

# The Influence of Public Participation on Preservation of Urban Landscape Identity in the Context of Urban Renewal: A Case Study of Kisumu City, Kenya

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**Abstract:** The reality that urban renewal results in changes within various spatial built forms within the urban landscape in addition to changes in the socio-economic and meaning aspects that the residents attach to various features and aspects should not be overlooked. Urban renewal changes impact either positively or negatively on the landscape identity of a city. Urban landscape identity is defined in this study as the resident's perception of the special features that help them to differentiate between places creating images that they can recognize. There is need for effective public participation to ensure preservation of landscape identity within the cities that undergo urban renewal and other new developments. The few existing studies on urban renewal within Africa and Global South in general have not focused on landscape identity as an important concept that should be greatly considered. The study aims to show public participation currently contributes to preservation of landscape identity in public renewal projects. The research was done as a case study analysis of Kisumu City, Kenya that has recently been undergoing urban renewal through various upgrades and improvements to various public spaces and urban form elements. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used. Data capturing was based on mixed methods including archival records, visual mapping, photographic documentations, field surveys and semi-structured interviews. Triangulation was used to enhance validity. A sample of 384 participants from the CBD and neighborhoods were involved in the field survey. The participants reiterated that they were not substantially involved in public participation in preservation of the landscape identity of Kisumu City as they were mostly unaware of the process. However, the respondents were satisfied with the various components implemented under the renewal and the overall outcome. The study concluded that to preserve landscape identity, it should be included in public participation processes that should be emphasized in all the stages of urban renewal execution. The study revealed that public participation process undertaken did not include the important aspect of urban landscape identity as a subject of discussion in the urban renewal projects implemented.

**Keywords:** Urban Landscape Identity, Urban Renewal, Public Participation, Kisumu City

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## 1. Introduction

According to Wang, A. *et al.*, public participation problems in urban renewal project first emerged in "black removal" carried out in the United States [22]. This was an urban reconstruction that was implemented in large scale. It resulted in the replacement of old existing towns and with new developments that consisted of business centers and expressways. A large population of residents had to migrate to pave way for the project to be implemented. This

happened without appropriate governance arrangements thus leading to serious tensions. According to Yi, Z. *et al.*, assessing the attitudes, experiences and knowledge of those to be affected by a renewal project is a pressing concern. It is important to evaluate their expectations to ensure the right decisions are taken. This is done to ensure sustainability of the projects undertaken. Questions on attitudes have been proved crucial when explaining urban renewal performances geared towards sustainability [23].

Urban identity according to Beyhan & Gurkan, Okesli &

Gurcinar is not static as it undergoes changes from time to time [3, 19]. Urban identity is not only composed of pedestrian streets, city squares and buildings in the city and other urban spaces but also participation of individuals who are the residents. Public participation in urban renewal projects to preserve urban landscape identity is rarely or not at all considered as vital in the overall success intended to be achieved by the renewal aspects. According to Li, X. *et al.*, channels for participation are lacking especially in developing countries [16].

Several authors including Gedik & Yildiz, Zhaung *et al.* emphasize the need to have all relevant stakeholders involved in a holistic approach in an urban renewal project. This ensures sustainable urban revitalization that should seek to maintain unique urban identity [9, 27] Zhuang, T. *et al.* posit that joint and concerted efforts of various stakeholders, effective exchange of project information and good records of project resources and targets can lead to urban development that is sustainable [27]. According to Zhuang, T. *et al.*, stakeholders refer to “any group or individual who can affect, or is affected by the achievement of a project’s objectives”. Stakeholders in urban renewal project are those who participate in making decisions or influence the decisions made and whose interests are affected either positively or negatively by the decisions reached [27]. Boussa stresses that collective participation of the residents in the various projects being undertaken is important in achieving project significance. The community feels good and proud when involved in the city projects and this adds the community collective aspect and meaning to the residents who live within the city. This has the resultant effect of greater sense to the identity of the city for the residents [4]. Emphasis by Boussa concur with Beyhan & Gurkan that to add to quality of projects within the city, community participation is an important component to include. This therefore should be a major component of urban planning tools that is vital for any a city project to succeed and be sustainable [3, 4].

According to Layson & Nankai, Global South countries like Tanzania have used community participation to address urban environmental issues. Planning authorities in Tanzania have undertaken different urban development projects. The objective is to improve the existing living conditions and better image of physical environment within the cities for the residents. Among the challenges faced by the urban regeneration projects was satisfaction based on public perceptions and participation by the public that was not highly prioritized. There is great need to assess public perceptions on satisfaction in urban renewal projects and to find the best ways of execution to ensure acceptance by the public and guarantee sustainability. The authors suggest several factors that influence satisfaction of urban redevelopment to include demographics in addition to the level of participation in the projects [14]. Huang, L. *et al.* also questioned the residents’ satisfaction in urban renewal projects using public facilities and living environment of the neighborhoods of the residents. A 5-point Likert scale was

used to rate the residents perceptions on the different factors under study and this yielded varying responses regarding approaches of the project execution whether bottom up or top down were received from the respondents [11].

Zheng, H. *et al.* assert that social inclusion has become a crucial concern to be included in urban renewal projects if sustainability is to be achieved. “Community involvement” or “public participation” has become a must in city projects like urban renewal that are public in nature. Various state and private entities are stakeholders in these urban renewal projects. The public living near the urban renewal projects should also be considered as stakeholders in the project. How the different stakeholders relate in the project greatly influences the policy, process and the execution of a given urban renewal project. The authors however are of the opinion that different rights and powers are held by the project stakeholders to a given renewal process [26]. Recently, Zhuang, T. *et al.* pointed out that conflicts that emerge in public projects usually arise between the stakeholders and the affected public due to lack of participation in the projects. The authors further argue that negative perceptions that the public hold regarding public participation within the cities works negatively for the project’s success even if more participation was to be included and even if the public was more empowered [27].

Most recent studies on participation by Li, X. *et al.* and Liu, G. *et al.* all stress the myriad challenges that are involved with it [16, 17]. Li, X. *et al.* state that the public in developing countries usually lack the channels through which they can participate in urban regeneration projects within their cities [16]. Global South countries are also faced by this public participation challenge. Huang, L. *et al.* point out that due to varying interests of the different stakeholders involved in urban renewal process, it is suggested that the need to accommodate various people can be addressed partly by having a framework. The framework should aim to include varying voices, show the results in an appropriate way and accommodate preferences of the public as end users in a flexible manner [11].

A study by Yuen underscores the importance of people and the promotion of participation as an important part of the planning process for urban conservation. The author posits that people are interested in conservation within urban areas and the identity of the city. Their interest, needs and wishes should be considered in making decisions and taking actions in identifying of place identity and that places to be conserved. The author further asserts that place making through participation by the public enhances the realization of a ‘good fit’ between the built forms and the residents’ social life within the city. To make a distinctive city, public participation as an integral strategy is intended to support and sustain the conservation efforts in the projects. The author outlines that public participation should engage the public in efforts to identify what people in a given area associate their area with. How the character and history of an area can be retained should also be included in such participation processes by the public [25].

