Landscapes for Neighbourhood and Community Revival (LaNCoR) for Urban Sub-Saharan Africa - The Case of Ghana

Alexander Boakye Marful, University of Stuttgart, Germany

1.   Background (LaNCoR Project Development)

Though sub-Saharan Africa is on a path of transition and faces immense challenges in promoting economic growth and combating poverty its urbanization process is undergoing an unprecedented high speed. In 2000, the level of urbanisation in Africa stood at 37 percent, but is expected to increase to 54 percent by 2030. Indeed, Africa is approaching a turning point since, between 2000 and 2030; the annual increase in the number of new urban residents is expected to be more than double the rural population growth (Kaszynska, et al., 2012,p.vii). This rapid urban growth has left behind the snail paced infrastructural development as well as meaningful organisation of the urban morphology. Although this high speed urbanisation have been lower than in neighbouring countries of West Africa, Ghana is following similar trends where by 2030, 58 percent of the population will be located in urban areas, averaging an annual growth rate of 3.1 percent from 2000-2010 and 2.2 percent from 2020-2030, respectively. Currently, the 5 largest cities (Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Tamale and Tema) are home to more than half of the urban population and play an important role in creation of national wealth (Kaszynska, et al., 2012, p.vii).This urbanisation process have not only led to the congestion of these cities but also the break-down of the the socio-cultural milieu. More so, it has been agravated by the discovery of oil in commercial quantities which has led to euphoria and ecstasy for a non-existent anticipated cash inflows from the oil economy and escalating rural-urban migration drive.

Consequently as part of its strategic focus in promoting sustainable community development in Africa, the Community Level Environmental Awareness Network Foundation, Africa (CLEAN-AFRICA) which has its head office in Stuttgart Germany decided to undertake a 30 months research into finding affordable solutions to revive some three marginalised neighbourhoods and communities in Accra and Kumasi through landscaping. Hence CLEAN-AFRICA LaNCoR initiative fall in line with the broader Government of Ghana (GoG) vision of its National Urban Policy (NUP) which is to *"**promote a sustainable, spatially integrated and orderly development of urban settlements** with adequate housing and services, efficient institutions, sound living and working environment for all people to support rapid socio-economic development of Ghana."* In pursuance of the goals of the NUP, according to the GoG, Ghanaian urban centres will serve as engines for economic growth and as centres for the promotion of scientific, social and cultural development, countrywide (Government of Ghana, 2010; p.xii).

Thus CLEAN-AFRICA through a proactive approach is investigating how throughan exploratory research, the upgrading and enhancement of the landscapes within the communities could serve as a node for social revival and interaction. From the premises that Landscape Planning and Development does not only refer to the issue of environment and ecology but also the mood of the entire community and neighbourhood as well as its sense of identity and cultural bearings, the LaNCoR Project is anticipated to serve as a pilot case where the results could be replicated in other communities in the country and adapted later for other sub-Saharan African Countries.

1.1.   Project Goals and Specific Objectives
In other to achieve the vision of reviving the communities through the interaction and utilisation of the Landscapes,the following goals were set out:
*   Development of landscapes and playground for Kids in the Communities to revive and promote the spirit of self-help and community cohesion;

- A programme to educate parents on Child Abuse and delinquency;
- A programme to assist kids develop their talents through psycho-motor activities.

However, for these goals to be realised a number of specific objectives have been set up which would form the core of the project delieverables. The include;

a. Development of Neighbourhood Cohesion Instrument;
b. Formation Self-Help Clubs and Groups like; LaNCoR-Mums, LaNCoR-Kids, LaNCoR-Scouts, LaNCoR-Managers;
c. Development of the LaNCoR-Training Kit for the LaNCoR-Managers and Mums;
d. Organisation of Art and Craft Workshops for Kids and Families;
e. Traditional choreography session for young talents;
f. Development of Playing equipments for Kids with Recycled materials;
g. Organisation of Design Competition for Architecture and Art Students from Kwame Nkrumah Science and Technology for Playing Equipments from recycled materials and layout concepts;
h. Training of the LaNCoR-managers (Training of Trainers);
i. Development of games for the families and teams of neighbours.

