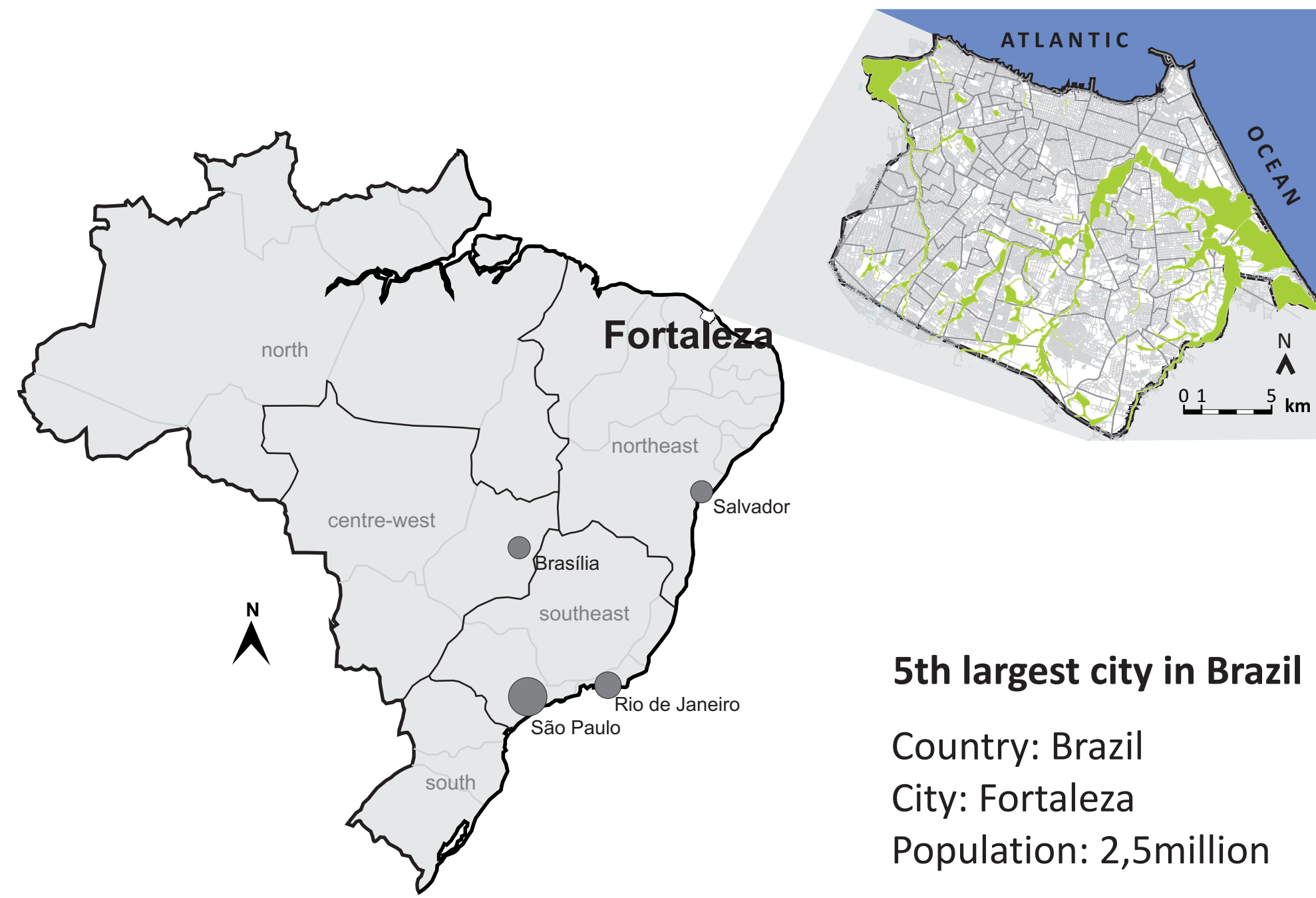


# PROMOTING THE ROLE OF PUBLIC SPACES

Developing public spaces as a spatial integration element in the city of Fortaleza



## Research Location



## Research Problem

"in many parts of the world, considerable evidence has been gathered to demonstrate a shared sense of dissatisfaction and pessimism about the state of urban environments, particularly with the quality of everyday public spaces" (Carmona et al, 2008).

