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Green urban evaluation index for the central districts of cities in developing countries: case of Jordan

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Abstract

This study seeks to develop a sustainable urban assessment tool for the central districts of cities in developing countries such as Jordan. The study employed a mixed-methods approach that included examining existing and well-known urban sustainable assessment tools to identify areas of convergence and distinction; conducting a focus group discussion with sustainable development experts to identify relevant local conditions; and disseminating a web-based questionnaire to sustainability experts. The Delphi technique and analytic hierarchy process were implemented to combine the opinions of sustainability experts, define the weightings of the assessment items, and reach a consensus. Finally, the outputs were analysed to create a tool suitable for the local conditions of Jordanian city centres. The outcome of this study is a sustainable urban assessment checklist composed of 11 categories, 75 criteria, and 485 measurements. The findings show that “site categories” are regarded as the most relevant and important, followed by “site analysis” and “land planning”, together accounting for more than half of the total assessment points (51%). The results show that to ensure the city centre’s sustainability, a framework for assessing such central districts is urgently required to direct the awareness of specialists, developers, and decision-makers towards urban sustainability.

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* **City centre**
* **Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP)**
* **Delphi technique**