1.2. Targeted Communities, Groups and Expected Local Partners
Apart from Accra and Kumasi accounting for almost 20 percent of Ghana's GDP, about 34 percent of the urban population lives in Accra (estimated to be 1.9 million people) and in Kumasi (estimated to be 1.5). The Greater Accra Region is home to about 3.2 million people and alone accounts for close to 51 percent of manufacturing activity in Ghana (Kaszynska, et al., 2012,p.vii). These cities have not however been able to accommodate the great pressure been exerted from this rapid urbanization and hence relapsed into morphological and spatial anomalies. These are represented in uncoordinated urban landscape, emerging slums, dilapidated housing conditions and the rapid decay of urban fabric with its infrastructural facilities and social amenities like open spaces, parks, roads, drainage systems etc. The case study or research areas are the Jamestown, Mamprobi communities in Accra and the Aboabo community in Kumasi. Within these Selected Project Areas (SPA) CLEAN-AFRICA seeks to engage various categories of stakeholder groups including Children (less than 14 years old); Women and Elderly people; Community Based Organisation(s)(CBOs); Educational and research institutions (school, institutions of higher education);Local authorities; Non Governmental organisations (NGOs);Small and Medium-scale Enterprises and Institutions(SME/SMI).

Essentially, in detailing out the programme of action, these stakeholder groups would be consulted and collaborated with at various levels. The CBOs who are already in these communities would be engaged at various levels as well to leverage on their experience and information gathered over the years

1.3. Project Implementation Strategy
The project have been planned to strategically to harness the benefits of this rapid Urbanization phenomenon in Ghana in terms of human development and national integration by fostering a closer interaction of Ghana's many ethnic groupings and also alleviate the deviant spaces it creates out of the dysfunctional and mono-purpose open spaces. Accra and Kumasi by their settings contain diverse population and this heterogeneity of the urban population is evident in the diversity of the ethnic makeup of the population within the SPAs. In addition, there are variety of languages, religion, social structure and occupational patterns, which to some extent follow ethnic divisions and this may create an opportunity when positive intervention are made but a disadvantage when the status-quo is left to be.

According to Government of Ghana (2010; p.28), recent studies of urban ethnic residential segregation in Accra and Kumasi indicate ethnic mixing of the various ethnic groups. Thus any strategy that seeks to foster a deepening of the process of national integration and

ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

coercion within these communities would go a long way to improve the welfare of the community spirit and standard of living. In the wake where there are conflicts along all the borders of Ghana, and the prevalent horizontal development inequality in Ghana the sure way to consolidate the countries young democracy and peace is to introduce programmes that promote to ethnic mixing as well as political inclusion of all ethnic groups in political and public institutions and structures (Government of Ghana, 2010; p.28). Amongst these strategies of implementation are measuring and promoting the neighbourhood cohesion; programme of activities for Parents; Programme and facilities for Kids; Neighbourhood Forums and Workshops; and Local Contextualisation and Heritage Conservation.

1.3.1. *Instruments to Measure Neighbourhood Cohesion*
Besides poverty and material deprivation, in marginalized communities, inhabitants are unable to communicate with each other in order to come to agreements about both the daily tasks, living together, and how to deal with particular problems that crop up in their locality (Thomas, 1991, p. 20). Some levels of hierarchy exist but it's usually the law of the jungle, survival of the fittest. For some cohesion to emanate, the social capital needs to be assessed and tapped into. The Social capital consists of the institutions and relationships of a thriving civil society from networks of neighbours to extended families, community groups to religious organisations, local businesses to local public services, youth clubs to parent teacher associations, playgroups to police on the beat. Where you live, who else lives there, and how they live their lives co-operatively or shyly, responsibly or destructively can be as important as personal resources in determining life chances (Commission for Social Justice, 1994, p. 307– 308; Meegan & Mitchell, 2001; p.2168). Thus in order to achieve the set goals for LaNCoR, the cohesion of SPAs would be assessed based on an instrument which would be developed from the set of items listed in the ladder of community interaction. The whole idea is to infuse self-help and participatory development process into a high speed urbanization process which has basically no respect for development controls.