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

On the last 100 years, Fortaleza had a huge and uncontrolled spatial and population growth, determining fast changes on its urban structure. However, public space structure was one of the city elements which did not follow the pace of urban transformations, losing its quality and its capacity to support urban development.

## Approach

### Starting point

What is going wrong on public spaces in Fortaleza?

### ASPECTS OF ANALYSIS

CONDITIONS OF PLANNING INSTRUMENTS FOR PUBLIC SPACES DEVELOPMENT



FUNCTIONAL AND SPATIAL CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC SPACES

weak conditions of the planning framework

= poor spatial conditions of the public spaces structure

### Why the approach on planning is necessary?

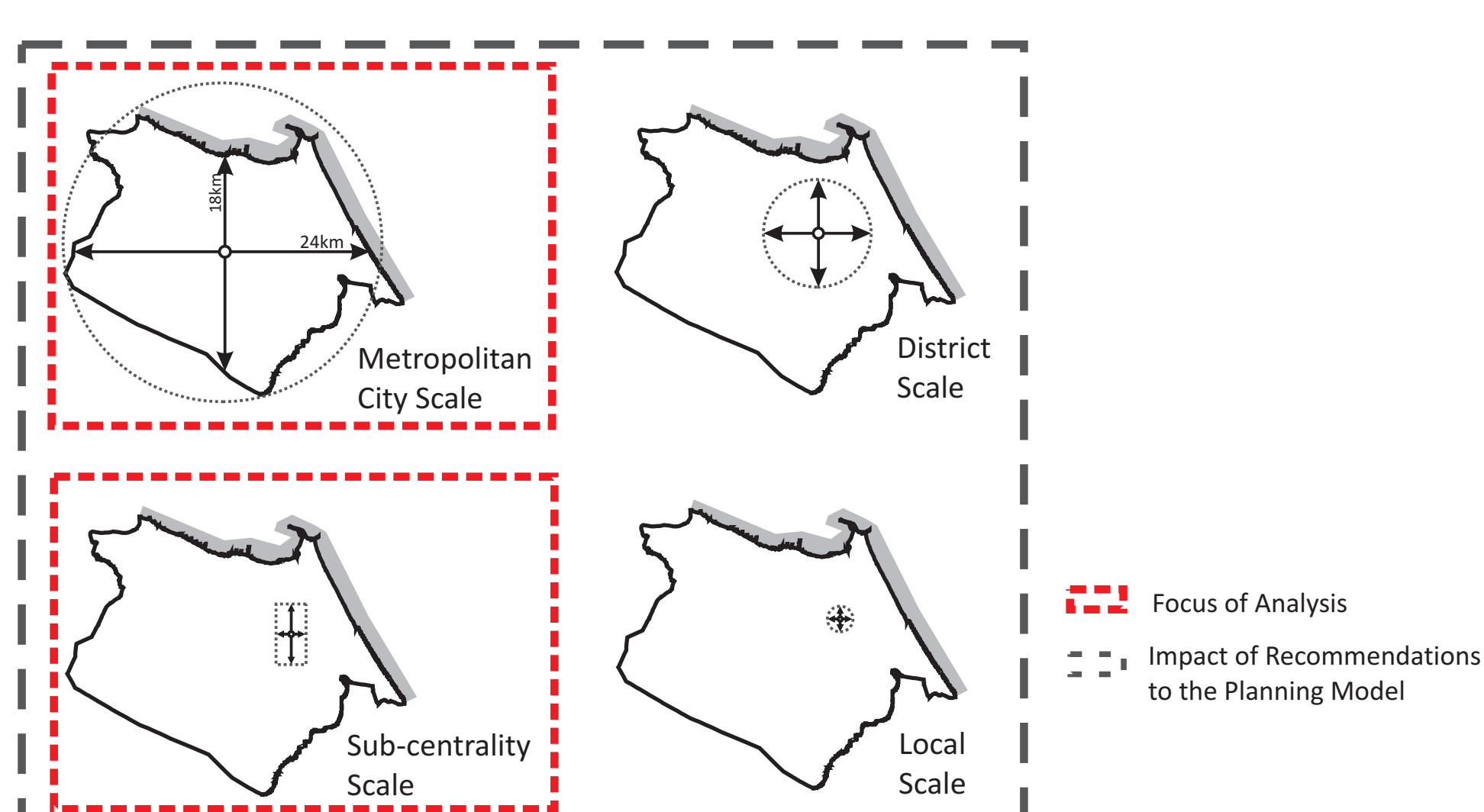
"One of the main explanatory factors that have influenced changes on the urban form, particularly on large Latin-American cities, is the weak planning instruments and their mechanisms of control. The adaptation of changes is something that cannot be improvised. An anticipatory approach defined by planning is therefore required in order to meet current and future demands of cities and regions" (Borja & Castells, 1997).

