

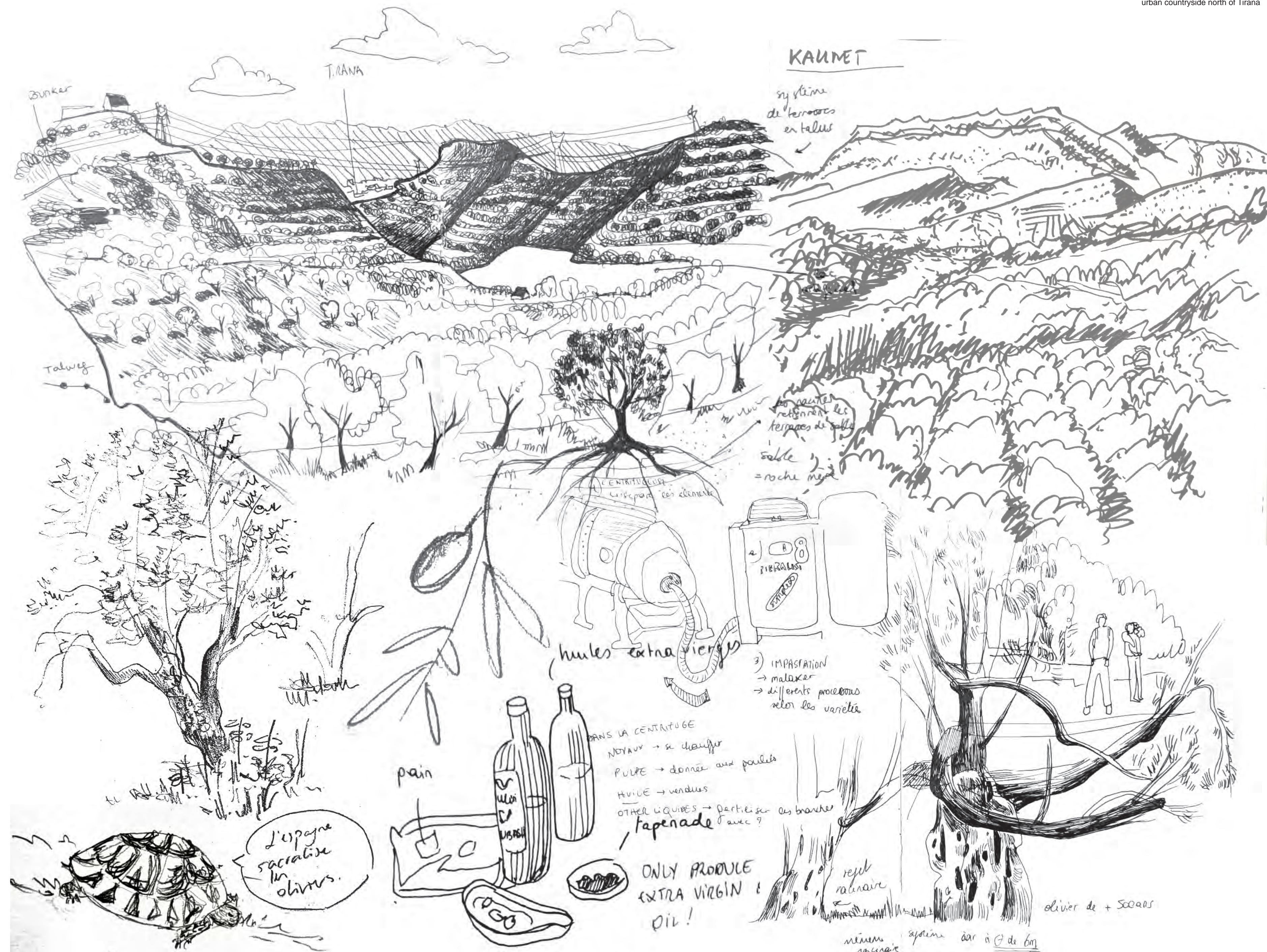
Through the Olive trees...

encadrants : Eden DANAND (ENSP/AVITEM)
 Radia LOURKISTI (Paoli Tech) Jean-Baptiste LESTRA (ENSP)
 Caroline TAFANI (Paoli Tech) Etienne BALLAN (ENSP)



urban countryside north of Tirana

The inter-university workshop focused on promoting agriculture in Tirana and its surrounding areas, particularly olive cultivation. Based on a survey of two major transects through the city, mixed groups of landscape architecture and agronomy students developed forward-looking visions for the future of urban agriculture in Tirana.



landscape survey of the Olive system

The six proposals that follow outline alternatives to the rampant urbanization that the city is experiencing, showing how agriculture can organize the urban, respond to climate challenges, create new landscapes while supporting viable local production, with a view to Albania's entry into the EU.

- 1. The Olive Core**
Reinforcing the agrosystem in Subashi hills : replanting olive groves, paths network, public facilities,...
- 2. Gourmet city**
New urban patterns centered around agriculture in the plain
- 3. Albanian cultural landscape observatory**
Reveal and label the Balkan village way of life
- 4. Empower the rivers**
Improving the territory by widening and rewilding the riparian zones
- 5. Water's campus park**
The university of agriculture shows the way by transforming its campus into an experimental park
- 6. Towards a park system**
Connect the city centre to a network of open spaces to the south

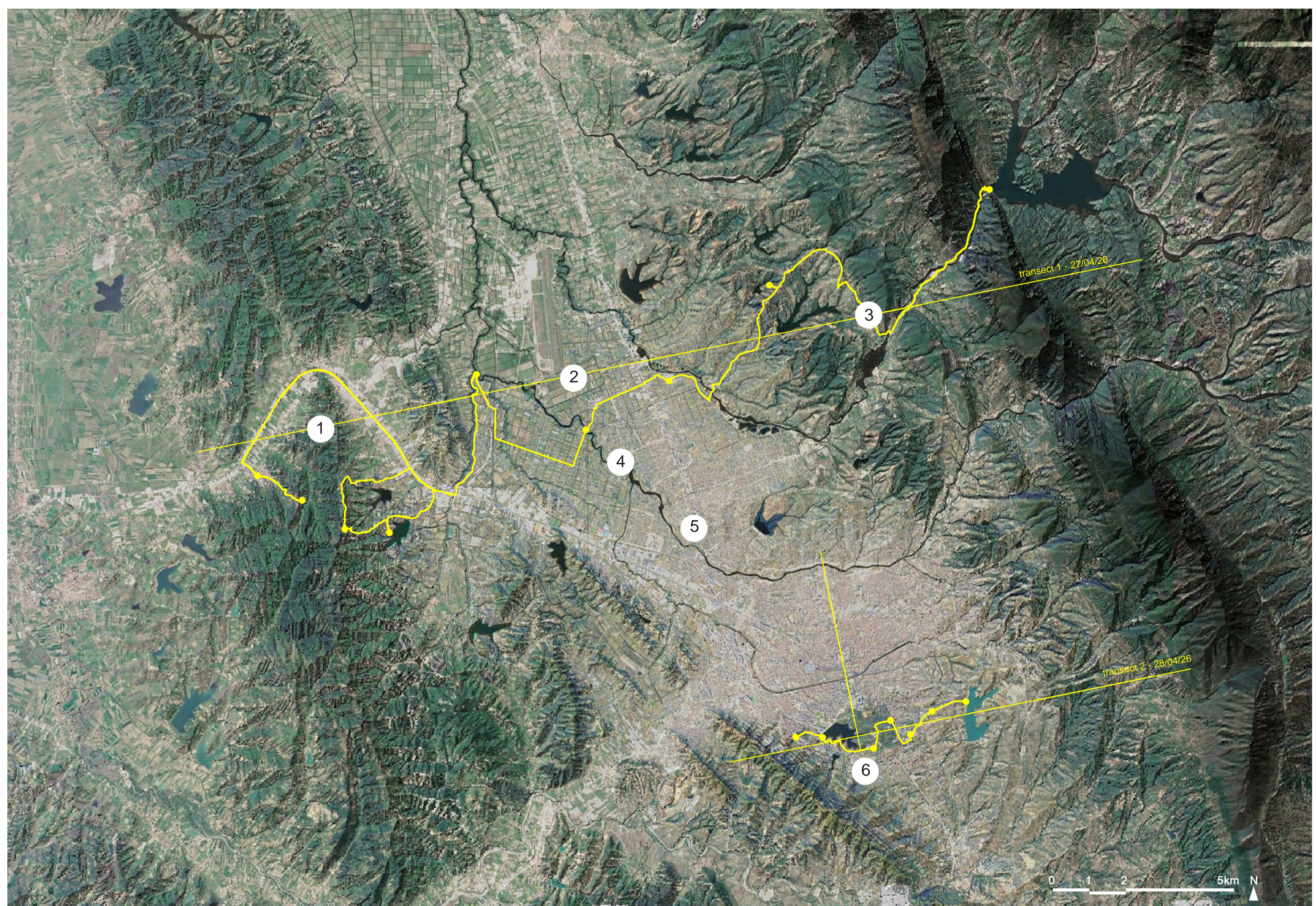
The FEAST project, Food Sovereignty, Ecotourism, Agroecology and Sustainable Territory, connects Albanian and French territories that share a strong relationship with their rural areas and seek to contribute to building a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region.

It aims to strengthen the capacity of Mediterranean territories to rethink their urban-rural relationship and to make agroecology a driving force for their ecological and economic transition, through adaptation to climate change, social cohesion (via inter-territorial solidarity), and food

sovereignty. The partnership involves the City of Marseille (France), the municipality of Arghjusta è Muricciu (South Corsica), the Lisula Balagna inter-municipal authority (Upper Corsica), and the Municipality of Tirana (Albania).



various stages of the workshop



identification of the transects and the projects in the site of Tirana

The Olive Core

Matthieu DESCHANELS
Gaston ESCRIVA
Clara GRASMÜCK

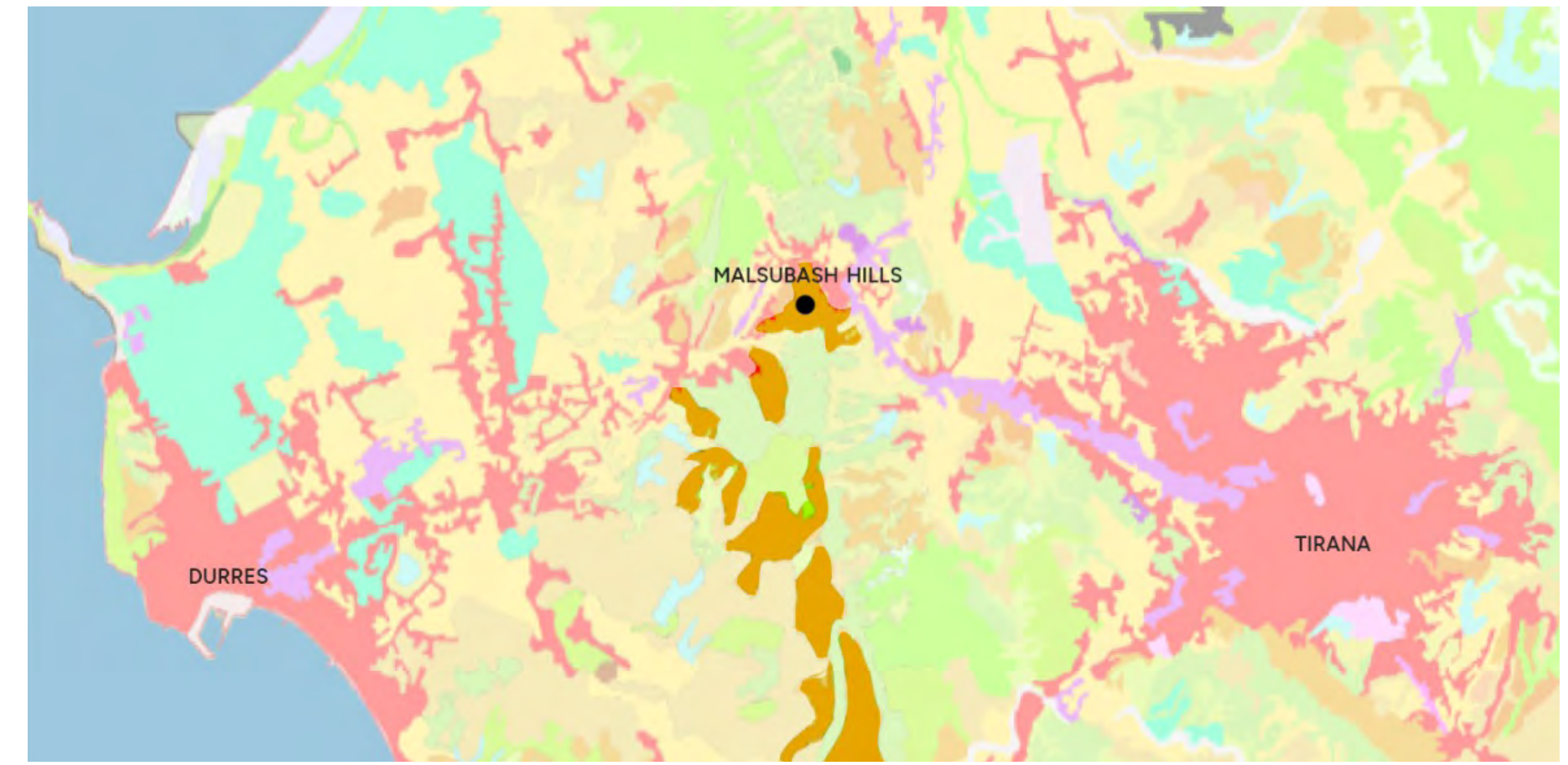
Lisa GRANDI
Carla BIAGGI

This project aims to preserve and maintain the traditional and productive landscape of the Malsubash hills, in the face of both rapid urbanisation and natural hazards such as landslides.

The idea is to bring the agricultural sector back into the spotlight, having fallen out of favour following urbanisation, with the example and the mentorship of an economically thriving business : the Subashi grove and mill.

It also aims to link it with modern practices, for example by benefiting from their proximity to Tirana with the development of agritourism, or even woofing, to revitalise this area whilst preserving its identity.

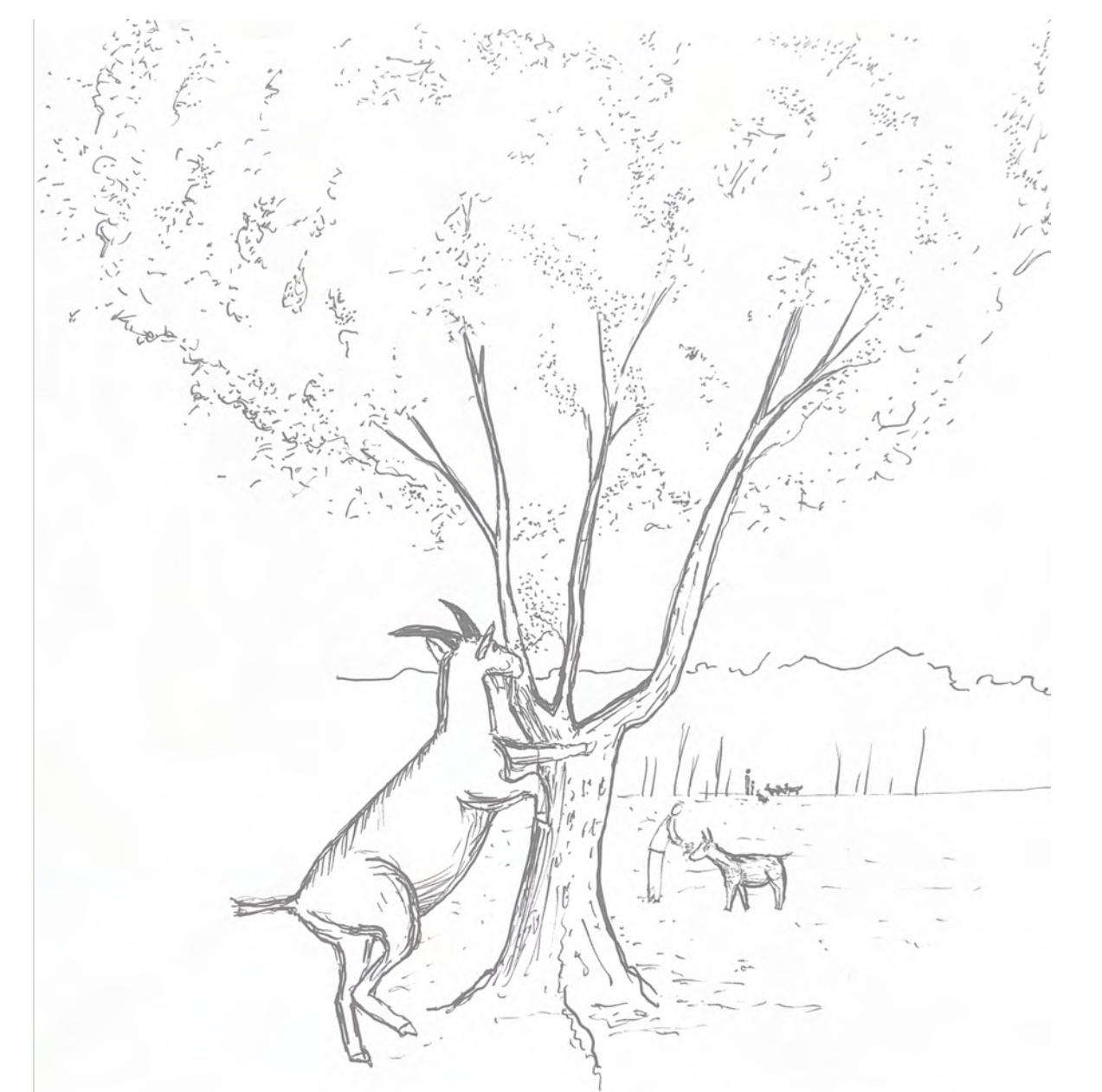
The project takes place on the Malsubash hills, to the west of Tirana. These hills form the western foothills of the great central mountain range that encircles Tirana: the Dajri range. Rising from the sea, it physically separates Tirana from the coast and its major city, Durrës. As such, these hills link the coast and the hinterland. Due to this position, it is an area that has been relatively spared from the rampant urbanisation of the two cities. Apart from the motorway sides—the sole link between these two major urban areas—the villages in these foothills still have rural dynamics. Consequently, the thousands-year-old agricultural activity centred on olives is very much alive there. On the other hand, whilst their urban transition is barely on the horizon, these are areas that are benefiting from Tirana's influence to develop, for instance, by selling their products to the capital. However, most of the villages are less dynamic, and agricultural activity declines.



