

The sensitive river scape, the sinuous territory

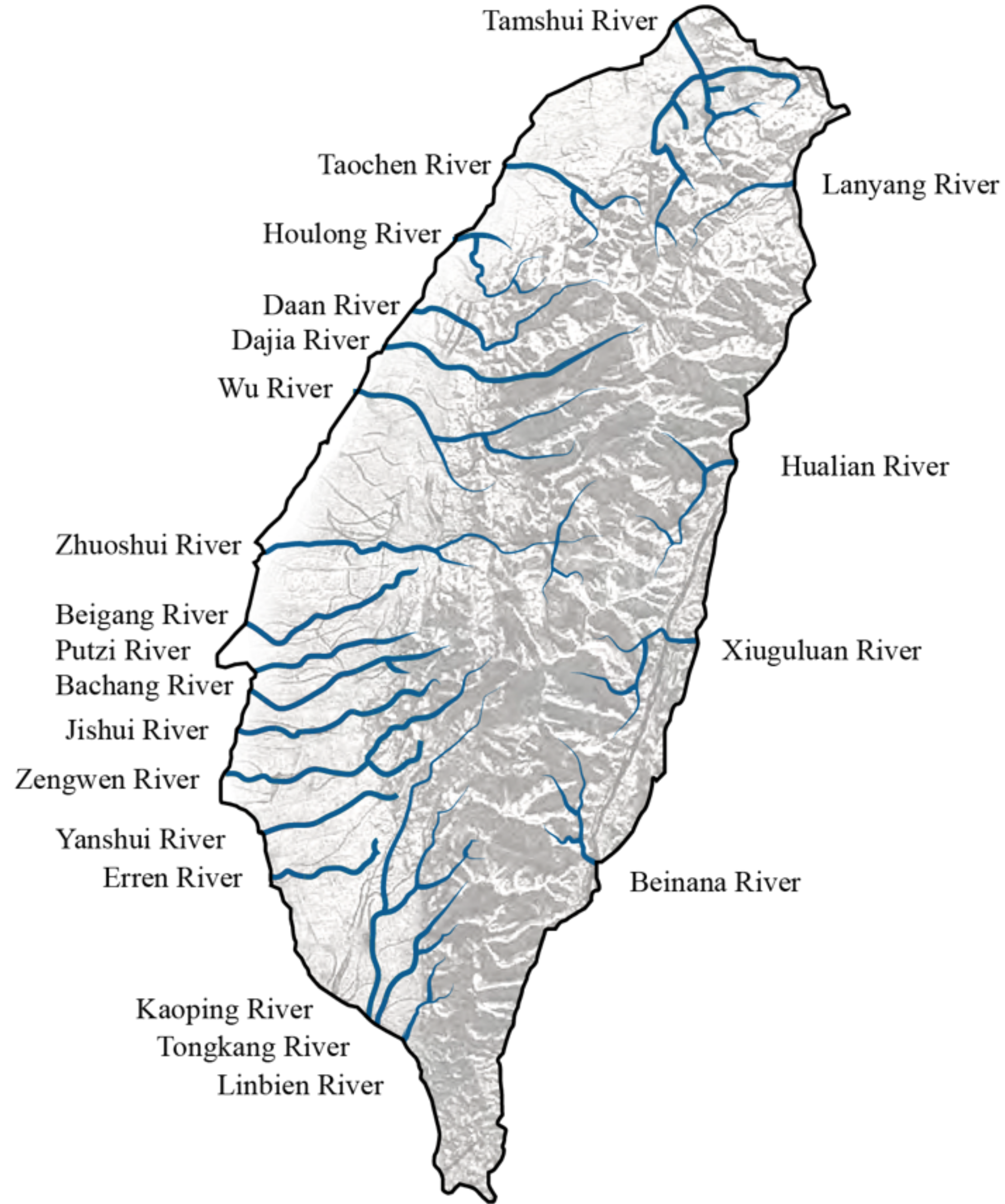
Transforming Dajia River Basin as a Water-Sensitive Landscape Infrastructure

Yun-shih Chen

EMU graduation thesis presentation



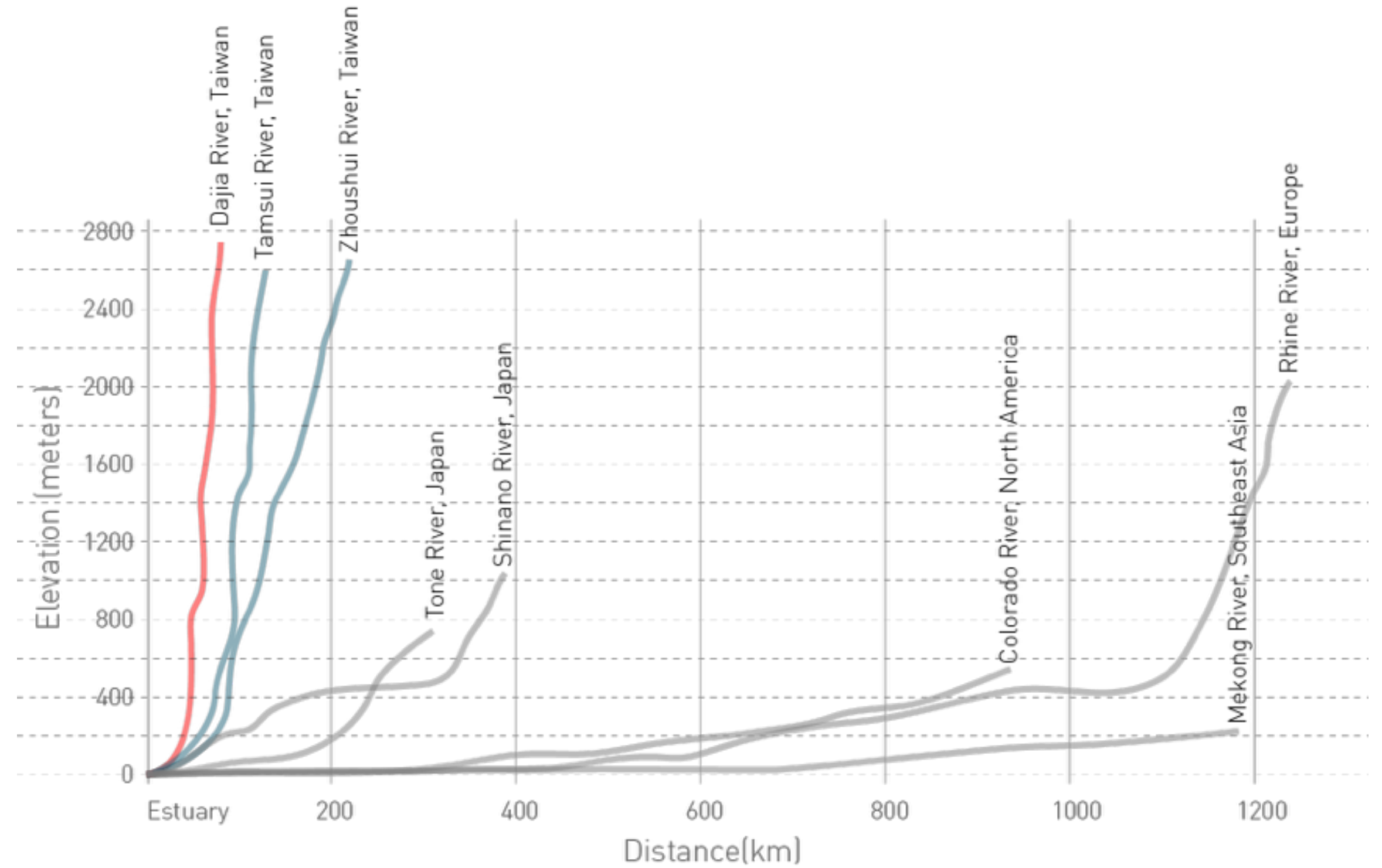
River



PROBLEM: RIVER + MOUNTAIN = OBSTACLE

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- short and steep river



— Rivers in the world

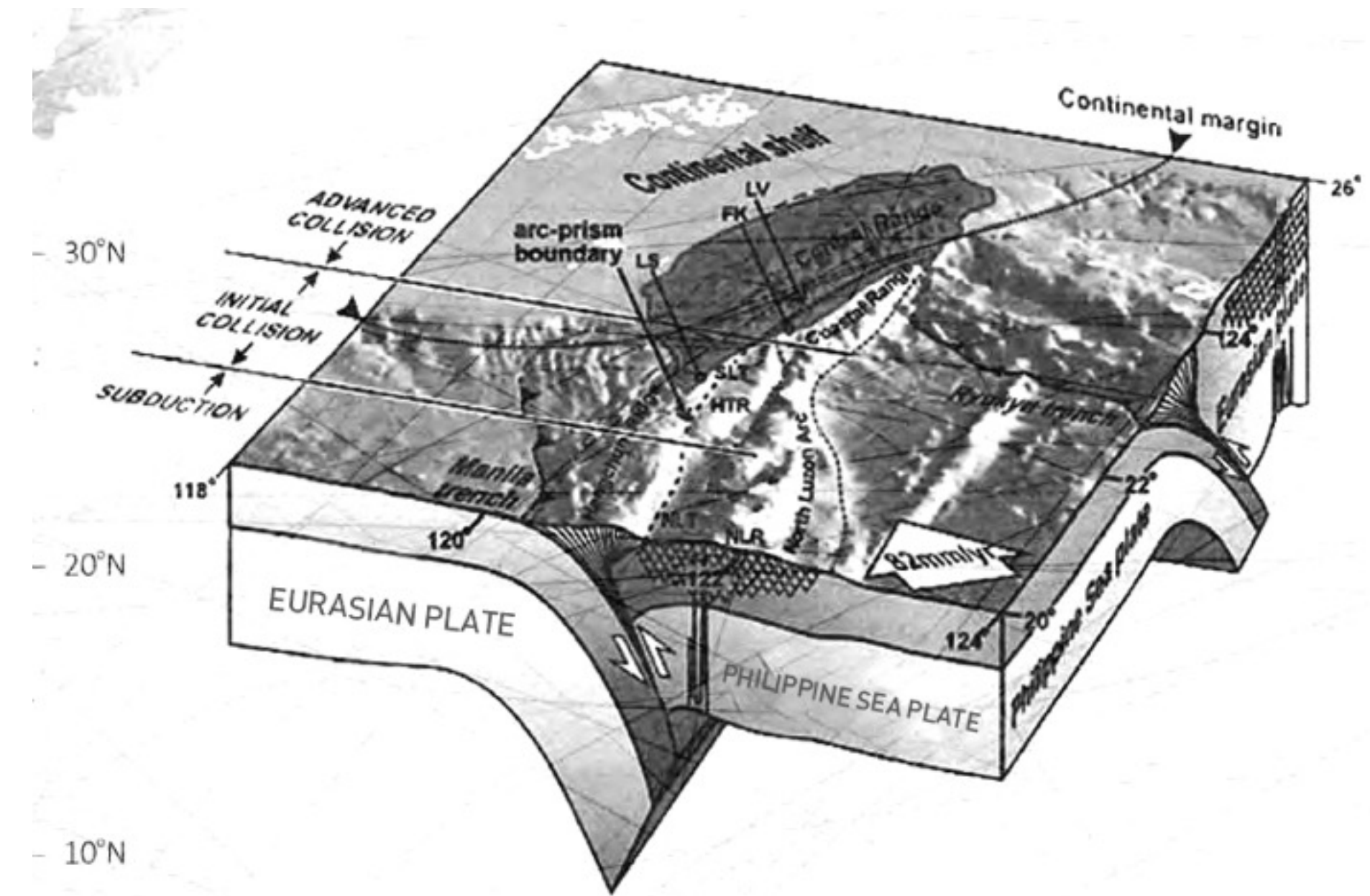
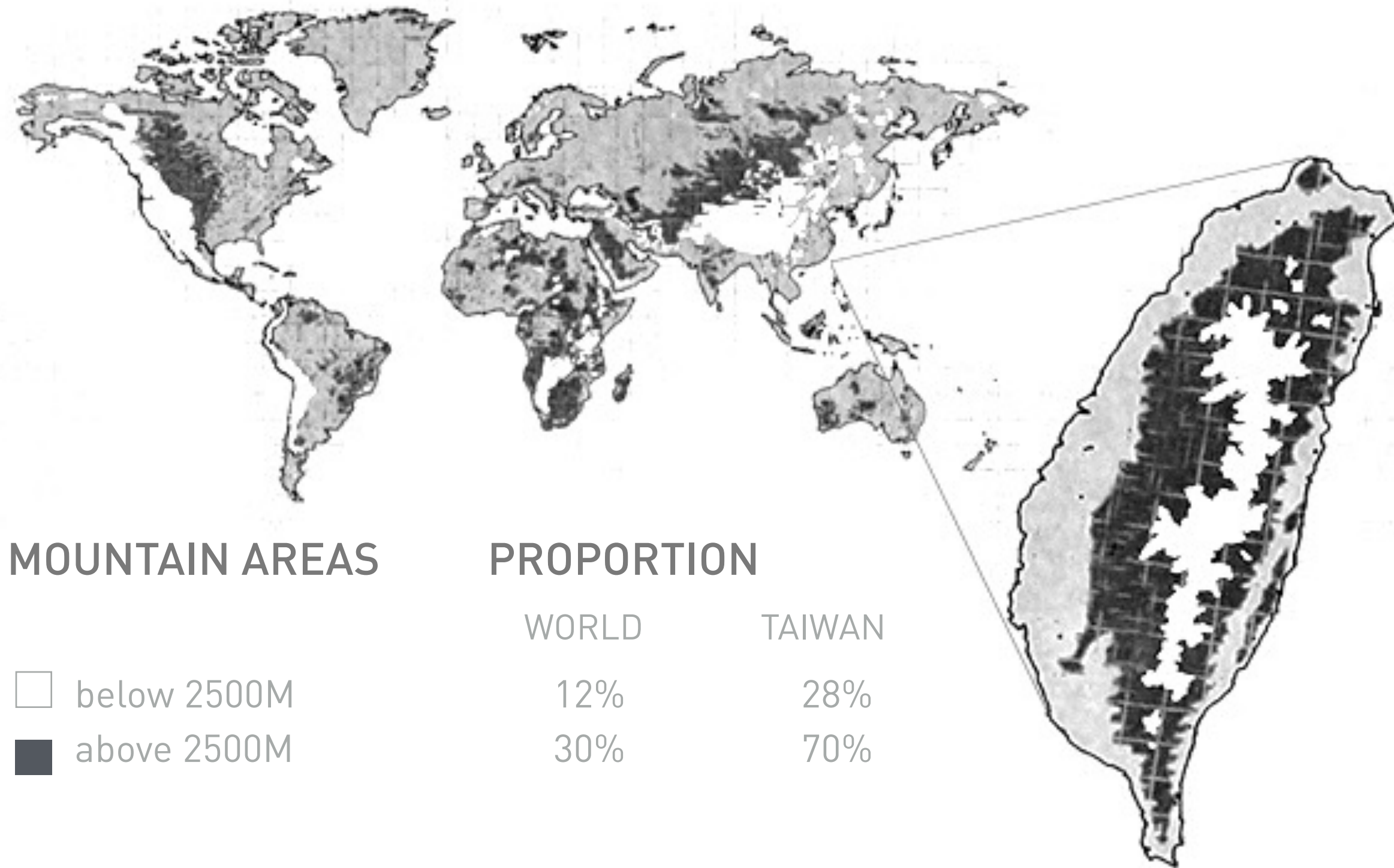
Land

PROBLEM: RIVER + MOUNTAIN = OBSTACLE

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- short and steep river
- highly dynamic, sensitive, and fragile

DIFFICULT TO KEEP WATER



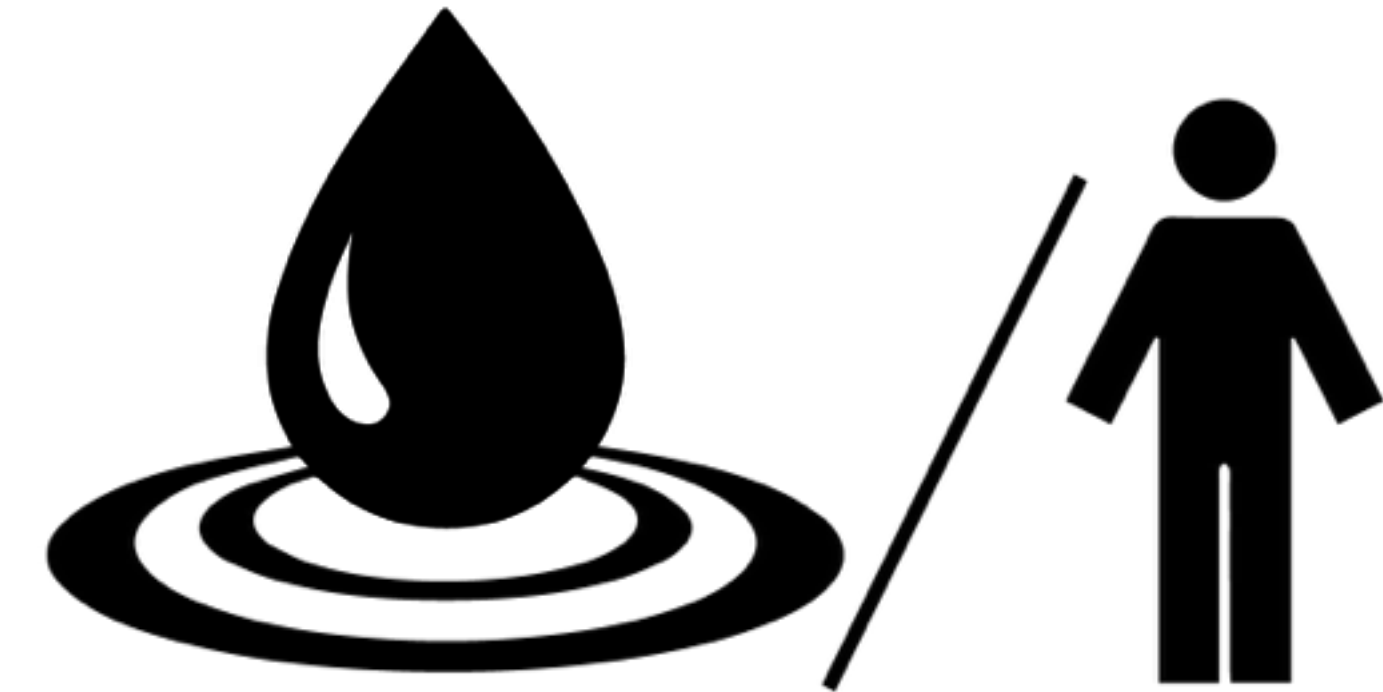
Rain

Unit-area Yearly Rainfall		Country	Water resource per capita	
(mm/year)			(cubic meter/year/person)	
2,000	1,000		20,000	40,000
		830	U.S.A	36,500
		800	U.K.	3,490
		760	France	7,810
		810	Germany	3,360
		980	Italy	5,330
		790	Canada	344,000
		660	Spain	9,470
		840	China	9,720
		1,220	India	6,600
		1,630	Brazil	130,000
		1,820	Japan	6,060
3.4 x		2,510	Taiwan	4,595
world average: 730			world average: 28,300	

PROBLEM: RIVER + MOUNTAIN = OBSTACLE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- ineffective / inefficient model



Source: edited by author based on Data from National Taiwan Museum Water Resource exhibition

Reservoirs & dams



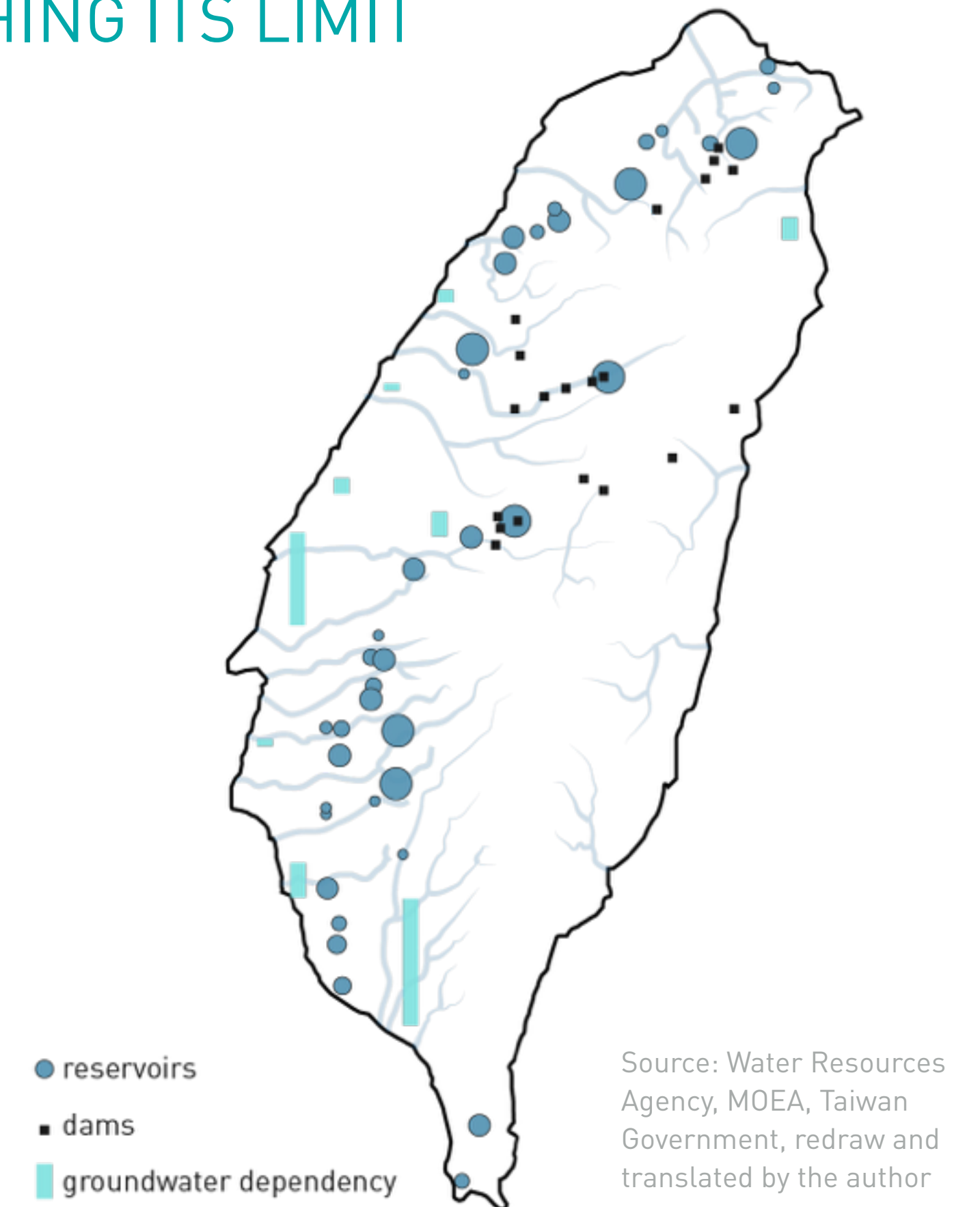
Source: Taiwan Academy of Ecology epaper (2013)

PROBLEM: RIVER + MOUNTAIN = OBSTACLE

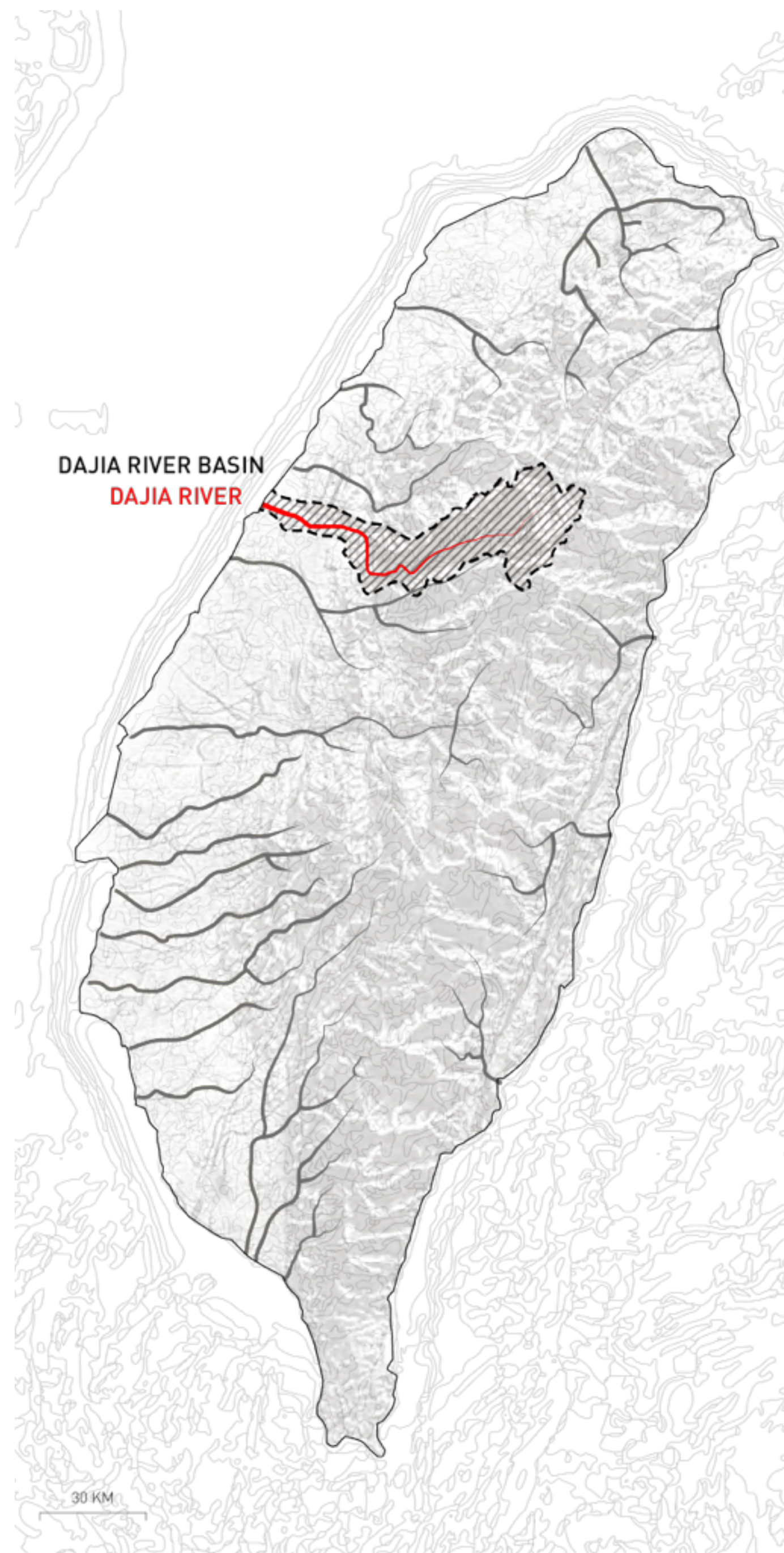
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- ineffective / inefficient model
- reservoir capacity decreased 50% in 2030

HARD-ENGINEERED APPROACH REACHING ITS LIMIT

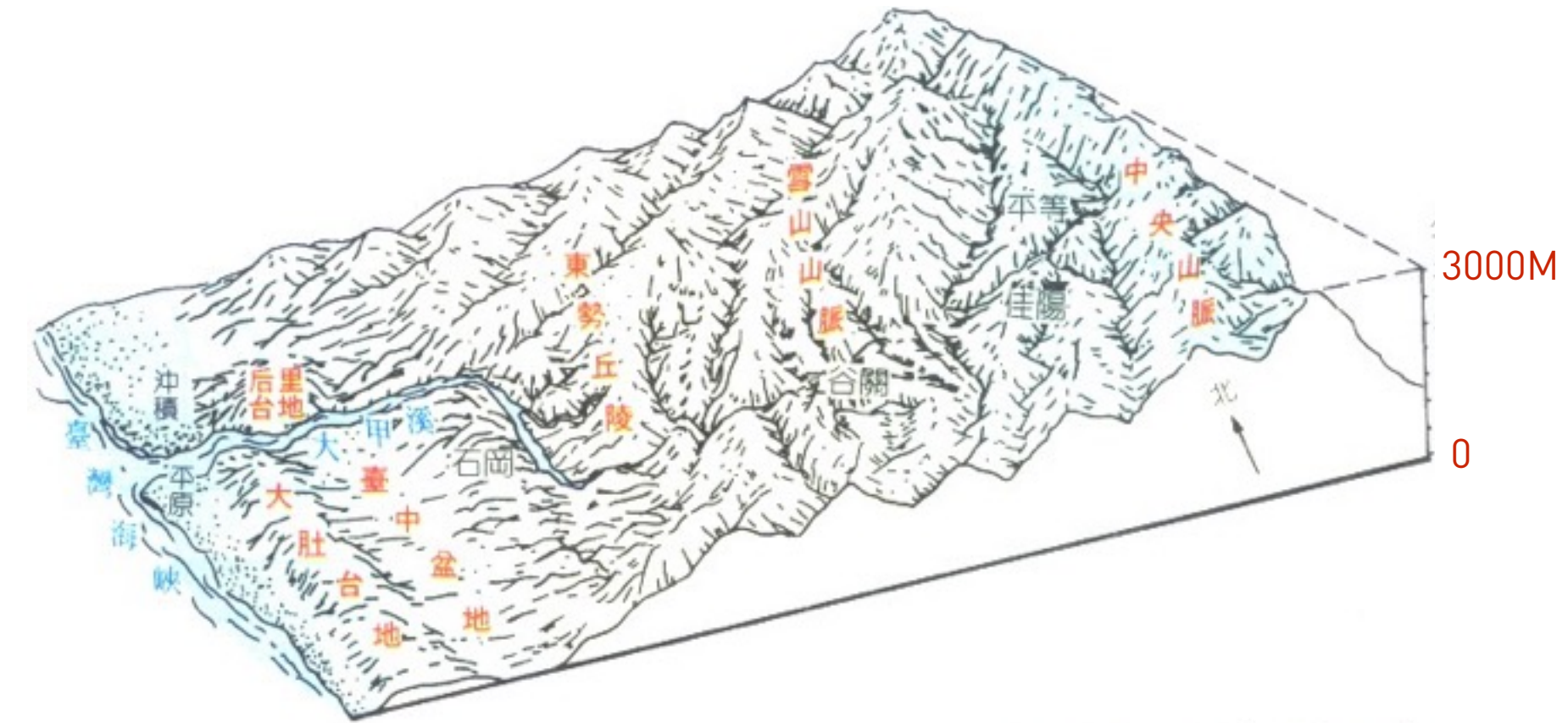


INTRODUCTION



DAJIA RIVER VALLEY: AN EXTREME CASE

- Illustrative Taiwanese river landscape

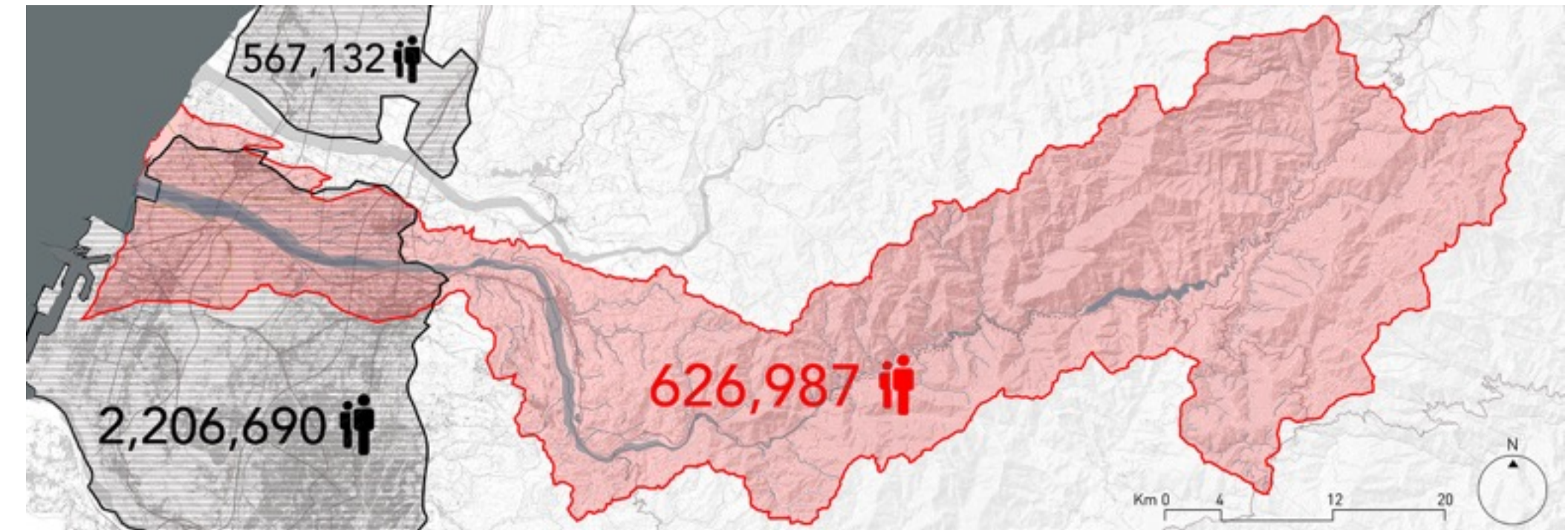






Source: photo from Yannlinphoto

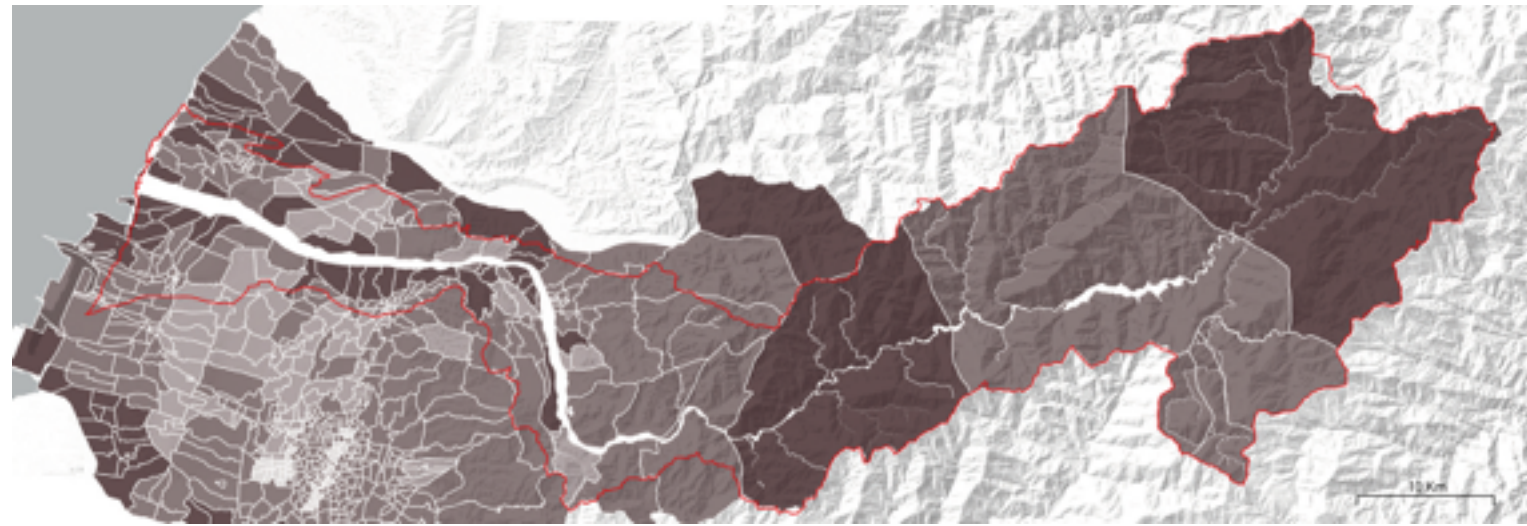
DAJIA RIVER VALLEY: AN EXTREME CASE

- Illustrative Taiwanese river landscape
- Diverse interaction of human & nature
- Heavy-engineered infrastructuralization

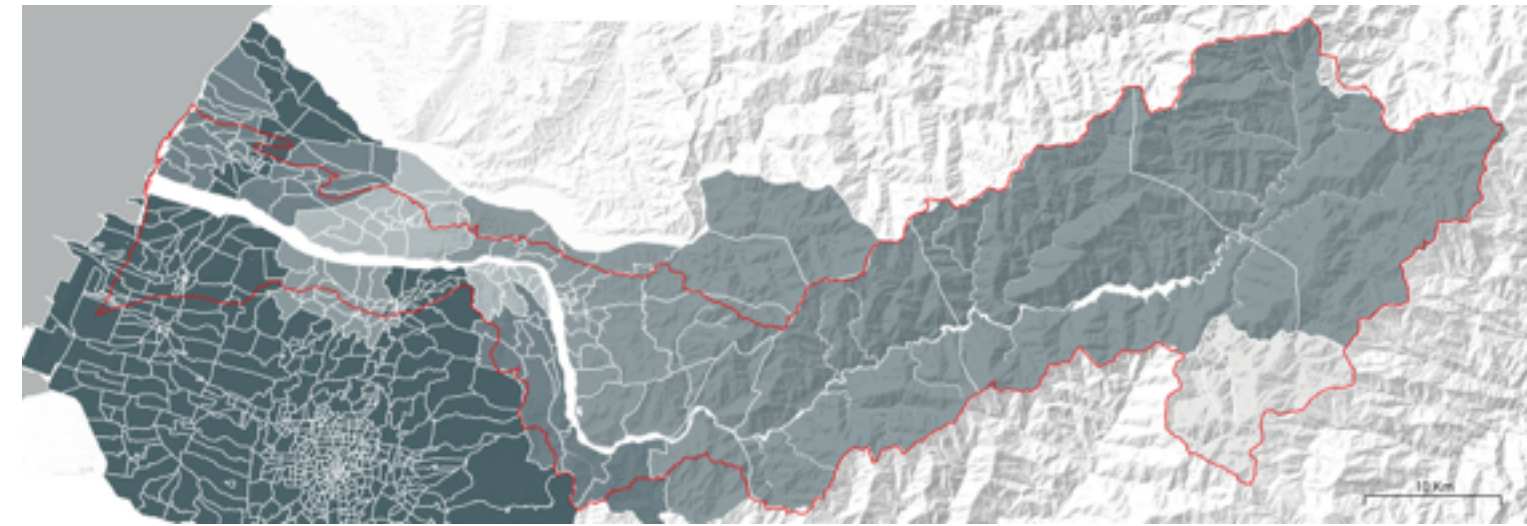
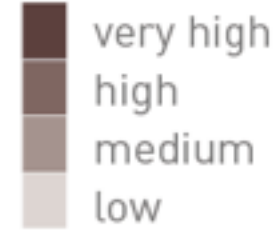


-  Dajia catchment boundary
-  Concerned neighboring urban area

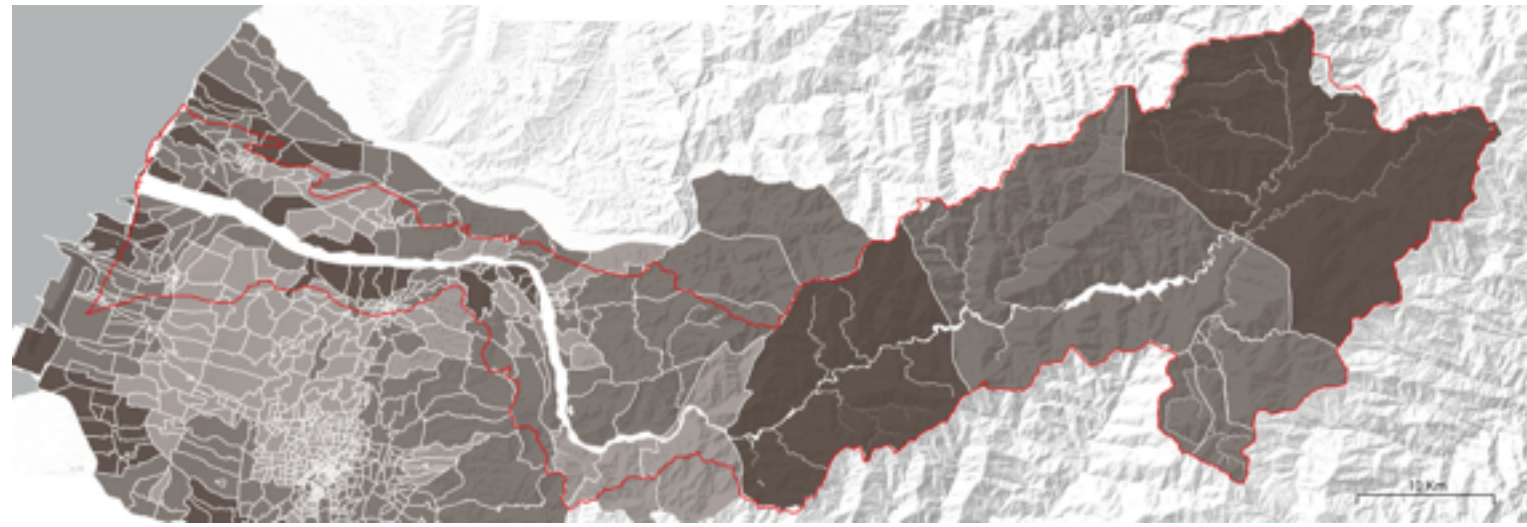
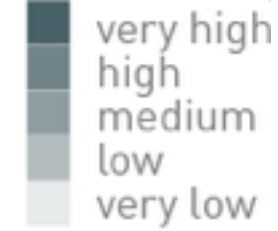
INTRODUCTION



LIFE RISK



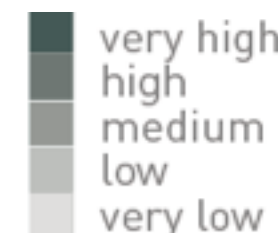
DRINKING WATER RISKS



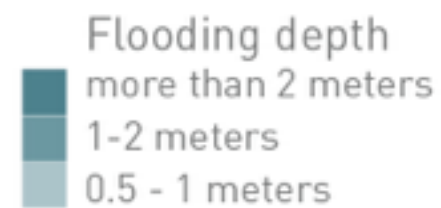
PROPERTY RISK



AGRICULTURE WATER RISKS



FLOOD SIMULATION



INDUSTRIAL WATER RISKS

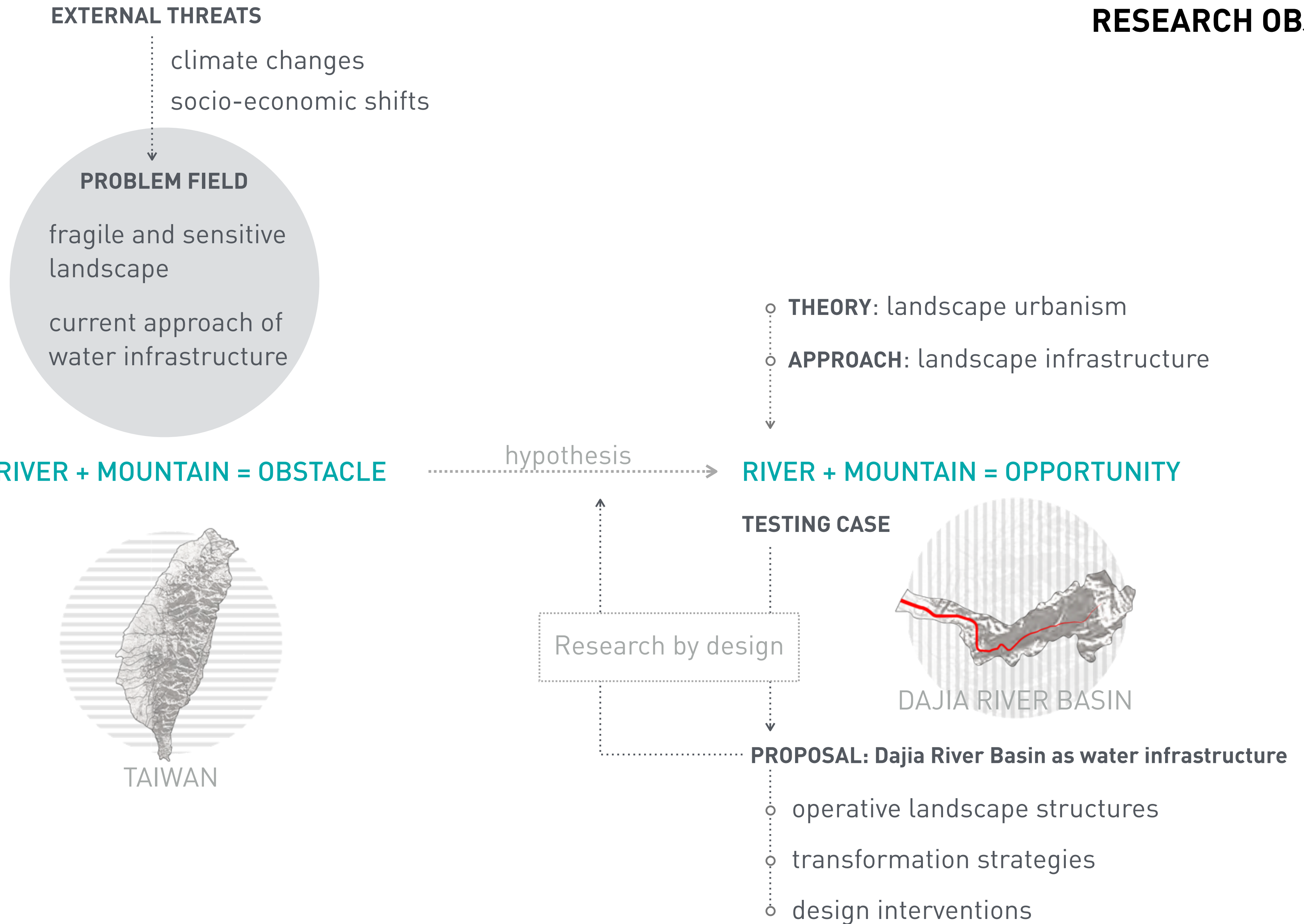


DAJIA RIVER VALLEY: AN EXTREME CASE

- Illustrative Taiwanese river landscape
- Diverse interaction of human & nature
- Heavy-engineered infrastructuralization
- Threats of coming changes

**WATER RISKS ESTIMATION IN 2035:
LIFE / PROPERTY / FLOOD
WATER USAGE OF DIFFERENT SECTORS
(200-year return rainstorm in 24 hours)**

source: map redrawn by the author based on data from National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction, Taiwan Government.



