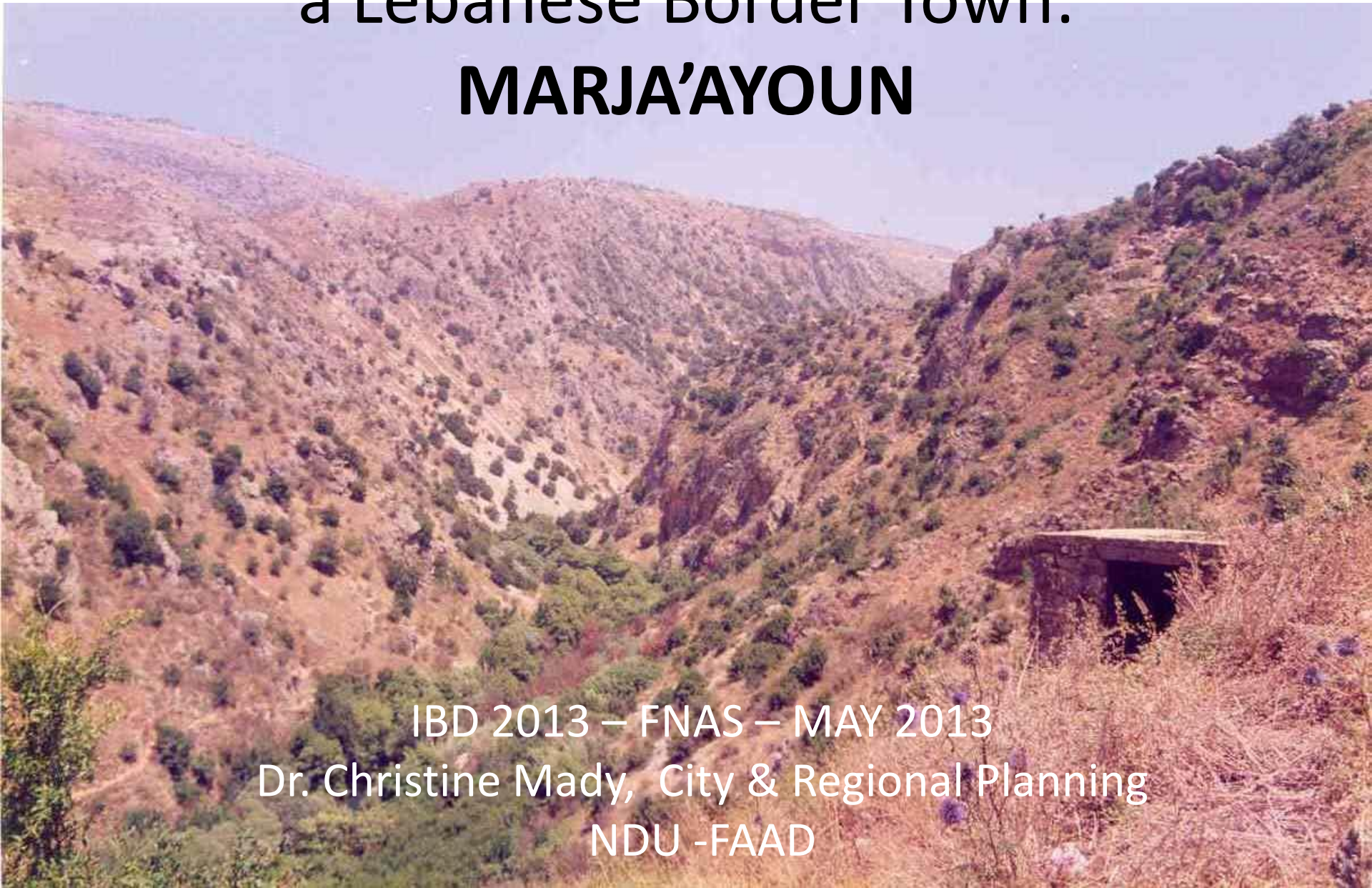


The Contested Cultural Landscape of a Lebanese Border Town: **MARJA'AYOUN**



IBD 2013 – FNAS – MAY 2013
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NDU -FAAD

In this Presentation



- A PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

- INTRODUCING THE CASE STUDY AREA

- THE SELECTED APPROACH

- ELEMENTS OF NATURE & CULTURE IN THE STUDY AREA

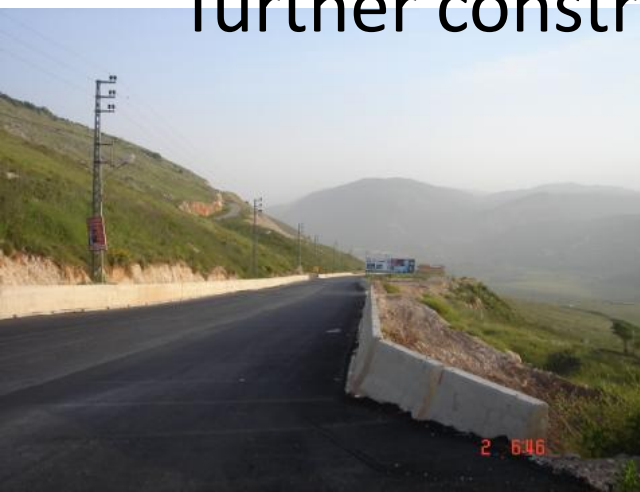
- CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Planning Perspective

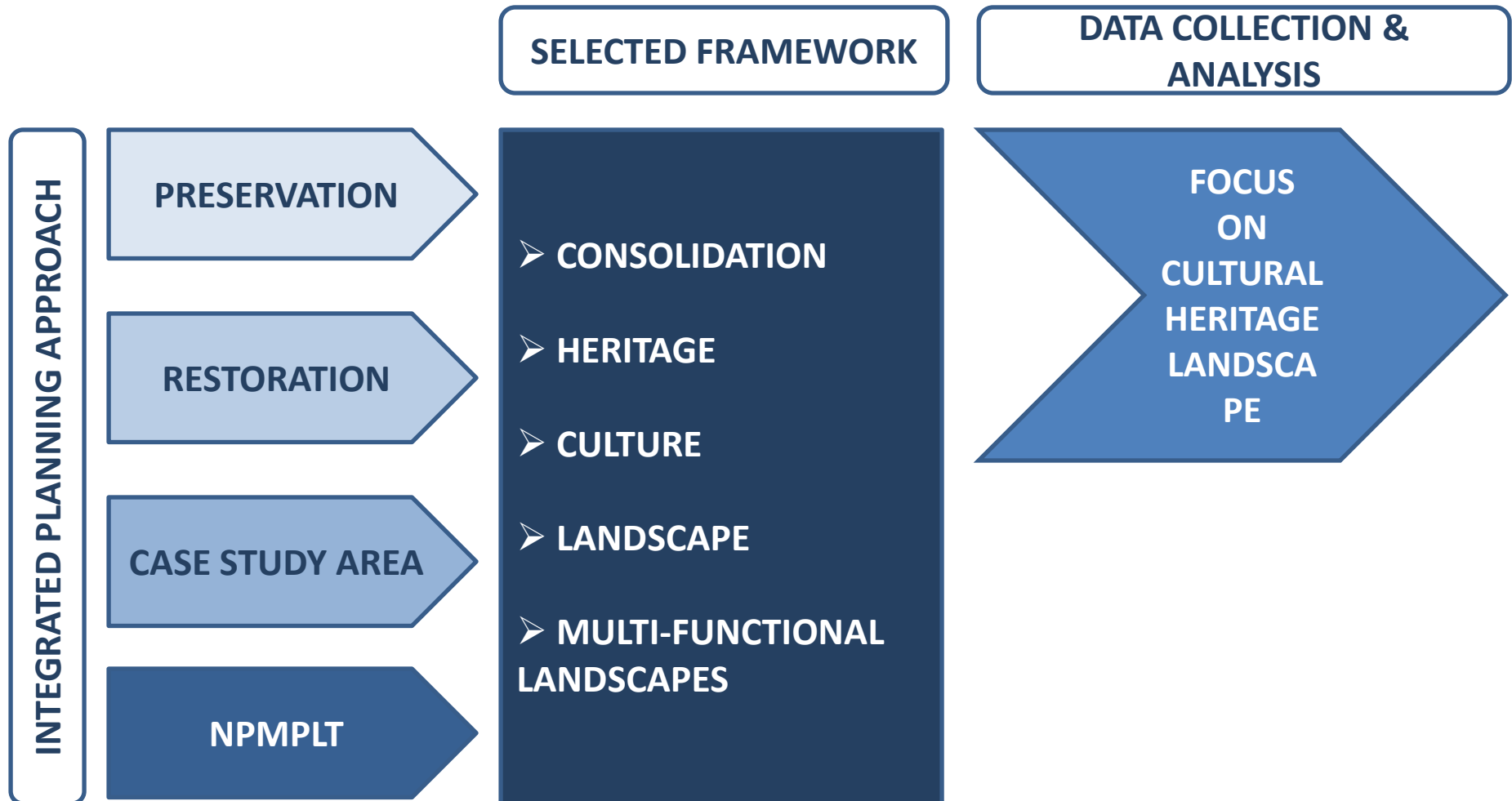
- Investigating the built environment through its architecture, and infrastructure;
- An integrated approach with a focus on the natural and built environments;
- Integration of people within the environment they live and work in under several influences: environmental, cultural, social, economic, political and so on.

