, inclusive, and alive.

#### Summary Box

#### Key Insight:

*A project is not complete until it thrives without external support. Embedding community engagement and adaptive mechanisms from the start turns greening initiatives into lasting, self-sustaining assets.*

#### Summary—Step 5: Build & Train

(Sustainability through Learning and Adjustment)

- Monitoring tools: photo logs, success walls, youth surveys, seasonal checklists
- Defining community-led indicators of success (usage, comfort, visibility, safety, biodiversity)
- Holding seasonal review sessions and celebration moments
- Adapting roles, planting schedules, or designs based on feedback
- Documenting outcomes and feeding into a “Living File” (folder of maps, photos, agreements, stories)

**Goal:** Ensure that interventions remain relevant, loved, and maintained—and can evolve with the community.

## Step 5 : MONITOR, ADAPT & REFLECT | “Greening is not a one-time event.”

Phase 7 – Maintenance, Monitoring & Adaptive Management  
Phase 8 – Transition, Reflection & Replication

### Corresponding Greening Project Phase:

#### Phase 7 – Maintenance, Monitoring & Adaptive Management

#### Phase 8 – Transition, Reflection & Replication

**Objective:** Communities take on stewardship and data collection roles to monitor the evolution of the green space. Adaptive feedback loops are used to adjust designs, reassign roles, and document lessons—reinforcing resilience, trust, and long-term success. In the final transition phase, communities and institutions reflect on achievements, celebrate progress, and prepare for replication of successful practices in new sites or contexts.

#### Phase 7: Maintenance, Monitoring & Adaptive Management

**Objective:** Ensure the long-term functionality, resilience, and community ownership of urban greening initiatives.

- Sustain Through Partnerships and Stewardship
- Forge early and evolving partnerships with community members, local organizations, and municipal bodies. Co-develop stewardship agreements and support local groups (e.g., “friends of the park”) to anchor long-term commitment and advocacy.

- Plan and Share Maintenance Responsibilities
- Design culturally appropriate maintenance plans that clearly outline roles, schedules, and resources. Involving stakeholders in this process builds ownership and ensures sustained care.
- Implement Community-Based Monitoring
- Train residents—including youth and municipal teams—to track ecological and social indicators (e.g., biodiversity, microclimate, usage patterns). This participatory model builds local capacity and ensures continuous, grounded observation.
- Enable Adaptive Management Through Feedback Loops
- Establish seasonal evaluations, community forums, and other feedback mechanisms. Use the results to guide iterative improvements that respond to evolving needs and conditions.

#### Phase 8: Transition, Reflection & Replication

**Objective:** Consolidate lessons learned, celebrate progress, and support the transfer of successful approaches to new spaces.

- Celebrate and Reflect
- Hold reflection events, storytelling sessions, or exhibitions to share outcomes with the community and partners. Document successes and challenges in accessible formats (photos, stories, maps, videos).
- Build a Living Archive
- Replicate and Scale
- Support local actors, schools, or NGOs to adapt and replicate tested practices in other neighborhoods or cities. Encourage municipal integration of proven models into broader urban policies and plans.

### Mini Self-Evaluation (end of Step 5)

- “Do we have a system in place to observe and record changes?”
- “Are we learning from what the community is saying?”
- “Have we updated our plan to reflect real use and needs?”



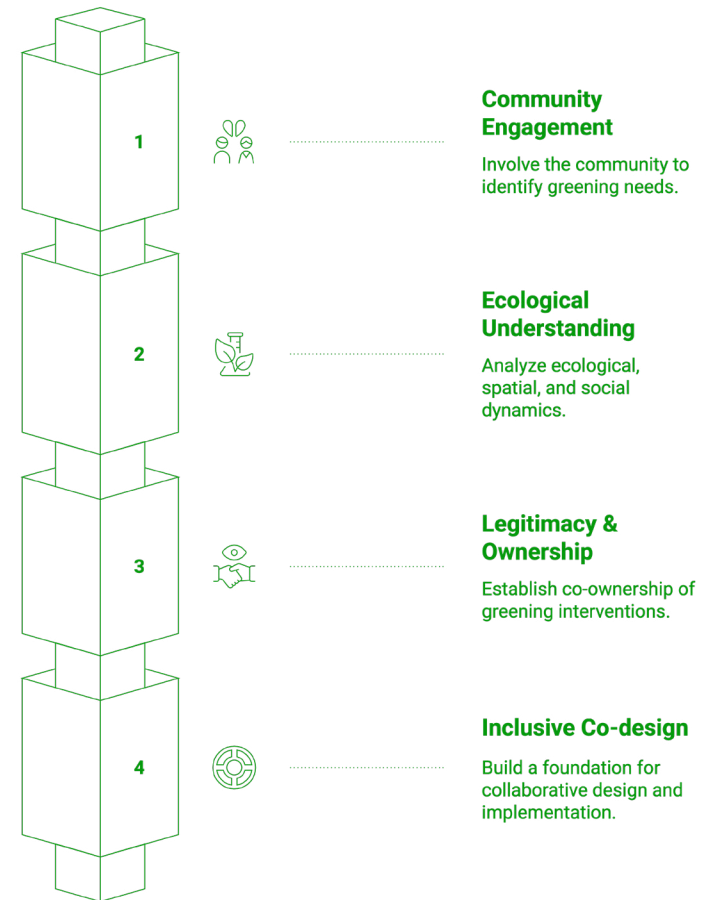
## **SPECIAL DETAILED SECTION :** Participatory Urban Diagnosis Methodology for Urban Greening in Arab Cities

### **Context:**

Arab cities face intertwined challenges related to climate vulnerability, limited public green space, governance fragmentation, and social inequality. A participatory urban diagnosis enables inclusive planning by grounding urban greening initiatives in local realities, needs, and collective visions.

### **Objectives:**

- Identify priority areas and needs for greening through community engagement.
- Understand ecological, spatial, and social dynamics at site and city level.
- Establish legitimacy and co-ownership of urban greening interventions.
- Build a foundation for inclusive co-design and implementation.
- Identify priority areas and needs for greening through community engagement.
- Understand ecological, spatial, and social dynamics at the site and city level.
- Establish legitimacy and co-ownership of urban greening interventions.
- Build a foundation for inclusive co-design and implementation.





Credits: Authors | &| Oecumene Spaces For Dignity

## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

### PHASE 1: PRE-ASSESSMENT

#### Goal:

Prepare the foundation for inclusive diagnosis through contextual analysis, team alignment, and institutional readiness.

#### Output:

- Site profile dossiers
- Stakeholder map and engagement strategy
- Legal/administrative scan
- Participation agreement (charter, protocol)

#### Step 1: Institutional and Legal Context Review

- Review national/local policies (urban plans, climate strategies, land-use regulations).
- Identify legal gaps or enablers for public participation.
- Clarify the governance structure (municipality, governorate, delegated agencies).

#### Step 2: Stakeholder Mapping & Power Dynamics

- Identify actors across sectors: residents, CSOs, municipal staff, youth, women, elders, and informal workers.
- Analyze influence, interest, trust, and historic roles.
- Use tools: Venn diagrams and stakeholder matrices.

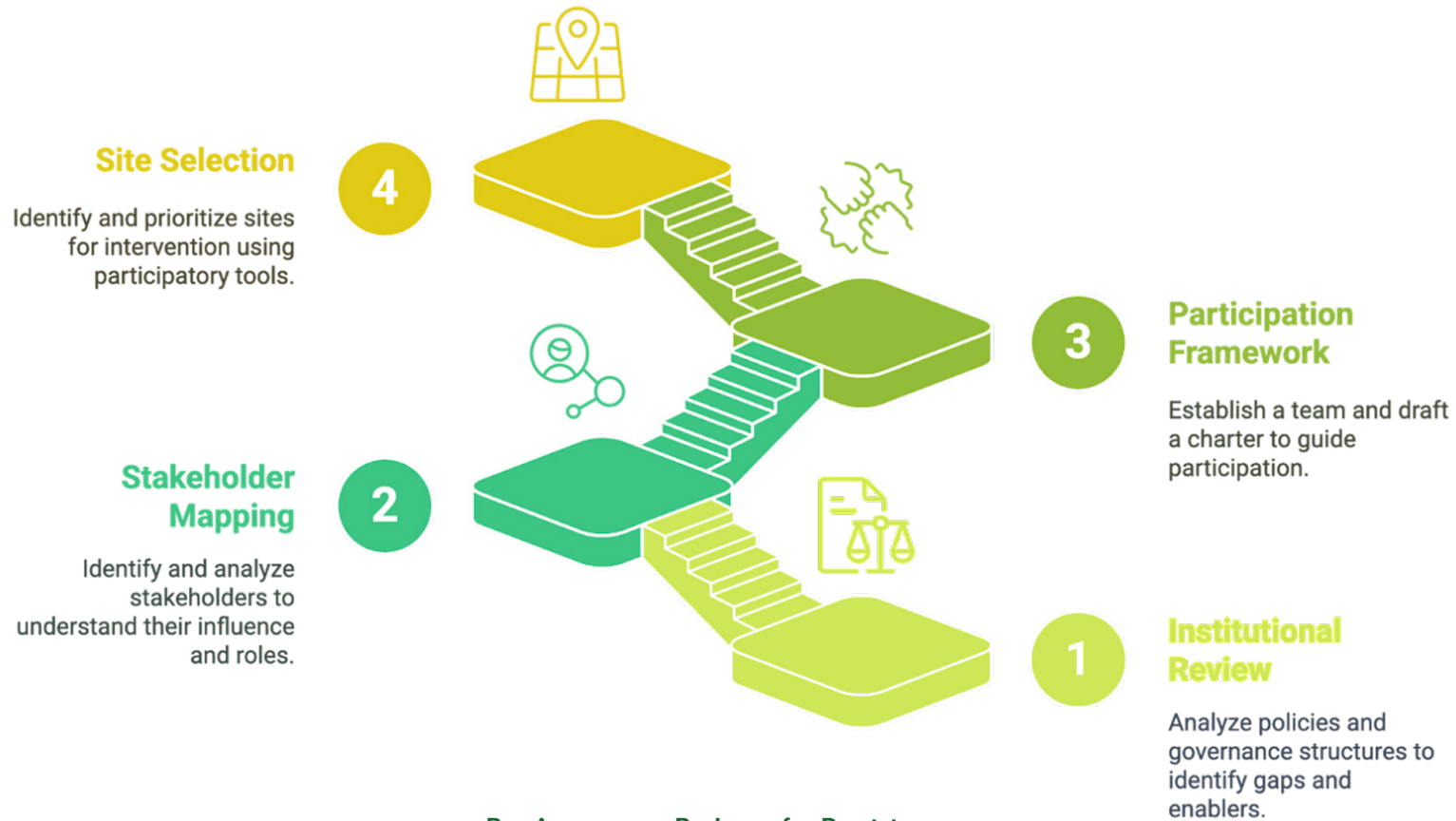
#### Step 3: Establish Participation Framework

- Form a local core team (municipal + civil society).
- Set up a Consultation Framework, steering group, or advisory committee.
- Draft an engagement charter (aligned with stakeholder engagement strategy): clarify values, roles, and commitments.

#### Step 4: Site Selection and Scoping

- Identify potential sites for intervention.
- Conduct rapid site scans (spatial location, land status, accessibility, visibility).
- Use participatory tools (photo mapping, walks, informal interviews).
- Prioritize sites through a multi-criteria matrix: ecological risk, social demand, and governance feasibility.

## PHASE 1: PRE-ASSESSMENT



Pre-Assessment Pathway for Participatory Urban Greening

## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

### PHASE 2: DIAGNOSIS & ASSESSMENT

#### Goal:

Co-analyse the spatial, social, and ecological conditions of the site and city area to inform priorities and action.

#### Output:

- Community-generated maps and narratives
- Visualized multi-layered diagnostic report (spatial, social, ecological)
- Synthesis of barriers, opportunities, and collective priorities.

#### Step 1: Community Knowledge Collection

- Organize participatory walks, mental maps, and storytelling sessions.
- Use methods like transect walks, timeline histories, and empathy mapping.
- Collect local names, uses, memories, aspirations, and fears.



- **Image:** Community members engaging in participatory activities such as storytelling and mapping.
- **Reference:** "Intergenerational Urban Environmental Education"—The "Nature of Cities"

#### Step 2: Spatial and Environmental Mapping

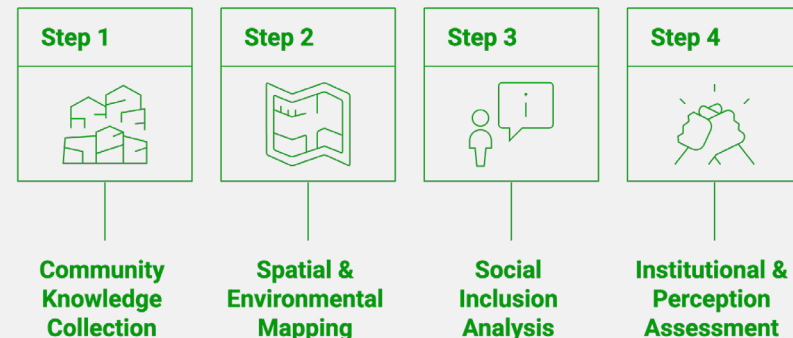
- Use tools like
- Public space quality mapping (shade, vegetation, amenities)
- Land use and microclimate overlays (UHI, water flow, pollution)
- Urban biodiversity scans (species, green cover)
- Safety and access mapping (gendered use, age-friendliness)
- Ensure community participation in data gathering and validation.

#### Step 3: Social Inclusion Analysis

- Identify who uses the space—and who doesn't.
- Identify hidden exclusions (e.g., women, disabled persons, migrant groups).
- Conduct empathy interviews or observation exercises.

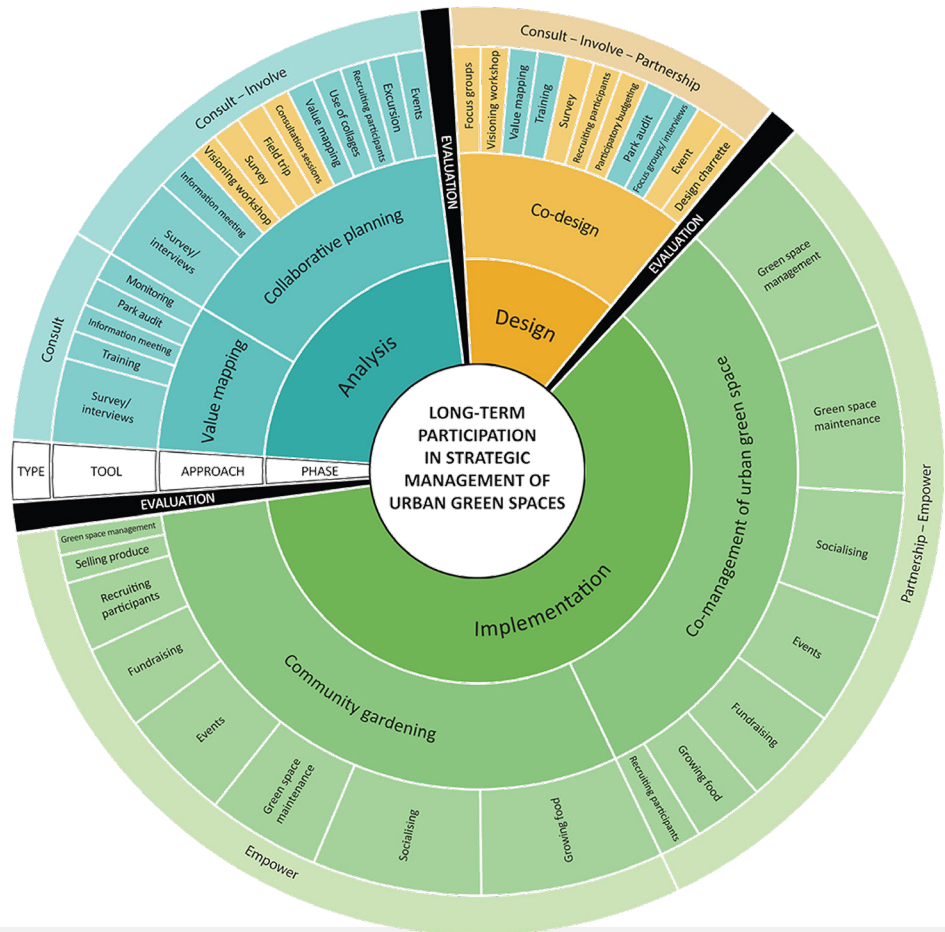
#### Step 4: Institutional & Perception Assessment

- Assess levels of trust in institutions.
- Understand past planning/greening failures or successes.
- Gauge willingness to co-maintain or engage long-term.