Community involvement can take many forms: formal volunteering; helping a neighbour; taking part in a community organisation. It can have the triple benefit of getting things done that need to be, fostering community links and building the skills, self-esteem and networks of those who give their time (SEU, 1998, p. 68; Meegan & Mitchell, 2001; p.2168)

Rung	Description
11	Owning and managing local facilities
10	Working with policy-makers
9	Co-operation with other community groups
8	Joining community groups
7	Participating in community activities
6	Informal mutual aid
5	Involvement in informal networks
4	Social contacts; such as at the pub, church or community centre
3	Routine contacts; such as picking the children up from school every day
2	Casual contacts; for example whilst shopping or waiting for the bus
1	Mutual recognition

Source: (Thomas, 1991; Meegan & Mitchell, 2001,p.2176)

Table 1: A Ladder of Community Interaction

Many of the determining factors for why members of a particular group tend, on average, to experience a high sense of community may be group-level variables such as size, the existence of a common goal, clear criteria for who belongs to the group, the existence of an external threat, and a shared set of values, to list a few. These variables are, in fact, known determinants of cohesion as manifested in small groups (Cartwright, 1968; Buckner, 1988,

p.773). The aggregate-individual variable method for inferring cohesion adopted in this study follows an adapted traditional method of inference used by social psychologists to determine group cohesion, the method used in the Social Climate Scales of Rudolph Moos and colleagues (see Moos, 1974, 1976), and that used in organization climate research (James, 1982). With all these methods, the mean score from aggregated individual-level data is used to quantify some setting-level attribute. The strength of this method is it enables analyses at both the collective and individual level (Buckner, 1988, p.775).The initial version of the Neighbourhood Cohesion Instrument is to write pool of items that taps into the ladder of social interaction indicated in table 1 above. A systematic random sample of 100 households from each SPA would select for the administration of the survey questionnaires. A psychometric analyses and decisions that would lead to the final version of the Neighbourhood Cohesion Instrument would be performed after the final proposal development and stakeholder consultation.

1.3.2. *Programme and Facilities for Parents and Kids*
In the spirit of Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) philosophy, children should be encouraged to think for themselves and children learn by doing. Thus the parks would endeavour to have areas that promote psychomotor activities. This is very critical as these communities have virtually no kindergartens and the few available are for the elite within the neighbourhoods. Even those who are privileged to attend the kindergarten within these SPAs are also restricted with confined spaces and rigorously thought to memorise and practice how to read. Unfortunately, almost all public landscape and landscaped open spaces as become a place that provides a setting for crime rather than neighbourly connection, this LaNCoR project seeks to provide unique opportunities for parents and their kids. Regardless of race or ethnicity, people want clean, safe parks hence the general policy is to provide a very low-cost easy-to-build design and safe-to-use facility. The desire for safety had made the CLEAN-AFRICA team include as a general policy that all the SPAs should allow unobstructed views from one end of the park or landscaped open space to the other.

Landscape Planning Concept consideration and principles are as follows:
- Use site history and the arts of many cultures to redesign the park;
- Establish historic centre of park with new design focus;
- Decrease water consumption with drought-tolerant native trees and alternative ground covers like decomposed granite;
- Create lighting for the community centre and add other security lighting throughout the park;
- Design park furniture (benches, trash cans, walls) as culturally expressive art;
- Create drainage patterns to maximize water efficiency and planting design;
- Plant native flowers and shrubs that are durable;
- Build a multipurpose stage for performances, parties, and events.

Apart from the physical landscape infrastructure proposed, special needs of parents especially mothers would be catered for. Special focus for the children programme would include;
- Offer tutoring program for children;
- Open children's library using permanent structure or bookmobile;
- Establish toy-lending library monitored by a parent volunteer;
- Install more play equipment for children;
- Provide an area for children's storytelling;
- Offer cultural programs;
- Introduce relevant sports programs as it shall be suggested by the community.

ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

1.3.3. Neighbourhood Forums and Workshops

Neighbourhood forums are community groups that would be designated to take forward neighbourhood Charrette in areas which are part of the SPAs in the LaNCoR project. These Forums are exclusively formed for the purpose of the project and subjected to the local council act and authority. It would be formed to take away the political influence out of the local council functions they are normally designated to perform. The role of the local planning authority is to agree who should be the neighbourhood forum for the neighbourhood area. Neighbourhood Forums are an opportunity for the citizens to get involved in issues affecting your area, and to get information about the LaNCoR project and how they could help things get improved. These forums would be used for the planning and design Charrette. Workshops for the parents and kids would also be organised using the membership of these forum.

1.3.4. Local Contextualisation and Heritage Conservation

As part of the local contextualisation , effort would be made to design park furniture (benches, trash cans, walls) as culturally expressive art as well as establish historic centre of park with new design focus. This can be in a form of murals and paintings as well as specific artistic symbols. More so a multipurpose stage would be built for performances, parties, and events of cultural significance and areas for children's storytelling have also been incorporated into the deign consideration. The oral history which has been the age old traditional method of handing over cultural and societal values to people would also be used to conserve the heritage of the people. Seasonally organised cultural programs would be offered at these places with other role models to inspire the children to aspire greater things in life.

1.4.   Current Status and Challenges

The project is still at the proposal development stage but at the level where the local people are being contacted and for their input as well as financiers being sought. A number of local partners have expressed interest and willingness to participate and hence CLEAN-AFRICA is incorporating all the initial feed-backs into the proposal to forestall the oversight that predominately prevails in the planning process. The expectation that the project is supposed to distribute money and also have an immediate economic benefit for the participants from the communities is posing great challenge. How do you convince a hungry man that landscape can help his standard of living? The monetisation of social work by well known NGOs and the disappointment by opportunistic politicians have also created serious barrier for the community involvement campaign drive being sought. The country have been divided so much on partisan politics to the extent that community leaders seeks to politicise any meaningful project that comes to the communities. Another challenge which we envisage to encounter is vandalism from deviant who uses these spots for their clandestine activities. However, that issue is being factored into the project to try and cure it through the project implementation. It must be stated that though it is known that many inhabitants of these SPAs do not want extra formal social organizations apart from the religious ones they have, any extra community groupings which shows some level of commitment to the welfare of the community is likely to be received. They are happy among their family and their friends. when exiles think of their home town they are as likely to recall the pub, the snack bar or Sunday evenings in the park as they are to think of the church, the school or the community centre (Dewey, 1950, p.506). Effort would be made not to attempt to recreate the rural neighbourhood in a metropolitan community but rather copy certain activities which were carried on in the rural setting which is relevant to bring them together through interaction at the open spaces (Dewey, 1950, p.507).

2.   Urban Neighbourhoods in Rapid Urbanisation of Ghana

Although there are many decent medium density urban neighbourhoods in Ghana, the targeted communities and neighbourhoods are those relatively highly populated areas with

ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

virtually broken down physical infrastructure. Within these communities, increasing urban unemployment and problems of access to land and other resources have made the families no longer the basic economic unit of production, distribution and consumption that can ensure the survival of the vulnerable members of the family- infants and children, old persons and the disabled. Although family ties and other social networks have in the past acted as social security and buffer for many potential vulnerable individuals and groups, this cannot be said about in contemporary times which have become survival of the fittest. Furthermore, increasing marriage instability and associated consequences have resulted in increasing single parent households and street livelihoods. In the absence of appropriate social institutions that can replace the safety-nets that are characteristic of traditional societies, the economic and social problems of urban families will continue to make a large proportion of them dysfunctional. Dysfunctional family systems can be measured in terms of the high number of children at risks of disease, hunger and neglect, increasing youth crime rate, rising number of female-headed households and inadequate care of the aged, streetism, etc. Streetism and homelessness have been further compounded by the existing housing situation, reflected in higher rents and the absence of social housing for the poor (Government of Ghana, 2010; p.17).