A study by Li, X. *et al.* evaluated the performance of public involvement for sustainable regeneration on whether they were inclusive, equitable, transparent and interactive. The indicators under each objective were rated on a five-point score scale. They posit that objectives for public participation can be different due varying goals of those involved in the project. A project that aims to inform and educate may have transparency as the most important consideration while the planning and execution may have little regard for an inclusive process [16]. Urban identity elements according to Kulozu-Uzunboy should be determined based on inter subjectively built consensus. Every city-related activity and project such as urban design projects, city plans and urban regeneration studies, should take into account the urban landscape identity. The consideration of urban identity elements during the preparation and implementation of projects would help create a sense of ownership of the projects and their products. Moreover that would help improve cities' competitiveness through building strategies based on widely-accepted urban identity elements [13]. If identification of all the elements important in influencing the urban landscape identity of Kisumu City was done through consensus by public participation, it could lead to greater acceptance by the residents and should be adopted in projects that affect the image of the city.

Studies by Layson & Nankai, Li, X. *et al* among others, discussed in this section have analyzed public involvement for sustainable urban regeneration but have not addressed how the particular concern of preserving and strengthening landscape identity in the renewal projects can be achieved. Public participation in general is a vital consideration for urban renewal project to be successful. However several challenges emerge from studies above [11, 14, 16, 27]. The challenges include: What are the techniques of public participation that the renewal project found to be appropriate, what communication channels were used to facilitate consensus building and lead to better decisions, through what channels/ways were the public engaged/incorporated in the renewal project, what was the level of participation in the renewal by the public, how were the findings of the public participation incorporated/handled in the renewal project, how did they overcome any negative perceptions of public participation by the public. Lastly what challenges did they face in public participation during the renewal project?

Urban renewal aimed at revitalizing cities should also aim to reinvigorate the urban landscape identity and the collective memory as a city's uniqueness and distinctiveness lies here and should not be neglected in the wake of creating new urban environments occasioned by urban revitalization. Studies reviewed on urban renewal in post-colonial Africa by Amado & Rodrigues, Dimuna & Omatone, Layson & Nankai, Leon, R. *et al* and lastly Njoku & Okoro are all concerned with creating viable communities due to upgrading of decayed neighbourhoods and urban spaces with concern on social and physical aspects without giving

attention to the need to preserve and strengthen urban landscape identity [1, 7, 14, 15, 18]. Amado & Rodrigues point out that the need to preserve identity and memory associated with places is one of the challenges experienced in carrying out urban renewal [1].

The paper aims to explore the current influence of public participation on preservation of urban landscape identity in the context of urban renewal changes. The paper makes use of one research question to guide the exploration of role of public participation in preserving landscape identity for a case study area in Kisumu City, Kenya. The research question is "what is the current influence of public participation in the preservation of landscape identity in urban renewal in Kisumu City".

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: section 2 on methodology describes the methods used in data collection. Results and analysis are presented in section 3 and discussed in section 4. The last section 5 provides the conclusions and recommendations of the study.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Study Area

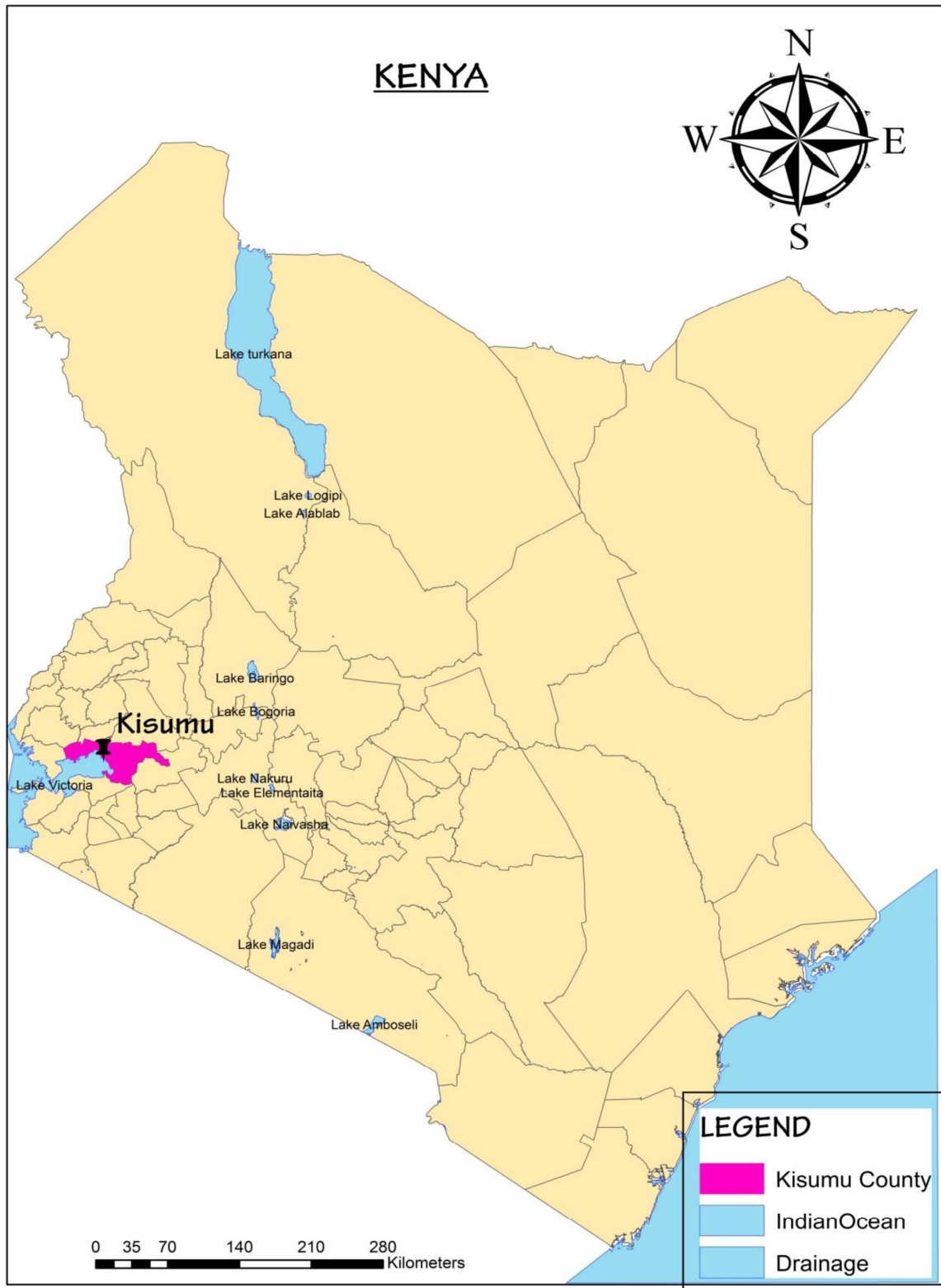
The study was conducted within Kisumu City. Kisumu City is within Kisumu County. Kisumu City is the third largest urban area in Kenya. It is the main administrative centre and headquarter of Kisumu County. It lies 265 km north-west of Nairobi a distance of 346 kilometres by road. It stands at the cusp of the Winam Gulf and along Lake Victoria. Its altitude is 1,146 metres above sea level and located 0° 6' South of Equator and 34°45' East. It is the second most important city after Kampala in Uganda in the greater Lake Victoria Basin. It lies on the Eastern shores of Lake Victoria. Lake Victoria is African continent's largest fresh water body.