\*Phase 2 in 4 steps

## PHASE 2: DIAGNOSIS & ASSESSMENT



Reference: "Striving for Inclusion—A Systematic Review of Long-Term Participation in Strategic Management of Urban Green Spaces." *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*. *Frontiers+2 Frontiers+2Frontiers+2*

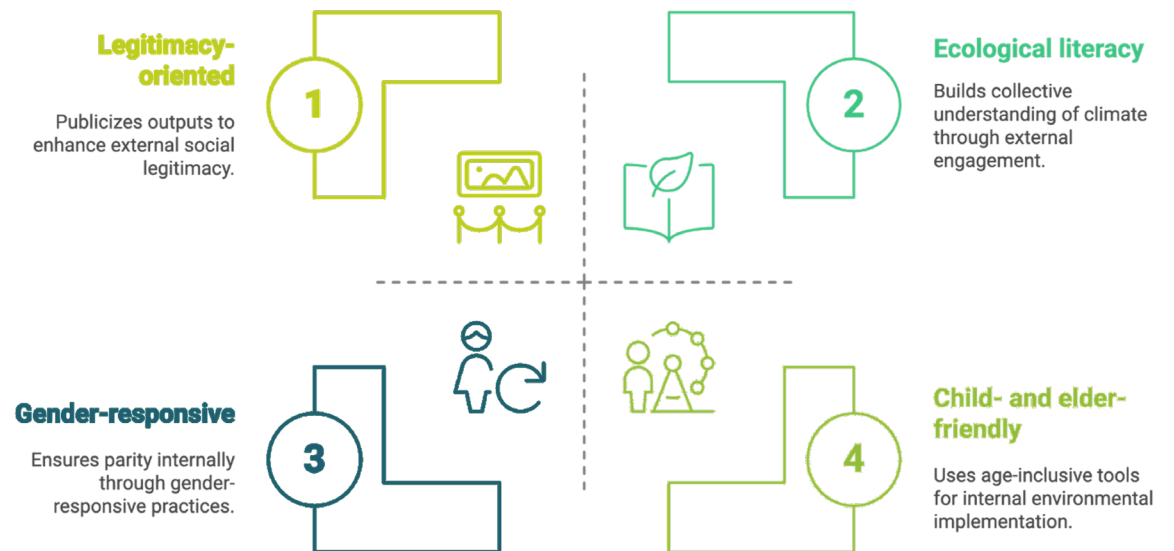
## 2-2 HOW GREENING PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

### From Intention to Impact

### CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES & PRINCIPLES

- **Gender-responsive:** Ensure parity in voices and space usage.
- **Child- and elder-friendly:** Use age-inclusive tools and schedules.
- **Conflict-sensitive:** Recognize social tensions, land disputes, or historical exclusions.
- **Ecological literacy:** Use diagnosis to build collective understanding of climate and biodiversity.
- **Legitimacy-oriented:** Document the process; publicize outputs via exhibitions, booklets, or community events.

#### Cross-Cutting Approaches and Principles



## IV. TOOLS & FORMATS

- Participatory GIS & mapping kits
- Visual surveys & photo diaries
- Greening perception scales (scored 1–5 for shade, comfort, safety, etc.)
- Multi-criteria analysis templates (paper-based or digital)
- Charter of Engagement/Participation Manifesto
- Open workshops or walk-in forums

## V. MONITORING AND LEARNING

- Use participatory indicators (e.g., diversity of participants, sense of ownership, perceived fairness).
- Document iterative feedback during all sessions.
- Create a "living file" for updates, changes, and agreed directions.

## VI. OUTCOMES OF THE DIAGNOSIS

- Shared narrative and priorities
- Agreed criteria for greening site selection and design
- Strengthened networks between institutions and communities
- Locally grounded basis for co-design and co-implementation

- **Note:** This methodology is **adaptable to each city's institutional maturity and cultural context**. In **fragile** or **transitional** settings, the participatory diagnosis process itself **builds trust, visibility, and pathways** for urban transformation.



# Section 3

## Cross-Cutting Strategies & Principles

**What ensures legitimacy, inclusion, and success?**



## SECTION 3 – Cross-Cutting Strategies & Principles

### **Table of Content**

3.1 NBS in Urban Greening

3.2 Why Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) ?

3.3 What are Nature-Based Solutions ?

3.4 Native Plants & Trees in Madaba, El-Mina and Gabès

3.5 Recommendations for Implementing NBS

3.6 NBS Quick-Check Reference Table

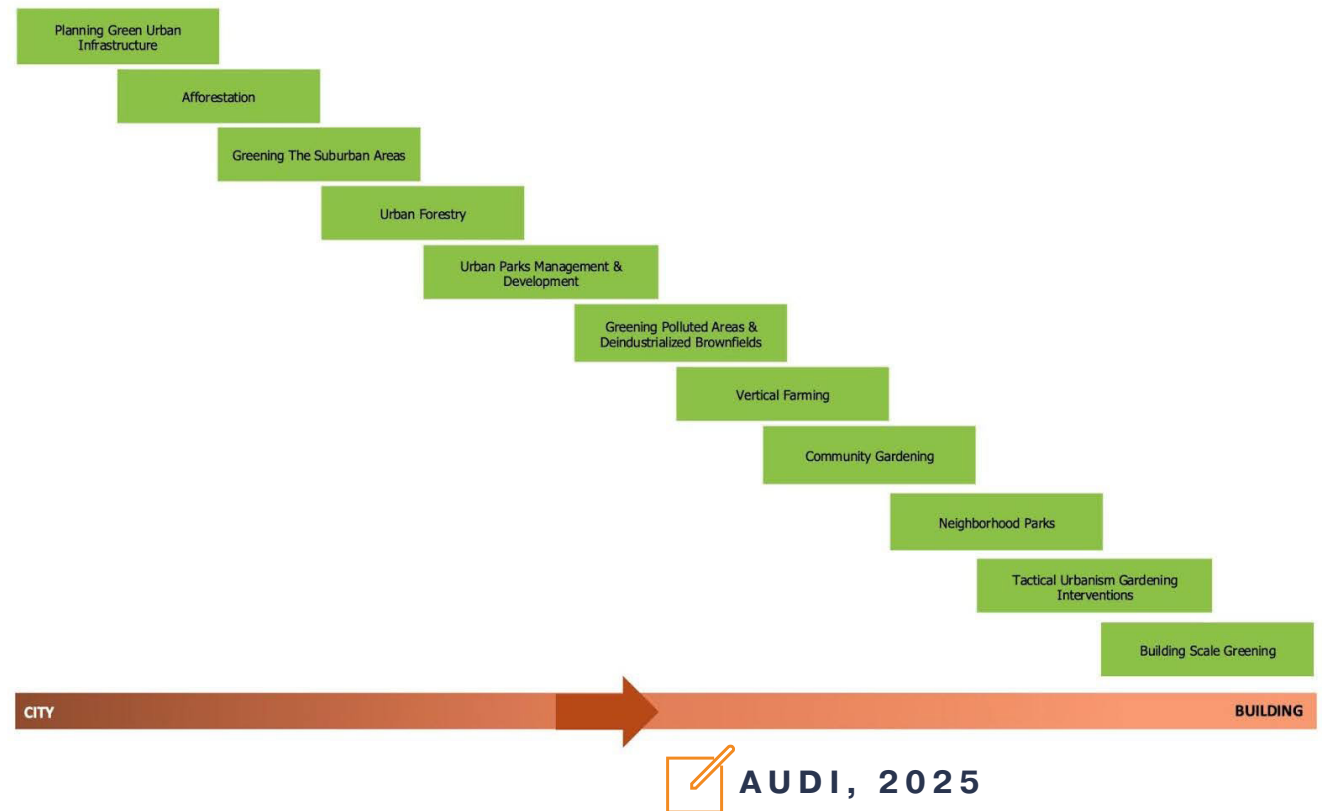
## 3.1 NBS IN URBAN GREENING

### Nature-Based Urbanism

Urban greening encompasses a wide range of strategies aimed at integrating vegetation and natural elements into urban environments to enhance ecological health, climate resilience, and community well-being. Common types of urban greening include public parks, urban forests, street trees, green roofs and walls, bioswales, wetlands restoration, and community gardens. These interventions help reduce the urban heat island effect, manage stormwater, sequester carbon, and foster social cohesion (Tzoulas et al., 2007; Kabisch et al., 2017).

In arid and semi-arid contexts—such as many Arab cities—techniques must be adapted to local conditions. For instance, using drought-resistant species, permeable surfaces, and low-maintenance green infrastructure is essential for ensuring long-term viability and water efficiency (Pauleit et al., 2017).

Building on these foundational techniques, **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) provide a more systemic approach to urban greening, emphasizing ecological functionality, co-benefits, and social inclusion.**



**Figure:** The different types of urban greening interventions based on their scale (source: author)

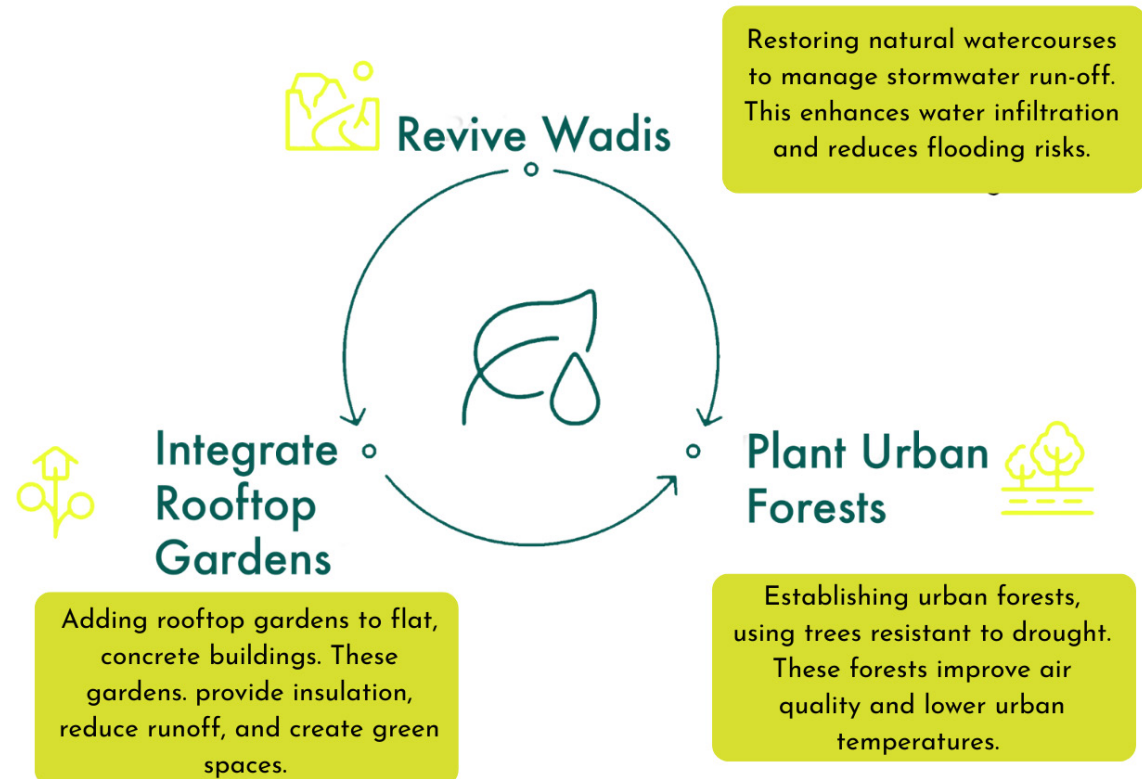
## 3.2 WHY NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS)?

### Why ?

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) are actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems to address urban and societal challenges, such as climate adaptation, water management, and social cohesion, while effectively and adaptively simultaneously enhancing human well-being and biodiversity. NBS leverages ecological processes to deliver co-benefits, including sequestration, flood mitigation, improved air and water quality, and cultural value. In Arab cities, this might include:

- Reviving wadis for stormwater management.
- Planting urban forests with drought-tolerant trees.
- Integrating rooftop gardens on flat, concrete structures.

Effective NBS implementation requires a **holistic and adaptive approach** that combines **scientific knowledge, participatory planning, long-term community engagement**, and adaptive **management**.

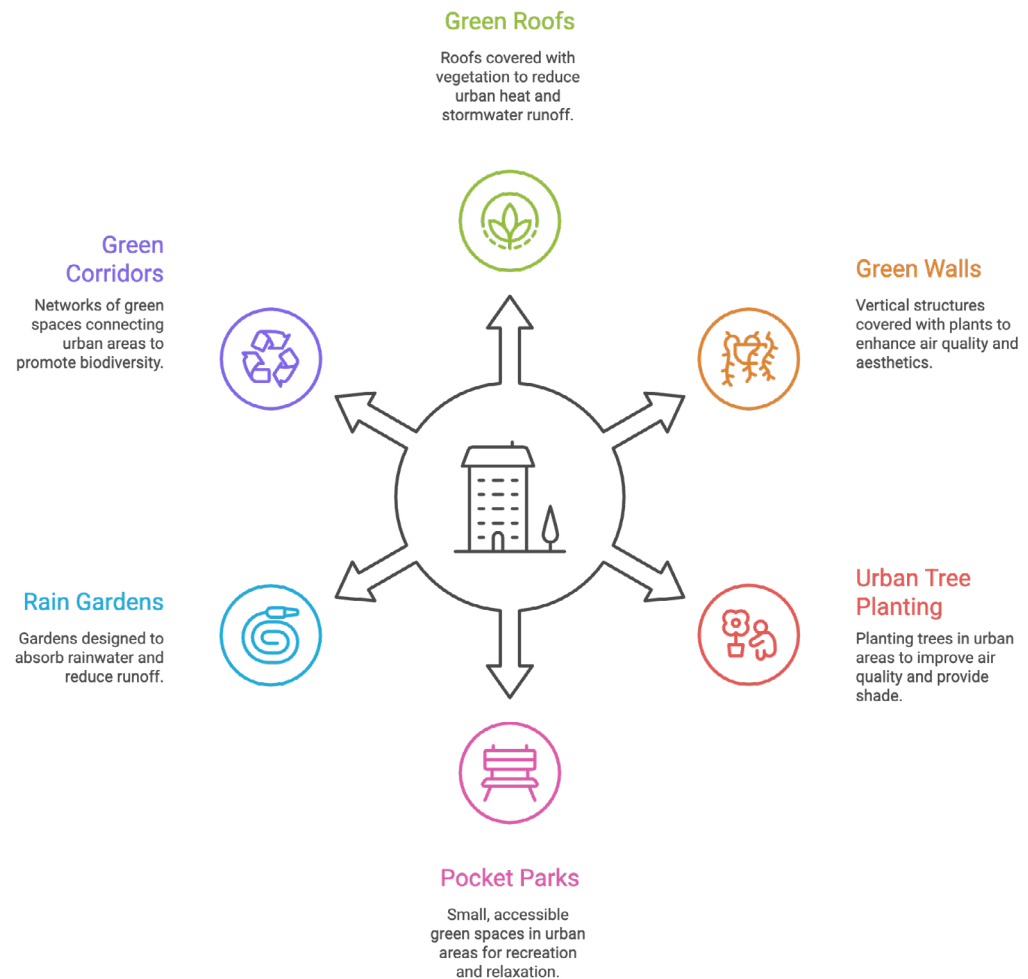


## 3.3 WHAT ARE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS)?

**NBS are actions inspired and supported by nature to address urban environmental challenges (IUCN, 2016).** In the context of Arab cities, they offer low-cost, climate-adaptive, and locally rooted responses that work with nature rather than against it.