Introducing Qaza Marja'ayoun

- Up until 2000 was isolated from the rest of the country
- The need for integrating this region within the rest of the country, especially with the challenge of mined areas, and the preservation of the region's natural and cultural heritage
- Further damage in the area in 2006, but also further construction



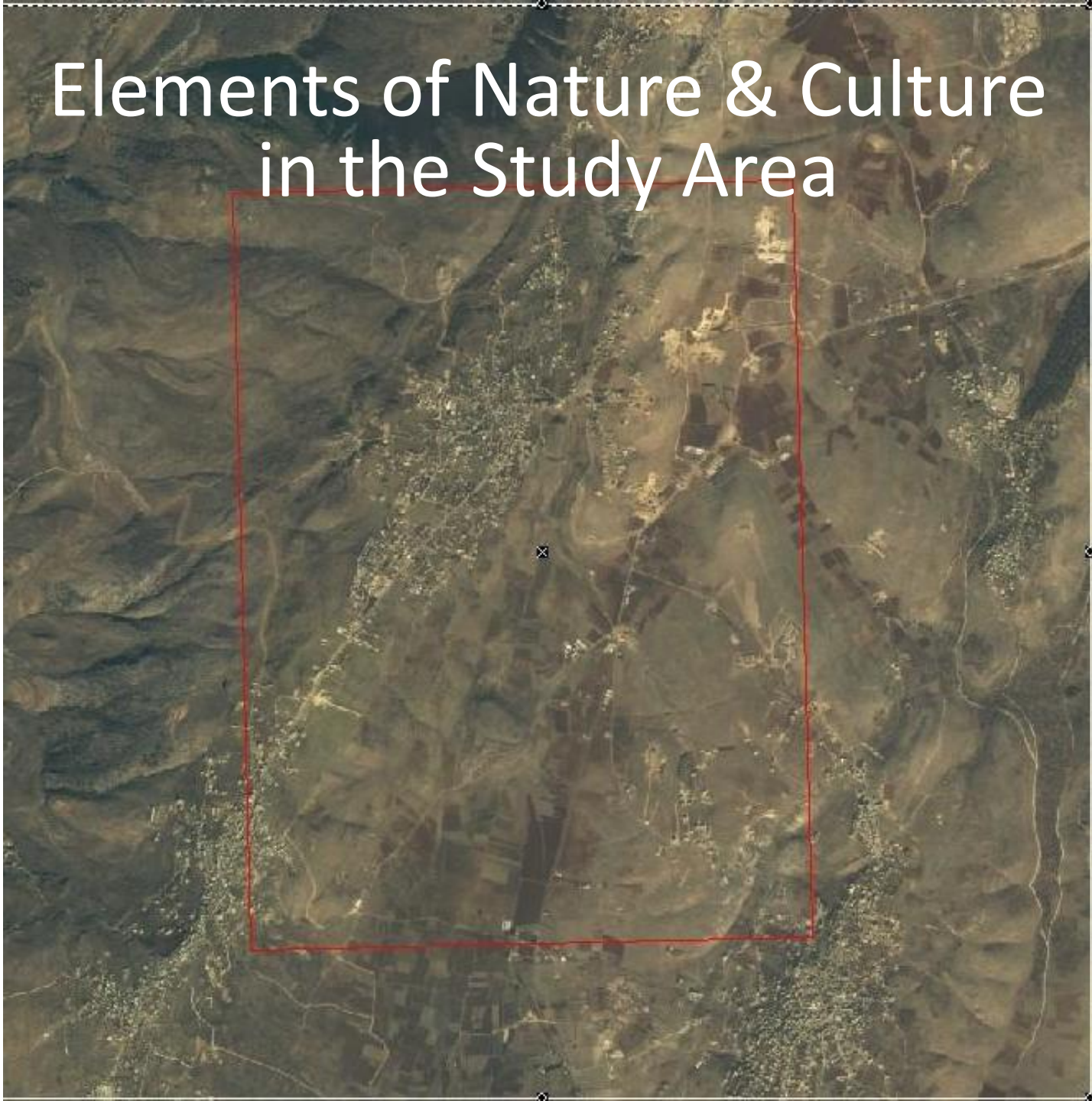
THE SELECTED APPROACH



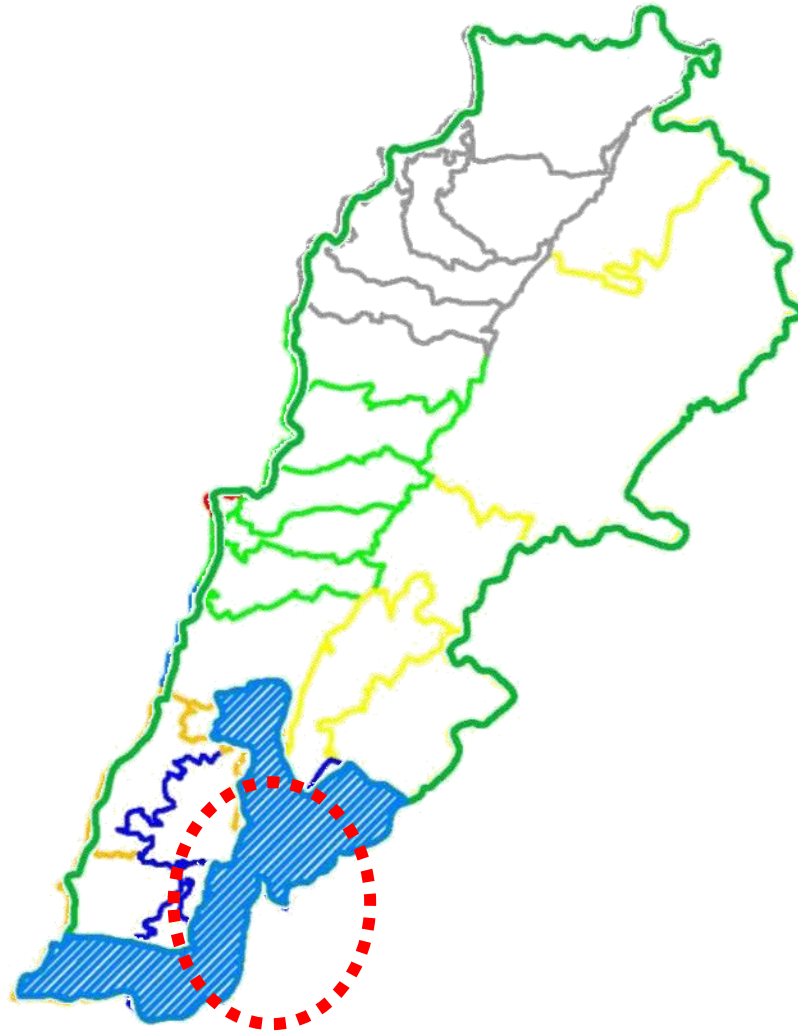
The Selected Approach --

