

# INTEGRATING THE INFORMAL

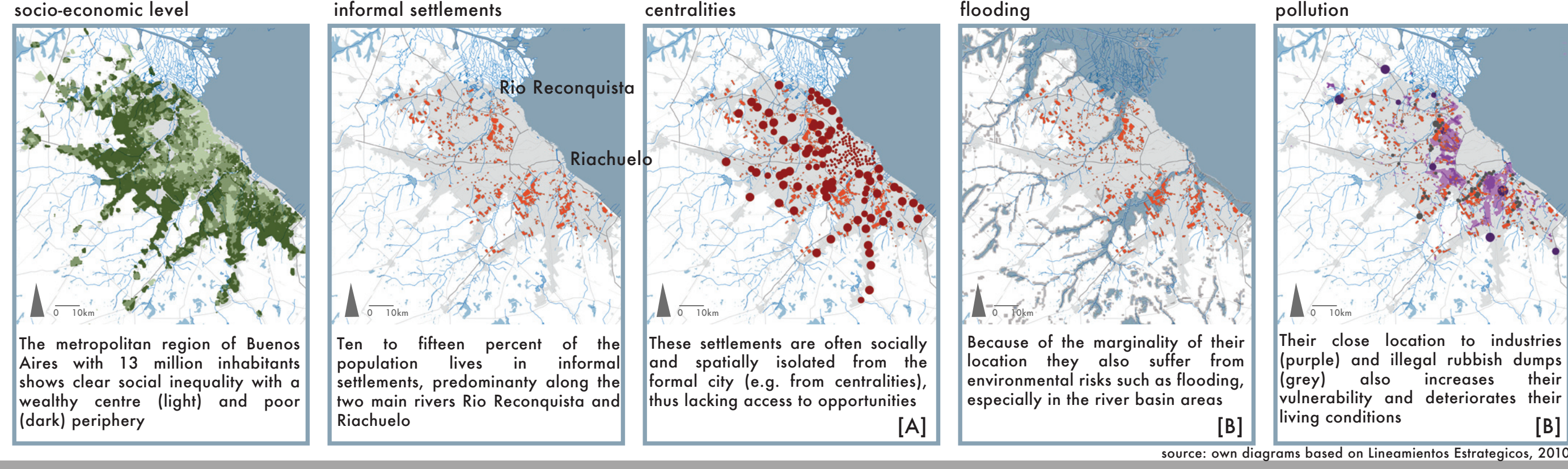
## DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATIVE STRATEGY

### FOR SLUM UPGRADING IN BUENOS AIRES

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key words: informal settlements | upgrading approaches | marginalisation | regional strategic proposal | local needs | integration

## Context Analysis



## Hypothesis

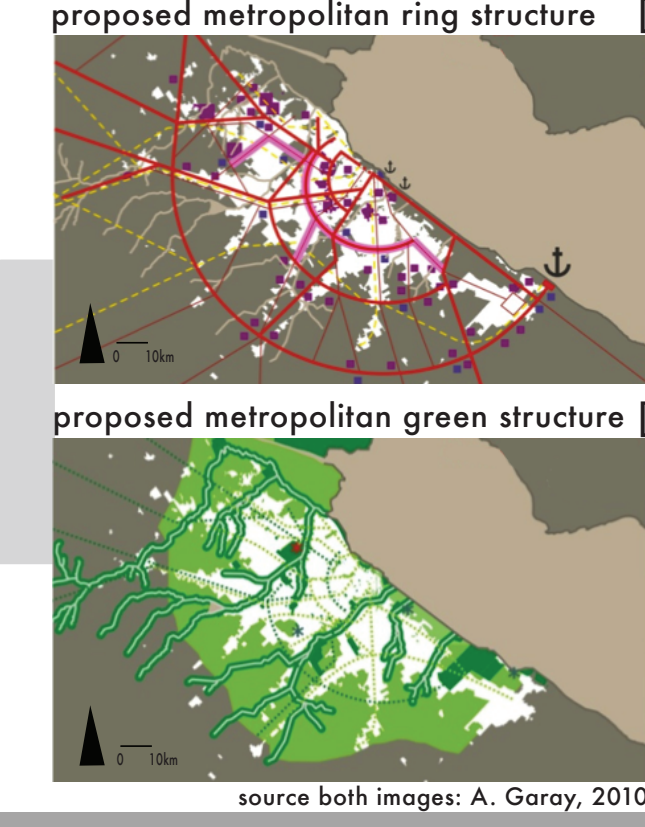
Slum upgrading needs to be considered in a framework of:

- integration into the formal city [A]
- environmental interventions [B]
- larger urban developments and metropolitan dynamics [C]

