

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Discussion results on urban green space policies: White paper on green cities and green space management (2006–2012)

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### ABSTRACT

This paper puts forward a proposal for a theoretical methodology that combines various discourse analysis strategies to explain the process of public policy from the perspective of discourse. Based on this approach, the formulation of the urban green space policy implemented in Mexico City from 2006 to 2012 was reviewed. The cases analyzed show how interdisciplinary and cross-scale methods can strengthen the understanding of the complexity of urban and environmental discourse and prove the mechanism theory on which the concept, category, and description of public action legitimacy are based.

**Keywords:** discourse analysis urban green space; environmental policy; urban policy; mexico city.

## 1. Introduction

The understanding of public policy can be carried out from different analytical angles, and each angle will have an impact on the design and interpretation of the analyzed process. Positioning from a specific perspective means not only choosing a concept of public policy process but also choosing a set of analytical tools suitable for its methodological theory and method<sup>[1]</sup>.

Then, it studies public policy from the perspective of a specific discourse. Through the analysis of concept, category, and narration, it aims to understand the language related to the following aspects: research object (urban green space), public policy tools, *socio-economic background*, and

political background, which makes the interpretation of public policy possible.

This paper presents a methodological proposal to identify and locate concepts, categories, and narratives in intertextual and textual networks that enable divers to establish links between spatial and temporal scales in order to produce and replicate urban green space policies. To this end, we analyzed a policy tool developed by the federal district government (today's Mexico City) during the six-year period from 2006 to 2012, the white paper *reshaping your city and urban green space management*.

One of the characteristics of this kind of research is the formation of a corpus composed of texts of different natures (normative, programmatic, or

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academic). Although their formats and stylistic records are different, they maintain a close relationship due to their structural and functional importance in formulating specific public policies. In the corpus developed for this study, considering the urban green space policy, the text constitutes a network that supports, proves, and allows public action around the analyzed theme, although each text has its own structure and meaning. This work is part of critical discourse analysis, which aims to contribute to the discussion of general environmental discourse and its norms and observes the relationship between the reforms carried out during the study and the interests of public policymakers. Therefore, as Gellers said, few studies pay special attention to the environmental discourse of environmental law; few studies apply critical discourse analysis (CDA) to the study of environmental law and do not make full use of various analytical abilities that this method does not have<sup>[2]</sup>.

In this study, it is essential to include normative texts in the critical analysis of public policy because “law is the source of social language, and law is the space for the expression of power”<sup>[2]</sup>.

In discourse analysis, concepts, such as the concept of the Urban Green Zone, are not only put forward as exchangeable knowledge but also as a means of disseminating leading ideas. These ideas point out the direction that public policy action must follow (in the aspect of “goodness”). Therefore, the study of the concept of mobilization in specific policies provides a possibility to analyze discourse production from a critical perspective, on the premise that it is possible to recognize the hegemonic voice imposed in a subtle way in discourse through persuasion and negotiation without the use of force. In this sense, on the one hand, the purpose of this paper is to determine the discourse form in which the concept of mobilization has become the basis of specific public policies on various scales. On the other hand, how these concepts are expressed in the framework of categories (macro concepts) and narratives, which come from different disciplines gathered in the text of public policy.

In order to study the concepts in public policy discourse analysis, the following routes are proposed: theoretical orientation and narrative structure, subject knowledge and language in urban green space discourse, global discipline language compared with other concepts, the concept of urban green space, the relationship between urban green space and other categories (the macro concept), and repeated narration in urban green space policy.

In this journey, we can combine the contributions of different disciplines to the use of specific policy language, the impact of globalization on the construction and dissemination of concepts in cross-scale public policy documents, and the understanding of thematic areas with contextual functions.

The empirical examples provided throughout the work involve the core text of the analysis, the white paper restoring your city and green space management prepared by the Environment Secretariat in Mexico City during the management period 2006–2012, and various spatial and temporal documents directly related to the core text of the study. Although these documents belong to different genres and have their own interpretation framework, this study does not comprehensively discuss each document but only considers their contribution to the concept, macro concept (category), and narrative structure, which are related to the core concept of urban green space of the analyzed public policy tools.