- There is a **constant struggle** between **nature** and **urbanisation**. The **invasive development** of **urban settlements** and their **services** is not without limits.
- Natural landscapes could be **reclaimed, restored, rehabilitated and expanded** simply because they have been **initially generated by human activities**.
- However, it takes **comprehensive management** and **social acceptance** to reach **such sustainable development**.

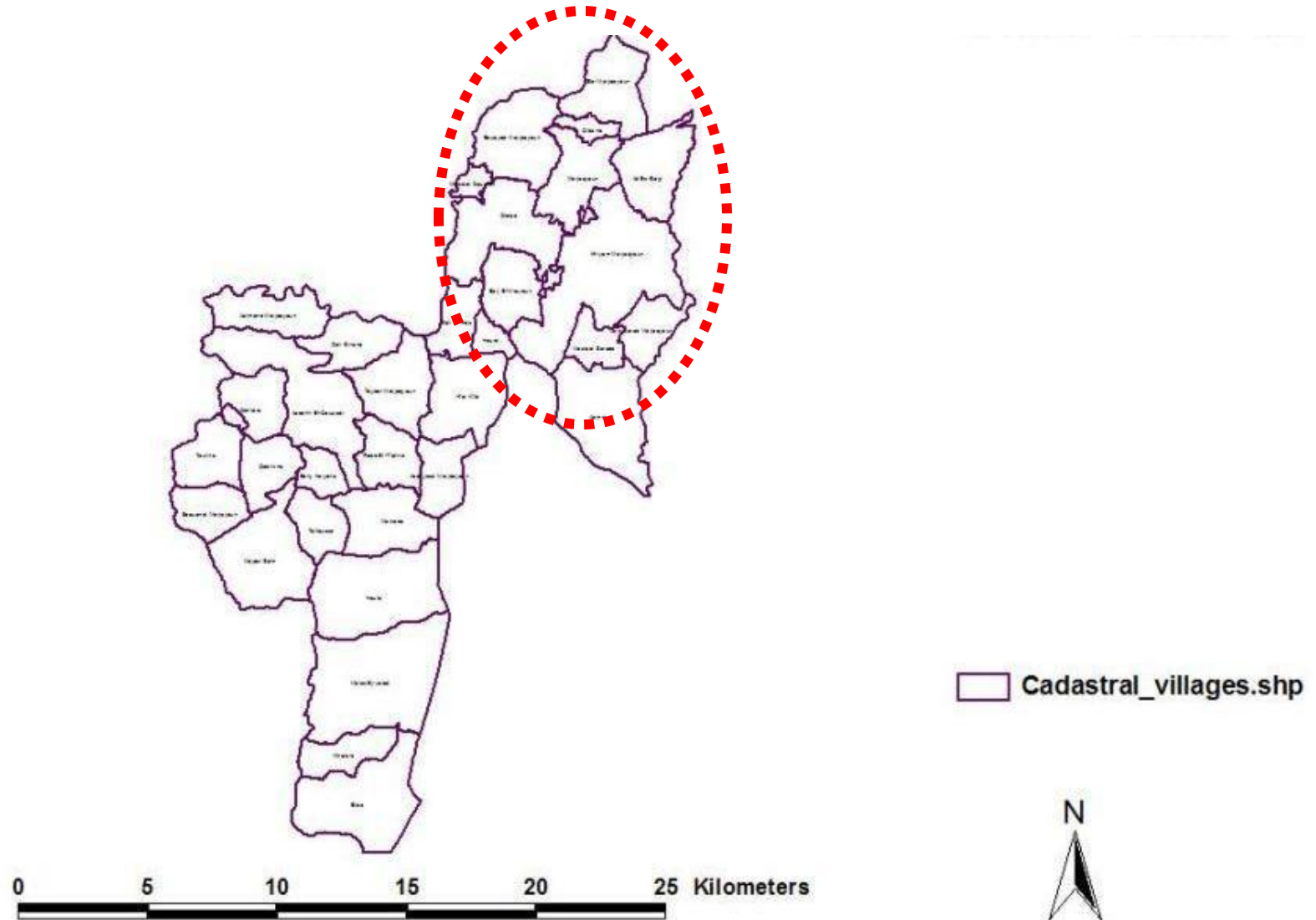
Elements of Nature & Culture in the Study Area