## Aims of the research

1- to explore and understand the main issues which are composing the failure of public space structure in the city of Fortaleza.

2- to search for alternatives, focused on the planning framework, to promote public spaces development. Define recommendations to the actual planning model in the city.

## Scale of analysis



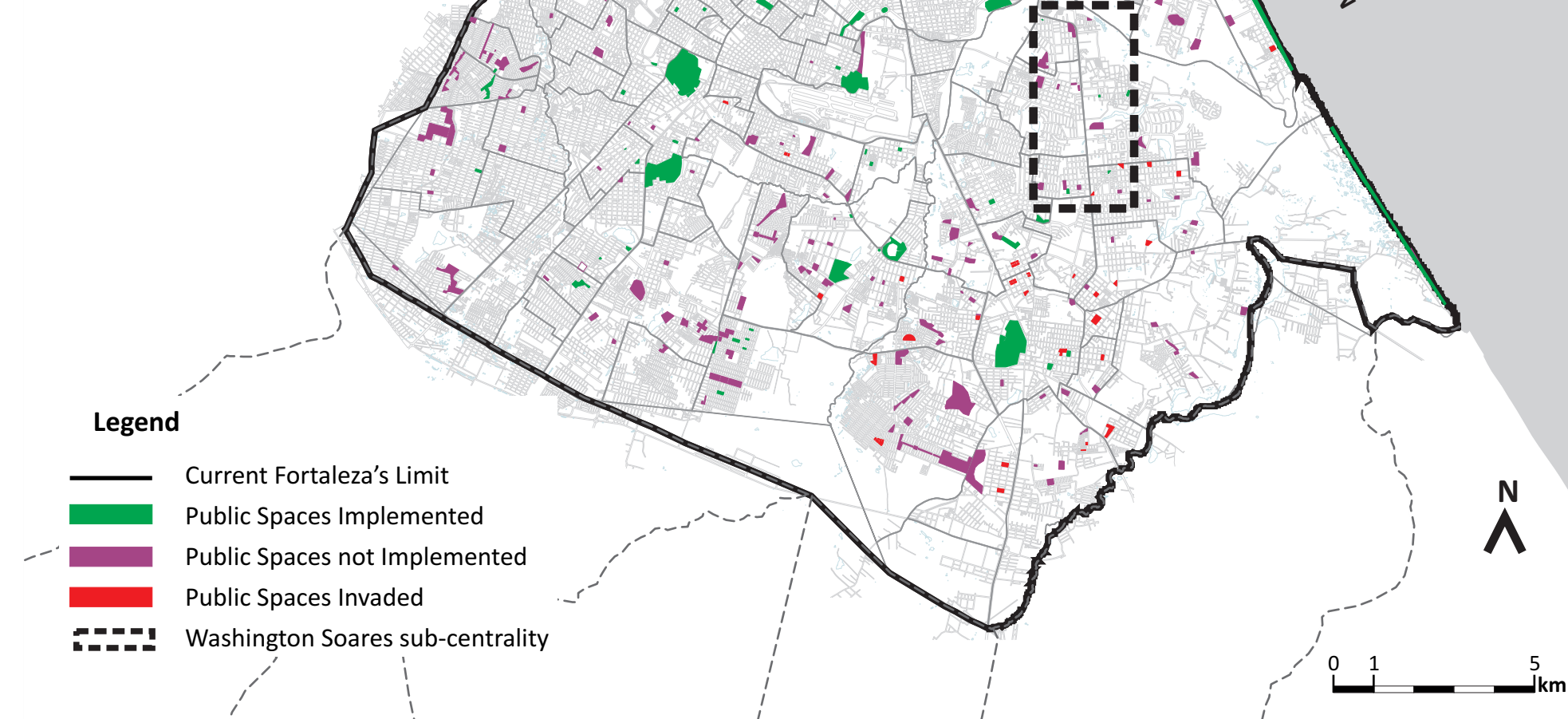
## Main Results of Analysis

### Functional and spatial Problems

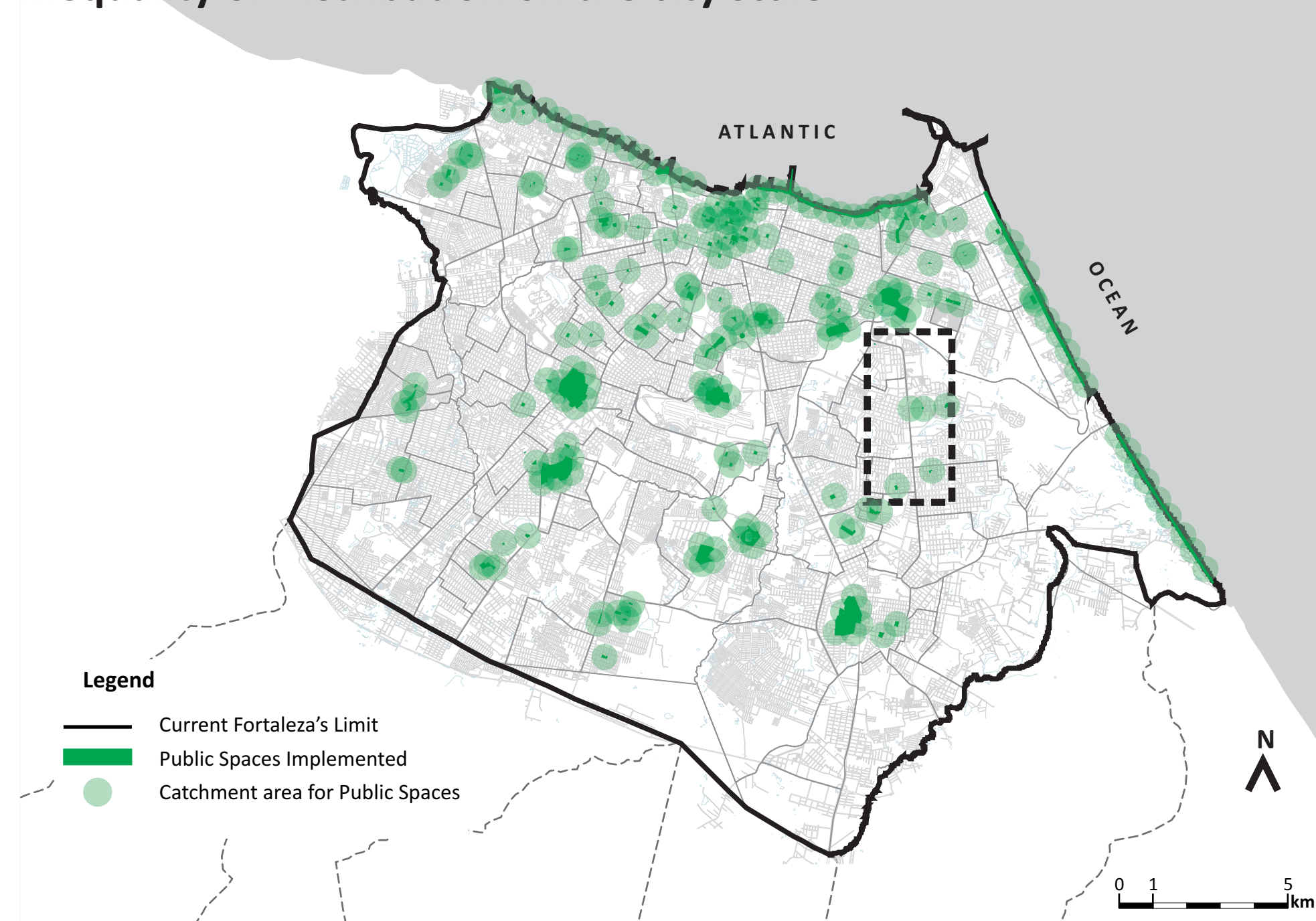
#### Lack of Provision on the city scale