2.1.   Urbanisation Trend in Ghana

Population trends indicate that by 2010, more than half of Ghana's population will be living in urban areas, with urbanization expected to reach 65 percent by 2030. The number of urban localities increased from 39 in 1948 to 364 in 2000, accompanied by a strong increase in the rate of urbanization. Despite the increase in the number of urban localities, it is worth noting that cities like Accra and Kumasi host 33 percent of the urban population (Kaszynska, et al., 2012, p.1). About 34 percent of the urban population lives in Accra (estimated to be 1.9 million people) and in Kumasi (estimated to be 1.5). These two cities account for almost 20 percent of Ghana's GDP.

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total	5,243	7,131	8982	11,303	15,480	19,867	22,113	24,312	26,562	28,790	30,964	33,075
Rural	4,433	5,473	6380	7,780	9,836	11,124	11,537	11,780	11,922	11,946	11,860	11,655
Urban	810	1,658	2602	3,523	5,644	8,743	10,576	12,532	14,640	16,844	19,104	21420
%Urban	15.4	23.3	29	31.2	36.5	44	47.8	51.5	55.1	58.5	61.7	64.8
Accra	177	393	631	863	1,197	1,674	1,981	2,321	2,666			
Kumasi	99	221	349	452	696	1,187	1,517	1,818	2,095			

(Source: World Population prospects, 2005; Kaszynska, et al., 2012, p.2)

Table 2: Population Trends in Ghana, 1950-2030 (thousands of inhabitants)

The Greater Accra Region is home to about 3.2 million people and alone accounts for close to 51 percent of manufacturing activity in Ghana (Kaszynska, et al., 2012,p.vii). Confronted with low profile jobs in the urban informal sector and poor wages and salaries, many urban dwellers are falling into the poverty bracket. With limited income which cannot guarantee them formal housing, many urban dwellers seeking a foothold in urban areas, especially the large cities of Accra and Kumasi, end up in already congested and crowded urban areas of these cities. For instance, population census data show that in 1960, Accra's average density was 36 persons per hectare; by 1970, it had increased to about 51; 69 in 1984 and about 118 in 2000. Even though these average density increases of the city of Accra are significant, they mask even more significant differentials among poor and high density urban neighbourhoods such as James Town, Nima, La, Accra New Town, etc, where densities of 300-400 persons per hectare have been recorded. These high density figures derived from census data do no capture the daily generation of people into cities like Accra and Kumasi, sometimes referred to as 'floating population'. It is estimated that the city of Accra accommodates between 2.5 million and 3 million people in terms of socio-economic activities aside the residential dimension captured by the 2000 National Population and Housing Census. The increase population growth and intensive population densities reflect both the continuous rapid influx

ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

of migrants as well as natural growth (Government of Ghana, 2010; p.17).

2.2. *Dynamics of Dilapidated Open Spaces in Accra and Kumasi*

Urban public space is a key element in the livelihoods of the urban poor, but its importance in development policies for cities is largely ignored (Brown, 2006). In Ghana, urban public spaces, such as open spaces, nature reserves and right of ways, have become assets for livelihoods. Open Spaces remain open only when it's raining or inclement weather. Most of the open spaces in Accra and Kumasi have been hijacked by street hawkers during the day time and in the night social deviants. It's been reported that the only children's park in Kumasi has become a haven for prostitutes, armed robbers and other miscreants and almost a prohibited zone for the target group. The idea and the functions of an open space have not been well understood by the majority of the urban dwellers and it's mostly seen as a place for commercial activity or a wasted land which needs to be encroached upon. Thus, urban public space is perceived as a physical asset which is used to sustain the livelihoods of the urban poor. A place which was to serve as a recreational and learning ground kids in most communities have been encroached upon by the power inhabitants within the neighbourhoods and the city authorities also care less about any security or maintenance of them as well. Thus they usually become a free range toilet for some members of the public and some portions as dumping grounds for waste as well as hide outs for drug addicts and prostitutes at nights. Even, the popular Efua Sutherland Park and the Kumasi Children's Park and others in the regional capitals, is serving more as a brothel and a sleeping place for lunatics than as a recreational and educational ground for children (Akordor, 2011). They only become operational during festive occasions like Christmas, Easter, Independence Day and some traditional festival days. As shown in Figure 1 below, an urban open space in Jamestown which have been neglected to be dilapidated caught the attention of the Foundation of Contemporary Artist (FCA) in Ghana.