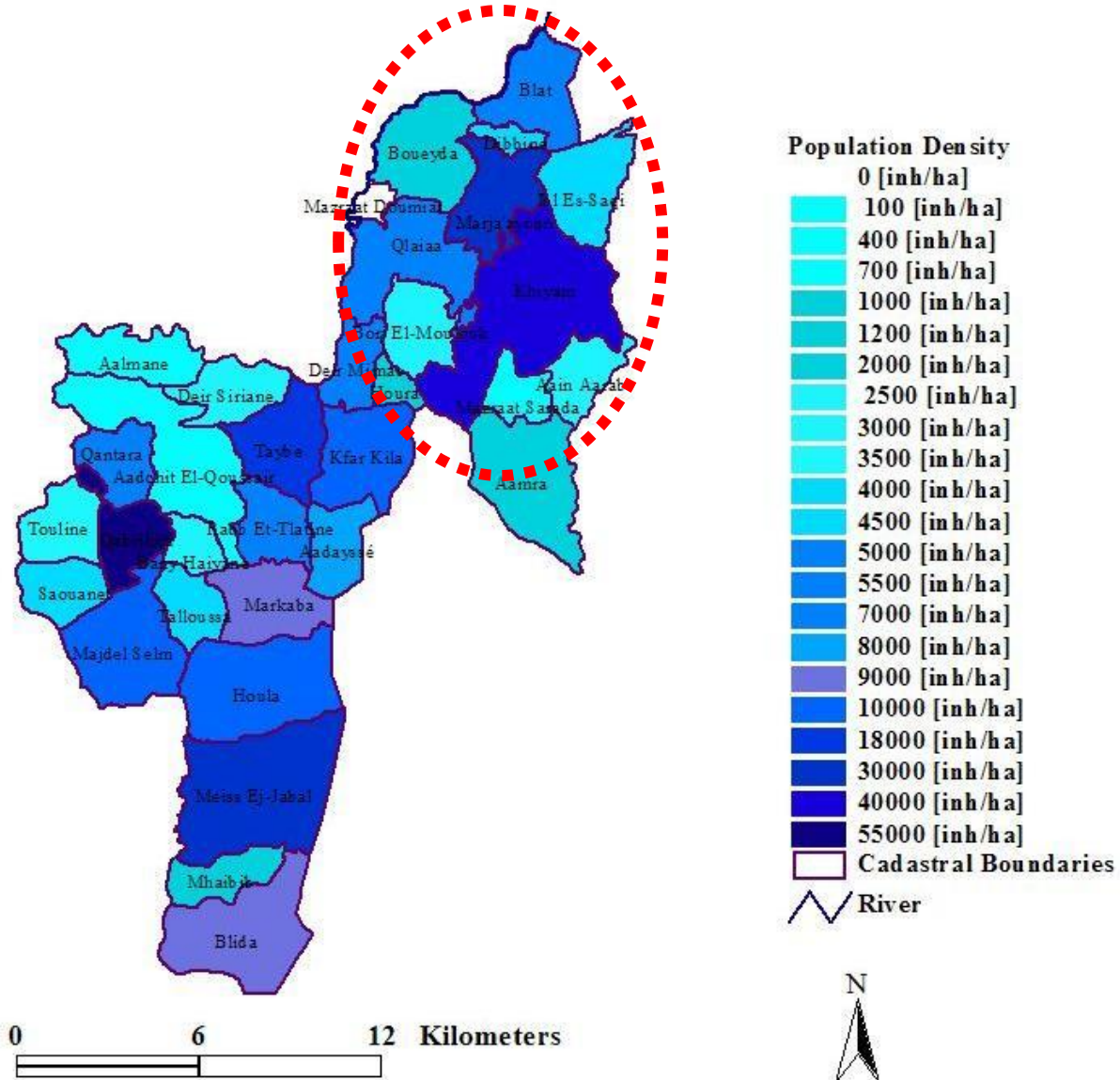
Lebanon and the Previous Security Zone



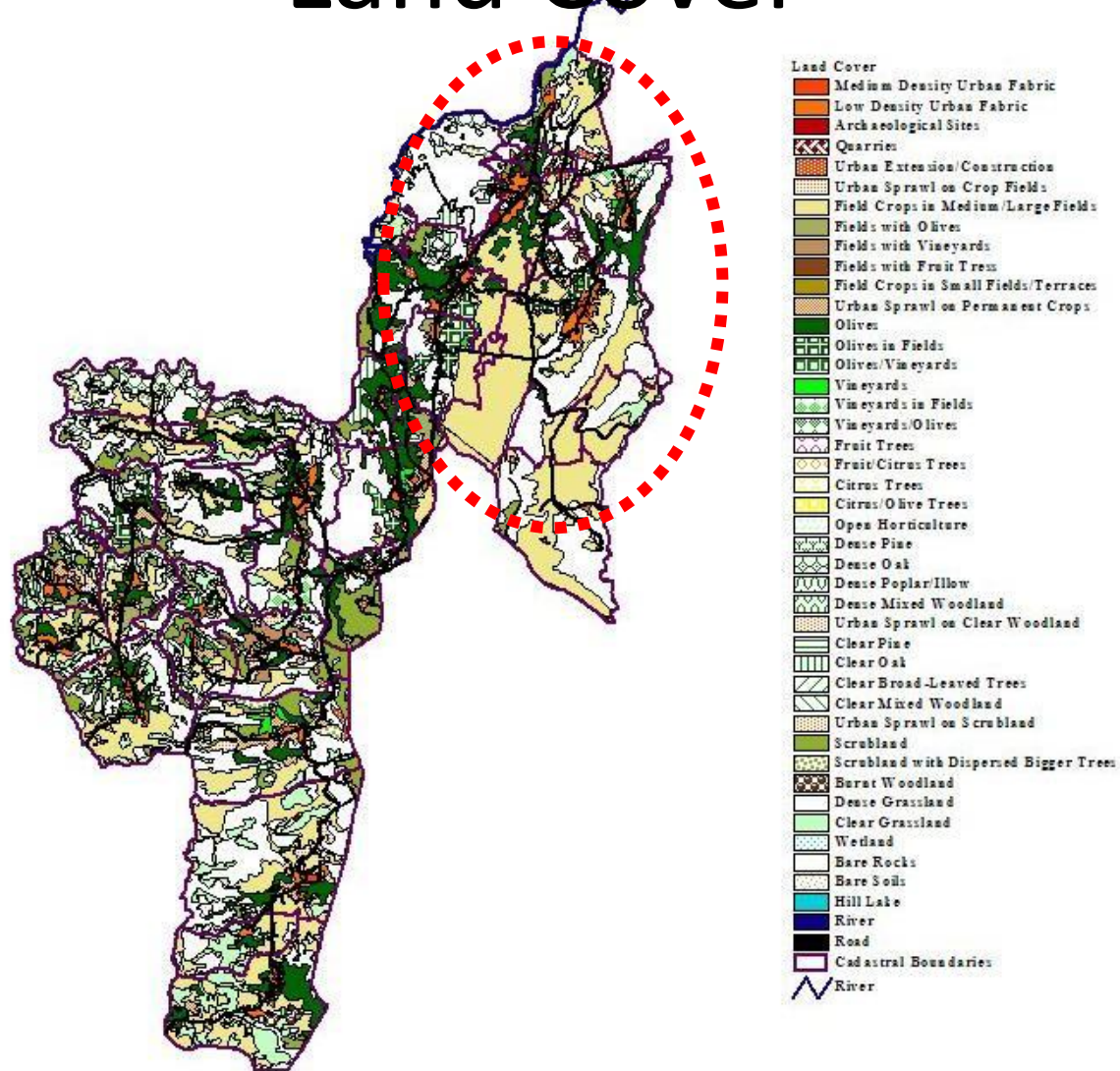
The Qaza & Its Settlements – Fig 1.5



Population Density



Land Cover



0 6 12 Kilometers



Study Area Borders

SOUTHERN BORDER



SOUTHERN JUNCTION



EASTERN BORDER

Viewing the Study Area

LITANI RIVER COURSE: Right Beaufort Fortress; left: Qlaya'a, Marja'ayoun and Bouwayda

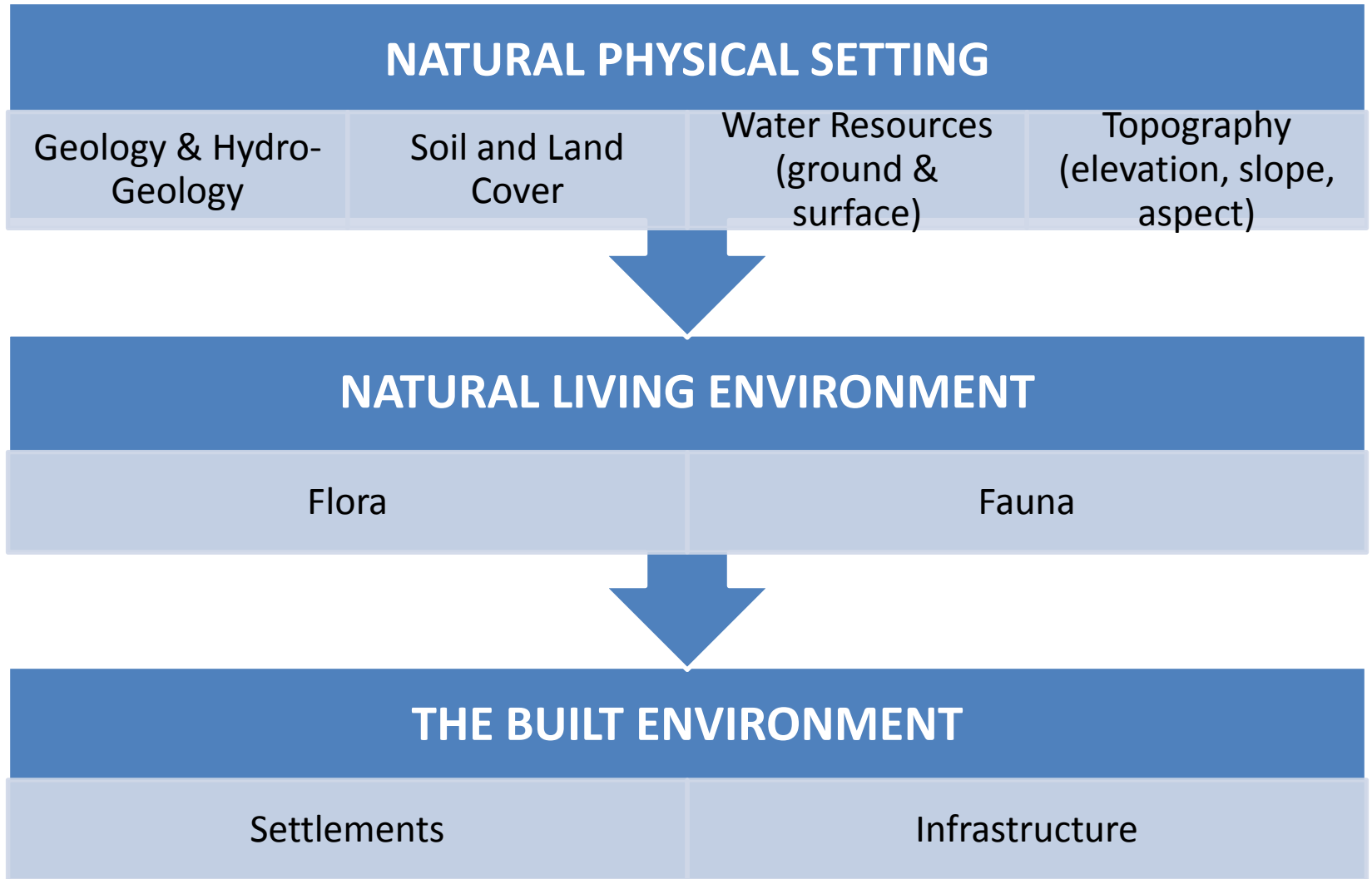


Going from Litani towards Marja'ayoun

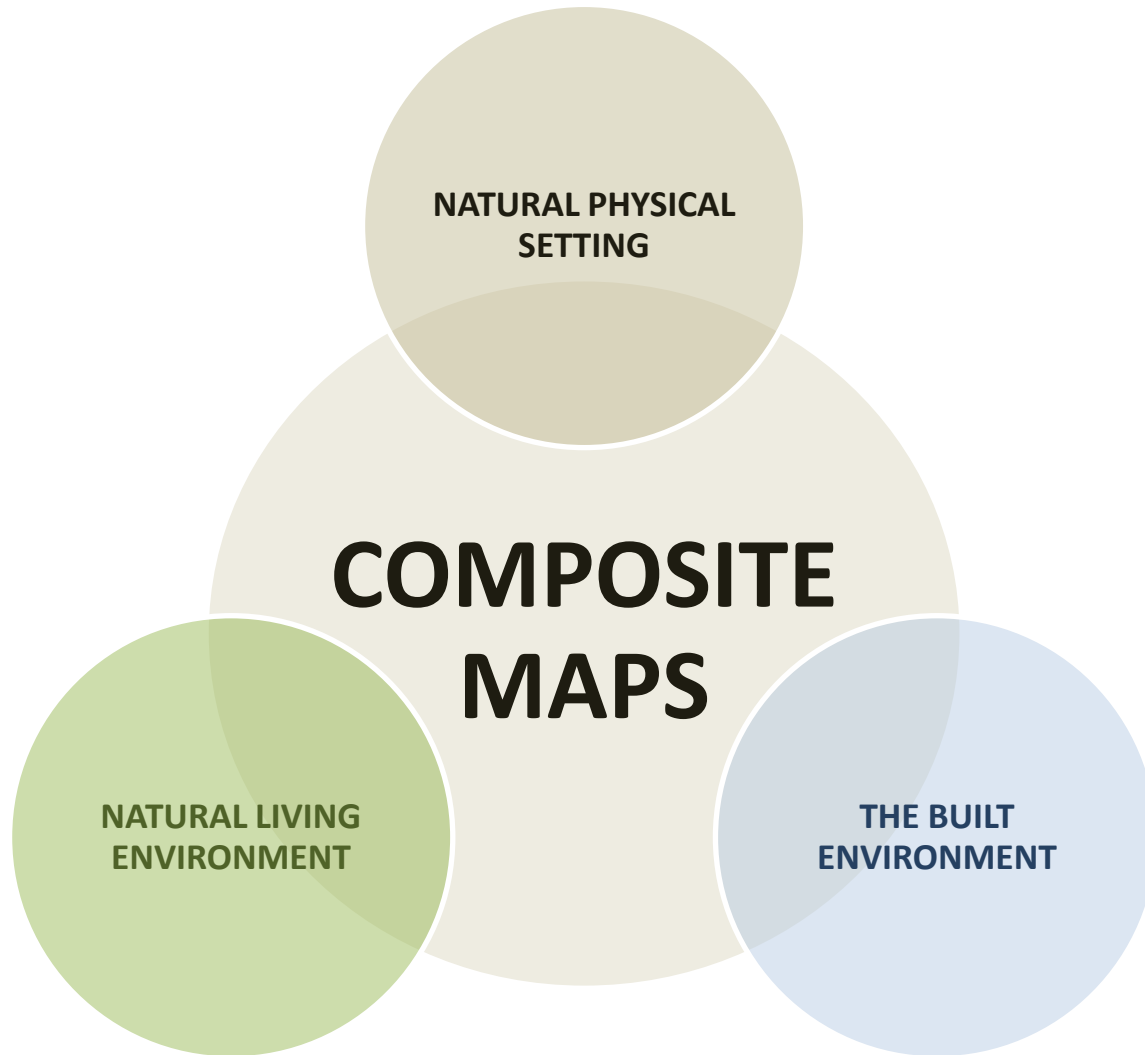
Marja'ayoun General Views



GIS Analysis



GIS Analysis

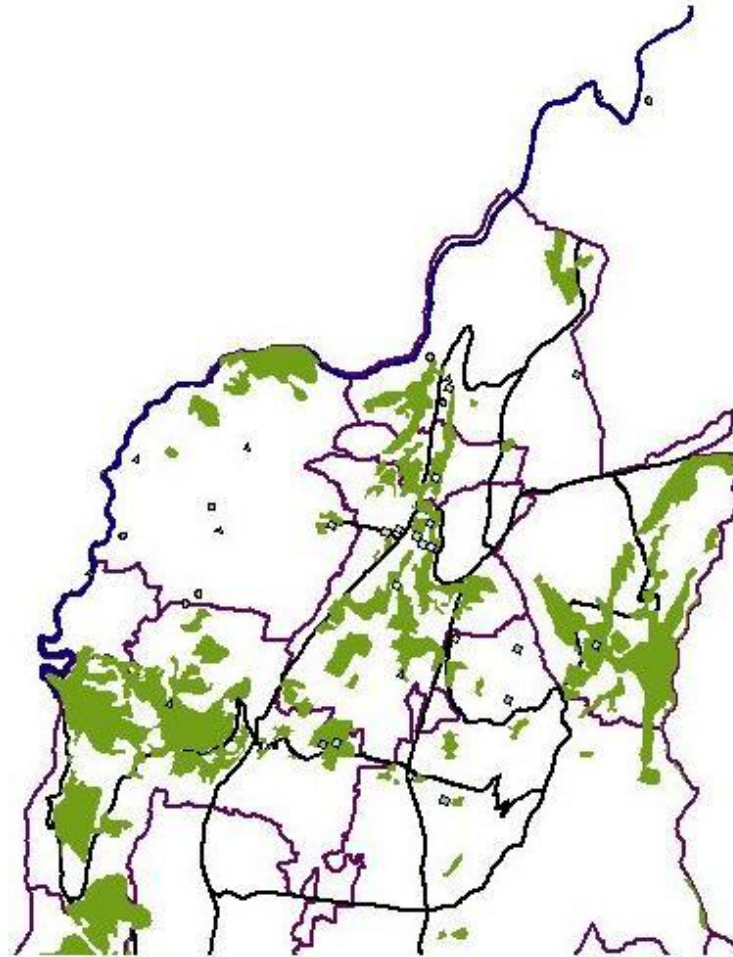


Analysis --

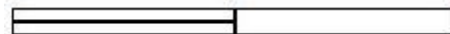
Four major land cover categories:

- **woodland** (oak: *Quercus coccifera* and *Quercus calliprinos*; olive: *Olea europa*; pine: *Pinus halepensis* and *Pinus pinea*),
- **orchards** (vines, citrus trees, peaches, apricots, almonds, pistachio),
- **open land** (grassland, scrubland, bare rocks, dispersed trees)
- **olive tree groves**

Protected Green

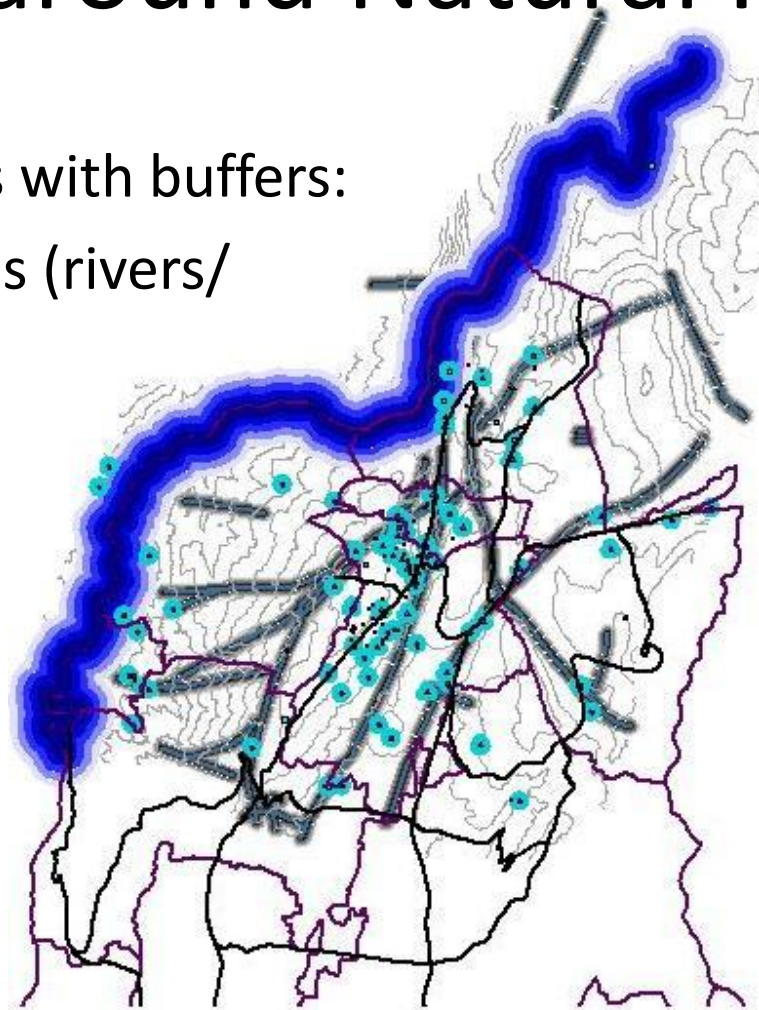


0 3 6 Kilometers

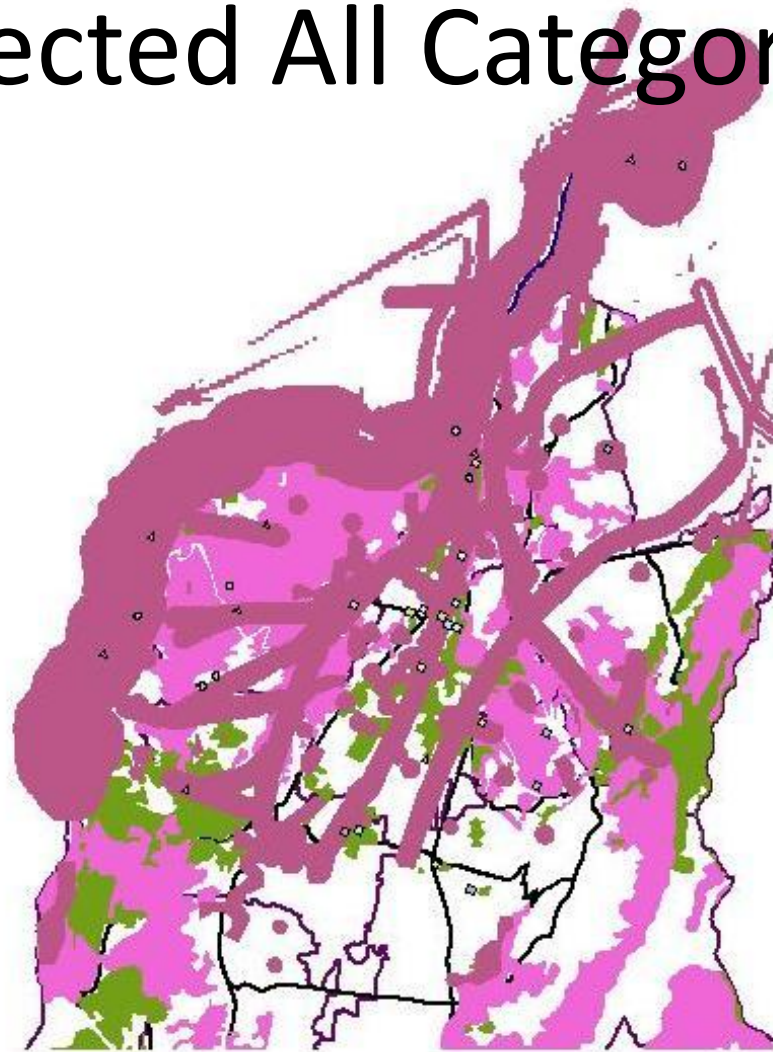


Buffer around Natural Features

- Protected areas with buffers:
 - Water bodies (rivers/springs)
 - Fault lines
 - Forests
 - roads



Protected All Categories



- rier_sites(A.s).shp
- Archaeology
- Archaeology
- Old Furnace
- Old Coal Mine
- Al-Tall
- Heritage
- Heritage
- Mill
- Market Sq.
- Boueida Church
- Orthodox Pat.
- Catholic Pat.
- Ain Qzeir Monast.
- Proph. Ezekiel Tomb
- Serail
- Cemetery
- French Cemetry
- Roman Bath
- Dordara Lake
- Safsafa Spring
- Ain Qzeir Spring
- E bel Spring
- WWII T renches
- P1.shp
- Slope20.shp
- 25
- 30
- 35
- 40
- 45
- 50
- 58
- Owbgst.shp
- Gw.shp
- River01.shp
- river
- Roads.shp
- Cadastral_villages.shp

0 3 6 Kilometers

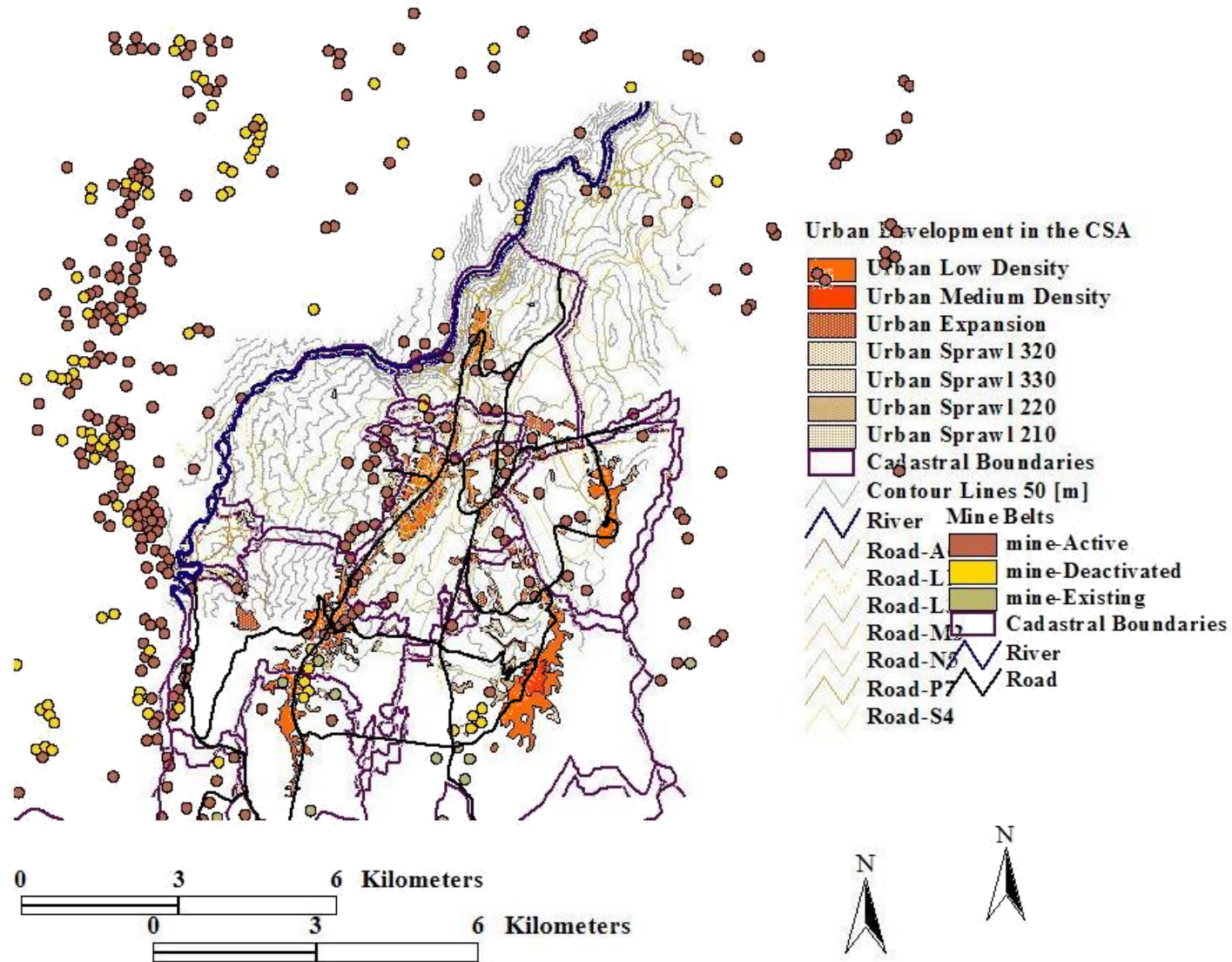


Cultural Landscape

- Analytical study of settlements
- Relation of settlements to topography: mostly located on hill tops
- Settlements and land cover: mostly separated by woodland or open land
- Olive groves and orchards are used as buffers between fields and settlements
- Settlements expand along circulation axes or spines, with individual sporadic sprawl scattered in the vicinity of the urban agglomeration and infringing on field crops
- The river strip was initially covered with oak woods except for few patches of agricultural land



Urban Areas & Land Mines



Traditional Houses



Setting of Houses



Governmental Buildings



Public Spaces



Dilapidated Houses



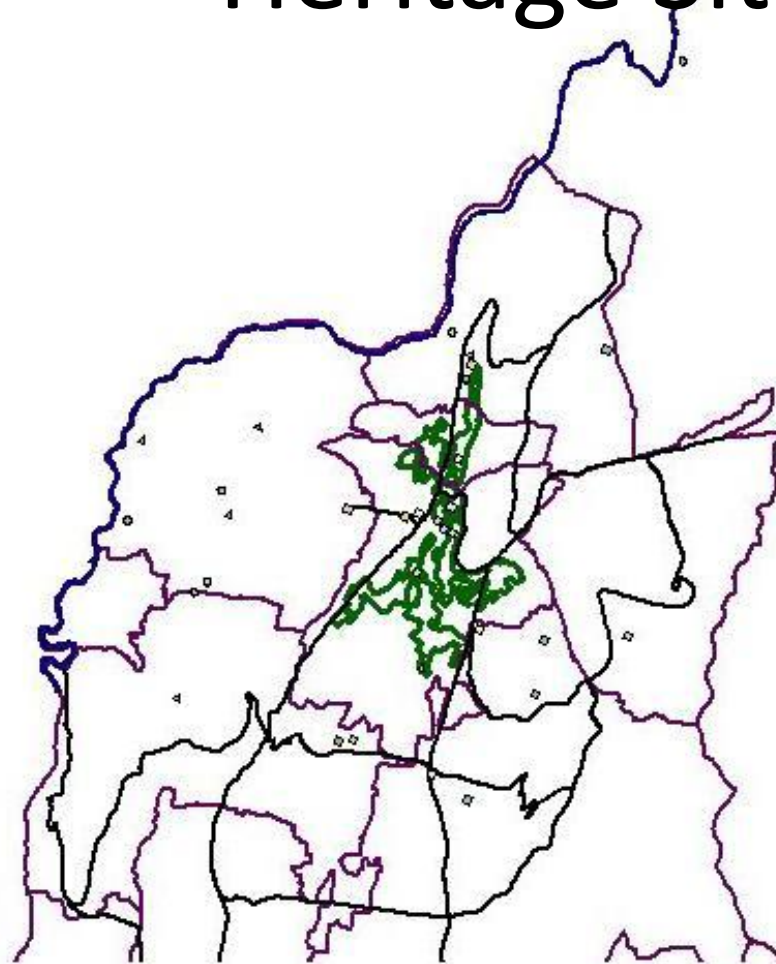
Streets



Advertisements

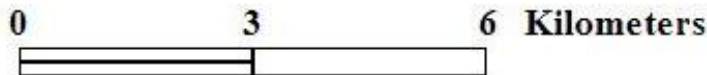


Heritage Sites



Heritage Sites of the CSA

- Archaeology
- Archaeology
- Old Furnace
- Old Coal Mine
- Al-Tall
- Heritage
- Heritage
- Mill
- Market Sq.
- Boueida Church
- Orthodox Pat.
- Catholic Pat.
- Ain Qseir Monast.
- Proph. Ezekiel Tomb
- Serail
- Cemetry
- French Cemetry
- Roman Bath
- Dordara Lake
- Safsafa Spring
- Ain Qseir Spring
- Ebel Spring
- WWII Trenches
- Old Olive Trees
- Cadastral Boundaries
- River
- Road



Heritage Sites



WWII



Olive Tree Groves



Renovated Houses



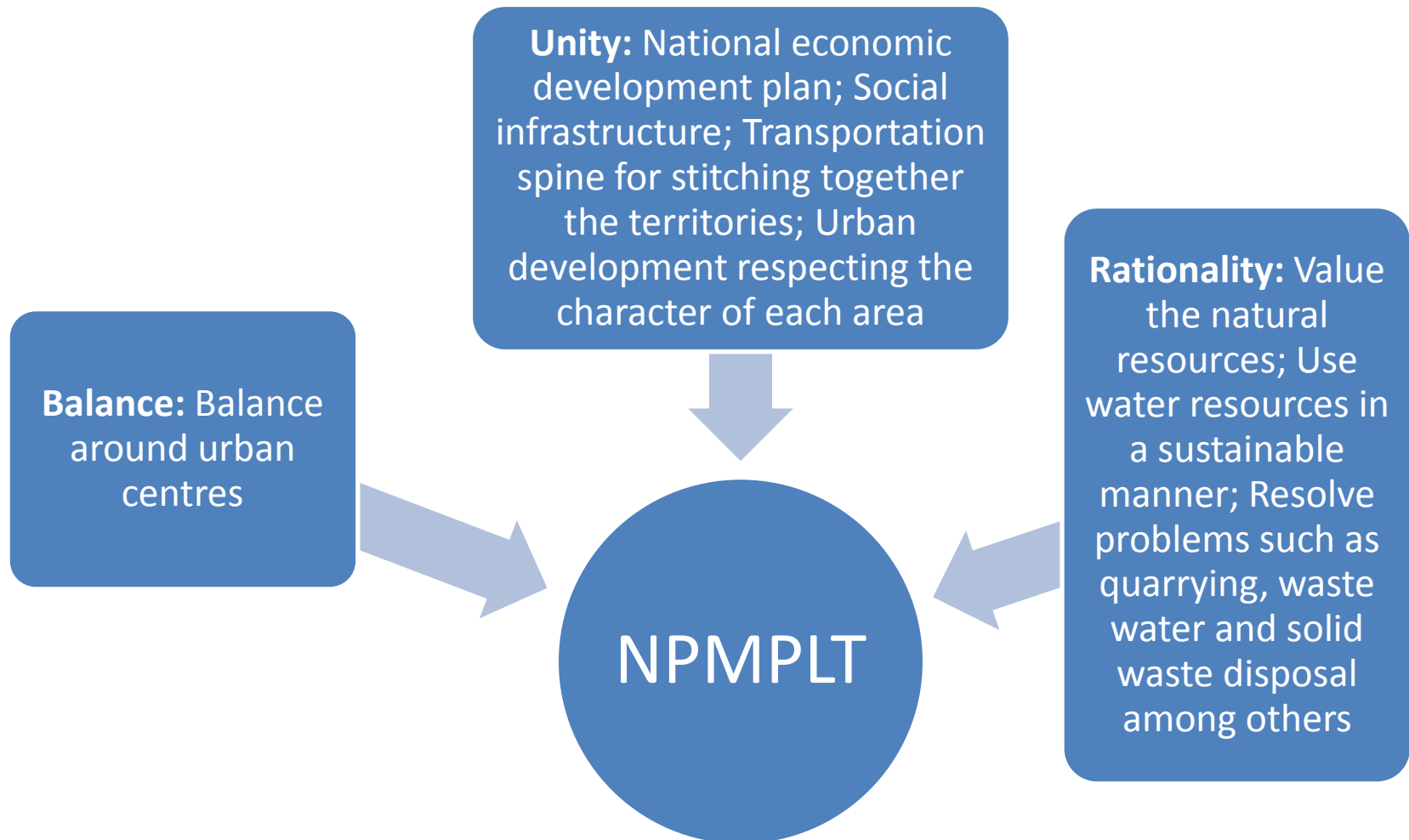
Cultural Heritage - Summary

- Importance of dealing with these sites goes beyond the boundaries of the study area
- Here, history is 'live' through an ongoing vernacular lifestyle;
- Concrete construction has not yet mushroomed like in the rest of the country
- Religious buildings, market place, cemeteries and gardens as well as orchards still give the area its character and identity.
- These are cultural stepping stones that should be utilised to consolidate the area with the rest of the country.

Realisation



Urban Planning Framework



Urban Planning Framework --

Unity: No linkages of 'natural areas' in the CSA to the rest of the country; Integrating war afflicted spots and land within the landscape (only as UN initiative)

Balance: Area as a sub-centre; Employment opportunities and incentives to invest in the area; Tourism potentials within the area; No development of social infrastructure; No strategy for keeping in the area its inhabitants, especially young people (aged 18-30)

Rationality: No indication for reserves within the area; The role and impact of agriculture in the area; No guidelines for environmental protection; No active management of quarries; Waste water treatment and solid waste disposal; Use of renewable energy schemes

NPMPLT

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graph TD; A[Unity] --> C((NPMPLT)); B[Balance] --> C; D[Rationality] --> C;
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Concerns & Recommendations



Concerns & Recommendations

- Fragmentation and depletion of remaining **woodland**
- Replacing **natural land** with agriculture and construction
- Deterioration of the **riparian systems** in turn affecting the flora and fauna
- Loss of **endemic species**
- Change in road morphology affecting **nature and scenes** in the area
- **Quarrying** activities
- **Fertilisers and pesticides** adverse effects
- Lack of **water management**
- No control of human **encroachment on habitats** (construction, hunting, waste disposal, and so on)
- No planned **social and economic development**
- No management and conservation of **heritage sites**

- Proper **documentation** and generating inventories
- Restoration of already **existing patch habitats**
- Restoration of **riparian environments**
- **Connectivity corridors**
- Conservation of **cultural heritage**
- **Linking** environmentally and culturally significant **sites**
- **Linking historical landscapes and human settlements, promoting their complementarity**
- Upgrading **agricultural methods**
- **Awareness** campaigns on species
- **Habitats** for endangered species
- **Regulatory framework and organisation**
- **Public participation** and awareness
- **Economic development**, keeping inhabitants in their area

2005 and 2013



What next?

Questions?

Thank You!

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