Percentage of PS:  
Implemented = 0,97%  
Legally accepted = 15%

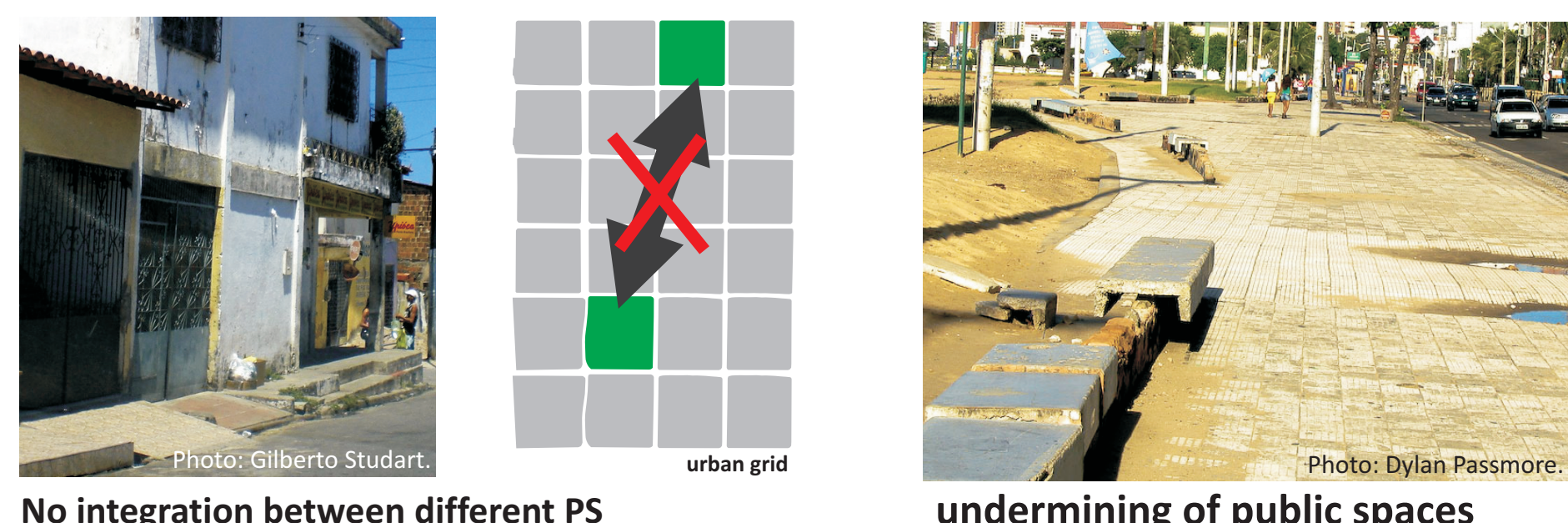
Ratio of PS:  
Implemented = 1,23m<sup>2</sup>/inh  
Recommended = 9m<sup>2</sup>/inh