Considering local, regional and metropolitan scale & considering physical and socio-economic interventions

source: analysis, case study research and literature study

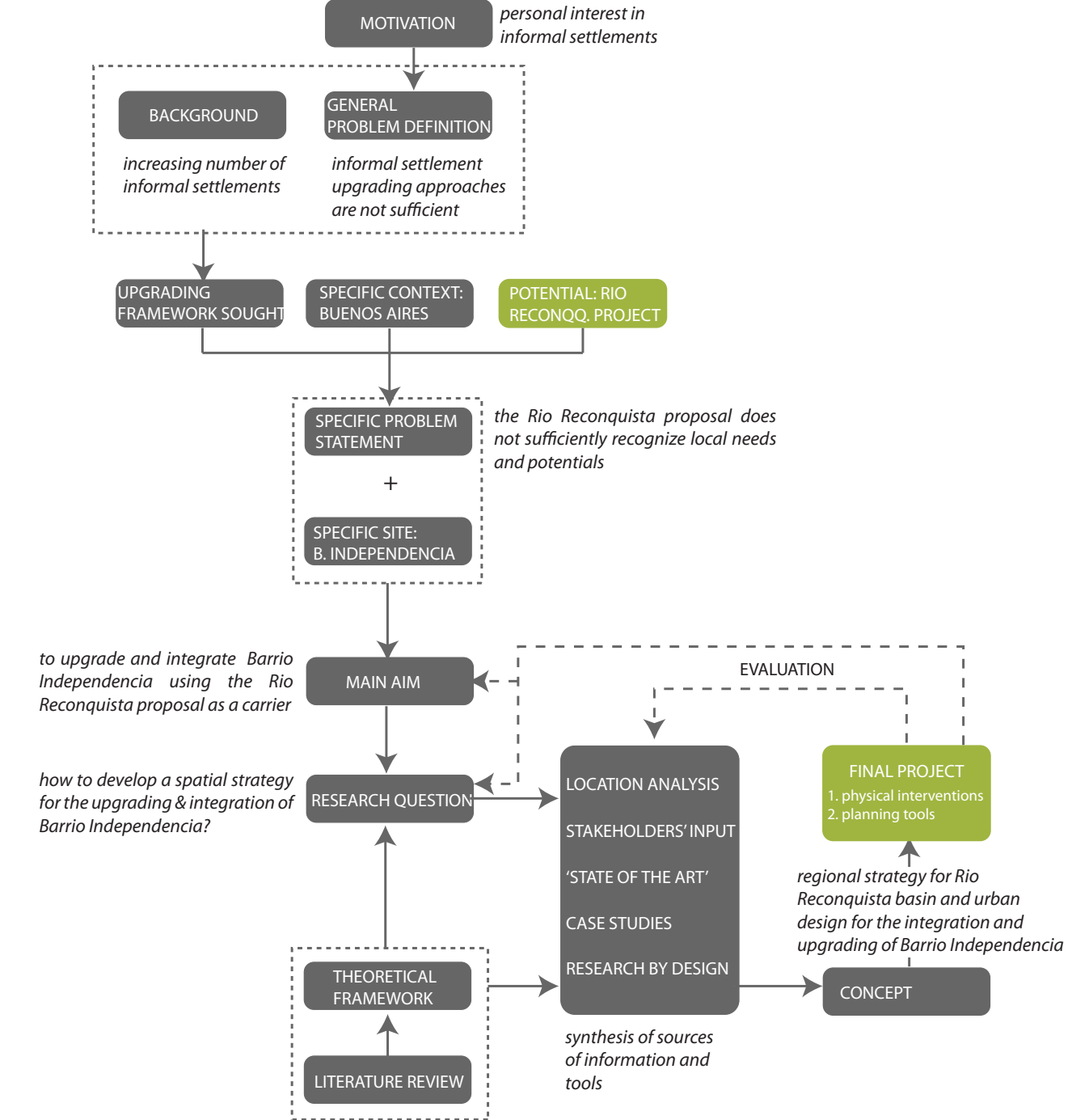
## 2050 Plan



## Summary

The need for an integrative strategy to slum upgrading. According to United Nations estimates, nearly one billion people over the world now live in informal settlements (UNDESA, 2010), which is one-third of the total urban population. However, as stated in the UN Millennium Development Goal Report of 2010 (p62), 'slum improvements, though considerable, are failing to keep pace with the growing ranks of the urban poor'. In Greater Buenos Aires, the metropolitan region of Buenos Aires and the context of my graduation project, an estimated 10 to 15% of the total population lives in so-called villas miserias or informal settlements. These settlements are predominantly located on marginal lands in the periphery of the city, such as in flood plains or near landfill sites. They are often both socially and spatially isolated from the formal city and are generally excluded from the urban decision-making process. In order to structurally address the problems faced by these informal city dwellers, any informal settlement upgrading initiative should therefore be considered in a wider framework of integration into the formal city, environmental interventions and larger urban processes.