## **2. Theoretical and methodological orientation of concept construction**

In order to complete this work, it is suggested to establish the concept of urban green space within, between, and on the concept. Similarly (though on different scales), when it comes to discourse analysis, we return to Van Dyke’s method. He believes that “sentences should not be studied in isolation but should be related to other sentences in discourse”<sup>[3]</sup>.

This method holds that the concept is established in the interaction between material and

non-material. In a dynamic social process, it finds the definition of boundaries in the interaction with other conceptual fields (these boundaries become flexible or rigid), which depends on the dynamics of the social process embodied in the language. In this regard, Koselleck pointed out that this concept has a historical dimension, involving both the factors of social change and the accumulation of experience<sup>[4]</sup>. Therefore, it can be said that this concept enables people to understand the experience of public policy expressed in time and space, which is a basic consideration in this work.

The construction of a concept is subject to the development of history, which makes it possible to change its meaning and language expression. These changes are due to the socio-psychological changes formed in the reference framework, which have an impact on the connection between the concept and itself (the elements and types of the concept) and other concepts, categories (macro-concepts), and narration.

From the perspective of Bourdieu, this concept helps to produce the so-called objective reality, in which the agent expresses his interests and wishes by establishing a spiritual presentation<sup>[5]</sup>. This puts forward a method to analyze the various attributes given by the concept of urban green space. In the concept of urban green space, symbolism is regarded as an expression. From the perspective of Bourdieu, it is an “expressive statement aimed at realizing what it expresses”<sup>[5]</sup>.

With regard to the symbolic composition of urban green space, this paper discusses the relationship level observed in the conceptual structure as well as the rules and discontinuities related to the understanding of the concept. A green area is a concept in which all kinds of knowledge about the space are gathered together, and its formation is possible because it is realized through various forms of links between the core concept and other concepts in the conceptual intersection space.

In short, for the purpose of research, concepts are constructed from the internal, inter-conceptual,

and supraconceptual or categorical relationships of concepts, using the reference framework involved in the core concepts and analysis.

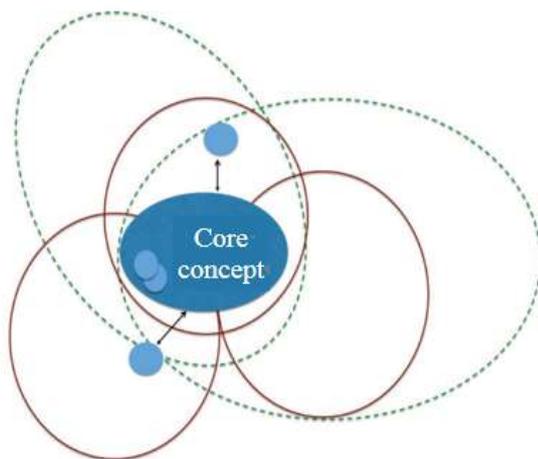
When analyzing urban green space policy, three discourse structures are considered: concept, macro-concept or category, and narrative.

Because the central concept is only related to other concepts, in the analyzed public policy tools, the treatment of the concept of urban green space is based on the analysis of the relationship between the central concept and other concepts. These concepts help to clarify the scope of its meaning.

This study believes that the concepts mobilized in the public policy curriculum are constructed on the basis of continuous dialogue with various disciplines, sometimes to prove the rationality of the policy, while in other cases, the concepts generated in the practice of policy language are generated from discipline discussion, so the connection between concepts and discipline language is inevitable<sup>[6]</sup>.

For example, the Federal District Environmental Act (Mexico City) defines green space as “any area covered by natural or artificial vegetation in the federal district”, while other international documents regard these urban spaces as areas of opportunity to improve the quality of life from an economic perspective<sup>[6]</sup>. In addition, the white paper on green city and green space management<sup>[7]</sup> refers to conflicts related to these spaces, which are regarded as biological aspects (biodiversity and pests), cities (urban planning and design), social aspects (as interactive spaces, but also for destruction), and maintenance aspects (government actions to protect these public places).

When referring to macro concepts or categories, they are regarded as terms. Unlike the concepts mentioned here, they do not re map to specific objects. For example, urban green space is regarded as a concept because they refer to a specific space with specific characteristics.