According to Government of Kenya's National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya's population and housing census 2019, the study area falls within Kisumu Central Sub County that has a total population of 174,145 people consisting of 84,155 males (48.3%), 89,985 females (51.7%) and 52,331 households. The town area has a total population of 56,498 people and 17,258 households within a land area of 25.4 square kilometres [10]. Sub locations within the town area include Kaloleni, Bandari, Southern, Northern and Kanyakwar. The outskirts of the Kisumu Town area consist of Kondele Location that has a total of 35,073 households within sub locations of Manyatta A, Migosi, Nyawita and Nyalenda B. The target population was based on the number of households. The urban renewal which is the focus of this study has been carried out within the CBD that falls within the town area and the immediate surrounding neighborhoods.

Urban renewal case study of Kisumu City within County Government of Kisumu (CGK) has several ongoing and completed projects in different sectors that have resulted in great improvement. The projects include non-motorized

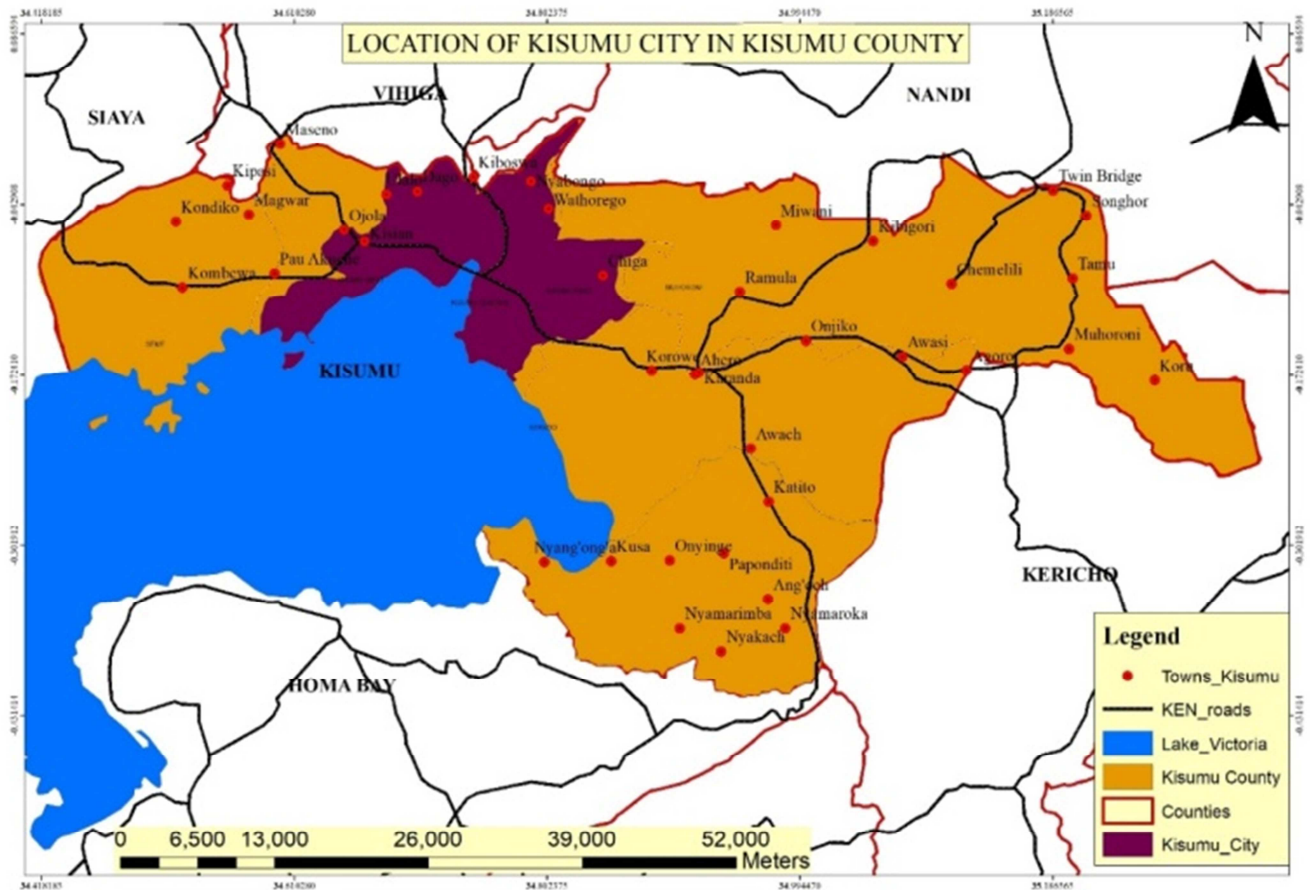
transport (NMT) within the CBD that comprises the improvement of pedestrian walkways, parking spaces, construction of new markets, bus parks, rehabilitation of public parks, beautification of roundabouts, road islands and proposed new high-rise affordable housing. The lake

front has also been earmarked for improvements in addition to the port that has been revamped and has its previously stalled activities on again. The projects are all undertaken within the City of Kisumu with funding from different sources.



