



“Beautiful, benevolent and soul restoring, nature waits for us to bring her home”
(Beatley 2011)

HOW DO URBAN DWELLERS IDENTIFY WITH NATURAL ELEMENTS WITHIN URBAN GREEN SPACES IN THE EASTERN CAPE?

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BACKGROUND: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

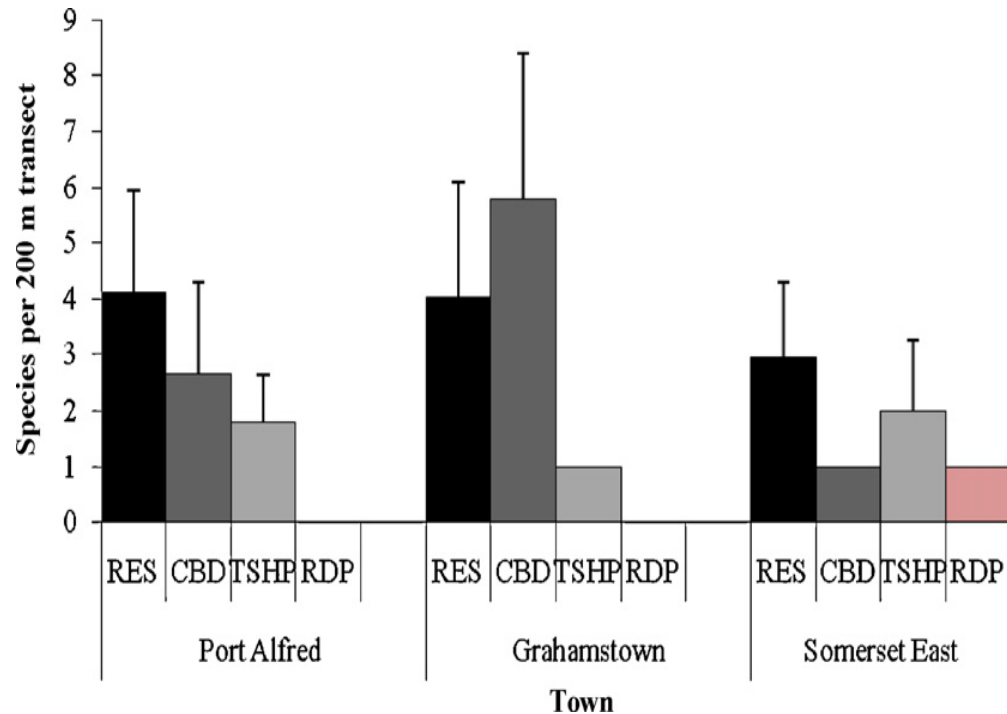
- Majority of the world's population lives in urban areas.
- Urbanised societies experience high pollution, high noise levels, fast paced life, unhospitable living conditions have been linked to mental fatigue.
- Implications on *well-being* and *liveability* of urban areas.
- Measurable benefits of UGS.
- Goal 11, of the UN Sustainable Goals.
- Make cities inclusive, safe and resilient.
 -provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.....



Cultural, spiritual — “nature is the basis of life” (Ozguner 2011) “trees are my life” (Shackleton et al. 2015).

SOUTH AFRICA: THE CHALLENGE OF URBANISATION?

- 62% of the populations stays in urban areas.
- The majority stay in RDP/townships/informal areas.
- Little or no green space in RDP/Township areas/Informal Settlements.
- *Need to understand if people need nature in these areas considering the benefits acquired from it.*



STUDY RELEVANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

- The meanings and attachments placed on natural elements within urban green spaces have been mainly reported in studies done in the global north, we hypothesize, this is different for people in the global south and South Africa in particular.
- The intimate associations between indigenous people of South Africa and nature.
- Incorporation of indigenous people's perceptions in urban planning and design.