MAIN RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

How to rethink the mountainous river landscape as opportunities instead of obstacles, so as to achieve a more sustainable integration between artifact and nature?

Further on, how to build a stronger identity through the process of redesigning the mountainous riverscape as a water-sensitive infrastructure?

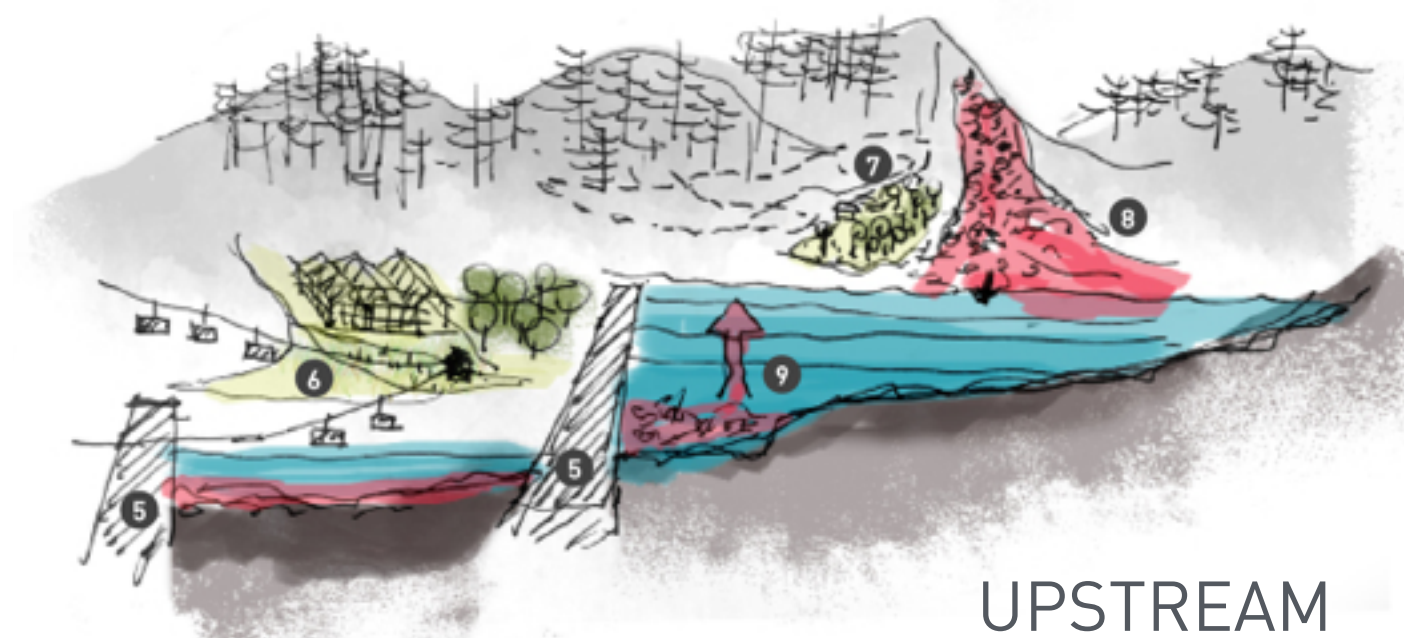
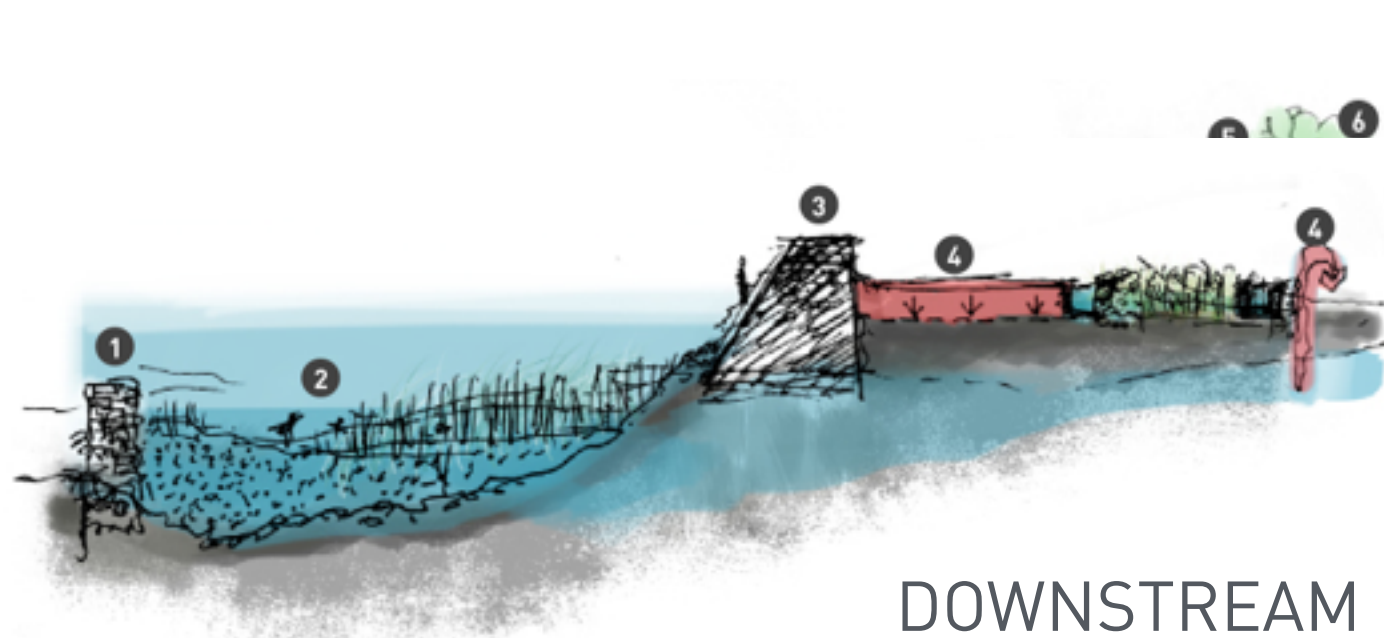
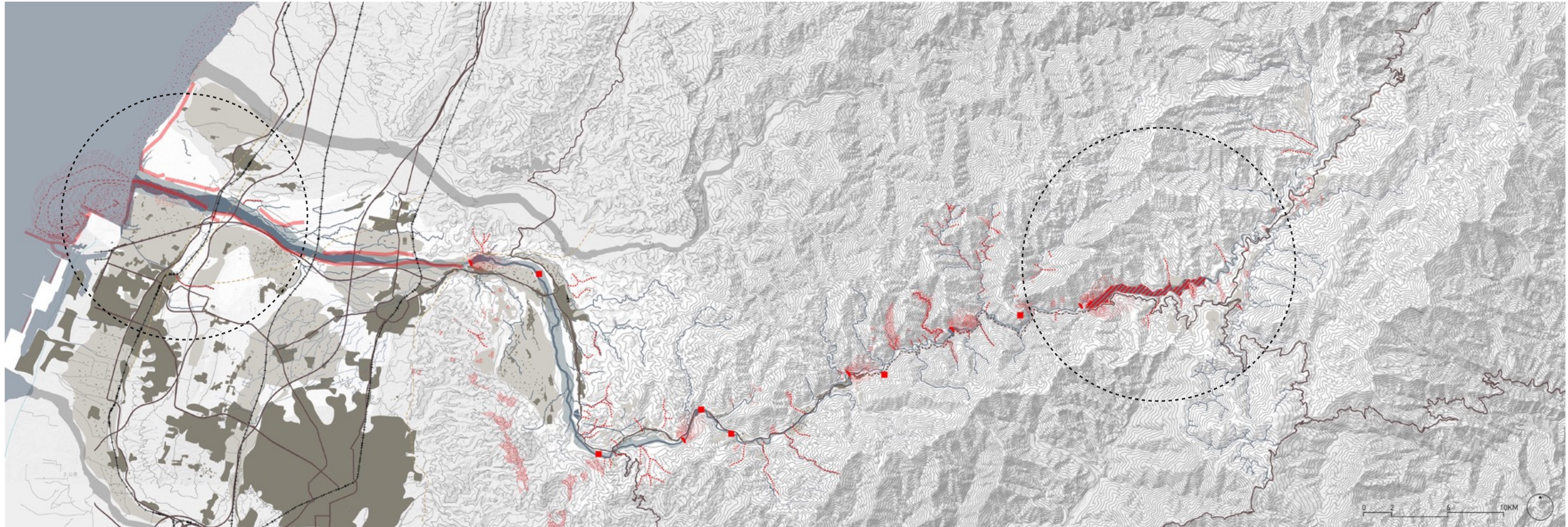
DIAGNOSIS

THE CHANGING PATTERN

BEFORE 1850s
nature-guided lifestyle

1850s - 1950s
nature as resource repository

TODAY
heavy-engineered infrastructures



- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rivers | Rivers | Primary roads |
| Geological faults | Geological faults | Primary roads (controlled) |
| Sediments accumulation | Human settlements | Railway |
| | Agricultural cultivation | Geological faults |
| | Anti-sediment dikes | Sediment accumulation |
| | River dikes | Collapsing area |
| | Potential landslide | Reservoir |
| | Water power plant | |

THEORETICAL FOUNDATION:

LANDSCAPE URBANISM

*“Landscape has the capacity to critically engage the meta-physical and political programs that operate in a given society, that landscape architecture is not simply a reflection of culture but more **an active instrument in the shaping of modern culture.**”*

--- James Corner, 1999

APPROACH:

LANDSCAPE INFRASTRUCTURE

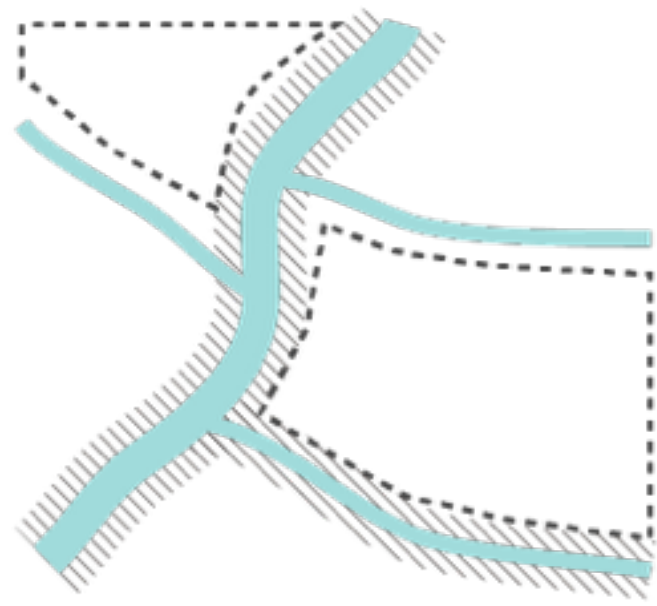
*“Standardization, mono-functionality, permanence, (characters of the 19-20th Century infrastructures) ... that **overlook the powerful ecological flows and geographic patterns operating at large scales**”*

--- Pierre Bélanger, 2009

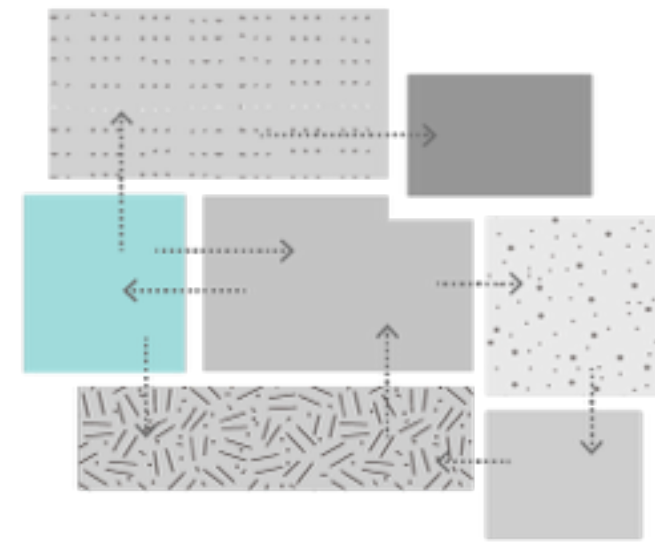
*“Landscape infrastructural design can be redefined as interdisciplinary design effort to **establish a local identity that has tangible relationships to the region.**”*

--- Steffen Nijhuis & Daniel Jauslin, 2015

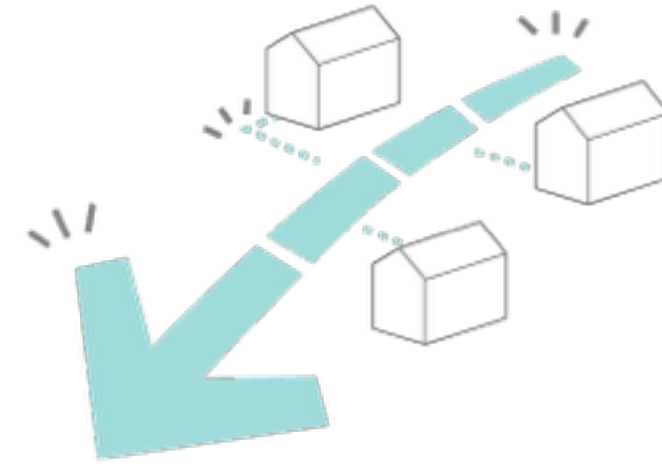
PRINCIPLES



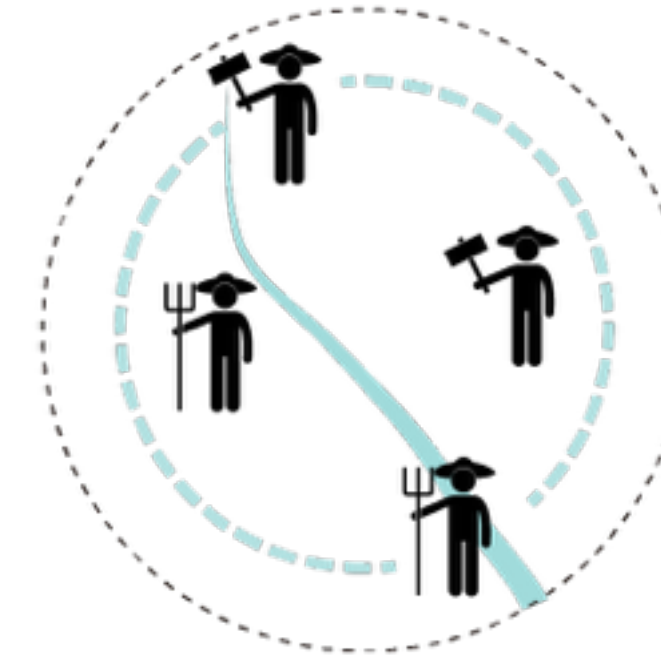
Operative landscape structures as future spatial framework



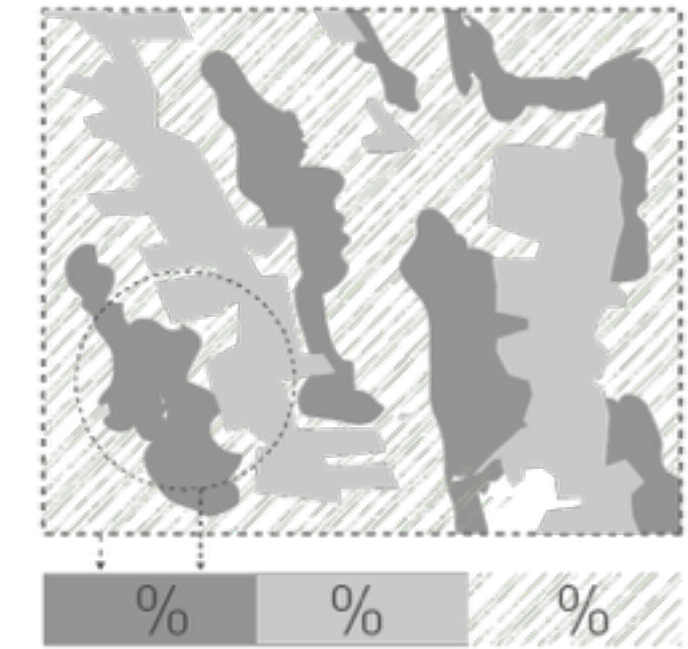
Hybrid complexity & establish connection between activities



Water infrastructure as visible, multi-functional daily-life spaces

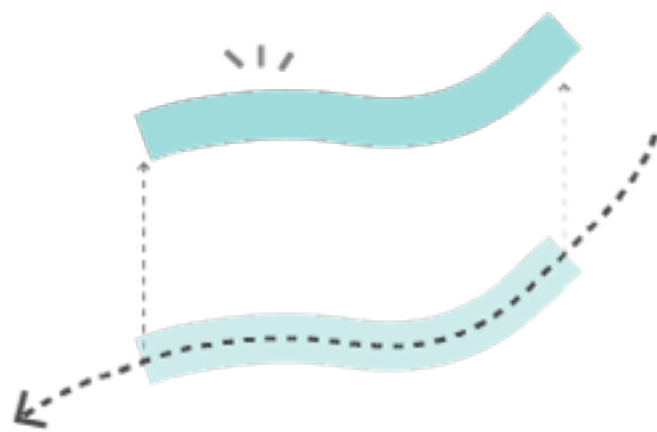


Water management as local collective work / autonomous units

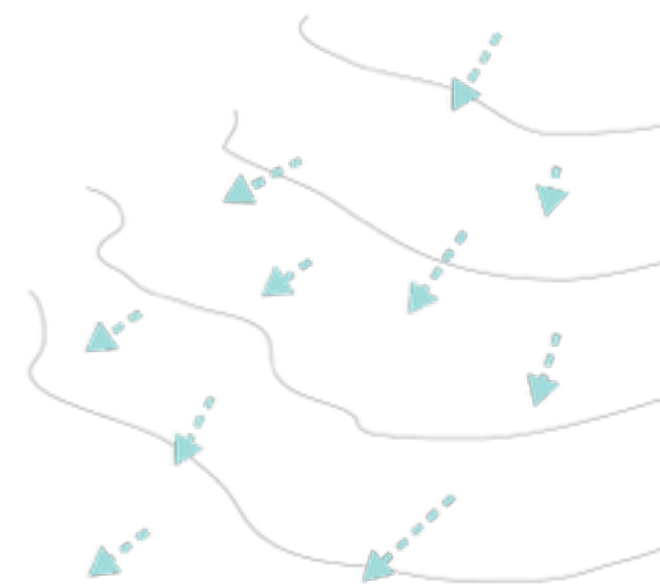


Balanced proportion of diverse land uses

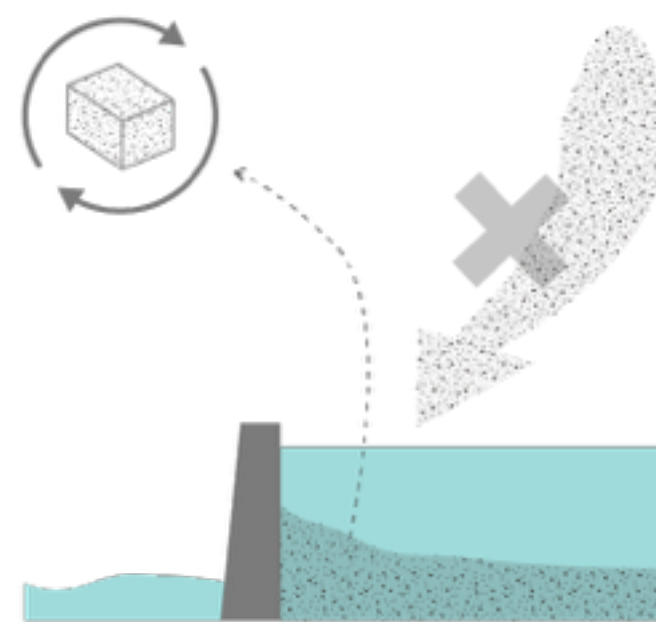
STRATEGIC TOOLS



(underflow water)
Recover hidden flows



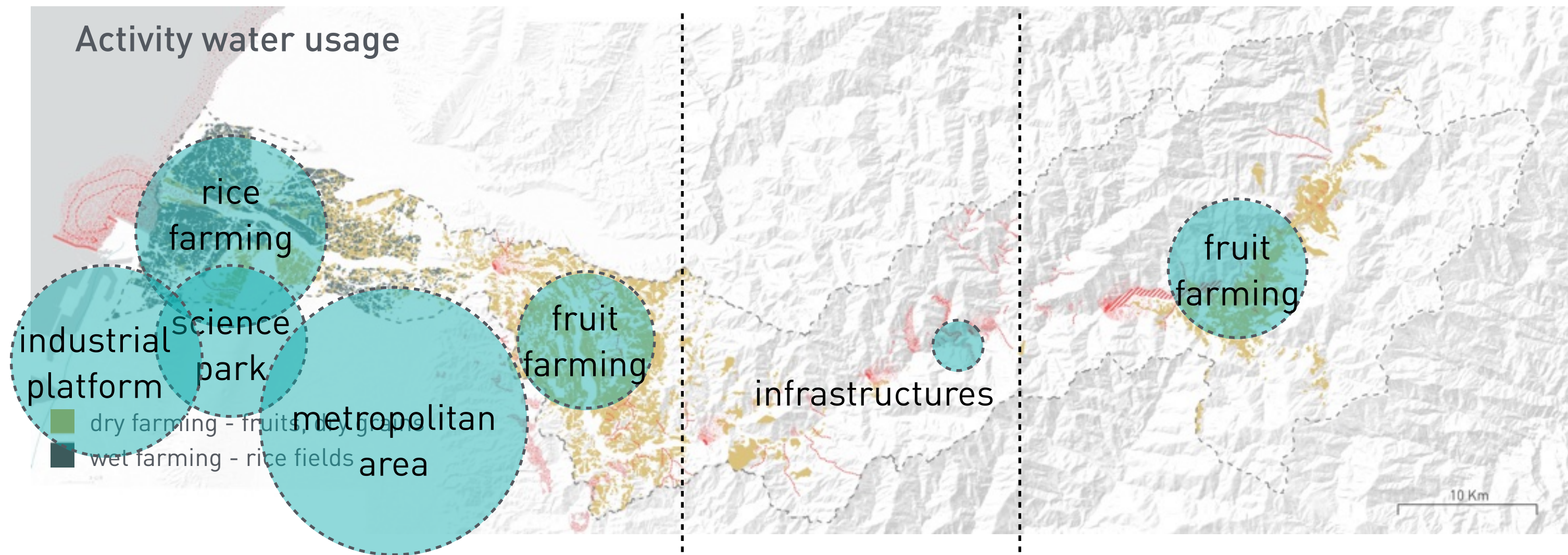
Gravity as carrier



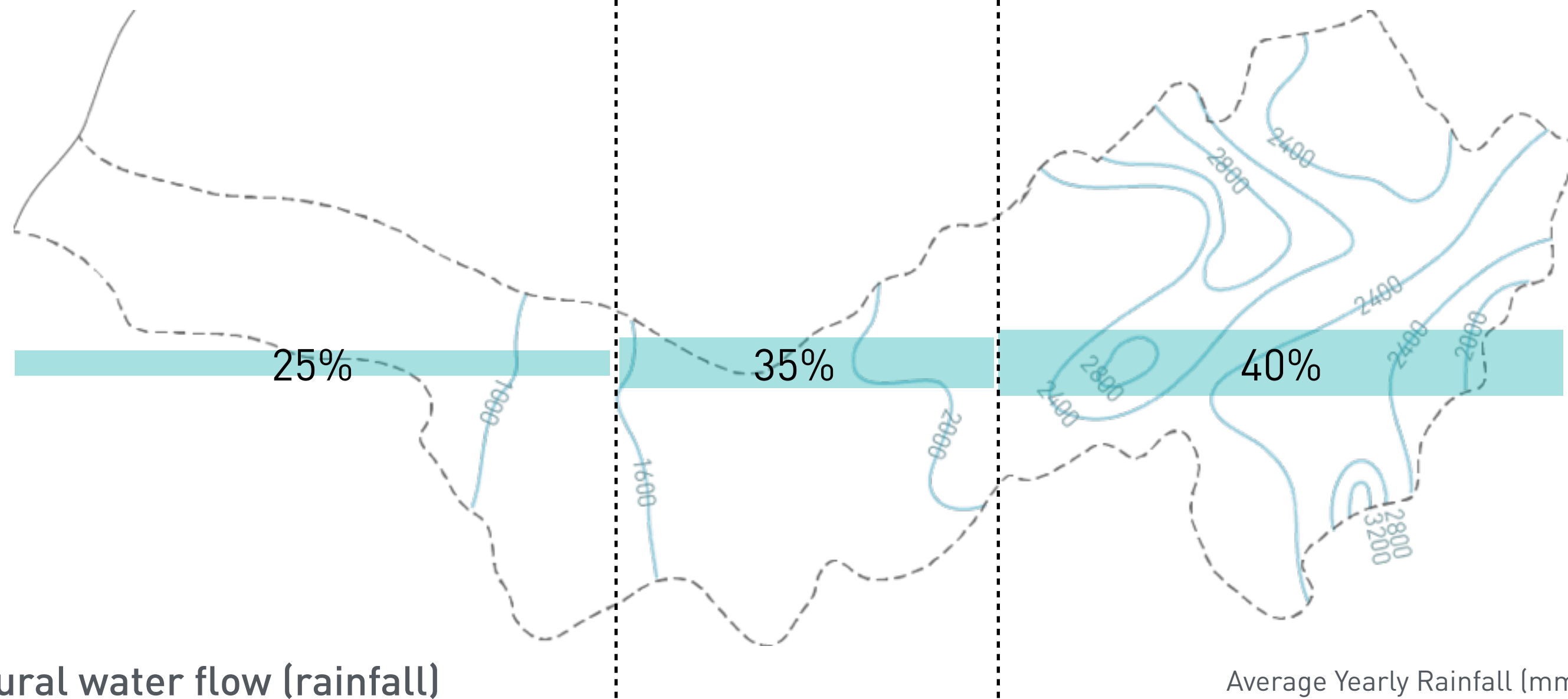
Sediment recycle and reduction



Slope stabilization by local material & simple construction technique

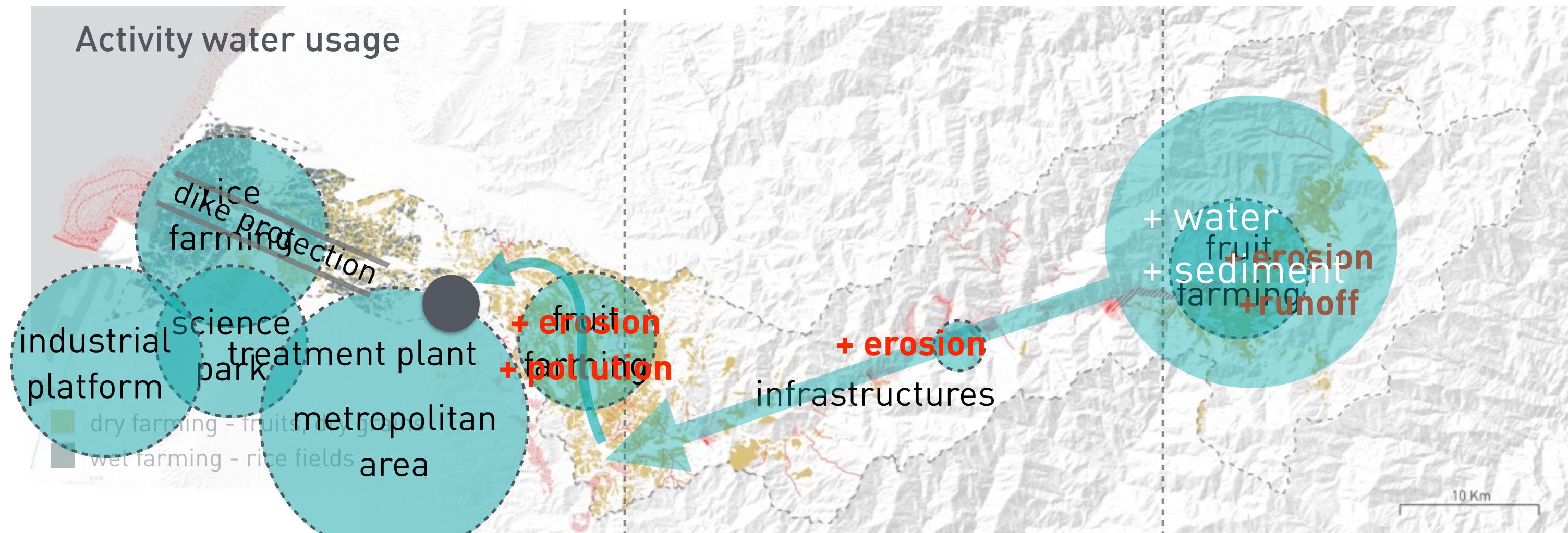


- Activities that increase runoff at areas with intense & abundant water flow

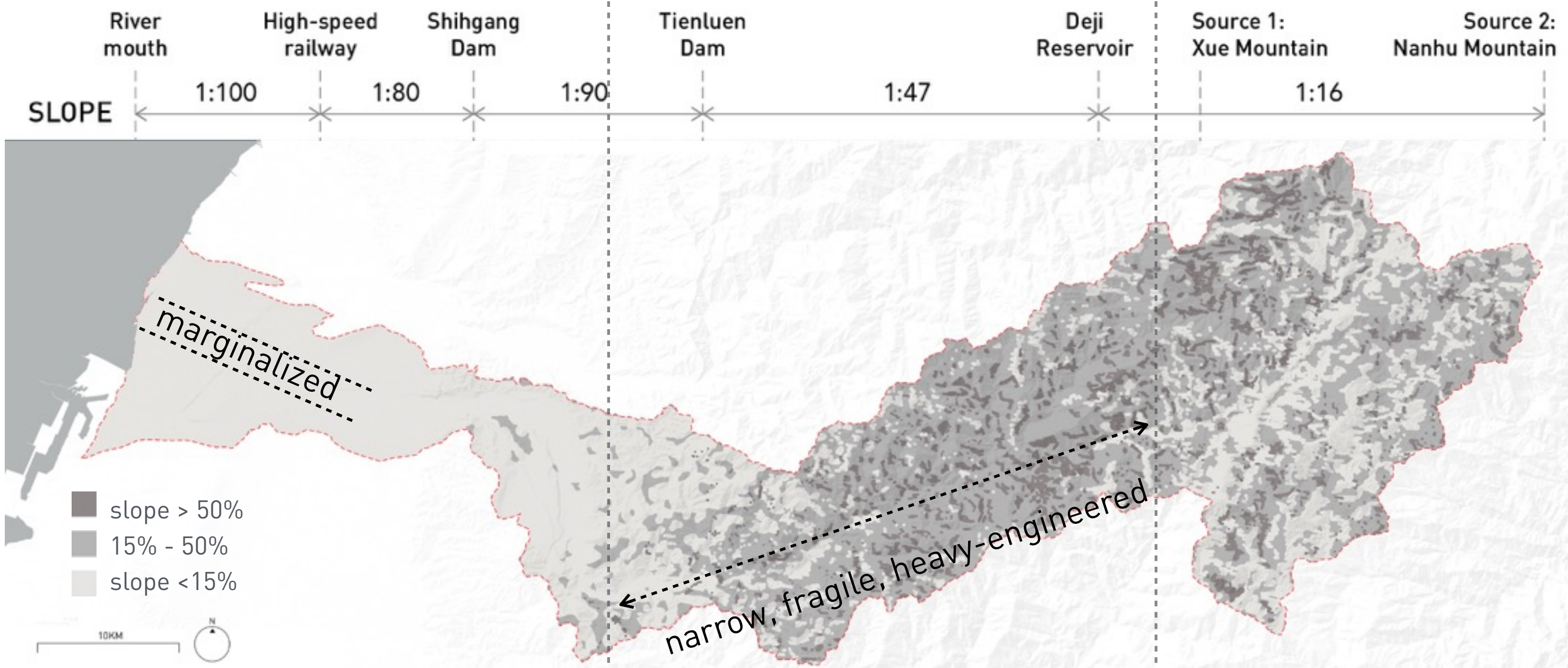


Natural water flow (rainfall)

Source: map made by the author based on data from National Land Surveying and Mapping Center, MOI.

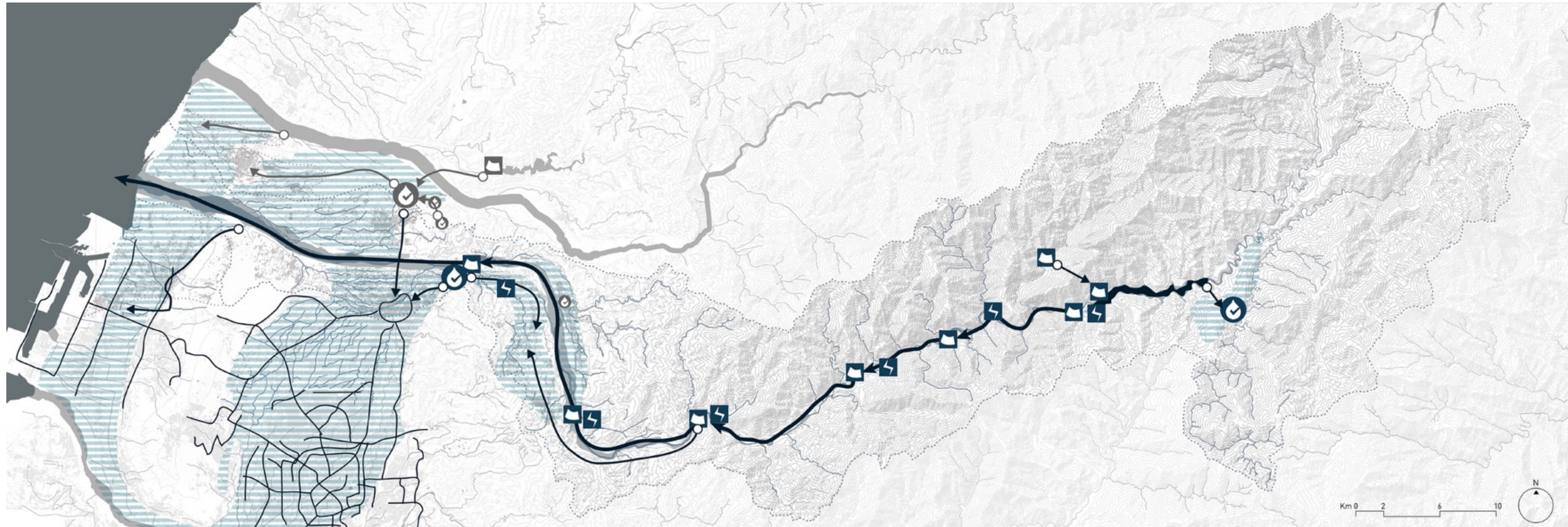


Source: map made by the author based on data from National Land Surveying and Mapping Center, MOI.