**Figure 1.** Core concept construction.

Note: The dotted line and ellipse represent narration; circle, class; point, concept. The meaning of core concepts depends on internal classification, proximity concepts and interpretation frameworks, which provide the categories and narratives in which they are mobilized.

More broadly, however, the term sustainability does not refer to a particular goal but to actions and meanings that can be discussed. In this sense, these categories may belong to the research fields of many disciplines and have greater complexity. In some cases, they may be consistent with the concepts mentioned by MOLLE<sup>[8]</sup> as ideals. These concepts are impossible to achieve, but they become the “engine” to promote thought and action. For example, when discussing issues related to urban green space, the analyzed white paper refers to the “quality” and “social benefits” of environmental services<sup>[7]</sup>, which is a broad term that can be understood differently, resulting in some ambitions. The same is true of the connection between urban green space and the theme of “citizen participation” or “quality of life”<sup>[7]</sup>. This is a discourse connection which places these spaces at the center of the social process, not only as a space to be taken care of but also as a preserved area which brings benefits to people’s lives.

In this study, narrative is mainly analyzed by observing the understanding of time and space in programs related to green space and by analyzing the trinity of discourse bridges, concepts, and/or categories.

Through the discourse bridge, the narrative related to the concept or category can be constructed,

emphasizing the starting point and *lle-gada* but including an intermediate concept or category related to the discourse, because it provides the possibility to insert the narrative into a specific theme, even if the starting point and *lle-gada* are not directly related to the theme<sup>[6]</sup>. For example, when people say that “citizen participation in the management of green areas has an impact on social democratization”, the starting point is “citizen participation” and the end point is “social democratization”. In this case, the description of green area management can be omitted. However, if we want to put them in the framework of environmental text, these bridges may have important discourse value.

Triads are recurring links between certain concepts and categories. For example, the trinity of “poverty resource pressure environmental degradation” is very common in environmental problems. These triads strengthen the narration, which may exist widely in various texts, and become the discourse symbol to mobilize to achieve the discourse purpose of public policy.

Taking into account the multiple relevance and multidimensional nature of concepts, this theoretical methodology proposition aims to analyze the meaning of core concepts, categories, and narration and recognize some discourse strategies used in public policy. These strategies use concepts as means for various purposes, which are not necessarily related to the central concept.

### 3. Subject knowledge and language in urban green space discourse

The white paper on greening cities and green space management<sup>[7]</sup> brings together three subject languages: biology, economics, and management. The former pays more attention to technical issues, while the latter, in many cases, becomes the requirement and purpose of specific policies, while the latter provides possible space for public action.

The language of bioscience is to build action on knowledge, which provides certainty for those who

read the text and those responsible for implementing public policy actions. The function of using biological language is unexplainable because it is not to understand the application of mobilized knowledge but to build trust in the authorities who “know what they are doing” in the document. Some descriptions in the urban green space policy text using biological language involve the conditions of tree growth, parasitic plants affecting various plant families in the city, and the definition of science in green space planning (regardless of design, technology, and biological knowledge). Within the framework of applied knowledge, biological logic dynamics change from descriptive to functional, but there is no in-depth study of the ecosystem dynamics of green areas.

In the white paper, through the suggestions put forward, economic language appeared in the strategies related to environmental protection and protection actions. From an economic perspective, public policy strategies, such as tax incentives, preferential interest rate financing, investment, project profitability, and negative strategies in violation of the law, have been recognized. Each of these terms is integrated into market dynamics in a specific way. Therefore, according to the development of the policy, it is necessary to have different degrees of specialized knowledge in the economic field because the design of tax tools related to the project is different from the management of actions taken by enterprises (moral people) or citizens (natural people). Urban green space is related to the increase of land and housing value, so it is considered to be a positive aspect of the economy.

On the other hand, normative language is of special importance in the discourse construction of policy because it belongs to the basic field of public action and must be presented in the clearest way possible. Therefore, the normative language in the white paper deals with the interaction between social actors in terms of common responsibilities and capabilities. It also considered strengthening the legal and regulatory framework by updating the rules

applicable to urban green space in Mexico City. Finally, the white paper on greening your city and green space management incorporates various programs, actions, and projects into the regulatory framework, which focuses on urban green space.