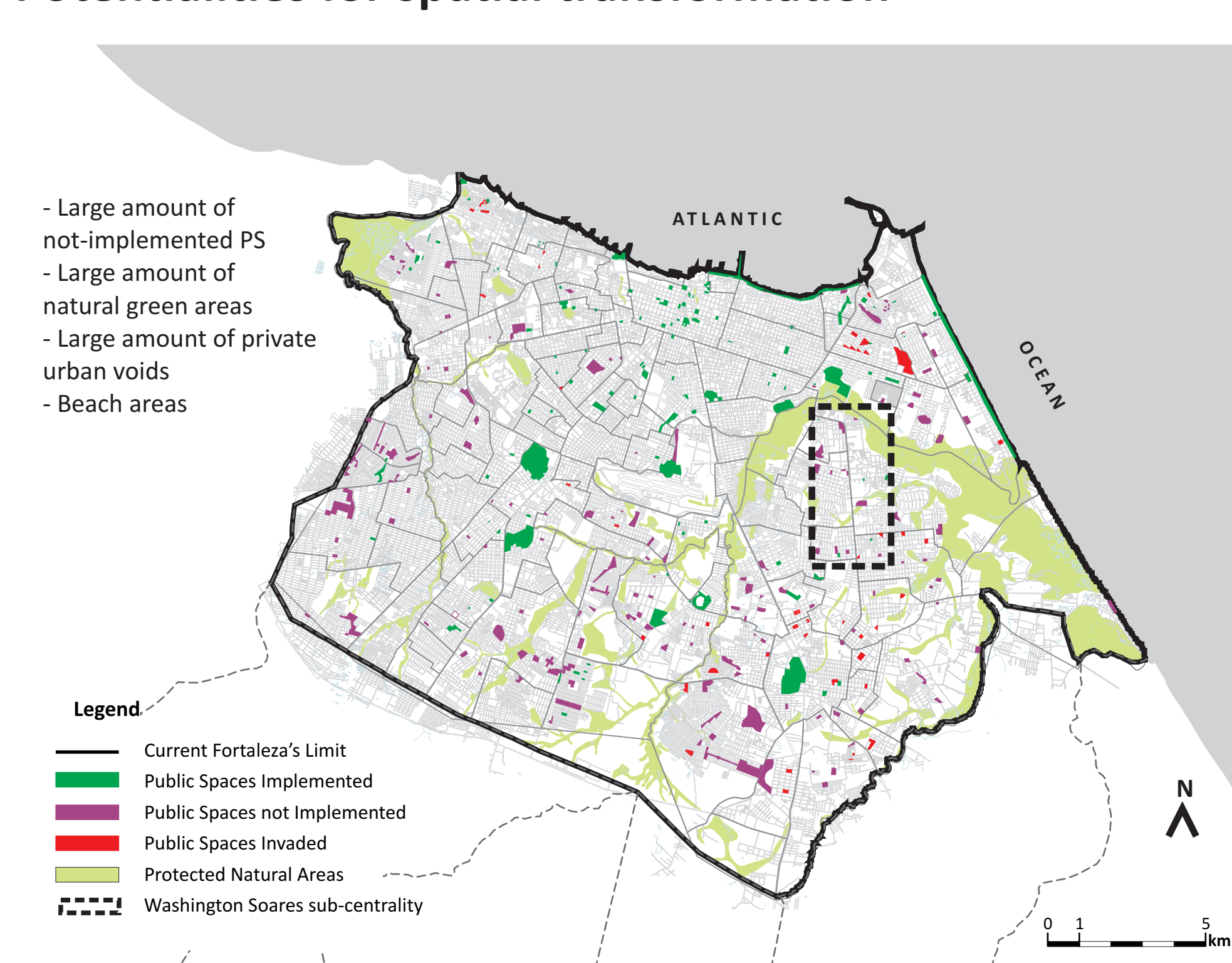
#### Inequality of Distribution on the city scale



#### Fragmentation and poor quality of public space network



#### Potentialities for spatial transformation



#### Problems on the planning framework for public spaces

##### Regulatory Tools

- Very weak control about the quantitative aspects of public spaces provision;
- No concern on the existing structure of public spaces, it is focused only on new developments;
- No clear qualitative measures and requirements for public spaces development;
- Weak integration of public spaces and the other sectoral policies;