Olive Plantation



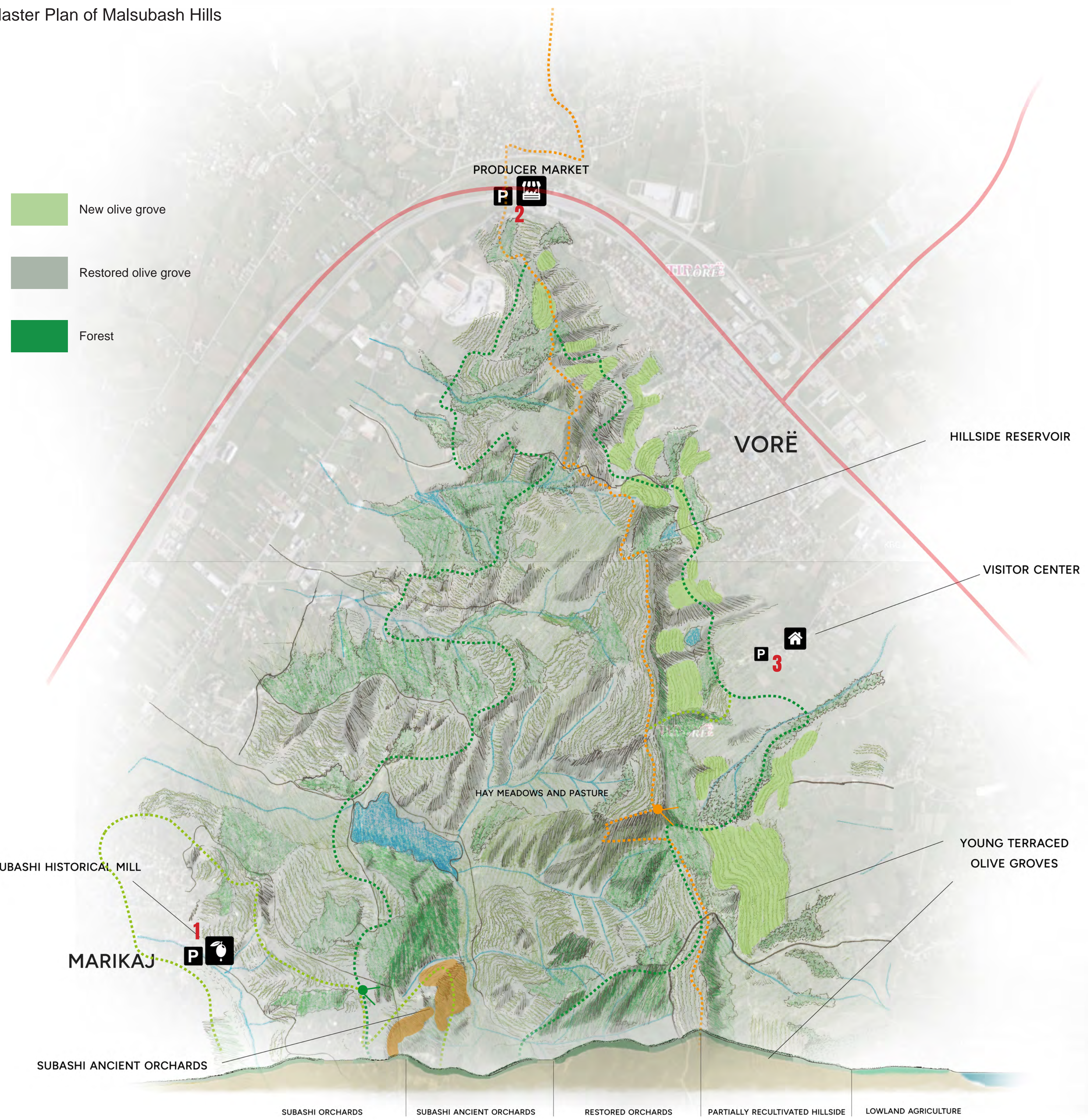
Three hubs are linked by a network of trails that allow visitors to explore the slopes and be surprised by a variety of landscapes: on the eroded eastern slope, a rather rugged, wild landscape, which the ridge (that offers views of Tirana AND the sea) separates from the olive groves on the western slope.



Who helps to manage the slopes ? The GOAT

The western slopes reveal the evolution of olive cultivation, with young groves at the bottom of the slopes and, higher up on the hillsides, thousands-years-old trees. These routes, varying in length, change with the seasons due to the phenology of the olive trees and their surrounding vegetation (grasses, flowers), making even the shortest walks an interesting experience. However, visitors seeking a more complete experience are not left out, as the Dajri Massif Ridge Trail also crosses this area, and the different hubs can thus serve as stopping points and form part of a much larger regional network.

Master Plan of Malsubash Hills



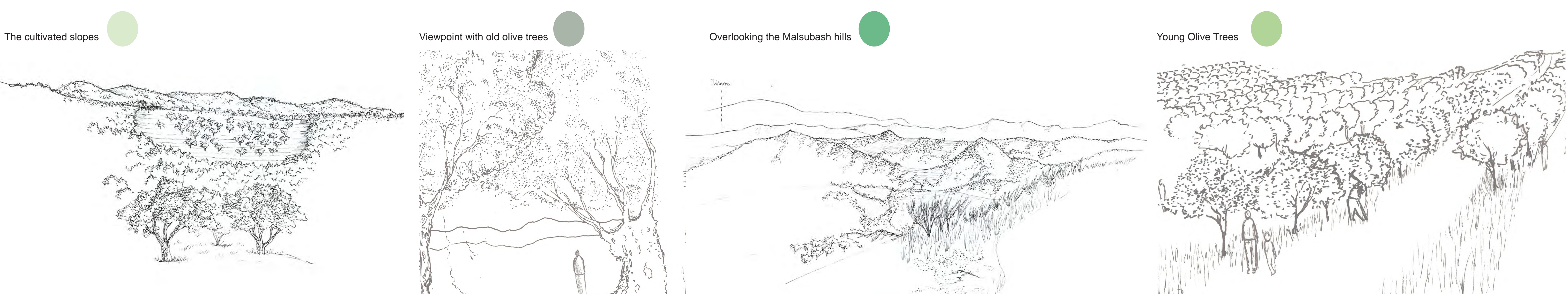
In the village of Marikaj, we set the focus on agricultural practices, with the gradual return to use of the abandoned land in Subashi, the creation of a hub for exchange between farmers, as well as agritourism infrastructure such as a guesthouse to sustain this tourism locally.



At the motorway junction, just off the Vorë exit, a retail outlet designed to urge a stop for casual tourists travelling from Tirana to Durrës aims to draw attention to what lies in the background. It invites visitors to appreciate this foothills landscape through its high-quality products, and maybe make a detour ?



The third hub is located on the Tirana side and aims to attract tourists from the capital who are interested in the country's nature and agriculture. It welcomes and directs visitors to a centre that serves as a sort of historical eco-museum, providing information to walkers before guiding them along a route that meets their expectations.



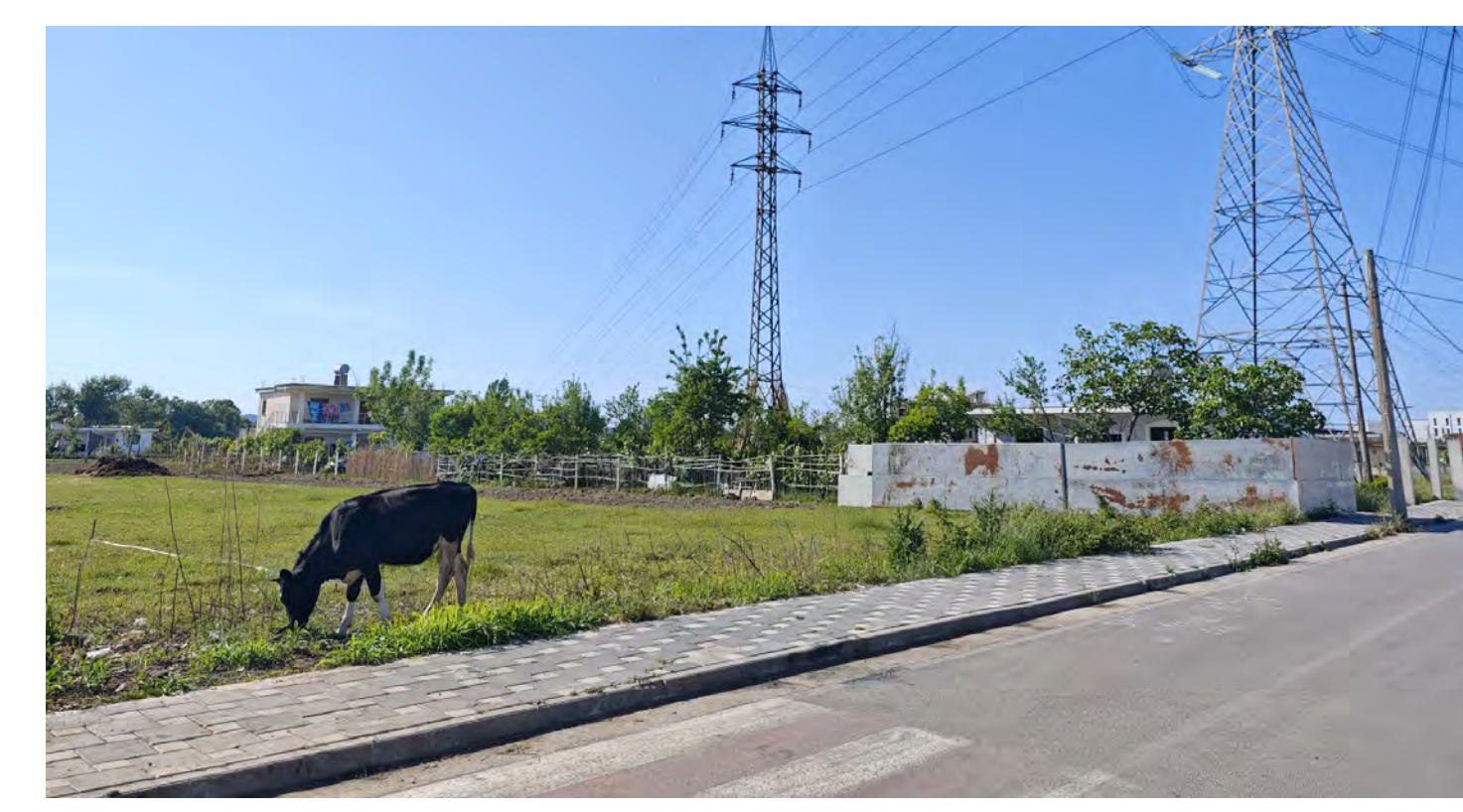
Gourmet city

AGRONOMES
Nielsen Jaurès KAKPO
Dossou Cédric HOUÉSSOU

PAYSAGISTES
Agathe MAUSS
Elias ZNIBER



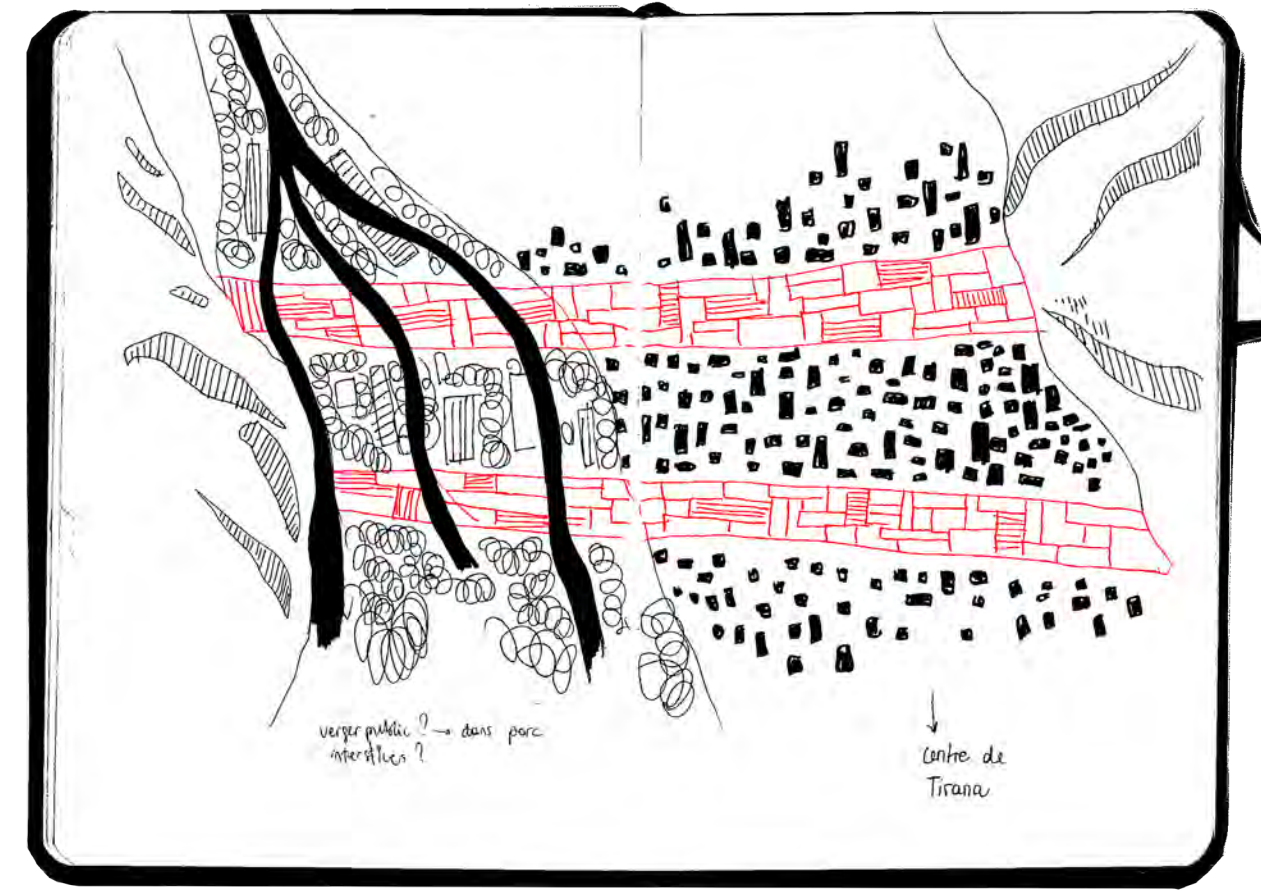
pictures of the site project, taken in Monday, April 27, 2026



diachrony of the site project, 1980 - 2018

In North Tirana, the city is sprawling disorderly over the plain. The detached houses split the last agricultural subsistence fields : it's a chaotic city thought out at the parcel scale, getting the upper hand on a nourishing country that became interstitial.

Face to that constat, we propose to use agriculture as urban planning by creating a farming barrette system connecting East-West piedmont slopes. Relying on the actual urban plot, this new territory drawing organises the buildings, privileges a local agricultural production and creates an agrotouristic network linking olive groves on the hill to the market gardening, orchards, pastures of the plain



first strategic diagram of the project

Following the concept of urban metabolism developed by Sabine Barles, these plots outline new public and agricultural spaces which, in addition to being productive, interact with the built environment to create exchanges of energy and matter.

We propose four types of plots that explore different models of organic agriculture, adaptable according to the needs and geographical assets of the territory in which they are embedded.