The subject language in urban green space policy can be summarized as Outline 2. These languages enable people to determine the relationship between different social actors in urban green space. For example, by using the language of biological logic to support public action, the existence of biologists as social actors has become more and more important. At the same time, this language allows us to observe how other social actors, such as economists, are linked to tax preference project proposals and the increase in the value of housing near green areas.

In these languages, the word “demand” appears in the discourse struggle between general urban management and specific environmental actions, which determines the way to understand the relationship between humans and the environment and its impact on urban green space policy. For example, the analyzed white paper considers the needs of housing, services, and roads and links them to urban green space<sup>[7]</sup>. Urban green space policy tools are also considered necessary<sup>[7]</sup>. Finally, although all three languages imply “need”, the understanding of “what needs” is different. However, an understanding related to their needs is established. These needs are factors that mobilize public action in a utopian way, involving both realization and inaccessibility at the same time.

## **4. Subject language in a globalized world**

This section will focus on the economic and biological language in interdisciplinary architecture related to understanding green areas and public action. It also defines the theme of “necessity” as a discourse device associated with the two languages.

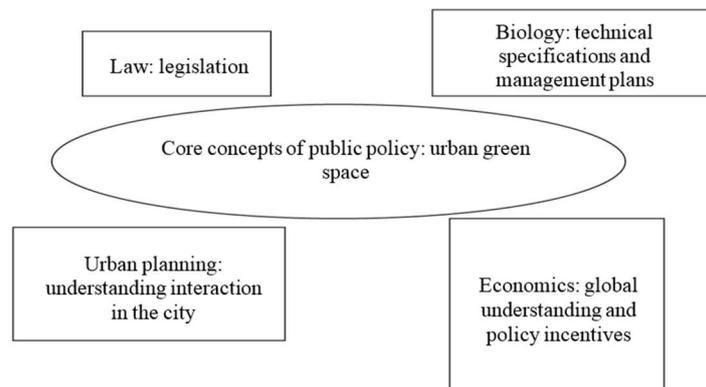


Figure 2. Subject language types in urban green space policy.

Source: Authors' own creation.

From a global perspective, green areas are considered necessary to maintain quality of life because they are associated with the pollution effects of urbanization. Therefore, we note that the relationship between the environment and cities enables us to emphasize the emergence of “demand” and, in some cases, promote consumption dynamics that affect “green” markets with “tailored” products. As stated at the Latin American and Caribbean Green Zone Seminar, the presence of social actors such as the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) helps to identify sources of funding for green space. In Mexico City, a large urban development project partially sponsored by the Inter American Development Bank is under way, which can be used as an example of other similar projects in the region.” In this sense, build a mediation strategy to configure a problem with a solution<sup>[9]</sup>, which emphasizes the existence of available products. Although the proposed solutions are based on market products, public action does not always succeed in solving public problems, in which aspects related to the interaction between different social actors and how to understand the scope, limits, and level of solutions that can be solved by “green” market products are consistent.

Disciplinary languages help to strengthen the global structure of environmental issues and proposed solutions, as they identify “needs” in all areas of life under market principles and affect policy-making in non-market regulatory environments, but rely on and obey a series of

positive national and international practices. Therefore, it can be said that from a global perspective, the disciplinary language around public policy is to adapt to the changes in economic structure in the context of neoliberalism and the country’s need to liberate the market and open up investment space<sup>[10]</sup>. At the same time, it is also committed to a socio-cultural process that enables the market to “serve as a means of assessing and distributing necessities and luxuries”<sup>[11]</sup>. This has been put forward since the understanding of development promoted by earth summits such as the Rio Summit<sup>[12]</sup>. From the perspective of the intergenerational concept, the right to development is legitimate, with the purpose of “meeting the development and environmental needs of present and future generations in an equitable manner.”

In this regard, globalization has successfully mobilized the language of various disciplines through the concept of “necessity”, which is involved in the formulation of specific public policies. In addition, this concept, among other things, enlivens its discourse process. For example, in the white paper studied, it is proved in biological language that “it is necessary to prepare a list of green areas and a legal map of environmental value areas”<sup>[7]</sup>.

In addition, at the international level, there is a trend to establish a common language among policymakers, entrepreneurs, and society to promote the visibility of environmental issues and integrate certain ideas (through language) into decision-

making<sup>[13]</sup>. It establishes the view that, through common language, especially economics, a reality is being established for understanding environmental problems.