NBS examples include tree planting, bioswales, green roofs, and traditional water-harvesting landscapes like wadis.

**Key information:** The **Sponge City concept** is an urban planning approach that enhances **a city's ability to absorb, store, and reuse rainwater**—much like a sponge—through natural and engineered systems. Originally developed in response to urban flooding and climate resilience challenges, **it is highly relevant even in arid and semi-arid regions, where water scarcity and sudden flash floods often coexist.** In these contexts, the concept shifts from flood prevention **to maximizing water capture and reuse, especially through decentralized, low-tech interventions.** Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)—such as permeable surfaces, green roofs, bioswales, and urban wetlands—play a central role in sponge cities by integrating vegetation and soil systems that **mimic natural hydrology.** In dry regions, combining traditional water harvesting knowledge (like cisterns) with modern NBS can create multifunctional spaces that address **water resilience, urban cooling, and ecological regeneration.**








Technique Title (Types of Greening)	Explanation (What, Why/Where/When, Requirements, Maintenance, Stakeholders, Complexity)	Benefits	Sample Image	Reference
<b>Green Roofs</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Vegetated rooftops.</p> <p><b>Why/Where/When:</b> Urban cores, high-density zones, all climates.</p> <p><b>What is needed:</b> Waterproofing, soil, plants, and drainage.</p> <p><b>Maintenance:</b> Irrigation, weeding, structural checks.</p> <p><b>Who:</b> Architects, engineers, and building managers.</p> <p><b>Complexity:</b> Hard / Needs expertise.</p>	<p>Reduces the heat island effect, improves air quality, and manages stormwater.</p>	 <p>The Benefits of Green Roofs   BKV Energy</p>	<p>BKV Energy, <a href="#">Using Green Roofs to Reduce Heat Islands   US EPA</a></p>
<b>Green Walls / Living Walls</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Vertical planted systems.</p> <p><b>Why/Where/When:</b> Urban facades, shading, aesthetics.</p> <p><b>What is needed:</b> Frames, irrigation, and plant panels.</p> <p><b>Maintenance:</b> Pruning, watering.</p> <p><b>Who:</b> Architects, contractors.</p> <p><b>Complexity:</b> Moderate / Needs expertise.</p>	<p>Enhances building insulation, improves air quality.</p>	 <p>Photo 4 of 6 in Day of the Living Wall by Eujin Rhee - Dwell</p>	<p>DWELL, <a href="#">Using Green Roofs to Reduce Heat Islands   US EPA</a></p>
<b>Urban Tree Planting</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Tree planting in streets and parks.</p> <p><b>Why/Where/When:</b> Cooling, shade, and habitat in all urban areas.</p> <p><b>What is needed:</b> Tree selection, soil prep, and irrigation.</p> <p><b>Maintenance:</b> Pruning, watering.</p> <p><b>Who:</b> Municipalities, NGOs.</p> <p><b>Complexity:</b> Easy to Moderate.</p>	<p>Provides shade, sequesters carbon, and improves air quality.</p>	 <p>gettyimages Credit: Emanuele Cremaschi</p> <p><a href="#">Gettyimages.plantingtreeurbanDwell</a></p>	<p>Project Learning Tree: <a href="#">“Urban Green Spaces”</a></p> <p>Trees for Cities: <a href="#">“Urban Trees”</a></p>

## 3.3 WHAT ARE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS)?

<p><b>Pocket Parks/ Micro Green Spaces</b></p>	<p><b>What:</b> Small parks in vacant lots.  <b>Why/Where/When:</b> Dense neighborhoods, anytime.  <b>What is needed:</b> Basic landscaping, benches.   <b>Maintenance:</b> Cleaning, replanting.  <b>Who:</b> Communities, local gov.  <b>Complexity:</b> Easy.</p>	<p>Adds greenery, improves community spaces.</p>	 <p><small>gettyimages Credit: Cavan Images</small></p> <p><a href="#">Gettyimages.plantingtreeturbanDwell</a></p>	<p>Nordh, H., et al. (2011). Urban Forestry &amp; Urban Greening, 10(2), 95–106. <a href="#">Assessing restorative components of small urban parks using conjoint methodology - ScienceDirect</a></p>
<p><b>Rain Gardens/ Bioswales</b></p>	<p><b>What:</b> Stormwater gardens.  <b>Why/Where/When:</b> Roadsides, parks, to reduce runoff.  <b>What is needed:</b> Digging, native plants, and drainage.   <b>Maintenance:</b> Sediment removal, plant care.  <b>Who:</b> Engineers, planners.  <b>Complexity:</b> Moderate.</p>	<p>Reduces runoff, filters pollutants, and recharges groundwater.</p>	 <p><a href="#">What is a rain garden? Expert ideas for a waterlogged yard</a></p>	<p>EPA (2021). Green Infrastructure: Rain Gardens. <a href="https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure">https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure</a></p>
<p><b>Green Corridors / Ecological Networks</b></p>	<p><b>What:</b> Linear green links.  <b>Why/Where/When:</b> Along rivers and railways.  <b>What is needed:</b> Land, native planting, and planning.   <b>Maintenance:</b> Minimal invasive species control.  <b>Who:</b> Planners, NGOs.  <b>Complexity:</b> Hard / Needs strategic planning.</p>	<p>Supports biodiversity, mitigates fragmentation</p>	 <p><a href="#">Corridors - Essential urban walking and natural infrastructure</a></p>	<p>Natural Walking Cities (2019) <a href="#">Green Corridors - Essential urban walking and natural infrastructure -</a>          FAO (2016). Urban and peri-urban forestry. <a href="https://www.fao.org/forestry/urban/en/">https://www.fao.org/forestry/urban/en/</a></p>

### 3.4 NATIVE PLANTS AND TREES IN MADABA, EL-MINA AND GABÈS

Location	Native Plants & Trees	Sources
<b>Madaba, Jordan</b>	<b>Black Iris</b> ( <i>Iris nigricans</i> ), <b>Olive</b> ( <i>Olea europaea</i> ), <b>Pistachio</b> ( <i>Pistacia atlantica</i> ), <b>Acacia species</b> , <b>Oak</b> ( <i>Quercus calliprinos</i> )	Link here : 
<b>El Mina, Lebanon</b>	<b>Lebanese Oak</b> ( <i>Quercus libani</i> ), <b>Cedar of Lebanon</b> ( <i>Cedrus libani</i> ), <b>Wild Thyme</b> ( <i>Thymbra spicata</i> ), <b>Rosemary</b> ( <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> )	Link here :  
<b>Gabes, Tunisia</b>	<b>Dragon Tree</b> ( <i>Dracaena draco</i> ), <b>Lychee</b> ( <i>Litchi chinensis</i> ), <b>Royal Poinciana</b> ( <i>Delonix regia</i> ), <b>Moringa</b> ( <i>Moringa oleifera</i> ), <b>Olive</b> ( <i>Olea europaea</i> )	Link here :  

**Highlight: Indigenous knowledge is key for the choice and success of NBS solutions**

## 3.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING NBS

### Connecting Urban Challenges to Nature-Based Solutions with Community Input

**Goal:** Equip practitioners with a rapid, evidence-informed reference to match local challenges with feasible, climate-resilient NBS interventions—and suggest how to involve the community at every step.

#### How to Use This Table:

1. **Read down** the list of urban challenges
2. **Identify NBS options** for participatory greening that match your site
3. **Review participatory tips** to ensure co-design and stewardship
4. **Cross-reference tools and annexes** where needed

### Do's & Don'ts for Using the Check Table:

✔ Do	✘ Don't
Match NBS with site-specific risks	Apply NBS as fixed models or trends
Involve community in selecting species and methods	Install trees or swales without local input
Explain the climate function in simple terms	Use overly technical explanations
Connect NBS to cultural practices and memories	Ignore symbolic meanings of species or landscapes
Integrate care into community roles	Rely solely on the municipality for maintenance

#### Want to know more? Selected Key Resources

 <b>UNaLab NBS Implementation Handbook:</b> Planning and implementation framework for urban NBS
 <b>Nature-Based Solutions Resource Guide 2.0:</b> Extensive resource collection for varied NBS applications. The White House
 <b>Climate Resilience Implementation Guide:</b> Step-by-step strategies for integrating NBS into resilience planning. files.hudexchange.info+INATURVATION+I
 <b>IUCN Global Standard:</b> Criteria for designing and verifying effective NBS. IUCN
<b>Resources in PDF </b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Botanics_Tunisia.pdf</li> <li>• Botanic Jordan.pdf</li> </ul>



## NBS Quick - Check Reference Table



Urban Challenge	NBS Solution	Participatory Tip	✓
Extreme Heat	Shade trees, green roofs/walls	Let neighbours choose tree types, locations and species during co-design walks	
Pollution	Green buffer zones, phytoremediation plants (e.g. vetiver, poplar)	Invite local residents and schoolchildren to monitor air quality and choose plant types based on pollution tolerance and co-benefits	
Dust Storms	Windbreak hedges (palm, cactus, acacia)	Schools and youth clubs adopt green strips as care zones	
Drought & Water Scarcity	Xeriscape gardens, native drought-tolerant trees	Use a local plant contest to select low-water species people like and remember	
Abandoned or degraded land	Urban community gardens, pocket parks	Offer planting plots to local families and informal groups for stewardship	
Heat-absorbing concrete & asphalt	Tree-lined corridors, vertical gardens on walls	Let children decorate planters and painted shading structures	
Exclusion from public spaces	Therapeutic or sensory gardens, inclusive green routes	Engage disability groups early to map barriers and propose accessible design elements	
Flooding	Bioswales, wadi rehabilitation, permeable pavements	Involve elders in water cycle storytelling and flood history mapping	





# Section 4

## Tools, Templates & Further Support

**A ready-to-use toolbox for field implementation**



## SECTION 4 – Tools, Templates & Further Support

### **Table of Content**

4-1 Tools categories & types

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4.2 Further Support

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4.3 Annexes

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4.4 References List

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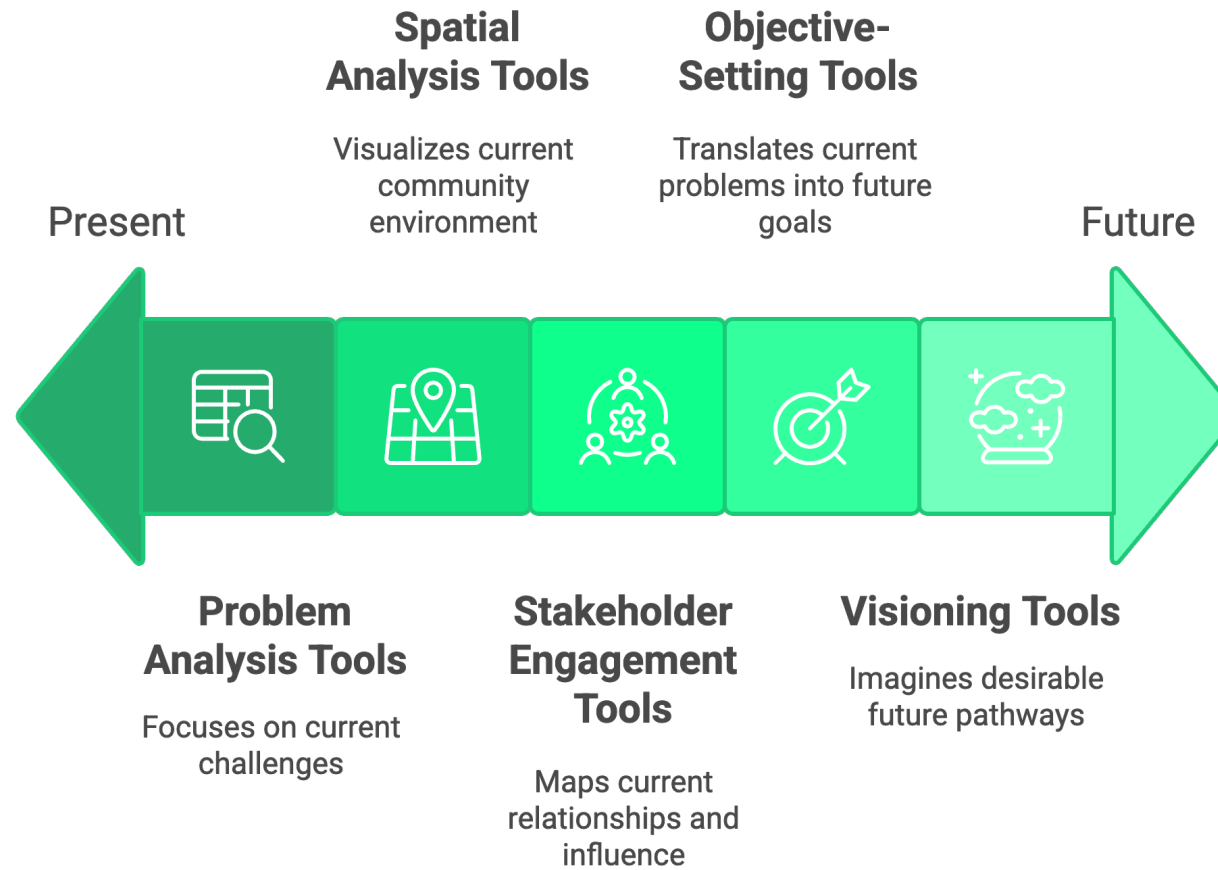
## 4-1 TOOLS CATEGORIES & TYPES

### 4-1 Tool Categories & types

To **support the development** of **participatory urban greening** strategies for **inclusive public space**, we have selected a set of facilitation tools that foster collective intelligence, spatial awareness, and strategic co-design. These tools — including Participatory Mapping, the Problem Tree, Positive Foresight, the Objectives Tree, Backcasting, and Stakeholder Mapping — allow for a holistic and inclusive approach to territorial planning.

Each tool is designed to engage diverse stakeholders in diagnosing existing challenges, envisioning desirable futures, and co-producing realistic and locally grounded pathways for action. They enable participants to visualize the lived space, articulate shared values and goals, identify actors and relationships, and sequence actions from vision to implementation. Together, these methods support a dynamic and context-sensitive process where communities, municipalities, and civil society actors can collaboratively shape green, equitable, and resilient urban environments.

Tool Name	Main Purpose	Role in Urban Greening Process
1. Participatory Mapping	Main Purpose Identify and visualize lived/perceived space, problems, and opportunities	Builds spatial awareness and shared understanding of green space challenges
2. Problem Tree	Diagnose core problems and map their causes and effects	Frames root causes of exclusion or environmental degradation in public spaces
3. Positive Foresight	Envision collectively a desirable future through creative and reflective tools	Stimulates inclusive visioning for greener, more just urban environments
4. Objectives Tree	Translate problems into actionable objectives and desired outcomes	Helps co-define green infrastructure goals and structure collective priorities
5. Backcasting	Start from the future goal and work backward to identify steps and strategies	Creates a realistic roadmap to reach inclusive and sustainable green solutions
6. Stakeholder Mapping	Identify, categorize, and analyse relationships between stakeholders	Ensures inclusive participation and targeted engagement throughout the project



## 4-2 FURTHER SUPPORT

### Where to Go Next: Funding and Regional Allies


Too many great projects fade after implementation due to a lack of resources, follow-up, or connections.