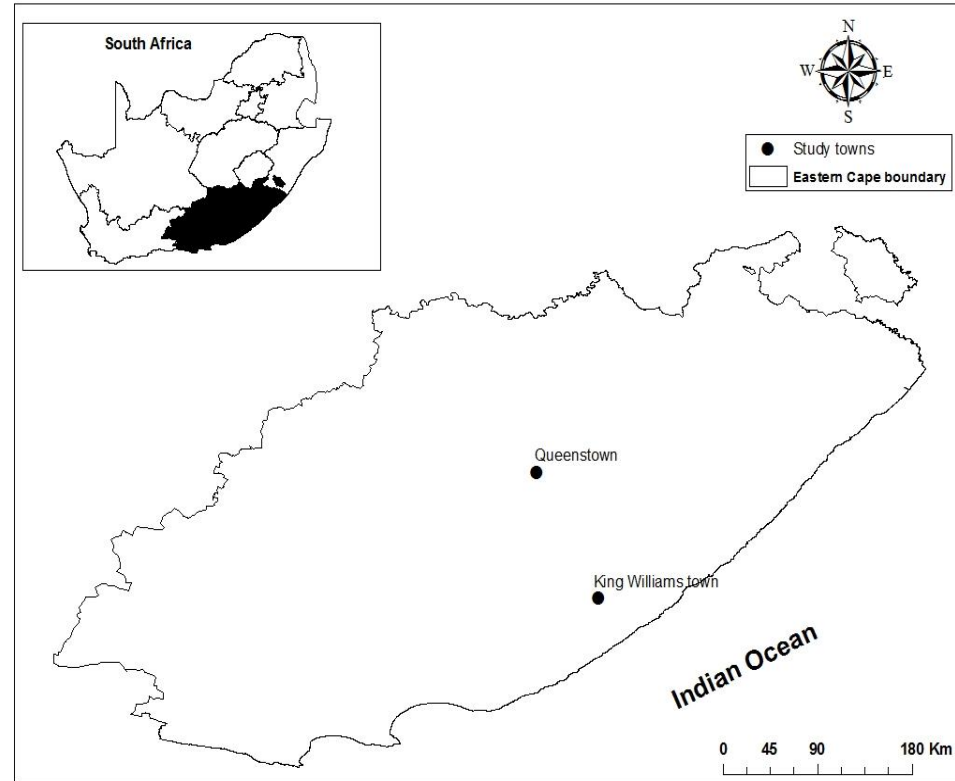
AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- To understand and portray the multiple realities of urban dweller's identification of natural elements within green spaces.
 - ☐ Which natural elements do urban dwellers identify in urban green spaces?
 - ☐ What meanings and attachments do urban dwellers place on natural elements within urban green spaces?
 - ☐ Which natural elements do urban dwellers prefer within urban green spaces?



STUDY AREA

- Eastern Cape, Poorest Province, poverty widespread especially in rural areas.
- In the 2 towns, rate of urbanisation is different.
- Dominated by the Xhosa people
- Significant RDP, informal settlements and township areas.