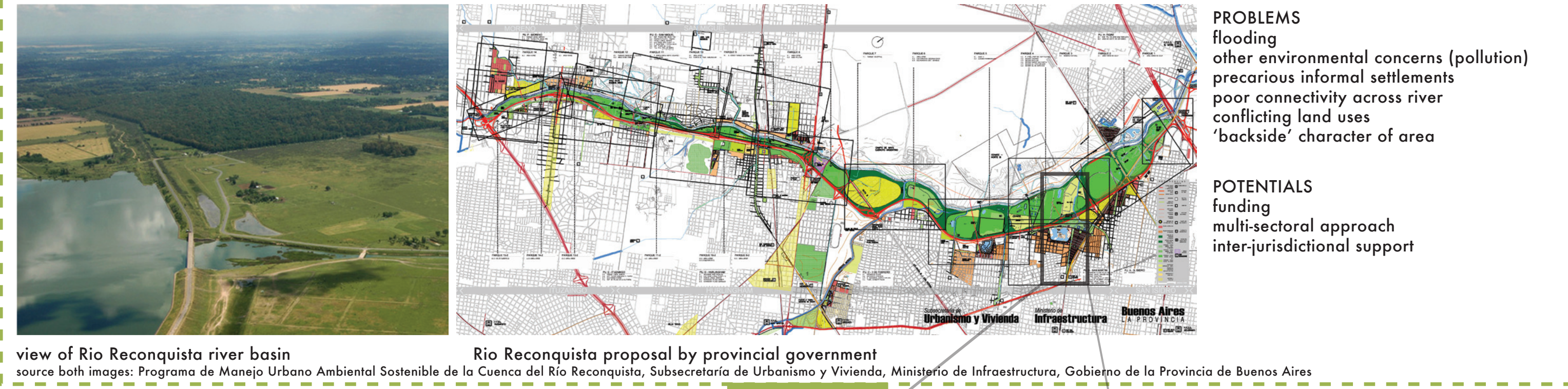
## Approach



## Vision

### Potential framework: Rio Reconquista proposal

The framework chosen for this project is the Rio Reconquista proposal by the provincial government of Buenos Aires for the improvement of the basin of this river, which includes environmental interventions, infrastructure improvements and urban development including informal settlement upgrading.



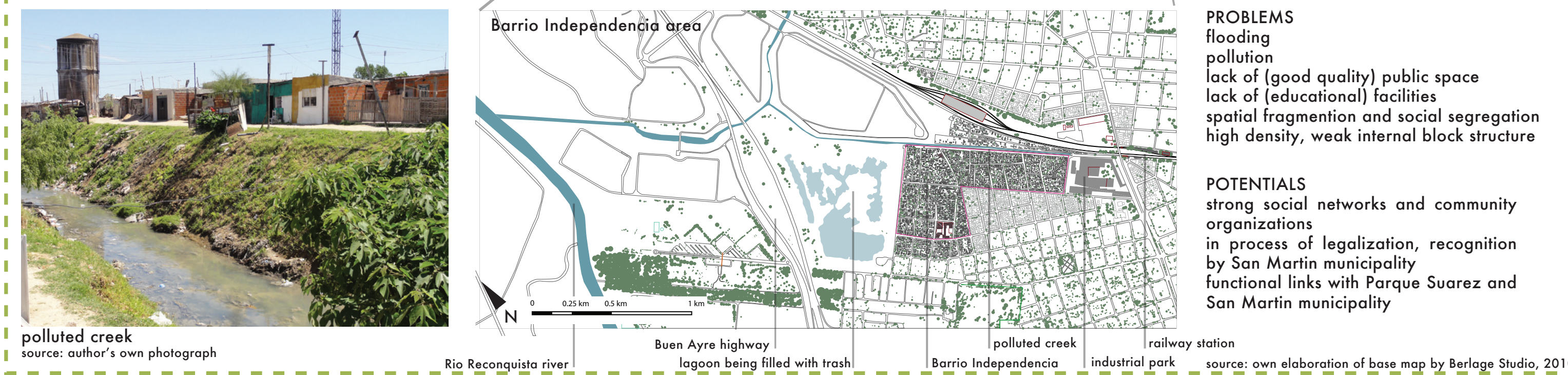
1. planning instruments

MY PROPOSAL

2. physical interventions

### Project location: Barrio Independencia area

The informal settlement used as a specific site to test out the potentials of the Rio Reconquista proposal to act as a carrier for upgrading and integration of informal settlements is Barrio Independencia. This settlement, of 5,000-8,000 inhabitants, is located in the municipality of San Martín in Greater Buenos Aires and suffers from a number of problems including flooding, pollution and a lack of public space.



## Problem statement

The Rio Reconquista project provides an interesting and promising framework for the upgrading and integration of informal settlements located in its basin. However, the current Rio Reconquista proposal does not sufficiently recognize local needs and potentials, and is therefore not yet able to act as an appropriate carrier for this upgrading and integration.

## Research questions

1. What planning instruments are needed to allow top-down regional proposals to work with local initiatives in marginalized informal areas in order to improve the spatial conditions and integration of these areas into the city?
2. What functional programme and collective spatial configuration meets the different demands of the stakeholders on the level of the federal government, the municipality and the local population?
3. What urban design recognizes local spatial qualities and potentials and uses these to activate the upgrading and integration of the informal settlement?

## Proposed Planning Framework

The following steps have been identified as being important in the participatory urban decision-making process. They are divided into four phases: a Preparatory and Stakeholder Mobilisation phase; a Collective Vision Development and Stakeholder Commitment phase; a Strategy Formulation and Implementation phase; and finally a Monitoring, Evaluation and Consolidation phase. For each of the different steps the outputs of these steps as applied to Barrio Independencia informal settlement are provided.