## **5. Urban green space: The construction of self-concept**

In the white paper on greening your city and green space management<sup>[7]</sup>, the concept of green space is not defined by the verb “existence or existence”, but based on these spatial quality attributes.

In the analyzed text, green space has a condition (referring to the “current situation of green space”) and a location (in terms of location and spatial distribution).

The types of green space mentioned in the text have two more specific characteristics: the difference between green tree areas and non-green tree areas and public and private landscape areas. The first difference is based on a visual acquisition constructed by discourse as a distinction axis tree. The second difference relates to the public or private status of the area concerned, where the relevant social actors have different responsibilities.

Among the social actors that play an important role and change due to the status of urban green space are citizens, local authorities, federal authorities, including financial authorities, and people with rich and practical knowledge of these spaces (professionals and gardeners in some related disciplines). In this way, we can see that the differences between the green areas have different effects on understanding and action. These spaces are constructed through a dichotomy operation (as a speech act), in which one party excludes the other and sets some conceptual restrictions. For example, when referring to public urban green spaces, they are considered not applicable to private sector actions, and vice versa. For example, when gardeners of a government agency carry out activities in green areas, they only carry out activities in public spaces.

On the other hand, the construction of concepts is also realized by using discourse strategies such as qualified adjectives. In this case, the concept of “healthy green area” is used to highlight a biological feature. Whether there is a best function in physics and chemistry. This paper expounds Mencius’ discussion on urban green space through Mencius’ discussion on urban green space. However, considering that there is an important difference between a sick green area and the problem of evaluating the green area, because of the complexity of the ecosystem, the second situation seems easier to deal with because it is not the inherent Atri Buto of the green area but an external situation related to life. Although green areas refer to a series of interrelationships between organisms and inert substances, the word “health” brings the concept closer to a unified understanding of existence. The destruction and misuse of green space can be understood as causing two problems caused by human problems in their interaction with these spaces.

Other adjectives used are “public” and “private”, which is a necessary feature to determine the types of groups that are feasible (in terms of access) given their legal and social status.

Actions taken on green spaces may have different control gradients because each action has a different impact on how to interact with these spaces. In the text analyzed, green space is also understood as a space inhabited by creatures that seem to be in a passive state, and the following actions can be taken: nursing, proper management, conservation, maintenance, construction, restoration, management, protection, restoration, afforestation, reforestation, promotion, monitoring, creation, sanitation, improvement, restoration, and induction.

All these actions are achieved through the development of new administrative mechanisms and the implementation of programs. In this regard, it should be noted that the best development of urban green space needs to continue the development of these actions and other tasks<sup>[7]</sup>.

The control of space and what is copied there is achieved by insisting on a list of green areas. The differences between lists lead to differences in the planning tools that use this information.

Another element in the construction of the concept of urban green space is typology (existing in the environment and local legislation), which is

analyzed in **Table 1**, because it enables us to determine how to divide these spaces by forming a combination of types of various standards. The type is determined according to the criteria, considering vegetation characteristics, legal status, scale differentiation, connectivity, and social, economic, landscape, cultural, and ecological benefits.

**Table 1.** Types of green space (including *avú*) in *Igpepa* and Federal District Environmental Law (today's Mexico City)