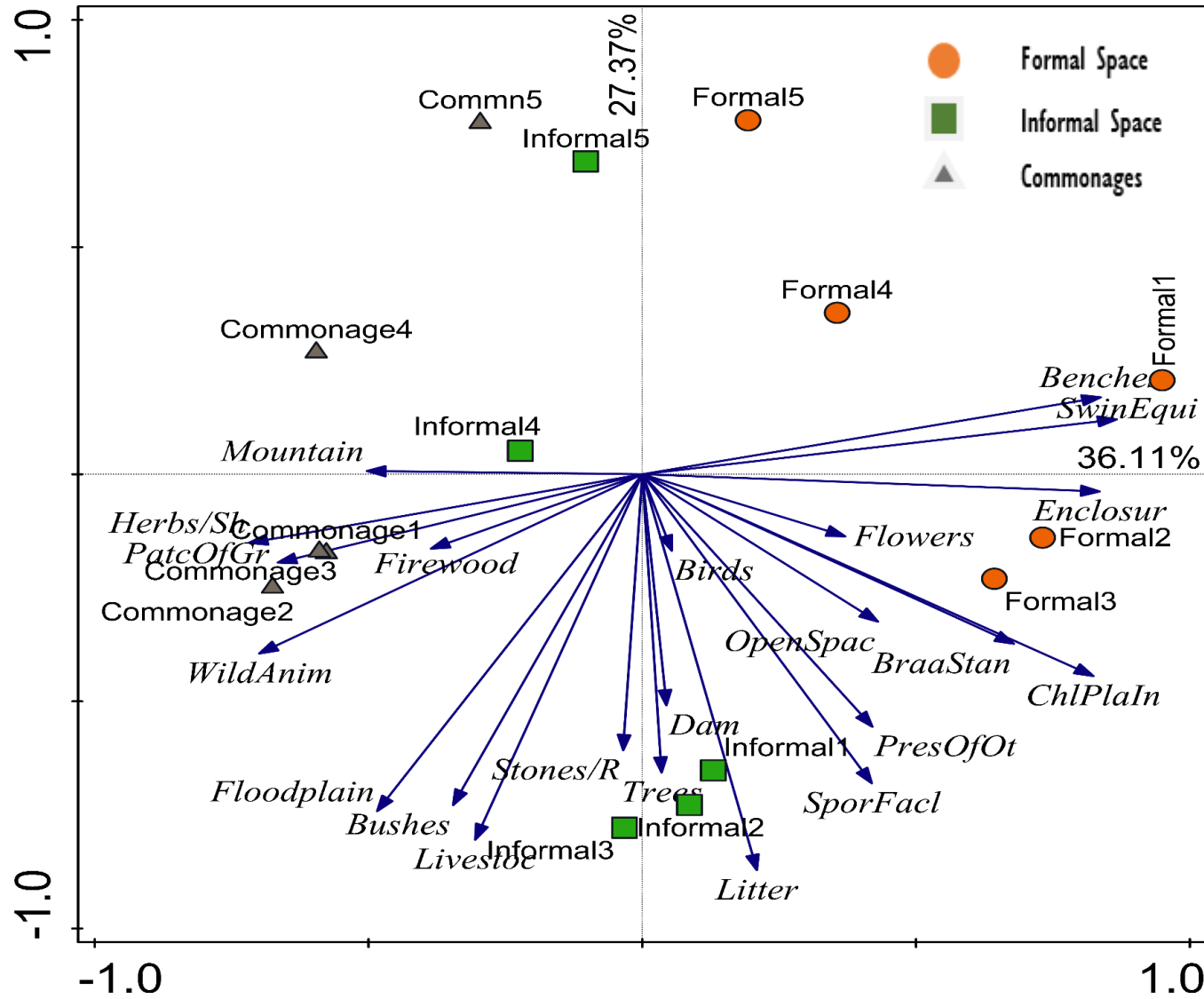


RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- **Research design:** Quantitative
- **Sampling:** Purposive sampling for suburbs and types of green spaces, 360 interviews done.
- **Methods and instruments:** Questionnaires, Visual-Photographs, Recording interviews,
- **Data analysis:** CANOCO version 5.1 software (Ter Braak and Šmilauer, 2012), SPSS 21 for Windows (SPSS Inc., 2007, Chicago, Illinois)
- **Ethical clearance:** Obtained from Rhodes University



