



Residents' Awareness and Prioritization of Urban Green Spaces in the Kumasi Metropolis of Ghana

Presenter:

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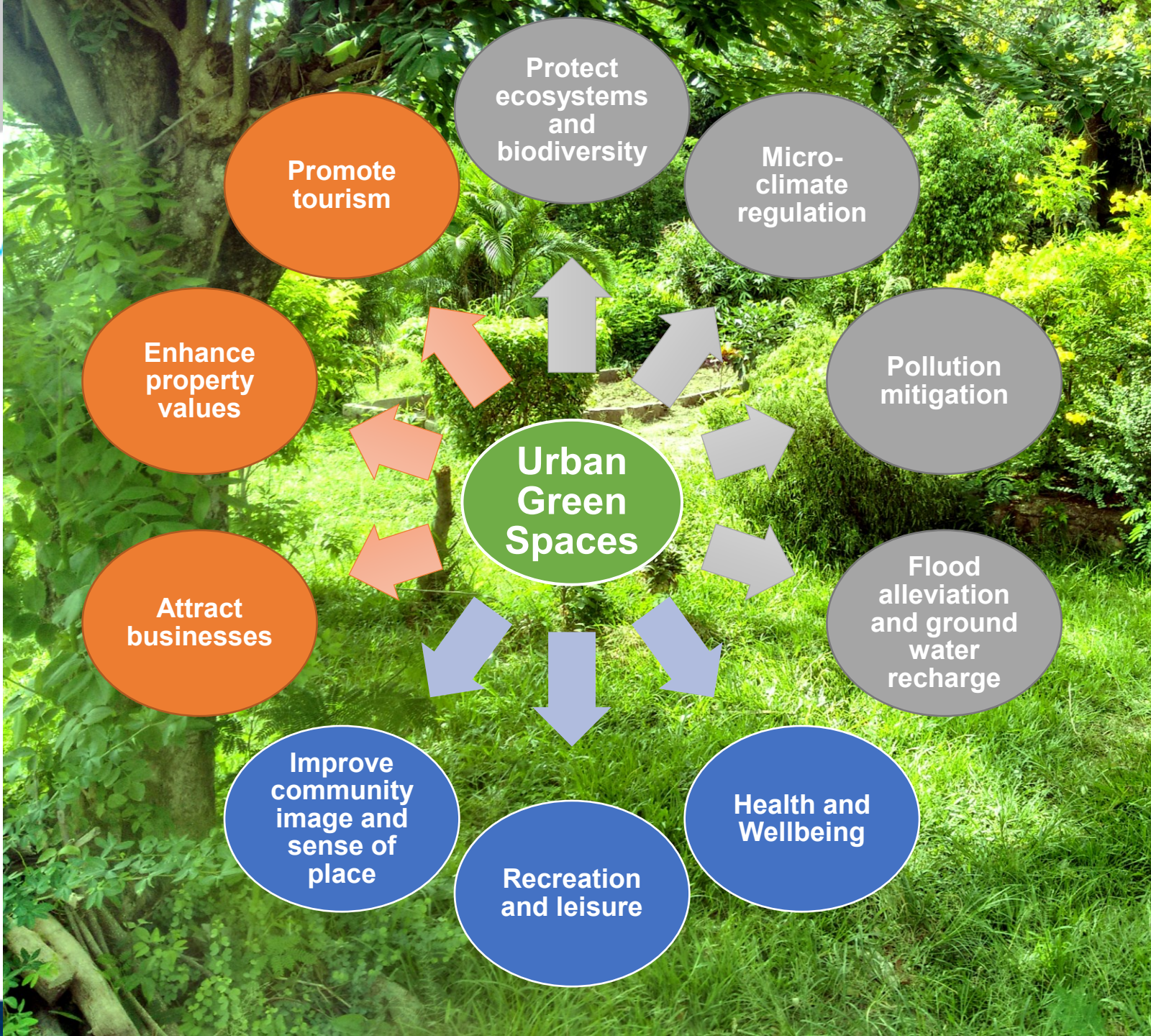
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Benefits of Urban Green Spaces (UGS)