Corpus type standard of terminology	Types of green space in legislation and Curriculum	Standards in normative texts
a) Tamano green area b) Relationship between green space and urban space c) Character. Vegetation d) Connectivity to other green spaces and/or natural resources e) Social, economic, environmental, cultural and ecological benefits. f) Edge function: isolation, maintenance and protection. g) Legal status. h) Distinguish scales.	<i>Igpa</i> Article 1. 46. Types of nature reserves: (1) Biosphere reserves, (2) National parks, (3) Natural monuments, (4) Natural resource reserves, (5) Animal and plant reserves, (6) Shelters, (7) National parks and protected areas, as well as the highest categories of parks and protected areas stipulated by local legislation, (8) Urban ecological protection areas and other categories prescribed by law, 9) Voluntary reserve.	(c) Characteristics. Vegetation. (e) Social, economic, environmental, cultural and ecological benefits. (g) Legal status. (h) Scale differentiation.
	Federal District Environmental Law Article 1. 87. Urban green space: (1) Parks and gardens, (2) Gardener or human resources position, (3) Gardener, (4) Areas covered with vegetation on public roads and areas or structures with vegetation cover or ecological technology installed on the roof of buildings, (5) Fences and woods, (6) Overburden recharge area, (7) Environmental value field, (8) Other similar. Federal District Environmental Law Article 1. 92. With regard to nature reserves within the jurisdiction of the Federal District: (1) Ecological protection area, (2) Hydrological and ecological protection areas, (3) Eco cultural area, (4) Wildlife refuge, (5) Special protected areas, (6) Community ecological protection area, (7) Other applicable laws and regulations.	b) The relationship between green space and urban space. c) Character. Vegetation. d) Connectivity to other green spaces and/or natural resources. e) Social, economic, environmental, cultural and ecological benefits.
	Federal District Environmental Law Article 1. 92. With regard to nature reserves within the jurisdiction of the Federal District: (1) Ecological protection area, (2) Hydrological and ecological protection areas, (3) Eco cultural area, (4) Wildlife refuge, (5) Special protected areas, (6) Community ecological protection area, (7) Other applicable laws and regulations.	(c) Characteristics. Vegetation. (d) Connectivity to other green spaces and/or natural resources. (e) Social, economic, environmental, cultural and ecological benefits. (g) Legal status.

Source: Balenas, 2018.

In this case, there is a difference between nature reserves (federal and local jurisdiction) and urban green space. In local legislation, there is a distinction between urban green space and nature reserves, although both are regarded as standards for the

connectivity between green space and other resources, especially water resources. Only in the case of urban green space will the relationship between green space and urban space appear. This observation, coupled with the additions to the federal

regional environmental act during the study (aquifer recharge areas, environmental value areas, and other similar areas), enables us to describe the openness of the subject to linkages with other natural resources, which is a discourse feature, moving from normative sources to green buildings in the white paper.

## **6. Urban green space: Concepts related to other concepts**

In addition to citing the types of federal regional environmental laws, the white paper on greening cities and green space management also provides the following classifications:

Forests, gullies, parks, gardens, canals, roundabouts, etc<sup>[7]</sup>.

16 delegations unified the classification of green space in environmental value areas, nature reserves, schools and/or public facilities, parks (gardens, squares, playgrounds, squares), Alameda, Vilita (canals, roundabouts, islands, triangles, Bordo Canal), habitat units, nursery, forest, and canyon<sup>[7]</sup>.

The text clearly points out that there is a common typology among the 16 delegations. This

The determination of indicators is helpful from description to comparison because the green area of one delegation corresponds to that of another delegation. Including indicators in discourse has different meanings from typology because the former gives people a sense of objectivity, while the latter has class division but no quantitative parameters.

The above comments show that the discussion on urban green space in the analyzed white paper does not clearly distinguish between ground and roof green space, nor does it mention the difference between urban and rural experience and the verticality of urban vegetation. However, another white paper, the Sustainable Building Certification scheme<sup>[14]</sup>, drafted in the same period, clearly points out some differences. The scheme distinguishes the social actors related to each type of green space

typology is the main way to design urban green space and has an impact on the practice of urban policy.

Different from the classification in more general documents, this classification takes more account of the urban characteristics of green space, both in theme and spatial scale. Similarly, each type of green space has different physical characteristics, which are not only related to urban space but also to various functions. There are a large number of plant species (trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants) suitable for different soil conditions, climate, infrastructure, and urban furniture in the nursery<sup>[7]</sup>.

These types distinguish between ver-des spaces that are conducive to environmental factors, such as those covered by the federal regional environmental law, and those that emphasize urban aspects, such as other types found in the white paper on greening cities and green space management considering the connection between green and city. One piece of data related to the type is the index, because according to the type, the green area will be included or excluded when determining the indicator. For example, if only arbolado space is regarded as green space, the number of urban green spaces per capita may be much lower than that of any vegetation type.

(ground and roof), thus formulating the policy strategy for implementing these schemes.