KEY FINDING 1:OBSERVED FEATURES

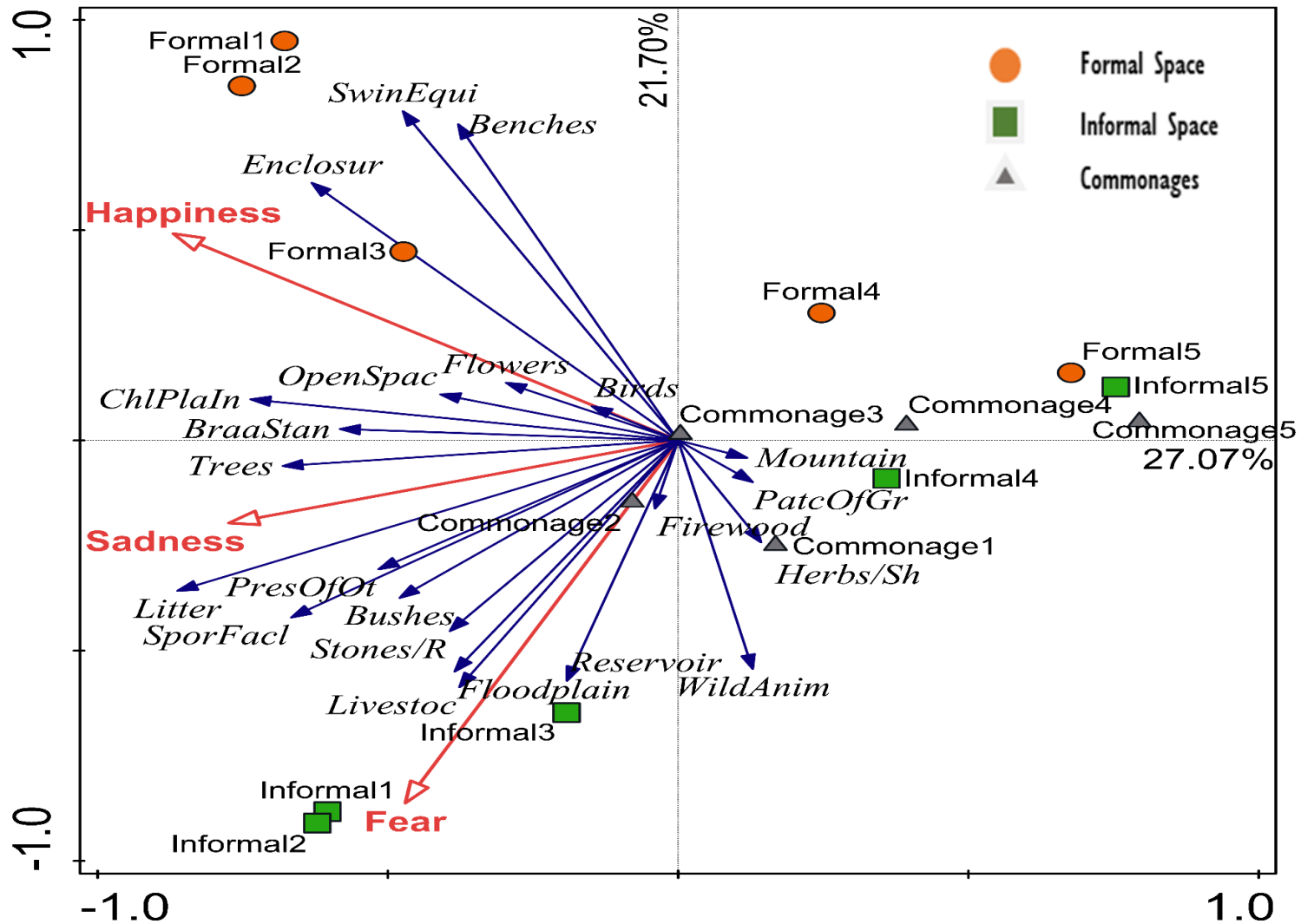


Biplot based on a principal component analysis (PCA) illustrating the relationship between the observed features and type of green space.