All public and private urban greenery or vegetated lands including trees, parks, gardens, forests, vegetated road medians, etc.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



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”



Urbanization in Africa

Africa's urbanization rate of **3.6%** between 2015-2020 is the highest

VS

- Asia (**2.2%**)
- Europe (**0.3%**)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (**1.3%**)
- North America (**1%**)
- Oceania (**1.4%**)

(UNDESA, 2019)

Urbanization in Africa

- Characteristics

- Poor planning
- Unregulated growth
- Legacy of colonization
- Weak governance institutions
- Low economic prosperity

(Güneralp et al., 2018)

- Consequences

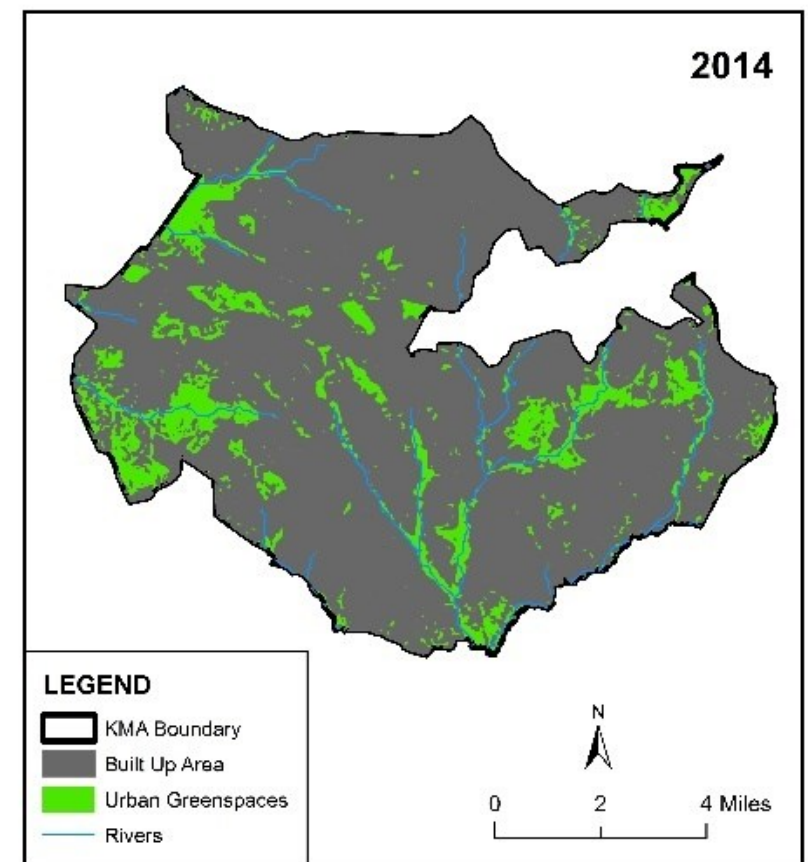
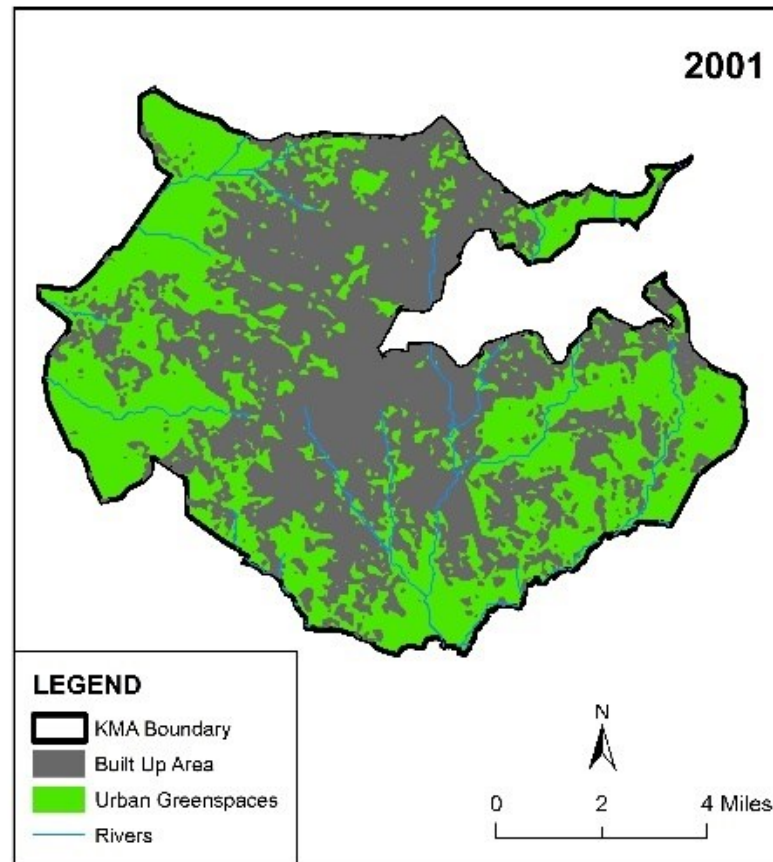
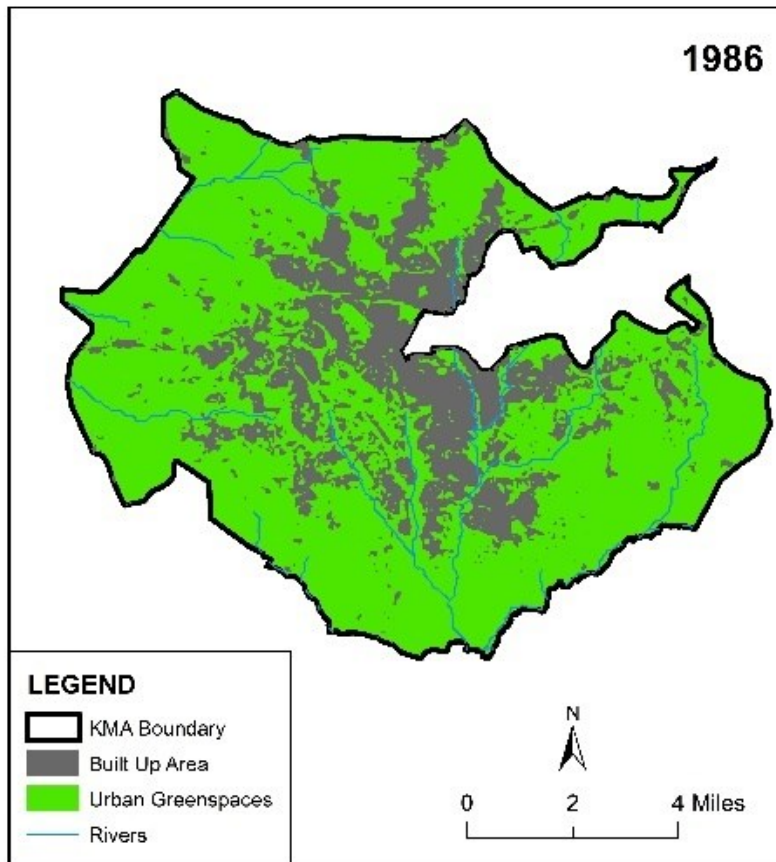
- Unsustainable land development
- Widespread poverty
- Rising unemployment, informality
- Inadequate availability of and access to socio-economic infrastructure and services

(Cobbinah et al., 2015)