Source: http://fcaghanablog.files.wordpress.com_accessed_07.07.2012

Figure 1: Unused space of Akumajay Community Park in Jamestown, Accra

The FCA project was implemented with artists engaging the community members in discussions to determine what they will want as a subject matter for the mural. Finally a mural, representing the occupational life of people living in Akumajay, Accra, intermingled with representations of the hopes and aspirations of the youth and the community was done. What fell short of this project were other sustainable programmes for the community and equipments within the landscape to help the kids to use. The place although is being used by the community during the day, is still hide outs for deviants at night.

ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

3.   Urban Ecology in Marginalised Urban Communities

3.1.   Combating Child Delinquency and Truancy through Integrated Landscape Development

Usually in dense urban neighbourhoods the "bad" kids often live in the same building as the "good" ones, hang out close by, dominate the nearby playground, and are nearly unavoidable. Hence, peer groups in dense neighbourhoods tend to be inclusive, and all young people living there will face maximum peer pressure to deviate (Stark, 1987, p.896). The SPAs which are communities with virtually broken down physical infrastructures and overcrowded homes due to the level of incomes tends to exhibit such characteristics. Where homes are more crowded, there will be a greater tendency to congregate outside the home in places and circumstances that raise levels of temptation and opportunity to deviate (Stark, 1987, p.897). Children's behaviour becomes disruptive when they are bored or confined but what is really needed is space for children to express themselves positively. More so, where homes are more crowded, there will be lower levels of supervision of children and truancy and delinquency becomes normal. Poor, dense, mixed-use neighbourhoods have high transience rates and this transience weakens extra-familial attachments (Stark, 1987, p.899) as well as community spirit towards self-help. The higher the visibility of crime and deviance, the more it will appear to others that these activities are safe and rewarding (Stark, 1987, p.903). Friendships made in the playground last for life as well as social skills are often forged in the sandpit (The Learning through Landscapes Trust, 2012). Through pragmatic planning and sensitive design, different behaviours can be accommodated and the tensions that lead to conflict are reduced by the revitalisation of these derelict open spaces. As per the implementation strategy of LaNCoR, the children from the neighbourhood would be engaged pupils in making improvements to their grounds and this would go a long way to offer a great active community participation and acceptance.

4.   Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1.   Revival Through Landscapes

 "Cities and towns have been **engines of growth and incubators of civilisation and have facilitated the evolution of knowledge**, **culture and tradition** as well as industry and commerce. **Urban settlements, properly planned and managed**, hold the promise for human development and the protection of the world's natural resources through their ability to support large numbers of people while limiting their impact on the natural environment"(2nd UN Conference on Human Settlements-Habitat II; Paragraph 5 of the Habitat Agenda; Government of Ghana, 2010; p.29). In conclusion, to the above statement epitomizes the relevance of reviving cities in Urban Ghana for an accelerated development. These calls for research and development (R&D) which involves creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including culture and society in the urban landscape, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new ways of addressing problems in the high speed urbanised environment. This should be part and parcel of urban development intervention strategies in Ghana. In figure 2 below, its clear that the little intervention that was undertaken by the FCAs had received a tremendous cooperation by the community and much could have been gotten out of it if other systems and support was added to it. It is also recommended that urban research should be encourage that has immediate bearing on urban development problems and needs of Ghana whilst strengthen capacity of higher institutions of learning (universities and polytechnics) focusing on urban planning and landscape development.