## **7. Urban green space: Concept and category (macro concept)**

The categories in the white paper “greening your city and green space management” allow to determine the analytical framework for green space participation, providing meaning space for categories and related concepts, as well as the core concept (urban green space) itself. The following are some examples of categories that appear in different contexts<sup>[7]</sup>:

### a) Social

Urban green space is very important to the quality of life of urban residents.

Projects to establish and manage new green areas in less popular places.

The savings generated will be used for green space in the least developed areas.

b) Environmental

[...] Form the ecosystem of DF green space.

[...] Environmental services.

c) Economical

A lot of money has been saved in the management of public green space.

Tax preference for green space protection. Provide tax incentives for taxpayers in green areas that retain and maintain their property.

*Tax cuts* [italics].

The themes emerging from this analysis are linked to the categories mobilized internationally. The quality of life as a public policy guide is a basic issue. It views urban green space from an ambiguous anthropocentrism, which has been widely discussed by authors such as Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum<sup>[15]</sup>. For example, the white paper “Greening Your City and Green Area Management” puts the word green in the text.

In recent years, with the decline of urban residents’ quality of life, the necessity of increasing and maintaining urban green space has become more and more important in the city. The public green space in the federal district needs continuous management and maintenance, which means that the waste of resources is not enough in most cases<sup>[7]</sup>.

In addition to noting the existence of quality of life categories related to the concept of urban green space, it implicitly investigates the language of biology (referring to manjjo and maintenance) and economics (emphasizing the insufficient resources of public action to support green space).

On the other hand, when referring to vulnerable groups, it notes the narrative that often appears in public policy, although it does not have a theoretical framework to provide the cohesion needed to treat them as a category. However, it is important to emphasize this point because urban green space is often a means to solve the problem of urban inequality. Interestingly, the policy emphasizes the focus on urban green space to address inequalities more closely related to other socio-economic characteristics and dynamics than green space management. In this regard, it can be said that urban green space can be regarded as an interference factor in terms of inequality because it is easier to restore or beautify green space than to achieve social equity in the urban environment.

In the document discussed here, the category used in environmental discourse refers to the systematic view of the environment, and at the center of the system refers to the people who accept the environmental services generated by these spaces.

On the economic side, the options discussed here are relevant because they relate to categories such as tax incentives, including tax cuts, which are a concept because they involve more specific actions than incentives. On the other hand, efforts are being made to save public green space in order to focus on green space in the least developed areas. In this regard, the principle of equity applies not only to the allocation of green spaces but also to the allocation of resources to manage these green spaces.

In terms of the environment, there are two categories, including ecosystems and environmental services. This is important because in environmental policy documents, the ecological balance category is considered an ecosystem perspective, usually after its tempting category. However, in the analyzed white paper, the ecosystem view seems to be a discourse bridge for environmental services to shift from sustainability to the socio-cultural and economic environment. Its human-centered power exceeds the ecological balance (ecosystem view),

and ecological balance has never become the end of environmental policy.

The white paper *Greening Your City and Green Space Management* refers to the Sustainable Building Certification Scheme (PCES) white paper, of which the most popular category is sustainability with various associations<sup>[6]</sup>. However, this category has no similar relevance in the white paper on *greening your city and green space management* because the sustainability category is only associated with green space when referring to the roof, not green space on the ground. “Through this system, various types of buildings create green roofs, create environmental and social benefits for all, and help build a more sustainable and collective Mexico”<sup>[7]</sup>.

The recurrence of quality of life categories and the zero existence of sustainability categories when referring to ground-green areas in the white paper enable us to assess how certain categories are positioned as public policy objectives and as evaluation criteria. The previous examples show how concepts, categories, and narratives provide continuity for public policy discourse because they exist in all stages of public policy. There is no boundary from one to another, and it is possible to flow in many directions rather than in a linear process.

## **8. Repeated narration in urban green space policy**

In the white paper *greening your city and green space management*, some narratives are also regarded as discourse related aspects. In these aspects, it is possible to recognize some elements of understanding the concept of urban green space<sup>[7]</sup>:

- 1) Time to obtain green space information.
- 2) The time when the green area was created.
- 3) It's time to solve this problem.
- 4) It's time to plan.
- 5) It's time for comprehensive management.
- 6) Time of intervention day.

In urban green space policy, it is important to consider the time of green space and the time of the strategy proposed for it. One challenge is to combine the two eras, even if they are relevant, because the specific practice and impact of public policy play a role in time and space.

