ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN CITIES – SDG 11.7.1

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Some thoughts from Cambridge: https://seea.un.org/events/expert-meeting-seea-indicators-sdgs-and-post-2020-agenda

UN environment WCMC 40 years

Urban Areas

Over half the world's population

(UN-Habitat, 2017)

60% of the area projected to be urban in 2030 is yet to be built

(CBD, 2012)

We need to build a city the size of Greater London every month for the next 40 years

(UN-Habitat, 2013)

CBD (2012) Cities and Biodiversity Outlook

Rio+ 20 UN Conference on Sustainability outcome

“if they [cities] are well planned and developed, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies”.

Subsequently adopted as Sustainable Development Goal

SDG 11 and the SEEA EEA

- SDG 11 has 10 Targets. UN-Habitat custodians of a majority of indicators.
- SDG Target 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

$$SDG\ 11.7.1 = \frac{(total\ area\ of\ public\ open\ space\ +\ total\ area\ allocated\ to\ streets\ )}{total\ built\ up\ area}\ (\mathrm{UNSD}, 2018)$$

- SDG 11.7.1 Supplement (Cambridge): Average share of the built-up area of cities that is Blue Green space for public use for all, by income distribution, by sub-municipal area.

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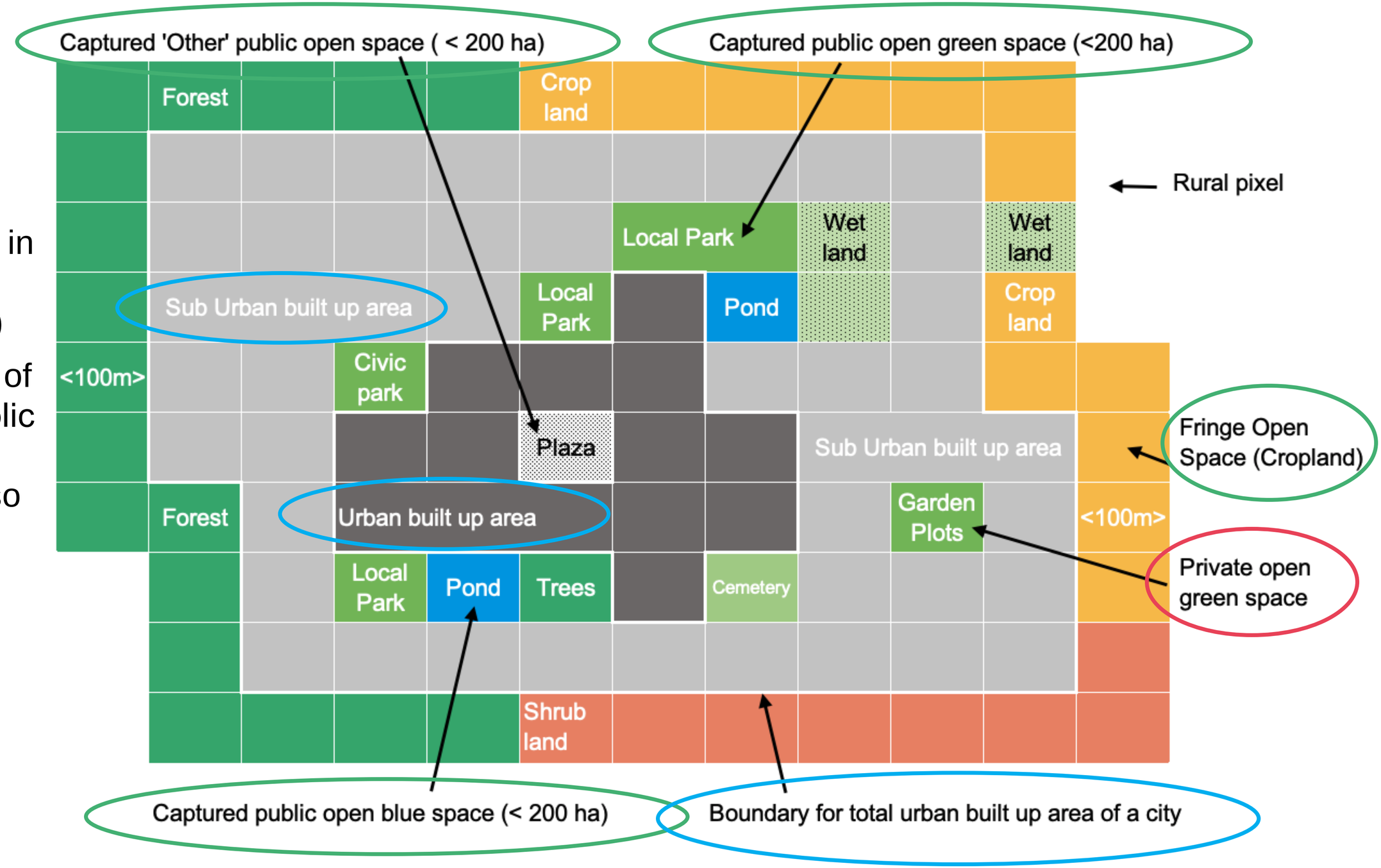
Urban Ecosystem Accounting Areas defined in multiple ways (UNSD, 2018)