The Pasture: it is a large pastureland hosting an educational farm, enabling the processing, storage, and direct sale of dairy production while also providing residents with education about living systems. Hidden behind groves, methanization units transform organic waste from the neighborhood and agriculture into biogas and fertilizer.

The Productive Plot: it organizes a more intensive agriculture to feed the neighborhood. A grazing corridor ensures the possibility of transhumance up into the hills. Orchards and open-field market gardening are integrated around it.

Treated wastewater reuse (REUT) from the neighborhood irrigates the crops.

The Garden Market: it is a park that showcases agricultural production. Market halls allow producers to sell their goods directly, and community gardens give motivated residents the opportunity to cultivate the land. This public space combines shops, sports fields, playgrounds, and vegetable gardens.

The Forest: it is the most experimental plot, proposing an agroforestry system that combines public, educational, and productive functions. Being very dense and diverse, it demonstrates strong resilience to environmental challenges. A school may be established there to provide nature-based education, along with an inn-restaurant to welcome visitors and process products on site.

Finally, to enhance this territorial agricultural production, a PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) label will be created, helping to promote the region at a European scale.



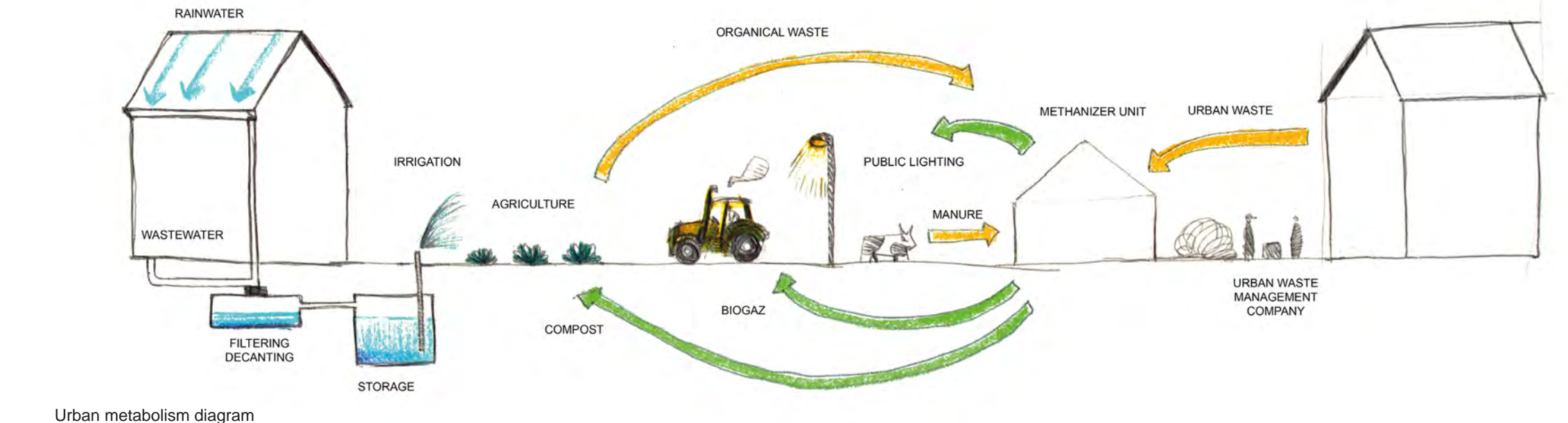
Strategic plan for the barrette system connecting the piedmont slopes



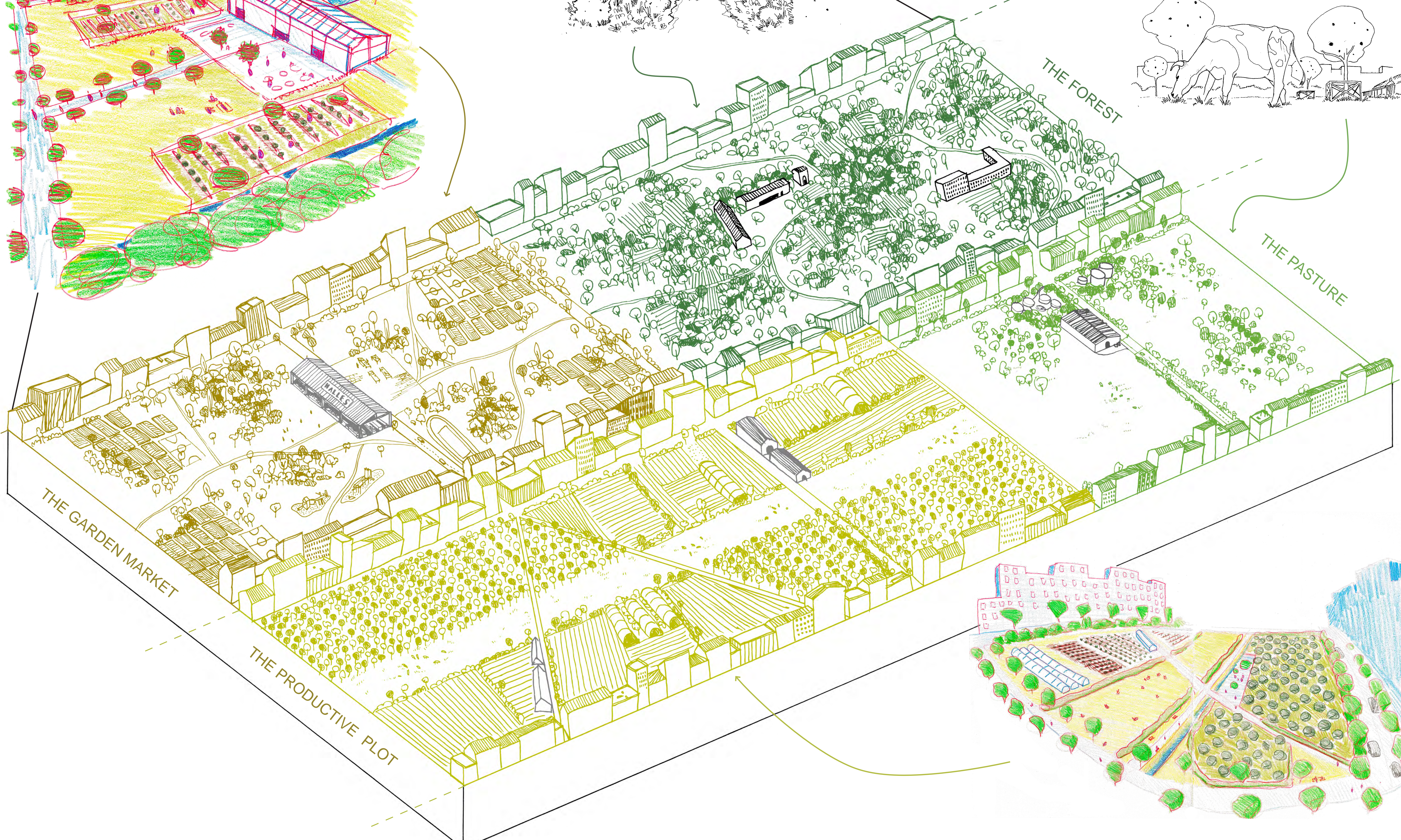
Molles agripark, Bernex, Switzerland



Nerima district, Tokyo



Urban metabolism diagram



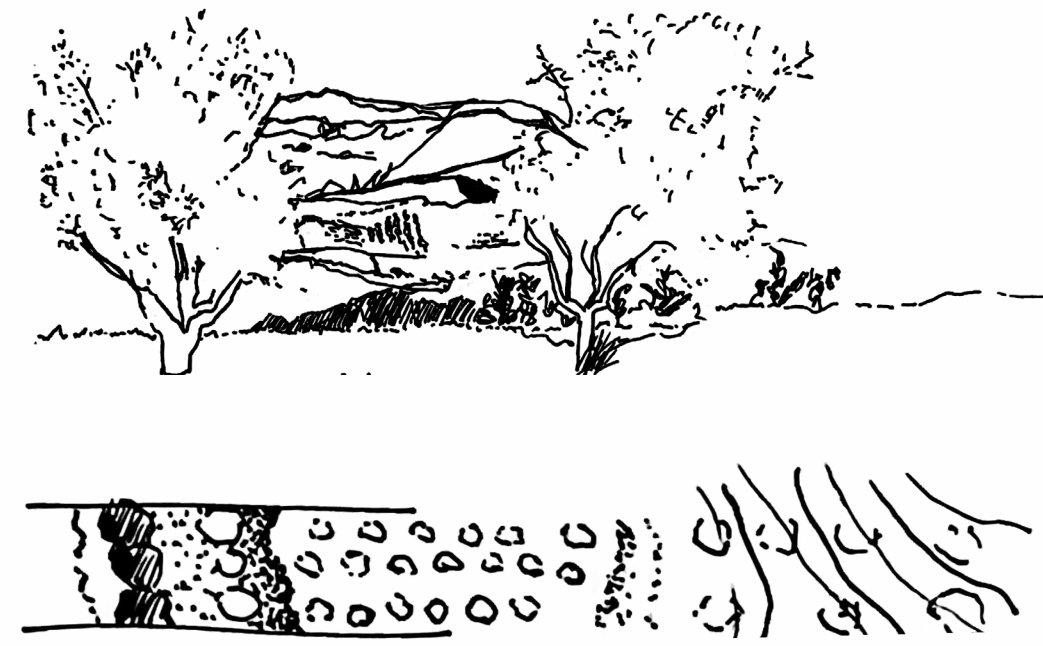
The Albanian Cultural Landscape Observatory

Alice BARRETT
Margaux ISSELET
Romain MARCELIN-DEVICHI

A TERRACED LANDSCAPE OFFERING A REMARKABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE
Located on the northeastern slopes of Tirana, the site lies within an intermediate topographic tier between a mountain range and the Tirana plain. These three landscape tiers are characterized by urban sprawl across the plain, olive and vine cultivation, and the development of water retention basins on the slopes, followed by steep relief and the emergence of mountainous massifs in the background.



Local agricultural products sold in Tirana



Olive cultivation and vegetation density of crops

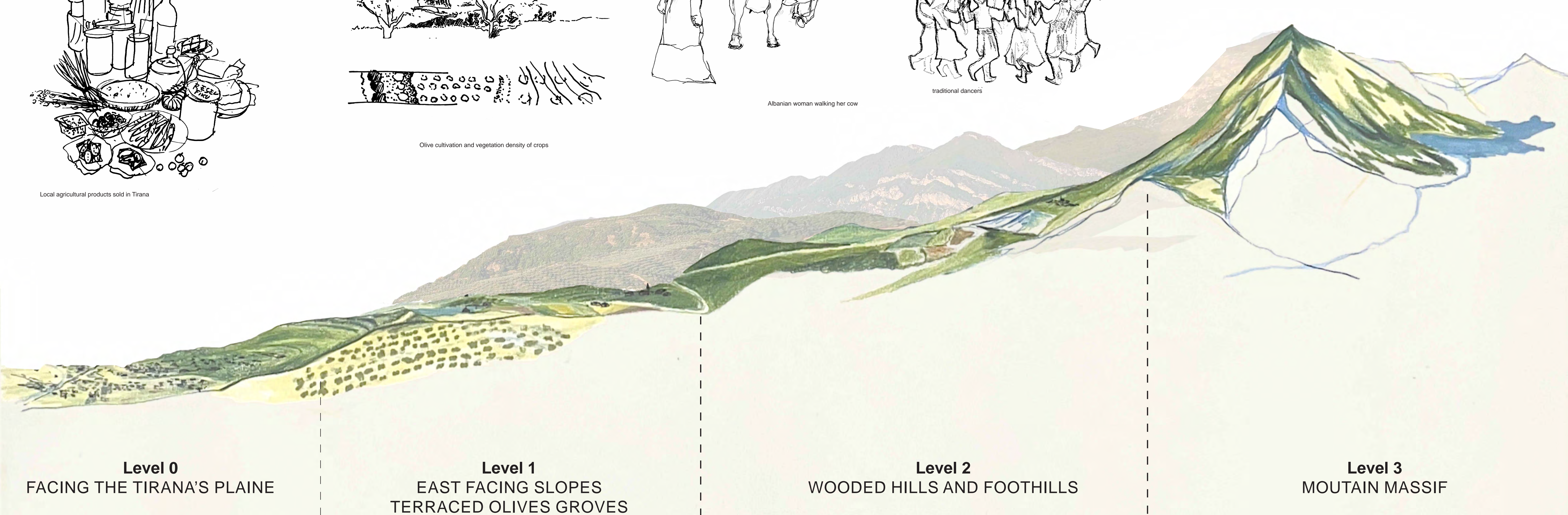


Albanian woman walking her cow



traditional dancers

VALLËZIM
- la danse



Level 0
FACING THE TIRANA'S PLAINE

- urban sprawl, dense urbanization

Level 1
EAST FACING SLOPES
TERRACED OLIVES GROVES

- increasing monoculture
- support agroforestry to enhance regenerative hydrological processes
- medium-sized water retention area

Level 2
WOODED HILLS AND FOOTHILLS

- rural farming villages
- low population density
- limited road connectivity

Level 3
MOUNTAIN MASSIF

- rural villages
- limited road access
- strong cultural heritage (myths, rituals and traditions)
- large-sized water retention area

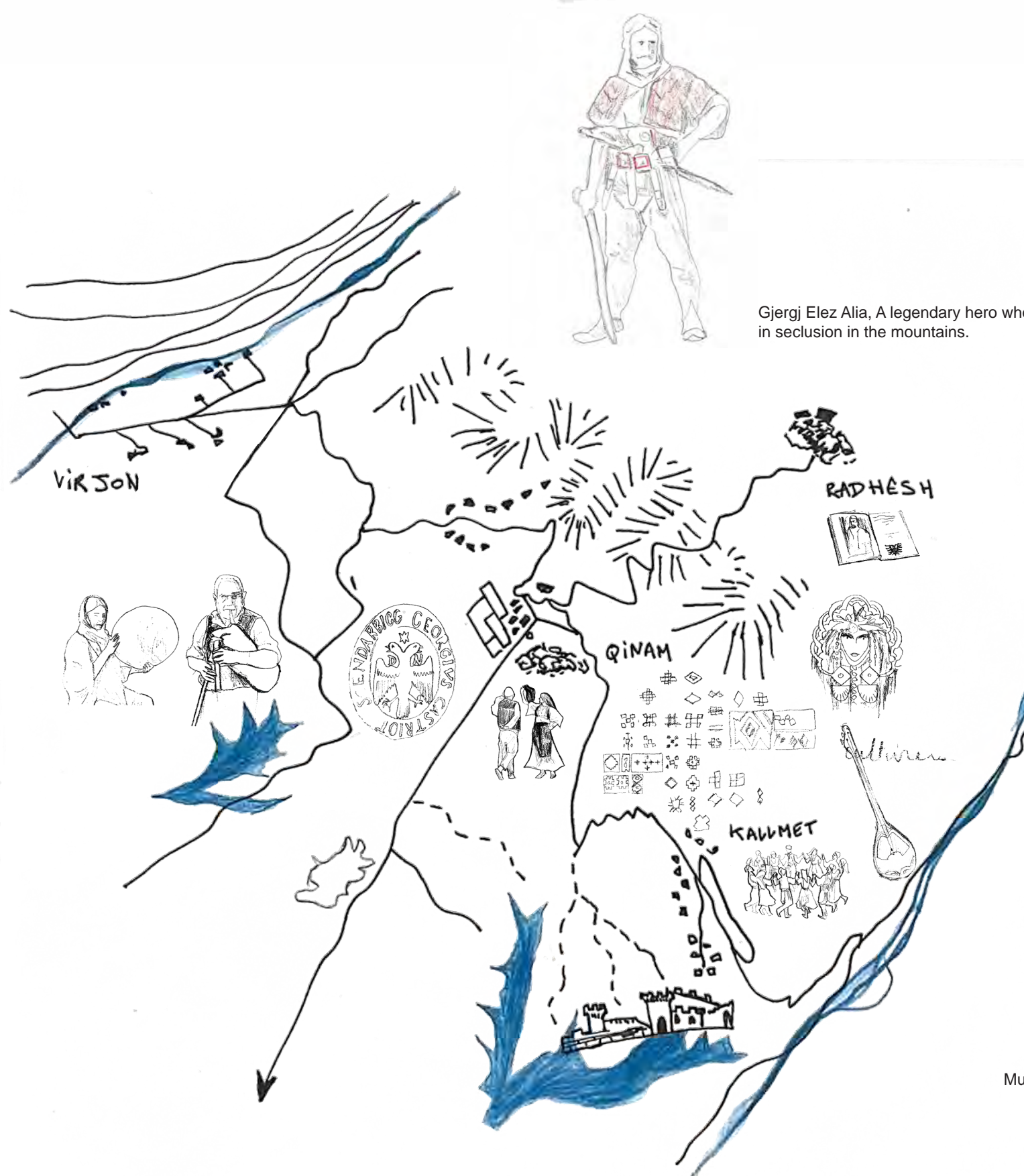


HOW CAN THE HINTERLAND AND ITS VILLAGES BE CONNECTED TO TIRANA'S CITY CENTER?
Making this remarkable agricultural landscape accessible to Tirana's residents.