#### Communities of Practice & Peer Support”

Participatory urban greening doesn't end with one project—it grows through networks of mutual learning. Inspired by rhizomatic thinking, facilitators can form rotating WhatsApp groups, regional forums, or email circles that act as living memory, sharing:

- What failed and why
- Tips for community engagement
- Seasonal planting calendars

These groups form “rhizomes de pratiques”—horizontal structures of care and knowledge.

 Reflection Task: “Name one practitioner or group you can reach out to for mutual exchange. Write to them this week.”

### Funding & Resource Mobilization Strategies

Sustainable, inclusive public spaces require diversified funding beyond traditional grants. Below are grassroots-friendly approaches for municipalities, NGOs, and collectives:

#### 1. Community-Driven & Circular Funding

- Crowdfunding Platforms (e.g. YallaGive)
- Campaign for small-scale projects with clear community benefits (e.g., “Transform this vacant lot into a playground!”).
- Offer symbolic rewards (naming rights, handmade tiles).
- Local Resource Pools
- Partner with businesses for materials (discounted/free construction waste, recycled furniture).
- Barter systems: Trade skills (e.g., carpentry) for space access.

#### 2. Revenue-Generating Public Spaces

- Micro-Leases: Rent space to local vendors (food, crafts) with revenue reinvested.
- Community Bonds: Sell shares to residents (e.g., \$10 = 1 tree planted).


- Pay-What-You-Can events (painting classes, workshops, Seed Shop, planting DIY).

#### 3. Hybrid Grants (Less Bureaucratic)

- Small, Flexible Grants for pilot projects.
- Corporate Partnerships: Sponsor a bench/planter in exchange for visibility.

#### 4. In-Kind & Non-Monetary Support

- Volunteer “time banks” (e.g., 1 gardening hour = 1 workshop access).
- Municipal land leases for interim use (meanwhile spaces).

 **Key Shift:** From “applying for funding” to “co-owning the process” through circular economies and hyper-local buy-in.

## Recommended Partners

These partners bring technical, educational, or advocacy support for participatory urban greening in Arab contexts.

### Local Universities

- Urban planning and architecture faculties often look for community engagement projects.
- Offer student internships, studio collaborations, or citizen science teams.

### Youth & School Collectives

- Involve youth councils, scout groups, and eco-clubs in stewardship roles.
- Partner with arts or media youth groups for visual storytelling and greening campaigns.

### Regional NGOs & Institutions

- **AFED** (Arab Forum for Environment and Development)
- **AUDI** (Arab Urban Development Institute)
- **CDR** (Council for Development & Reconstruction, Lebanon)
- **ICLEI MENA:** Local governments for sustainability

### Regional NGOs & Institutions

Policy and sustainability support

### Participatory Urban Greening

core goal of the partnership






### Local Universities

Educational and research support

### Youth & School Collectives

Community engagement and advocacy

Characteristic	Local Universities	Youth & School Collectives	Regional NGOs & Institutions
 <b>Support Type</b>	Technical, educational, advocacy	Technical, educational, advocacy	Technical, educational, advocacy
 <b>Engagement</b>	Community engagement projects	Stewardship roles	Sustainability initiatives
 <b>Collaboration</b>	Student internships, studio collaborations	Arts or media youth groups	Local governments for sustainability

**Tip:** Co-sign MOUs with these partners to ensure accountability and long-term involvement.

**Try This:** Which three organizations or tools from this list could help you go further in your project? Make a plan to contact one within the next week.

## Partners for Participatory Urban Greening

# Annexes

## Tools, Templates & Further Support

A ready-to-use toolbox for field implementation

## Annexes

**Annex 1** – What we often hear  
about Greening

**Annex 2** – Step-by-Step Process to Institutionalize Participation

**Annex 3** – Urban Greening\_4\_Quadrant Why?

**Annex 4** – List of Acronyms (Section 1)

**Annex 5** – List of Acronyms (Section 2)

**Annex 6** – List of Acronyms (Section 3)

**Annex 7** – List of Acronyms (Section 4)

**Annex 8** – Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

**Annex 9** – Glossary of Key Concepts and Tools (Section 1) (Section 2) (Section 3)

**Annex 10** – Botany in Tunisia

### **Annex 11 : Selected tools**

– Tool 1: Participatory Mapping

– Tool 2: The Problem Tree

– Tool 3: Backcasting

– Tool 4: Stakeholder Mapping

– Tool 5: Stakeholder Mapping - Second Tool



## What we often hear about Greening

1

What we often hear	What some actors might believe (Ce qu'on en pense parfois)	What reality shows (Ce qu'on constate en réalité)
<p><b>“People don’t care about greening—there are more urgent needs.”</b> « Ce n’est pas une priorité quand il n’y a même pas d’eau. »</p>	<p>“Basic survival comes first. Greening is a luxury.”</p>	<p>In many fragile settings, <b>green spaces offer dignity, mental health, and informal economic activity</b>. Residents often initiate <b>micro-gardens</b>, plant shade trees, or reclaim neglected spaces—because they matter, especially when systems collapse.</p>
<p><b>“Green spaces will just be vandalized or politicized.”</b> « Ça va être détruit ou récupéré politiquement. »</p>	<p>“Better not to raise expectations.”</p>	<p>Vandalism is often <b>linked to exclusion</b>. When people are genuinely involved, <b>co-owned spaces are protected</b>—sometimes fiercely. And yes, green spaces are political—but so is their absence.</p>
<p><b>“There’s no funding for that.”</b> « Personne ne va financer ça. »</p>	<p>“Donors want impact; greening seems soft.”</p>	<p>Greening brings <b>multiple co-benefits</b>—climate resilience, food security, water retention, and health. Many agencies now support <b>nature-based solutions in conflict zones</b> as cost-effective long-term investments.</p>
<p><b>“People won’t take care of it.”</b> « Ils vont l’abandonner. »</p>	<p>“Communities are too fragmented or traumatized.” Lack of perception/definition of public space/public ownership</p>	<p>Community care often emerges <b>precisely because systems are broken</b>. Elders, youth, or women’s groups step up when space is meaningful. What’s needed is facilitation, not control.</p>
<p><b>“Urban greening is too technical.”</b> « Il faut des ingénieurs pour ça. »</p>	<p>“It’s risky without professionals.”</p>	<p>Traditional and <b>vernacular knowledge</b> around trees, water cycles, and shade management is widespread. Greening does not start with permits—it starts with people, land, and intention.</p>
<p><b>“We should wait until there is stability.”</b> « Ce n’est pas le moment. »</p>	<p>“It’s too volatile now.”</p>	<p>If we wait for stability, <b>nothing ever starts</b>. Greening can be a <b>seed of stability</b>—a symbol of return, recovery, and agency in broken urban fabrics.</p>



## Step-by-Step Process to Institutionalize Participation

2

### Step 1: Diagnose the Institutional Environment

Is there any mention of participation or consultation in local/urban planning regulations?  
Who holds power over public space decisions (municipalities, governors, ministries)?  
What precedents exist (e.g., former local council practices, participatory budgeting, etc.)?

### Step 2: Identify Legitimate Community Partners

Use stakeholder mapping to identify community groups, NGOs, informal actors, schools, etc.  
Ensure inclusion of women, youth, migrants, and informal workers.

### Step 3: Establish a Voluntary Participation Framework

Even if not mandated by law, municipalities and community actors can agree to a self-defined structure. Possible **tools include:**

Tool	Function	When to Use
<b>Consultative &amp; dialogue Framework</b> “Cadre de concertation”	A formal consultation group (multi-actor) for urban greening follow-up	Phases 1 and 2
<b>Charter of Engagement</b>	Co-written declaration of shared principles, roles, and responsibilities	Phase 1
<b>Participatory Protocol</b>	Signed agreement on how decisions will be made and how feedback will be integrated	Phase 1
<b>Manifesto / Local Green Vision</b>	Public declaration of intent, authored with community reps	Pre-diagnosis phase/ Phase 1



### 1. Why Greening Matters

- Urban greening contributes to:
  - 🌿 Climate resilience (e.g., mitigating Urban Heat Island effect)
  - 🌬️ Air quality improvement
  - 🧠 Mental health & 🚶♂️ physical activity
  - 🤝 Social cohesion
- Backed by research on the role of green infrastructure as a nature-based solution (NBS). Greening is not just an aesthetic choice—it is a public health, climate adaptation, and social justice intervention. In dense, vulnerable Arab cities, green spaces:
  - Act as buffers against extreme heat and air pollution
  - Provide dignified, inclusive places for gathering and well-being
  - Enable territorial equity by focusing on marginalized or underserved neighborhoods
- Types of Urban Greening Interventions:
  - Pocket parks, community gardens, rooftop greening
  - Edible green corridors, tree-lined streets, school gardens
  - Nature-Based Solutions (e.g., bioswales, green roofs for flood management)

### 2. Context & Challenges in Arab Cities




- **Key challenges:**
  - 🌱 Desertification
  - 🏙️ Rapid urbanization
  - 🏗️ Inadequate infrastructure
- Green spaces act as:
  - Buffers against extreme heat
  - Enablers of territorial equity for marginalized communities
- Governance & Institutional Gaps:
  - Lack of coordination across planning, environment, and infrastructure departments
  - Centralized or top-down urban planning processes with limited community say
  - Fragile participatory structures
- Participation Risks:
  - Not all participation is empowering. Projects may reinforce existing inequalities if certain voices are excluded.
  - Risk of tokenism or co-optation of grassroots initiatives.
- Need for Institutional Embedding:
  - Successful pilots must influence city plans, regulatory tools, and budgets.
  - Horizontal collaboration between local authorities and communities is key.



### 3. Common Prejudices & What Reality Shows

- “Greening is a luxury.” → Green spaces restore dignity, enhance livelihoods and protect against heat.
- “Spaces will be vandalized.” → Exclusion breeds vandalism; inclusion fosters protection Inclusion fosters community ownership and protection.
- “No funding available.” → Donors increasingly support greening for resilience and health. Multiple streams are available: climate funds, micro-grants, CSR, and co-financing.
- “Too technical.” → Traditional knowledge already exists in communities. Traditional knowledge and local practices offer rich foundations for NBS.
- “Wait for stability.” → Greening can seed stability and recovery. It brings people together and seeds recovery.
- “Women and youth won't engage.” → In fact, they often lead local greening and care practices.
- “Informal settlements can't be greened.” → Tactical interventions show that even minimal space can create green value.

### 4. Reflections & Local Engagement

- Prompt:
  - What kind of greening do you most often see in your city?**
- Reflect:
  - **Where is greening lacking?**
  - **Who benefits—and who is left out?**
- Emphasize:
  -  Community-led micro-greening
  -  Reclaiming neglected spaces
  -  Greening as agency, not just aesthetics



## List of Acronyms - Section 1

Acronym	Full Term	Description
<b>NBS</b>	Nature-Based Solutions	Urban and ecological interventions that leverage natural systems (e.g., tree planting, green roofs) to address environmental and social challenges.
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	Non-governmental groups representing community interests, often involved in advocacy, service delivery, and participatory processes.
<b>UHI</b>	Urban Heat Island	Phenomenon where urban areas are significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas due to human activities and lack of vegetation.
<b>GPSP</b>	Global Public Space Programme	An initiative led by UN-Habitat to promote inclusive, safe, accessible, and green public spaces.
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	UN body assessing the science related to climate change.
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	UN agency focused on defeating hunger and ensuring water/food security.
<b>PGIS</b>	Participatory Geographic Information Systems	Tools that combine participatory mapping with GIS technology to support community-led spatial analysis and planning.
<b>D1</b>	Deliverable 1	Refers to the first official deliverable of the NATURIncMed project, which this guide is part of.



Acronym	Full Term	Description
<b>PUG</b>	Participatory Urban Greening	Overarching theme of the section.
<b>HCD</b>	Human-Centered Design	Referenced as a mapping lens for participatory planning phases.
<b>UGPDP</b>	Urban Greening Project Development Phases	Title of the companion document mentioned repeatedly.
<b>GSD</b>	Green Space Development	Used to refer to the cyclical development of green spaces.
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicator	A measurable value used to evaluate the success of an intervention (adapted here for participatory projects).
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	Mentioned as a stakeholder in the participation strategy.
<b>PS</b>	Participation Strategy	Pre-participation planning stage is discussed in the “Before We Start” section.
<b>SCC</b>	Strategy, Stakeholders, and Shared Commitments	Early preparatory step before participatory phases begin.
<b>STEPS</b>	Strategy, Targeting, Engagement, Planning, Stewardship	Suggested acronym for the Five Steps; while the specific step titles are not listed here, this placeholder aligns with typical frameworks.
<b>ECO</b>	Ecological Community-Oriented	Reflecting the dual ecological and social aspects of the approach.
<b>CAP</b>	Co-creation, Action, and Participation	Reflecting guiding values or cross-cutting themes of the methodology.
<b>TOT</b>	Train-the-Trainer	A capacity-building model where trained individuals become multipliers by teaching others.
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization	Independent, nonprofit entities working in development, advocacy, and humanitarian sectors.



## List of Acronyms - Section 3

Acronym	Full Term	Description
<b>AUDI</b>	Arab Urban Development Institute	A regional institution supporting urban development planning, policy-making, and local governance capacity building in Arab cities.
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. federal agency focused on environmental protection and regulation.
<b>US</b>	United States	A country in North America; often referenced in international policy and research contexts.
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature	Global organization focused on nature conservation and sustainable resource use.
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)	UN agency focused on defeating hunger and ensuring water/food security.
<b>UNaLab</b>	Urban Nature Labs (EU-funded NBS project)	EU-funded project promoting nature-based solutions in urban planning.
<b>BKV</b>	BKV Group (architecture/design firm)	U.S.-based architecture and design firm working in urban design and planning.
<b>DWELL</b>	Dwell	Media outlet focused on modern architecture, design, and publication of sustainable living.



## List of Acronyms - Section 4

7

Acronym	Full Term	Description/Role in Context
<b>AFED</b>	Arab Forum for Environment and Development	A regional NGO supporting environmental awareness, policy dialogue, and sustainable development across the Arab world.
<b>AUDI</b>	Arab Urban Development Institute	A regional institution supporting urban development planning, policy-making, and local governance capacity building in Arab cities.
<b>CDR</b>	Council for Development & Reconstruction (Lebanon)	A Lebanese public agency responsible for planning and implementing infrastructure and development projects across Lebanon.
<b>ICLEI MENA</b>	Local Governments for Sustainability—Middle East & North Africa	A global network of local governments dedicated to sustainability, providing technical support, capacity building, and networking for cities in the MENA region.
<b>DIY</b>	Do-It-Yourself	Refers to community-led, low-cost, hands-on activities (e.g., planting, making seed shops) that empower residents to engage directly in public space greening.
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding	A formal agreement between partners (e.g., NGOs, municipalities, universities) to establish roles, accountability, and shared goals in participatory urban greening.
<b>YallaGive</b>	–	A regional crowdfunding platform used for grassroots fundraising, allowing local communities to support small urban greening projects.



## Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

### From Intention to Impact: How Greening Projects Take Shape

Urban greening involves a structured, iterative, and context-sensitive process, integrating ecological science, community engagement, and adaptive governance. This document outlines the typical phases of a greening project, from inception to long-term care, drawing on ecological engineering principles and best practices.

#### Legal and Institutional Anchoring of Participation

(Process to Enable Meaningful Participation in Urban Greening When **there is no legal framework to reinforce it**)

In the context where participation **is not backed up by a legal policy framework**, participation cannot rely solely on national law—it must be institutionalized through **local agreements, mechanisms, and social legitimacy**.

This section outlines a roadmap to help municipalities and partners embed meaningful participation, even in **complex or changing contexts**.