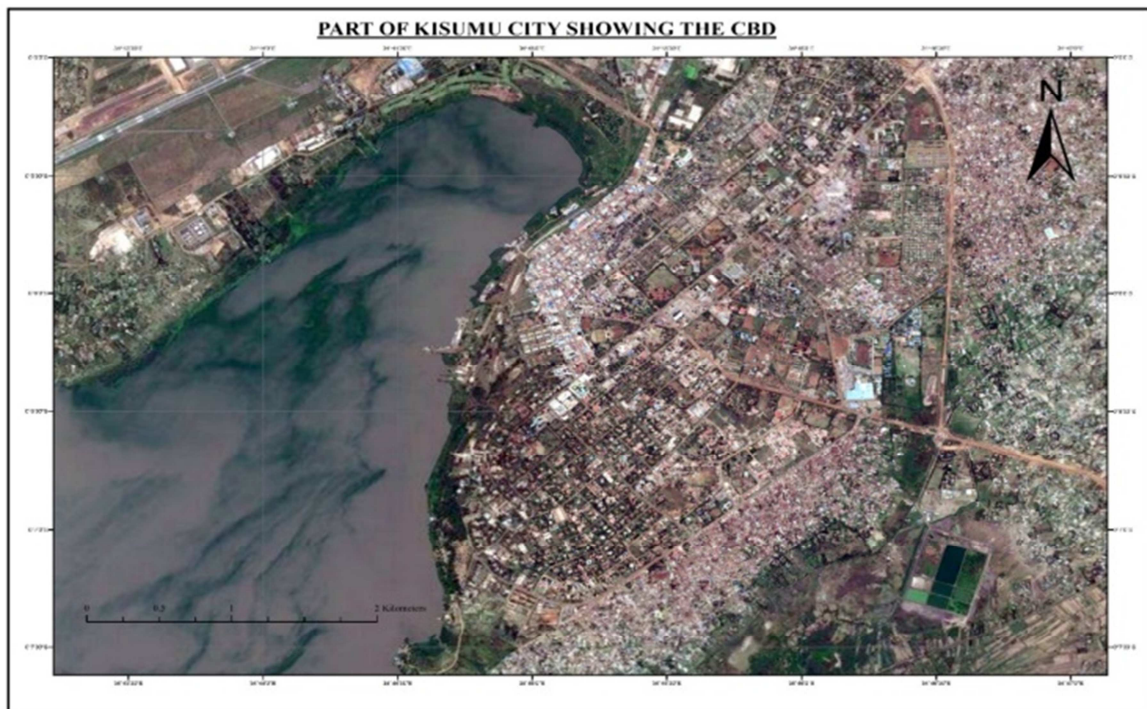
Source: Google maps (2019).

*Figure 1. Map of Kenya showing location of Kisumu County.*



Source: Digitized satellite aerial imagery.

*Figure 2. Map of Kisumu County showing location of Kisumu City.*



Source: Google satellite map by the author.

*Figure 3. Map showing the CBD within Kisumu City.*

## 2.2. Data Collection

The research was done as a case study analysis in which both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used. Data capturing was based on mixed methods including archival records, visual mapping, photographic documentations, field surveys and semi-structured interviews. Triangulation was used to enhance validity. The target population was based on the number of households. The sampling frame for this study consisted of the households within Kisumu City that is the CBD and the neighborhoods within Town area and Kondele Location that form Kisumu Central Sub-County. A unit of analysis according to Yin is the major and important entity that is analyzed in a study. It defines what the “case” is in a study [24]. The study had two units of analysis. The first is the city residents who are users of the spaces within the study area and who have an opinion on aspects of urban landscape identity. The second unit was the physical settings of the study area in terms of the urban form within the city’s CBD that includes streets, city square, buildings, public parks, markets and roads that had undergone urban renewal through several projects. The target population was based on the number of households within Kisumu Central that is 17,258. A total of 384 households according to Krejcie & Morgan were selected [12]. This was based on a proportionate number of households within the selected areas within Kisumu Central. Research results from other methods of data collection such as interviews with key informants and photo elicitation interviews have not been included in this paper.

The field survey involved simple random sampling in data collection using questionnaires. Similar studies that have used the simple random sampling in the collection of data through field surveys include Baris, M. *et al.*, Layson & Nankai and Oktay & Bala [2, 14, and 20]. The study sample included residents of 18 years of age and above who were willing to participate. This ensured a heterogeneous socio-economic characteristic of the population of the respondents involved. Filling out the field survey questionnaire was done individually at the participants’ houses and within the CBD spaces within an average of thirty minutes. The researcher in this study developed closed-ended questionnaire for the field survey intended to solicit responses relating to the objectives of the study. The survey design was organized in various parts starting with the respondents’ background information and subsequent sections to answer questions relating to the study objective. The questionnaire questions developed were based on scales and ratings. These were used to rate and quantify the opinions of respondents regarding the study variables investigated in the various questions.

Field survey results from structured questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics after processing in SPSS. This involved percentages, mean, standard deviation and the results were presented in tables and charts. Data collected was checked for completeness.

## 3. Results and Analysis

The study sought the participants’ details on gender, age, level of education and period of residence in Kisumu City. This was important for the study because these characteristics would inform what constitutes the landscape identity of Kisumu City, effect of urban renewal on the elements that form the identity of the City and influence of public participation in preservation of landscape identity. The results on demographic characteristics are presented in Table 1 below and are further discussed.

**Table 1.** Demographic characteristics of Respondents.

Age (Years)	Frequency	Percent
18-24	86	29.4
25-39	159	54.3
40-55	41	14.0
56 and above	7	2.3
Total	293	100
Gender		
Male	162	55.3
Female	131	44.7
Total	293	100
Educational level		
Primary	6	2.0
Secondary	57	19.5
Tertiary	230	78.5
Total	293	100
Length of residence (years)		
0-5	64	21.8
6-10	64	21.8
11-15	48	16.5
Above 15	117	39.9
Total	293	100

The findings in Table 1 above indicate that out of 293 respondents, 55.3% were males while 44.7% were females. The findings indicated that male participants outnumbered the female counterparts. This implies that there was still gender parity. Ages of the respondents ranged from 18 years to 56 years and over with a majority (70.6%) aged at least 25 years. The age distribution is skewed to older age groups implying that most of the participants were mature persons. They were therefore, expected to respond adequately to the study questions that were about landscape identity of Kisumu City in terms of the influence of public participation in preserving of landscape identity in Kisumu City at the time of the study. In this study, 2% of the people interviewed had primary educational background, 19.5% had secondary educational background and majority (78.5%) had tertiary educational background. The implication of these findings to the study is that 98% of the respondents were educated beyond primary school, hence, expected to understand and objectively respond to the questions regarding the landscape identity of Kisumu City. A situational report within the City of Kisumu by Kisumu Urban project indicated that over 70% of the respondents had at least high school education and above and this supports the level of education by the field survey respondents who were willing and ready to participate in this study as revealed above [5]. The study findings revealed that 43.6% of the study respondents

had resided in Kisumu city for at most 10 years, 39.9% had resided in Kisumu city for more than 15 years while 16.5% of the respondents had resided in Kisumu City between 11 to 15 years. The length of residence results indicates that the respondents had lived long enough in Kisumu City thus were aware of the image/character of the City and possible changes to the city due to urban renewal and its effects.

The research response rate for the field survey indicate that out of the 384 questionnaires issued, 293 were duly completed by filling and handed to the researcher giving a return rate of 76.3%. This return rate was possible because the researcher followed up the willing respondents during data collection to ensure they filled and handed in the questionnaires. The limitation with the field survey that involved the city residents was that some of the administered

questionnaires could not be collected back due to misplacement by the respondents. The case of the lost questionnaires was common among respondents who were willing to participate but cited lack of enough time to complete the questionnaire as the researcher waited to pick them. Analysis for the findings omitted the questionnaires omitted those that were incomplete.

### 3.1. Field Survey Responses on Public Participation

Public participation by the respondents involved a number of factors that required the respondents to confirm whether they agreed or disagreed with the public participation process during execution of the various urban renewal projects. The results are presented in Table 2 below.

**Table 2.** Influence of public participation on preservation of landscape identity.

Factor	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	mean	SD
-Early phase initiation	6.8%	21.2%	36%	25%	11.3%	2.87	1.08
-Shaping decision of renewal project	8.5%	24.7%	28.8%	26.7%	11.6%	2.91	1.14
-Decision making opportunities	11.4%	31.6%	17.9%	25.1%	14.8%	2.98	1.27
-Address preservation of landscape identity	15.7%	34.2%	21.9%	20.2%	8.2%	3.28	1.19
-Participation methods used	13%	31.5%	24.7%	23.6%	7.5%	3.18	1.15
-Conveying project information	10.2%	31.2%	24.7%	21.7%	6.5%	3.10	1.11

The results in Table 2 above reveal that majority of the respondents did not participate in public consultations during initiation and implementation of the renewal project in Kisumu City. This is evidenced by the fact that only 24% of the respondents participated while a majority (76%) did not participate in public consultations during initiation and overall execution of the renewal project in Kisumu City. The study revealed that 72.3% of the respondents did not agree (mean=2.87; SD=1.08) to have been involved in the early phase of initiation of the renewal process, 67.1% of the respondents disagreed (mean=2.91; SD=1.14) that public participation was used to shape the decisions of the renewal project while 57.8% of the respondents disagreed (mean=2.98, SD=1.27) that they had adequate opportunities to make decisions through participation in the renewal project. The results indicated that there was a 50-50 (mean=3.28, SD=1.19) opinion among the respondents that public participation conducted on the urban renewal project addressed the preservation of landscape identity, 55.8% of the respondents

were neutral (mean=3.18, SD=1.15) that public participation method used in the renewal were of value in capturing contributions from public involvement and finally 58.9% of the respondents were neutral (mean=3.10, SD=1.11) that public participation methods used were of value in conveying the project information. The implication of these findings to the study was that the respondents were not substantially involved in public participation in preservation of landscape identity in the various components of the renewal project that had an effect on the landscape identity through various urban forms and other physical elements of Kisumu City.

### 3.2. Components That Survey Respondents Participated in and the Various Methods Used

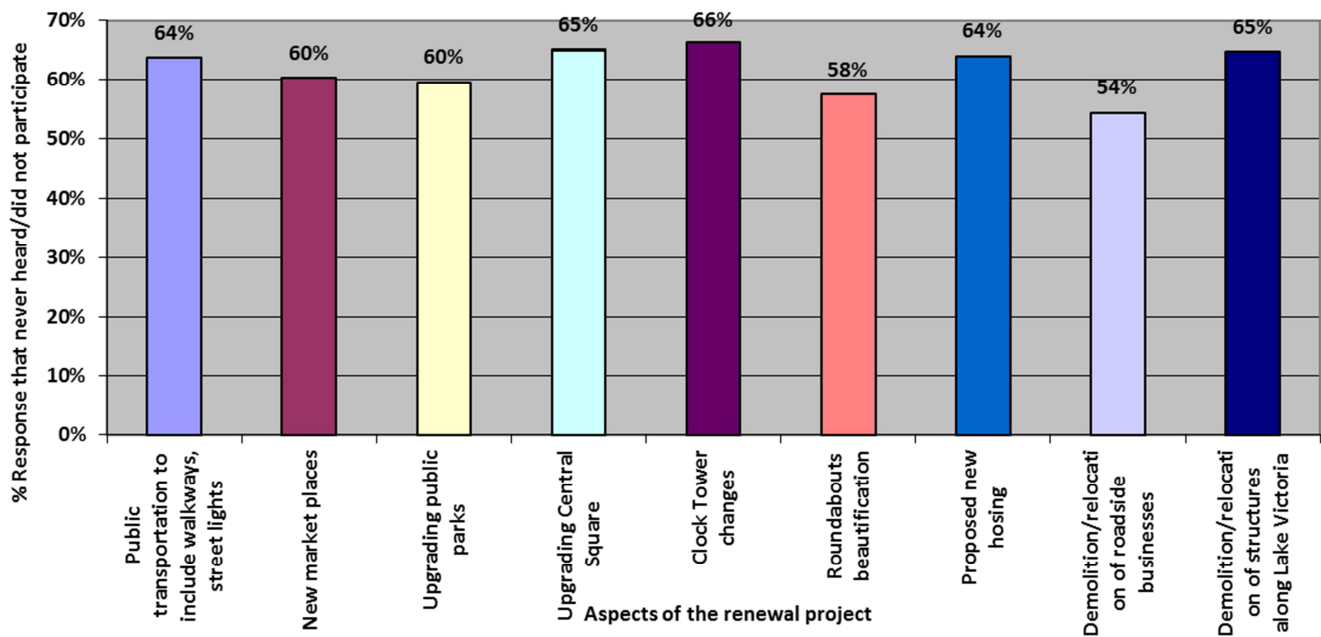
Through field survey, the study sought to investigate the aspects as well the manner in which the respondents participated in the various components of the urban renewal project. The results are presented in Table 3 below.

**Table 3.** The components of urban renewal project in which survey respondents participated.

Aspect/Manner	Never heard/did not participate	Was consulted/ dialogued	Was included as partner	Engaged in decision making / Collaborated	Public Made the decision
1. Public transport to include pedestrian walkways, street lights	63.7%	7.9%	3.4%	5.1%	20.2%
2. New market places	60.3%	11.6%	5.1%	6.8%	16.4%
3. Upgrading public parks	59.6%	13.7%	5.1%	6.2%	15.7%
4. Upgrading central square	65.1%	9.2%	3.8%	4.8%	17.4%
5. Clock Tower changes	66.4%	8.2%	2.7%	6.5%	16.4%
6. Roundabouts beautification	57.5%	8.9%	6.2%	7.9%	19.8%
7. Proposed new housing development	64%	7.5%	5.8%	5.8%	17.1%
8. Demolition, relocation of road side business structures	54.4%	9.2%	2.4%	5.1%	19.1%
9. Demolition /relocation of structures along Lake Victoria	64.7%	7.2%	2.7%	4.5%	21.2%

The results in Table 3 above reveal that a majority (63.7%) never heard and did not participate in the discussion about public transport to include pedestrian walkways, street lights and seats. The results further revealed that 60.3% of the respondents never heard and did not participate in the discussion about new market places e.g. Kibuye market, 59.6% of the respondents never heard and did not participate in the discussion about upgrading of public parks, 65.1% of the respondents never heard and did not participate in the discussion about upgrading of Central Square, 66.4% of the respondents never heard and did not participate in the discussion about changes on Clock Tower, 57.5% of the respondents never heard and did not

participate in the discussion about beautification of roundabouts, 64% of the respondents never heard and did not participate in the discussion about proposed new housing development at Anderson and Makasembo estates, 54.4% of the respondents never heard and did not participate in the discussion about demolition and relocation of road side business structures, finally 64.7% of the respondents never heard and did not participate in the discussion about demolition and relocation of structures along Lake Victoria. The implication of these finding to the study is that majority of the respondents were unaware and did not participate in the various projects and components relating to urban renewal of Kisumu city.



Source: Author (2022).

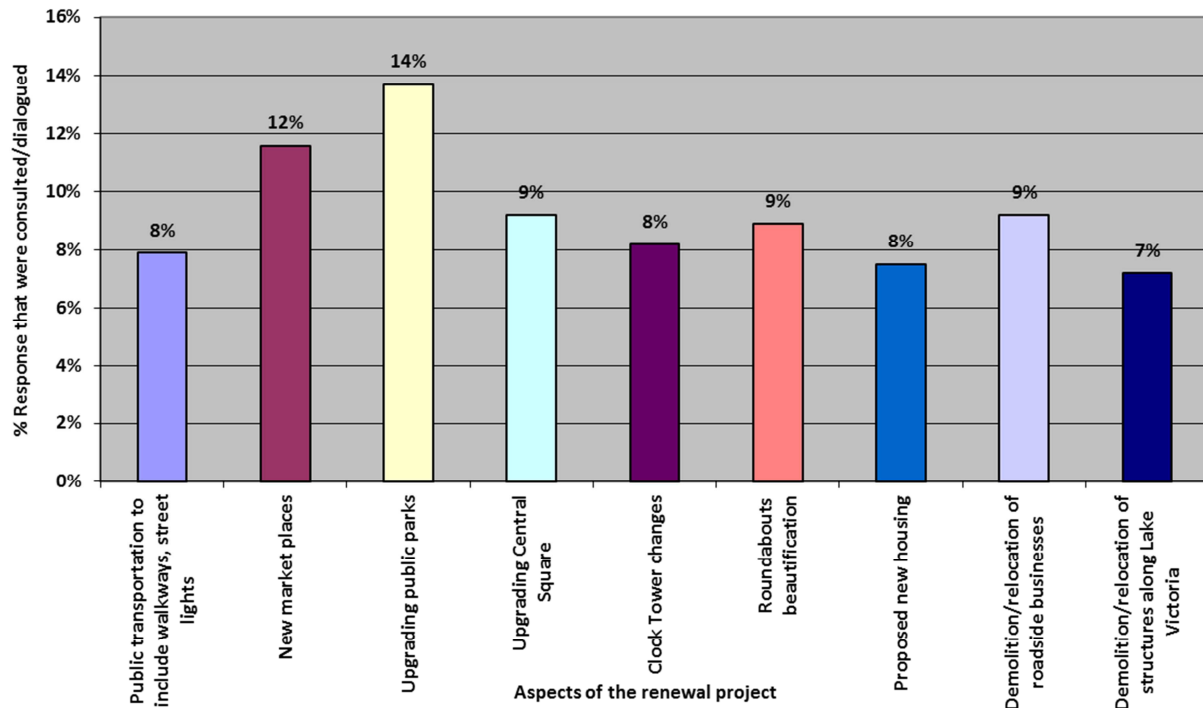
**Figure 4.** Response by respondents who never heard nor participated in the various components of Kisumu urban renewal project.

Figure 4 above based on Table 3 show the results of the respondents who felt that they never heard of the renewal project neither were they involved in the renewal project at all from initiation to implementation of the ongoing and completed renewal project. Majority of respondents in each aspect of the renewal listed indicated that they were not aware of the renewal project neither did they participate in the various components listed.

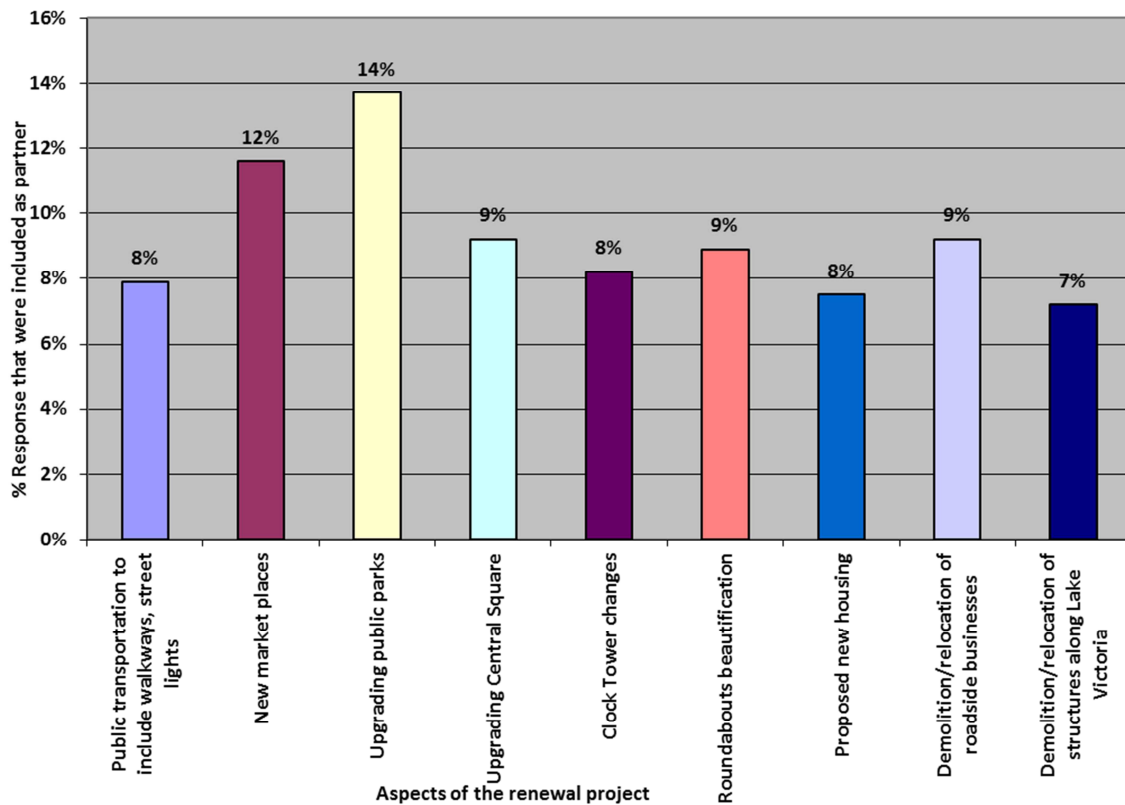
From the survey, the respondents who revealed that they were consulted or dialogued on various components of the renewal show that 7.9% were consulted/dialogued on public transport, 11.6% on new market places, 13.7% on upgrading public parks, 9.2% on upgrading central square, 8.2% on Clock Tower changes, 8.9% on roundabout beautification, 7.5% on proposed new housing, 9.2% on demolition of roadside business structures and lastly 7.2% on demolition of structures along Lake Victoria to pave way for lake front redevelopment. Figure 5 below shows the respondents who

felt that they were consulted or dialogued on the various components implemented under the renewal project as depicted in Table 3 above.

The survey respondents who revealed that they were included as partners on various components of the renewal project show that 3.4% were included as partners on public transport to include walkways, street lights, 5.1% on new market places, 5.1% on upgrading public parks, 3.8% on upgrading central square, 2.7% on Clock Tower changes, 6.2% on roundabout beautification, 5.8% on proposed new housing, 2.4% on demolition of roadside business structures and lastly 2.7% on demolition of structures along Lake Victoria to pave way for lake front redevelopment. Figure 6 below shows the minority respondents who were included as partners on the various components implemented under the renewal project as depicted in Table 3 above.



Source: Author (2022).

*Figure 5. The components of urban renewal project indicating respondents who were consulted/dialogued.*

Source: Author (2022)

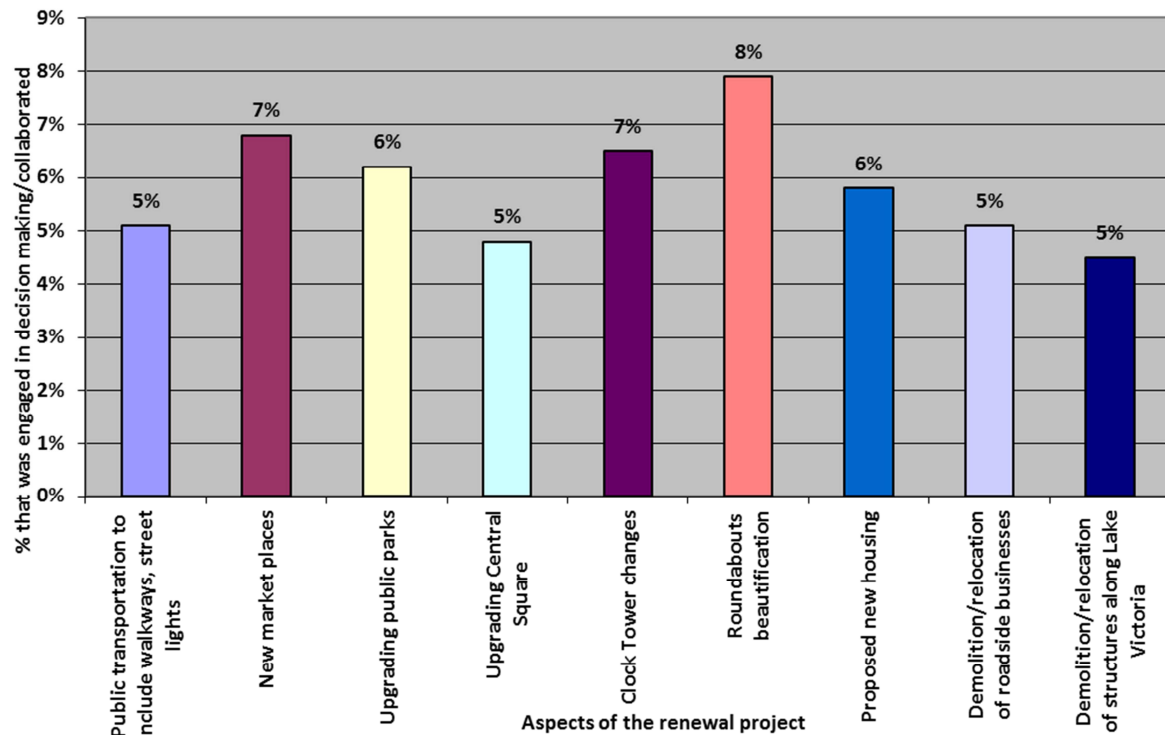
*Figure 6. The components of urban renewal project indicating respondents who were included as partners.*

The survey respondents who revealed that they were engaged in decision making/collaborated on various components of the renewal show that 5.1% were included as

partners on public transport to include walkways, street lights, 6.8% on new market places, 6.2% on upgrading public parks, 4.8% on upgrading central square, 6.5% on Clock

Tower changes, 7.9% on roundabout beautification, 5.8% on proposed new housing, 5.1% on demolition of roadside business structures and lastly 4.5% on demolition of structures along Lake Victoria to pave way for lake front

redevelopment. Figure 7 below shows the minority respondents who were engaged in decision making/collaborated on the various components implemented under the renewal project as depicted in Table 3.



Source: Author (2022)

**Figure 7.** The components of urban renewal project indicating respondents who were engaged in decision making/collaborated.

## 4. Discussion

The aim of the study which was to establish how public participation currently contributes to the preservation of landscape identity in public renewal projects yielded the following results: Regarding the influence of public participation in preservation of landscape identity, the results revealed that majority of the respondents: did not participate in public consultations during initiation and implementation of the renewal project in Kisumu City, did not agree to have been involved in early phase of initiation of the renewal process, disagreed that public participation was used to shape the decisions of the renewal project, disagreed that they had adequate opportunities to participate in the decision making of the urban renewal project. The results indicated that there was a 50-50 opinion among the respondents that public participation conducted on the urban renewal project addressed the preservation of landscape identity, the majority were neutral that the public participation methods used in the renewal were of value in capturing contributions from public involvement and finally the majority were neutral that the public participation methods used were of value in conveying the project information.

Study results by Layson & Nankai revealed that

respondents discussed about urban renewal project although they were not sure if the ideas they contributed were considered or not. These authors further state that these doubts by members of the public might have been due to their levels of education. These authors further state that these doubts by members of the public might have been due to their levels of education. The majority had low levels of education to effectively participate in the renewal project. This created a problem in analyzing the technical issues involved [14]. These authors hypothesized that the levels of public awareness influences the participation of the public in the renewal projects. However, findings of this study are contrary to this because Kisumu City renewal project had a majority being aware of the renewal projects while a majority also indicated that they were not involved in public participation of the various components of the urban renewal project.