Source: http://fcaghanablog.wordpress.com/2011/09/19

Figure 2: Akumajay Community Park during and after Artist intervention

Civil Society Organisations and Community Based Organisation and other pressure groups should be engaged in partnership with the government in establishing, retaining and improving open spaces and green belts to improve air quality, and create educational and recreational activities within urban areas. This would also enhance the aesthetic value of urban areas as well as guarantee and protect lands designated as open spaces and green belts. The Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) ought to liaise with traditional authorities and customary land owners to earmark lands for open spaces and green belts and also develop ecologically sensitive areas such as flood prone areas in urban centres as open spaces. More importantly, the MMDAs ought to protect lands designated as open spaces and green belts as 'off limit' to developers (Government of Ghana, 2010; p.48).
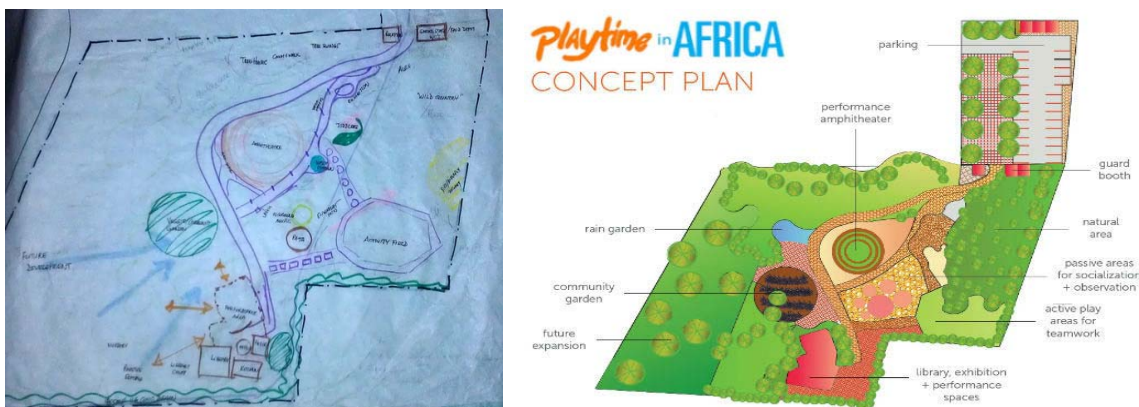
Source: http://mmofraghana.org/our-work/playtime-in-africa-initiative/_accessed_07.07.2012

Figure 3: A Playground Concept by Mmofra Foundation in Ghana

Another suggestion to the MMDAs and the CSOs is to generate awareness on the value and utility of open spaces and green belts by increasing mass media public education programmes in schools and public places. This as seen in figure 3 has been stated by the Mmofra Foundation in Ghana but their target group was for the rich communities and neighbourhoods. That is one way of tackling the problem seen the rich can afford to contribute for the maintenance of the facilities but the aspect of community revival would be lost. Most of the target groups have access to playgrounds in their kindergartens whilst the poor neighbourhoods have no kindergarten let alone a playground.

Finally, it's also important to say that since public safety should be provided by the state (through the police) and there is a limit where community can provide its own security without

ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

forming vigilante groups. Its therefore recommended that promotion urban safety and security through the adoption of good urban planning and management practices as well as appropriate investment in infrastructure and services as a means of addressing the challenges of vulnerability to disaster and general security of urban communities. This would then could be achieved through pragmatic urban landscaping policies and principles based on the concept of community revival and survival.

4.2. Evaluation of Revival of Community Spirit
As part of emphasising that social inclusion ought not to be postponed in these contemporary rapid urbanisation processes, the LaNCoR project would seek not only to include the community in the initial planning and design but also in the impact evaluation and monitoring processes.

Criteria	Definition
Sentiment as attachment	Degree of rootedness or stability of population
Acceptance	Degree of Satisfaction people have within the neighbourhood
Security and Safety	Relative degree of fear to allow kids to play in open spaces
Empowerment	Degree to which individual feel that they have control over the open space (in the sense of being able to influence the future of the community)
Symbolism of place	The way the Playground enhances or decrease the status of the residents
Latent Participation (neighbours)	The level of expected mutual aid from people in the area
Contextual Aesthetics	How the open-space and playground is accepted as culturally beautiful
Common Values	Extent to which there is interpersonal influence or common behaviour
Empathy or Sense of Belonging	Social cohesion or integration

Source: Adapted from Davies & Herbert (1993)

Table 3: Preliminary Criteria for Assessing and Evaluation of Revival of Community Spirit

Table 3 above shows the preliminary criteria for assessing and evaluation of revival of community spirit after the 30 months of implementation and development of the LaNCoR project.