##### Governance model

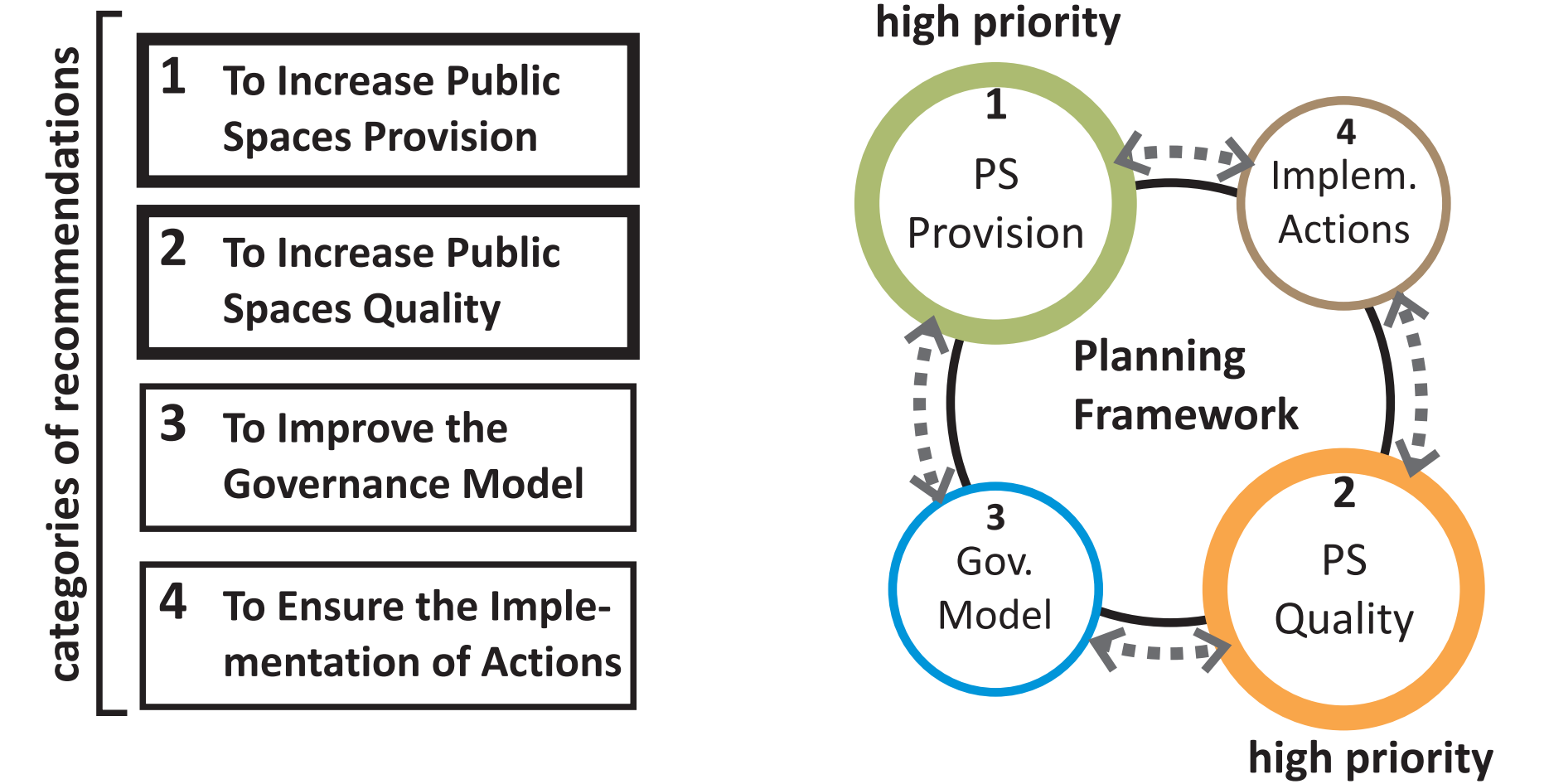
- There is no partnerships being developed in respect to urban development;
- Very fragmented institutional bodies;
- Weak integration between and within the levels of administration;
- Weak community participation on the local scale;

##### Implementation actions

- No anticipatory planning, just a reactive behaviour;
- No definition of a strategy to implement the policy proposals;
- No use of the existing planning instruments;
- Very generic definitions on the urban plans, leading to weak enforcement power;
- Weak monitoring systems;

## Recommendations for the actual planning framework

### Categories of recommendations



### Example of main recommendations

#### 1 - To Increase Public Spaces Provision

**Recommendation 1.** Increase the provision on the current urban structure, taking advantage of the great amount of not-implemented public spaces.

#### 2 - To Increase Public Spaces Quality

**Recommendation 12.** Increase the design quality of sidewalks ensuring their definition as open public spaces, with a crucial importance on the city flows and on the promotion of a public space network.

#### 3 - To Improve the Governance Model

**Recommendation 16.** Re-evaluate the community participation processes and how to allow people to have more influence on their local matters, instead of only intervene on overall definitions for the entire city.

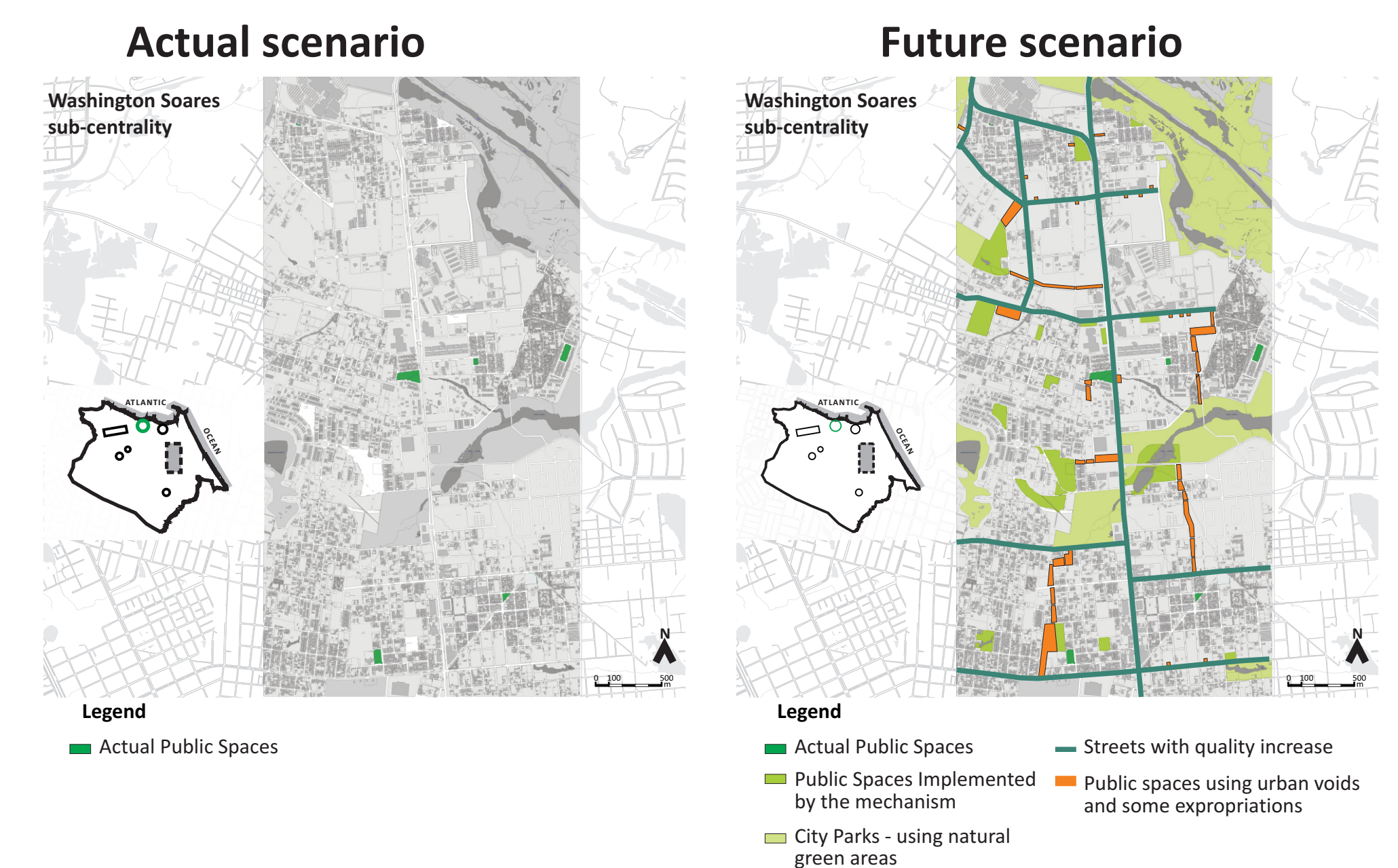
#### 4 - To Ensure the implementation of actions

**Recommendation 18.** Improve the institutional capacity of the municipality responsible to plan, implement and monitor the urban transformations in the city, as well as the public spaces development.

## Evaluation - sub-centrality scale

### Actions based on the recommendations proposed

- Implementation of "not-implemented" public spaces;
- Development of city scale parks, taking advantage of the great amount of natural areas;
- Redesign of relevant streets, improving the spatial quality of them;
- Make use of private urban voids in order to develop small scale public spaces and enhance the network.



## Evaluation - local square scale

### Actions based on the recommendations proposed

- Change the functions around the square, defining a higher density of functions;
- Extend the square to the south and to the east, connecting important parts of the neighborhood;
- Connect public transport system with the square;
- Insert diverse functions on the square itself.

