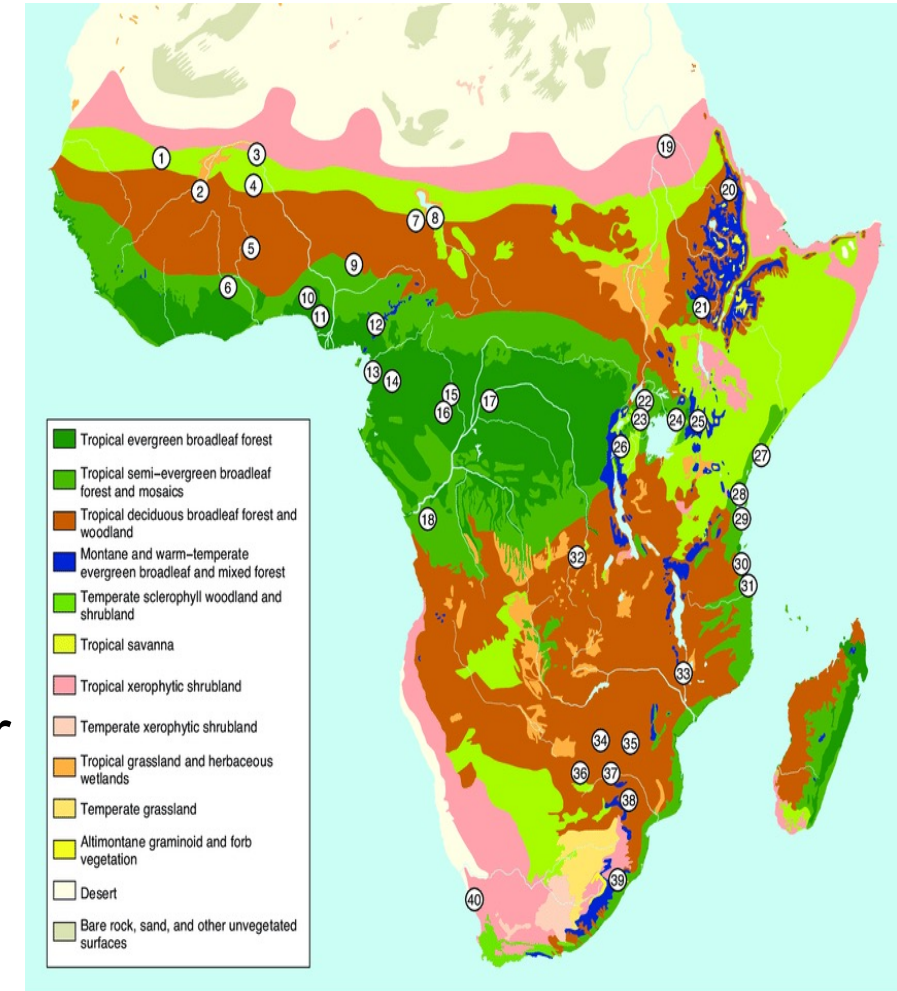# Introduction

- Africa is blessed with rich biodiversity that support the growth of green spaces (Global Health Institute, 2019)

- Urban green spaces provide numerous ecosystem services to support the wellbeing of city dwellers (Muhoza & Zhou, 2024; Mensah, 2014)

- Urban green spaces in many African cities are under severe threat due to declining trends. E.g. Bobo-Dioulasso, Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam (Cavan et al., 2014; Di Leo et al., 2016)

Legend:
- Tropical evergreen broadleaf forest
- Tropical semi-evergreen broadleaf forest and mosaics
- Tropical deciduous broadleaf forest and woodland
- Montane and warm-temperate evergreen broadleaf and mixed forest
- Temperate sclerophyll woodland and shrubland
- Tropical savanna
- Tropical xerophytic shrubland
- Temperate xerophytic shrubland
- Tropical grassland and herbaceous wetlands
- Temperate grassland
- Altimontane graminoid and forb vegetation
- Desert
- Bare rock, sand, and other unvegetated surfaces

Introduction cont.

- Generally, measures undertaken on green spaces in Africa have not yielded the needed results.
  - ➢ Urban Greenery and Beautification Strategy in Ethiopia (Eshetu et al., 2021)
  - ➢ My Dream Park Project in South Africa (Roji, 2020)
  - ➢ Modification of urban planning laws in Ghana (Mensah, 2021)

- The forgoing calls for alternative ways to conserve Africa's green spaces of which knowledge transfer presents itself.