Source: map made by the author based on data from Central Geological Survey, MOEA, Taiwan Government.

- large amount of water passing through the bottleneck section of the river
- decreased quality of water (pollution, sediment) requires heavy treatment cost
- sediment paralyzed the river flow, requires large maintenance and protection spaces

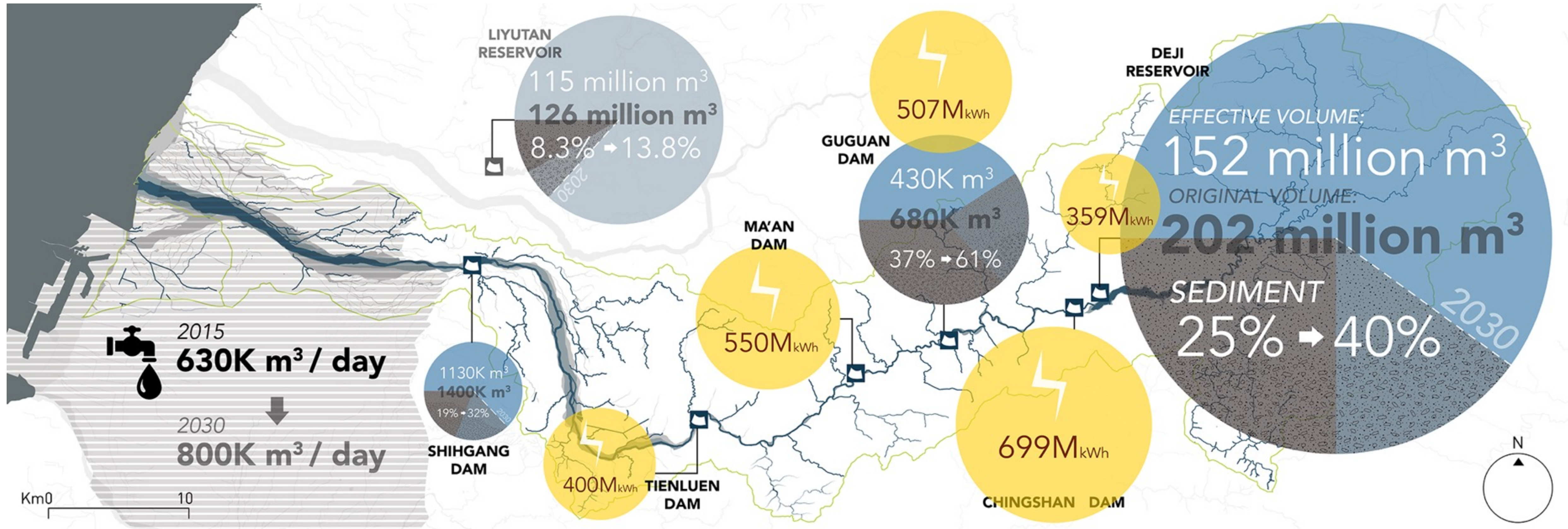


WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

-  Dam or reservoir along Dajia river
-  Dam or reservoir of other river
-  Hydro-power plants
-  Agricultural irrigation demanded areas
-  Water treatment plant for Dajia river
-  Water treatment plant for other rivers
-  Source or water supply
-  Main line or pipes of water supply

Source: by the author based on data from WRA, MOEA, google maps, and GIS databases.

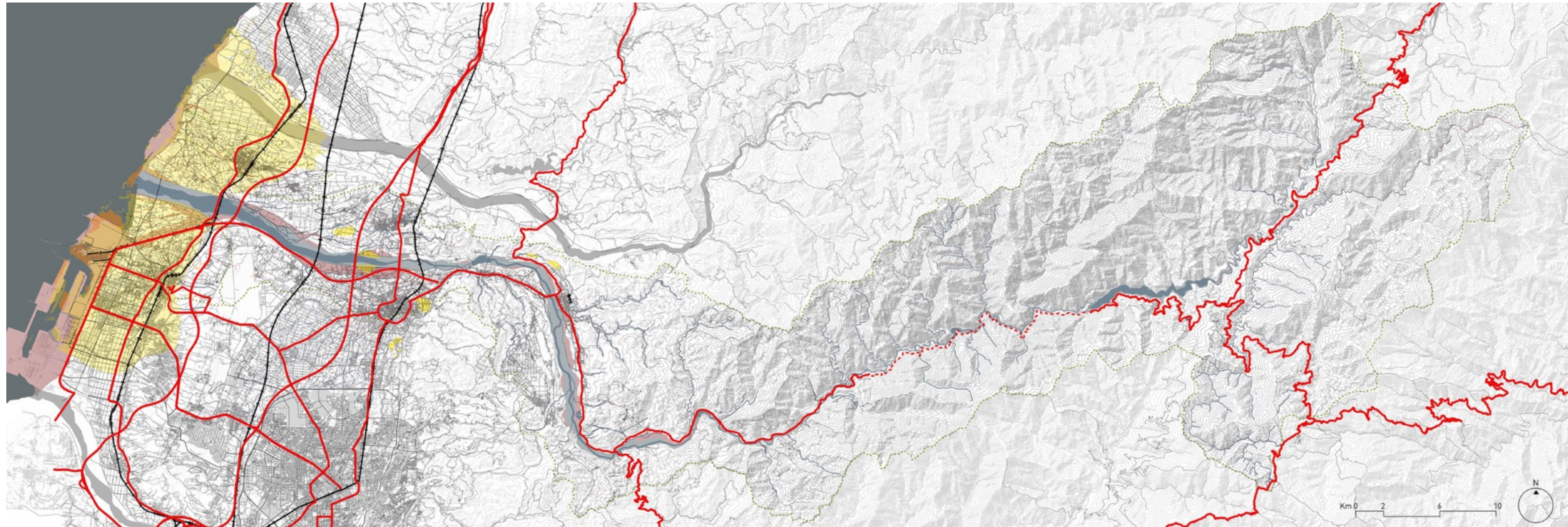
- Linear & mono-functional water infrastructure system
 -> fragile and unadaptable



THREAT OF DEPENDENCY ON THE CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Source: by the author based on data from WRA, MOEA.

- Hydropower generates less than 1% of total electricity; high maintenance costs
- High density of infrastructures -> environmental damages + high maintenance costs

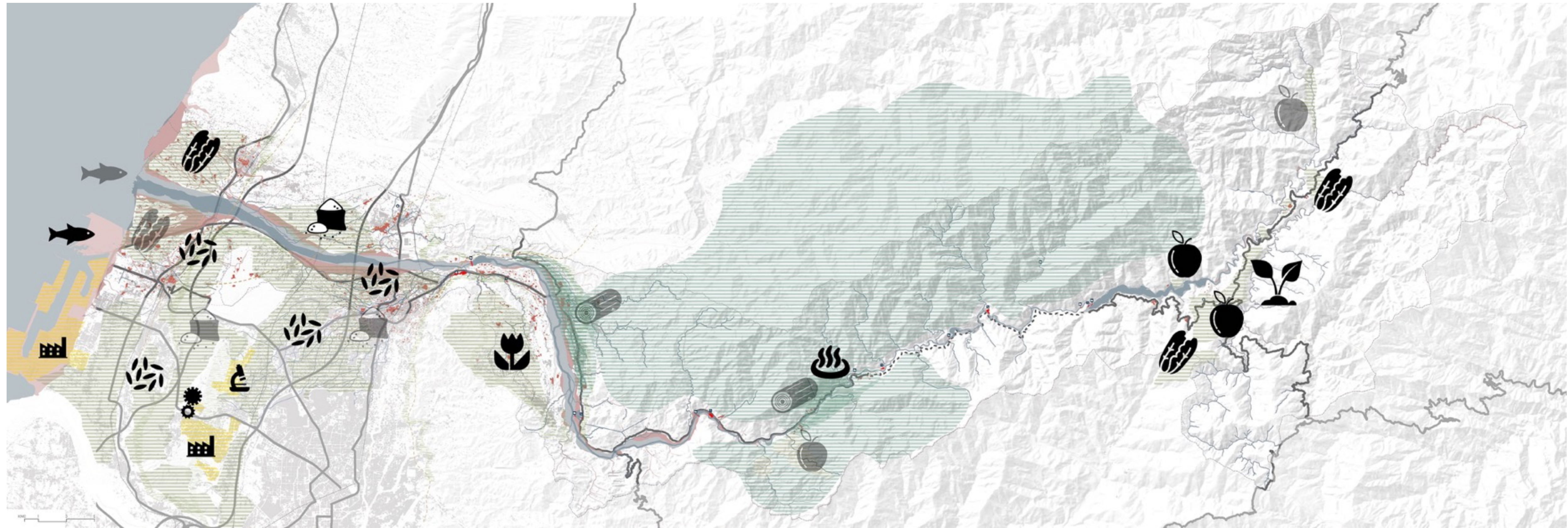


Source: by the author based on data from GIS databases.

INFRASTRUCTURE OF TRANSPORTATION


- Railway and high-speed railway
 - Primary roads and motorway
 - Other roads
 - Dajia river catchment boundary
- Flooding in case of 600mm/day rainfall
- 1-2m
 - 0.5-1m

- Upstream: recurrent road breakdown, nature taking back its dominance.
- Downstream: high density of infrastructure, deterioration of river landscape.




 Forest conservation areas

 Forestry

 Hot-spring recreation tourism

 Agricultural areas

 Paddy rice farms

 Sugar canes


 Flower

 Vegetable

 Fruits

 Tea

 Fishery

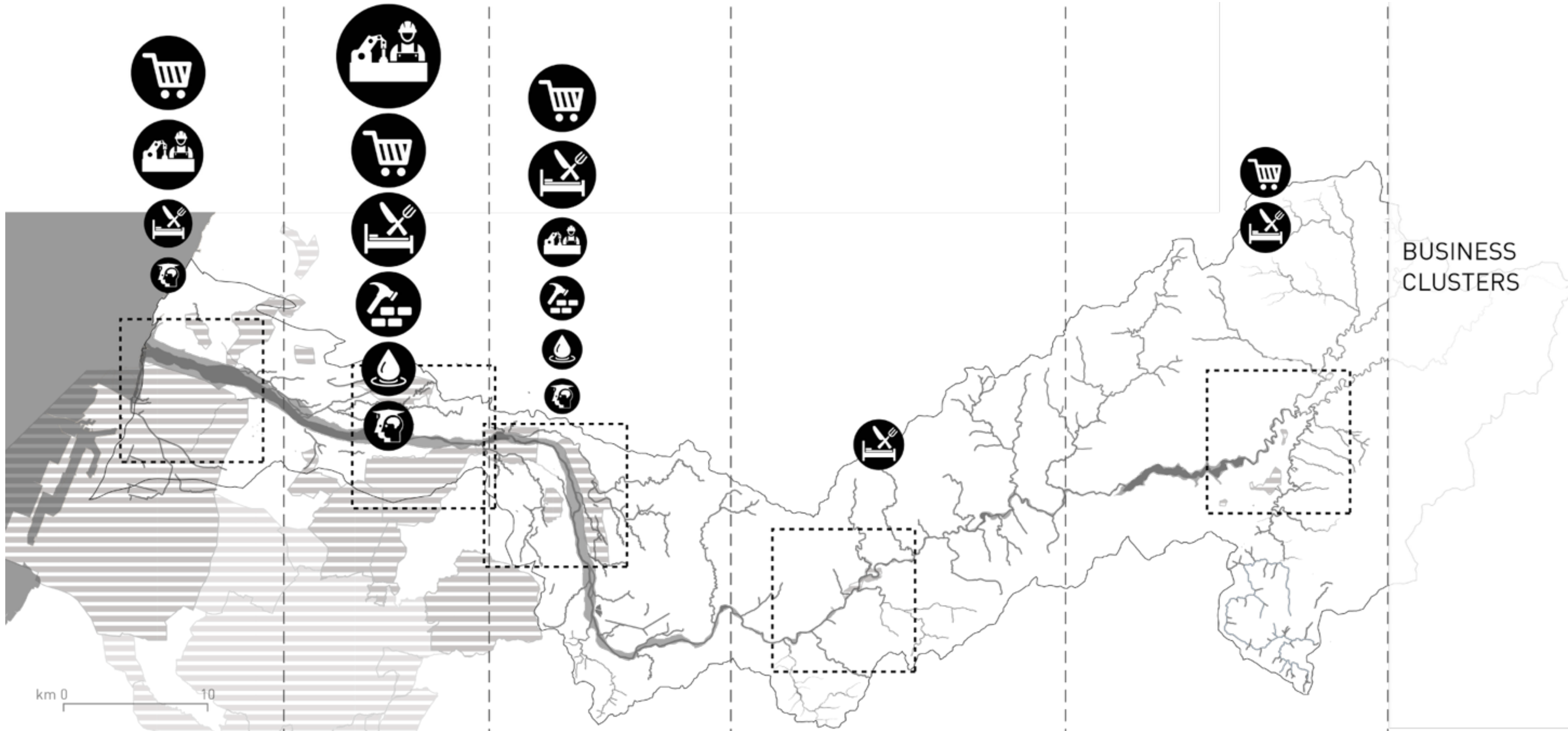
 Industrial and technological areas







 Science park

 Precision Machinery Innovation Technology

 Industrial area

Source: made by the author based on GIS data and statistic data from SEGIS (<https://segis.moi.gov.tw>)



-  retail, local commercials
-  catering, accommodation
-  construction
-  manufacturing
-  education, research
-  water supply, pollution treatment



Source: made by the author based on GIS data and statistic data from SEGIS (<https://segis.moi.gov.tw>)



Source: photo by ccl.smai



Source: photo from Nature Campus



Source: photo from Yannlinphoto

THE HEAVY-ENGINEERED INFRASTRUCTURALIZATION



Source: photo from <http://www.taiwanhot.net/>

Continuous conflict between human life and nature

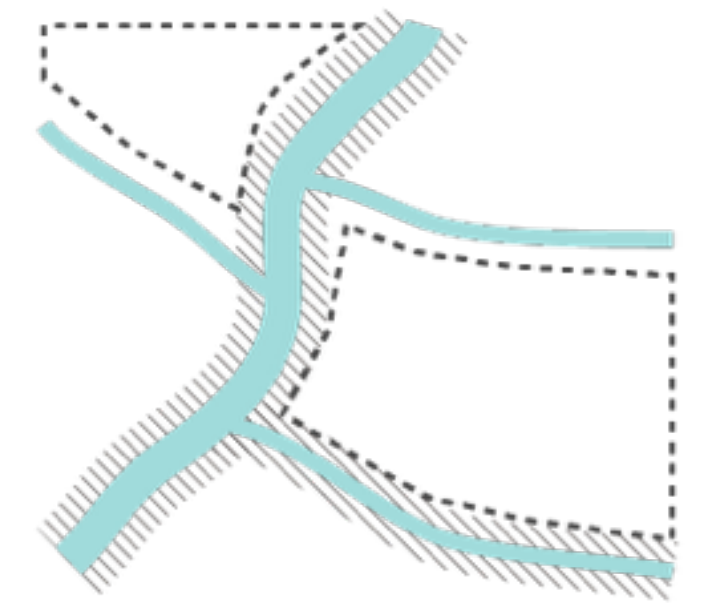
DISCORDANCE OF NATURAL & CULTURAL WATER FLOW



Source: photo from Appledaily news

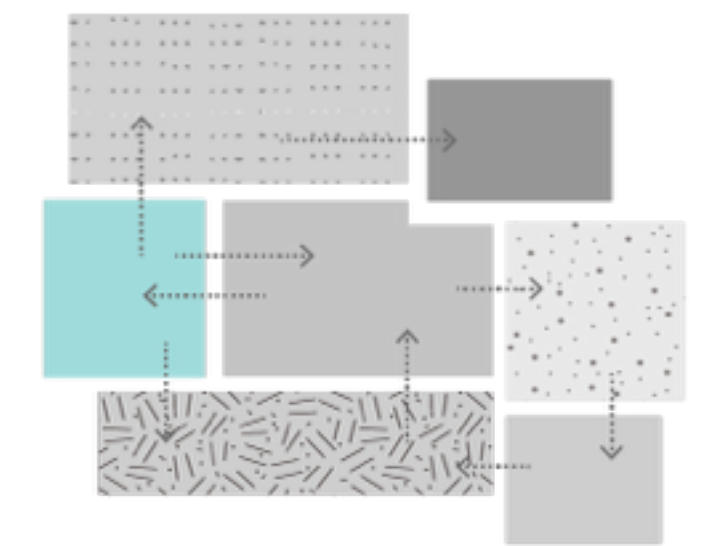
Social conflicts in competing for water resources

OVERALL STRATEGY



WATER FLOW / SYSTEM

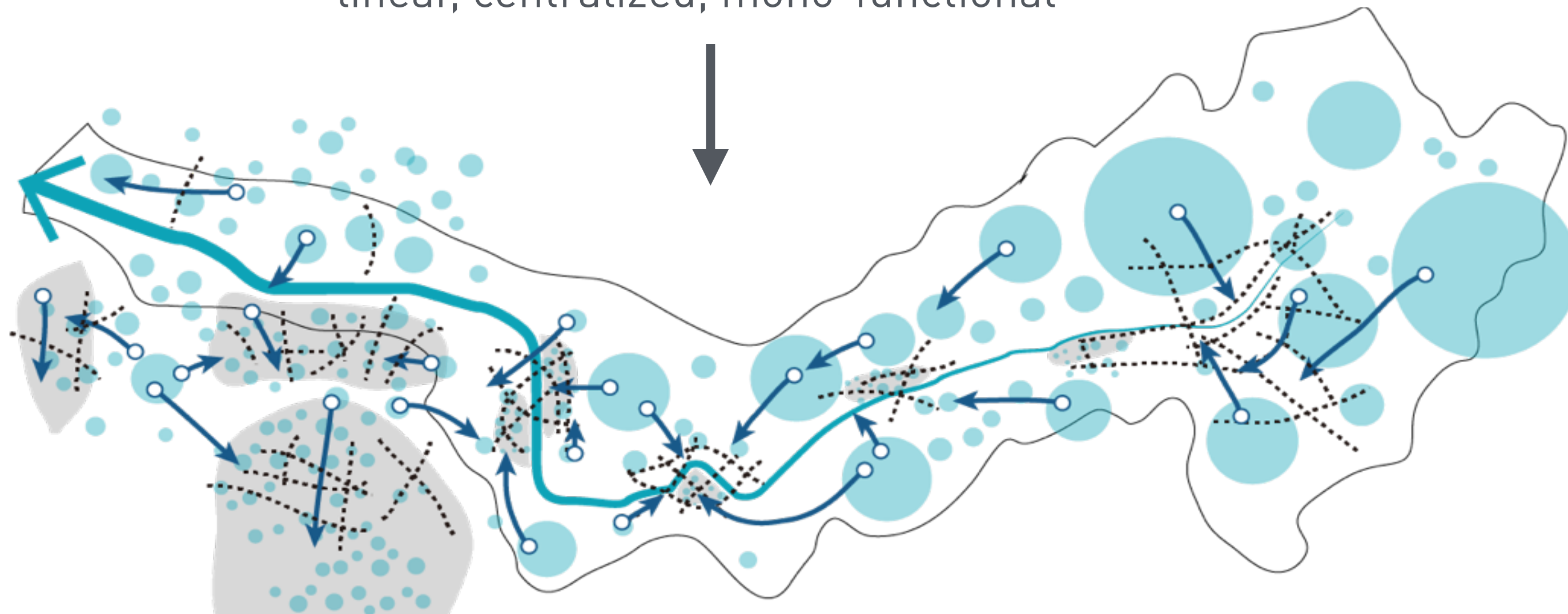
establish tangible connection



ACTIVITY PATTERNS

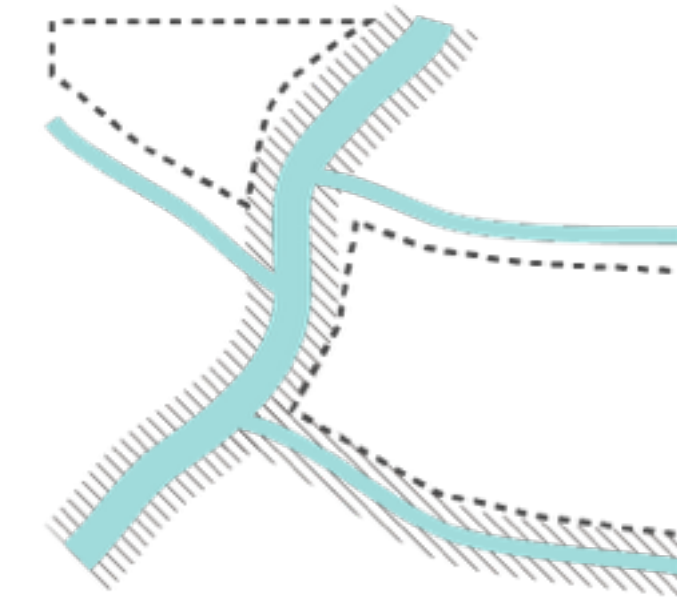


linear, centralized, mono-functional

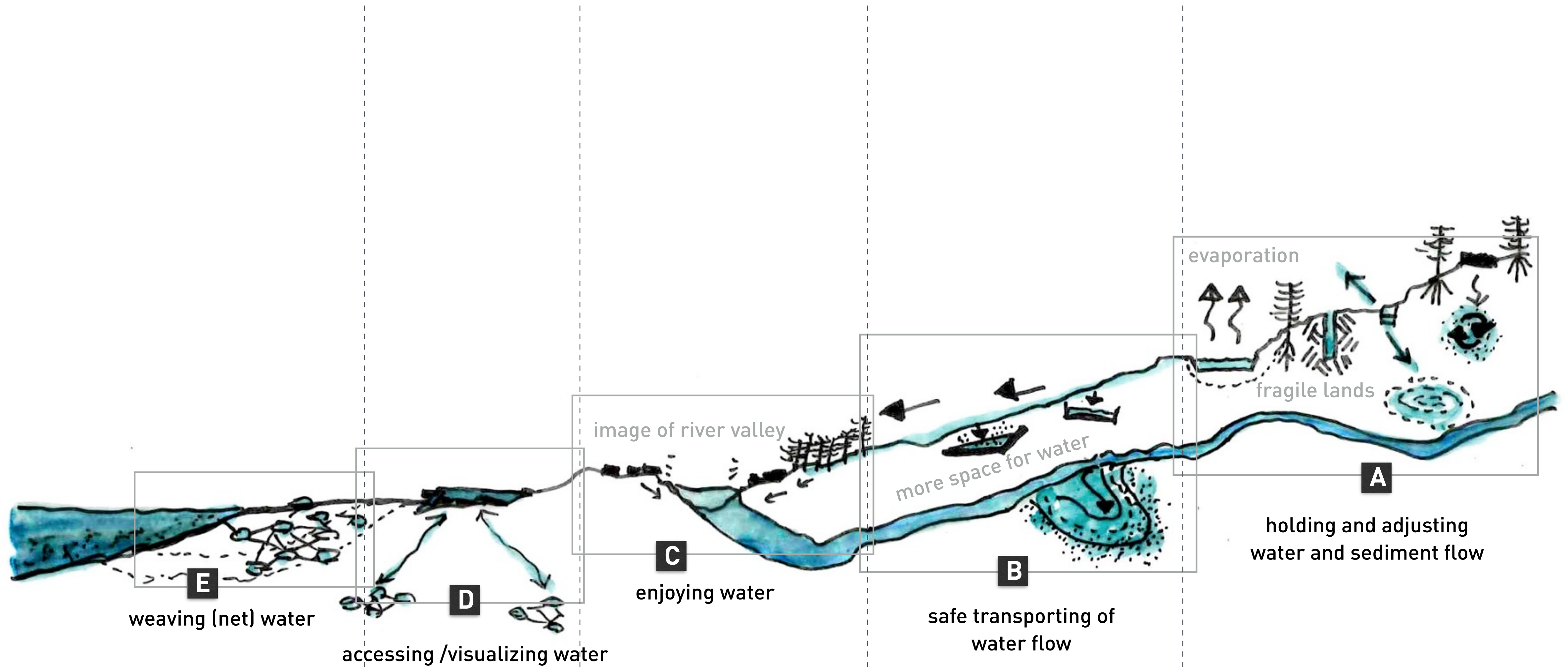


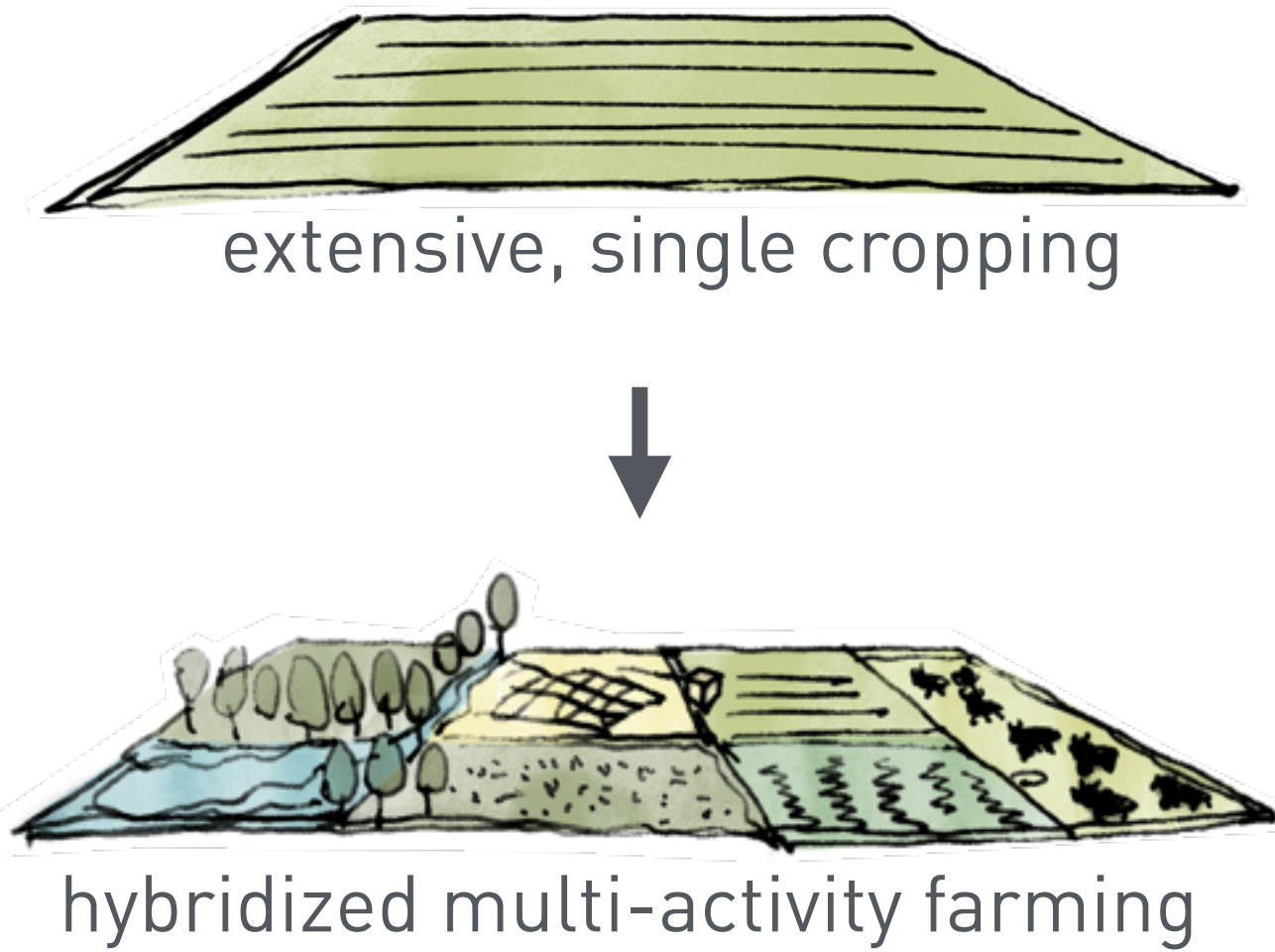
multi-source, multi scale, multi-functional

- landscape infrastructure as future spatial framework



- Gradually reduce the reliance on heavy-engineered infrastructures (dams and reservoirs)
- Multi-source, multi scale, multi-functional





integrating other activities



recycling
reduce waste, biomass



facility sharing
reduce enter-cost
attract young people



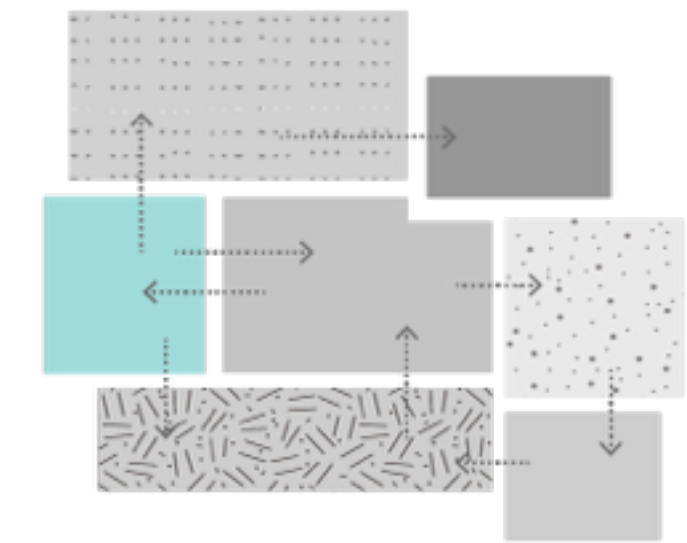
education
agricultural research
testing fields
natural-farming
method consultation



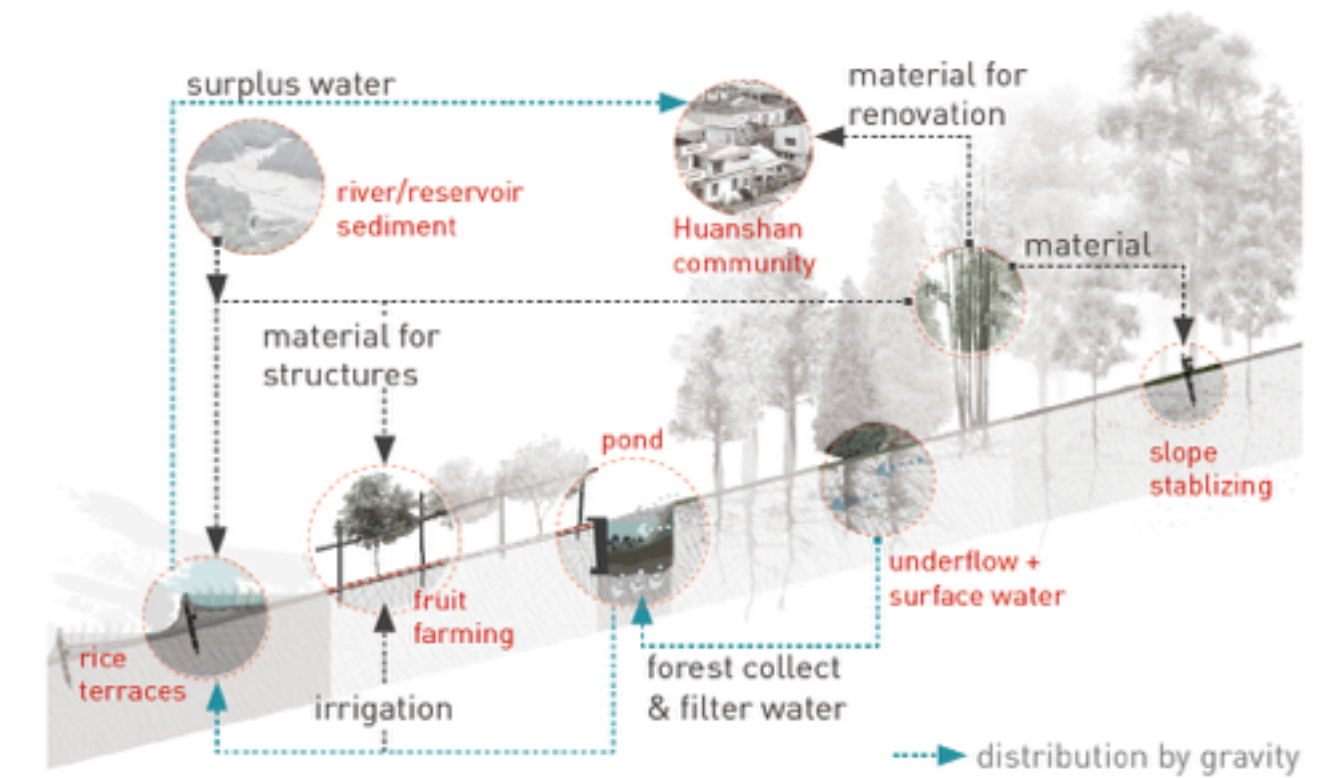
contract platform
ensure revenue and
rights of farming activity

CONCEPT #2: ACTIVITY HYBRIDIZATION

- Agricultural hybridization as initiating thread/axis

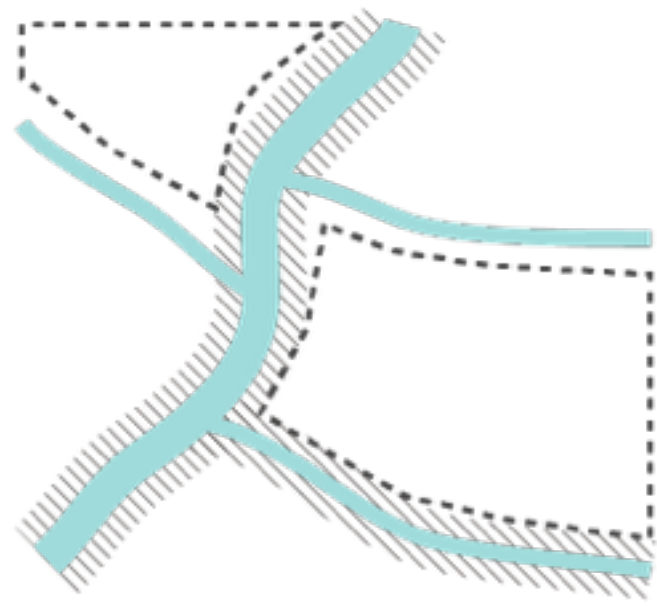


- Establish connections between activities

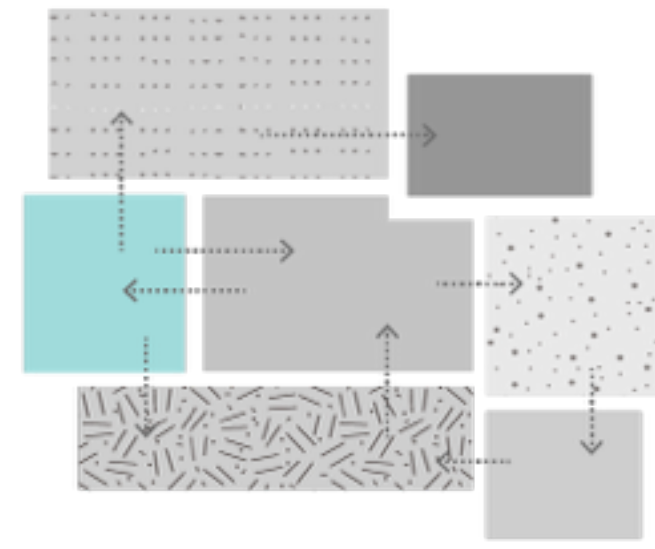


- Enable incremental change and combination of local opportunities
- Betterment of environmental diversity and resilience to external impacts

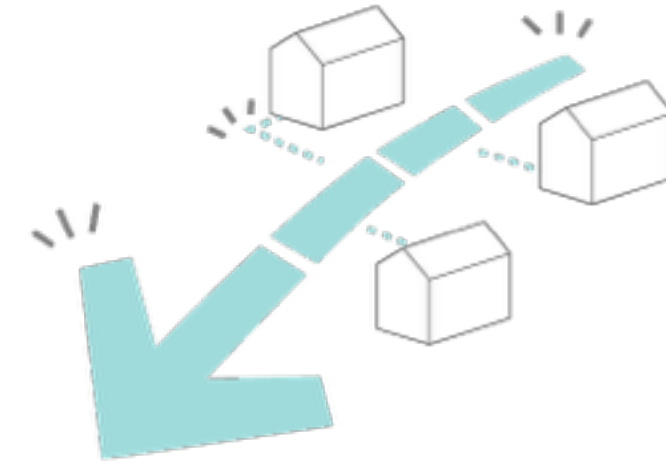
PRINCIPLES



Landscape operative structures as future spatial framework



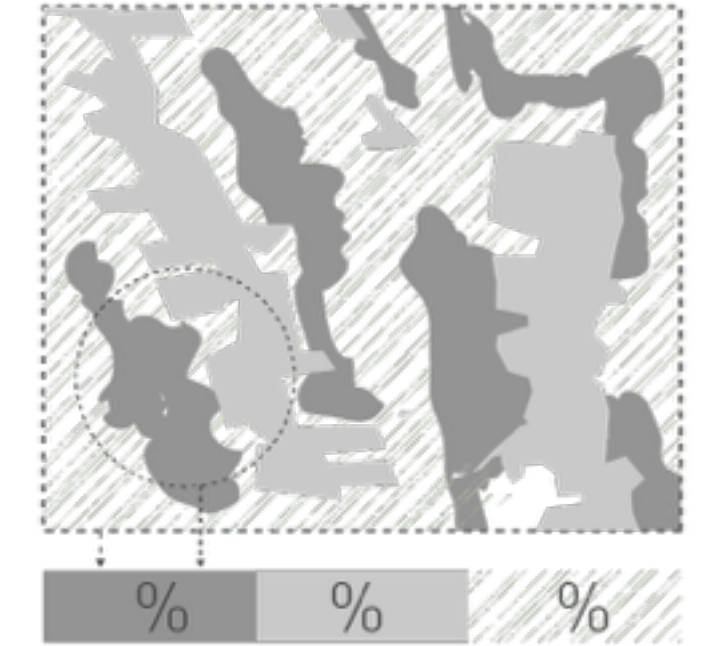
Hybrid complexity & establish connection between activities



Water infrastructure as visible, multi-functional daily-life spaces

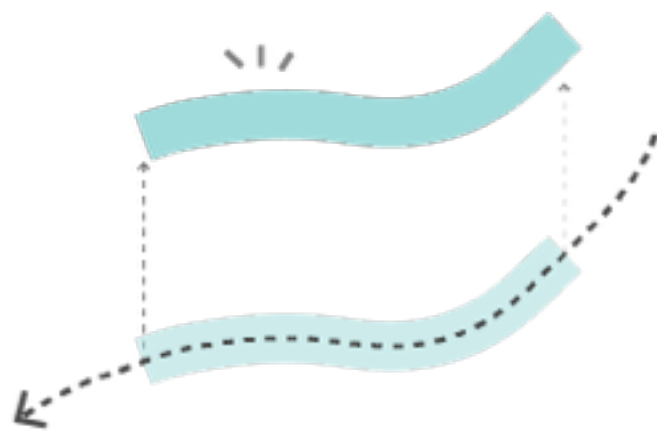


Water management as local collective work / autonomous units

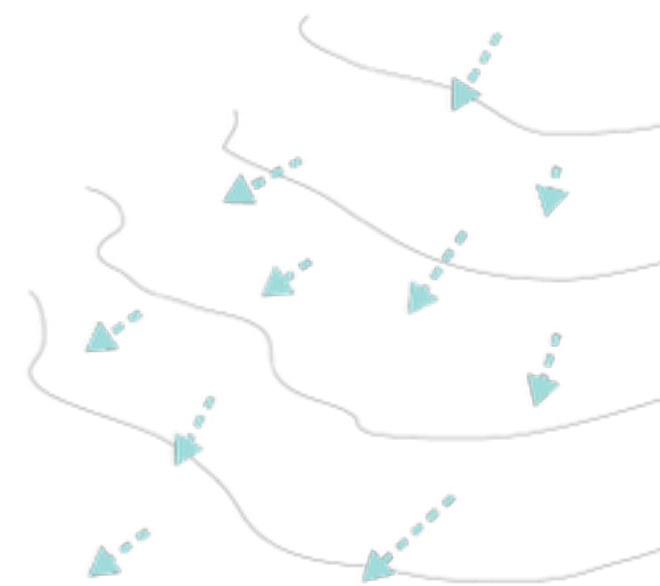


Balanced proportion of diverse land uses

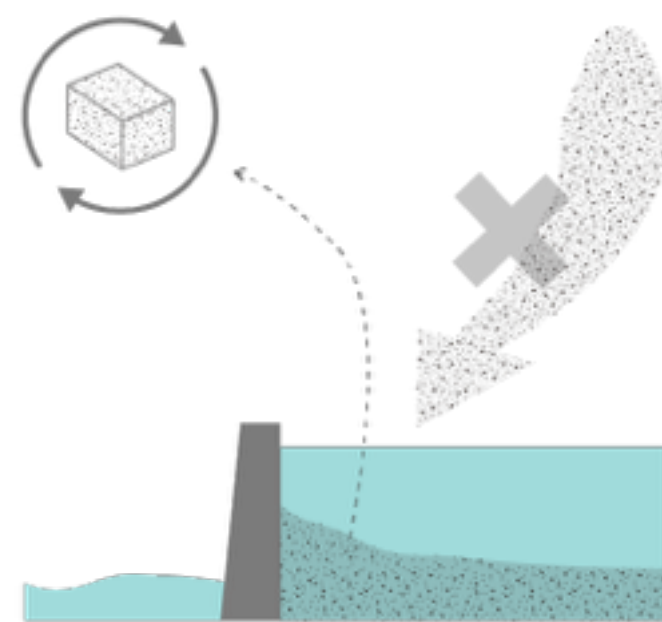
STRATEGIC TOOLS



Recover hidden flows



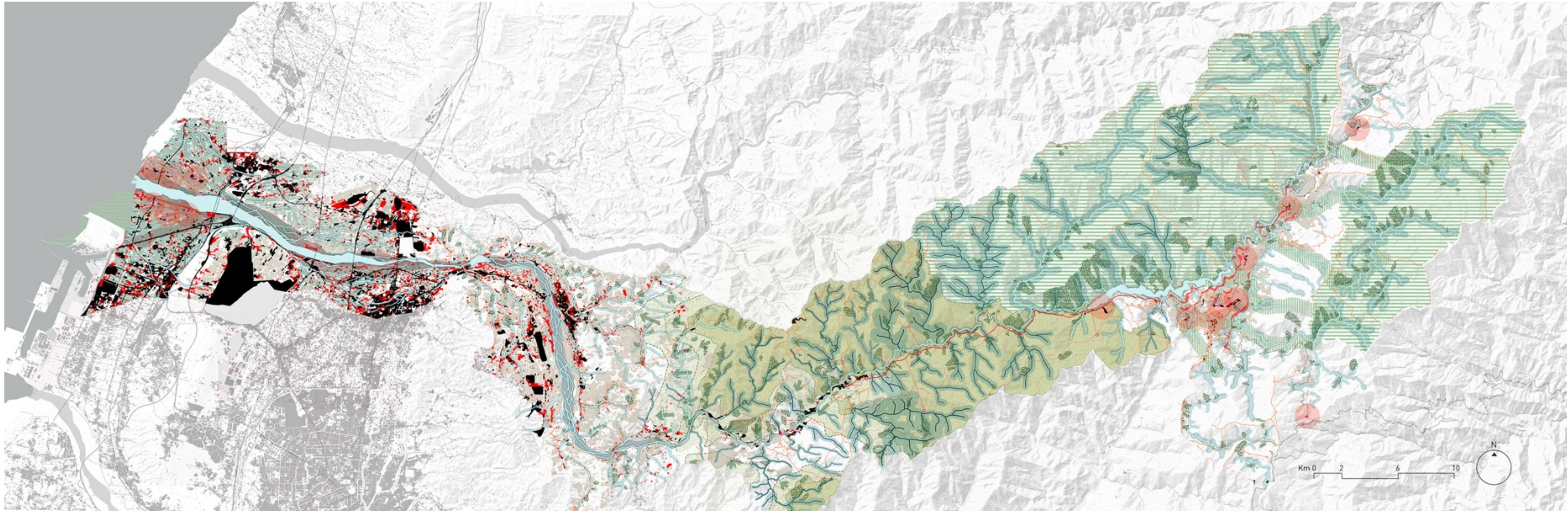
Gravity as carrier



Sediment recycle and reduction



Slope stabilization by local material & simple construction technique



Agriculture - dry farming (fruits / grains)
 Agriculture - wet farming (rice)
 Existing habitation
 Historical river courses

4 X OPERATIVE LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES

Corridor

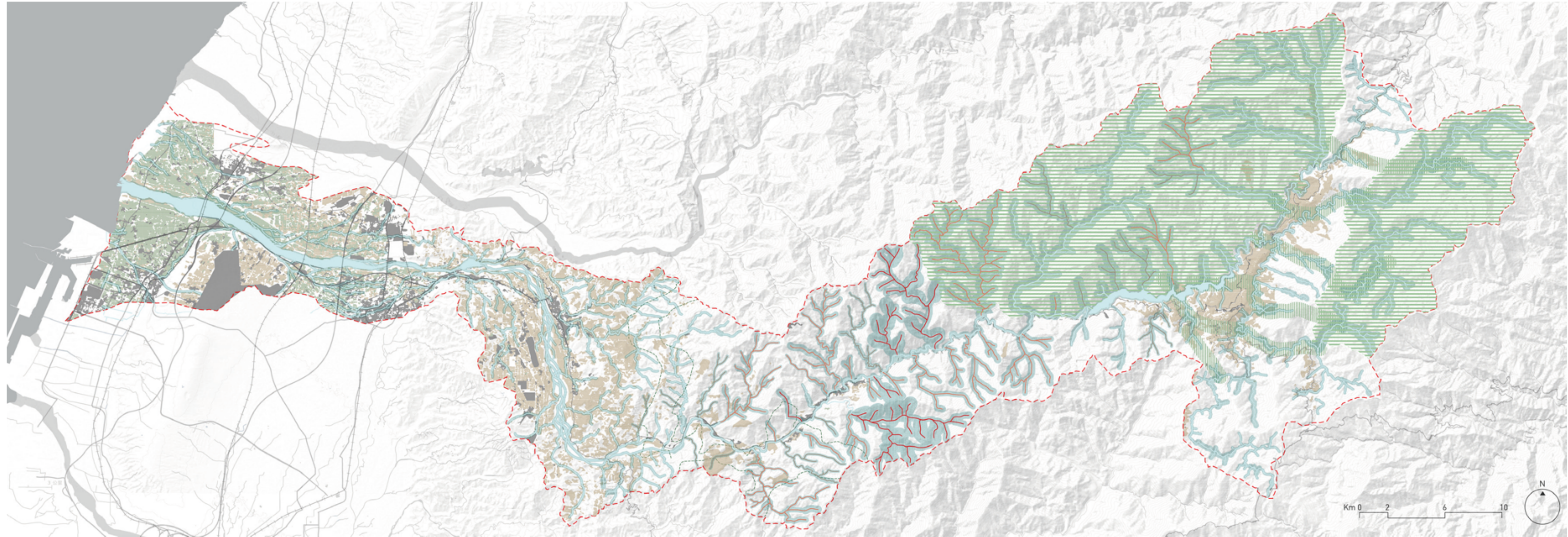
- National Park
- Horizontal corridor between national parks
- Vertical corridors along streams
- normal streams
- low mudslide risk streams
- medium mudslide risk streams
- high mudslide risk streams

Slope

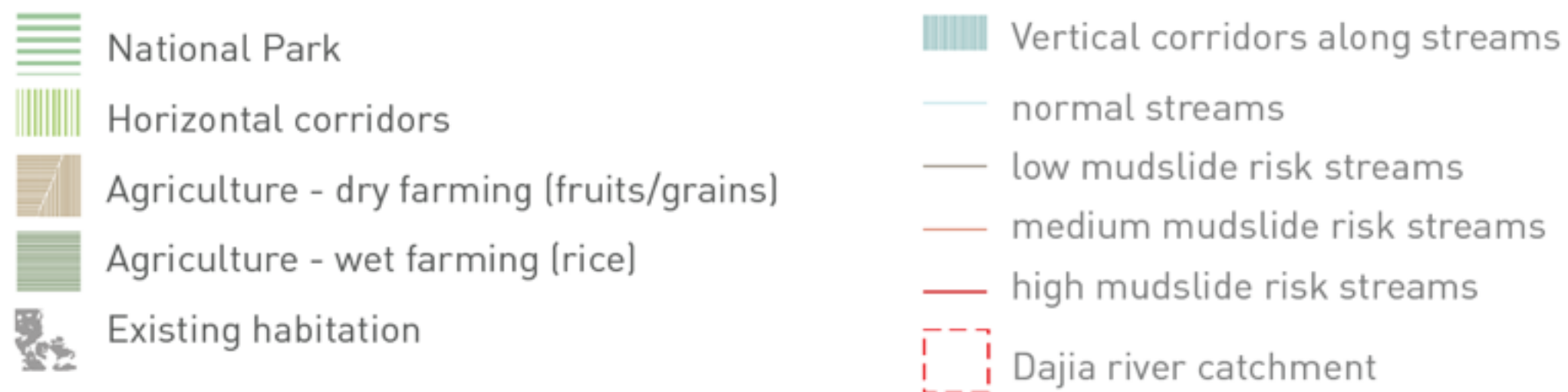
- Slope stablization
- Existing protected forestry
- Prospering forestry
- Existing forestry trails
- New forestry / slopework trails
- Maintainence points

Public Spaces Mobility

- Machinery track for shipping
- Maintainence points
- Public transportation stops + moving kiosk & evacuation points (1km coverage)
- Water infrastructure interventions
- Groundwater infrastructures



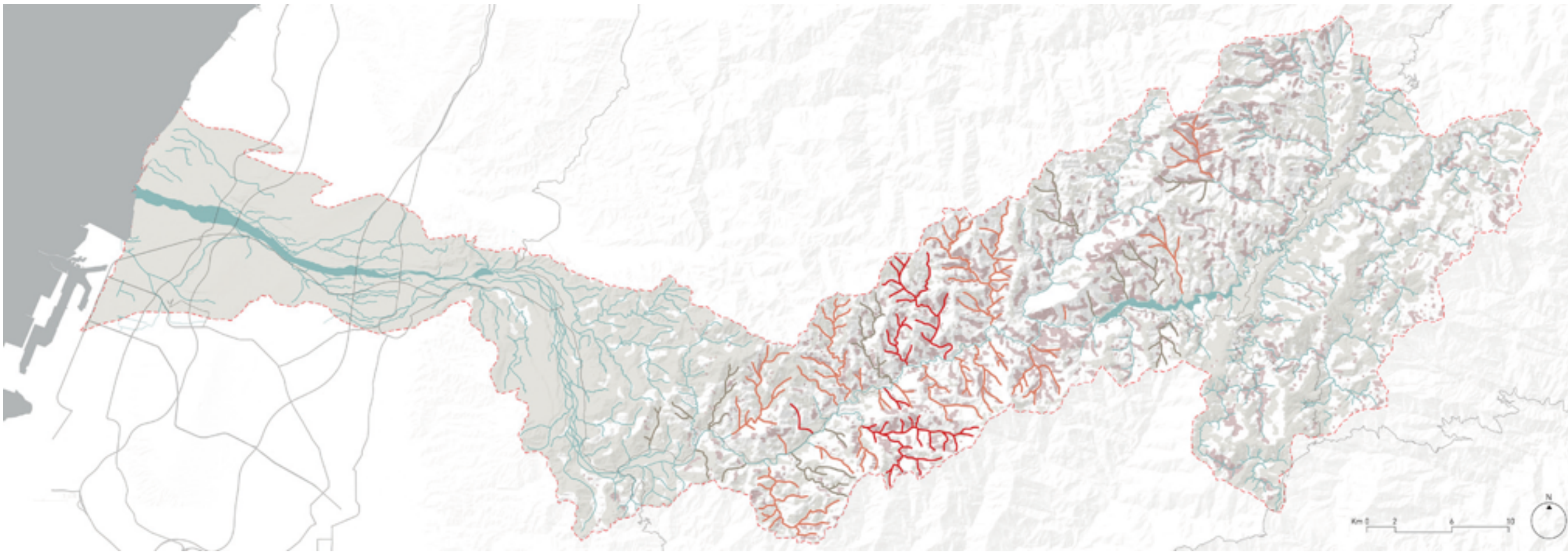
CORRIDOR



- vertical and horizontal ecological continuity
- allows permeability of elements and interaction of activities
- river landscape as the determinant framework for corridor structure

CORRIDOR

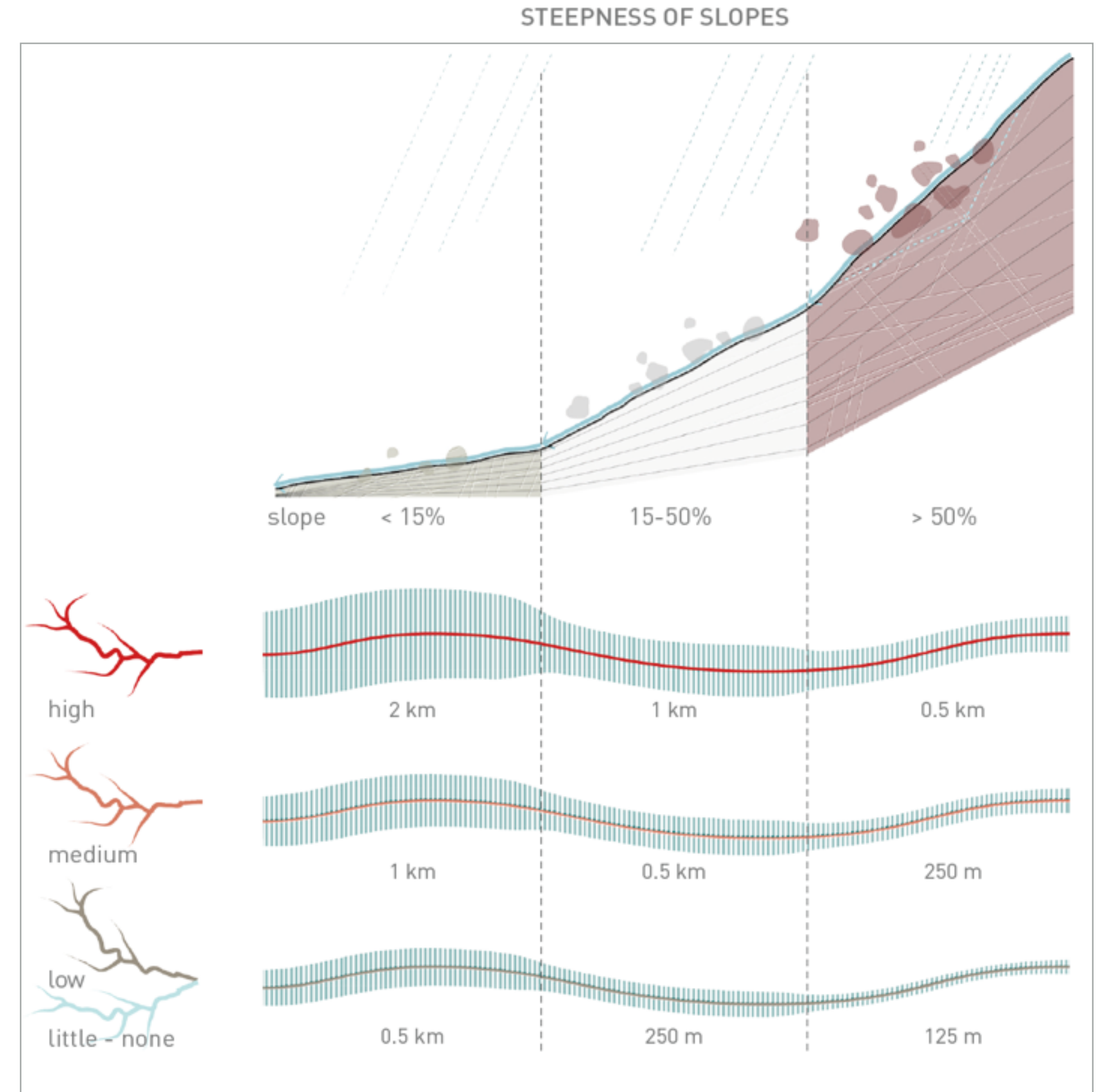
Source: map made by the author based on GIS data and data from Water Resources Agency, MOEA, and Central Geological Survey, MOEA, Taiwan Government.



- low mudslide risk streams
- medium mudslide risk streams
- high mudslide risk streams
- Slope > 50% areas
- Slope < 15% areas
- Dajia river catchment

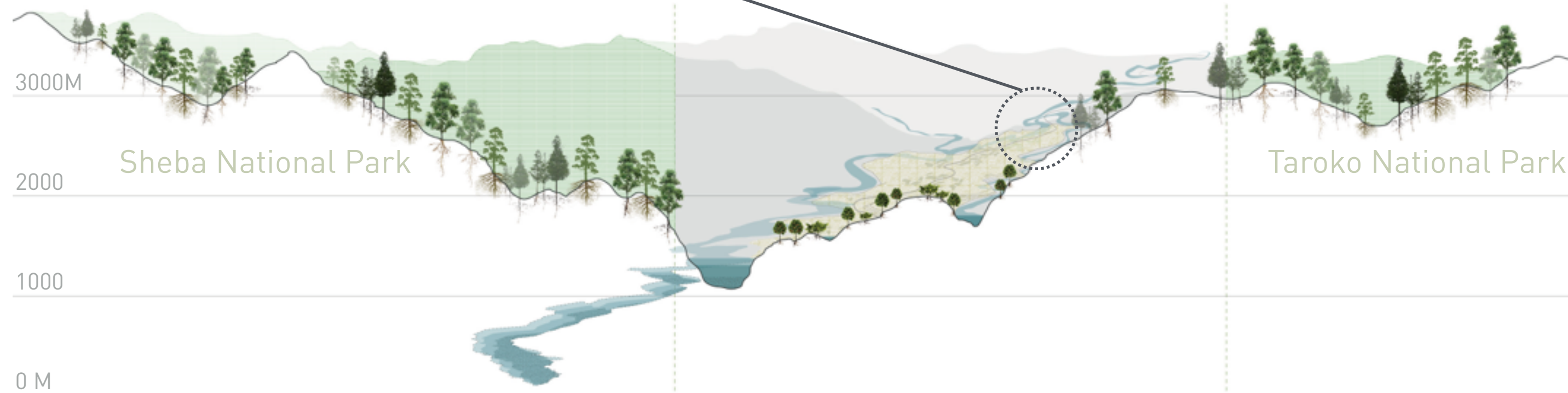
- Mudslide risk of streams
- Steepness of slopes

OPERATIVE LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES

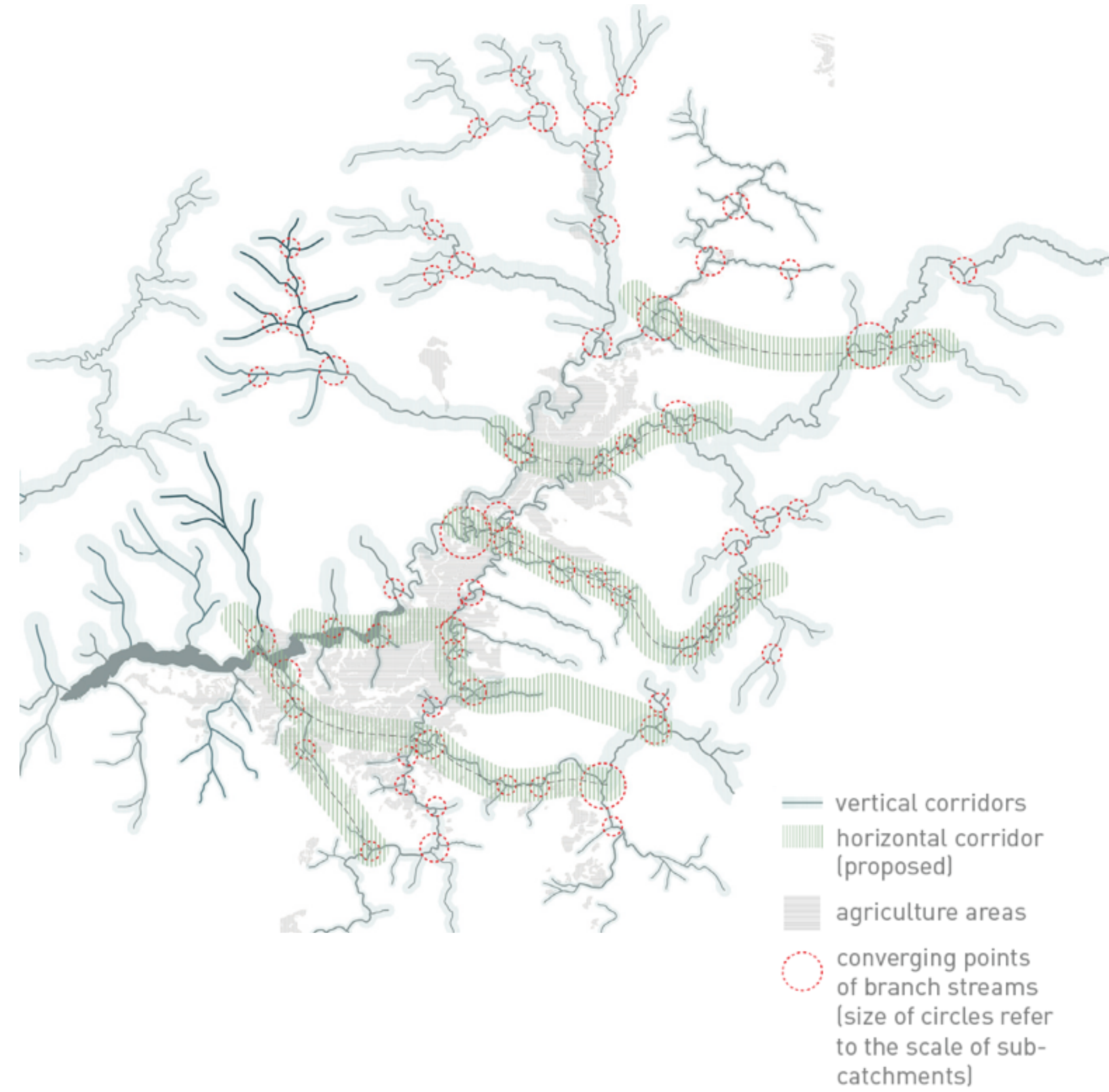


Determine the scales of vertical corridors

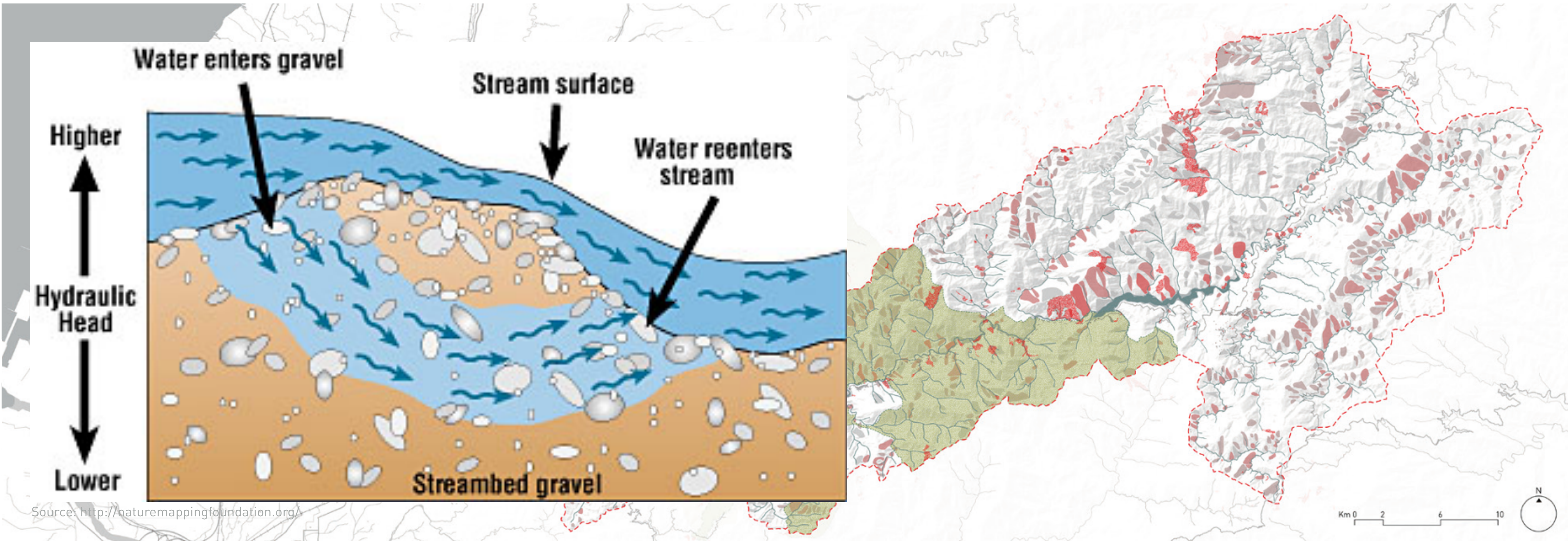
CORRIDOR



OPERATIVE LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES



Design the links for horizontal corridors



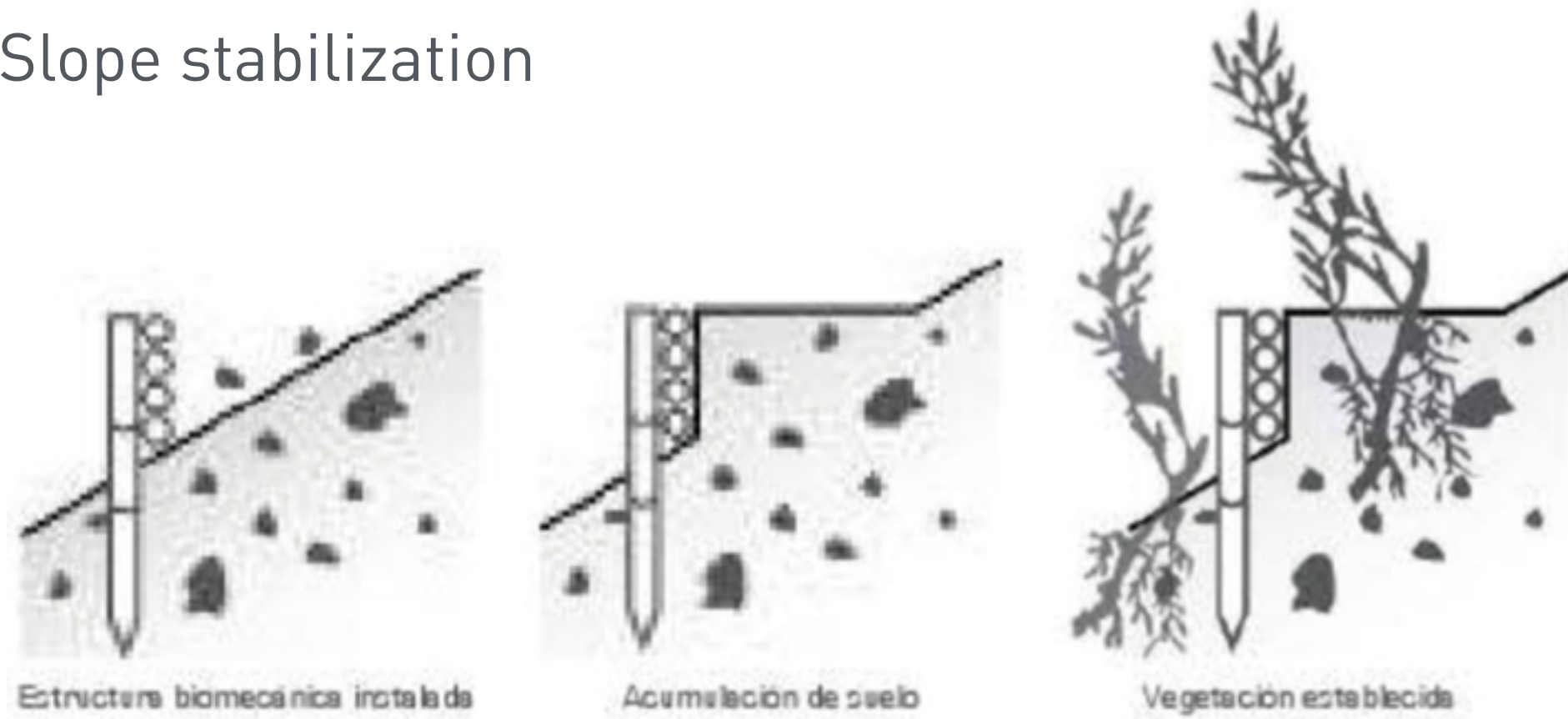
SLOPE

- National Park
- Horizontal corridors
- Agriculture - dry farming (fruits/grains)
- Agriculture - wet farming (rice)
- Existing habitation
- Vertical corridors along streams
- normal streams
- low mudslide risk streams
- medium mudslide risk streams
- high mudslide risk streams
- Dajia river catchment
- Dipslope - high risks
- Dipslope - meduim risks
- Dipslope - low risks
- Dipslope - almost no risks
- Avalanched areas

- Prospering sustainable forestry to suppress agricultural sprawl

SLOPE

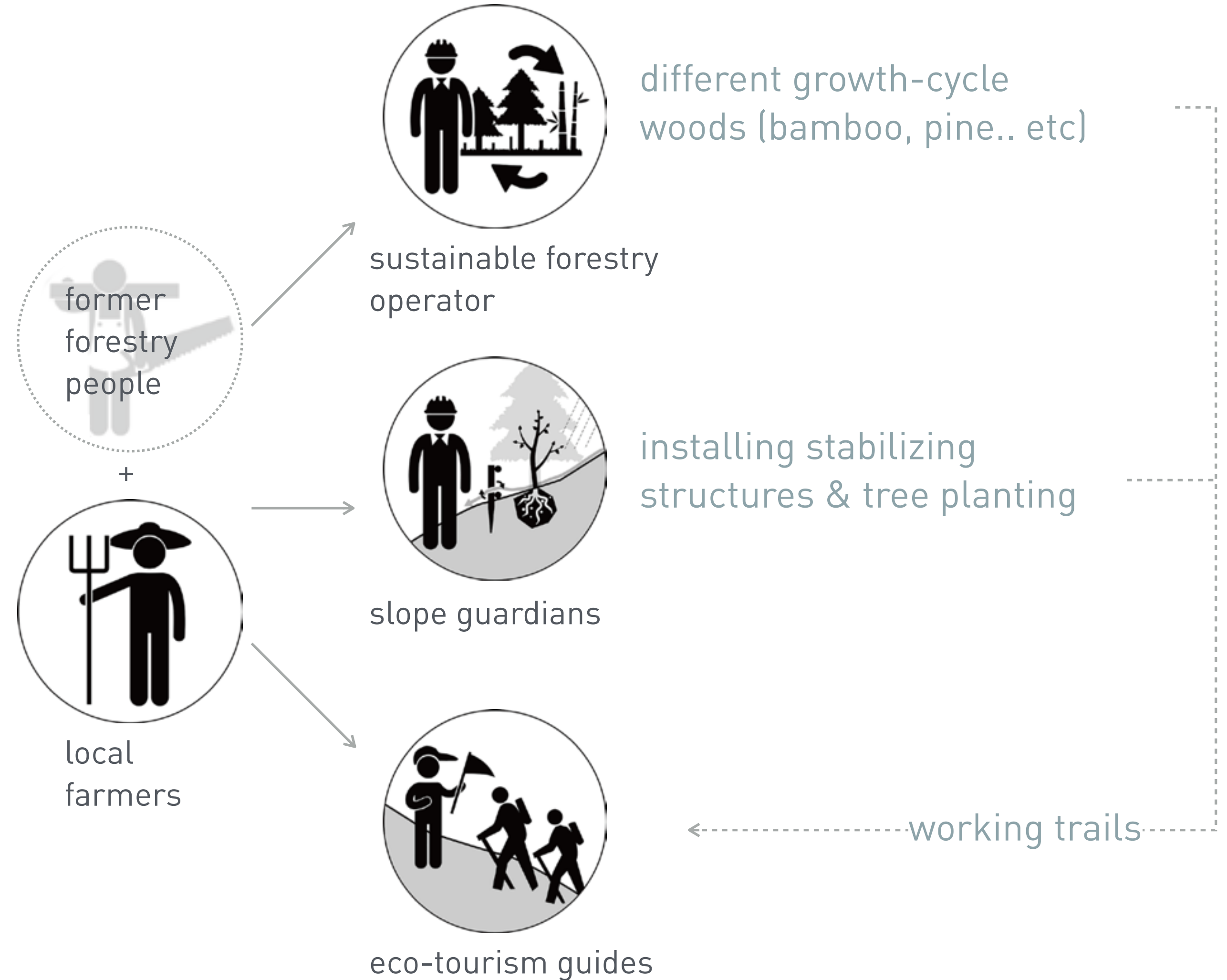
- Slope stabilization

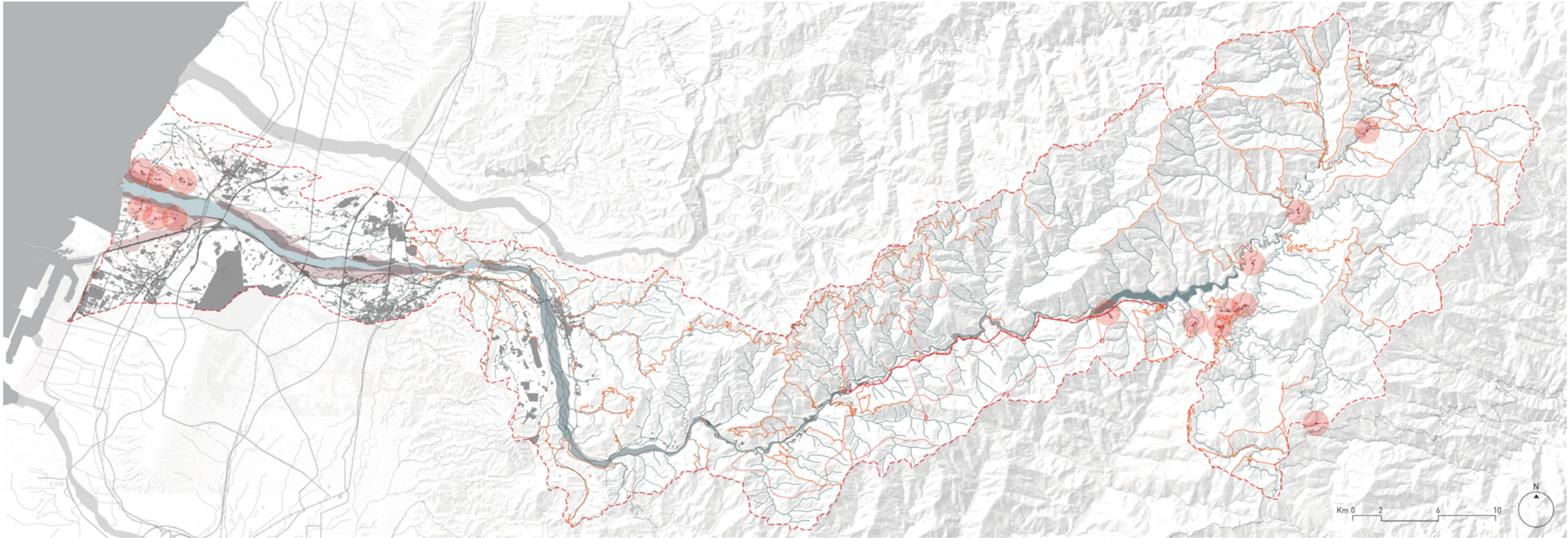


Source: Report of "Rehabilitar la Montana", municipality of Medellín.

OPERATIVE LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES

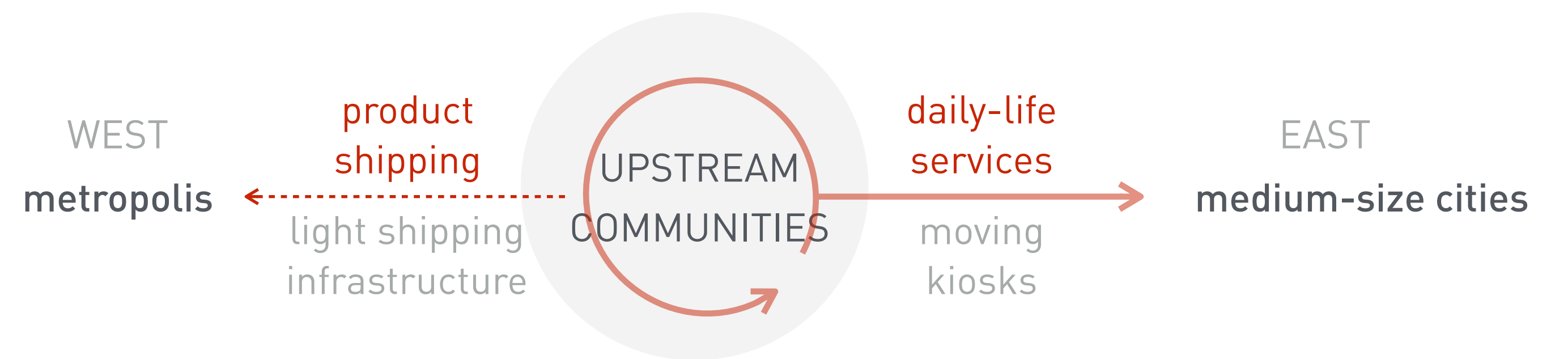
- Potential actors





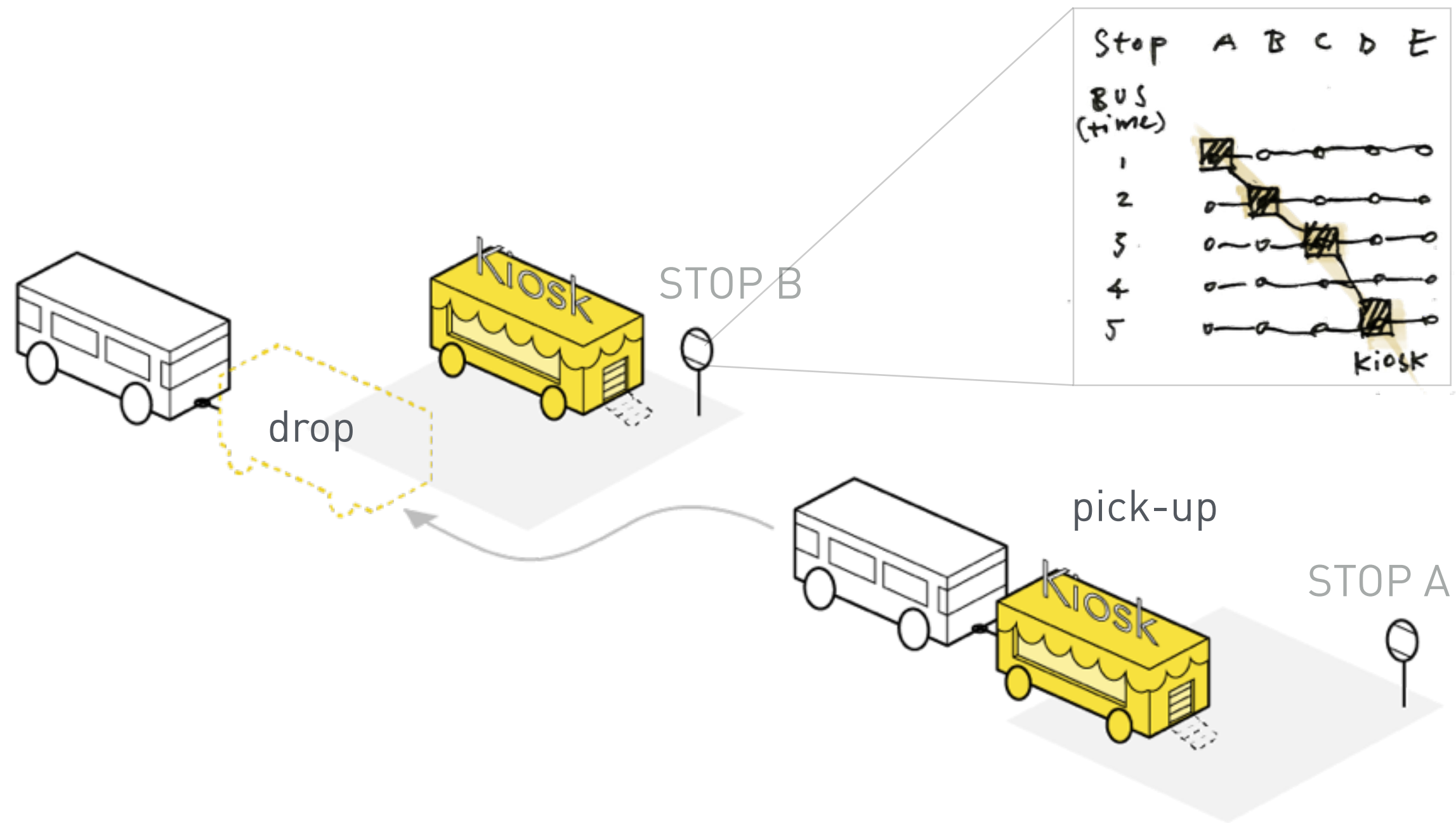
MOBILITY

-  Existing forestry trails
-  New forestry / slopework trails
-  Maintenance points
-  Machinery track for shipping
-  Public transportation stops + moving kiosks & evacuation points (1 km coverage)
-  Existing habitation
-  Dajia River catchment
-  Historical river courses



MOBILITY

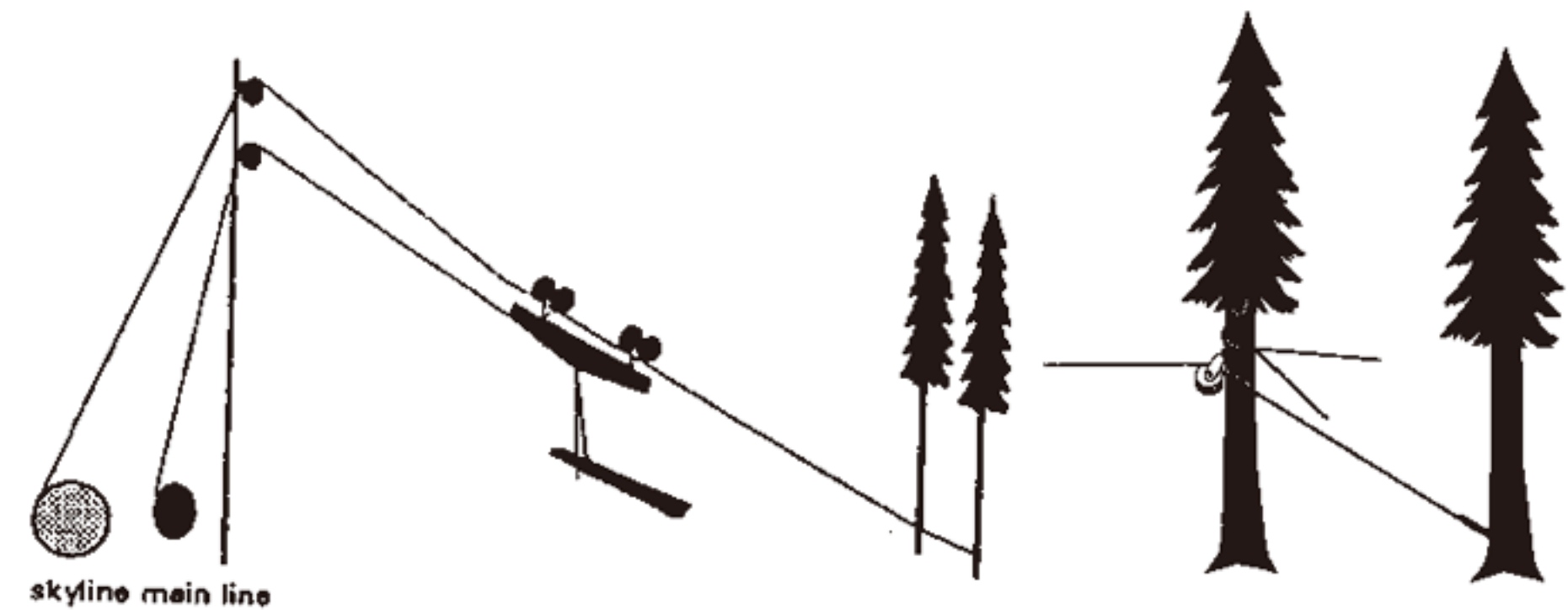
- Moving kiosks at public transportation



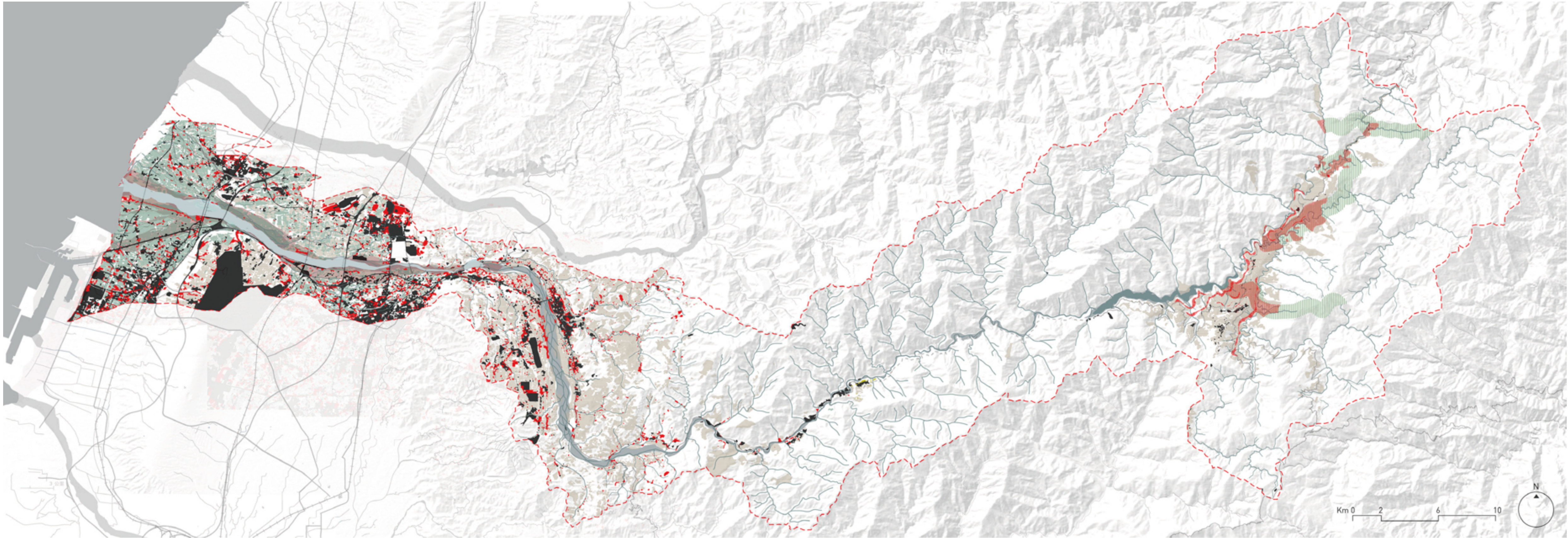
maintenance and management of the machinery track for shipping agricultural products.

OPERATIVE LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES

- Light shipping infrastructure



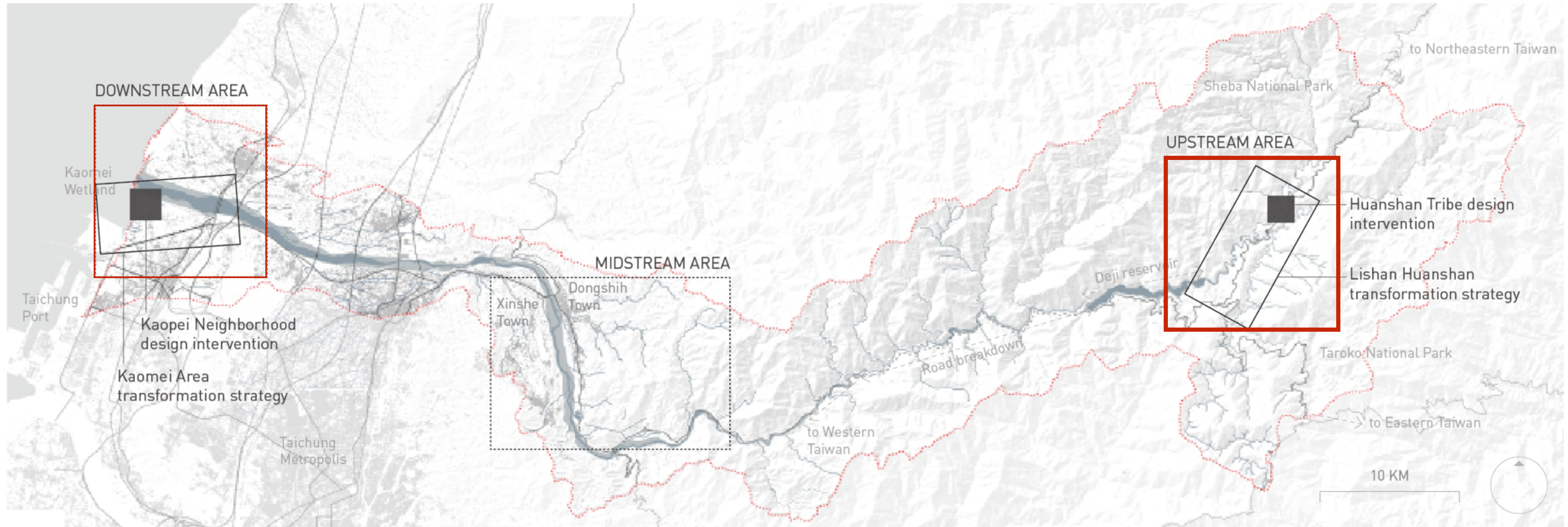
Source: FAO, UN.



PUBLIC SPACES

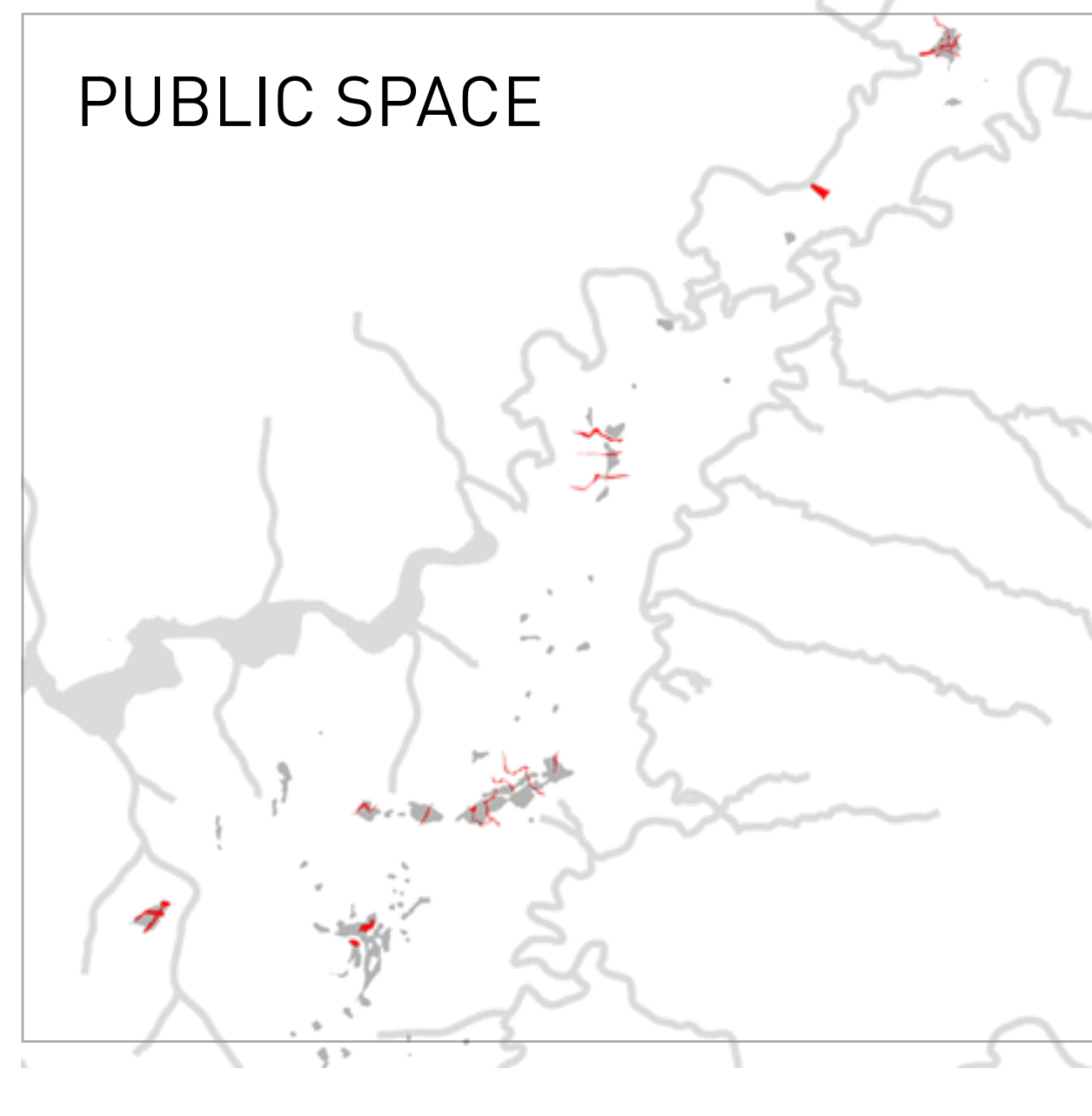
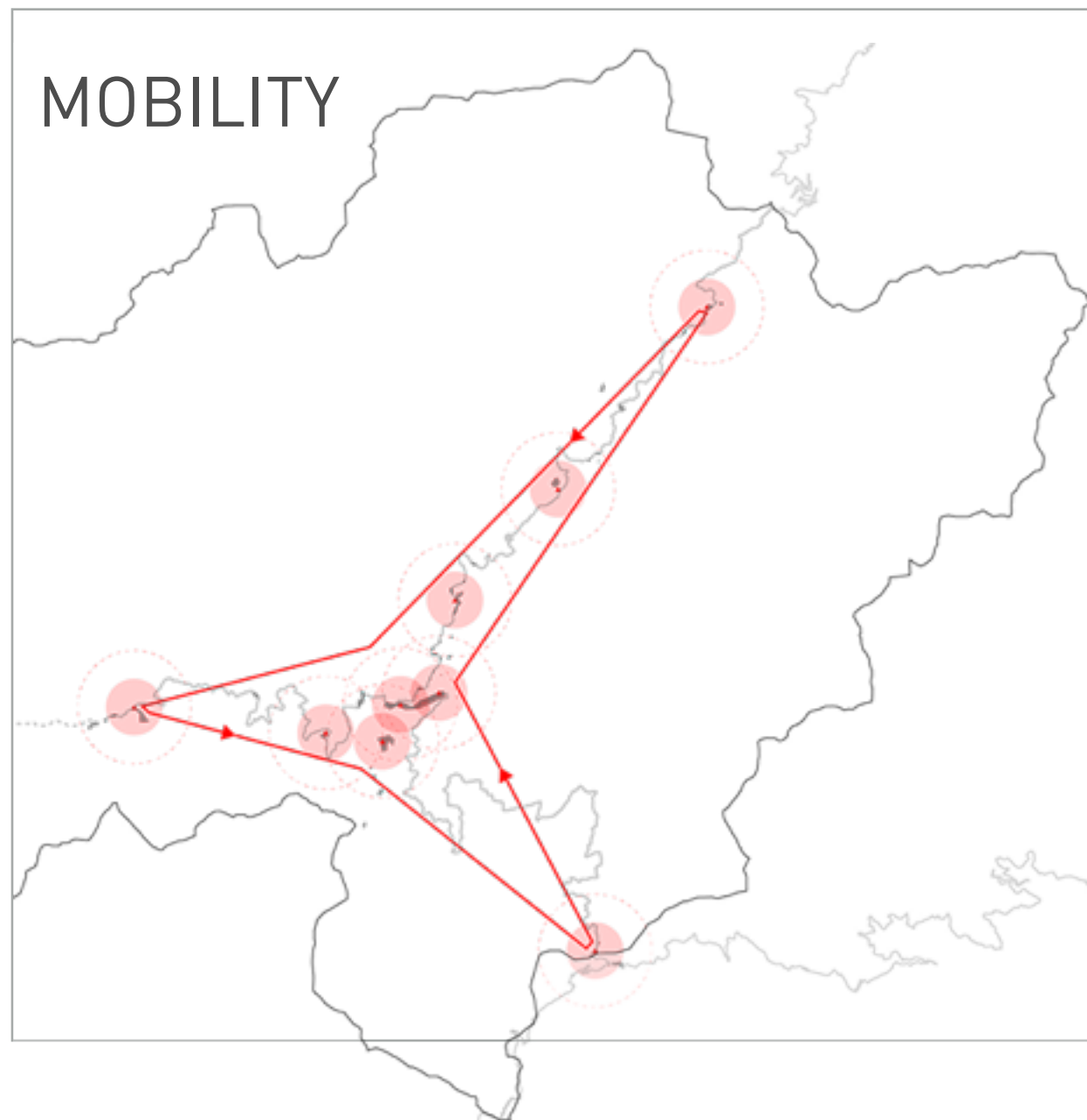
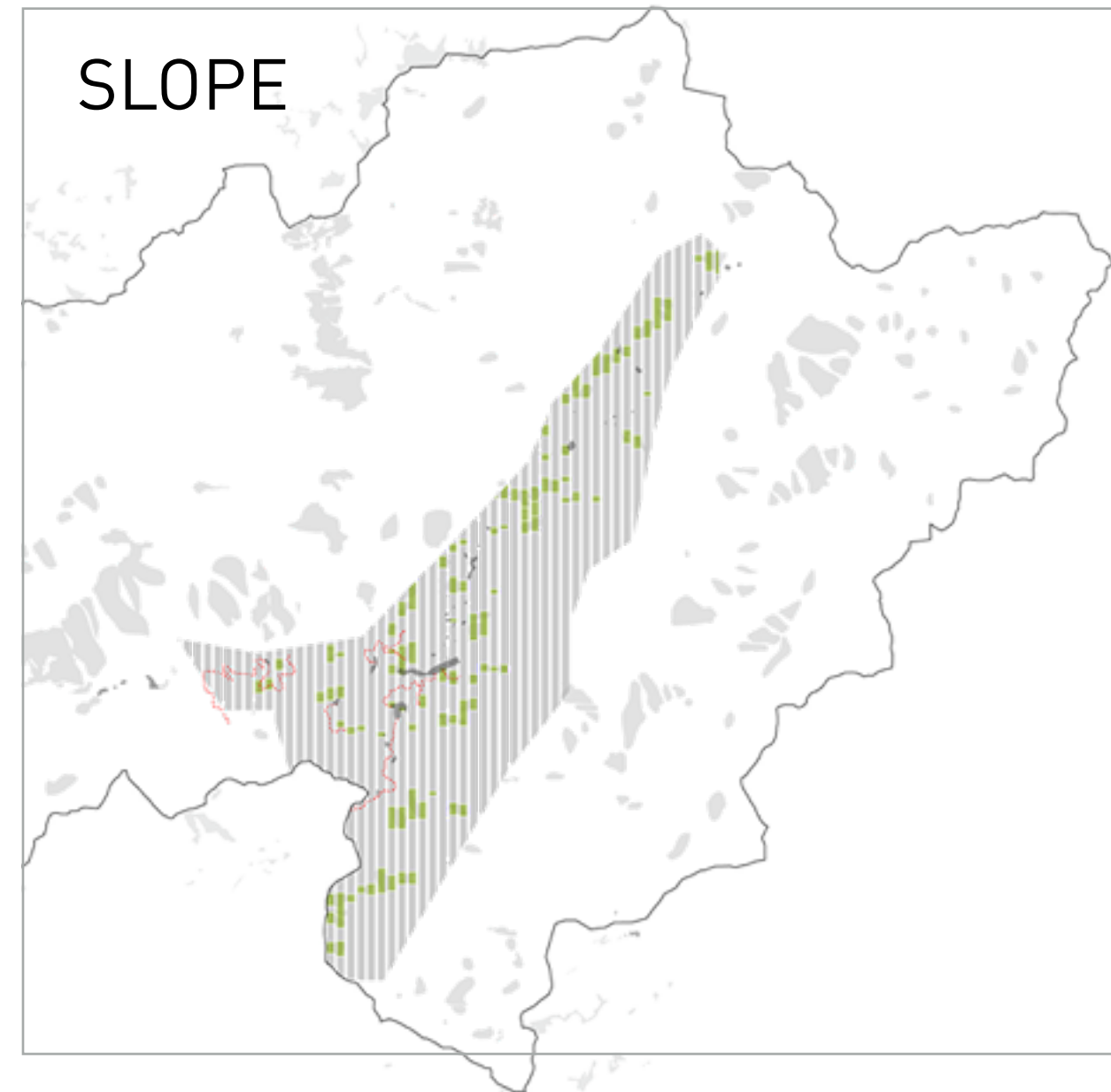
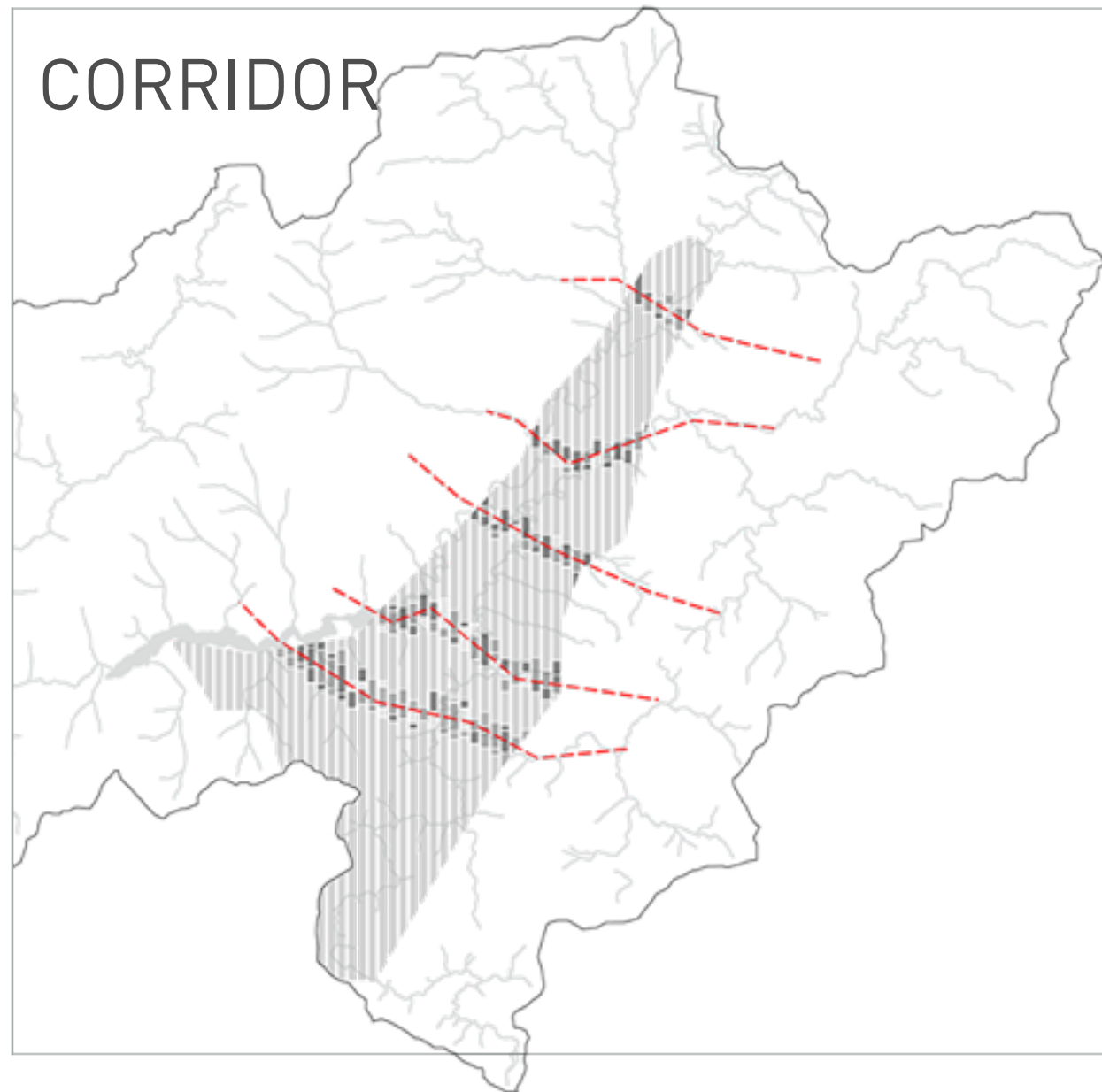
- Horizontal corridors
- Targeted agricultural transformation
- Water infrastructure interventions
- Groundwater infrastructures
- Historical river courses
- Existing habitation
- Dajia River catchment

DESIGN INTERVENTION

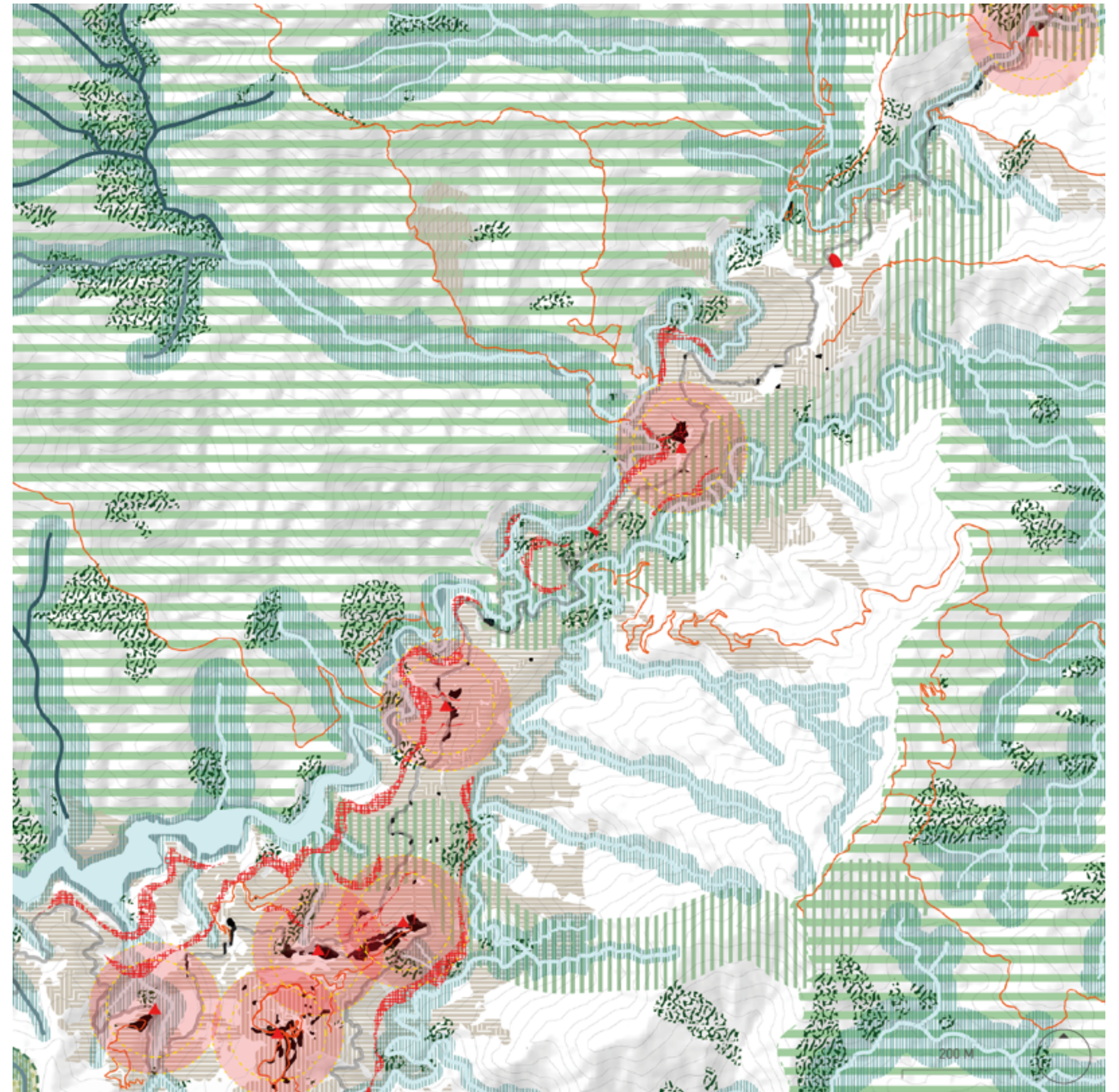


- landscape operative structures
- local area strategic plans
- zoom-in site interventions

DESIGN INTERVENTION



UPSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION



1850s

TODAY



Source: screenshot from video clip by Shen (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MISr8s-6S3w>.)



UPSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION

- Fruit farming since 1950s
- After road breakdown, sprawled extensively
- Increased erosion of rain -> landslide risks



Source: walkerland.com.tw.

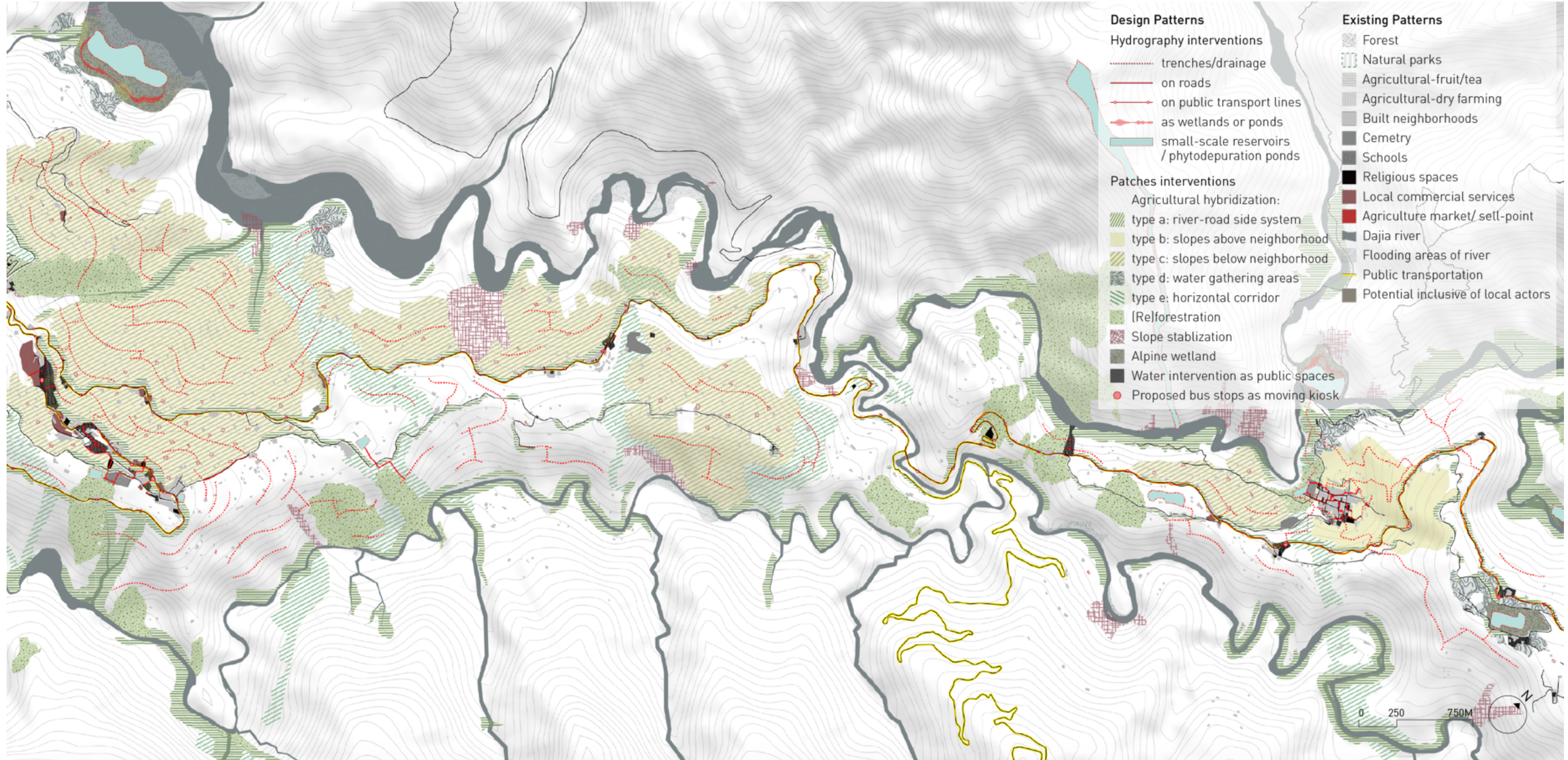


WATER INFRASTRUCTURES

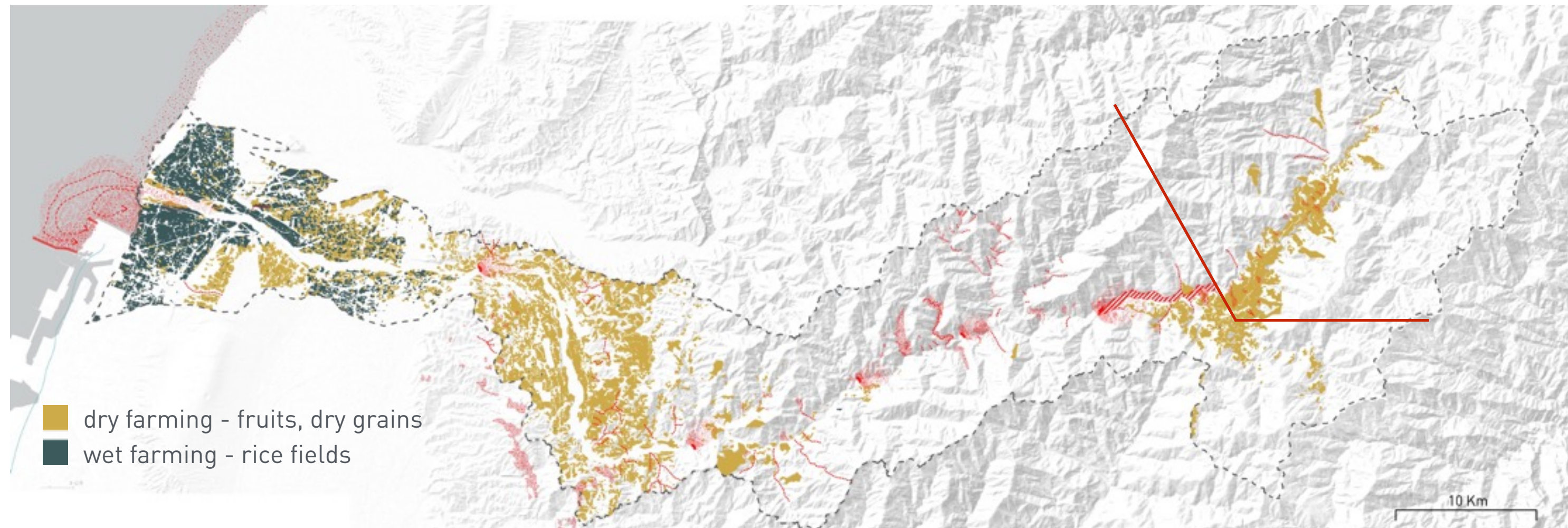
- self-installed facilities
- easily destroyed by rain
- could not ensure steady supply



Source: Google Earth photos



DESIGN INTERVENTION



Source: map made by the author based on data from National Land Surveying and Mapping Center, MOI.

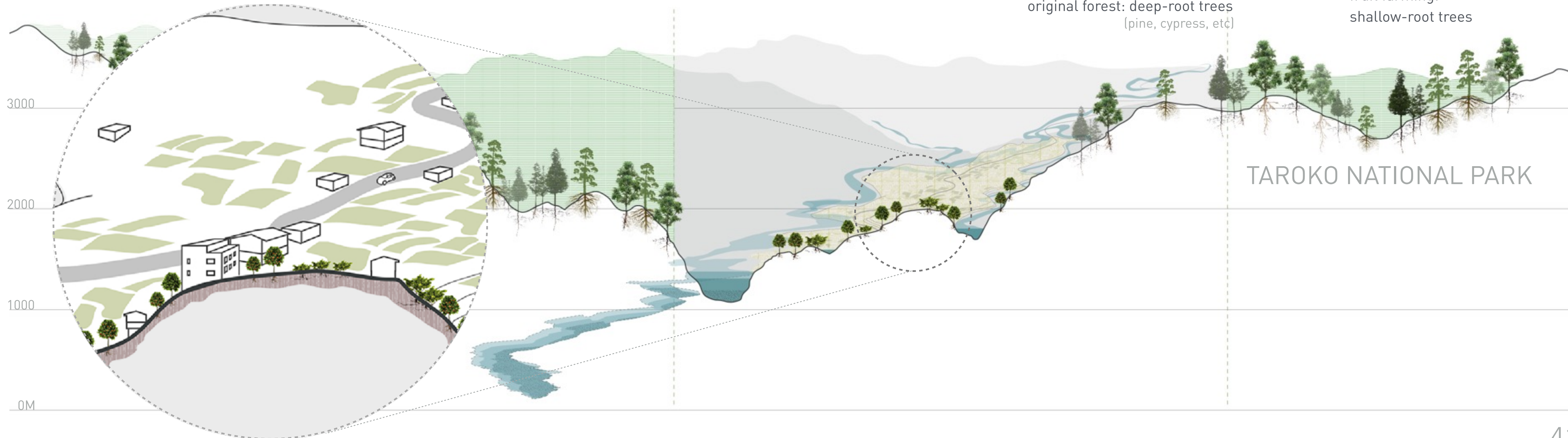
UPSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION

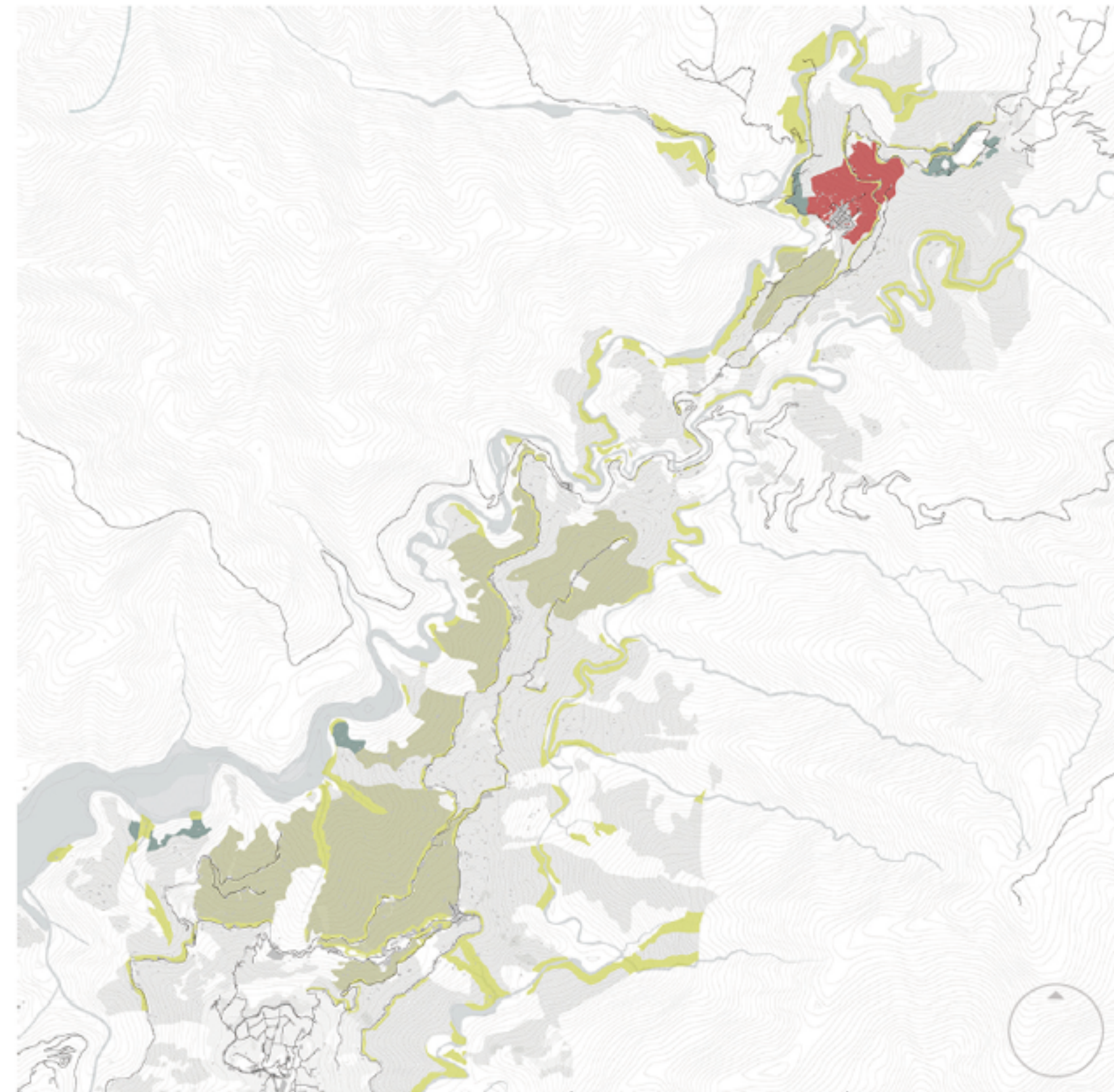
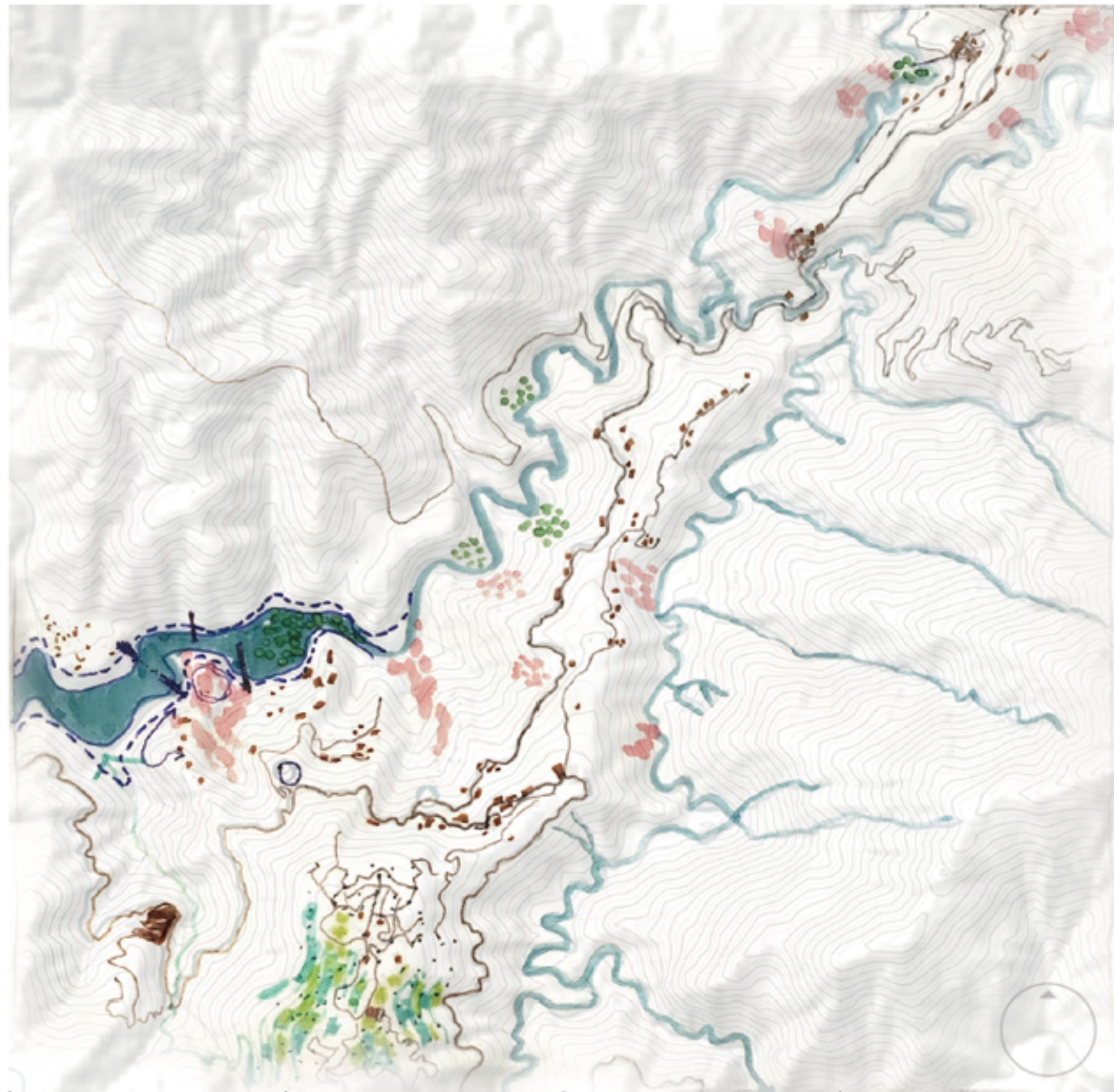
- Increasing of water and sediment flow threatened human life and ecology corridor



original forest: deep-root trees
(pine, cypress, etc)

fruit farming:
shallow-root trees





PROPOSAL

- design with natural water flows

 A: road-side/ riverside agricultures



 B: agriculture on slopes above community



 C: agriculture on slopes below community



 D: converging points of branch streams



 existing slope agriculture (fruit/dry crops)

Alpine wetland

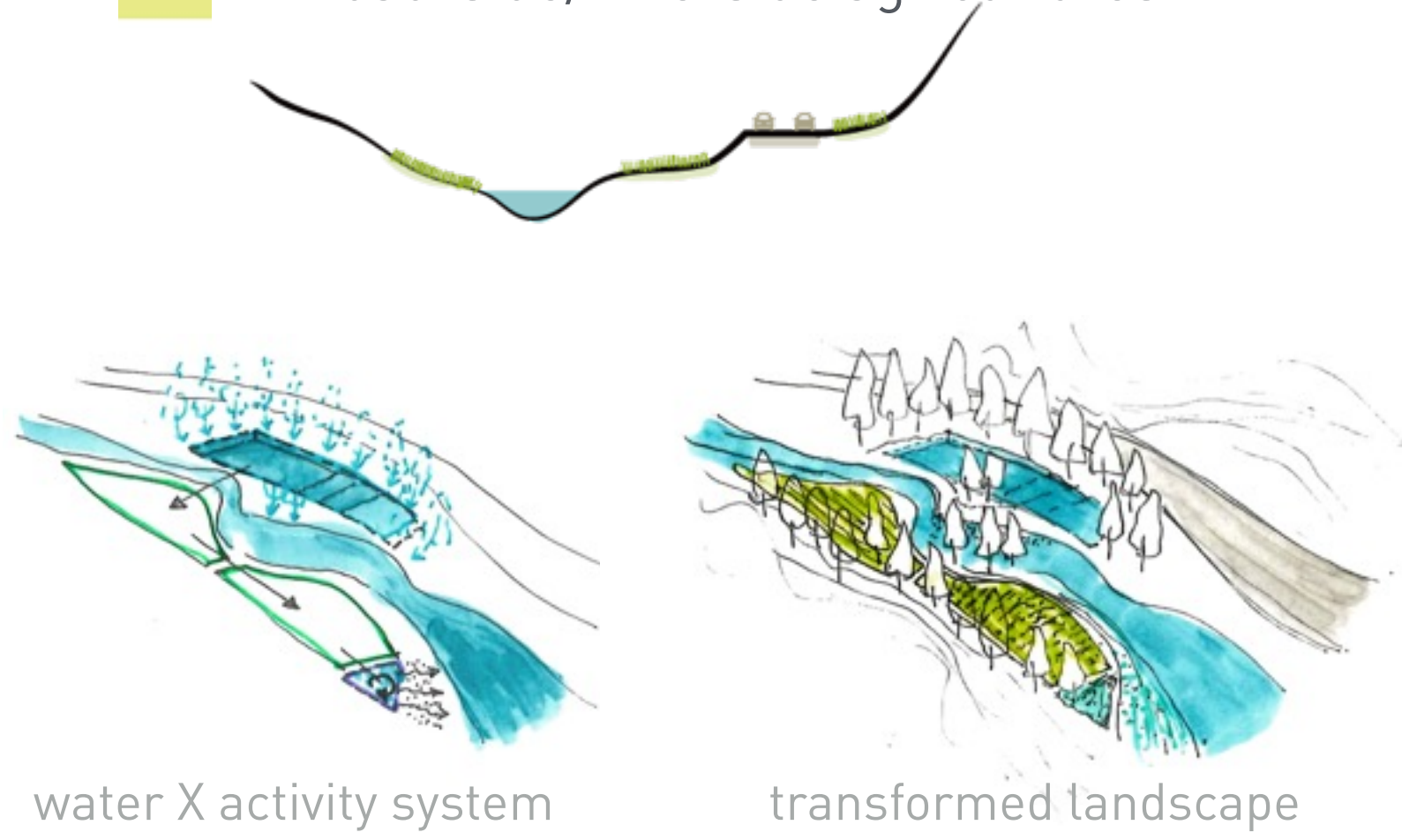


Source: <https://kknews.cc>

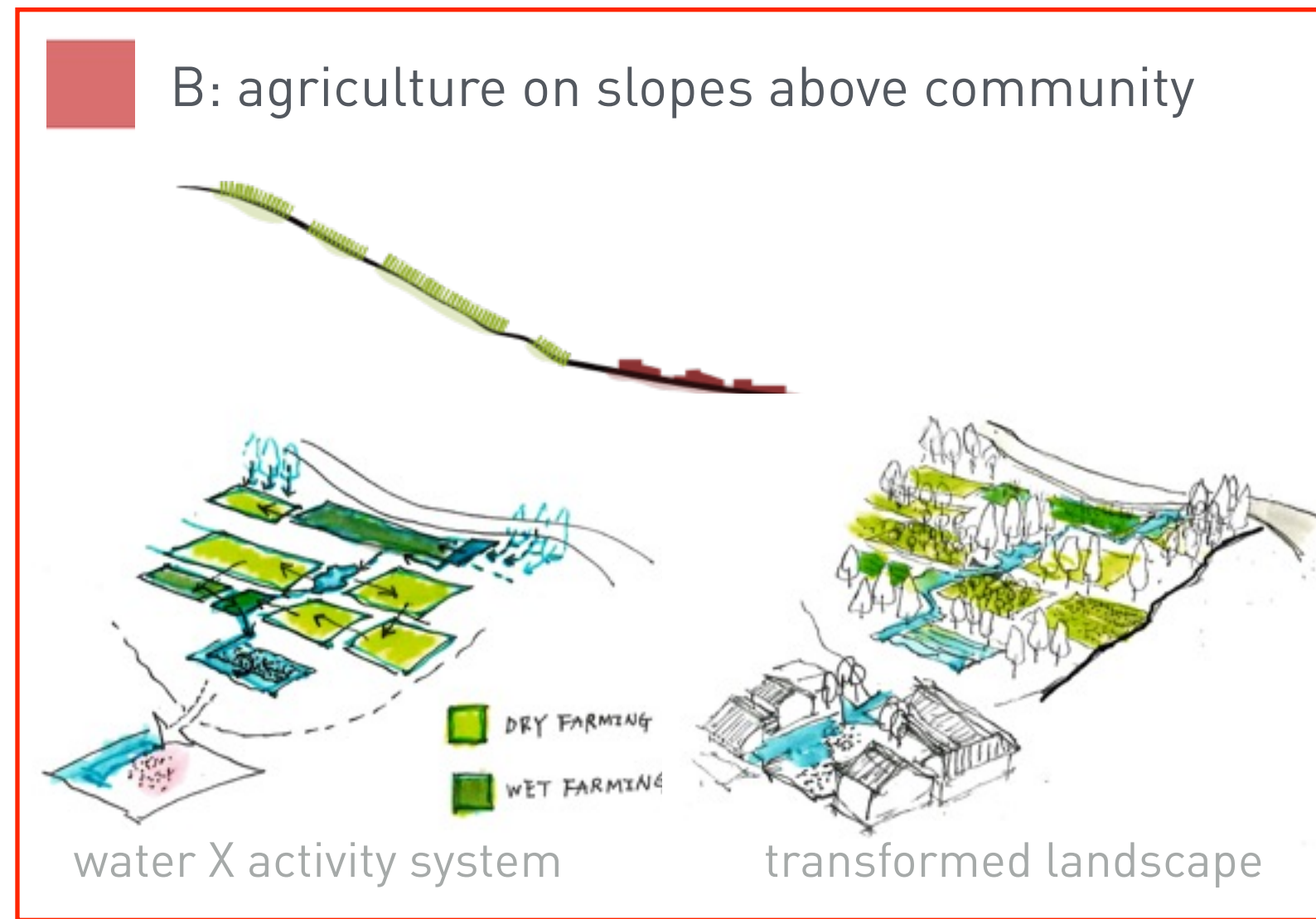
DESIGN INTERVENTION

UPSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION

A: road-side/ riverside agricultures

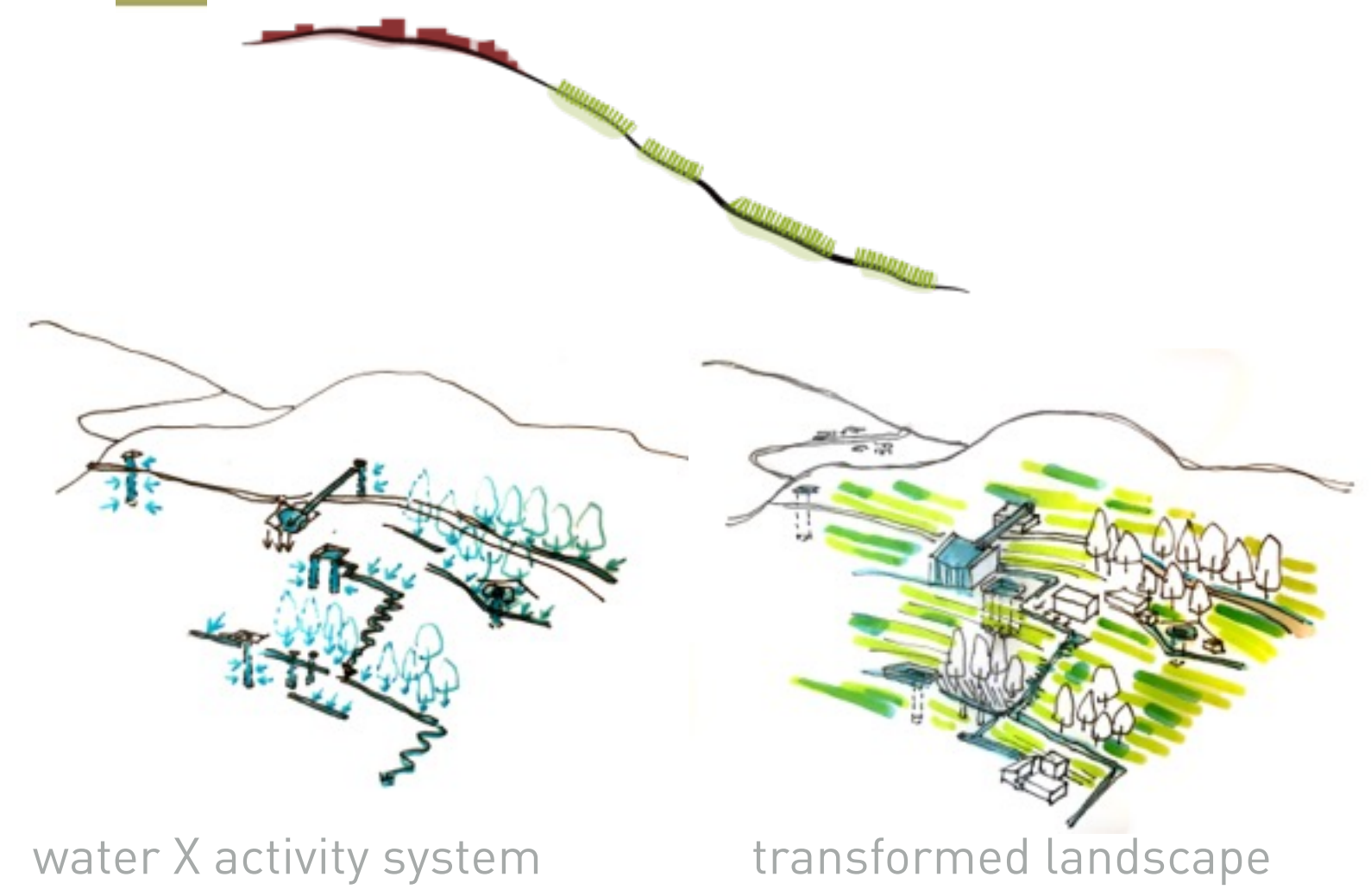


B: agriculture on slopes above community

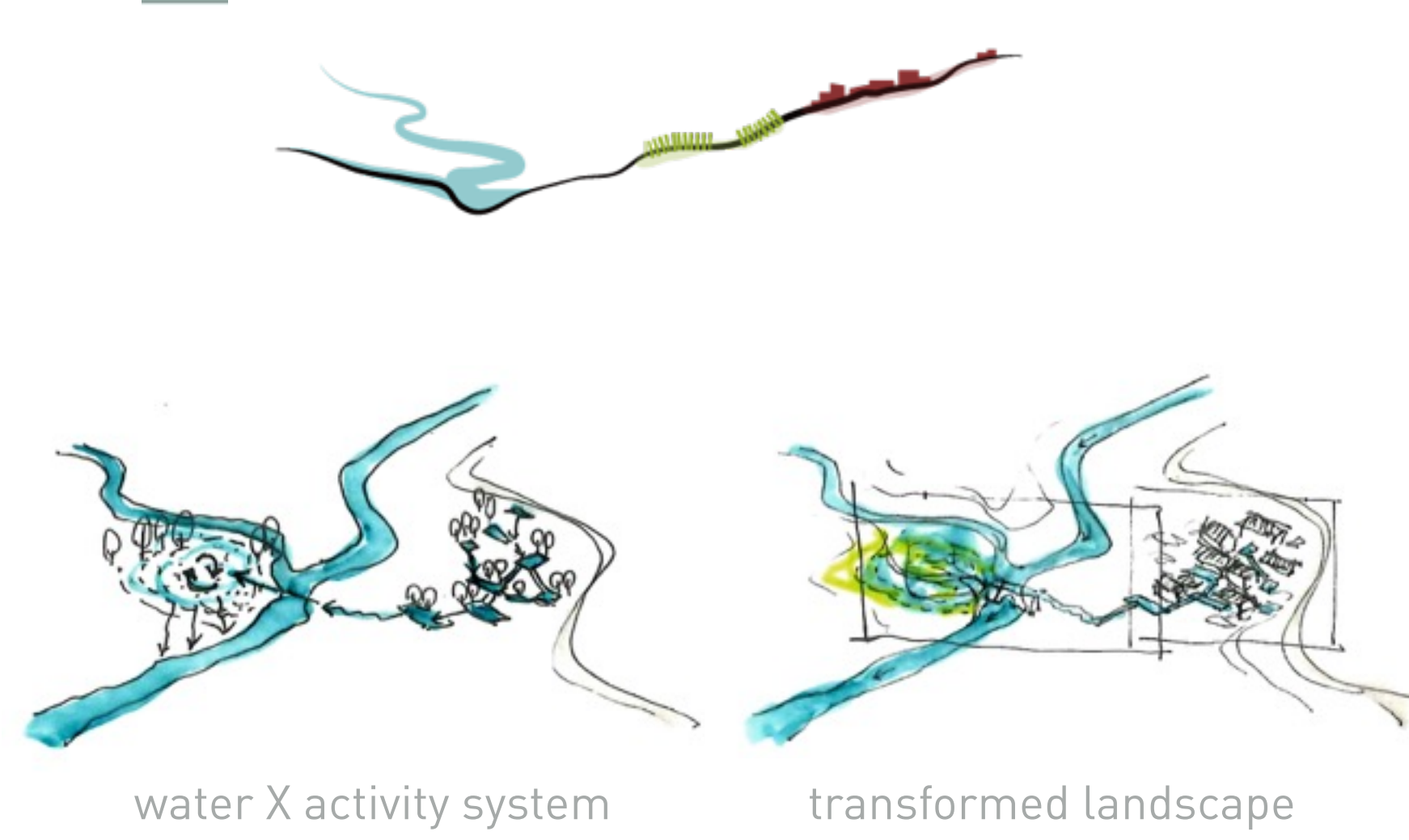


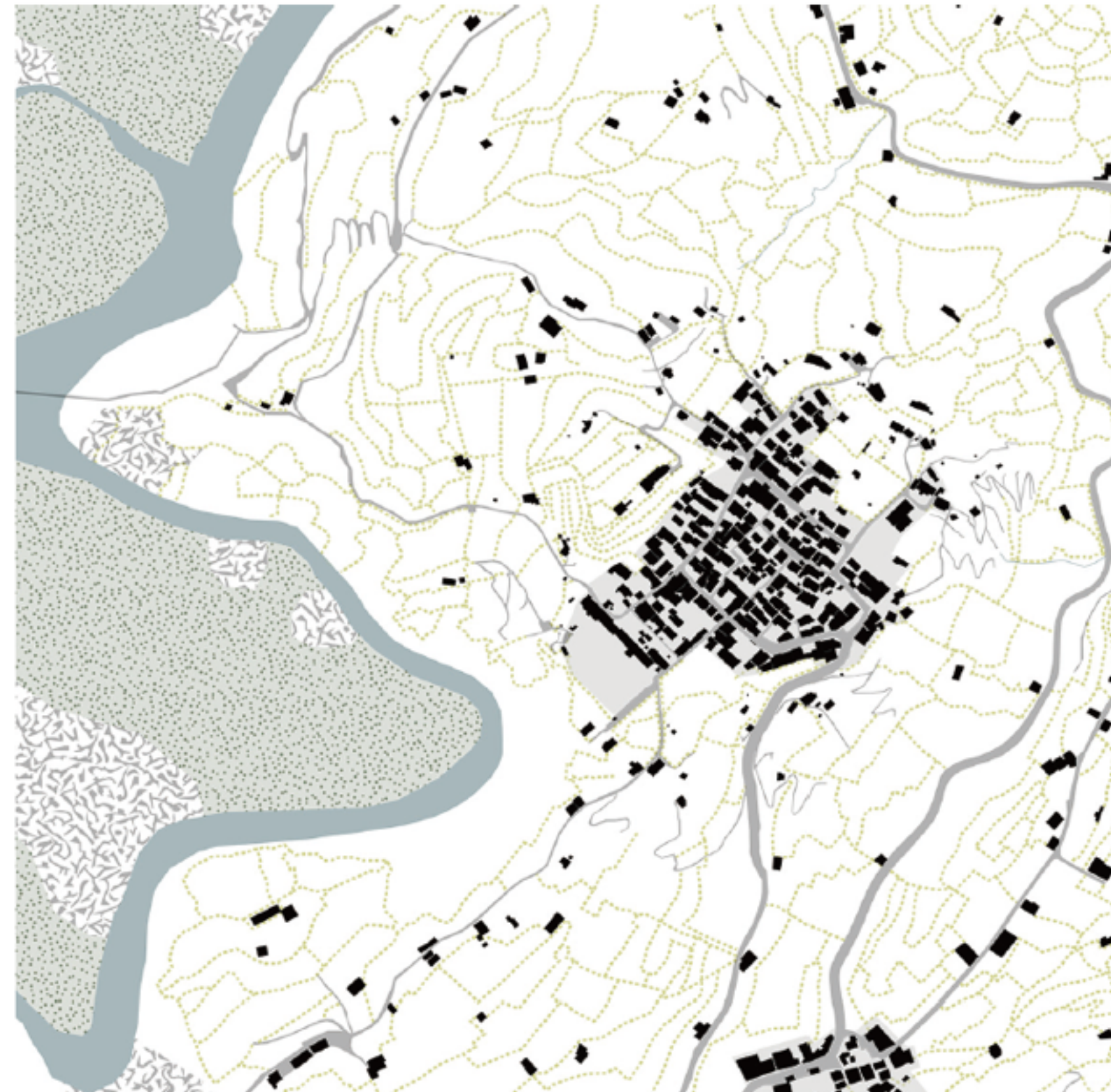
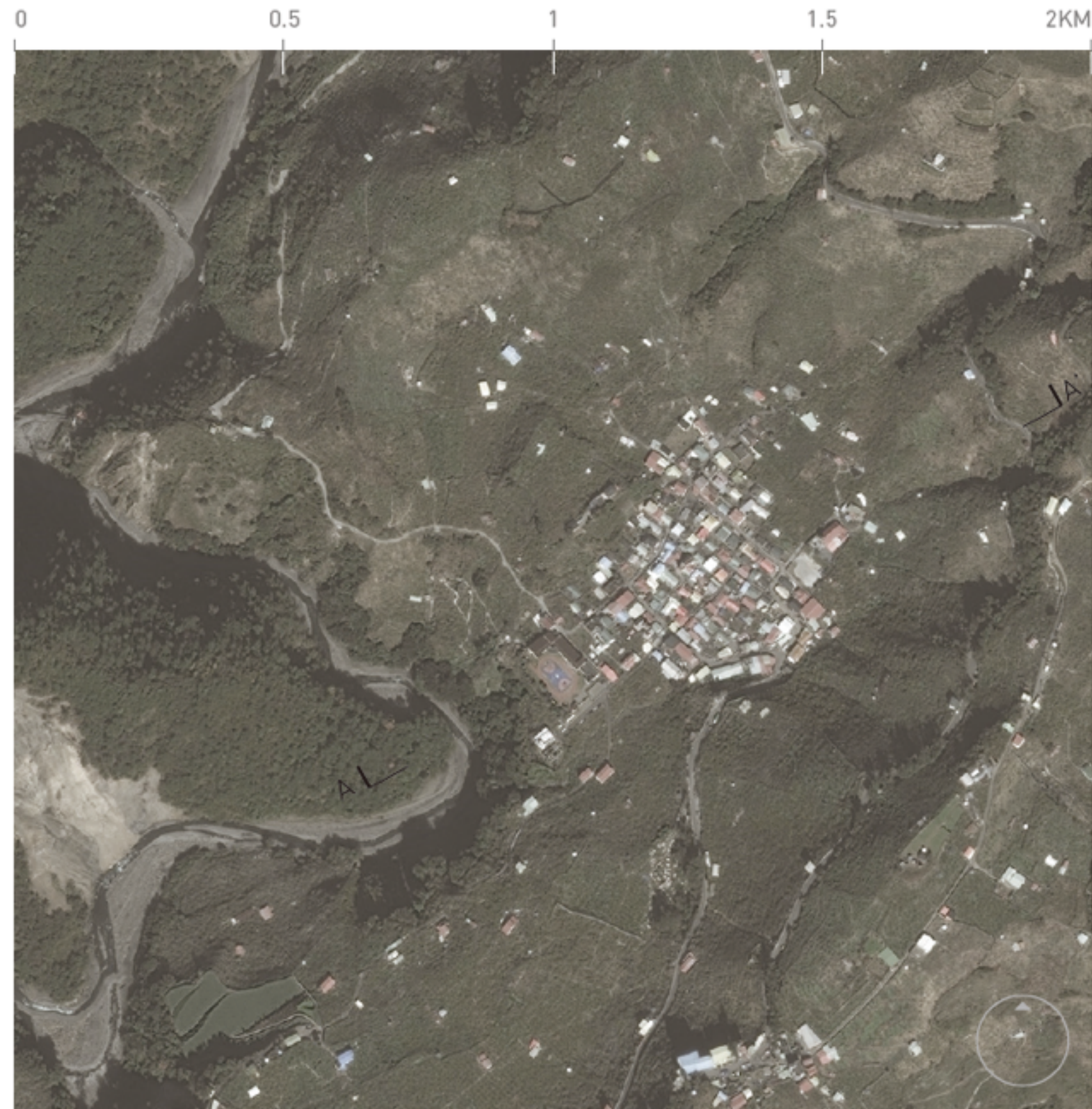
HUANSHAN VILLAGE

C: agriculture on slopes below community



D: converging points of branch streams

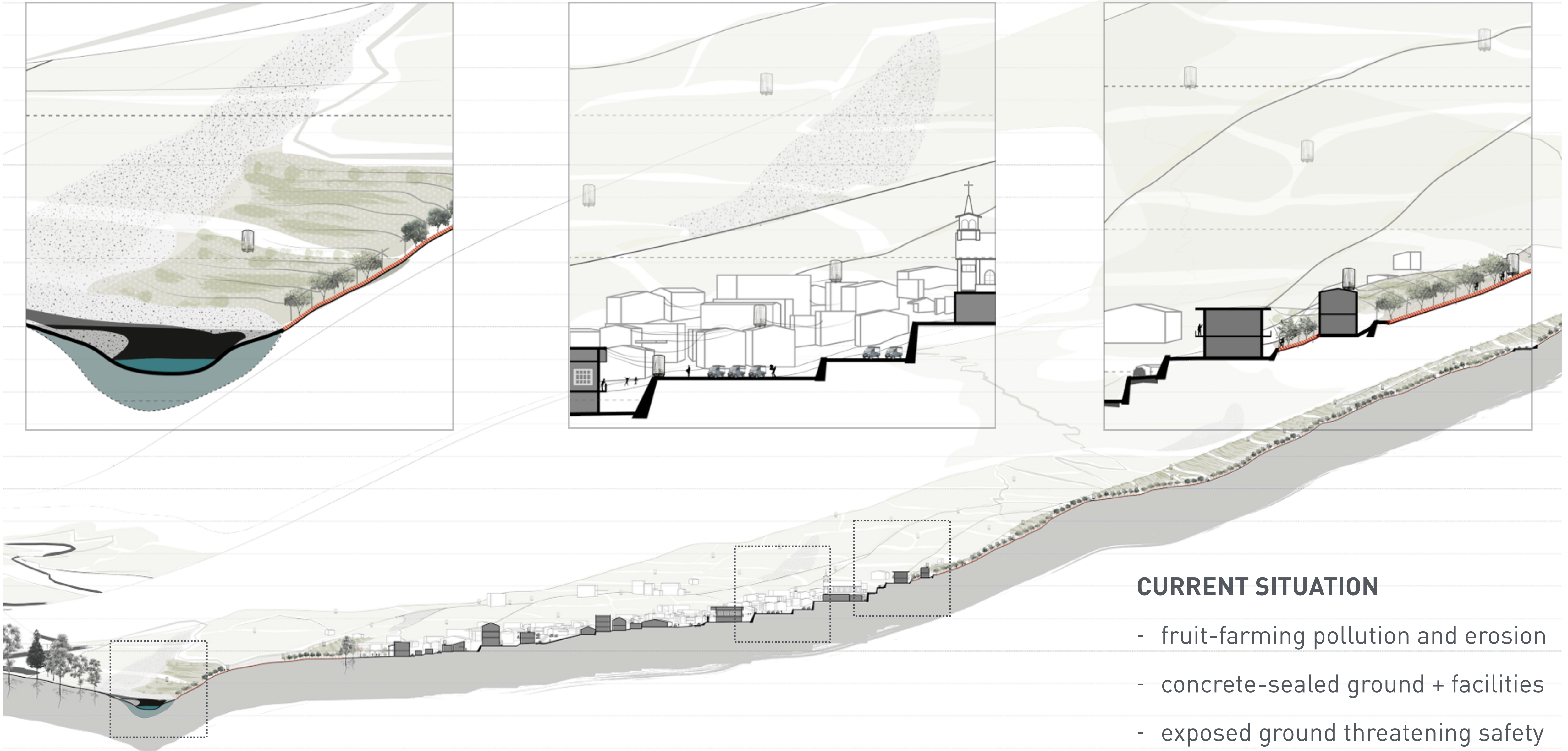




HUANSHAN VILLAGE

- population around 800
- past: hunting, mixed rice farming
present: extensive fruit-farming

- river (Dajia upstream)
- existing forest
- fruit farming
- built area
- motor roads
- buildings



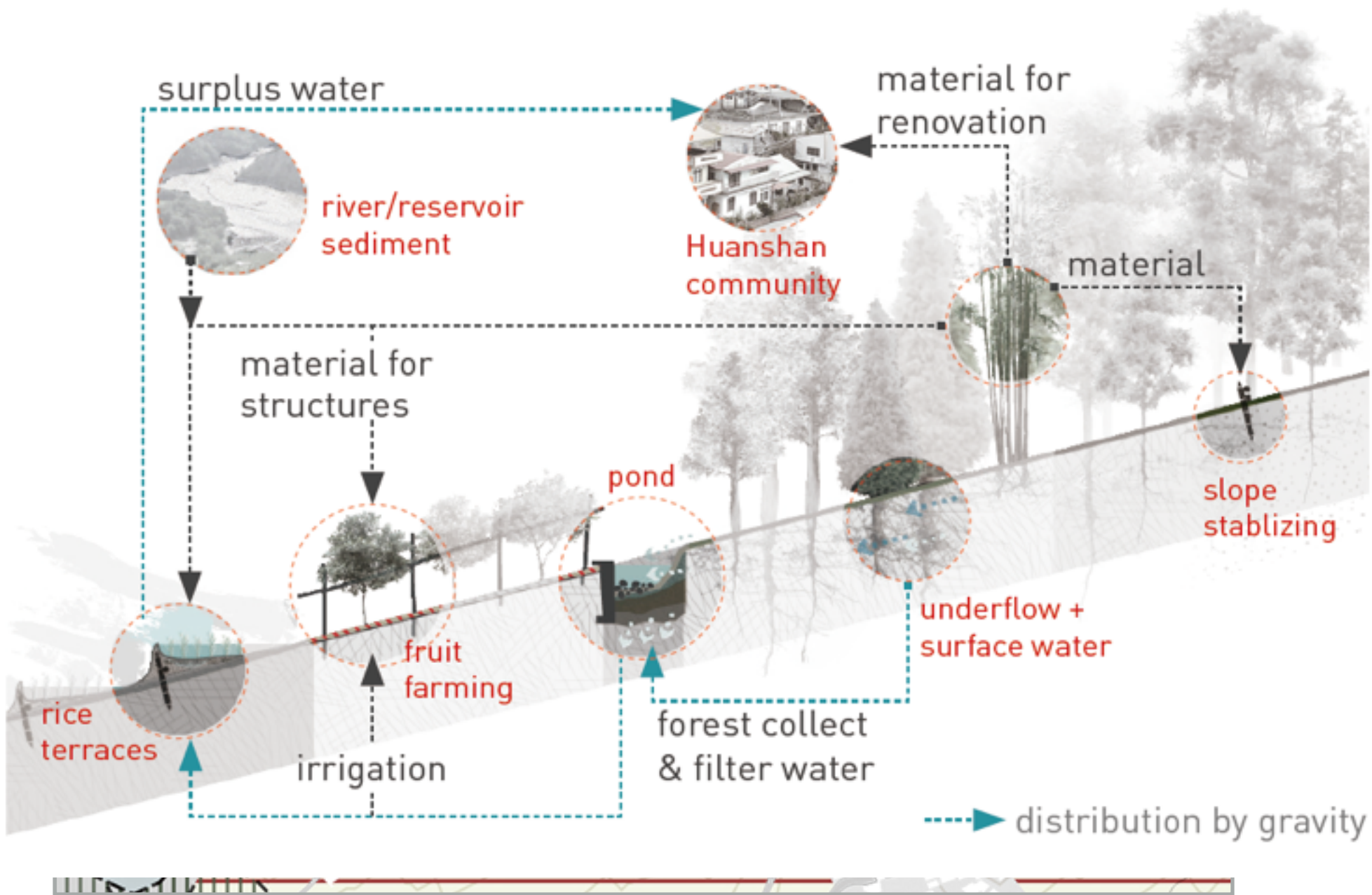
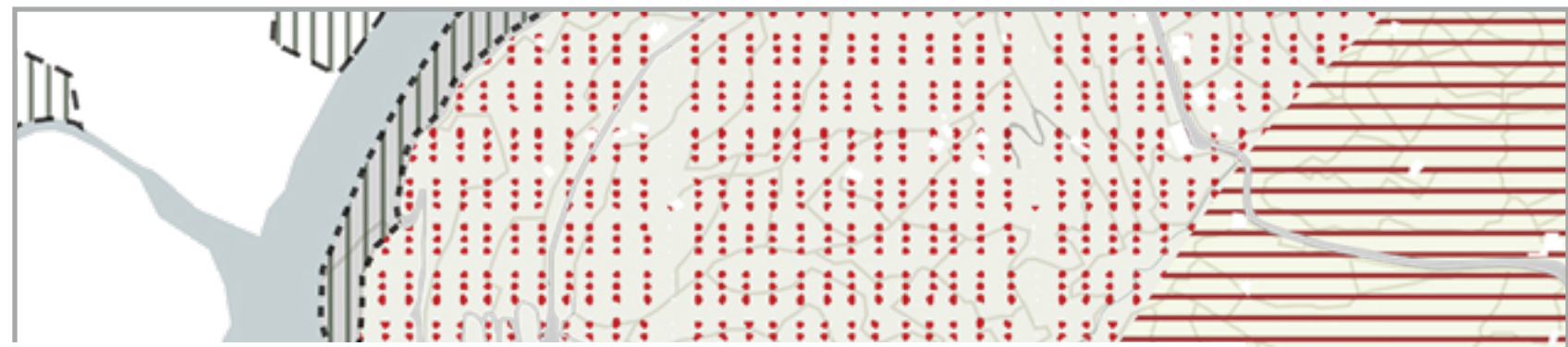
CURRENT SITUATION

- fruit-farming pollution and erosion
- concrete-sealed ground + facilities
- exposed ground threatening safety

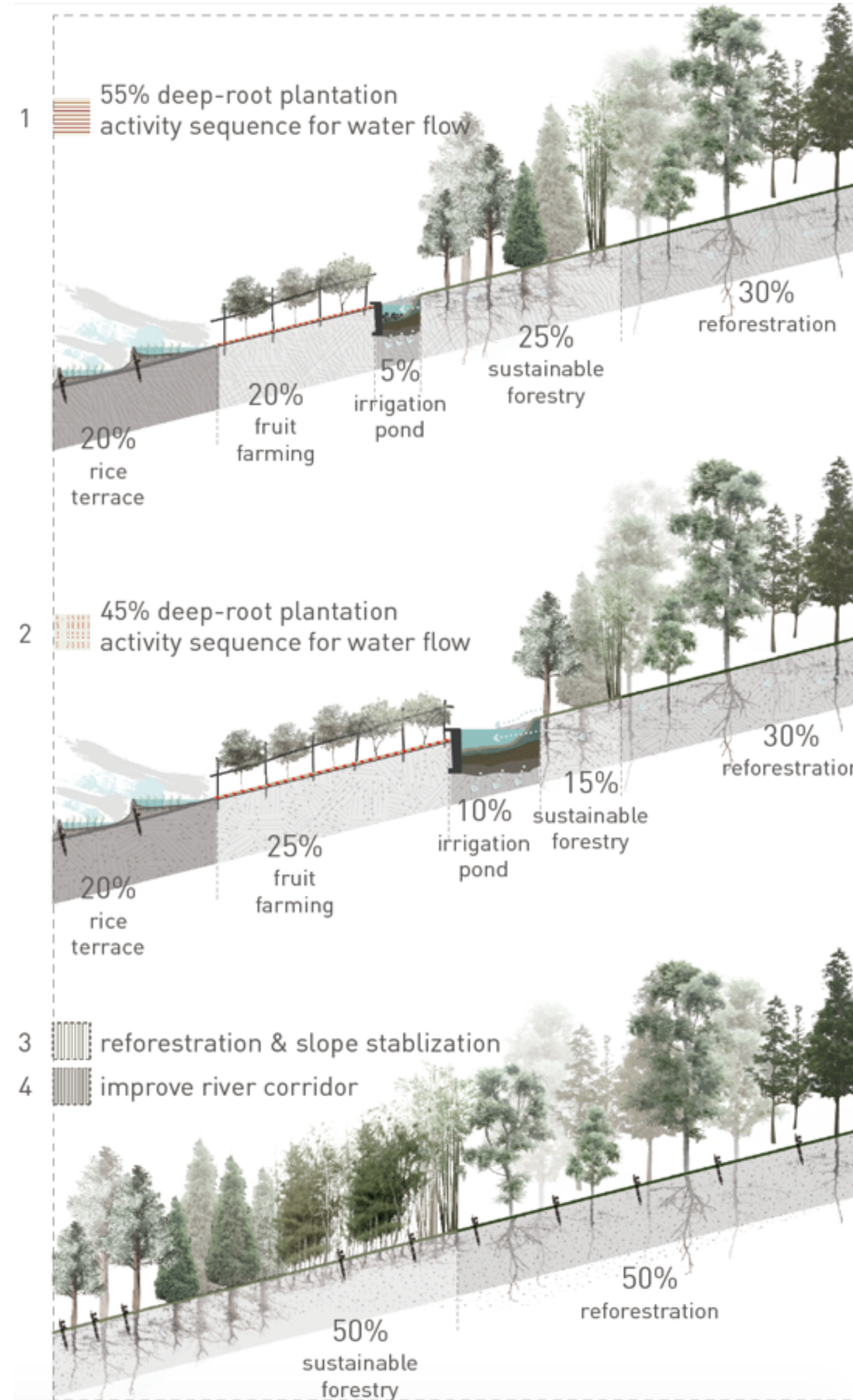
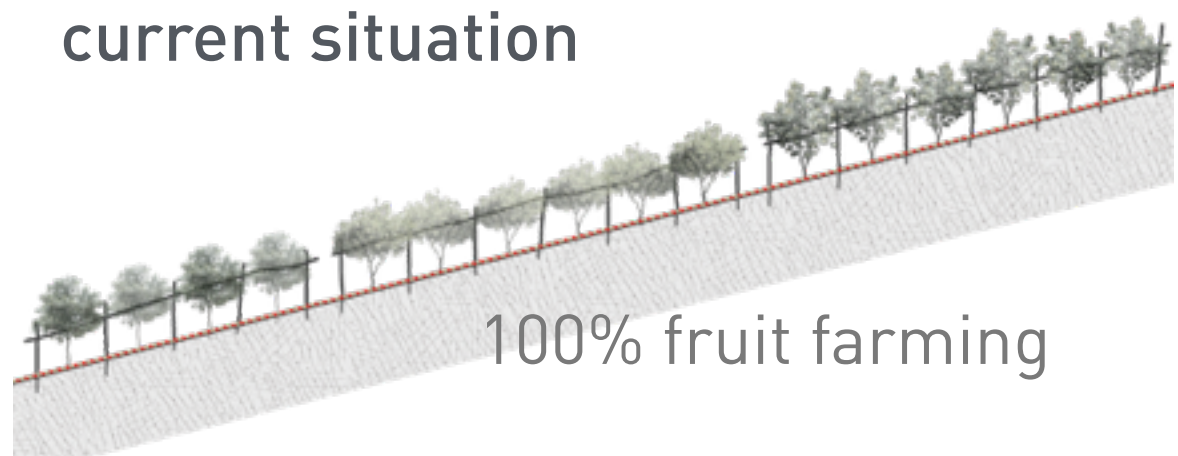


MAIN CONCEPTS

- 1. slope activity hybridization
- 2. self-sufficient water system

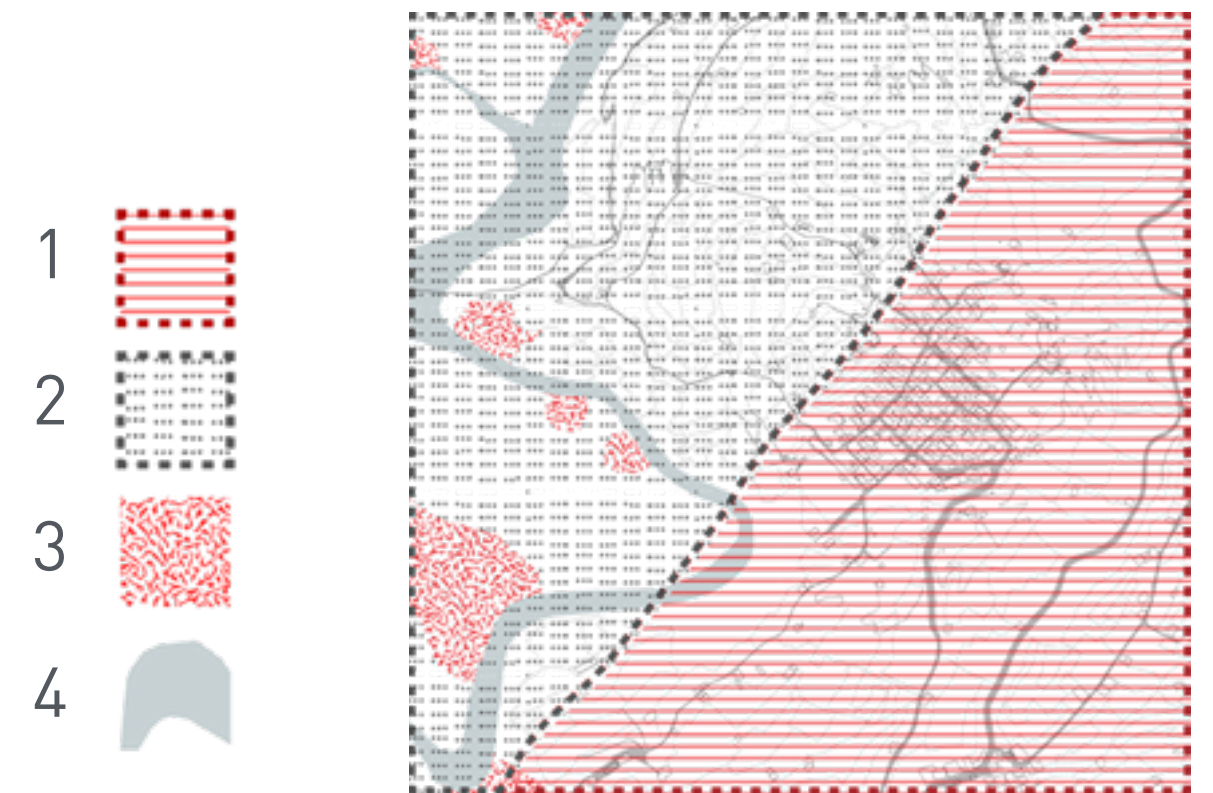


current situation



1. SLOPE ACTIVITY HYBRIDIZATION

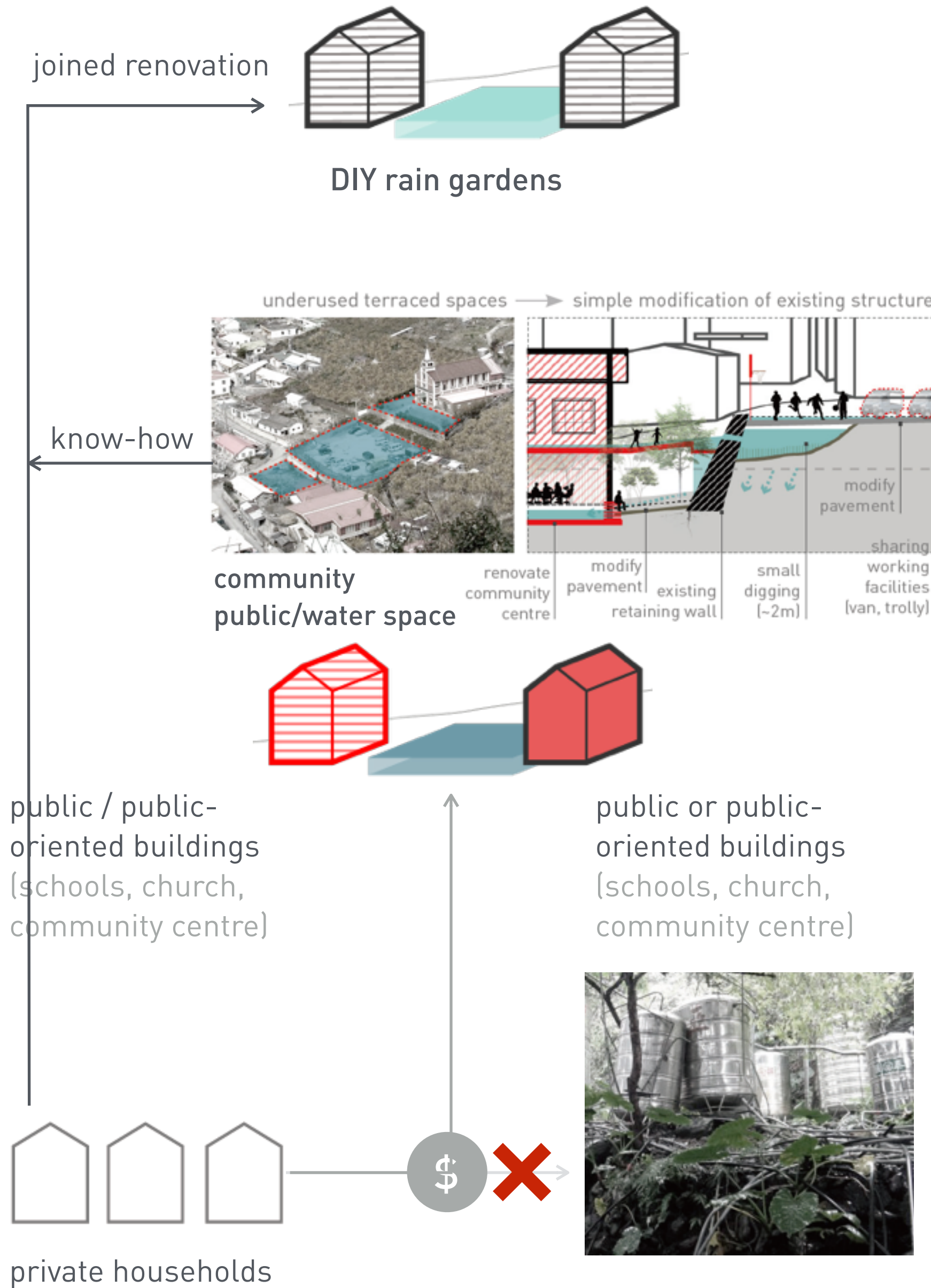
slope geomorphology



- 1. younger geology (Miocene) weaker land structure
- 2. older geology (Eocene) stabler land structure
- 3. avalanched area
- 4. river



2. SELF-SUFFICIENT WATER SYSTEM



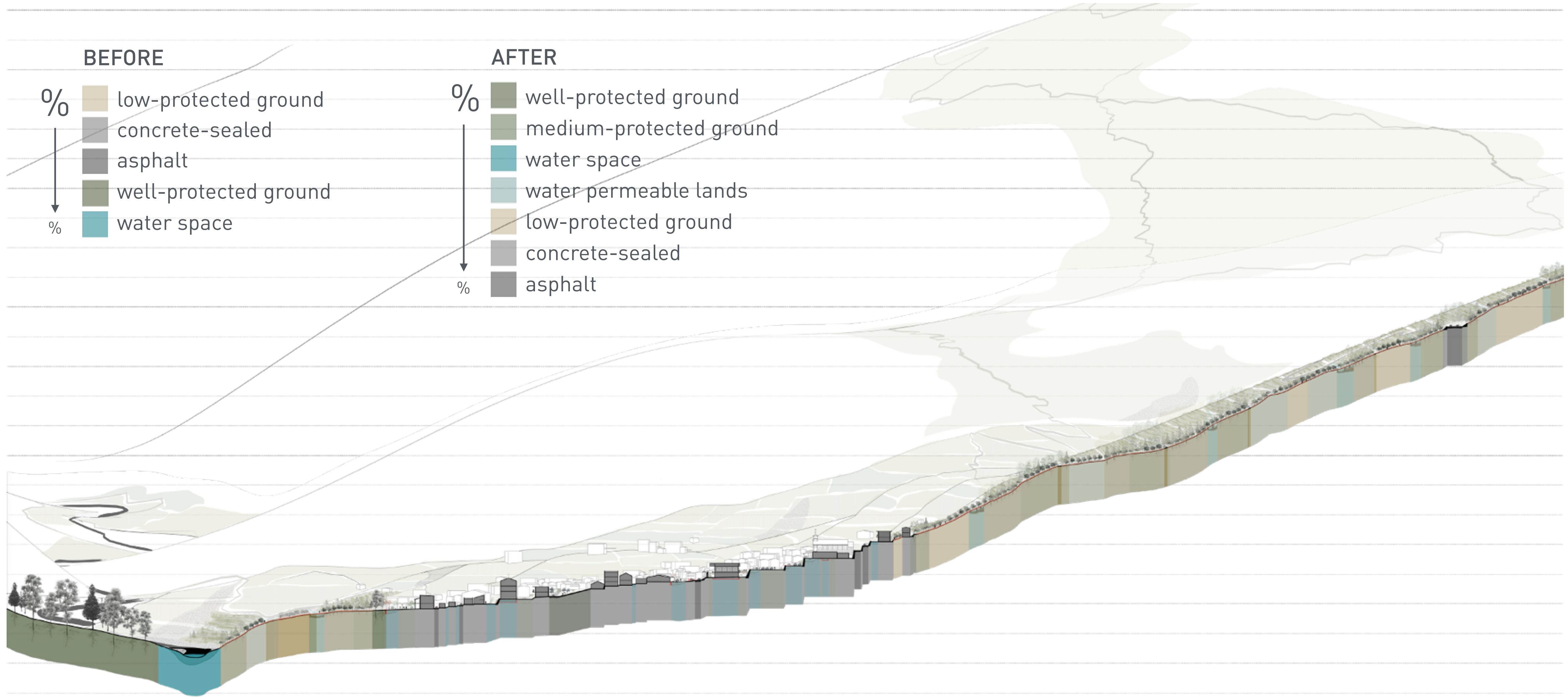
monthly water demand
 drinking water: ~ 8,000m³
 slope activity: ~ 13,110m³

1M depth / 50% for water









10,100m³
 9,250 m³

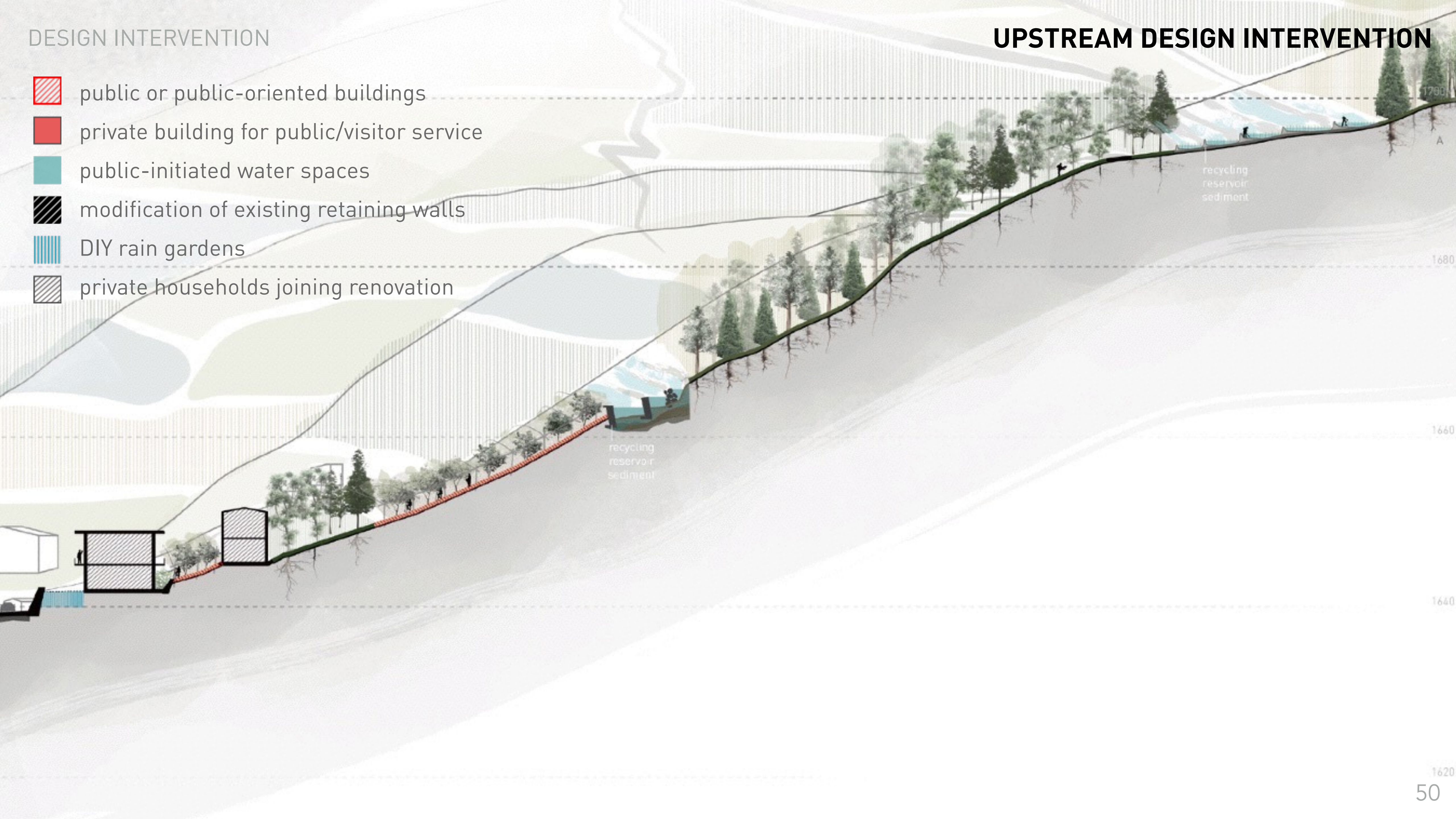
self-sufficient water supply



DESIGN INTERVENTION

UPSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION

-  public or public-oriented buildings
-  private building for public/visitor service
-  public-initiated water spaces
-  modification of existing retaining walls
-  DIY rain gardens
-  private households joining renovation



UPSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION

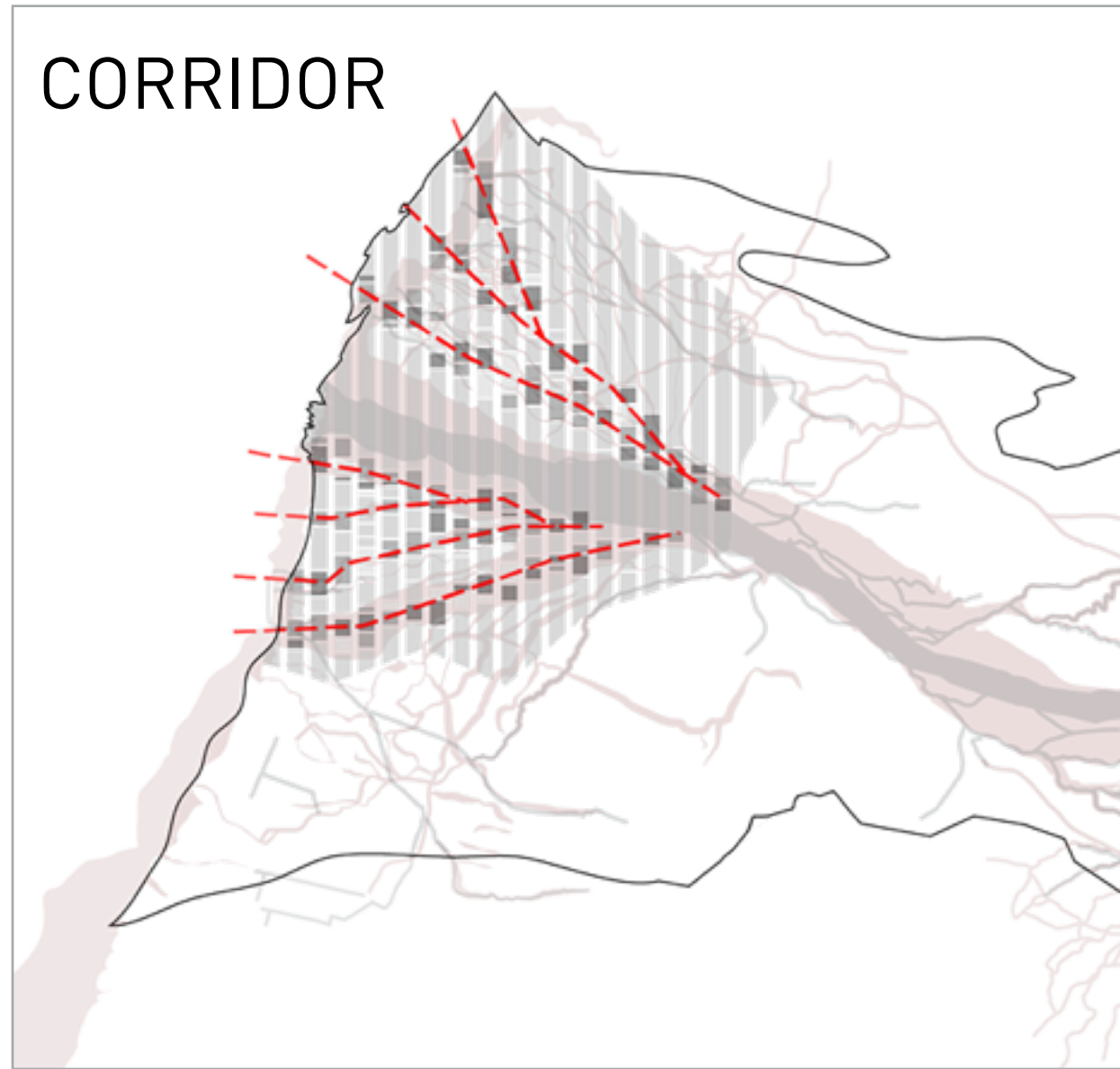
LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION



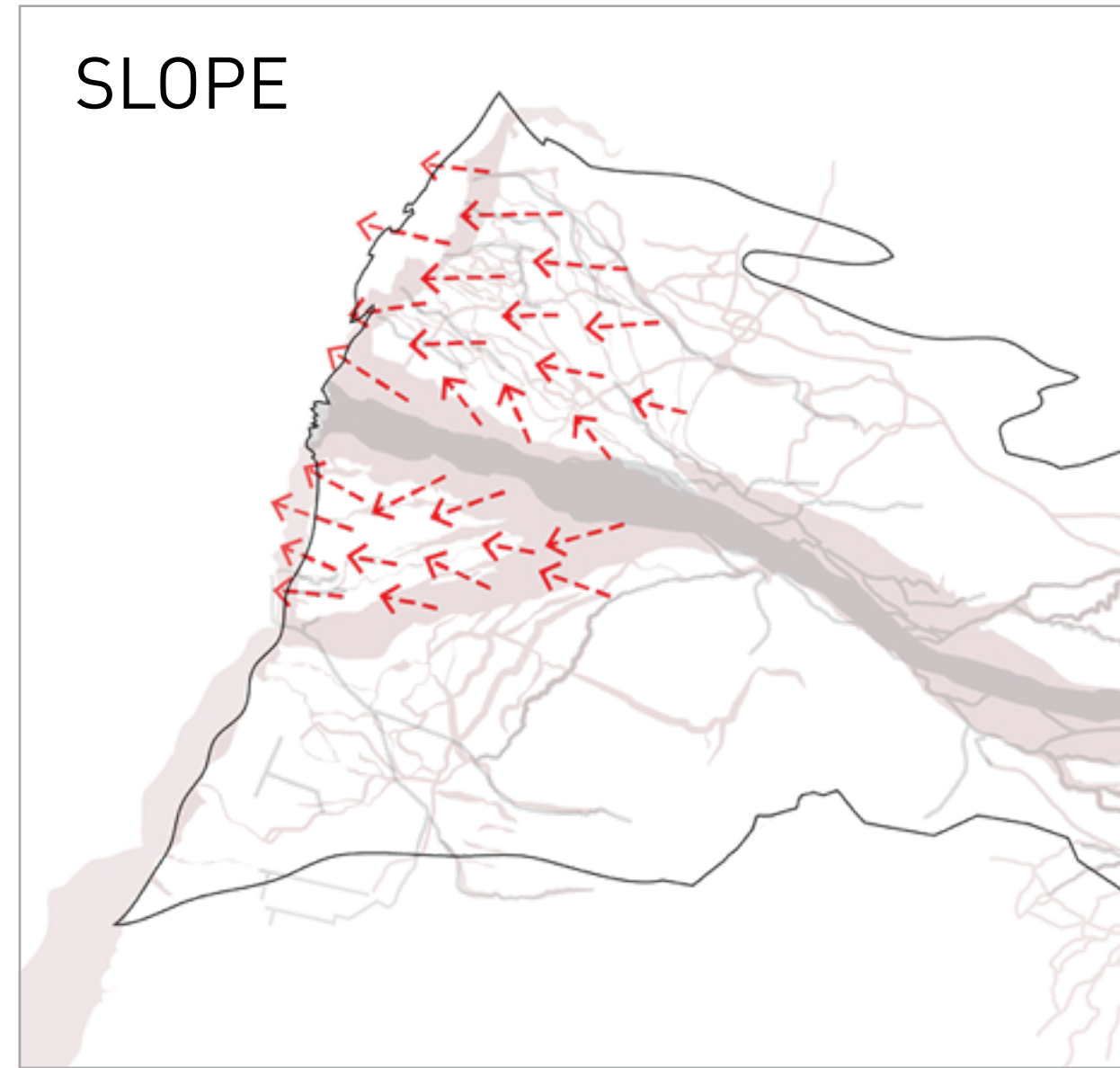
FINAL IMAGE

DESIGN INTERVENTION

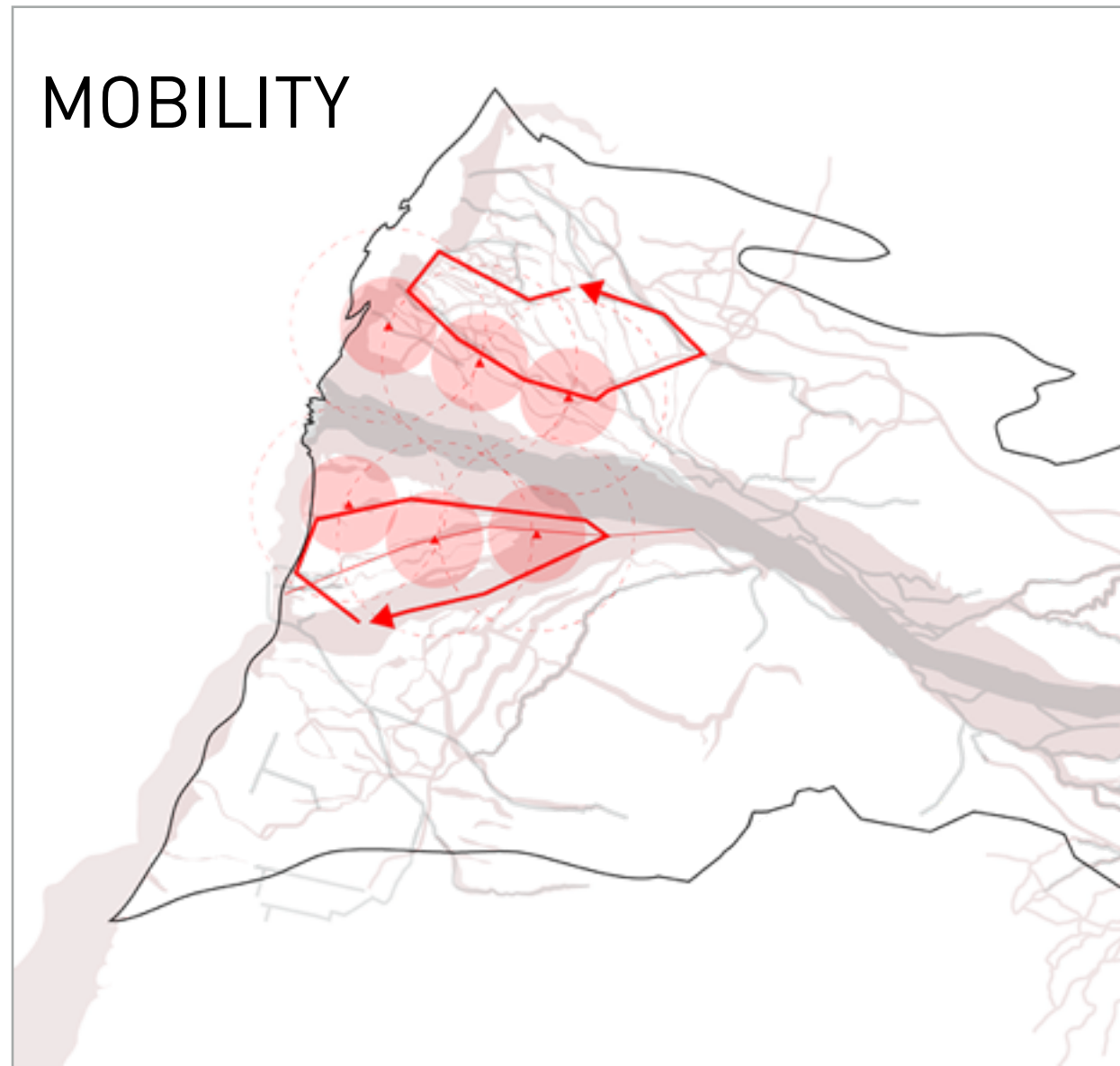
CORRIDOR



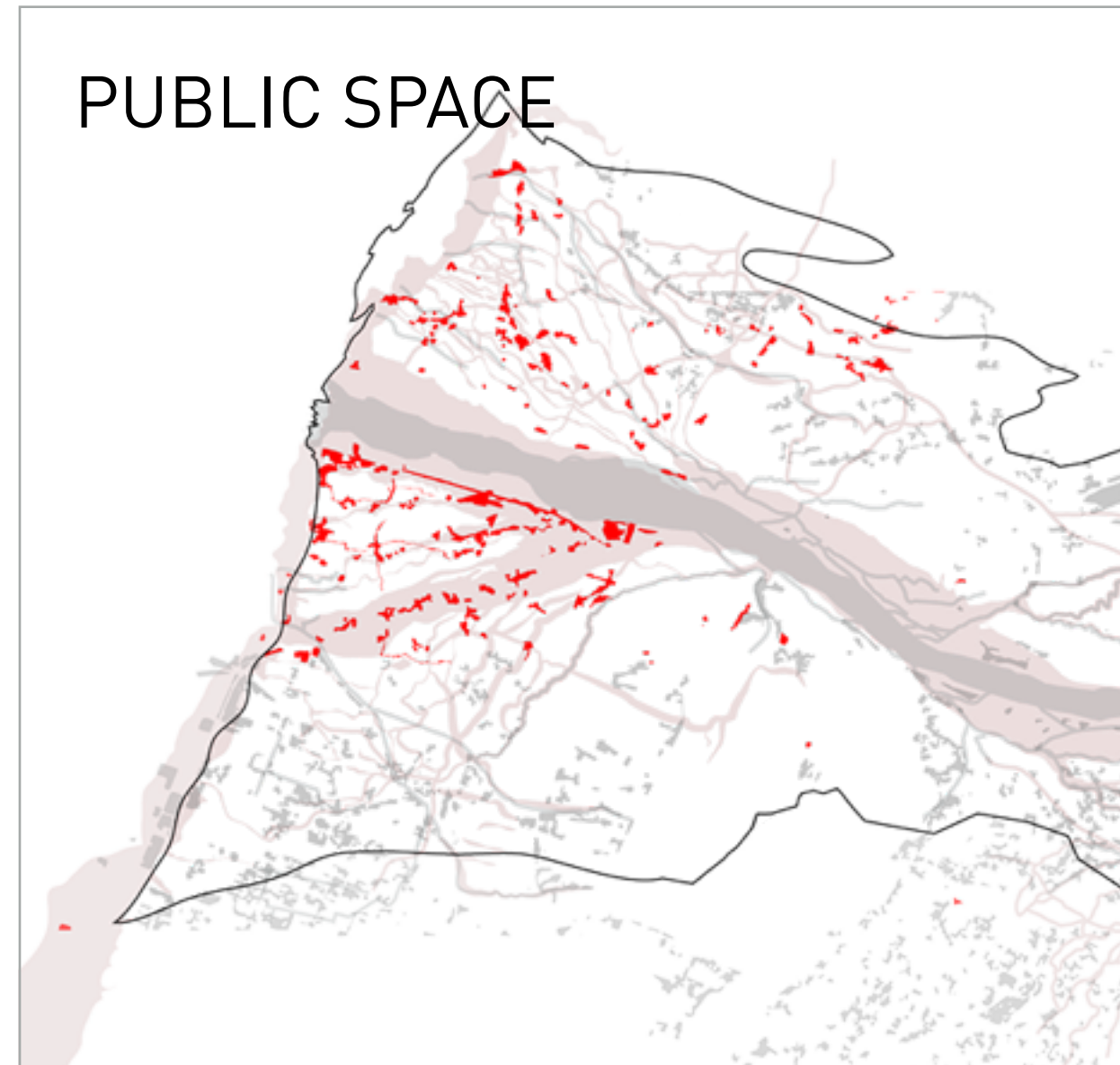
SLOPE



MOBILITY



PUBLIC SPACE

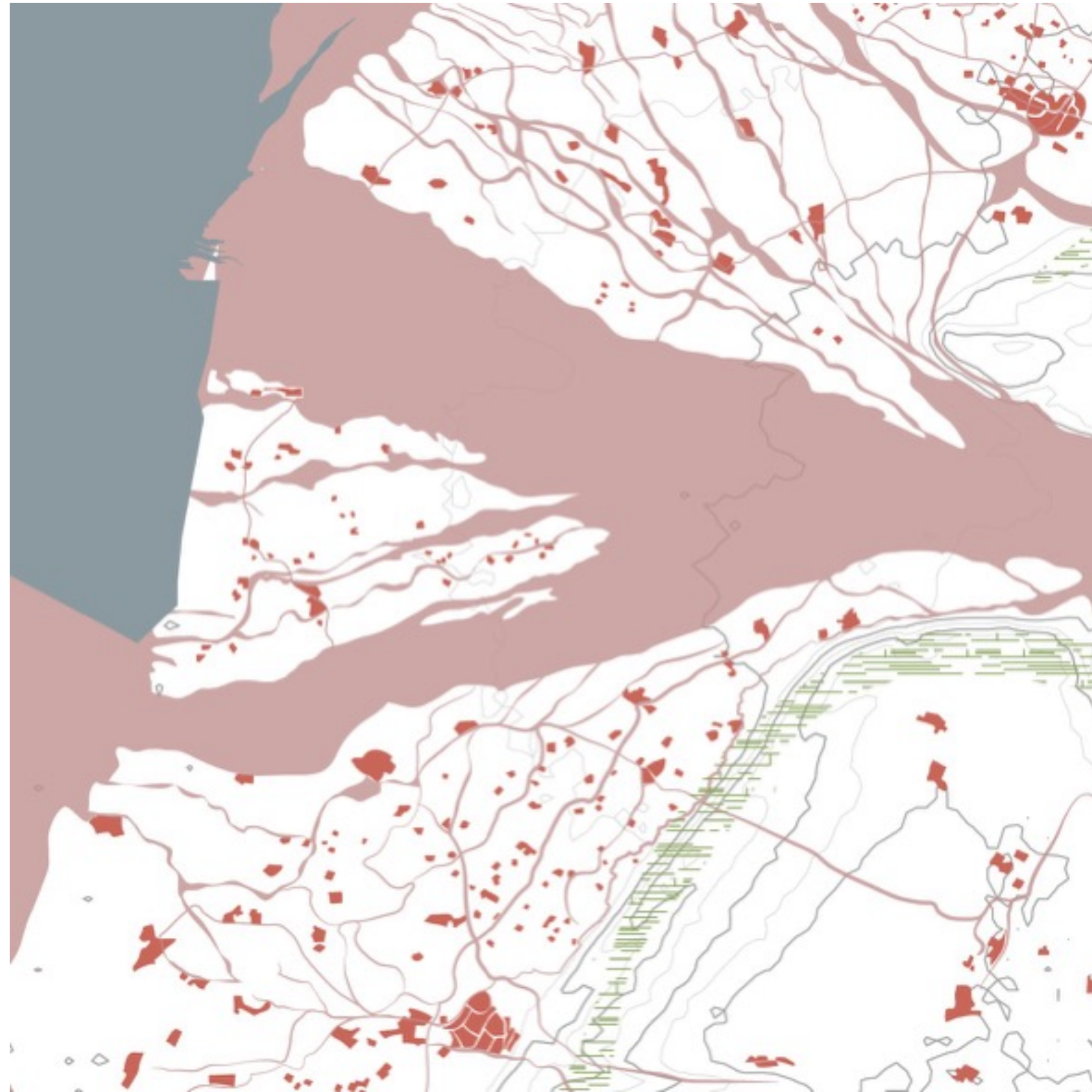





DOWNSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION



DESIGN INTERVENTION







1850s



-  contact of mountain and plain
-  historical river courses
-  historical urbanized area

TODAY



-  primary roads
-  railway
-  contact of mountain and plain
-  current river courses
-  flooding plain
-  urbanized area

Source: made by the author based on GIS data, google maps, & historical maps.

DOWNSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION

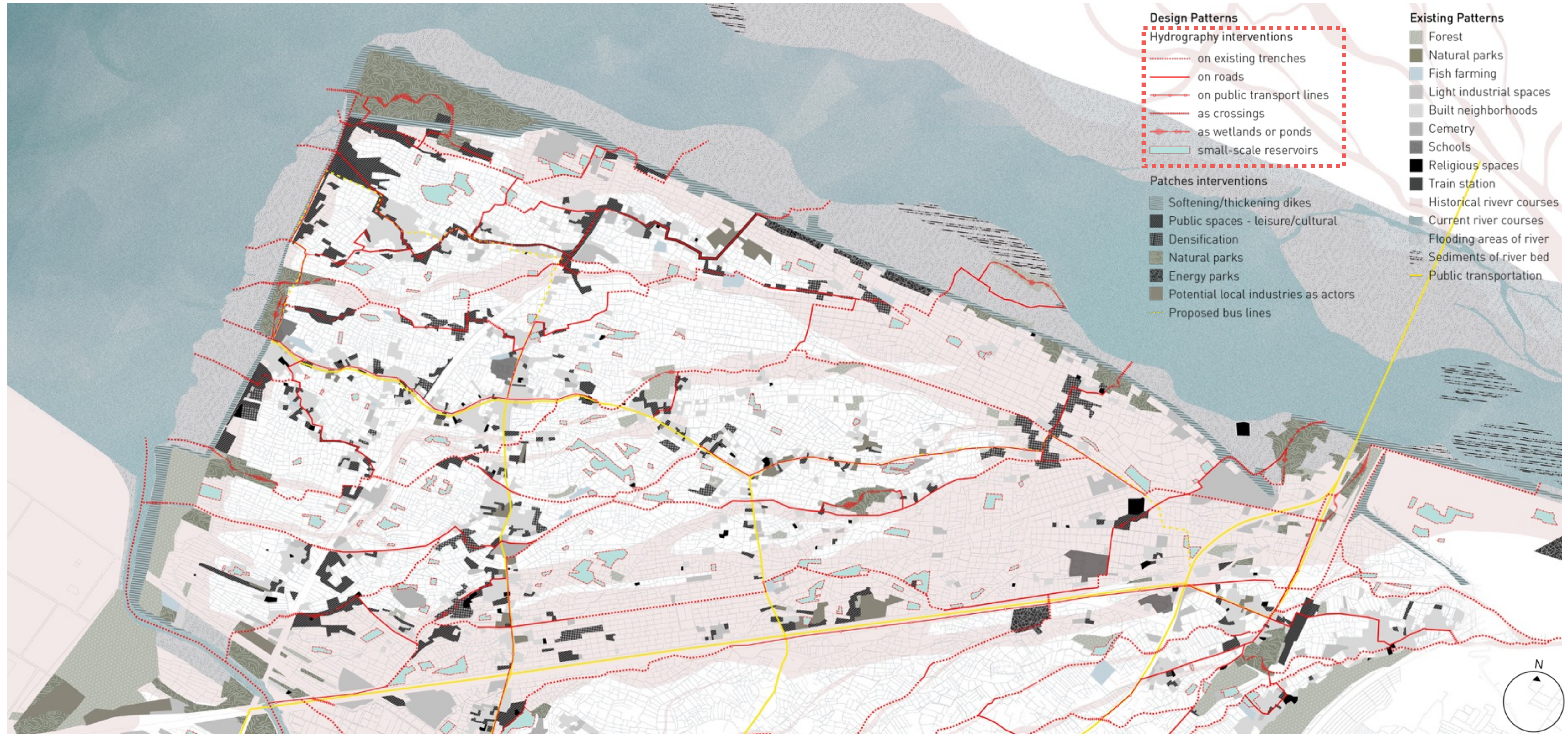
- River constrained
- Marginalized and deteriorated living spaces
- Main economic activity often forced to follow



Source: google earth



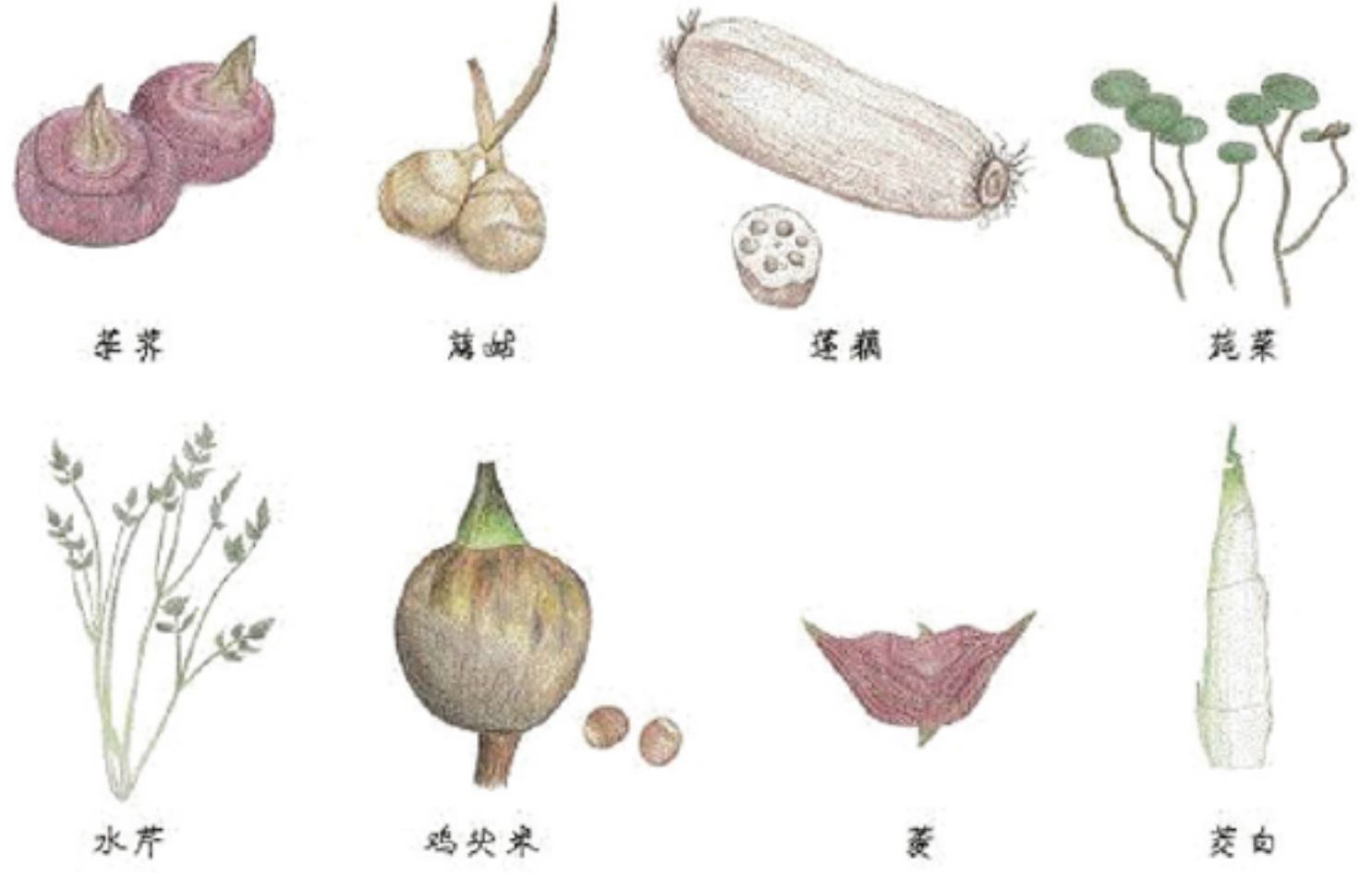
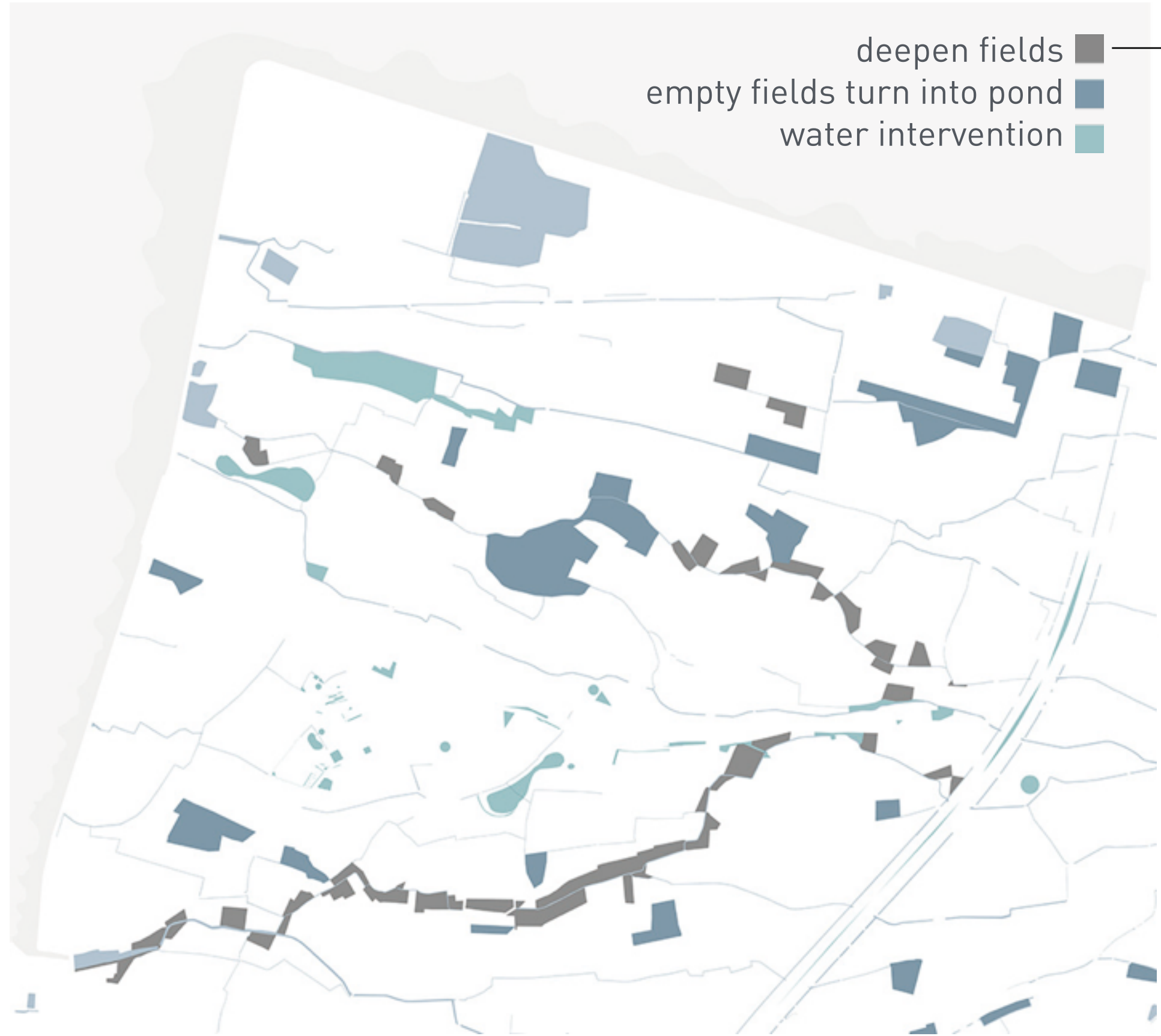
Source: google earth



- Recover* the historical river courses

**[Recover]: something once lost, devalued, forgotten, or misplaced has been found again, retrieved, and brought forward with renewed vitality. — James Corner, 1999*

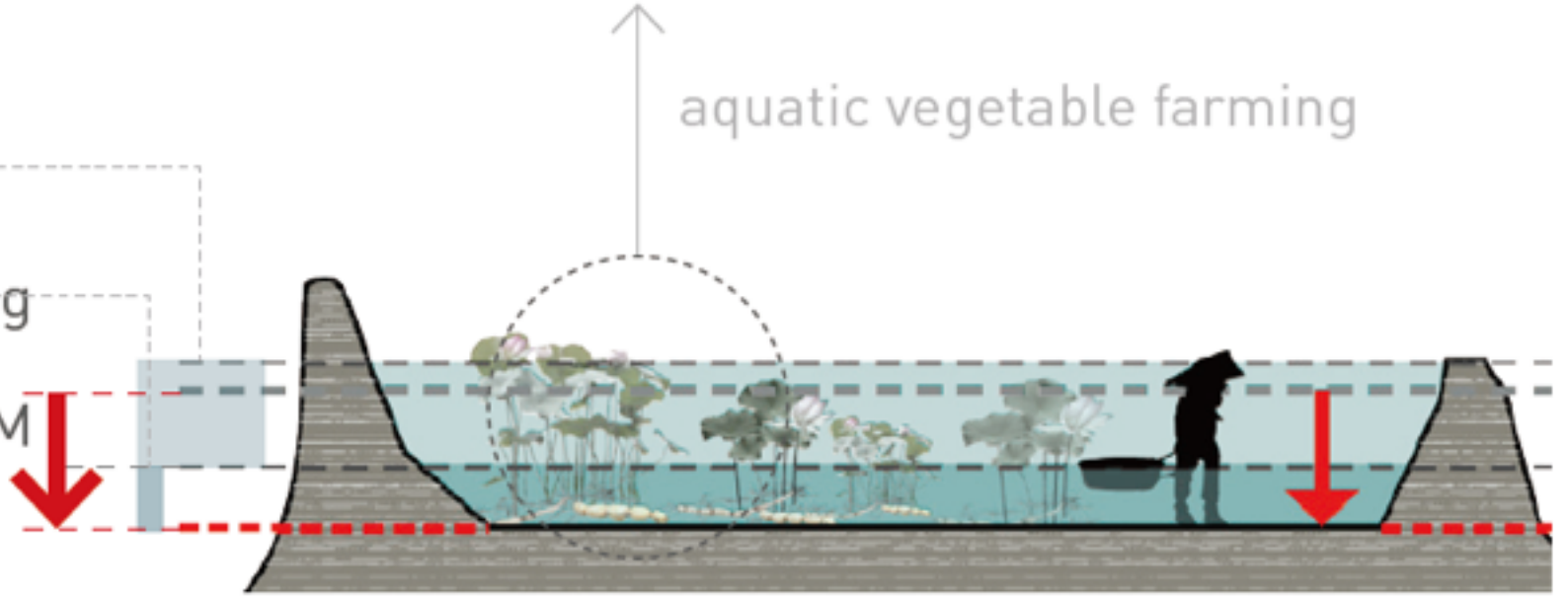
DESIGN INTERVENTION



~1 meter floodable

Aquatic vegetable farming

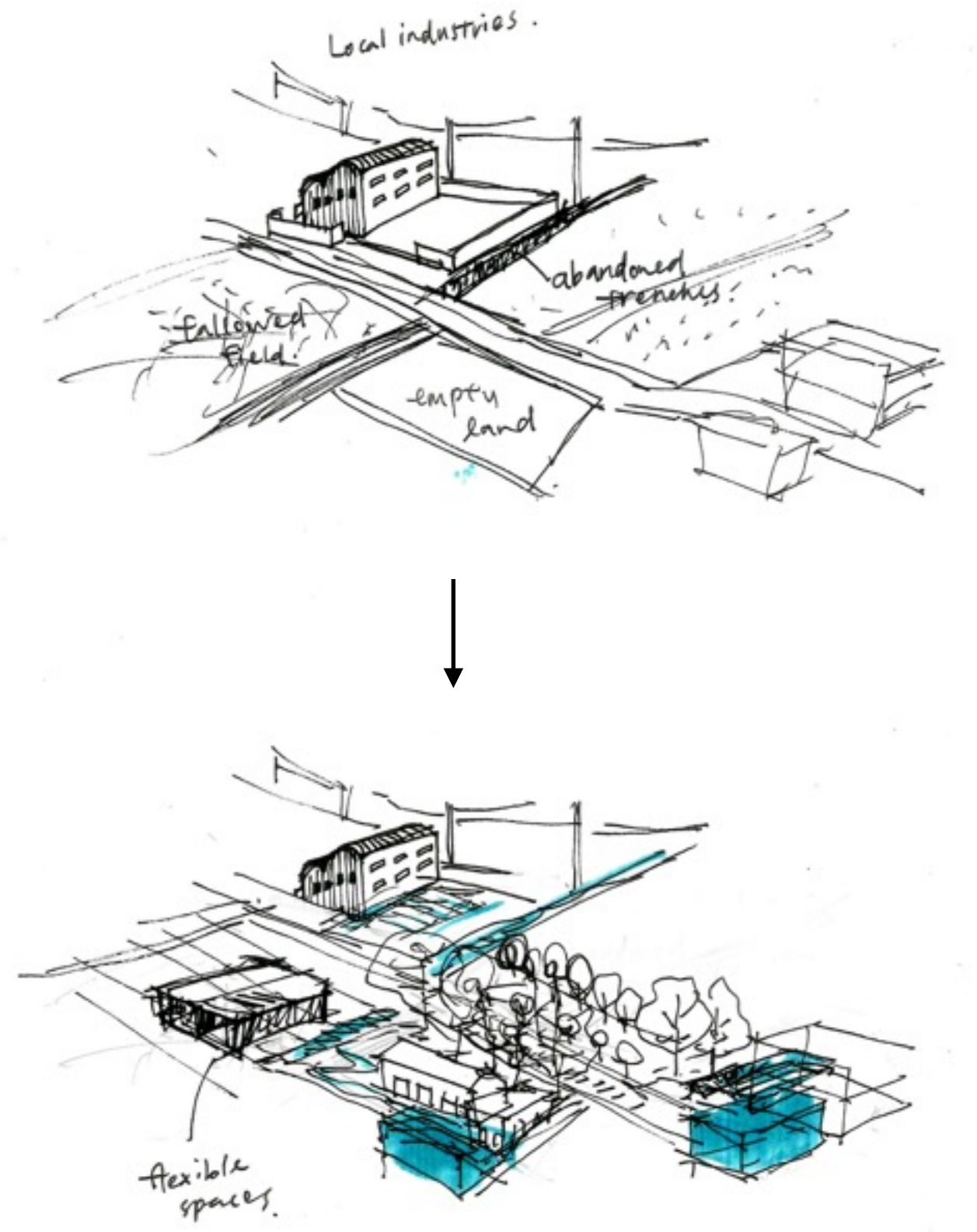
deepen the fields for 1.2M



DOWNSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION

MAIN CONCEPTS

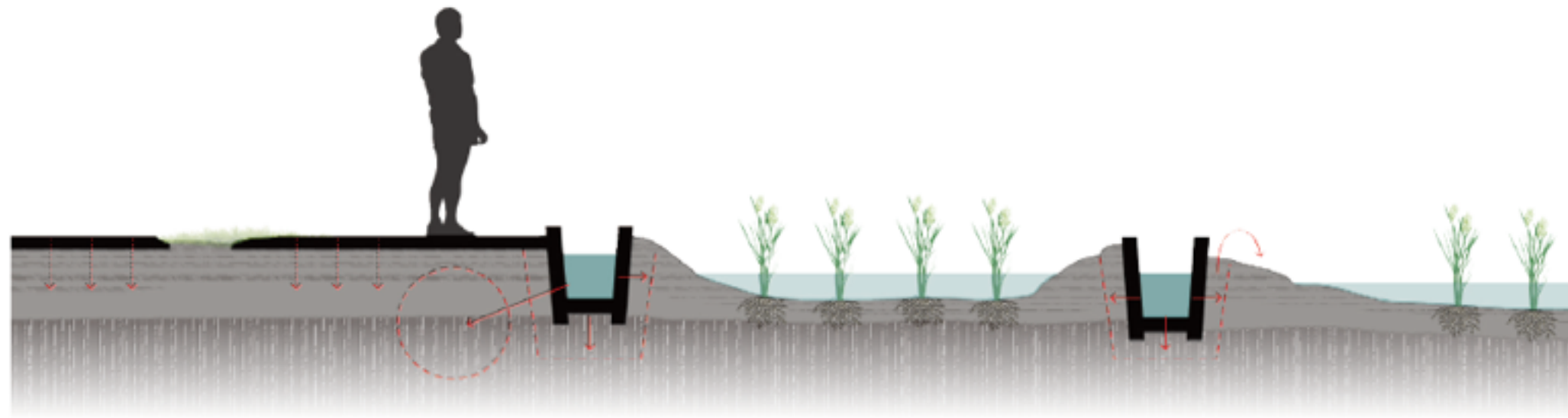
1. recover historical river courses as the activating vein
2. collaboration of local patches



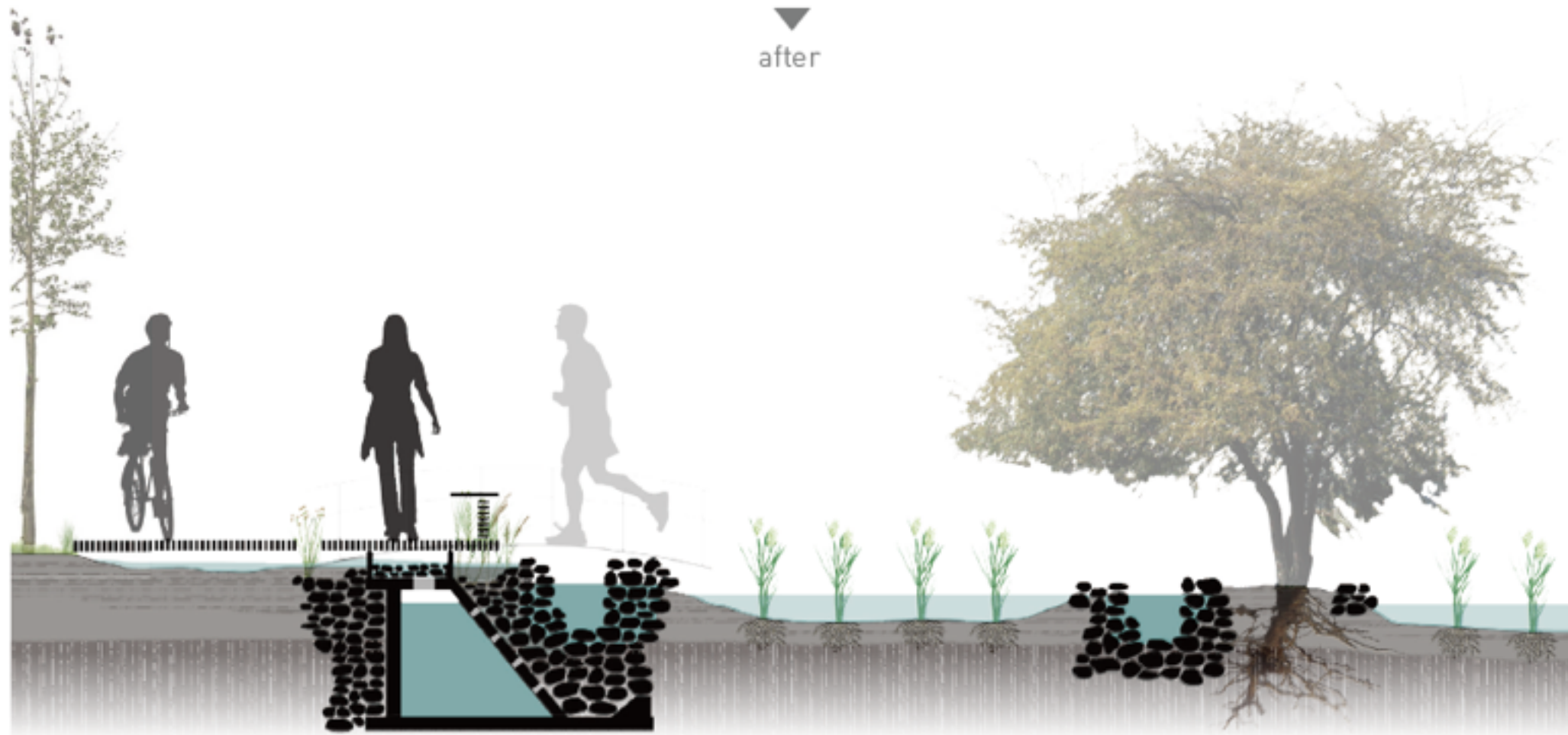
DESIGN INTERVENTION

Hydrography interventions

- on existing trenches
- on roads
- on public transport lines
- as crossings
- as wetlands or ponds
- small-scale reservoirs



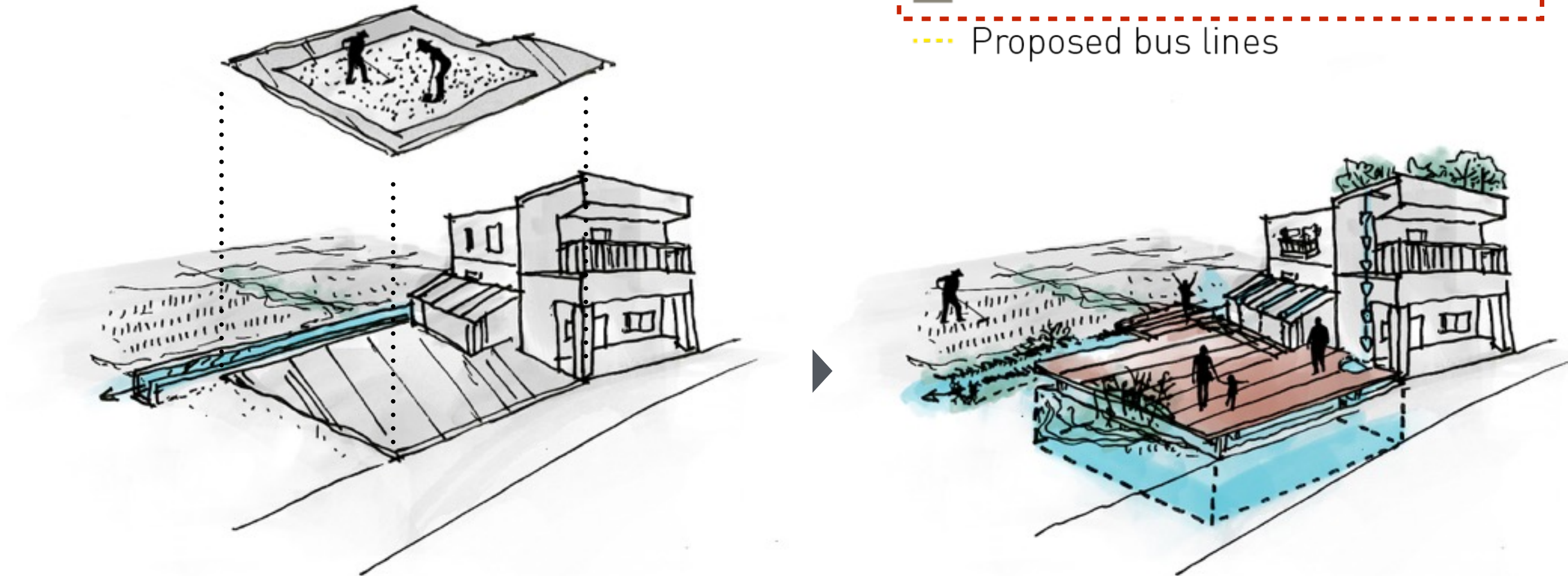
before
▼
after



DOWNSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION

Patches interventions

- Softening/thickening dikes
- Public spaces - leisure/cultural
- Densification
- Natural parks
- Energy parks
- Potential local industries as actors
- Proposed bus lines



Grain sunning places + residential buildings

Hydrography intervention

- on roads —
- irrigation/drainage (red dashed)
- small reservoirs ■

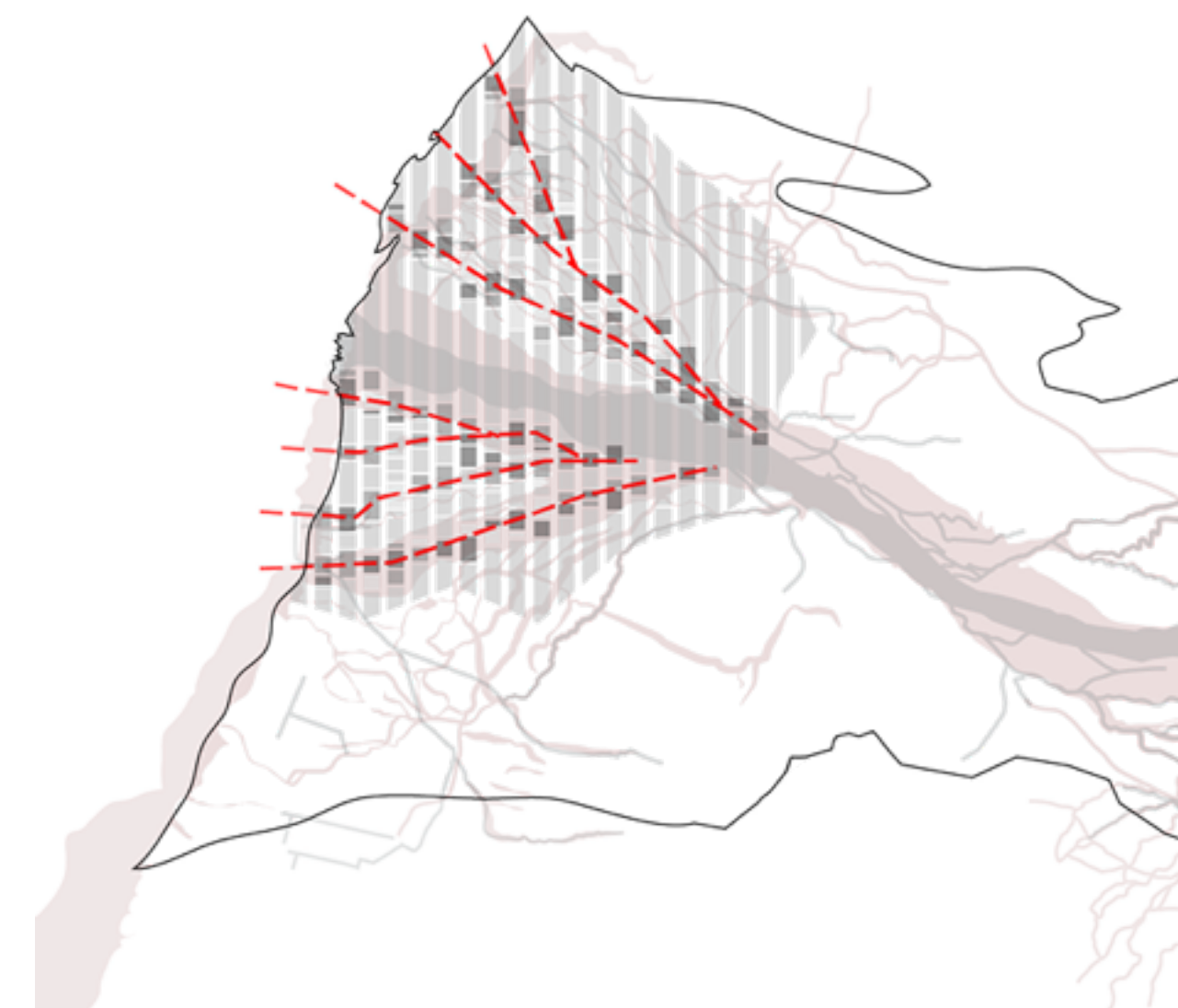
Operative structure






- corridor
- public space



DESIGN INTERVENTION

DOWNSTREAM DESIGN INTERVENTION



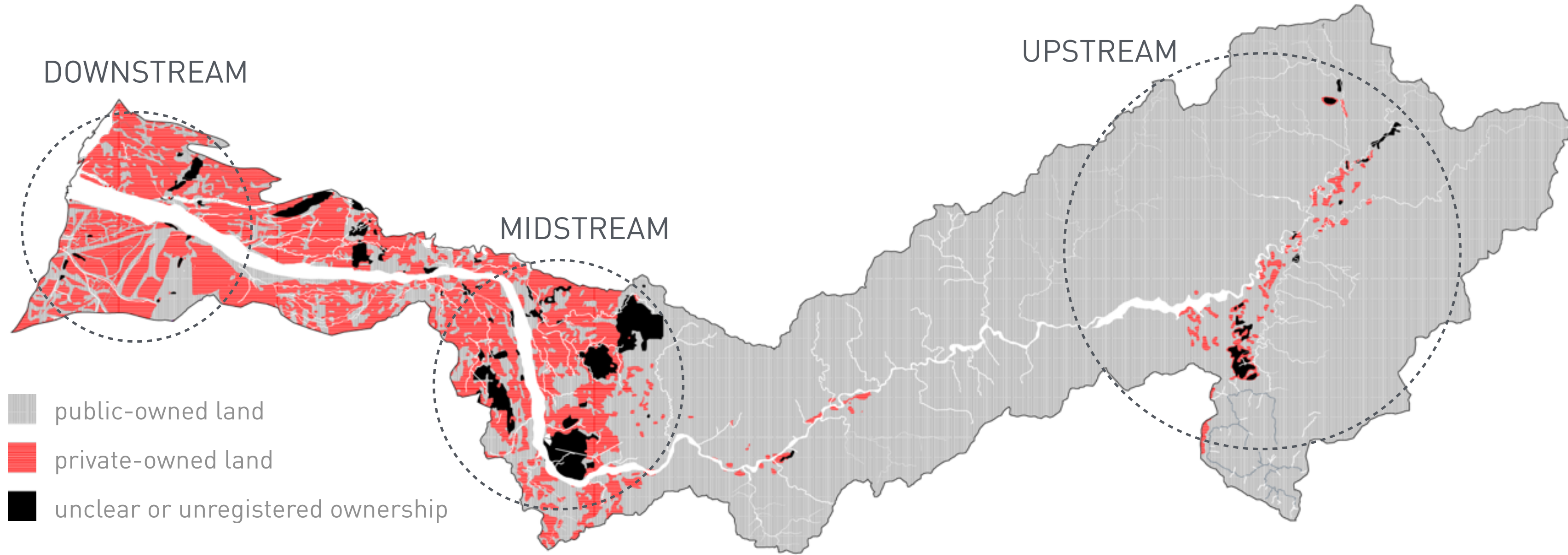
-  Incentivized new buildings
-  Potential regeneration of private properties
-  Religious buildings
-  Small industrial factories
-  Proposed bus route



IMPLEMENTATION

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

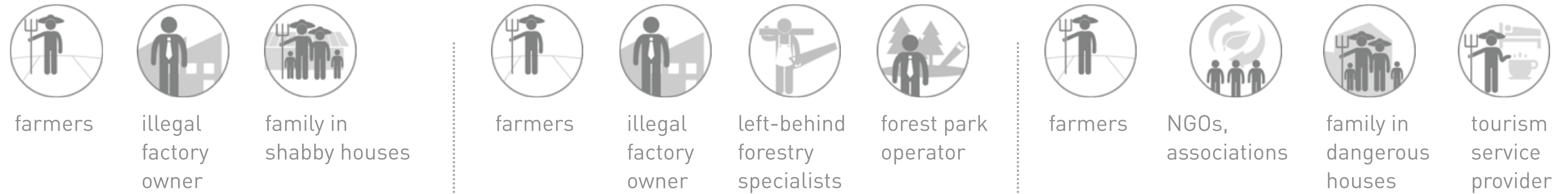
LAND OWNERSHIP



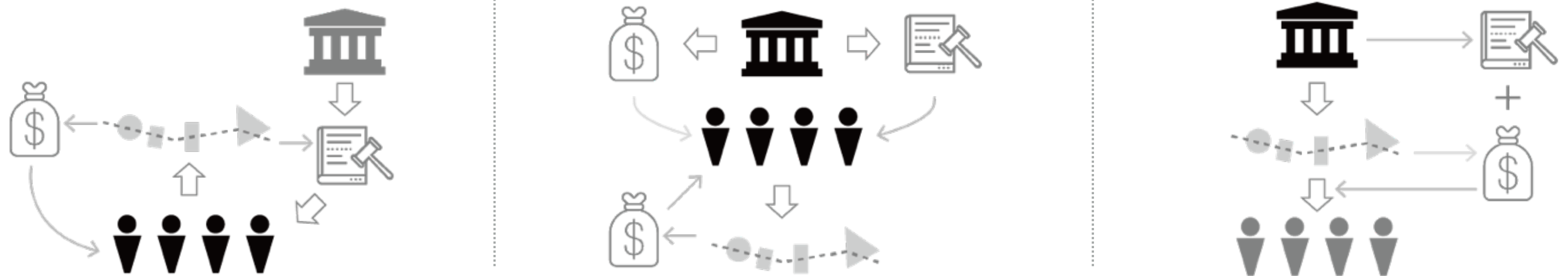
- public-owned land
- private-owned land
- unclear or unregistered ownership

Source: map made by the author based on data from National Land Surveying and Mapping Center, MOI.

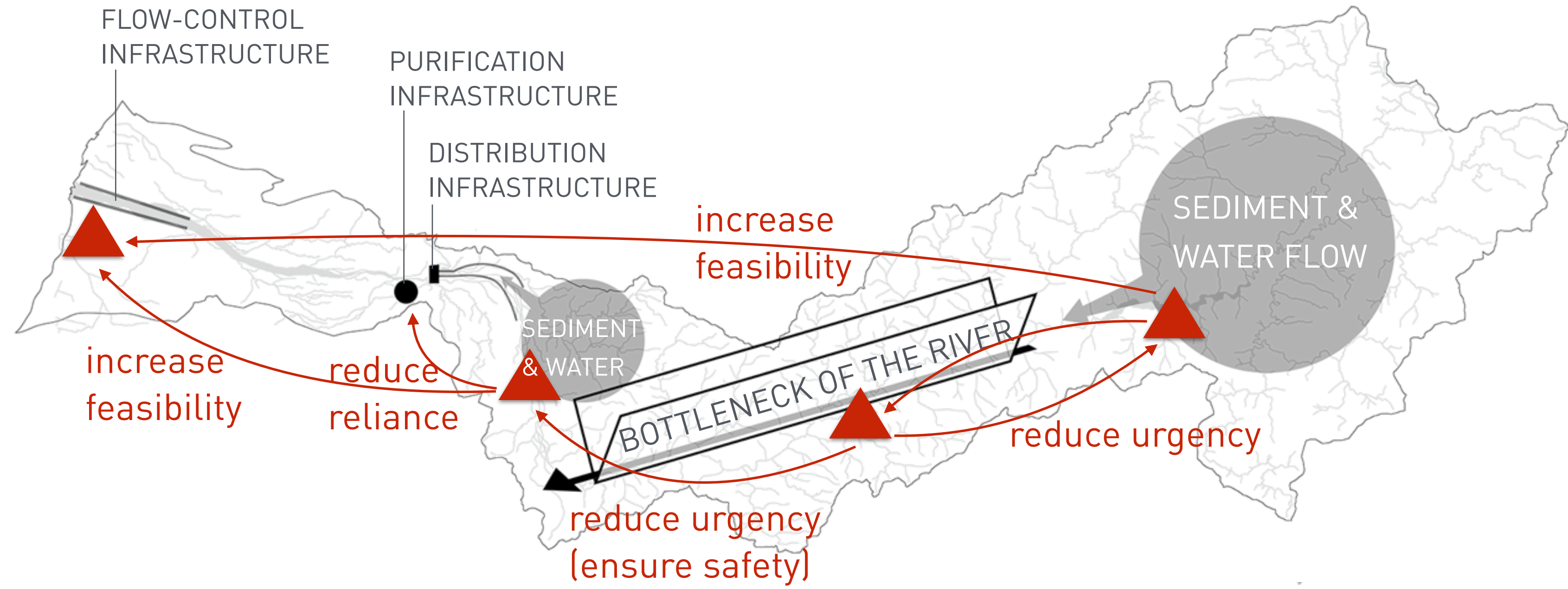
POTENTIAL ACTORS



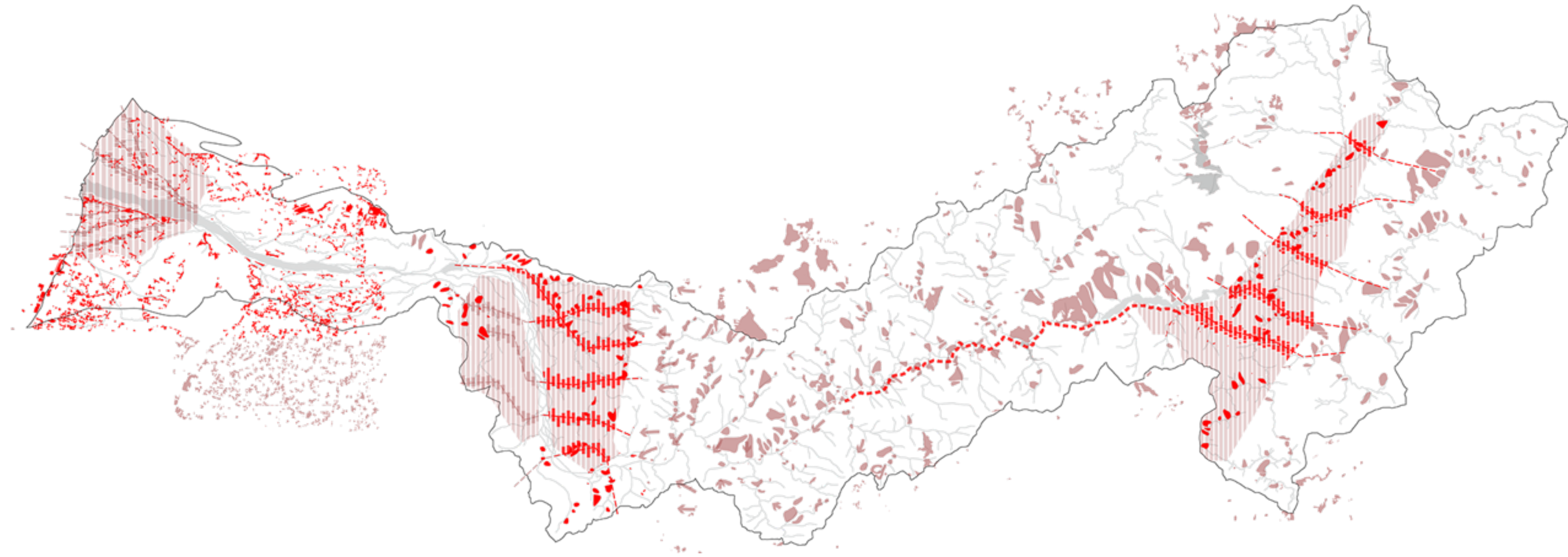
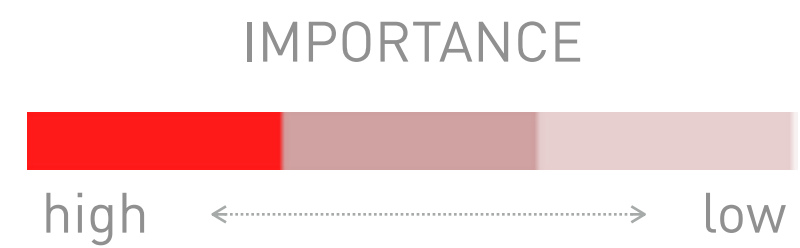
PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM



GEOMORPHOLOGY AND INFLUENCES BETWEEN INTERVENTIONS



LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE



MAIN RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

How to rethink the river landscape as opportunities instead of obstacles, so as to achieve a more sustainable integration between artifact and nature?

Further on, how to build a stronger identity for the living environment through the process of redesigning a mountainous river landscape as water-sensitive infrastructure?

RIVER + MOUNTAIN = OPPORTUNITY

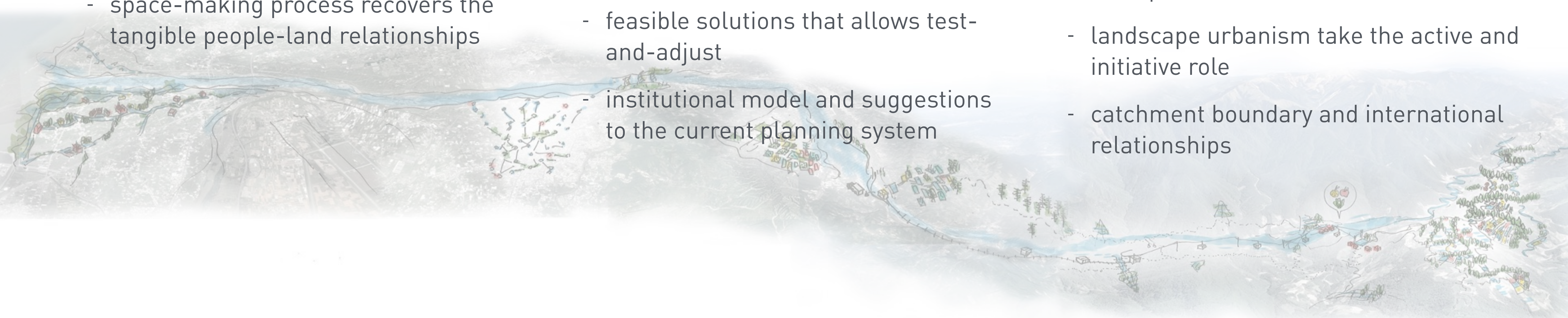
- connection-establishing process = the incremental transformation of landscape as infrastructure
- space-making process recovers the tangible people-land relationships

CONTRIBUTION

- identify the urgency and necessity
- possibility of connection establishing and spatial influences
- feasible solutions that allows test-and-adjust
- institutional model and suggestions to the current planning system

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- related disciplines: hydrology, technology, ecology, and innovation of enterprises
- landscape urbanism take the active and initiative role
- catchment boundary and international relationships



THANK YOU