Various types of ‘captured’ public open space (<200 ha). Also ‘Fringe’ open space counts

Omit private open space



Urban Ecosystem Extent Account

	Urban							Suburban							Fringe open space					TOTAL URBAN EXTENT (Urban + suburban + fringe open space)		
Classifications >>	Public open green space^	Public open blue space^	Other public open space	Area allocated to streets	Private open space*	Building footprint and other infrastructure	Total urban area	Public open green space^	Public open blue space^	Other public open space	Area allocated to streets	Private open space*	Building footprint and other infrastructure	Total suburban area	Public open green space^	Public open blue space^	Other public open space	Not publicly accessible	Total fringe open space area	Public open blue / green space	All public open space	TOTAL AREA
Opening Stock (Ha, 2015)																						
Additions to stock																						
Total additions to stock																						
Reductions in stock																						
Total reductions in stock																						
Net change in stock																						
Closing stock (Ha, 2020)																						

^ Public open green and blue space can be disaggregated by ecosystem type (e.g., cropland, wetland and forests in the city or fringe) or detailed descriptors for open space, such as cemetery, local park, etc.

* Private Open Space could be further disaggregated to green, blue and other public access space

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Urban

Suburban

Fringe

Total

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Urban Ecosystem Extent Account

^ Public open green and blue space can be disaggregated to different assets: Natural ecosystems, cemeteries, local parks, etc.

* Private Open Space can be further disaggregated too

	Urban						
Classifications >>	**Public open green space^**	**Public open blue space^**	**Other public open space**	**Area allocated to streets**	**Private open space***	**Building footprint and other infrastructure**	**Total urban area**
Opening Stock (Ha, 2015)	**A (U) & B (U)**	**A (U) & B (U)**	**B (U)**	**B (U)**			**C (U)**
Additions to stock							
Total additions to stock							
Reductions in stock							
Total reductions in stock							
Net change in stock							
Closing stock (Ha, 2020)	**A' (U) & B' (U)**	**A' (U) & B' (U)**	**B' (U)**	**B' (U)**			**C' (U)**

A (U) = Urban Areas associated with public open green and blue space (Cambridge workshop SDG 11.7.1)

B (U) = Urban Areas associated with all public open space (Formal SDG 11.7.1)

SDG 11.7.1

$$SDG\ 11.7.1 = \frac{B}{C}\ (\text{UNSD}, 2018)$$

$$Sup.\ SDG\ 11.7.1 = \frac{A}{C}\ (\text{Cambridge})$$

	TOTAL URBAN EXTENT (Urban + suburban + fringe open space)		
Classifications >>	Public open blue / green space	All public open space	TOTAL AREA
Opening Stock (Ha, 2015)	A	B	C
Additions to stock			
Total additions to stock			
Reductions in stock			
Total reductions in stock			
Net change in stock			
Closing stock (Ha, 2020)	A'	B'	C'

Data and Data Challenges

- Blue Green Space lends itself to measurement by Earth Observation
- Many cities have good cadastre/public registers for public open space (many do not)
- Role for condition accounts:
  - Is it really publically accessible?
  - Is there disabled access?
  - How accessible / far on average?
- Distributed in spatially equitable manner (arrange information by sub-municipal area – SEEA EEA can deliver).
- Distributed in an socio-economically equitable manner? (integration with census data – SEEA EEA can help).

Conclusions

- Idea of planning urban spaces for services aligned to SEEA EEA
- SDG 11 a clear policy entry point – what are the others?
  - Flexibility in organising information
  - Transparent and consistent framing to engage stakeholders
- Indicators for blue / green spaces is the first step
- Good public registers, census and *in-situ* work to get to equitability of public access
- Integration with national ecosystem extent accounts
  - Accounts for urban ecosystem type or city samples?

#WeCanMakeChange

References

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