5-Step Method	Urban Greening Project Phases	Main Purpose for Municipal/Stakeholder Language
<b>Step 1: Prepare &amp; Listen</b>	Phase 1: Participatory Site Identification & Selection Phase 2: Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping	Build trust and a shared understanding of needs, assets, risks, and opportunities before any design Clarify the institutional landscape, engage partners, and co-select relevant sites.
<b>Step 2: Diagnose &amp; Assess</b>	Phase 2 – Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping and Phase 3 – Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization	Build trust and a shared understanding of needs, assets, risks, and opportunities before any design Clarify the institutional landscape, engage partners, and co-select relevant sites.
<b>Step 3: Co-Design &amp; Plan</b>	Phase 4: Co-Design and Stakeholder Mobilization Phase 5: Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways	Build trust and a shared understanding of needs, assets, risks, and opportunities before any design Clarify the institutional landscape, engage partners, and co-select relevant sites.
<b>Step 4: Build &amp; Train</b>	Phase 5 – Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways and Phase 6 – Implementation & On-Site Mobilization	Build trust and a shared understanding of needs, assets, risks, and opportunities before any design Clarify the institutional landscape, engage partners, and co-select relevant sites.
<b>Step 5: Monitor, Adapt &amp; Reflect</b>	Phase 7 – Maintenance, Monitoring & Adaptive Management Phase 8 – Transition, Reflection & Replication	Build trust and a shared understanding of needs, assets, risks, and opportunities before any design Clarify the institutional landscape, engage partners, and co-select relevant sites.



## Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

5 STEPS	Project Phase	Details
STEP 1: Prepare & Listen	Phase 1: Participatory Site Identification & Selection	<p><i>Depending on the scope of the project, the site selection process may be carried out at the city-wide scale or focused at the neighbourhood level.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scan underused/degraded/informal spaces with ecological or social potential.</li> <li>- Conduct participatory tools: community walks, mapping, photo surveys, and youth scouting.</li> <li>- Hold public sessions to explain goals, build understanding, and gather feedback.</li> <li>- Develop a site selection matrix with criteria (e.g., ecological vulnerability, accessibility, social value).</li> </ul>
STEP 1: Prepare & Listen STEP 2 : Diagnose & Assess	Phase 2: Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify sites with high ecological, social, and climate impact potential.</li> <li>- Conduct diagnosis (e.g., heat islands, impermeable surfaces, informal areas).</li> <li>- Map under-greened areas and vulnerable populations.</li> <li>- Use participatory walks and mapping tools.</li> </ul>
STEP 2 : Diagnose & Assess	Phase 3 – Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluate site conditions (soil, water, pollution).</li> <li>- Prioritize based on ecological value and social feasibility.</li> <li>- Use a feasibility × impact matrix.</li> </ul>



## Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

5 STEPS	Project Phase	Details
STEP 3 : Co-Design & Plan	Phase 4: Co-Design and Stakeholder Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage community (residents, schools, women's groups).</li> <li>- Use design thinking and empathy mapping.</li> <li>- Address conflicts and co-create a vision.</li> <li>- Participation is political.</li> </ul>
STEP 3 : Co-Design & Plan Step 4: Build & Train	Phase 5: Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Translate concepts into technical plans.</li> <li>- Apply ecological engineering principles.</li> <li>- Select appropriate species and design for resilience.</li> <li>- Identify regulatory needs.</li> </ul>
Step 4: Build & Train	Phase 6: Implementation and On-Site Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Execute actions inclusively.</li> <li>- Use tactical, low-cost interventions.</li> <li>- Mobilize local labor and social enterprises.</li> <li>- Document and monitor temporary interventions.</li> <li>- Encourage small, symbolic actions.</li> </ul>
STEP 5: Monitor & Adapt & Reflect	Phase 7: Maintenance, Monitoring, and Adaptive management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forge partnerships and stewardship agreements.</li> <li>- Share maintenance roles.</li> <li>- Train the community for monitoring.</li> <li>- Use feedback loops for adaptive management.</li> <li>- A project thrives when it no longer needs external support.</li> </ul>
	Phase 8: Transition, Reflection & Replication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a transition plan to shift responsibility to the community or municipality.</li> <li>- Conduct reflection sessions to assess successes, challenges, and lessons learned.</li> <li>- Produce evaluation reports, case studies, and lessons learned documents.</li> <li>- Share insights to inform scaling and replication in other areas.</li> </ul>



## Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

### Phase 1: Participatory Site Identification & Selection

#### Guiding Question:

*“Where should we green together—and why does it matter to us?”*

#### Purpose:

Ensure that the site selection process is inclusive, context-aware, and driven by shared priorities, rather than solely top-down decisions.

#### Key Objectives:

- Identify multiple potential sites for urban greening based on environmental need, spatial equity, and community interest.
- Facilitate a co-evaluation process to compare and prioritize sites.
- Foster dialogue between municipalities, community members, and experts to agree on the site.

#### Key Activities:

- Conduct initial scans of underused, degraded, or strategic sites (including informal spaces).
- Hold public information sessions to explain goals and criteria.
- Utilize community walks, photo surveys, participatory mapping, and youth scouting missions to assess needs and desires.
- Develop a site selection matrix with criteria such as:
  - Ecological vulnerability (e.g., heat, impermeability)
  - Demographic need (e.g., youth, elderly, underserved)
  - Accessibility and safety
  - Cultural and social value
  - Governance complexity and ownership

#### Guiding Questions:

- What are the spatial blind spots in current municipal planning?
- Are the most vulnerable or underserved areas being considered?
- What hidden potentials or informal uses exist in proposed sites?
- Can the site catalyze broader urban or social regeneration?

#### Who’s Involved:

- Municipality (planning, technical, and participatory units)
- Community leaders, residents, youth, and women’s groups
- Urban ecologists, legal experts, social researchers
- Civil society organizations active in the neighborhood

**Planners and designers translate aspirations into spatial logic**

This Pre-Phase sets the **tone for a just, bottom-up process**, strengthens trust, and ensures that site selection is not only politically feasible but also **socially and ecologically relevant**.

#### Municipality

##### • Tasks:

- Identify potential sites for greening initiatives.
- Provide data on land ownership and existing urban plans.
- Facilitate initial stakeholder meetings.

•

- **Objective:** Ensure alignment with urban development strategies and legal frameworks.

•

#### Community Members

##### • Tasks:

- Participate in site walks and mapping exercises.
- Share insights on local needs and preferences.
- Identify underutilized or degraded spaces.

•

- **Objective:** Ground the project in community needs and local knowledge.

•

#### Experts: Urban Planners / Ecologists ...

##### • Tasks:

- Assess the ecological value and feasibility of potential sites.
- Provide technical input on site suitability.

•

- **Objective:** Ensure ecological viability and sustainability of selected sites.

•

#### Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

##### • Tasks:

- Mobilize community participation.
- Facilitate dialogues between stakeholders.

•

- **Objective:** Bridge gaps between communities and authorities.

- **Legal Tools Output:** Consultation framework drafted or participatory agreement signed
- **Output:** Participation is formalized and recognized by the municipality/participatory site selection report with maps, criteria matrix, and stakeholder endorsements
- **Outcome:** Number of actors signing onto the charter or protocol; follow-up on commitments made - A co-agreed site that reflects ecological, social, and political relevance
- **M&E:** Number of actors signing onto the charter or protocol; follow-up on commitments made - Count and diversity of stakeholders engaged; qualitative feedback; transparency of criteria used.



## Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

### Phase 2: Strategic Diagnosis & Opportunity Mapping

#### Guiding Question:

*“What challenges and opportunities exist in this space, and how can greening address them?”*

#### Purpose:

Understand the site ecologically, socially, and politically.

#### Key Activities:

- Identify sites with high ecological, social, and climate impact potential.
- Conduct diagnosis (e.g., heat islands, impermeable surfaces, informal areas).
- Map under-greened areas and vulnerable populations.
- Use participatory walks and mapping tools.

#### Guiding Questions:

- What ecological and social vulnerabilities exist?
- Who currently uses or manages the space? Who doesn't?
- What legal or customary land status affects this space?

#### Who's Involved:

- Environmental experts, planners, GIS specialists
- Community representatives, informal vendors, elders

- Identify sites with high ecological, social, and climate impact potential.
- Conduct diagnosis (e.g., heat islands, impermeable surfaces, informal areas).
- Map under-greened areas and vulnerable populations.
- Use participatory walks and mapping tools.

#### Municipality

##### • Tasks:

- Share urban data (e.g., heat maps, pollution levels).
- Support participatory mapping initiatives.

- **Objective:** Provide institutional support and data access.

#### Community Members

##### • Tasks:

- Identify local challenges (e.g., lack of shade, flooding).
- Highlight cultural and historical aspects of the site.

- **Objective:** Ensure the project addresses real community issues.

#### Experts: Urban Planners / Ecologists ...

##### • Tasks:

- Conduct environmental assessments.
- Map existing green infrastructure.

- **Objective:** Inform design with ecological data.

#### CSOs

##### • Tasks:

- Document community inputs.
- Disseminate findings to stakeholders.

- **Objective:** Ensure transparency and inclusivity.

- **Output:** Diagnostic report with maps of challenges/opportunities (e.g., heat islands, pollution)
- **Outcome:** Shared understanding of current site conditions and greening potential
- **M&E:** Quality/completeness of mapping; validation workshops; inclusion of underrepresented voices



## Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

### Phase 2: Feasibility Assessment & Prioritization

#### Guiding Question:

*“What can we realistically achieve here, and what are the potential impacts?”*

#### Purpose:

Evaluate what is ecologically and socially feasible.

#### Key Activities:

- Evaluate site conditions (soil, water, pollution).
- Prioritize based on ecological value and social feasibility.
- Use a feasibility × impact matrix.

#### Guiding Questions:

- What constraints exist (soil toxicity, water scarcity, ownership)?
- What informal or traditional systems can support the intervention?
- How will the NBS provide benefits (shade, biodiversity, mental health)?

#### Who's Involved:

- Engineers, ecologists, legal advisors
- Community leaders, women's cooperatives

- Evaluate site conditions (soil, water, pollution).
- Prioritize based on ecological value and social feasibility.
- Use a feasibility × impact matrix.

#### Municipality

##### • Tasks:

- Evaluate regulatory requirements.
- Assess budgetary constraints.

- **Objective:** Determine project viability within institutional frameworks.

#### Community Members

##### • Tasks:

- Provide feedback on proposed interventions.
- Express willingness to participate in implementation.

- **Objective:** Gauge community support and capacity.

#### Experts: Urban Planners / Ecologists ...

##### • Tasks:

- Analyze soil, water, and biodiversity conditions.
- Recommend suitable NBS interventions.

- **Objective:** Ensure technical feasibility and ecological benefits.

#### CSOs

##### • Tasks:

- Facilitate stakeholder workshops.
- Compile feasibility reports.

- **Objective:** Synthesize information for decision-making.

- **Output:** Feasibility matrix and ranked intervention options
- **Outcome:** Technically and socially realistic intervention pathways identified
- **M&E:** Technical review of options; stakeholder validation; matrix transparency; alignment with NBS goals



### Phase 3: Co-Design and Stakeholder Mobilization

#### Guiding Question:

*“How can we design this green space to reflect our community’s needs and values?”*

#### Purpose:

Shape interventions through inclusive design and negotiation.

#### Key Activities:

- Engage the community (residents, schools, women’s groups).
- Use design thinking and empathy mapping.
- Address conflicts and co-create a vision.

#### Guiding Questions:

- What ideas do diverse community members bring?
- How can the design reflect cultural values and ecological logic?
- What power dynamics must be acknowledged or challenged?

#### Who’s Involved:

- Local youth, schools, artists, informal workers
- Municipal urban unit, NBS specialists

- Engage community (residents, schools, women’s groups).
- Use design thinking and empathy mapping.
- Address conflicts and co-create a vision.
- Participation is political.

#### Municipality

##### • Tasks:

- Provide design guidelines and standards.
- 
- Approve co-designed plans.
- 

##### • Objective: Ensure compliance with urban regulations.

#### Community Members

##### • Tasks:

- Participate in design charrettes and workshops.
- 
- Share preferences for amenities and features.
- 

##### • Objective: Embed community identity into the design.

#### Experts: Urban Planners / Ecologists ...

##### • Tasks:

- Translate community inputs into technical designs.
- 
- Integrate NBS elements effectively.
- 

##### • Objective: Balance community desires with ecological functionality.

#### CSOs

##### • Tasks:

- Coordinate co-design sessions.
- 
- Document and disseminate design outcomes.
- 

##### • Objective: Facilitate collaborative design processes.

- **Output:** Co-designed concept plans, sketches, and workshop summaries
- **Outcome:** Inclusive, community-driven design solutions that reflect user needs and ecological logic
- **M&E:** Representation of community groups; design iteration logs; evaluation surveys from co-design sessions



### Phase 4: Technical Design & Regulatory Pathways

### Guiding Question:

*“How do we turn our shared vision into actionable, approved plans?”*

#### Purpose:

Translate concepts into technical plans.

#### Key Activities:

- Apply ecological engineering principles.
- Select appropriate species and designs for resilience.
- Identify regulatory needs.

#### Guiding Questions:

- How do we turn ideas into implementable blueprints?
- What permits, approvals, or waivers are needed?
- Which NBS principles will guide species and material selection?

#### Who's Involved:

- Landscape architects, urban designers, biodiversity experts
- Municipal engineers, legal department

- Translate concepts into technical plans.
- Apply ecological engineering principles.
- Select appropriate species and design for resilience.
- Identify regulatory needs.

#### Municipality

##### • Tasks:

- Review and approve technical designs.
- Issue necessary permits and clearances.
- 

##### • Objective: Ensure legal and regulatory compliance.

#### Community Members

##### • Tasks:

- Review final designs.
- Prepare for participation in implementation.
- 

##### • Objective: Maintain engagement and readiness.

#### Experts: Urban Planners / Ecologists ...

##### • Tasks:

- Finalize construction documents.
- Develop maintenance and monitoring plans.
- 

##### • Objective: Prepare for effective implementation and sustainability.

#### CSOs

##### • Tasks:

- Advocate for timely approvals.
- Continue stakeholder communication.
- 

##### • Objective: Keep the project on track and stakeholders informed.

- **Output:** Approved technical blueprints, implementation permits, NBS specs
- **Outcome:** Legally and technically validated design ready for execution
- **M&E:** Timeliness of approval; design conformity to regulations; incorporation of NBS and accessibility standards



## Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

Phase 5: Implementation & On-Site Mobilization		Guiding Question: <i>"How can we bring our plans to life using local resources and talents?"</i>	
<p><b>Purpose:</b> Build, test, and document change.</p> <p><b>Key Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Execute actions inclusively.</li> <li>• Use tactical, low-cost interventions.</li> <li>• Mobilize local labor and social enterprises.</li> <li>• Document and monitor temporary interventions.</li> <li>• Encourage small, symbolic actions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we mobilize local labor and skills?</li> <li>• What symbolic and low-cost acts can catalyze change?</li> <li>• How do we test before scaling?</li> </ul> <p><b>Who's Involved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community mobilizers, local SMEs, artists</li> <li>• Women's groups, monitoring volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Execute actions inclusively.</li> <li>- Use tactical, low-cost interventions.</li> <li>- Mobilize local labor and social enterprises.</li> <li>- Document and monitor temporary interventions.</li> <li>- Encourage small, symbolic actions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Municipality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tasks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Oversee construction activities.</li> <li>◦ Ensure adherence to safety and quality standards.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Facilitate smooth implementation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tasks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Participate in planting and construction activities.</li> <li>◦ Support logistics and on-site coordination.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Foster ownership and hands-on involvement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Experts: Urban Planners / Ecologists ...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tasks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide technical supervision.</li> <li>◦ Adjust plans as needed during implementation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Ensure fidelity to design and adaptability.</li> </ul> <p><b>CSOs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tasks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Coordinate volunteer efforts.</li> <li>◦ Document implementation processes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Support community engagement and knowledge sharing.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output:</b> On-ground interventions, documentation of construction activities, visuals</li> <li>• <b>Outcome:</b> Physical transformation of site using local resources and community involvement</li> <li>• <b>M&amp;E:</b> Work progress reports; quality control; community participation logs; before-after comparison</li> </ul>			



## Participatory Urban Greening Project Development Process and Phases For inclusive Public Space

### Phase 6: Maintenance, Monitoring & Adaptive Management

#### Guiding Question:

*“How do we ensure this green space thrives over time with shared responsibility?”*

#### Purpose:

Ensure long-term viability through shared care.