OBSERVED FEATURES: Cntd

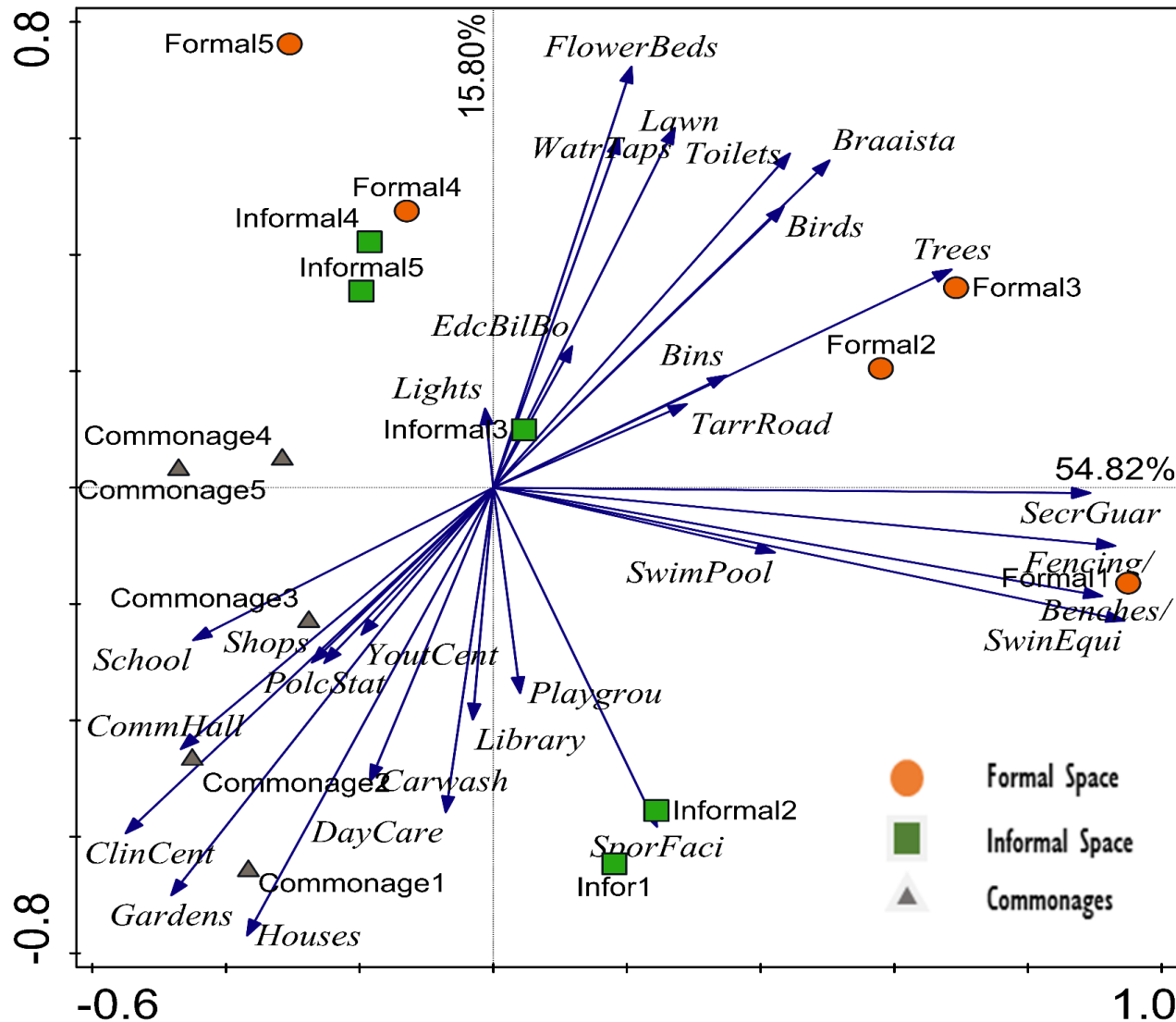


KEY FINDING 2: ATTITUDES TOWARDS OBSERVED FEATUIRES



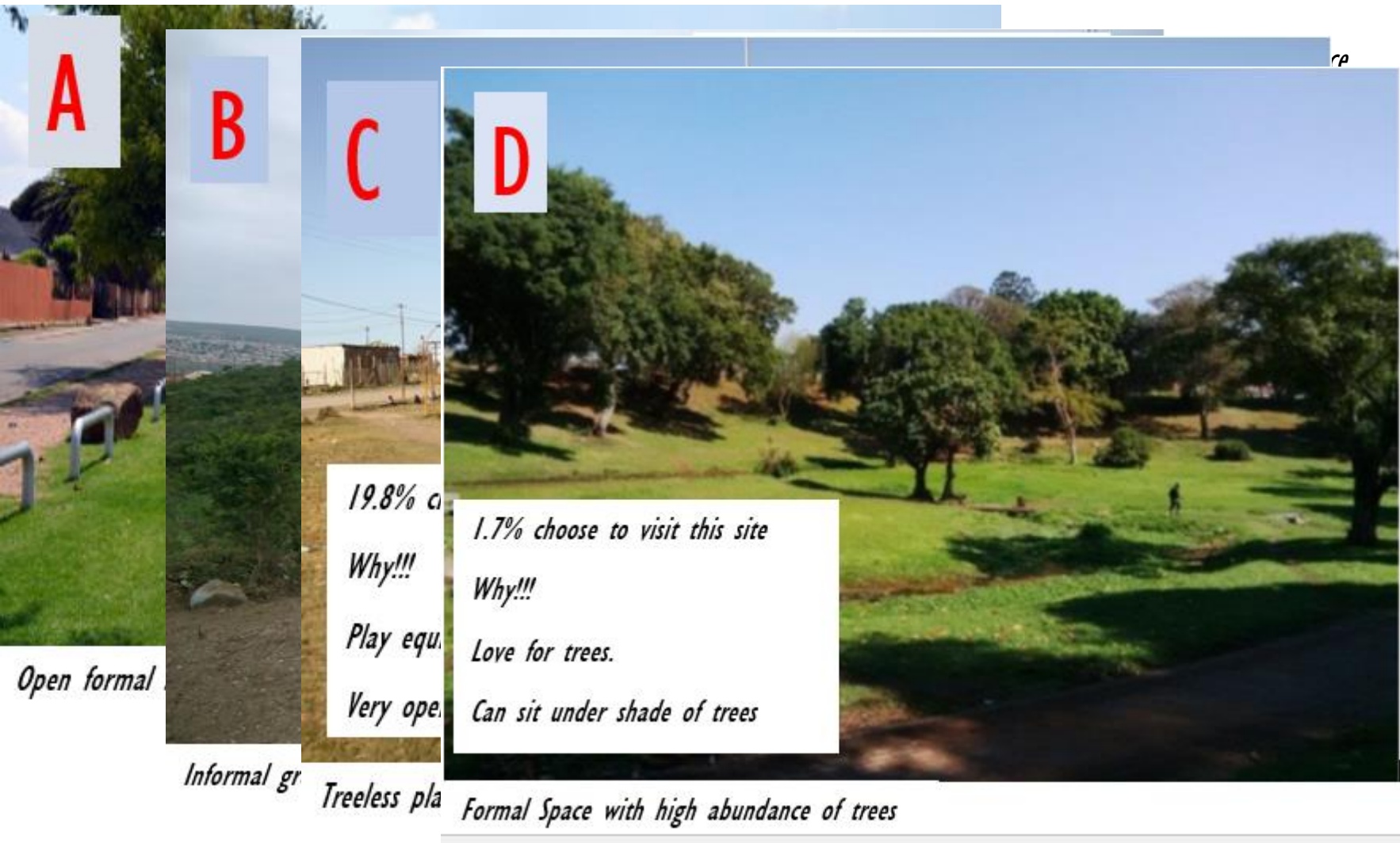
Ordination biplot for the Redundancy Analysis (RDA) of attitudes against possible controlling variables features in green space and type of green space.

KEY FINDING 3: PREFERRED FEATURES



Biplot based on a principal component analysis (PCA) illustrating the relationship between the preferred features and type of green space.

KEY FINDING 4: FAVOURED GREEN SPACE



SUMMING UP

- Barriers that hinder people from enjoying nature's positive benefits.
- ✓ Little/Unavailability of nature elements within FGS,
- ✓ Design of the GS,
- ✓ Crime,
- ✓ Litter,
- ✓ Graffiti, vandalised structures, dilapidating infrastructure.
- Hence, people do not acquire the recreation, amenity, place for reflection which nature can offer.
- A high quality of life and wellbeing is not obtained from nature around people/close to their homes.
- Addressing the present needs of the people in respect to the features around where they stay
- Municipals, Policy makers should strongly adopt the results of this study if we aim/hope to achieve urban sustainability.

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LETS TALK FURTHER

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