With regard to the components of urban renewal project in which the respondents participated, the results revealed that the majority never heard and did not participate in the discussion about the following: public transport to include pedestrian walkways, street lights and seats, new market places e.g. Kibuye market, upgrading of public parks, upgrading of the Central Square, changes on the Clock Tower, beautification of roundabouts, proposed new housing

development at Anderson and Makasembo estates, demolition and relocation of roadside business structures and finally the demolition and relocation of structures along Lake Victoria. The conclusion with regard to the components of urban renewal project in which the respondents participated was that the respondents were unaware and did not participate in the various projects and components relating to urban renewal in Kisumu city.

If identification of all the elements important in influencing the urban landscape identity of Kisumu City was done through consensus by public participation, it could lead to greater acceptance by the residents and should be adopted in projects that affect the image of the city. According to Layson & Nankai, public consultation and the numbers to form the adequate representation are not clearly provided within regulations for public participation in urban renewal projects. The study revealed that the majority was not aware of what went on during the steps and process to prepare the redevelopment plan [14].

Findings on the respondents' perception on satisfaction level with renewal of Kisumu City showed that majority of the respondents applauded the outcome and were satisfied with the implementation of the following: public transport to include pedestrian walkways, street lights and seats, new market places e.g. Kibuye market, upgrading of public parks, upgrading of the Central Square, beautification of the roundabouts, proposed new housing development at Anderson Estate, Makasembo Estate, demolition and relocation of road side business structures and finally the demolition and relocation of structures along Lake Victoria. The satisfaction about all the various mentioned components of the renewal was in sharp contrast to the lack of participation by the public as was mentioned by majority of the respondents. The results and conclusions made regarding this were confirmed during Photo elicitation interviews (PEI) sessions with various respondents who strongly commented on the new look of the city that was better in terms of beauty, cleanliness, order and safety. According to Layson & Nankai, when a community is engaged in a project through participation during which they get project feedback and are allowed to give views on how the project is progressing, then the project could easily be accepted or rejected. The acceptance of the project then influences the participation and resultant satisfaction by the public [14]. Layson & Nankai suggest that community participation and public satisfaction are interlinked based on several factors and that sustainability of the renewal project is dependent on the two factors combined. Results from the survey in the case of Kisumu City contradicts findings of a former study by [14] which hypothesized and deduced that great satisfaction was found when the residents were more involved through public participation in urban development projects.

Lastly regarding the perception on overall outcome of the renewal project, majority of the respondents applauded the results and were satisfied with the overall outcome of renewal projects in Kisumu City. This implies that the outcome had positively impacted on the image of the

cityscape and on the landscape identity of Kisumu City. Participatory tools according to Council of Europe should facilitate community input and participation in identification and preservation of landscape values that relate to identity [6]. In line with this recommendation, the researcher suggests that the urban renewal project should have adequately involved the public first in the identification of the components that contribute to the image and urban landscape identity of Kisumu with the aim of taking into account preservation issues. Secondly, the project should involve the public in the implementation of the various aspects of the renewal project to ensure that negative impacts are avoided while the positive aspects are enhanced through public participation. The communities should be allowed to express their aspirations during the identification of the landscapes based on their characteristics and value.

The study reiterates and further adds to the existing theory in landscape studies regarding urban landscape identity. There were only few studies as cited earlier, on urban identity relating to urban renewal in African context and the Global South in general. The studies covered issues of urban renewal without focus and emphasis on landscape identity and were in three African countries only: [7, 18] in Nigeria, [1] in Angola and finally [14, 15] in Tanzania. The studies available lacked focus on the need for identification, preservation of landscape identity and aspects of public participation with respect to urban renewal changes. This study has provided a literature review with regard to identity studies with focus on urban landscape identity in the Global South context. This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on urban landscape identity to help understand the term from different parts of the world.

## 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The study adds to the critique that different study participants had regarding public participation in the urban renewal project that was largely a public project involving various developments. The study findings revealed that, despite majority of the respondents indicating that they were not aware of or not engaged in the public participation of the various components of the urban renewal project in terms of initiation, planning and execution, they still felt that they were satisfied with the overall outcome of the project and that the project had positively impacted on the new look/image of Kisumu City. This finding contradicts findings of a former study by Layson & Nankai which hypothesized and deduced that great satisfaction was found when the residents were more involved through public participation in urban development projects. This study proposes the following recommendations:

**Public awareness/education:** A preservation, conservation, rehabilitation awareness should be in place to identify the potential sources of city heritage and it should be planned and implemented through public-private people partnership between CGK, corporates and members of the general public who are residents.

Any landmarks, focal points and iconic features that help in identification of the city and assist in way finding, orientation within the city should be highly valued and should be preserved and protected within all areas of the city's landscape. This is supported by Layson & Nankai, Seidl, N. *et al.* [14, 21]. Initial identification for the proposed landmarks through multi stake holder consensus should first be conducted.

**Public participation:** The planning controls should specify the threshold to be met for effective public participation in urban renewal projects. The various adopted methods of participation to preserve and strengthen landscape identity should strive to ensure that the public is aware of the project and participate in public consultations during initiation and implementation. The public participation should be used to shape decisions of the renewal project and offer decision making opportunities that are adequate. The public participation should address preservation of landscape identity and the methods used should be of value in capturing contributions from the public involvement. Finally, the methods used should be of value in conveying the project information to all the stakeholders involved.

The participatory tools adopted should strive to facilitate community input and participation in the identification and preservation of landscape identity and integrate landscape values. The communities should understand the characteristics and value of the landscapes and be allowed to express their aspirations. According to Council of Europe, identification and integration of natural and cultural heritages is important and should be undertaken. The need to develop awareness that landscape identity is part of processes that involve culture and are geared towards development and urban renewal [6].

**Partnerships:** CGK should adopt a multi stakeholder partnership through Public Private People Partnership (PPPP) to plan and execute the management and monitoring of the various completed components of the urban renewal to avoid and eliminate any occurrence of physical decay and run down effects that would impact negatively on its image and identity over time.

The CGK should set up a cross sector, trans-disciplinary and multi-level coordination framework among its various departments to ensure that all historic, heritage assets and vital urban form elements are identified and protected and as such contribute positively to its image and urban landscape identity.

The CGK should promote social awareness through effective PPPP during all stages from initiation concerning best practices and good examples in preservation of landscape identity of the various urban form elements and all features of interest with regard to types, constructive techniques and promote use of modern day technologies like digitalization through GIS and cartographic mapping for easy identification, location and protection.

There is need to develop partnerships in management of various open spaces within Kisumu City like the public parks and the Central Square. According to Erdogan, B. *et al.*,

effective management of a city square exceeds the existing scopes of public works authorities. Effective operation and management requires adequate funding that is vital to make the square successful as a public space. This ensures it has strong urban form elements with characteristics that contribute to the formation of urban landscape identity [8].

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