#### Key Activities:

- Forge partnerships and stewardship agreements.
- Share maintenance roles.
- Train the community for monitoring.
- Use feedback loops for adaptive management.

#### Guiding Questions:

- Who maintains what, when, and how?
- How can we decentralize responsibility (e.g., stewardship pacts)?
- What tools can help with participatory monitoring?

#### Who’s Involved:

- Community-based organizations, municipality, NGOs
- Youth groups, local businesses

- Forge partnerships and stewardship agreements.
- Share maintenance roles.
- Train the community for monitoring.
- Use feedback loops for adaptive management.
- A project thrives when it no longer needs external support.

#### Municipality

##### • Tasks:

- Allocate resources for ongoing maintenance.
- Monitor compliance with maintenance plans.
- 

##### • Objective: Sustain the project's longevity.

#### Community Members

##### • Tasks:

- Participate in maintenance activities.
- Report issues and suggest improvements.
- 

##### • Objective: Maintain active stewardship.

#### Experts: Urban Planners / Ecologists ...

##### • Tasks:

- Monitor ecological performance.
- Recommend adaptive management strategies.
- 

##### • Objective: Ensure ecological health and resilience.

#### CSOs

##### • Tasks:

- Facilitate community training.
- Coordinate monitoring efforts.
- 

##### • Objective: Empower communities for self-sustenance.

- **Output:** Maintenance protocols, stewardship agreements, monitoring tools
- **Outcome:** Sustained functionality and care of green infrastructure
- **M&E:** Maintenance logs; community engagement in upkeep; adaptive management feedback loops



### Phase 7: Transition, Reflection & Replication

#### Guiding Question:

*“What have we learned, and how can we apply it to future greening projects?”*

#### Purpose:

Exit responsibly and reflect to improve future work.

#### Key Activities:

- Develop a clear plan for transitioning responsibility to the community or local authorities.
- Reflect on successes and challenges.
- Document lessons learned for replication.

#### Guiding Questions:

- How can the project become self-sustaining?
- What worked and what didn't, and why?
- How can lessons travel to other sites?

#### Who's Involved:

- Evaluation team, funders, municipal strategic planners
- Civil society, urban networks

- Develop a transition plan to shift responsibility to the community or municipality.
- Conduct reflection sessions to assess successes, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Produce evaluation reports, case studies, and lessons learned documents.
- Share insights to inform scaling and replication in other areas.

#### Municipality

- **Tasks:**
  - Integrate lessons into urban planning policies.
  - Support scaling of successful models.
- **Objective:** Institutionalize best practices.

#### Community Members

- **Tasks:**
  - Share experiences and feedback.
  - Mentor other communities.
- **Objective:** Spread knowledge and inspire others.

#### Experts: Urban Planners / Ecologists ...

- **Tasks:**
  - Document project outcomes.
  - Publish findings and recommendations.
- **Objective:** Contribute to the broader knowledge base.

#### CSOs

- **Tasks:**
  - Organize reflection sessions.
  - Disseminate success stories.
- **Objective:** Promote replication and continuous improvement.

- **Output:** Evaluation reports, lessons learned documents, case study
- **Outcome:** Institutional memory and informed scaling/replication
- **M&E:** Post-implementation reviews; documentation quality; interest from other cities/partners; integration into municipal plans

#### Cross-Cutting Components

- **Policy Integration:** How does this project inform municipal planning tools?
- **Data & Knowledge Sharing:** Is a digital or visual archive being created?
- **Gender & Social Equity Lens:** Who benefits and who might be burdened?
- **Climate Resilience Metrics:** Are we tracking heat reduction, biodiversity, or flood absorption?



Term	Definition
<b>Participatory Urban Greening</b>	An inclusive approach to designing, implementing, and managing green public spaces that actively involves local communities and stakeholders throughout the process.
<b>Green Public Space</b>	Outdoor areas (parks, gardens, courtyards, greenways) that are publicly accessible and contain vegetation or nature-based elements.
<b>Ecological Justice</b>	The fair distribution of environmental benefits (greenery, shade, clean air) across all communities, especially marginalized ones.
<b>Territorial Equity</b>	Ensuring all neighborhoods, regardless of status or geography, have access to quality infrastructure and services—including green space.
<b>Co-Production</b>	A collaborative process where citizens, experts, and public authorities jointly define problems, generate solutions, and implement decisions.
<b>CONSULTATION FRAMEWORKS Framework</b> (إطار التشاور)	A formal platform or forum that brings together public authorities and local actors (e.g. CSOs, residents) for dialogue, planning, and shared decision-making.
<b>Spatial Justice</b>	The right to shape and access the city equitably; overcoming geographic and social disparities in access to urban resources.
<b>Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)</b>	Strategies that use natural systems (e.g., green roofs, bioswales, urban forests) to address urban challenges such as flooding, heat, or social exclusion.
<b>Urban Resilience</b>	The ability of a city or neighborhood to absorb, adapt, and recover from environmental, social, or economic shocks while maintaining essential functions.
<b>Co-Stewardship</b>	Shared responsibility for the care, maintenance, and ongoing use of public spaces, involving both municipalities and communities.



Term	Definition
<b>Consultation vs Participation</b>	Consultation is a one-way process (asking opinions); participation involves shared decision-making and ongoing engagement.
<b>Tokenism</b>	Superficial or symbolic involvement of communities without giving them real influence in decisions.
<b>Collective Intelligence</b>	The capacity of a group to collaborate and generate insights or decisions that are better than individual input. Used in participatory diagnostics.
<b>Tactical Urbanism</b>	Short-term, low-cost interventions (e.g., temporary green spaces, pop-up parks) that test ideas and stimulate public engagement in urban change.
<b>Community Diagnostic</b>	A participatory process to identify local needs, assets, and opportunities before planning green interventions.
<b>Shared Urban Futures</b>	A visioning process where communities, experts, and institutions imagine and co-create long-term goals for inclusive urban development.
<b>Know-Being</b>	A mindset in participatory practice that emphasizes presence, empathy, cultural sensitivity, and the emotional-relational dimensions of engagement.
<b>Ladder of Participation</b>	A conceptual model (e.g., Arnstein’s ladder) that illustrates different levels of citizen involvement—from manipulation to full citizen power.
<b>Baseline Assessment</b>	An initial evaluation of site conditions, social dynamics, and community needs that forms the foundation of any participatory planning process.



Term	Definition
<b>Participation Strategy</b>	A structured plan developed before activities begin to define how stakeholders will be engaged, their roles, and the intended outcomes of the participatory process.
<b>Interest/Influence Matrix</b>	A tool used to categorize stakeholders based on how much interest they have in a project and how much influence they can exert. Helps in targeting engagement.
<b>Exploratory Walk</b>	A variation of a transect walk, often gender-sensitive, that creates space for marginalized groups (especially women) to share perceptions of safety, comfort, and accessibility.
<b>Water Mapping</b>	A participatory technique that visualizes local knowledge about water flows, flooding risks, irrigation methods, and water reuse practices.
<b>Mental Maps</b>	Drawings or verbal descriptions produced by residents to represent how they perceive and use urban space—capturing emotional, symbolic, and experiential layers.
<b>Timeline Histories</b>	A visual or narrative exercise where community members trace changes in a space over time, including environmental, social, and infrastructural events.
<b>Empathy Interview</b>	A one-on-one conversation technique used to deeply understand people’s experiences, emotions, and needs related to public spaces.
<b>Sticker Voting</b>	A hands-on participatory tool where participants place symbols or colored stickers on maps or diagrams to indicate preferences or concerns.
<b>Role Matrix</b>	A collaborative chart used to assign specific greening or maintenance tasks to different actors, clarifying who does what and when.
<b>Four Corners Debate / Four Corners Exercise</b>	a well-known classroom and workshop activity where each corner of the room represents a different position (e.g., <i>Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree</i> ) or different options. Participants physically move to the corner that matches their view, then discuss and possibly change position as arguments evolve.
<b>Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)</b>	– the technical/academic equivalent, used in planning, environmental assessment, etc.



Term	Definition
<b>Quick Win</b>	A visible, small-scale action (e.g., planting a tree, installing a bench) implemented early in the process to demonstrate progress and build trust.
<b>Living File</b>	A continuously updated project record—kept by the community or facilitators—that includes notes, maps, photos, and decisions made over time.
<b>Success Wall</b>	A reflective participatory tool where participants write or draw positive outcomes of a project on a shared board or wall.
<b>Harvesting</b>	common in Art of Hosting and facilitation circles (capturing what worked, what didn't, and what can be taken forward)
<b>Effectiveness / Enjoyment Matrix</b>	A visual matrix used to assess project activities based on how effective and enjoyable they were, especially in feedback workshops.
<b>Rhizome Metaphor</b>	A way of visualizing non-hierarchical, resilient community networks—like rhizome root systems—where leadership and energy are distributed.
<b>Adaptive Management</b>	A governance approach that embraces continuous learning and adjustment of actions based on real-time feedback and community reflection.



Term	Definition
<b>Sponge City Concept</b>	An approach to urban water management that mimics natural hydrology by absorbing, storing, and reusing rainwater through integrated green infrastructure (e.g., bioswales, permeable surfaces).
<b>Green Roof</b>	A rooftop covered with vegetation that provides insulation, reduces urban heat, and manages stormwater.
<b>Green Wall / Living Wall</b>	A vertical surface partially or completely covered with greenery, used to improve insulation and aesthetics while reducing pollution.
<b>Urban Tree Planting</b>	Strategic planting of trees in public spaces to provide shade, reduce temperatures, and improve air quality.
<b>Pocket Park / Micro Green Space</b>	Small green areas developed in vacant urban lots to offer local recreation, shade, and biodiversity benefits.
<b>Rain Garden / Bioswale</b>	Vegetated areas designed to collect, filter, and absorb stormwater, reducing runoff and improving groundwater recharge.
<b>Green Corridor / Ecological Network</b>	Linear stretches of green space that connect habitats and improve biodiversity, often located along rivers or transportation lines.
<b>Xeriscape Garden</b>	A landscaping approach using drought-resistant plants to reduce the need for irrigation—especially relevant in arid climates.
<b>Wadi Rehabilitation</b>	The restoration of natural or dry riverbeds (wadis) to enhance their ecological function and stormwater management.



Term	Definition
<b>Native Species</b>	Plant species that are naturally adapted to a region’s climate and ecological conditions—often more resilient and sustainable.
<b>Therapeutic / Sensory Garden</b>	A garden specifically designed to stimulate the senses and provide healing or calming experiences, particularly for users with disabilities or trauma.
<b>Participatory Plant Contest</b>	A community engagement method where residents vote or suggest preferred plant species, ensuring cultural relevance and ownership.
<b>Ecological Co-Benefits</b>	Additional positive outcomes from greening interventions—such as carbon sequestration, cooling, or pollution reduction—that go beyond the primary goal.
<b>Climate-Resilient Greening</b>	Greening interventions designed to endure and adapt to climate challenges like drought, heatwaves, and floods.
<b>Inclusive Green Routes</b>	Pathways and public spaces that are accessible to all users, including people with disabilities, elders, and children.



**Total no. of Botanic Gardens recorded in Tunisia:** 3.

**Approx. no. of living plant accessions recorded in these botanic gardens:**

**Approx. no. of taxa in these collections:** < 1,000.

**Estimated % of pre-CBD collections:** 70%

**Location:** ARIANA

**Founded:** 1913 but subsequently reduced in size with the loss of its arboretum. Garden Name: INRAT Botanic Garden

**Address:** c/o Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique de Tunisie, Rue Hedi Karray, 2049 Ariana.

**Status:** State

**Herbarium:** Yes Approx. no. of herbarium specimens: 2,000

**Ex situ Collections:**

Ornamental trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants from Tunisia and other countries of a similar mediterranean climate to Tunisia, in Australia, Asia, America and Africa. Melaleuca, Callistemon, palms, succulents, tropical and sub-tropical ornamentals.

**No. of taxa:** c.350 (spp.) A former count of 700 spp. was when the Garden included an arboretum, which is now no longer part of the institution. However, many of the original trees still survive in this adjacent plot.

**Rare & Endangered plants:** Yes, threatened Tunisian plants.

Special Conservation Collections: Ornamental plants of economic importance to Tunisia, especially palms and native plants of Tunisia.

**Location:** MONASTIR

**Founded:** 1990

**Garden Name:** Monastir Medicinal Botanic Garden

**Address:** Faculty of Pharmacy, MONASTIR

**Status:** University

**Herbarium:** Yes.

**Ex situ Collections:**

The Garden is currently under development. Its collections include medicinal plants, Mediterranean, ornamental and some native trees, such as *Olea europea*, *Schinus molle*, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, *Myoporum insular*, *Hibiscus mutabilis*, *Nerium oleander*, *Pittosporum tobira*, palms, *Araucaria*, *Casuarina*, *Cupressus*, *Pinus* and *Thuja*.

**No. of taxa:** Unknown

Rare & Endangered plants: Yes, some threatened medicinal plants.

**Location:** TUNIS

**Founded:** 1999

**Garden Name:** Jardin Botanique de la ville de Tunis

**Address:** Association des Amis du Belvédère, Parc du Belvédère, TUNIS 1002 Status: Municipal

**Herbarium:** No.

**Ex situ Collections:**

The Garden is currently under development. Its collections include crops and cultivated plants. No. of taxa: Unknown

**Rare & Endangered plants:** Yes, some rare cultivars.



## Strategic Framework Development: Integrating Participatory Action into a Coherent Planning Process

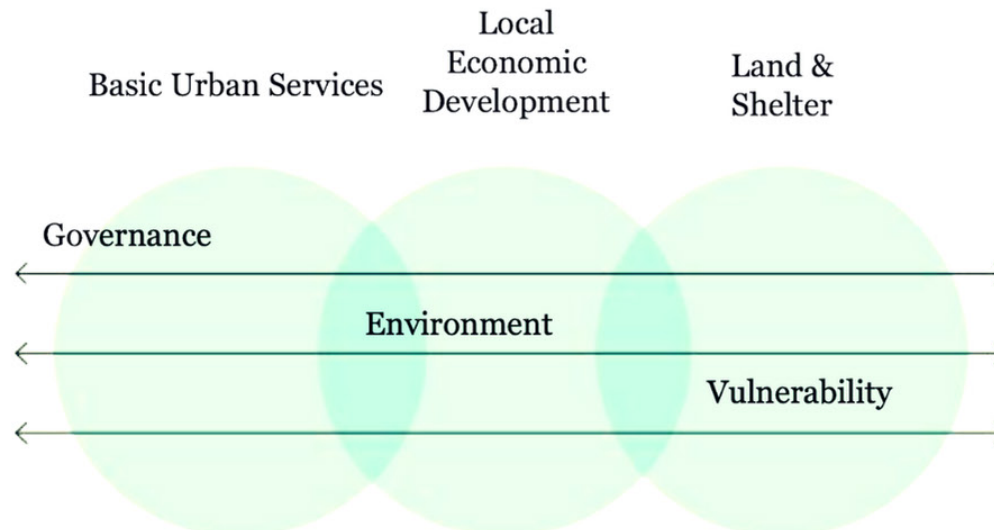
### What is Integrated Strategic Development?