Our project has focused on the urban sprawl of the town and the villages on the hills, below the olive-covered slopes. The aim is to make the string of villages more accessible to visitors by road and to enhance the agricultural landscape through a path through the olive groves. The roads would be adapted to accommodate a reasonable flow of tourists. The objective would be to make these areas accessible to the people of Tirana at weekends.



— Olive Grove Lane
— Main routes connecting rural villages to the centre of Tirana
— The main road linking the string of villages



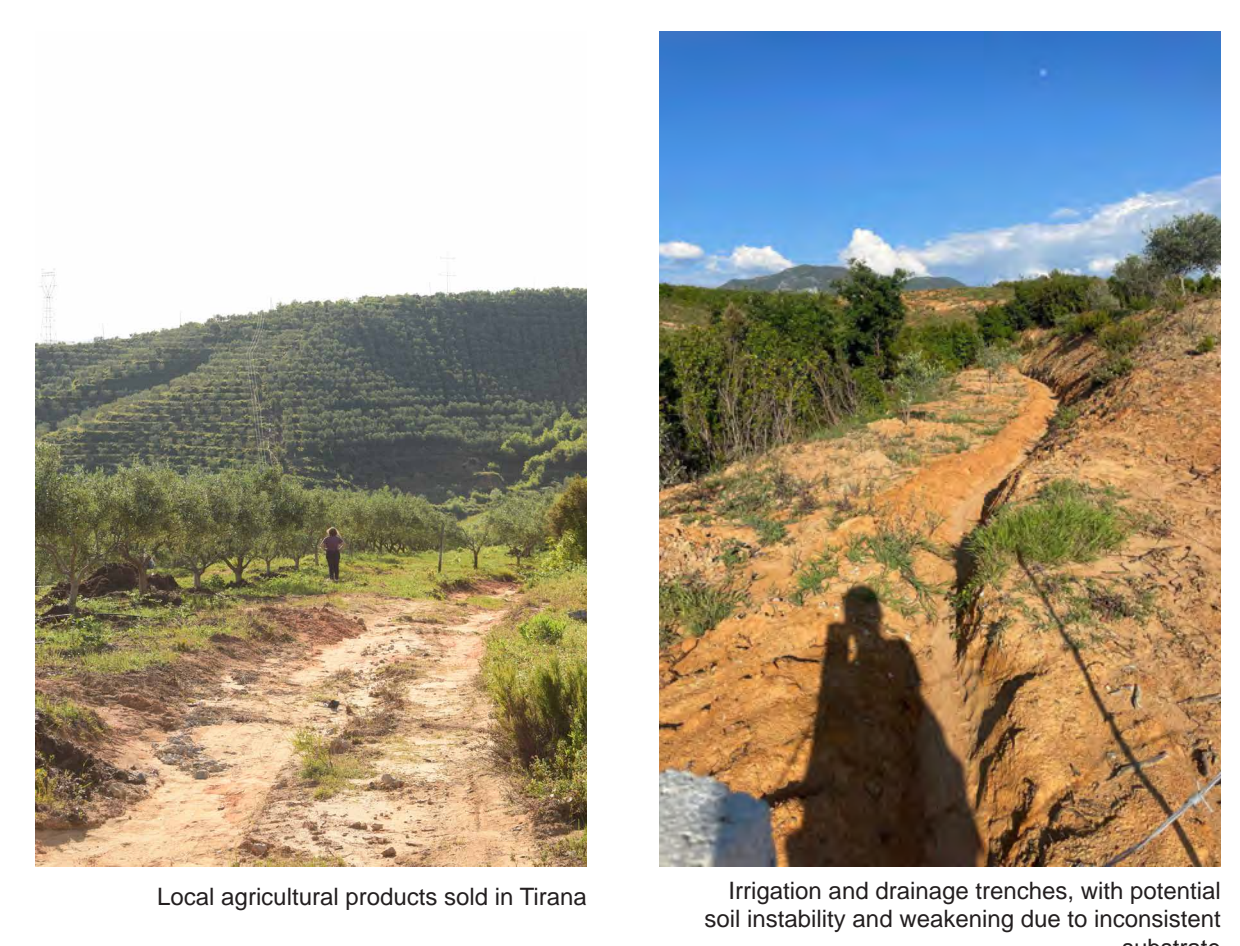
A COUNTRY INTRINSICALLY LINKED TO ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE
LEGENDS, FOLKLORE, FOOD, TRADITIONS)

VALLËZIM
- la danse

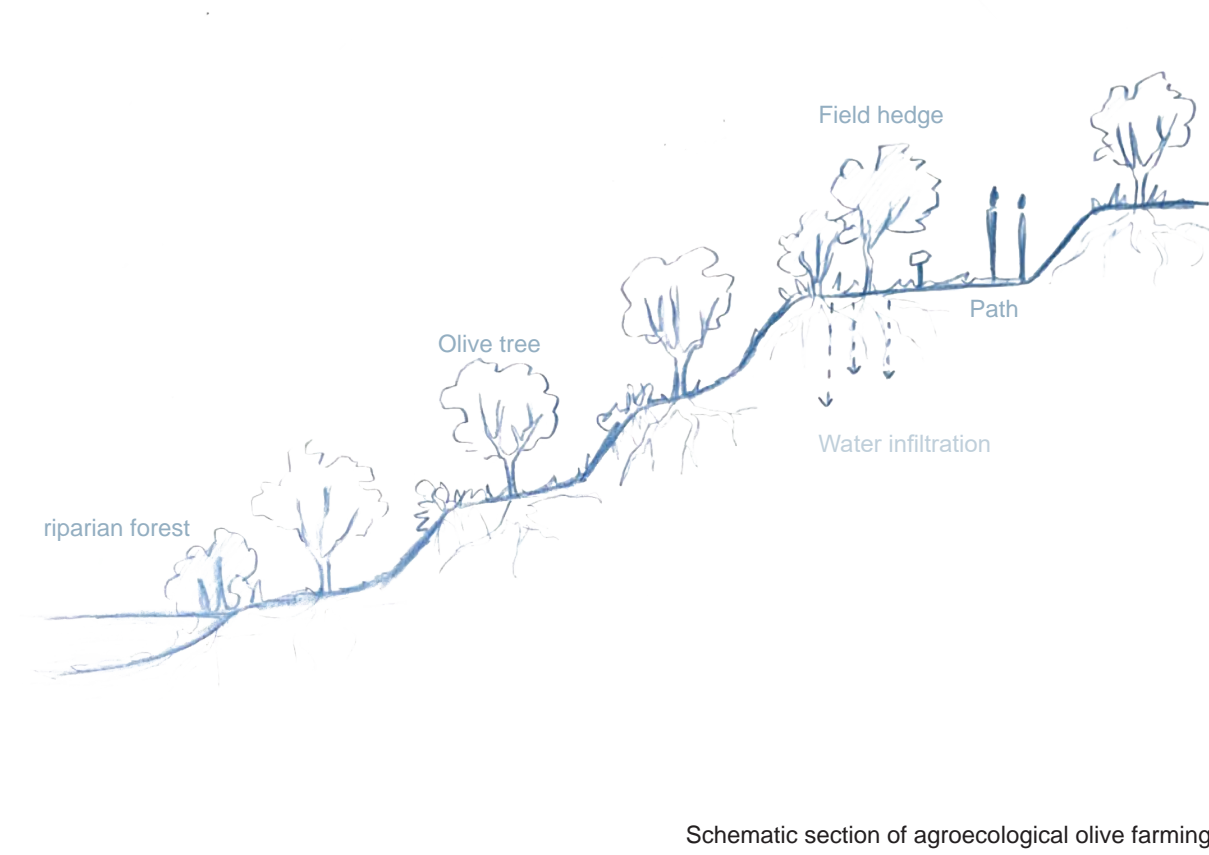
Albania, characterised by its spectacular mountainous landscape, has profoundly shaped a culture rooted in independence, resilience and honour. Passed down orally, its traditions have given rise to a rich folklore, influenced by both ancient mythologies and neighbouring Indo-European cultures. But this folklore is distinguished above all by its close connection with nature: mountains, forests, lakes and farmland become spaces inhabited by invisible forces and mythical figures. Stemming from this environment and ancient pagan beliefs, the Kängë Kreshnikësh ("Songs of the Heroes") illustrate this imaginary world, where bravery, sacrifice and hope reflect both the harshness of the land and the symbolic richness of the landscape.

Music, dance and singing punctuate the events that take place in towns and villages across Albania and form an important part of Albanian culture.

PROMOTING AGROECOLOGY
Agroecology at the heart of the agricultural park

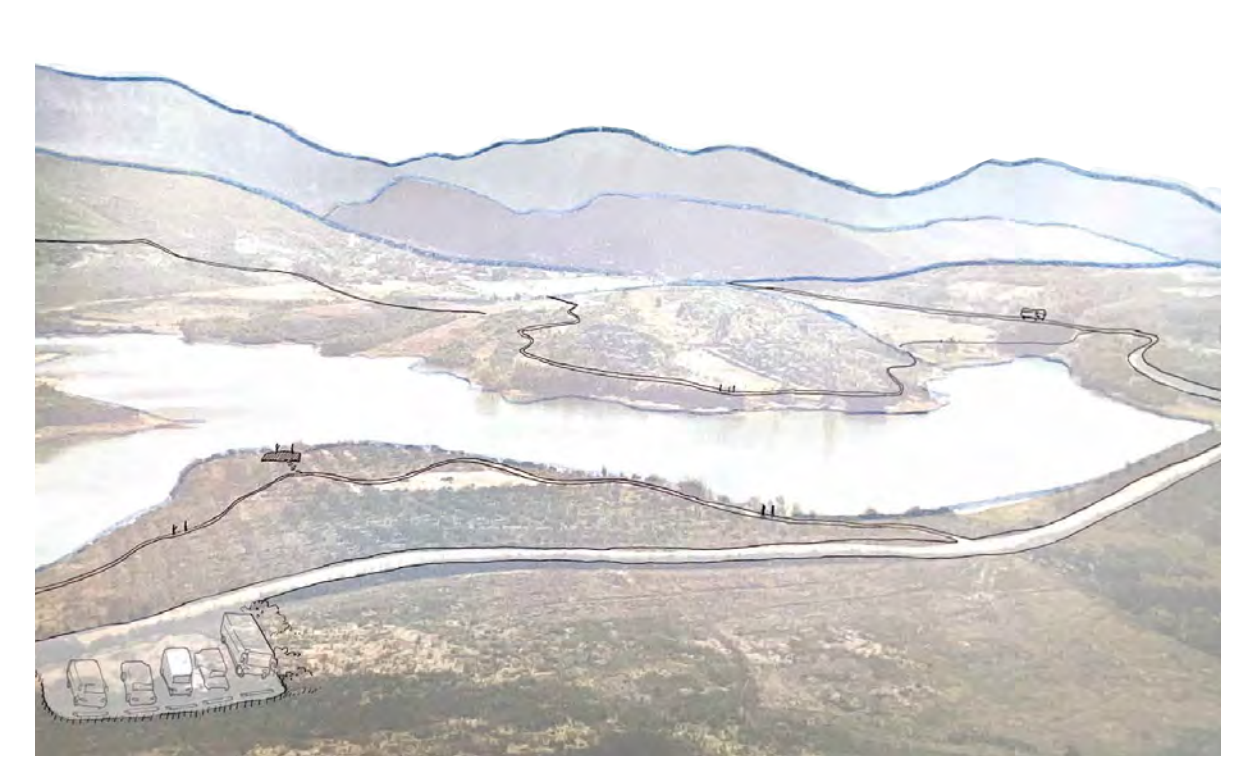


Local agricultural products sold in Tirana
Irrigation and drainage trenches, with potential soil instability and weakening due to inconsistent substrate



Schematic section of agroecological olive farming

The project is part of an approach based on agroecology and regenerative hydrology, aimed at restoring the balance between agricultural practices and natural processes. The aim is to promote water infiltration into the soil and limit runoff, notably through methods such as agroforestry (hedgerow networks, mixed cropping) and the principles of keyline design, which relies on a detailed analysis of the terrain to better distribute water across the landscape.



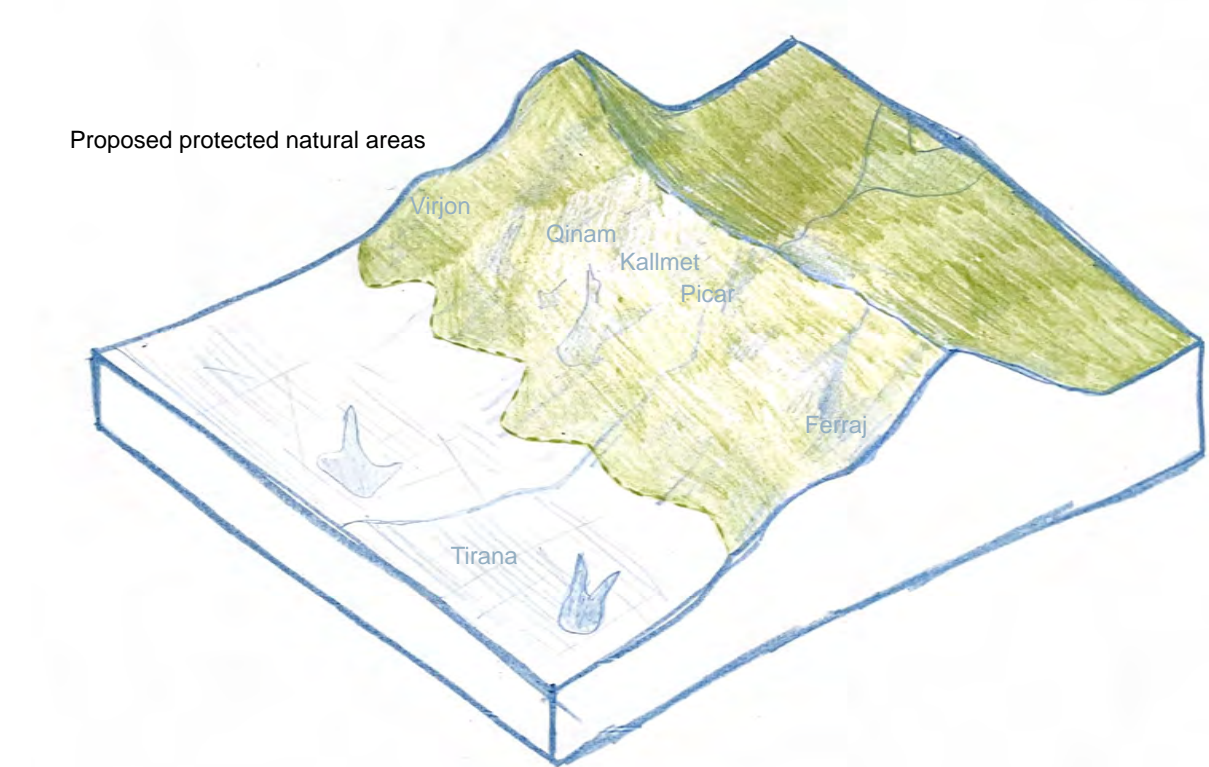
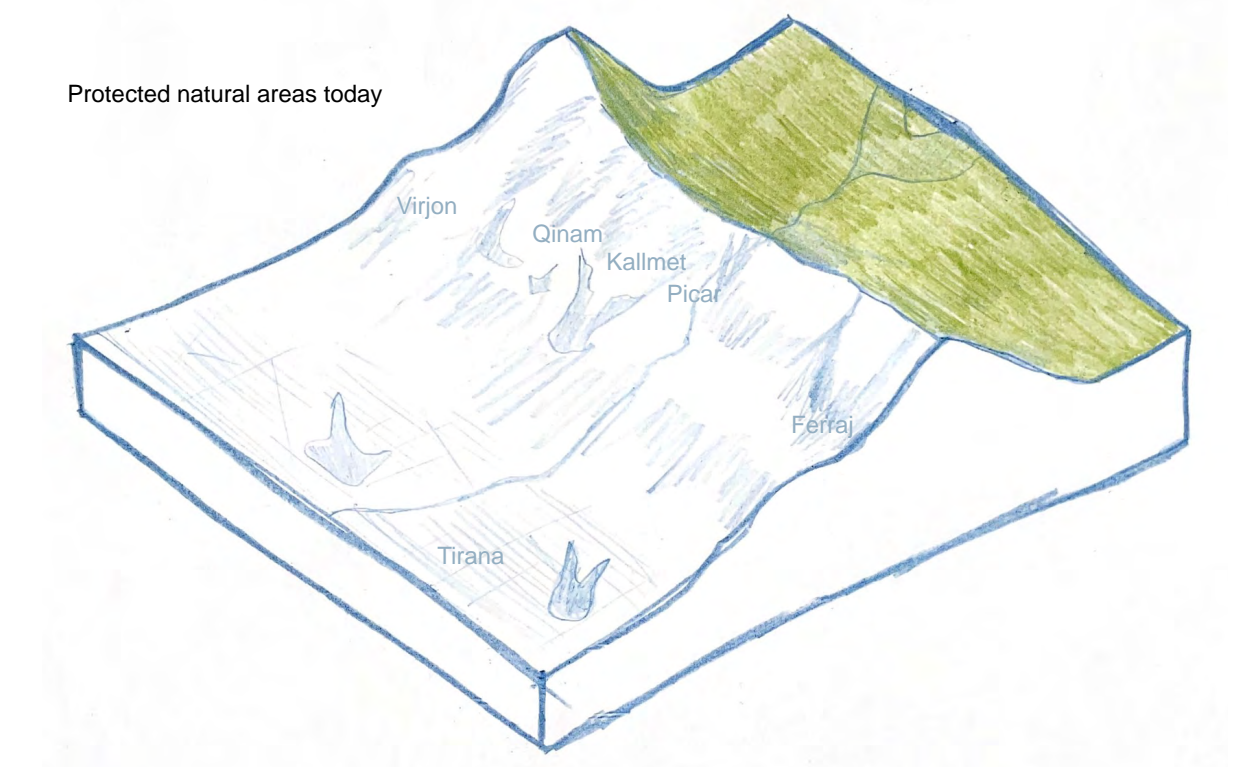
Qinam terraced olive grove pattern

In this context, the choice of a less mechanised form of agriculture becomes a real asset. In Albania, certain agricultural practices have been preserved due to later development and lower standardisation linked to the historical absence of integration into European productivist frameworks. Today, as the country looks to move closer to the European Union, the challenge is to strike a balance between modernisation and the promotion of this vernacular know-how.

Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), as well as Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), Organic Farming (the European organic label), or international certifications such as Demeter (biodynamic farming). Incorporating these areas into protected natural zones (nature parks, reserves) would also bolster their credibility, by embedding agricultural practices within a framework of ecosystem conservation.

Thus, the project aims not only to produce, but to reveal a living agricultural landscape, where water management, biodiversity and cultural heritage are intertwined.

EXPANSION OF PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS



Empower the rivers

Prune ANDRE
Victor LECOQ

Lola MARTIN
Enzo SCALZI



Green algae bloom due to excess nitrogen from agriculture.



Fill consisting of a mixture of rubble and waste along riverbanks for urbanization.



A pile of waste in the riverbed leading towards the sea.

A river with banks littered with rubbish, its waters overrun with green algae – far from being sanitary. It flows through Tirana, hemmed in and constricted by new buildings. It is this water that we are going to discuss.

Flowing down from the hills, loading up with nitrogen as it passes through farmland, it enters the city, acting as an open-air rubbish tip, and ends its journey in the open Adriatic Sea.

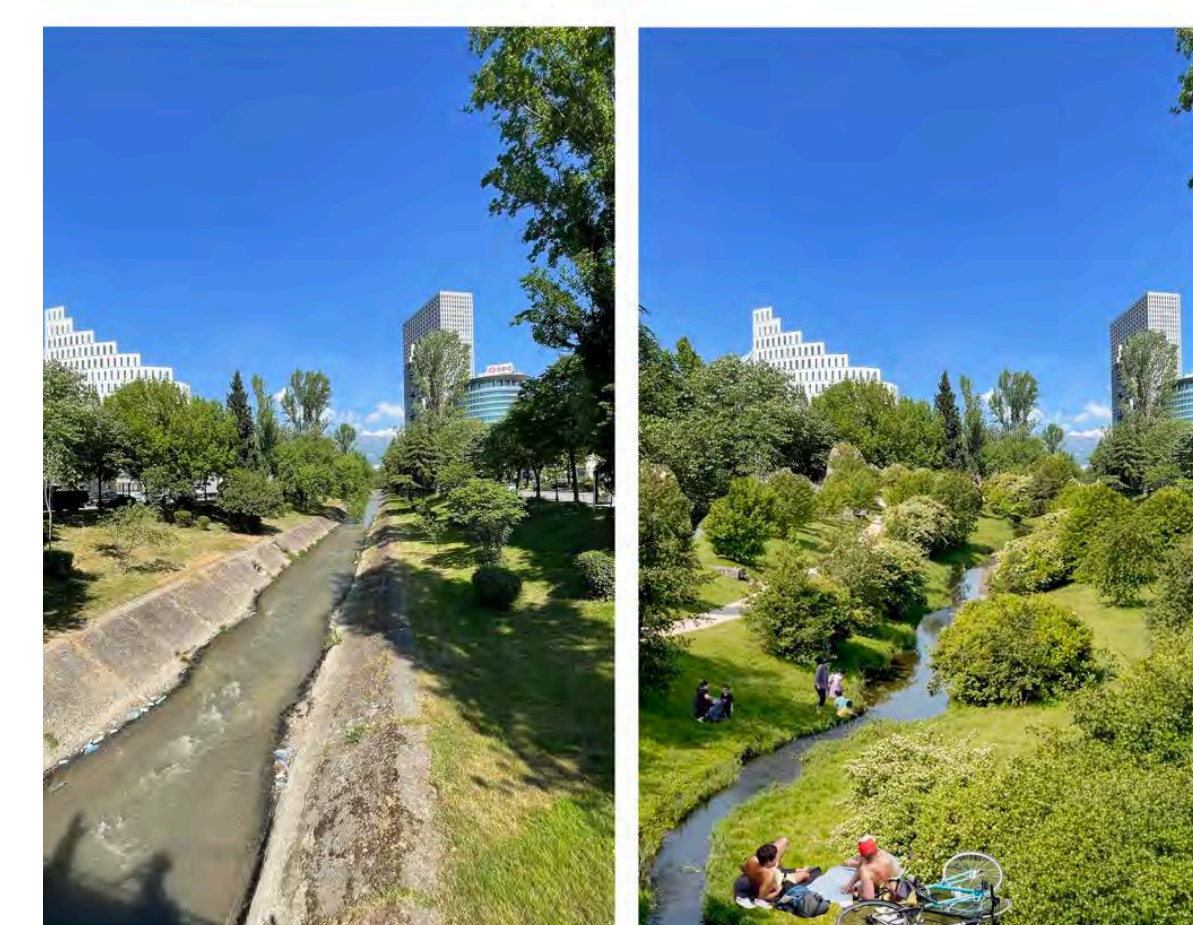
It is this water's journey that we are going to explore : how can we restore the water's health? How can we find a sound solution before it is too late?



Let's take as an example the riparian forest of the Meuse, with its agricultural surroundings, its meanders and secondary branches. It constitutes a true ecological corridor, capable of absorbing floods.



There are projects to revitalize waterways such as the Aggalades urban park in Marseille, integrating a stream with a Mediterranean regime into the design of floodable reception areas.



The Lana River in the heart of Tirana has a canalized technical profile. It has become an open sewer, yet it has the potential to be attractive and bring coolness to the city.

The rapid expansion of the city of Tirana over the last 30 years has spread into the heart of the agricultural plain situated between two mountain ranges to the west and east. The former countryside is now organised according to a grid-like urban layout designed for traffic. Just below, the water is channelled and encased in concrete to control its flow. This unsustainable solution has led to three problems for the river: drought, pollution and flooding.

Before this model spreads across the entire agricultural plain, we propose restoring the strip of vegetation bordering the river. Supporting the river's course by restoring its riparian vegetation and creating a network of alluvial forest would enable the water to be reevaluate.

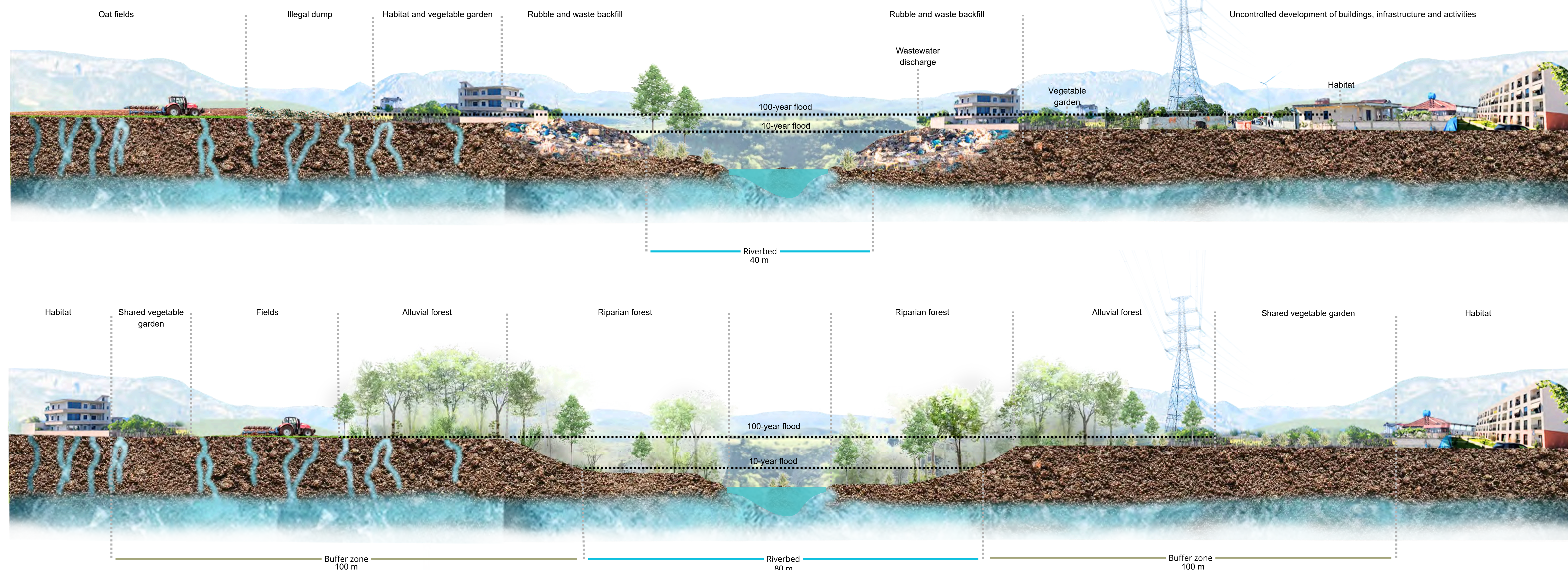
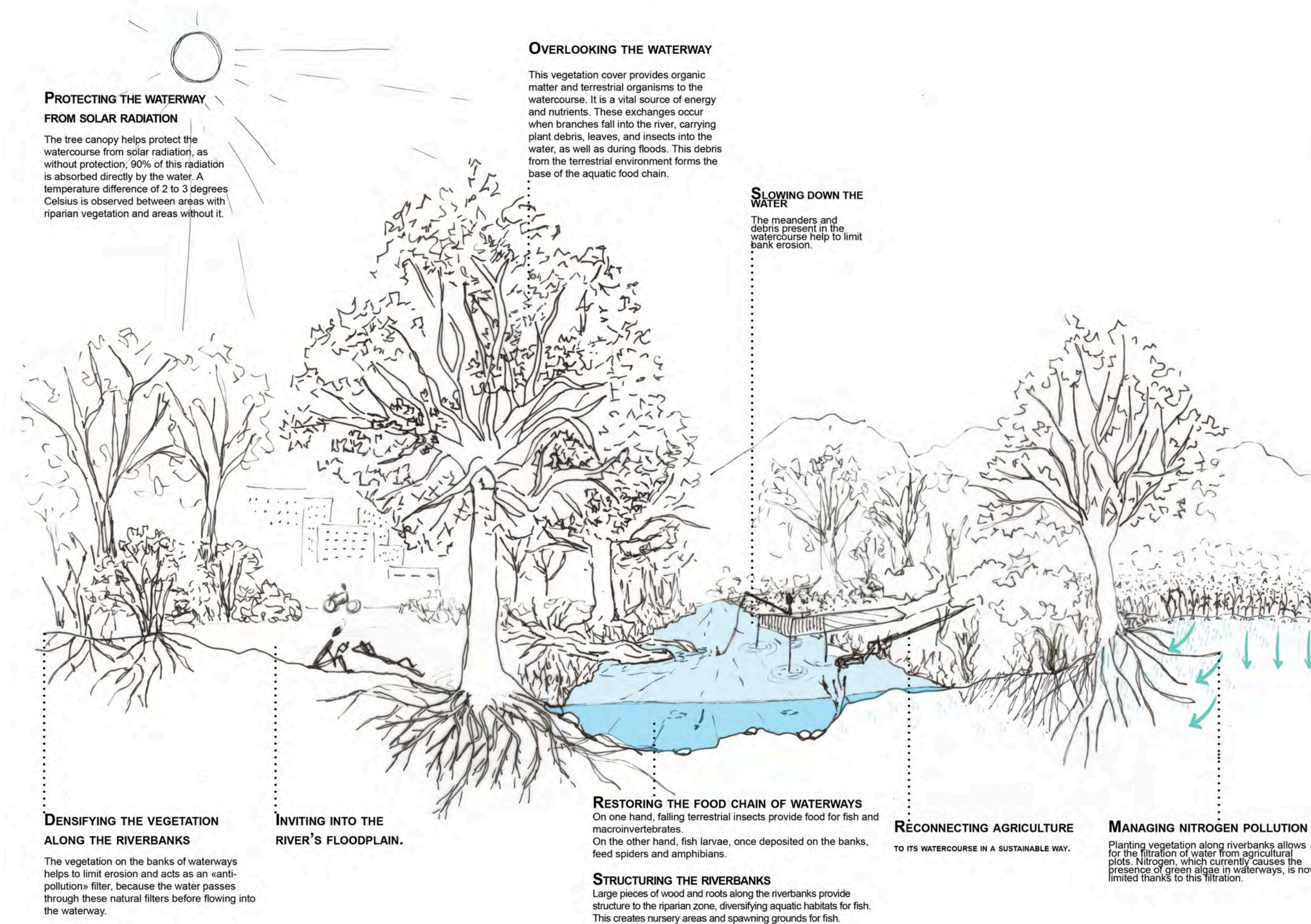
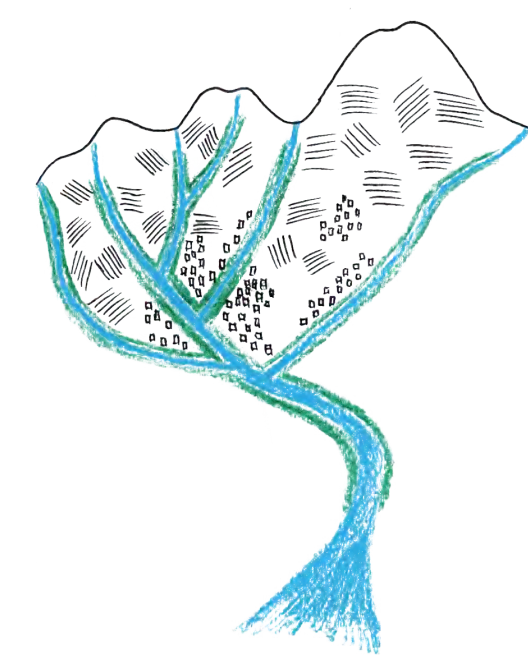
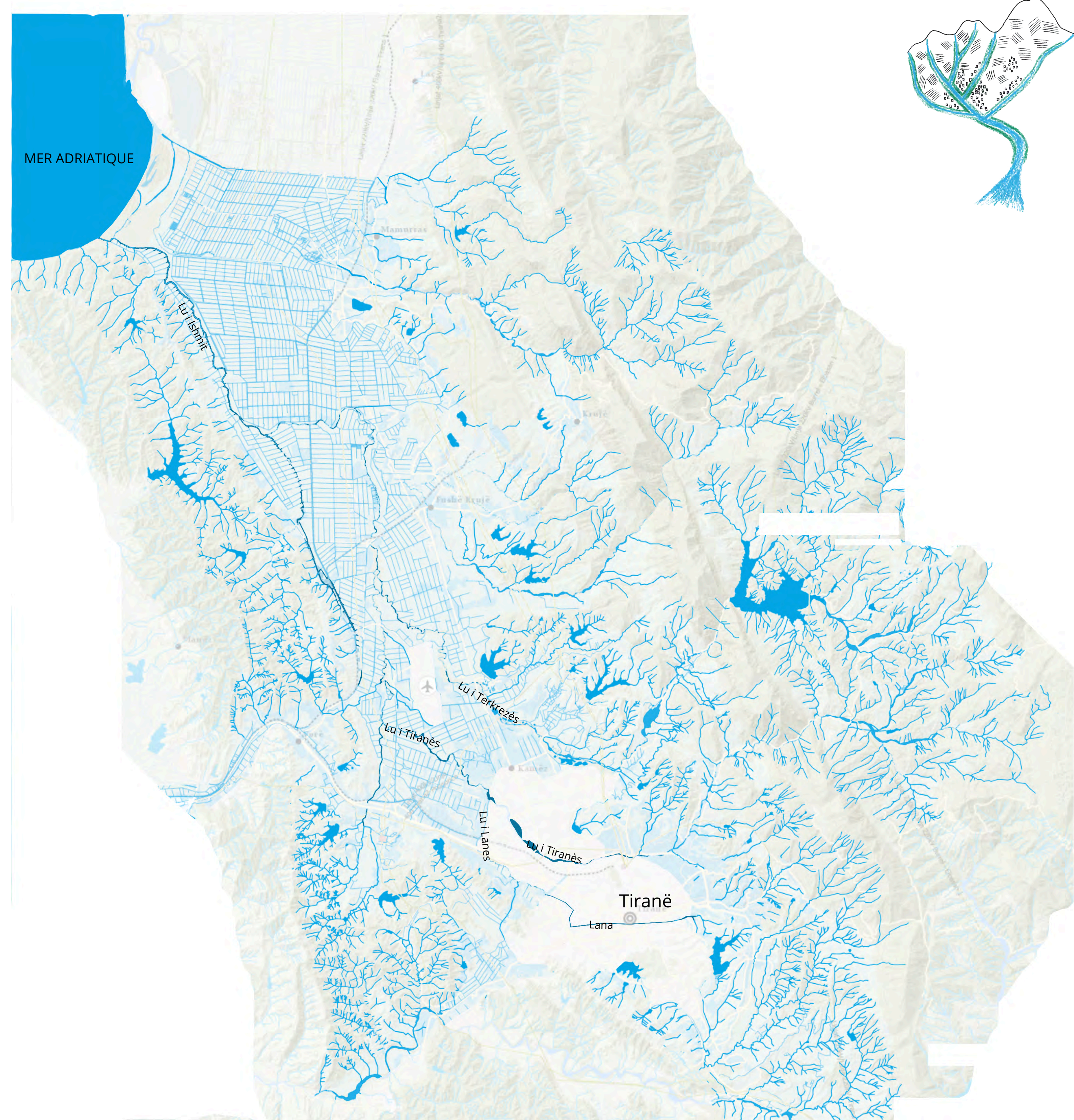
Firstly, the vegetation on the riverbank filters the water before it flows directly into the river. Runoff from agricultural land is then managed to prevent the river from becoming overloaded with nitrogen, which causes eutrophication.