As for the understanding of space, it can be observed through comparison that in the discourse of public policy, there is a continuous understanding between the two ways of understanding what happens to urban green space in space. Between knowledge and action, because in discourse, knowledge is the cause (or foundation) of action. The relationship between environment and green space is to connect a larger scope (environment) with another smaller scope (green space), which is proposed as the center because it is related to other environmental factors. There is an inclusive relationship between cities and green areas, although the integration of green areas into urban themes may be marginalized. If we compare its importance with transportation and Vienna themes, give two examples. Between population and green space because there is interaction between organisms as part of the ecosystem.

The relationship between knowledge and public action seems to be a dependency, because if public action does not take the necessary action to solve environmental problems, it is because of the lack of necessary knowledge on environmental problems. This justifies public action because of the lack of knowledge generated by science and technology. However, when referring to community knowledge, it emphasizes the importance of building urban green space use and nursing culture. This action by citizens seems more feasible than government action.

When referring to the green spaces related to the city, it refers not only to the restoration but also to the compensation of these green spaces in the urban environment. Naturalization is seen as a strategy to make up for society's guilt about environmental degradation. Therefore, it becomes a strategy to gain

strength from the ethical understanding of compensation.

In addition, the interaction between population and green areas is a relatively easy area to integrate citizen participation because it will not directly affect the social and political order, although it may have political purposes. However, if you consider the complexity of environmental, social, and economic issues related to sustainability, participating in one-time care activities in green areas will give participants a sense of control, even if this control is very narrow.

With regard to the link between the environment and green areas, he stressed the relevant role given in the white paper to educational activities related to the construction of environmental culture. For example, the presence of gardeners and citizens was considered to be a factor affecting public actions to improve the urban environment.

Finally, it can be said that the discussion of urban green space policy has time and space components, which need to be considered to determine the narrative dynamics in order to establish various understandings of public action, including the population component.

## **9. Conclusions**

In the field of public policy, the understanding of concepts such as urban green space needs to be observed from different angles in order to put it in discourse terms, and its meaning is more complex than that in the definition. In this way, it is possible to understand the relevance of concepts to themselves, other concepts, and various categories mobilized in environmental discourse.

The discourse analysis developed in this paper can evaluate the similarity, difference, and even contradiction of GIS related to the core concept<sup>[16]</sup>. The integration of multiple definitions, functions, and meanings enables people to realize that urban green space is a polysemy concept that includes

social, cultural, economic, and environmental aspects.

On the other hand, the concept used in public policy is belittled in a discourse space in which discipline languages converge, various scales are intertwined and nested in the scheme proposed for a specific time and space, and territory is a pre-pressure. The way economic language is introduced into environmental policy leads to the statement that public policy analysis is impossible without considering the social actors related to financial institutions because they affect the discourse construction of environmental policy by mobilizing concepts, categories, and narratives<sup>[13]</sup>.

Although biological language is the most obvious and extensive, it only plays an instrumental role because it refers to scientific knowledge that is difficult to integrate into public action because the problem mentioned in the same document is the lack of planning of urban green space.

Finally, normative language remains a possibility to reflect the priorities set by local governance and to set standards for future action.

From the analysis carried out, it can be concluded that in the case of Mexico City, the formulation of urban green space policy during the reporting period was more based on economic interests than on the perspective of ecosystems, even though the speech emphasized the environmental and social advantages of managing and protecting these spaces.

With regard to narrative, it is interesting to identify discourse bridges that connect core concepts with other concepts and categories. These concepts and categories have specific discourse arrangements and use the theme of urban green space for purposes other than broader themes or environmental significance.

For example, in the case analyzed, it is worth noting that there is a discourse connection between the concept of sustainability and urban green space,

and there is a close connection between this category and green roofs. In this regard, in the government period under analysis, there seems to be greater political interest in actions related to roof naturalization, which even require the development of a specific program with its own white paper, rather than actions to manage green space at the ground level.

The practice of this work has proved that discourse is a very important field in the process of legalizing public policy. The study of discourse processes enables us to maintain a certain freedom in the face of “single truth” and plays a key role in the construction of problems, solutions, situations, or opportunities raised in public policy.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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