**Integrated strategic development** refers to a cross-cutting planning approach that **aligns and coordinates** the actions and priorities of the **three pillars** of sustainable development – environmental, social, and economic. It is grounded in a sensitive and contextual territorial analysis, attentive to local dynamics, spatial inequalities, and the specific potential of each area.

This approach relies on **the establishment** of active partnerships between **citizens, civil society, local economic actors,** and various levels of governance.

The goal is **to mobilize and bring together local resources, knowledge, and expertise in order to co-create a shared territorial vision and to identify locally grounded, concrete, and sustainable solutions.**

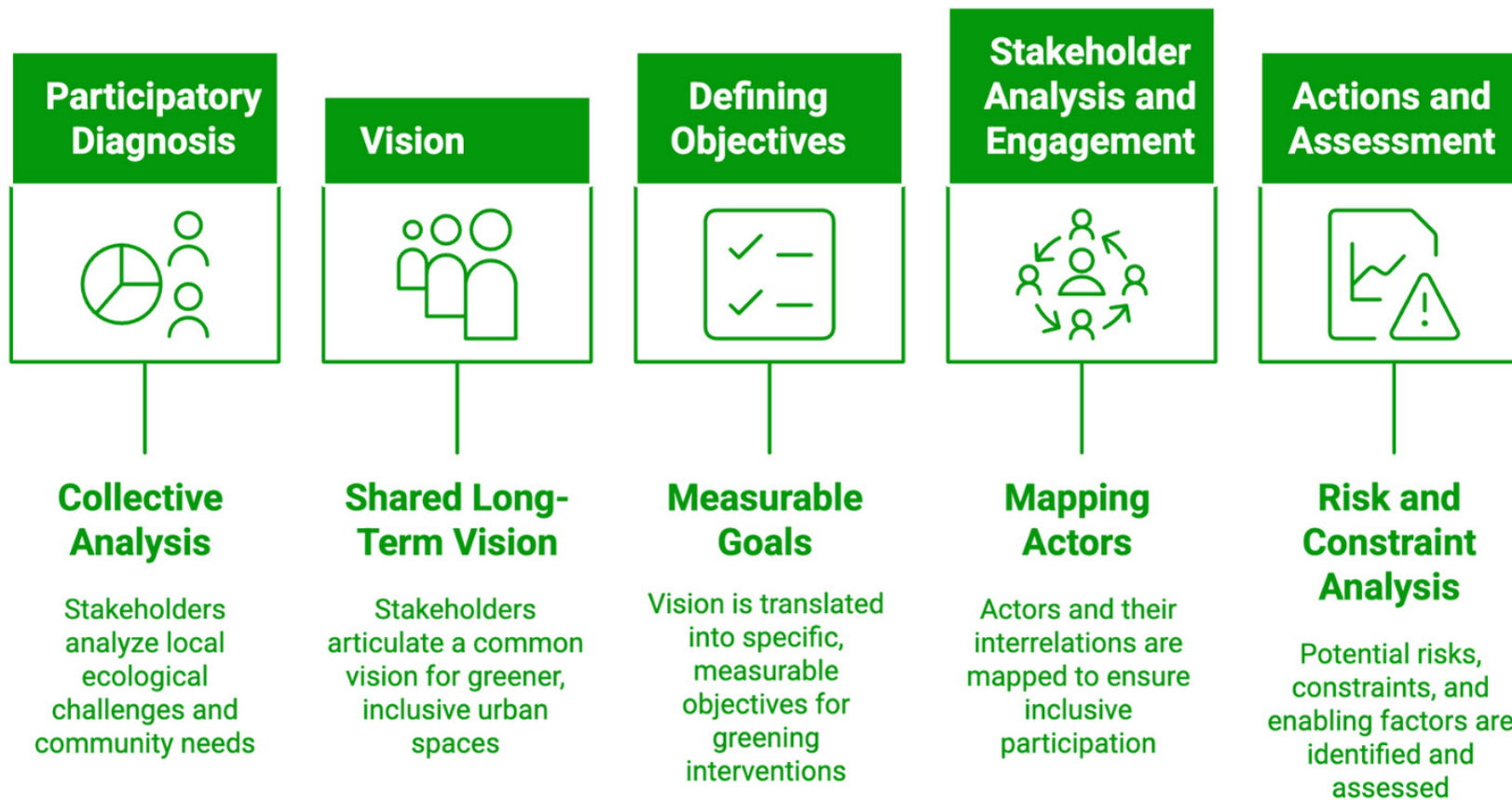
By integrating these multiple layers of action, integrated strategic development promotes collaborative territorial governance, greater community resilience, and a just and inclusive transition.





## Strategic Framework Development: Integrating Participatory Action into a Coherent Planning Process

### Strategic Framework Development: Integrating Participatory Action into a Coherent Planning Process



# Selected Tools



## Tool 1: Participatory Mapping

1

### What is it?

**Participatory mapping** is a tool that enables non-specialists to collectively build a map. Its main objective is to map the perceived or lived space of inhabitants, and to identify and locate key issues or challenges within the territory.

### Why use this tool?

Participatory mapping helps structure the knowledge that a community has of its own territory. By working in sub-groups, it encourages exchange of ideas and perspectives among participants. A territorial map provides insight into how the community perceives its environment and the resources it contains. These maps can be schematic and do not require technical precision.

Participatory maps serve as **visual supports for organizing collective reflection** and guiding later discussions – particularly in identifying problems, constraints, and opportunities. **They can also be used to mark the location of future interventions or proposed actions.**

### How does it work?

- Define the purpose of the mapping exercise  
(e.g. identifying problems, opportunities, spatial patterns, etc.)
- Form small working groups  
Provide each group with a sheet showing schematic boundaries or key landmarks of the territory.
- Map the lived experiences  
Use icons, symbols, drawings, or images to represent places, stories, problems, and resources.
- Facilitate collective synthesis  
After a short break, bring the groups together to produce a final collective map that synthesizes their inputs.



## Tool 1: Participatory Mapping

1

### 🔧 Preparation & Setup

- Organize participants into several sub-groups, ensuring diversity in background, age, or neighbourhood if relevant.

### 🕒 Duration

- 4 hours or a full day, depending on the depth of analysis and size of the group.

### 📦 Materials Needed

- Large sheets of paper
- Adhesive tape
- Pencils and markers
- Sticky notes (Post-its)
- Schematic base map showing the boundaries of the area under discussion, as well as adjacent or neighbouring territories
- Optionally: printed Google Maps image as an additional reference



Credits: Oecumene Spaces For Dignity [Oecumene Studio]



## Tool 2: The Problem Tree

### What is it?

The problem tree is a participatory diagnostic tool designed to identify and visually map the causes and effects of a specific problem. Its purpose is to help participants better understand the underlying dynamics of the issue and to define and prioritize potential areas for action.

### Why use this tool?

In strategic planning, it is essential to identify both the core problems and the objectives to be achieved. The Problem Tree is a tool that helps visually map the causes and effects of a specific problem, in order to define appropriate actions.

#### In the problem tree:

- The central problem is placed at the trunk of the tree,
- The roots represent the underlying causes of the problem,
- The branches and leaves represent the effects and consequences of the problem.

This tool can be used in a variety of contexts and at different scales. It allows stakeholders to focus collectively on a specific issue before developing a project or a territorial strategy.

### How does it work?

- Define the framework by clarifying the historical and geographical context.
- Invite all relevant stakeholders to the table – **ensure inclusive participation of everyone involved or affected.**
- Clearly identify the central problem and place it on the trunk of the tree.
- It is important to make sure that the issue identified is truly central, and not a cause or consequence of a deeper underlying problem (this may require prior analysis).
- Repeat the exercise if the central problem remains unclear or poorly defined.
- Identify the primary and secondary causes – **these form the roots of the tree.**
- Identify the consequences of the central problem – these are the branches, and map out any secondary effects as offshoots or sub-branches.



## Tool 2: The Problem Tree

### Preparation

- Organize participants into diverse groups (different backgrounds, experiences, or sectors).

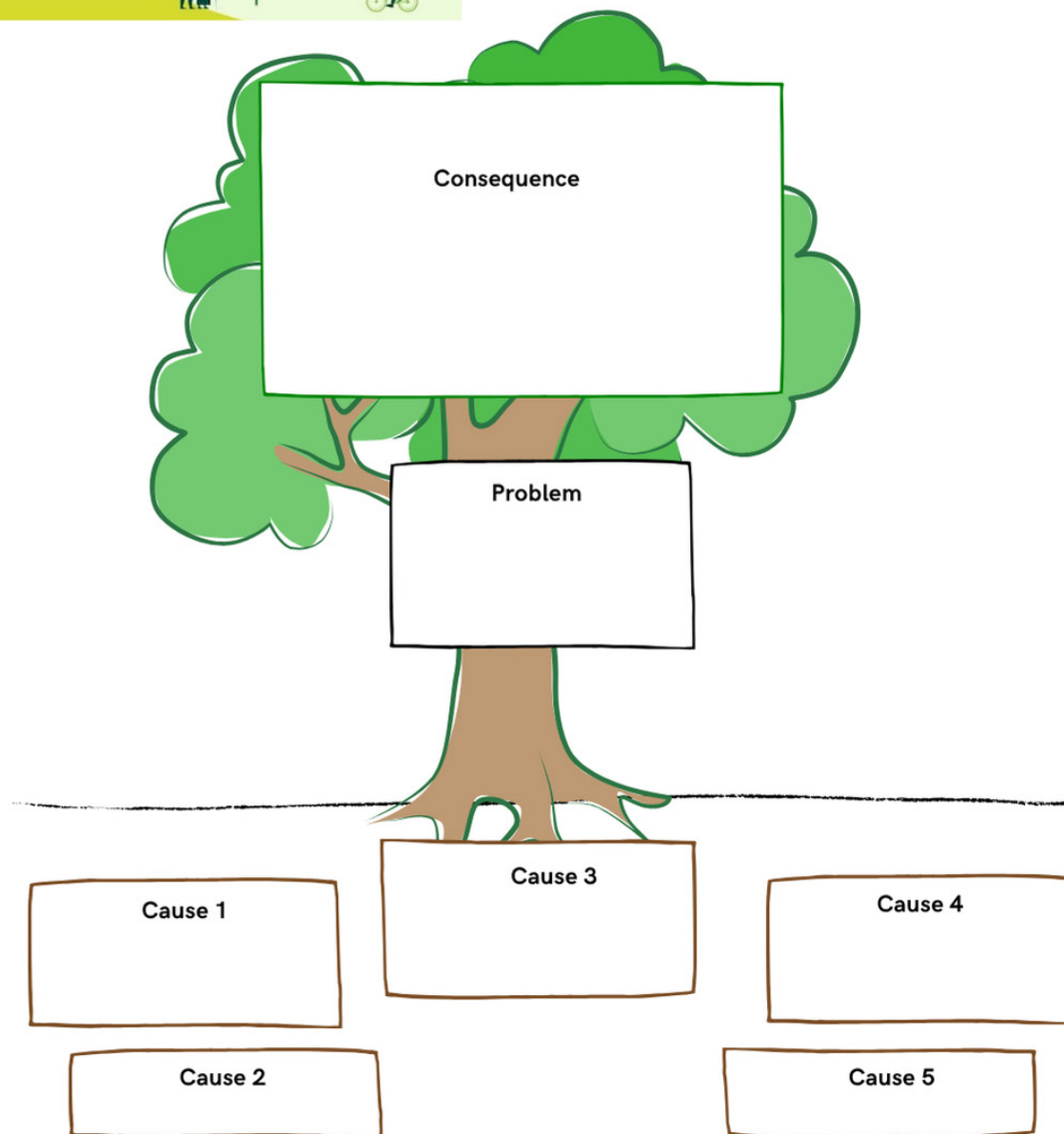
### Duration

- 2 to 4 hours, depending on group size and depth of analysis.

### Materials Needed

- Large sheets of paper
- Adhesive tape
- Pencils and markers
- Sticky notes (Post-its)
- Printed tree diagram or schematic drawing of a tree (with roots, trunk, and branches)
- Flipchart or whiteboard for summarizing causes, effects, and discussion outcomes

- Sometimes, the causes of a problem are not easy to see and often "**lie beneath the surface**".
- Using this diagram, think of and identify potential causes and the main consequence of a problem.





## Tool 3: backcasting

3

### What is it?

Backcasting is a **strategic planning and foresight** method that involves working backward from a desired future outcome to the present to identify the necessary steps to achieve it.

Instead of extrapolating from the present to predict the future (forecasting), **backcasting starts with a vision of a preferred future** and then determines the actions needed to make that vision a reality.

### Why use this tool?

**This collaborative tool** leverages participants' knowledge and specific expertise, encouraging them to generate creative solutions, chart pathways, and identify both opportunities and potential risks.

It also helps assign **short- and long-term timelines** when necessary. Backcasting works especially well in combination with **scenario planning**, as it frees participants from short-term feasibility constraints and encourages long-term visionary thinking.

### How does it work?

- State the main objective to be achieved (the desired future).
- Describe the current situation, including challenges and constraints.
- On a timeline, identify the intermediate objectives that will lead toward the desired future.
- For each step, describe the actions, proposed solutions, involved actors, and necessary resources.
- You may also develop multiple scenarios to explore different possible pathways to the goal.



## Tool 3: backcasting \_First Step

### Preparation & Setup

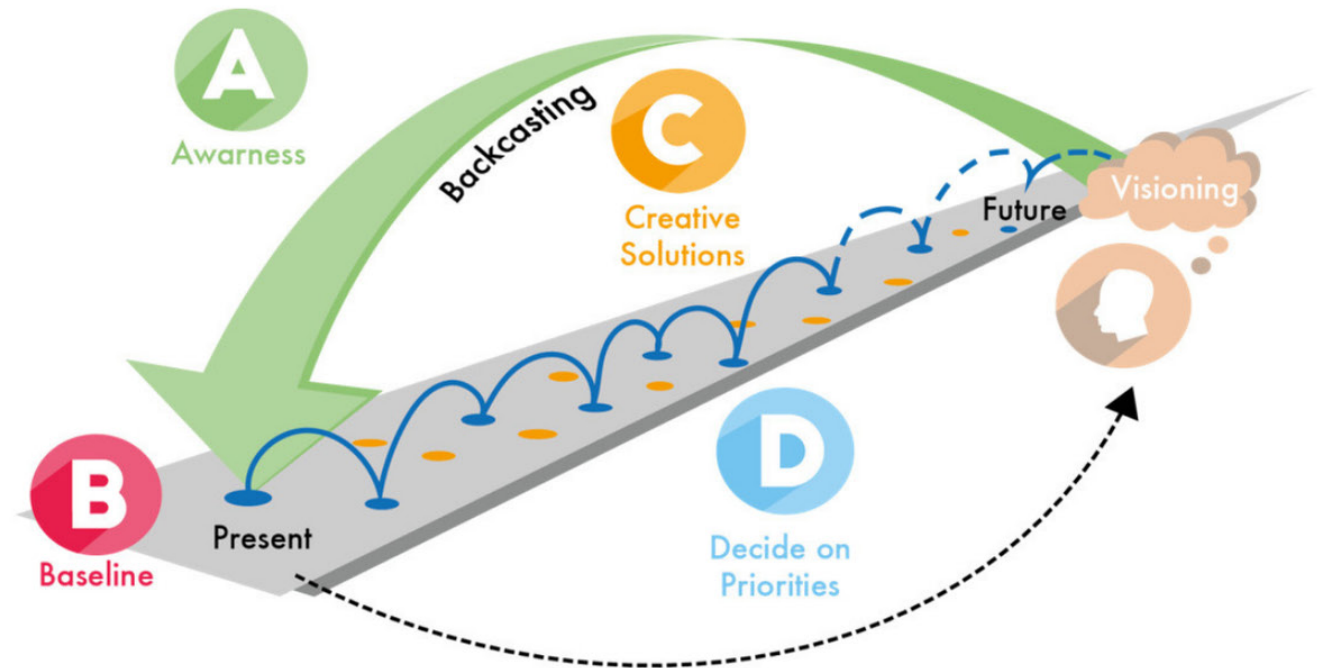
- Organize participants into diverse groups (with different profiles or backgrounds)

### Duration

- 2 to 4 hours, depending on group size and level of detail

### Materials Needed

- Paper
- Adhesive tape
- Pencils and markers
- Sticky notes (Post-its)
- Template or schematic diagram for structuring the timeline
- Flipchart or whiteboard for group synthesis and visualization



Brett Knowles

Note from author 1: This image is based on "A new approach: the Future-Fit Business Benchmark" figure at [futurefitbusiness.org/what-is-a-future-fit-business/](http://futurefitbusiness.org/what-is-a-future-fit-business/)



## Tool 3: backcasting \_Second Step: Scenario planning

### Preparation & Setup

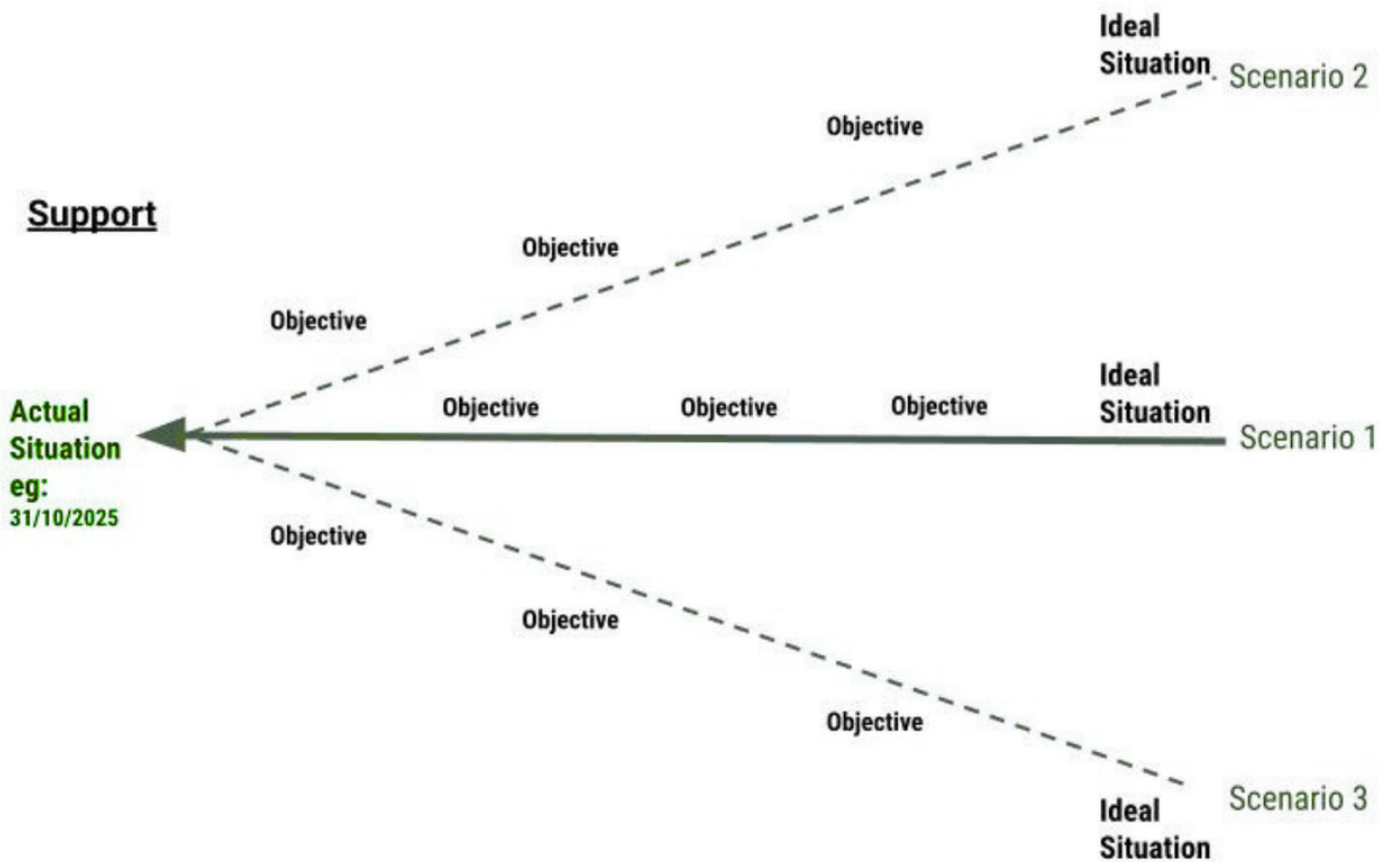
- Organize participants into diverse groups (with different backgrounds or profiles)

### Duration

- 2 to 4 hours, depending on the number of participants and depth of discussion

### Materials Needed

- Paper
- Adhesive tape
- Pencils and markers
- Sticky notes (Post-its)
- Support template or diagram
- Flipchart or whiteboard for synthesizing and presenting outcomes





## Tool 4: Stakeholder Mapping

4

### What is it?

In a participatory planning process, it is essential to identify the **key actors involved and to build a clear understanding of the relationships between stakeholders, in order to optimize both the preparation and implementation phases.**

This tool can be used at various stages of a project, from strategic formulation to operational execution.

### Why use this tool?

- **Stakeholder mapping involves identifying the roles of each stakeholder and assessing their level of interest and influence in relation to the project.**
- Based on the defined objective, this tool helps position each stakeholder on the map in order to determine and qualify the type of relationship to maintain or develop, identify their degree of involvement in the implementation process, and decide when and how to inform or engage them throughout the project lifecycle.
- This tool is also used to define the desired level of stakeholder mobilization and to strategically guide outreach and engagement efforts.
- The outcome of stakeholder mapping is dynamic – it can and should be updated and revised as the project evolves.

### How does it work?

- Define the key questions to position the analysis in relation to the project's objectives and timeline.
- Identify the stakeholders involved in or affected by the project.
- Categorize the stakeholders and group them accordingly (e.g. main actors, key actors, secondary actors).
- Analyse the relationships between stakeholders in order to uncover potential barriers, weaknesses, and to identify opportunities and strategic alliances.



## Tool 4: Stakeholder Mapping First Tool

### Preparation & Setup

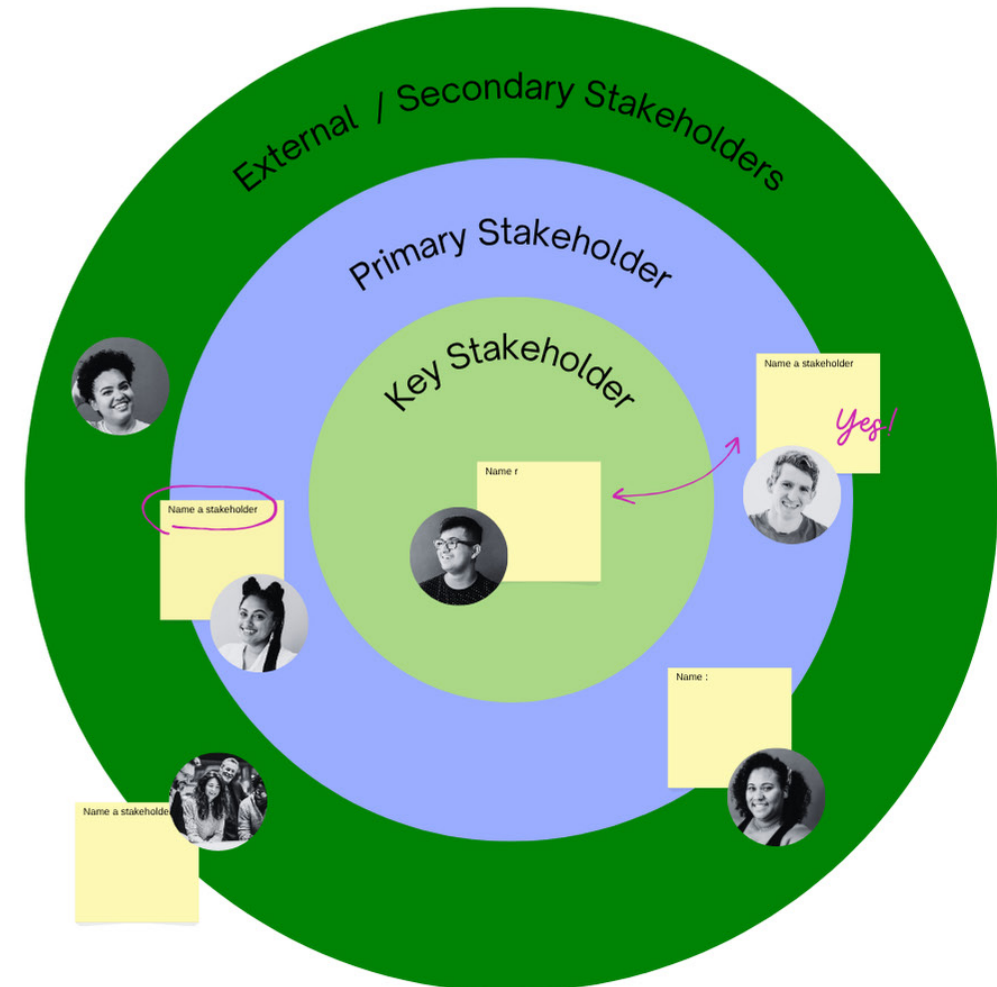
- Work with at least two groups

### Duration

- 1 hour of discussion within each group
- 30 minutes of exchange between the groups
- 30 minutes to revise and improve the stakeholder map

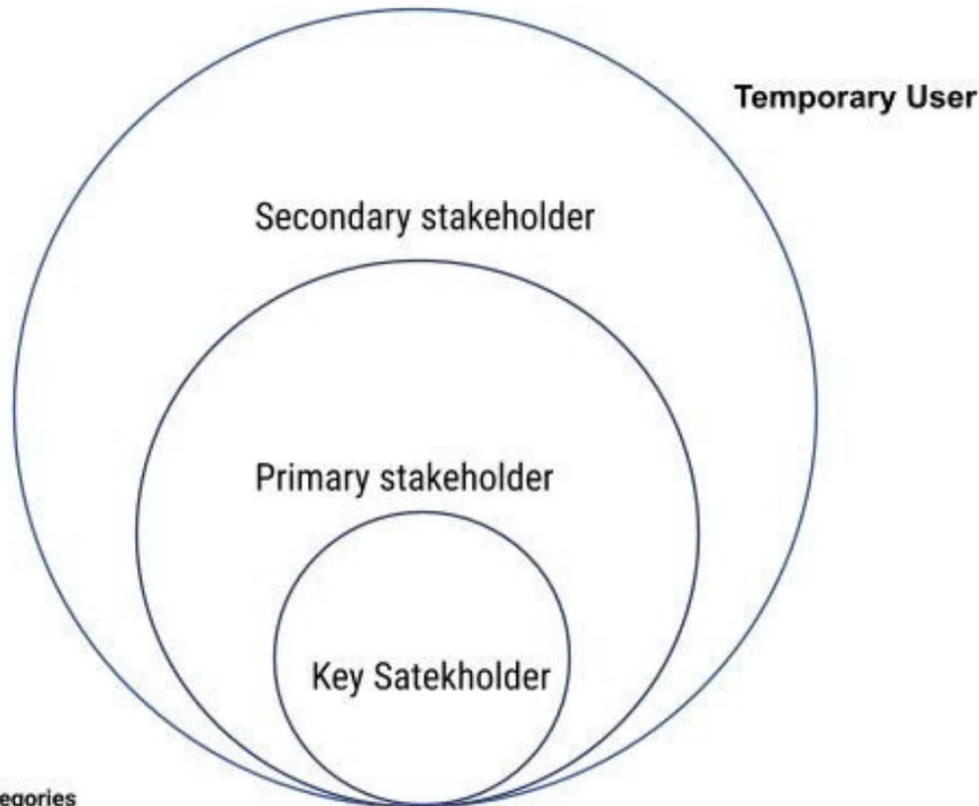
### Materials Needed

- Paper
- Adhesive tape
- Pencils and markers
- Sticky notes (Post-its)
- Flipchart or whiteboard for presenting and synthesizing the results





## Tool 4: Stakeholder Mapping First Tool



Objective :.....

- Strong, close relationship
- Weak or fragile relationship
- Hierarchical relationship
- Contractual relationship
- Conflictual relationship
- No relationship

### Stakeholder Categories

- **Key stakeholder:** Holds influence over decision-making and implementation processes.
- **Primary stakeholder:** Is directly affected by or involved in the project, such as direct beneficiaries.
- **Secondary stakeholder:** Is indirectly concerned by the project or involved during a specific phase; often a temporary or time-bound actor.



## Tool 5: Stakeholder Mapping Second Tool

### Preparation & Setup

- Work with a minimum of two groups

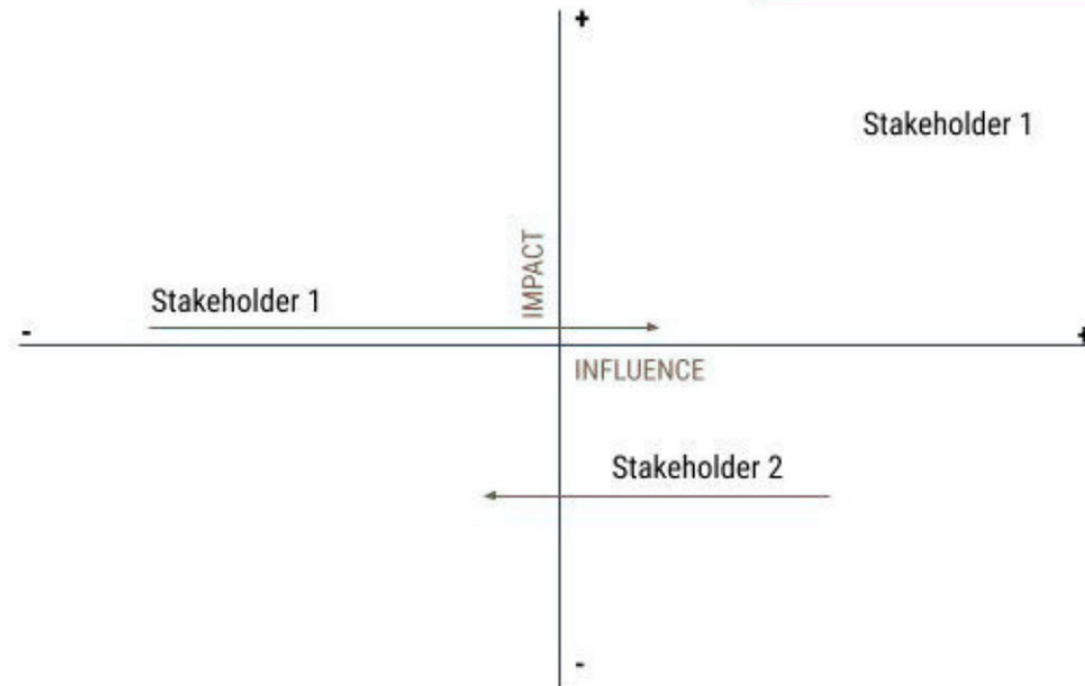
### Duration

- 1 hour of discussion within each group
- 30 minutes of exchange between the groups
- 30 minutes to revise and finalize the stakeholder map

### Materials Needed

- Paper
- Adhesive tape
- Pencils and markers
- Sticky notes (Post-its)
- Flipchart or whiteboard for synthesis and presentation

Project/ Objective / Intermediate  
objective



\*Use arrows to represent the desired degree of stakeholder mobilization (e.g. from low to high involvement).

## Section 1: Introduction, Rationale & Principles

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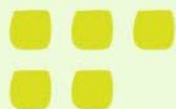
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