Furthermore, the buffer zone helps to widen the floodplain, limiting flooding and erosion of the embankment, which has become too narrow.

This new forest corridor creates a buffer between homes and their wastewater, which was previously discharged directly into the environment.

The floodplain forest thus creates a corridor of public space, providing living spaces at the heart of cities and their urban expansion, and enabling cities to be shaped around their waterways. This network also opens up the possibility of creating cycle paths and footpaths linking Tirana from one side to the other.

Finally, this prominent role of water at the heart of Tirana helps residents realise the importance of having 'healthy' water nearby. This awareness therefore leads to improved waste management along the river and urban development that is more respectful of the watercourse.

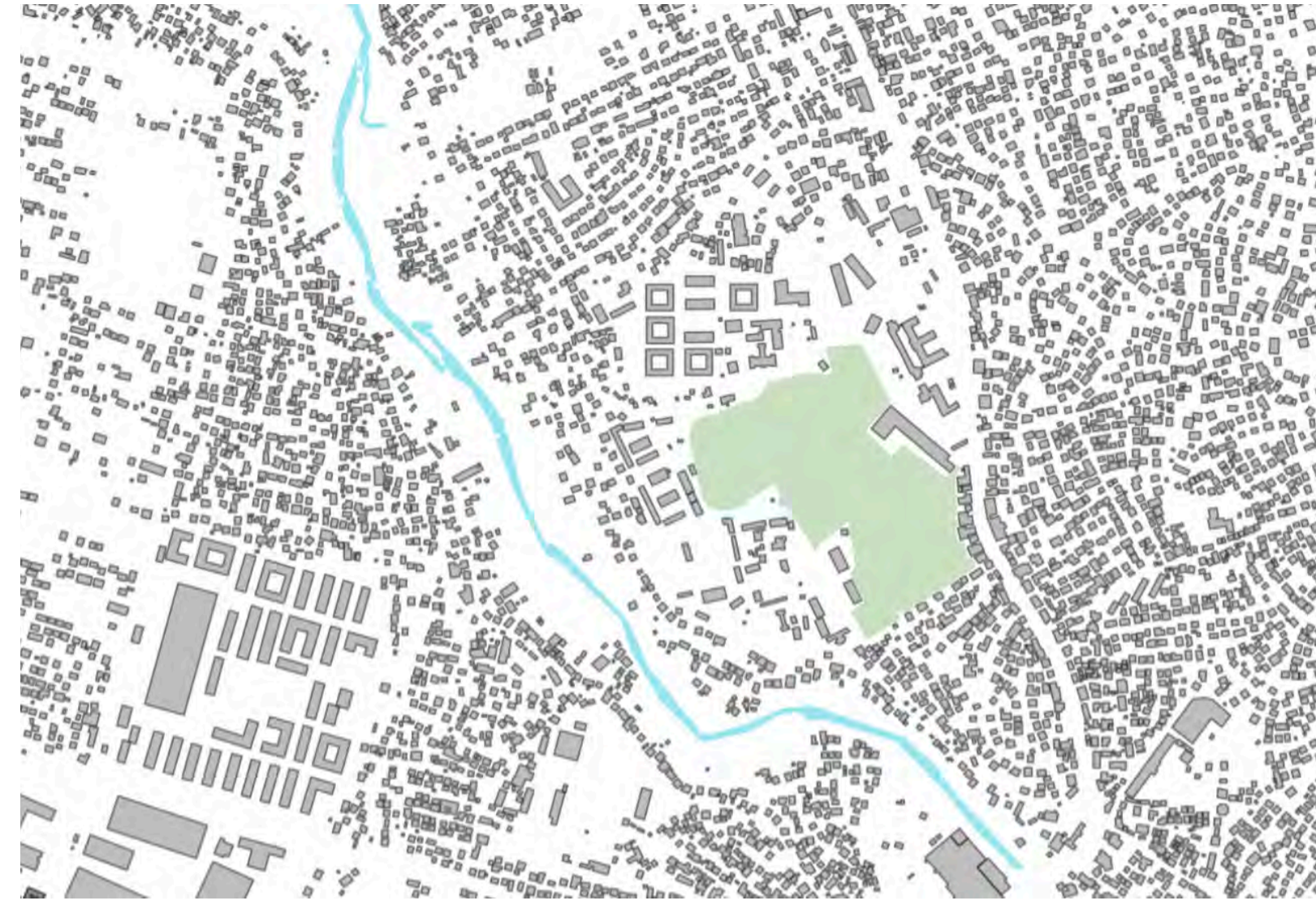
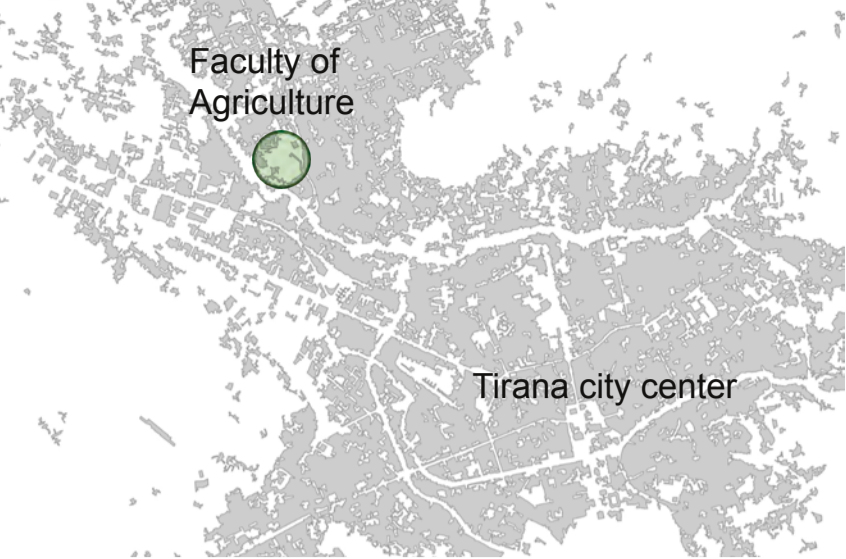


Water's campus park

Experimenting by the water,
learning from the river

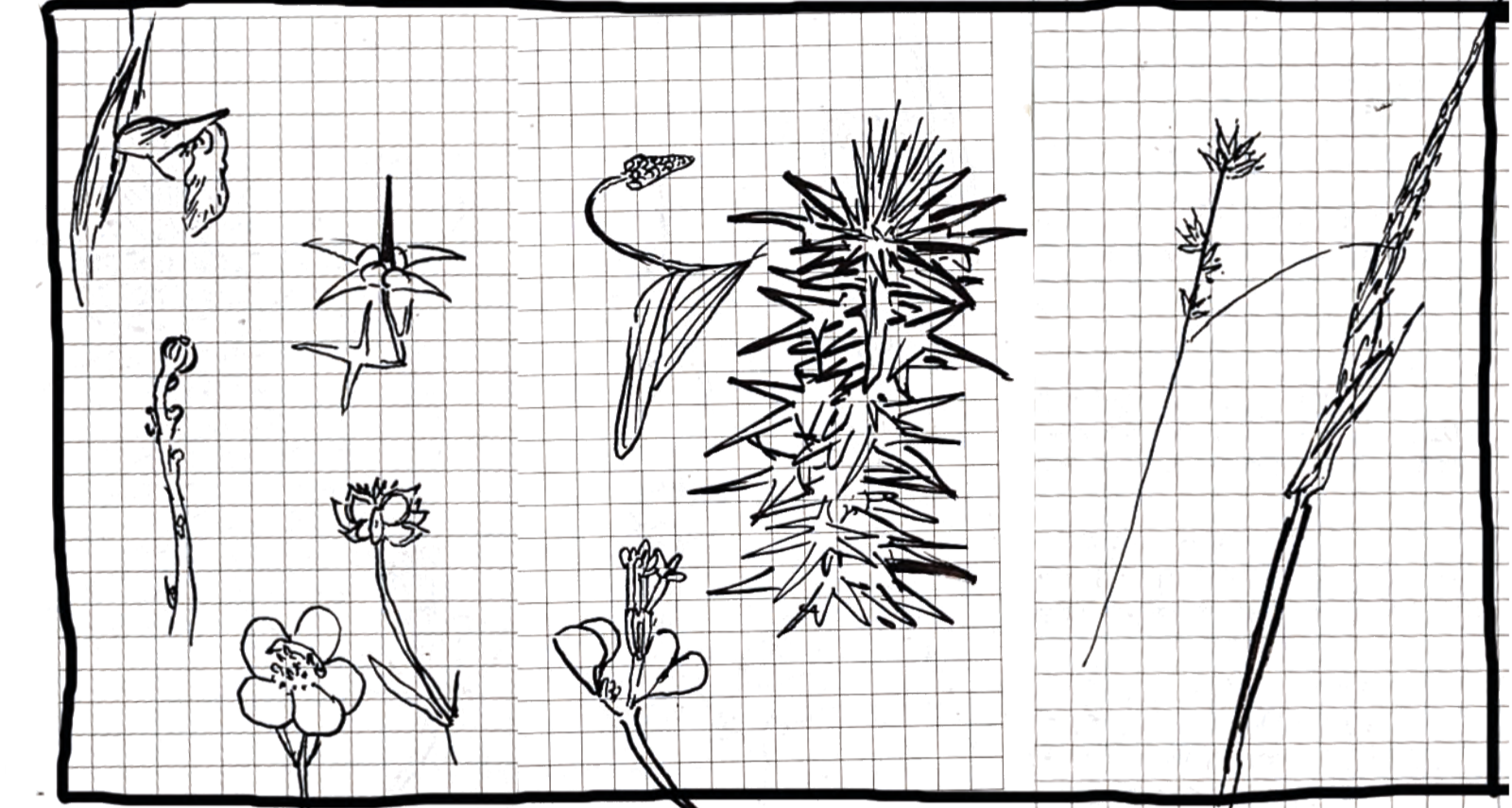
Iris Beauvois
Dounia Ziamari
Birce Birgen

Julien Marquis
Aimé Roscame Wotto

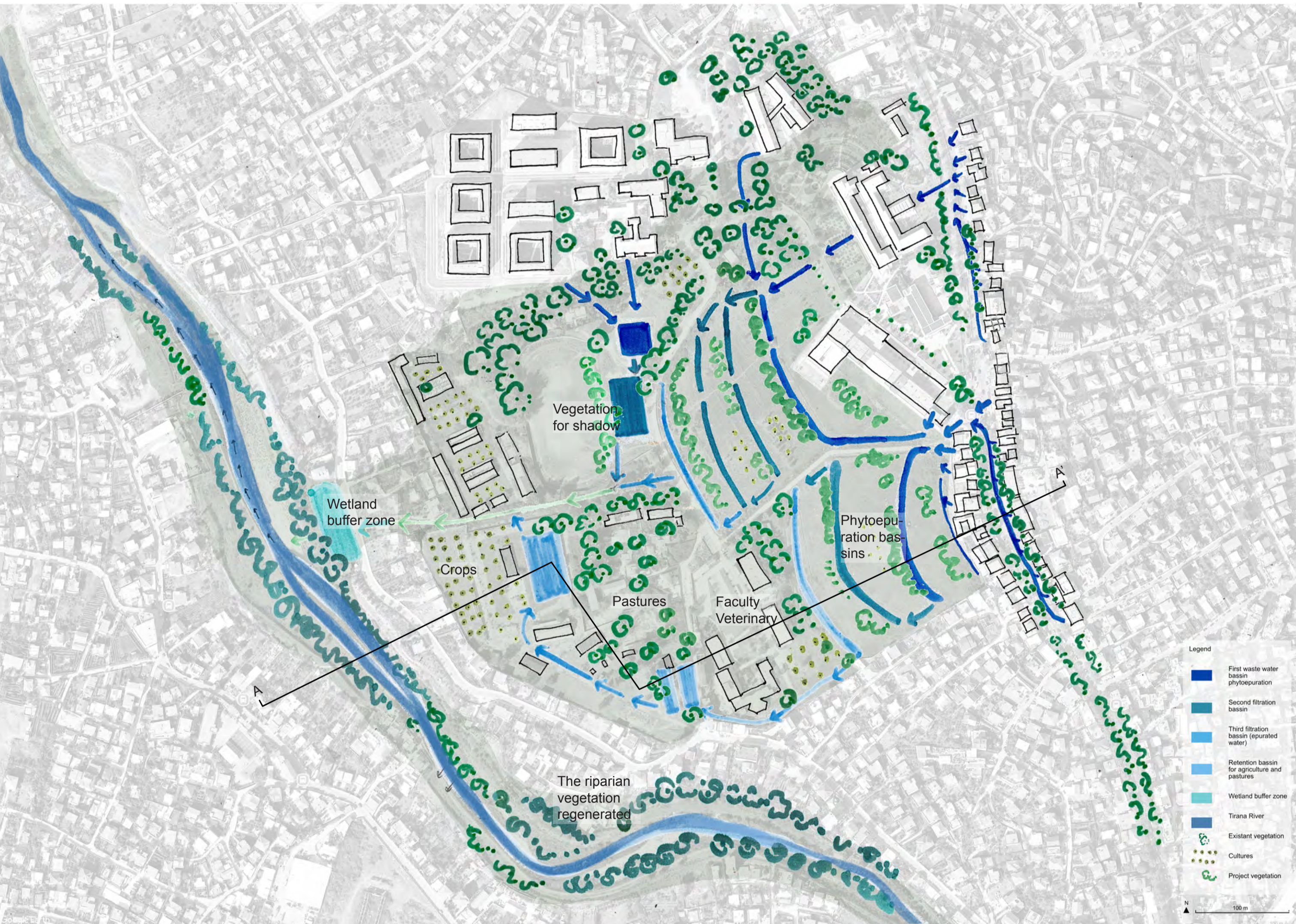
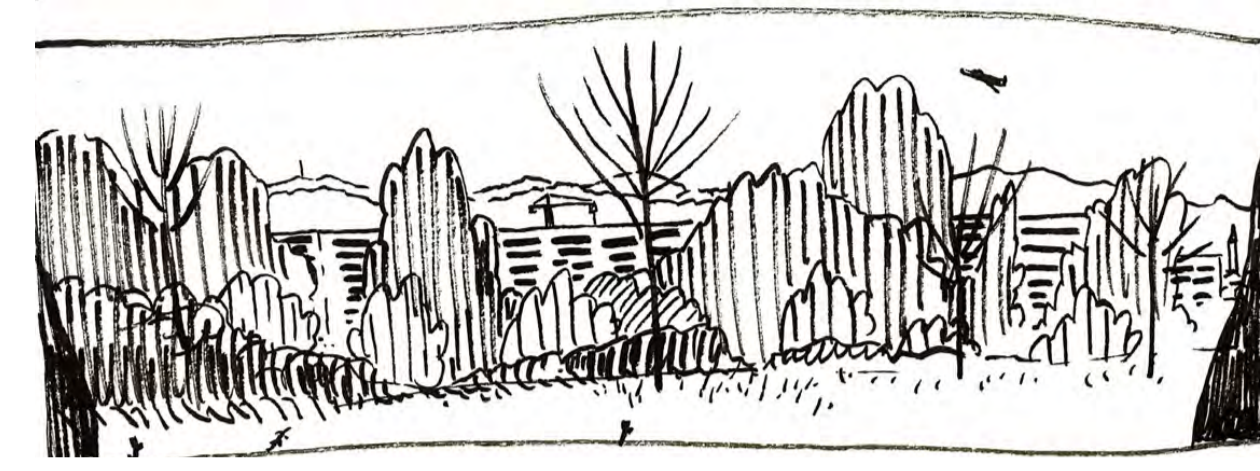


This proposal focuses on an unhelped and preserved empty space in the suburbs of Tirana. A wide prairie on a slope with on its promontory the UBT campus overlooking on Tirana's vast landscape and its mountains skyline. In this microcosm cohabit : dominos games, cows, soccer game, bouquet, birds, goats grazing, teenagers singing : socializing and freedom. But water is absent in this atmosphere : no drainage nor sanitation system, or connection to the river.

How can we get acquainted with this primal resource while leaving this empty space as it is already : a living space?

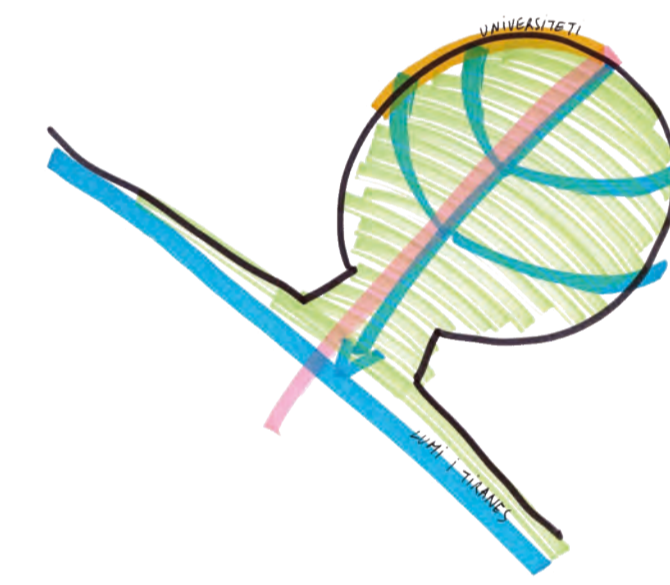
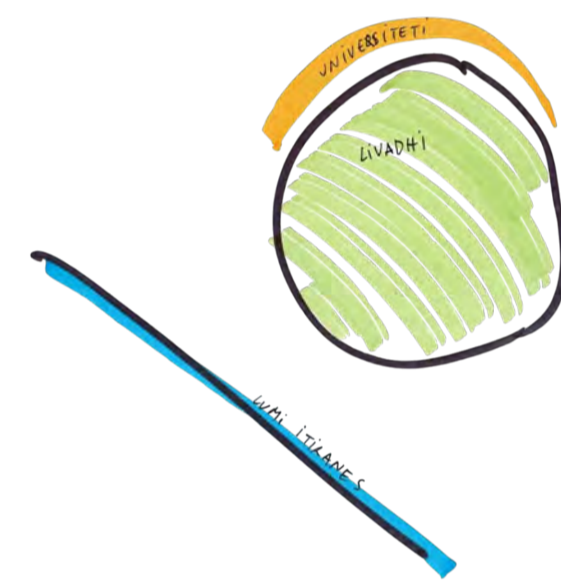


The campus of agriculture is situated in the north west of Tirana.



Current situation

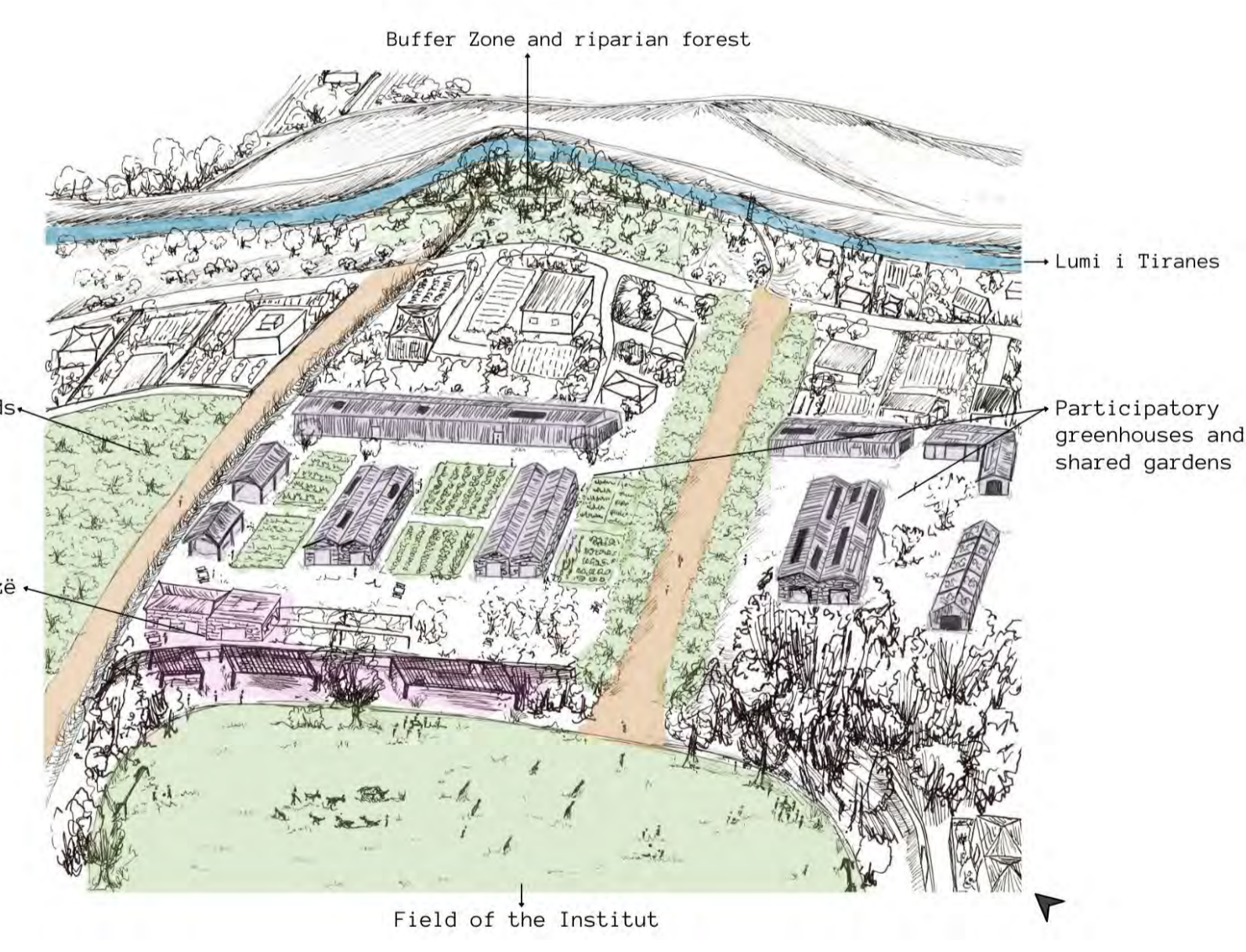
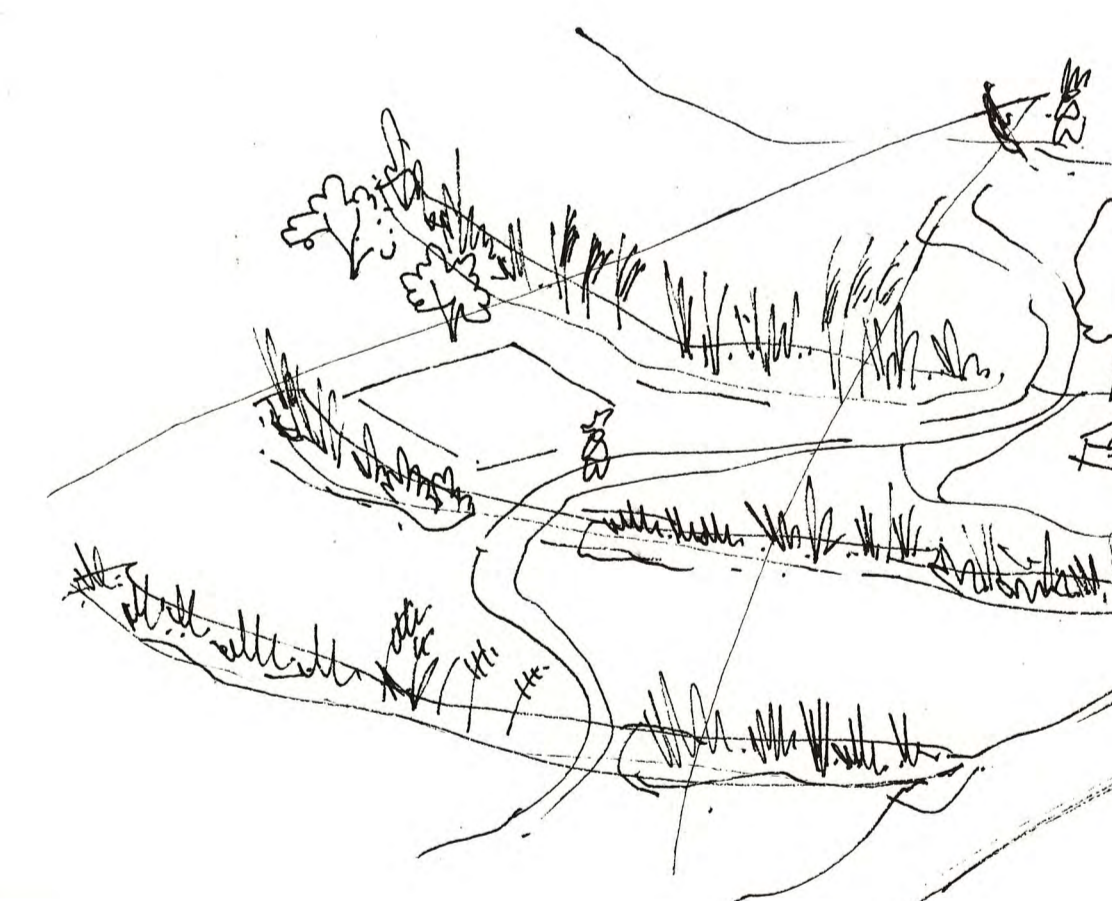
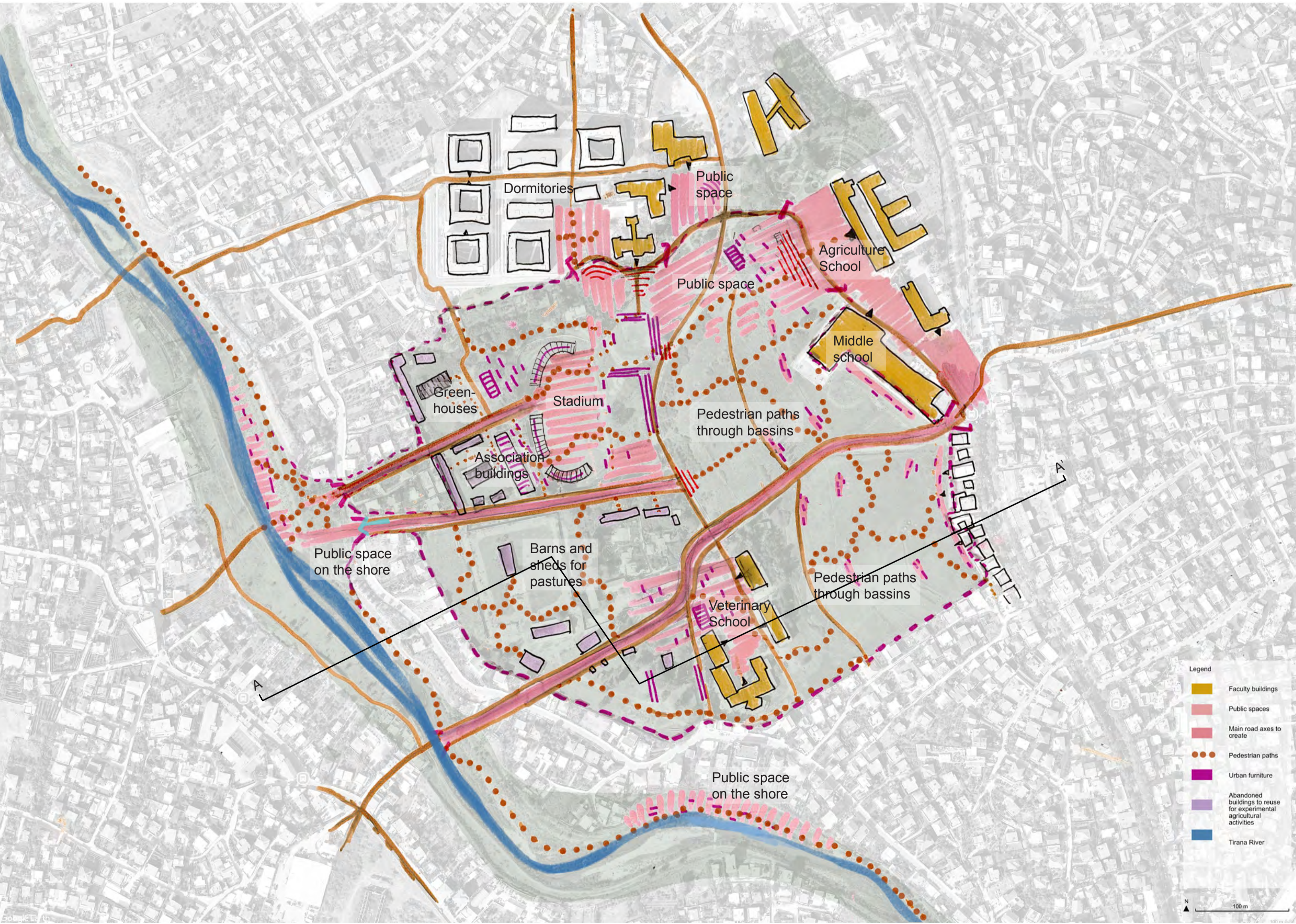
Project



The plain and the river as two separate entities

The plain and the river as an ensemble by water

This proposal aims to comfort and secure this precious prairie as a park for the North-West of Tirana. A small scale exemplary model in term of cooperation and water's sanitation, to answer national scale problematics. We follow the water from the top of the prairie to its river. Through a network of phytosanitation ditches and basins for the buildings sewerage system. Through Universities's forecourt are extended on the park as experimental and public spaces. Encountering below the shade of an olive tree, in the freshness of the retention's basin, on my way to the river renatured banks, or in the new rehabilitated stables.



Linear phytoepuration basins on the slope

Forecourt of the veterinary school

Field of the Institut

Axonometry on the reuse of abandoned buildings and the stadium side



River banks

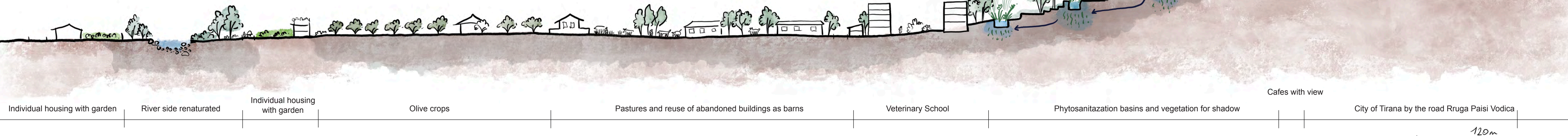
Phytosanitation basins

Rehabilitated stables

Collectif Etc urban furniture

Atelier le Balto crops in wastelands

Lausanne University pasture campus



Individual housing with garden | River side renatured | Individual housing with garden | Olive crops | Pastures and reuse of abandoned buildings as barns | Veterinary School | Phytosanitation basins and vegetation for shadow | Cafes with view | City of Tirana by the road Rruga Pajis Vodica

Landscape section AA'

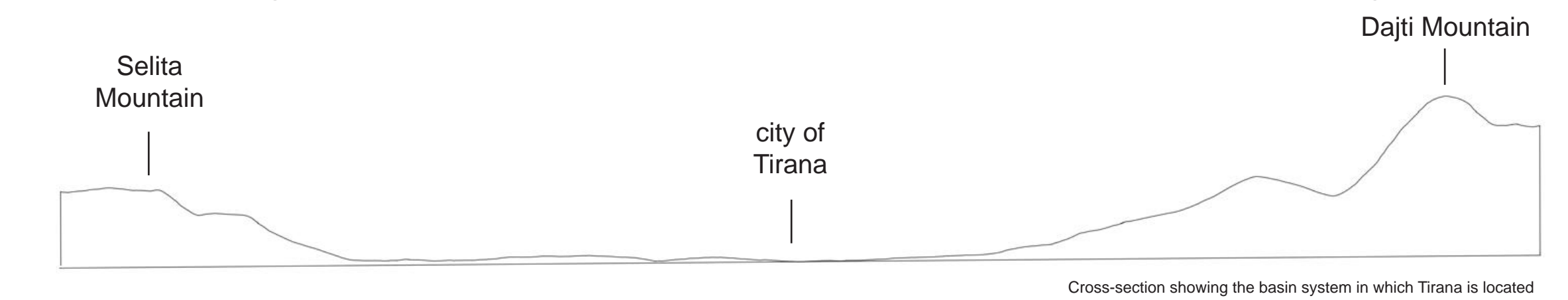
120m

Towards a park system

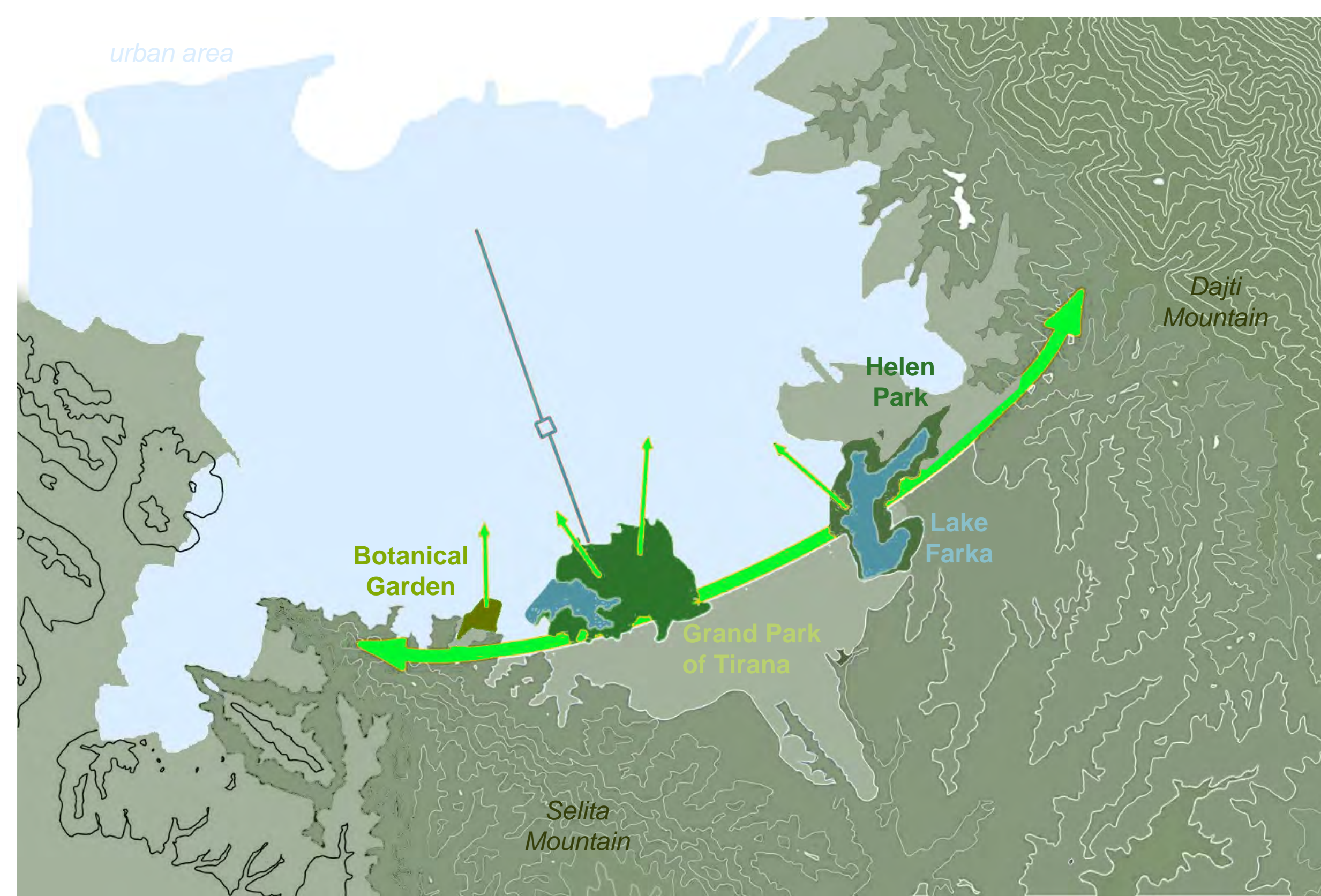
Pierre-Jean CHAUVIN DE PRÉCOURT
Leïla FACENDA - Louise MAUGUEN
Fiara LOGLI - Emilie TOLAINI

The project explores the southern belt of Tirana by linking three major parks into a continuous landscape system. Facing fragmented spaces and unclear uses, it proposes a coherent network structured by the olive tree, a strong local symbol. By redefining edges, entrances, and connections, the project reconnects urban and natural areas while creating diverse spaces for production, leisure, and ecological continuity.

Tirana, a city in a basin: a structure enclosed within a collinear system

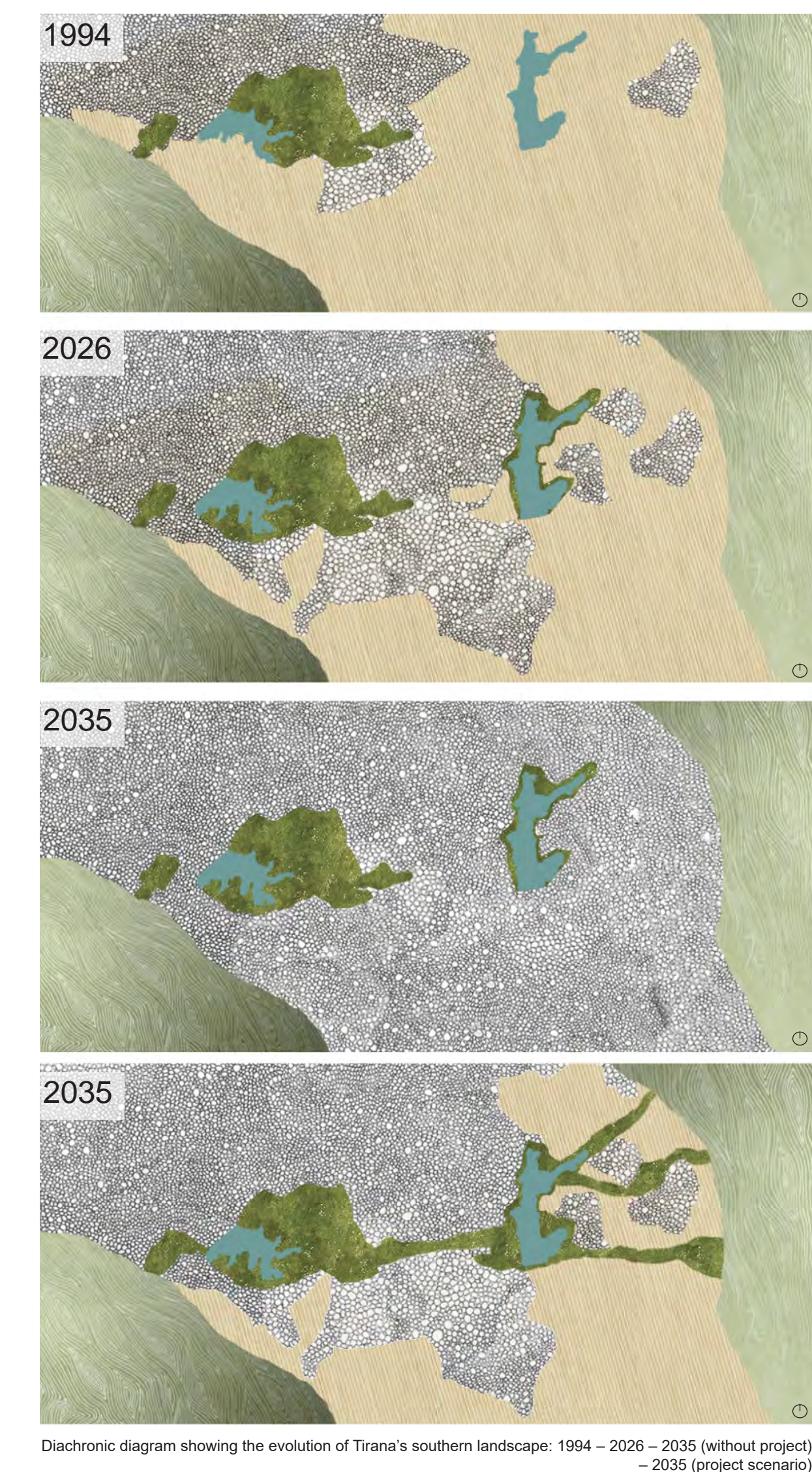


Reconnecting the City Through a Continuous Green Structure

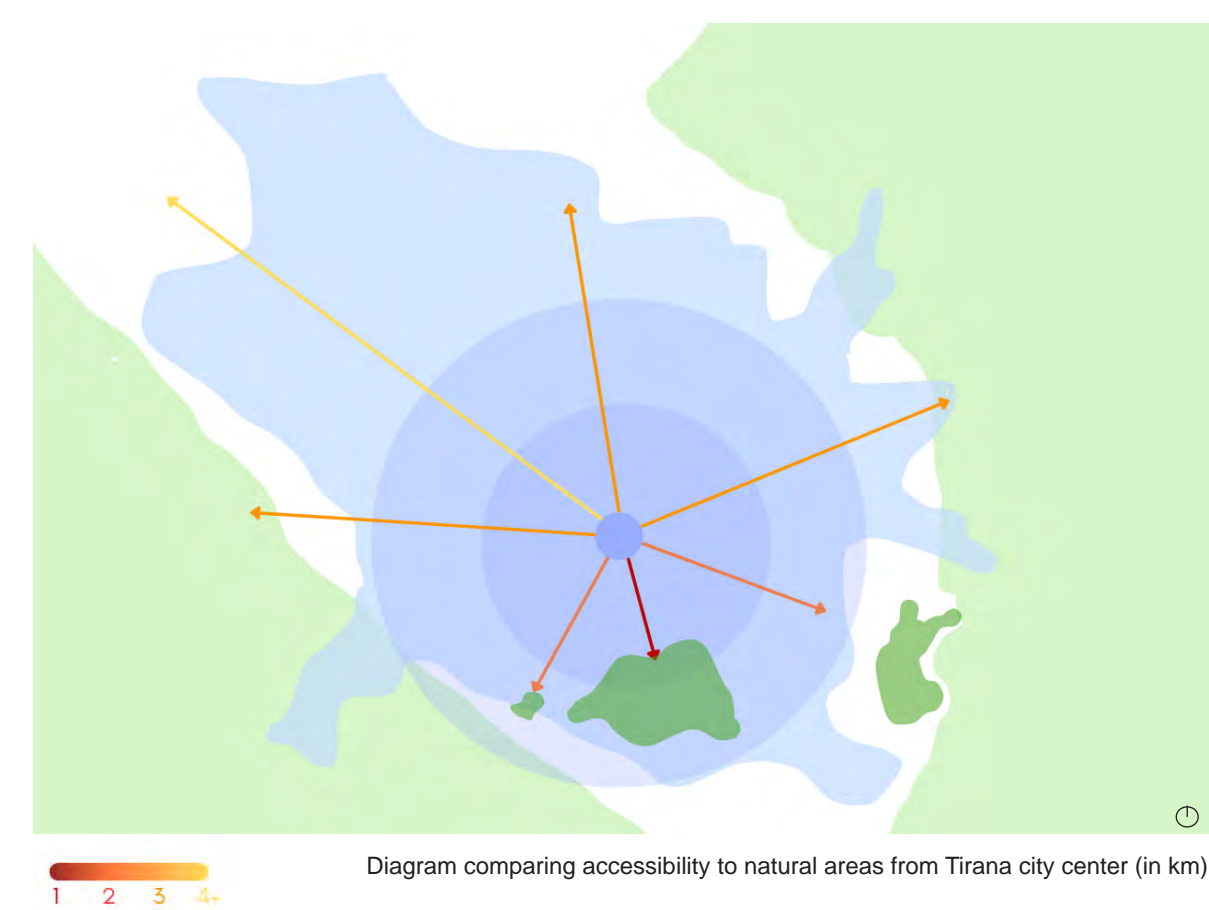


The project builds on these potentials by creating a continuous park system structured around the olive tree, a deeply rooted cultural and productive element of the region. The olive becomes both a landscape and functional tool, shaping spaces with different uses, from ornamental gardens to productive groves. By clarifying boundaries, redefining entrances, and strengthening ecological and spatial connections, the project aims to restore continuity between urban and natural environments, while offering a coherent and accessible landscape for the city.

A Landscape at Risk: Past, Present, and Possible Futures



Unequal Access to Nature: South vs North Tirana



The southern crown of Tirana reveals a fragmented landscape marked by strong urban pressure, unclear boundaries, and conflicting uses. Since 1994, urban sprawl has continuously expanded and, if no action is taken, the remaining agricultural and landscape areas risk gradually disappearing in favor of new developments. The three studied parks: the Botanical Garden, the Grand Park with its lake, and Helen Park: lack legibility, continuity, and clear connections. Entrances are often difficult to identify, edges are blurred, and abrupt ruptures interrupt spatial sequences. Despite these challenges, the area holds significant potential.

Disconnected Potentials: Fragmented Landscape System



Two hills frame the city on the east and west, offering an opportunity to reconnect urban spaces with a larger territorial structure. In addition, remaining non-urbanized areas already suggest the possibility of a green belt linking parks and slopes. Unlike the northern parts of Tirana, where access to nature requires traveling several kilometers, this southern area benefits from immediate proximity to the city center, making it a strategic space for intervention.

Altered continuity



Global References of Park Systems and Green Networks



« The Boston park system, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and called «Seralid Necklace», is a network of nine parks connected over several kilometers, integrating nature into the urban fabric. It aims to structure the expansion of the city while offering green spaces accessible to all, reconciling urban planning and landscape preservation. »

The park system designed by George Kessler in Cincinnati (1907) is part of the City Beautiful movement and aims to structure the city through a continuous network of green spaces. It connects parks of different scales—ranging from neighborhood to regional—through parkways and boulevards, creating a cohesive landscape framework. The plan highlights natural features such as hills and valleys to provide views and open spaces. It also addresses urban issues by helping to reduce congestion and improve living conditions. Finally, it establishes a coherent system in which parks are no longer isolated, but integrated into a continuous and hierarchical urban structure.

Building a Green Network Across Southern Tirana

2. Botanical Garden: Olive Tree Education and Awareness

Enhancing the Botanical Garden as a place of learning and awareness by developing educational and participatory spaces dedicated to the olive tree, through workshops, activities, and cultural associations. This approach aims to strengthen public engagement and increase the visibility of the garden and its ongoing work.

4. Requalifying the Grand Park of Tirana

Reorganizing and refining the Grand Park of Tirana by clarifying uses and introducing new facilities dedicated to leisure and recreational activities. The project enhances open meadows, redefines circulation paths, and strengthens the overall legibility and comfort of the park.

6. Creating a Transitional Landscape between the Grand Park and Lake Farka

Establishing a transitional landscape that integrates existing residential areas into a resilient eco-district, through the requalification of road infrastructures and the use of remaining undeveloped plots. This strategy combines olive cultivation with new park spaces and emerging uses, aiming to create a mixed and productive landscape while limiting further urban sprawl.

1. Reconnecting the Botanical Garden to the Western Hills

Restoring an ecological and spatial continuity between the Botanical Garden and the western hills by strengthening vegetative connections and opening the park to create a continuous pathway from the urban fabric towards the natural slopes.

3. Softening Urban Edges through Vegetation

Transforming the abrupt urban edges into softer transition zones through vegetative interventions, introducing the olive tree in its ornamental form as a structuring element to mediate between built space and landscape.

5. Restoring the Lake of the Grand Park through Phytoremediation

Transforming the polluted lake into a natural water treatment system using aquatic and riparian vegetation. In the long term, the objective is to create a clean and accessible water body that can support cooling, swimming, and water-based activities in response to climate change.

7. Extending Lake Farka Towards the Eastern Hills

Strengthening and extending existing dynamics of development around Lake Farka by overcoming the current limit of urbanization at the lakeshore. The project introduces olive cultivation and early park structures to connect lakeshore areas with the eastern hills, integrating new uses and practices while reinforcing a continuous landscape and limiting urban sprawl on the slopes.

Project plan for a continuous park system structured by the olive landscape

Botanical Garden: A Space for Awareness and Knowledge Transmission



Reworking Edges: Reinforcing Landscape and Urban Boundaries



Olive Landscapes: Transitional Spaces and Agricultural Walks