Objective of paper:

- Assess how knowledge transfer can be used as an essential tool to sustain Africa's urban green spaces:

Conceptualising knowledge transfer

- **Knowledge transfer**: process of movement of knowledge between a root source and recipient with the knowledge received being utilized or implemented accordingly (Hassan et al., 2017; Nguyen & Burgess, 2014)

- Knowledge whether in the form of **tacit** or **explicit** is transferred from a defined source to a recipient (Mohajan, 2016).

- knowledge transfer is often done for three main purposes; knowledge creation, knowledge acquisition, and knowledge reuse (Huysman and de Wit, 2004).

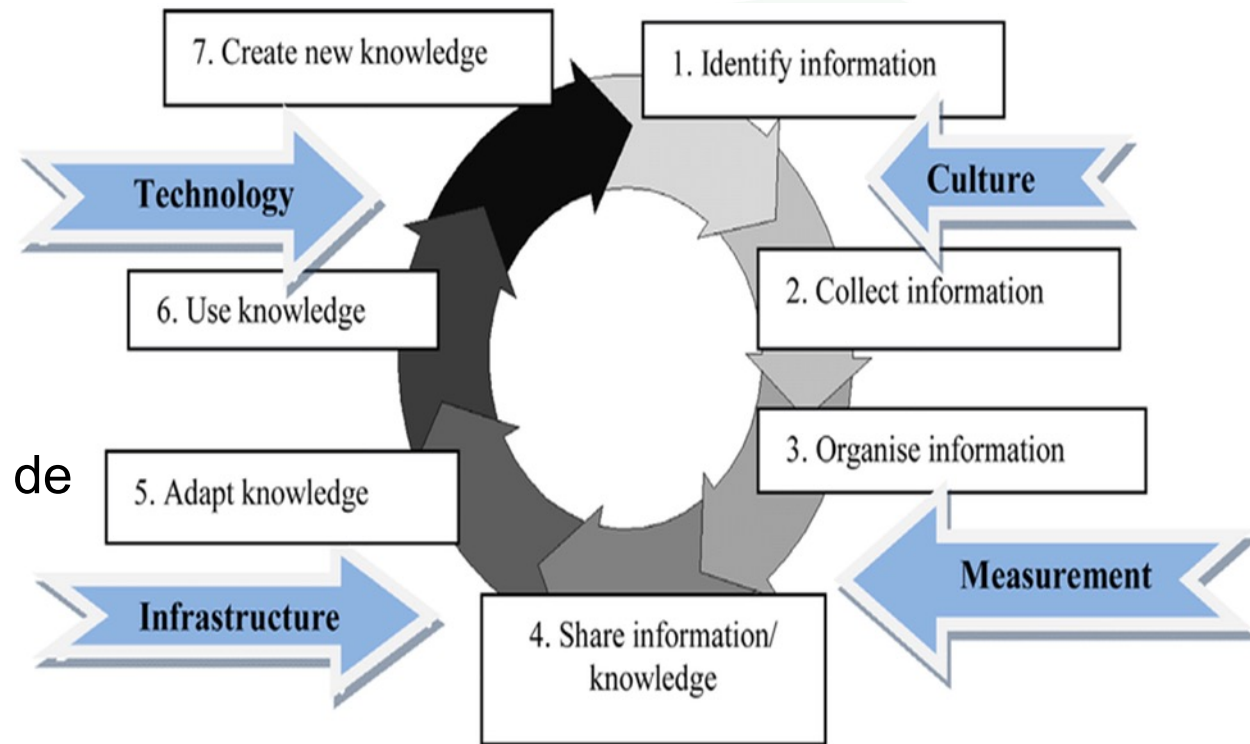- **Knowledge transfer model** by O'Dell and Grayson (1998) to facilitate easy transfer of knowledge.

Figure 1: Knowledge transfer process
Source: O'Dell and Grayson (1998)

Methodology

- A systematic review process was utilised to gather and analyse data (Tawfik et al., 2019; Munn et al., 2018).

- From the initial search of 287 publications, a total of 148 publications were utilized.

The systematic review process:

1. Formulating a question to guide the review.

2. Searching for relevant publications.

3. Inclusion criteria and quality assessment of selected publications.

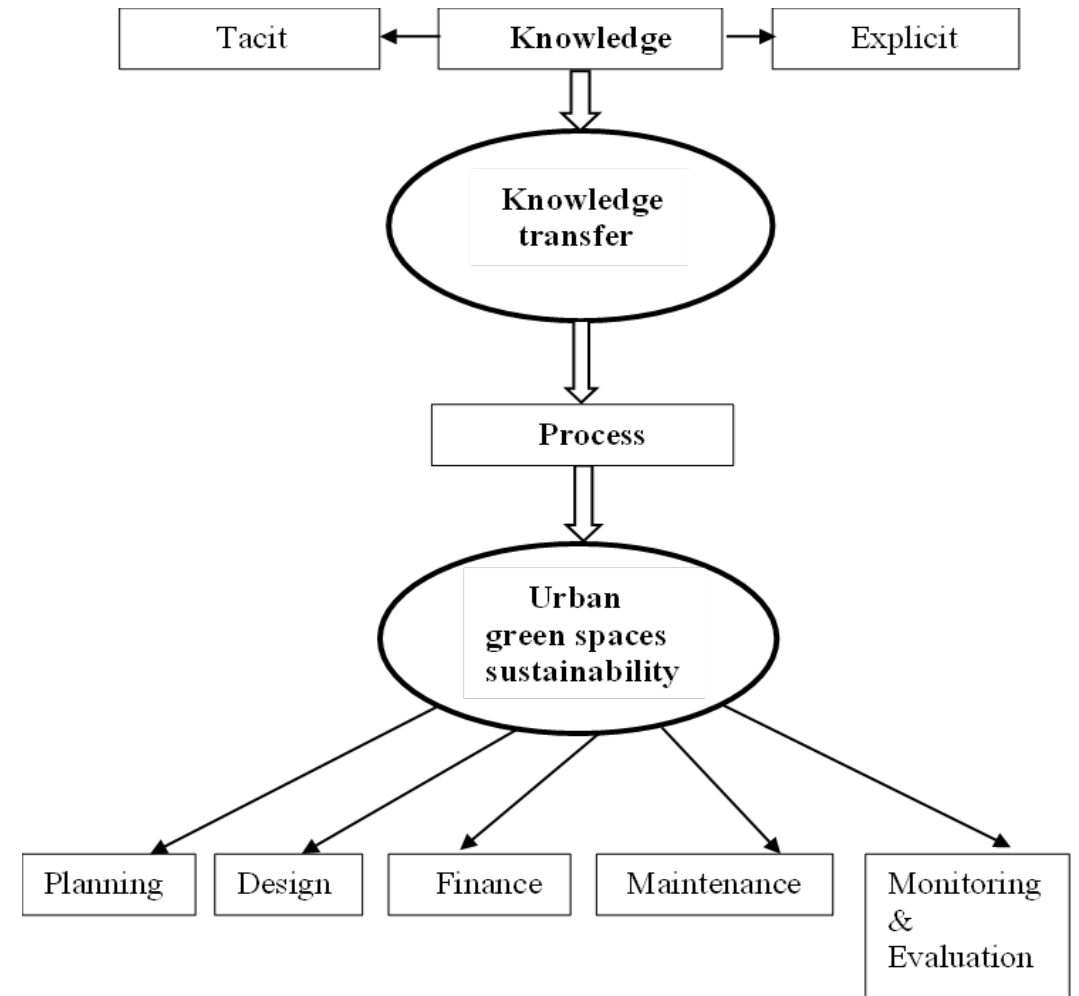4. Final analysis and synthesis of evidence.

Figure 2: Review question and its underlying structure

Findings

Identifying & Collecting Knowledge

- Brainstorming, and engaging experts or consultants through seminars, and conferences on green spaces.
- Institutions managing green spaces should make conscious efforts to search and scout for best practices on the management of green spaces.

Capturing and storing knowledge on green spaces

- Knowledge base infrastructure system in place to capture and store both tacit and explicit knowledge on urban green spaces. E.g. Knowledge portals and repositories, document libraries, reports, visuals and videos, a dedicated team.
- Usage of Africities summit reports, and online knowledge portals/repositories of UNDP, UN-Habitat, FAO and World Bank on green spaces are essential.

Transferring and sharing knowledge on urban green spaces

- Green space management institutions need to develop a sharing mechanism and a knowledge transfer plan.
- The newly created Centre on African Public Spaces (CAPS) serves an important knowledge transfer point that needs to be supported.

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Findings Cont.

Applying the knowledge acquired & measuring results

- Effective coaching to operationalized the knowledge acquired and implement them successfully on the ground.

- This coaching should be done by representatives of the source of the new knowledge or experts in the field of the new knowledge.

- Coaching on mapping of public spaces using a new technology (KoBo Toolbox) by UN-Habitat is a good example.

Creating new knowledge

- Modification of the transferred knowledge taking into consideration the socio-economic, technological, cultural, political, and physical issues to enable the knowledge fit very well in the environment that is being applied.

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Conclusion

- Knowledge transfer can assist in developing new ideas and tailored solutions to address the various problems confronting Africa's urban green spaces.

- However, one needs to be cautious when using knowledge transfer as a tool since cultural, political and socio-economic differences may affect its smooth usage.

Figure 5: Envisioned Nigeria city
Source: Green Building Council Nigeria (2025)

Thank You.