Urbanization and Green Space Decline



75.4% —————→ 16.4%



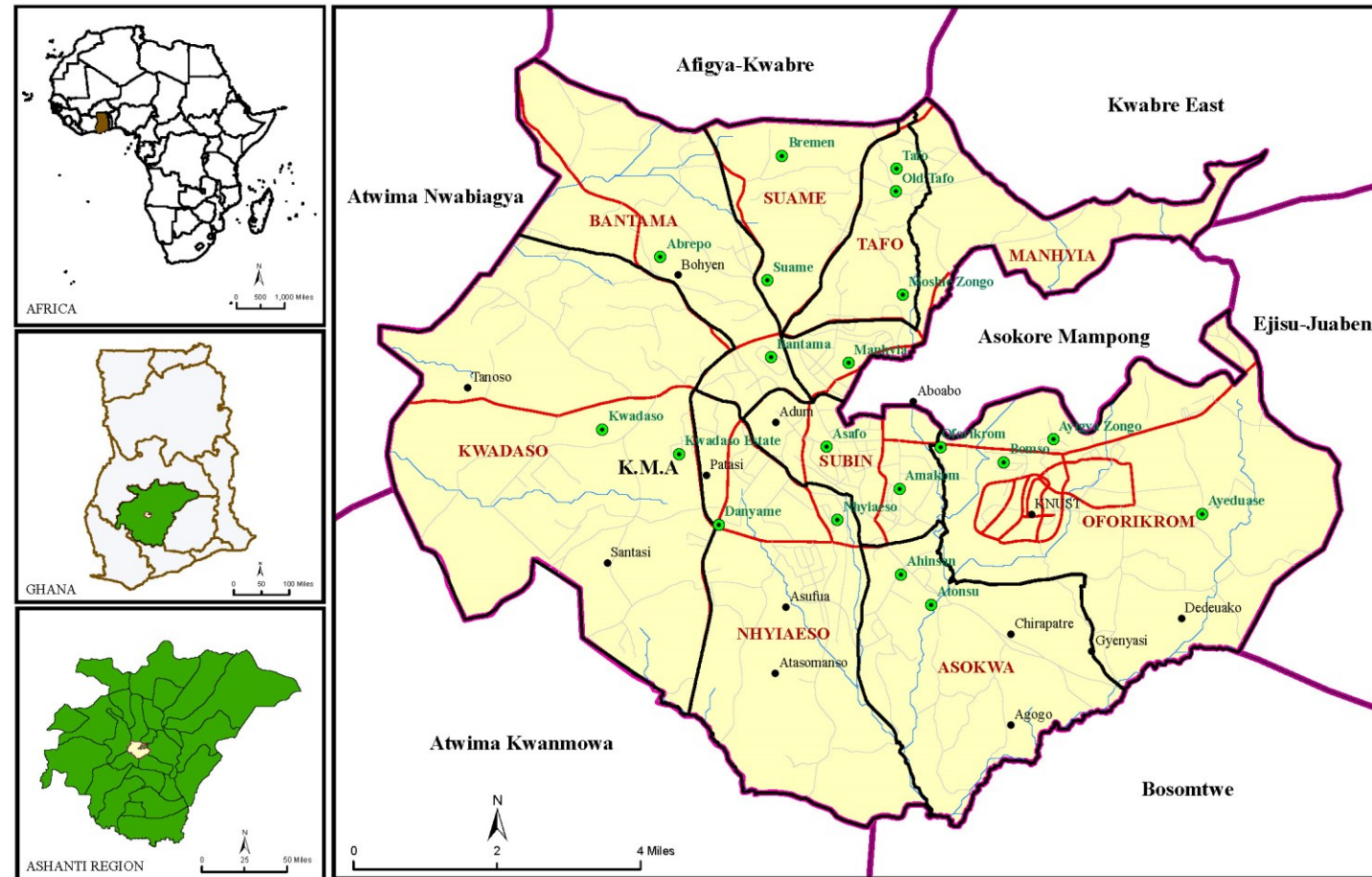
Urbanization and UGS Decline

- Increasing UGS is thus set against other development needs that confront urban areas of the global south like the Kumasi Metropolis.
- Urban Planners:

It is not a priority at all... People will even criticize him (the Metropolitan Chief Executive) that we don't have hospitals, *and you are sitting there constructing* [Translated] parks. Parks, *can we eat them?* [Translated]. That is the typical Ghanaian for you... (*Planner 1, 2015*)

Study

- 400 residents 18 years and above were interviewed via a questionnaire
- Questions included
 - Awareness of UGS benefits
 - Willingness to support UGS initiative
 - Prioritization of UGS
 - Development needs



LEGEND

- Study Communities
- Other Communities

- Main Road
- Minor Road
- Rivers

- Kumasi Metropolis
- Sub Metros

- District Boundaries
- Ashanti Region

- Ghana
- African Countries

Residents' Awareness of UGS Benefits

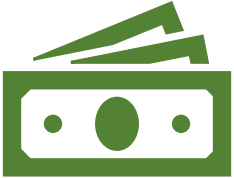





- 74.0%  Provide aesthetic, recreational, leisure, etc.
- 97.8%  Can help regulate microclimatic (weather) conditions
- 98.5%  Improve air quality
- 92.8%  Absorb stormwater water run-off, filters water, reduce flooding
- 58.8%  Provides opportunities for food productions
- 97.3%  Support economic activities such as jobs and business creation



Residents' Willingness to Support UGS Initiative



- 86.8%  Pay user-fees
- 83.0%  Pay UGS tax or fees
- 96.0%  Volunteer on UGS initiatives
- 97.0%  Overall support for UGS



Residents' Prioritization of UGS



13.6%



High Priority

25.8%

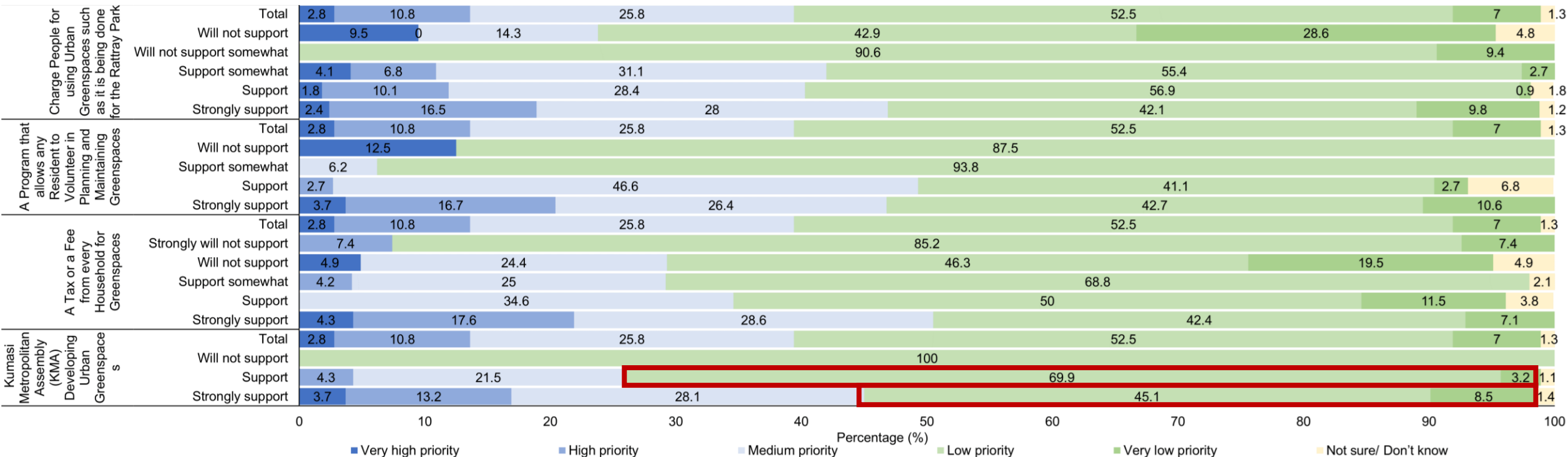


Medium Priority

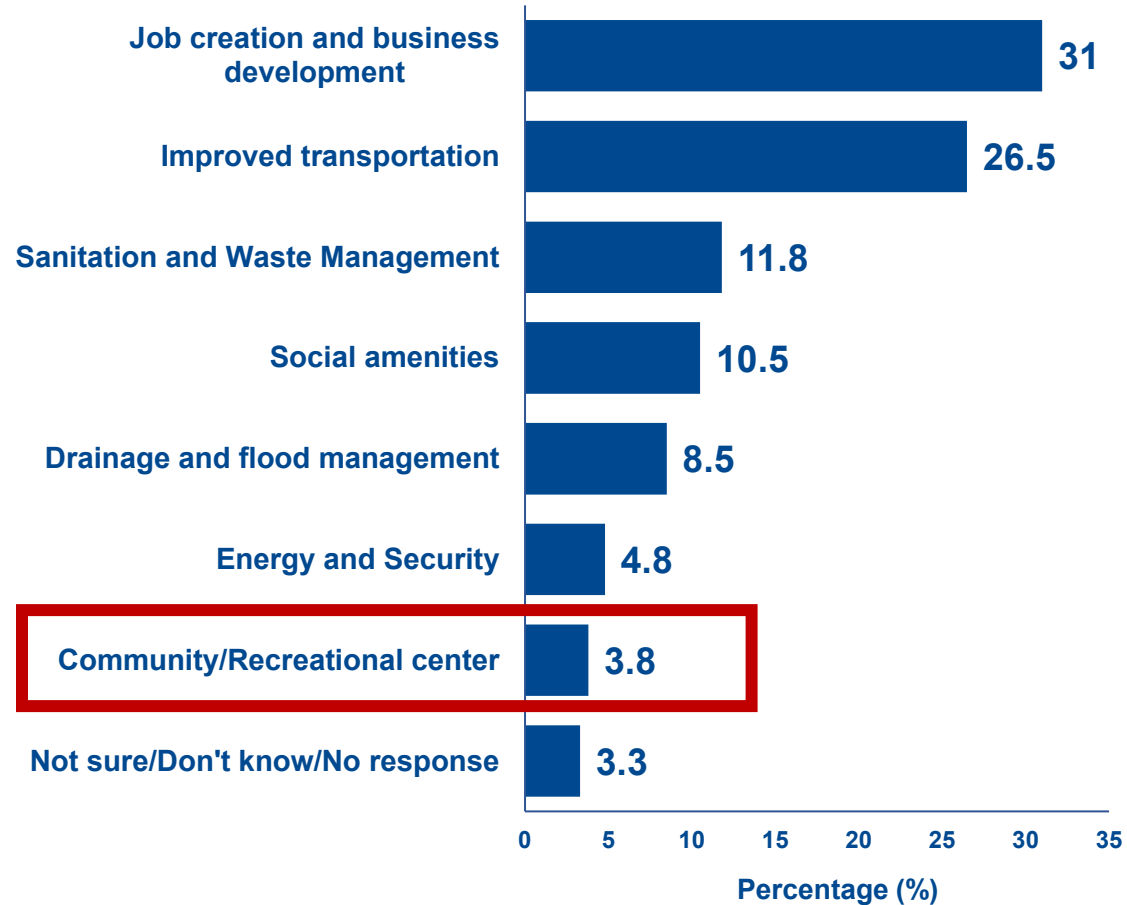
59.5%



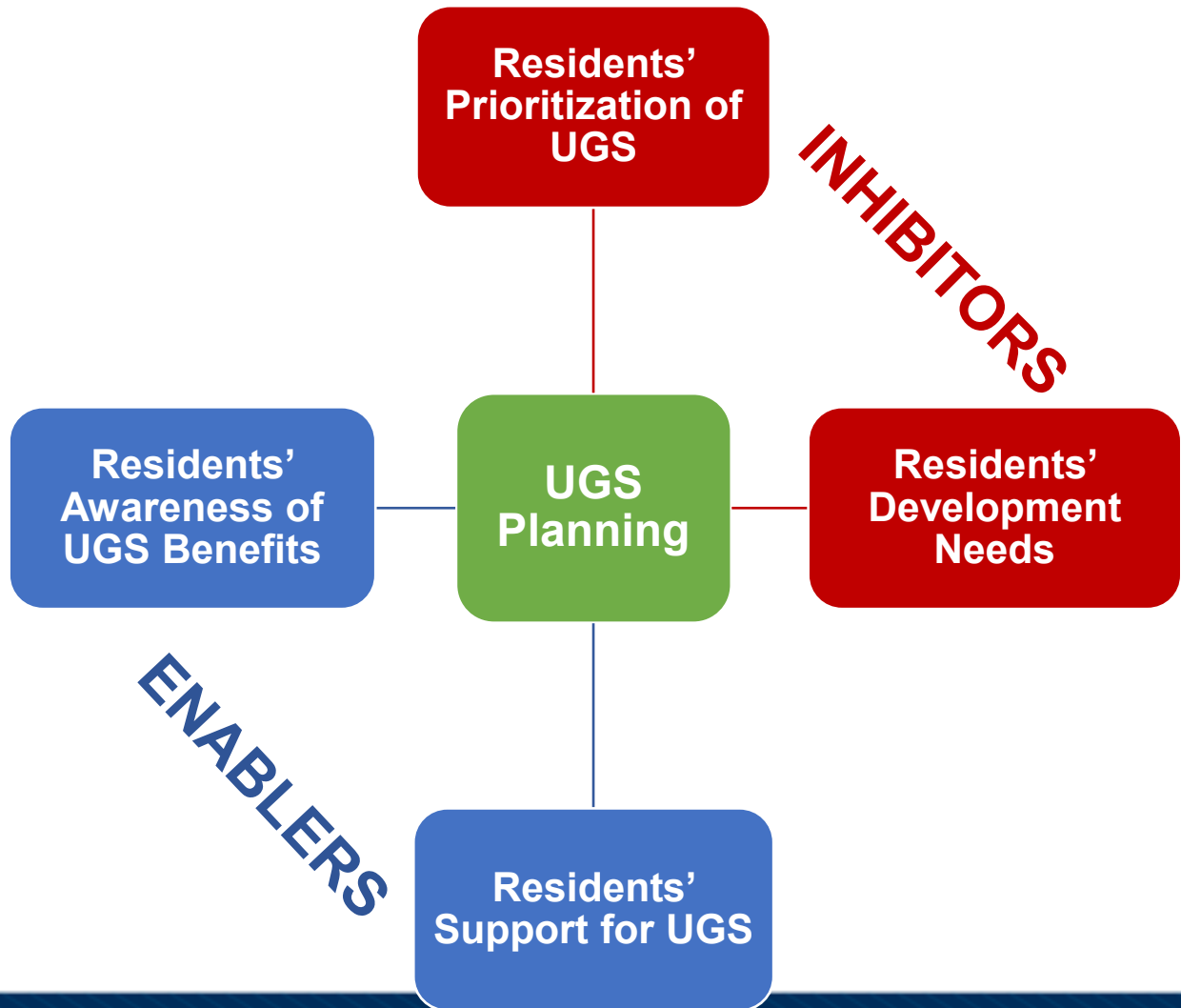
Low Priority



Residents' Development Needs



Tensions in UGS Planning



Given residents' low priority, residents' willingness to support urban green space initiatives to address climate change impacts are not guaranteed.

Co-benefits Potential



Co-benefits in urban planning and design offers pathways to increasing UGS

School spaces especially primary and junior high schools offer potential sites for increasing UGS in the Kumasi

Planners have a responsibility to identify similar sites in urban areas as potential for increasing UGS

Planners can perform this responsibility when they have the capacity to deploy co-benefits in urban planning and design





Thank You

Questions