Suffice it to say, if attention is given to these important but neglected landscapes within the urban fabric and the strategies adopted many communities in Ghana may be revived through landscaping planning and intervention.

References
Akordor, K., 2011. *A Brothel Called Children's Park.* [Online] Available at: http://opinion.myjoyonline.com/pages/feature/201105/66474.php [Accessed 7 July 2012].
Alberti, M., 2005. The effects of Urban Patterns on Ecosystem Function. *International Regional Science REview,* 28(2), pp. 168-192.
Buckner, J. C., 1988. The Development of an Instrument to Measure Neighbourhood Cohesion. *American Journal of Community Psychology,* 16(6), pp. 771-791.
Bursik, R. J. & Webb, J., 1982. Community Change Patterns of Deliquency. *American Journal of Sociology,* 88(1), pp. 24-42.

Burton, L. M. & Jarret, R. L., 2000. In the Mix, Yet on the Margins: The Place of Families in Urban Neighbourhood and Child Development Research. *Journal of Marriage and the Family,* Volume 62, pp. 1114-1135.

Davies, W. K. D. & Herbert, D. T., 1993. *Communities within Cities: An Urban Social Geography.* London: Belhaven Press.

Dewey, R., 1950. The Neighbourhood, Urban ecology, and City Planners. *American Sociological Review,* 15(4), pp. 502-505.

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne, July 2011 . *Future Proofing Schools: Brochure 3. Landscape: Integrations & Connections,* Melbourne : The University of Melbourne .

Farvacque, C., Raghunath, M., Eghoff, C. & Boakye, C., 2008. *Development of the Cities of Ghana: Challenges, Priorities and Tools,* s.l.: World Bank.

Fraser, E. D., 2002. Urban Ecology in Bangkok, Thailand: Community Participation,Urban Agriculture and Forestry. *Environments,* 30(1), pp. 37-49.

Goodno, J. & Peterson, R., 1999. *The Clinton Park,* Oakland: Urban ecology.

Government of Ghana, 2010. *Draft National Urban Policy,* Accra: Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

Herrington, S., 2005. The sustainable landscape. In: M. Dudek, ed. *Children's Spaces.* Oxford: Architectural Press, pp. 215-244.

Kaszynska, P., Parkinson, J. & Fox, W., 2012. *Re-thinking Neighbourhood Planning,* London: RIBA.

Laris, M., 2005. Designing for play. In: M. Dudek, ed. *Children's Spaces.* Oxford: Architectural Press, pp. 14-29.

Meegan, R. & Mitchell, A., 2001. 'It's Not Community Round Here, It's Neighbourhood' : Neighbourhood Change and Cohesion in Urban Regeneration Policies. *Urban Studies,* 38(12), p. 2167– 2194.

Niemelä, J., 1999. Ecology and Urban Planning. *Biodiversity and Conservation,* Volume 8, pp. 119-131.

Penn, H., 2005. Spaces without children. In: M. Dudek, ed. *Children's Spaces.* Oxford: Architectural Press, pp. 178-193.

Riger, S. & Lavrakas, P. J., 1981. Community Ties: Patterns of Attachment and Social Interaction in Urban Neighbourhoods. *American Journal of Community Psychology,* 9(1), pp. 55-65.

Scott, S., 2010. *Architecture for children / Sarah Scott.* Victoria: ACER Press.

Stark, R., 1987. Deviant Places: A Theory of the Ecology of Crime. *Criminology,* 25(4), pp. 893-903.

The Learning through Landscapes Trust, 2012. *Learning through Landscapes.* [Online] Available at: http://www.ltl.org.uk/childhood/index.php [Accessed 7 July 2012].

Thomas, D., 1991. *Community Development at Work: A Case of Obscurity in Accomplishment.* London: Community Development Foundation.

ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities