

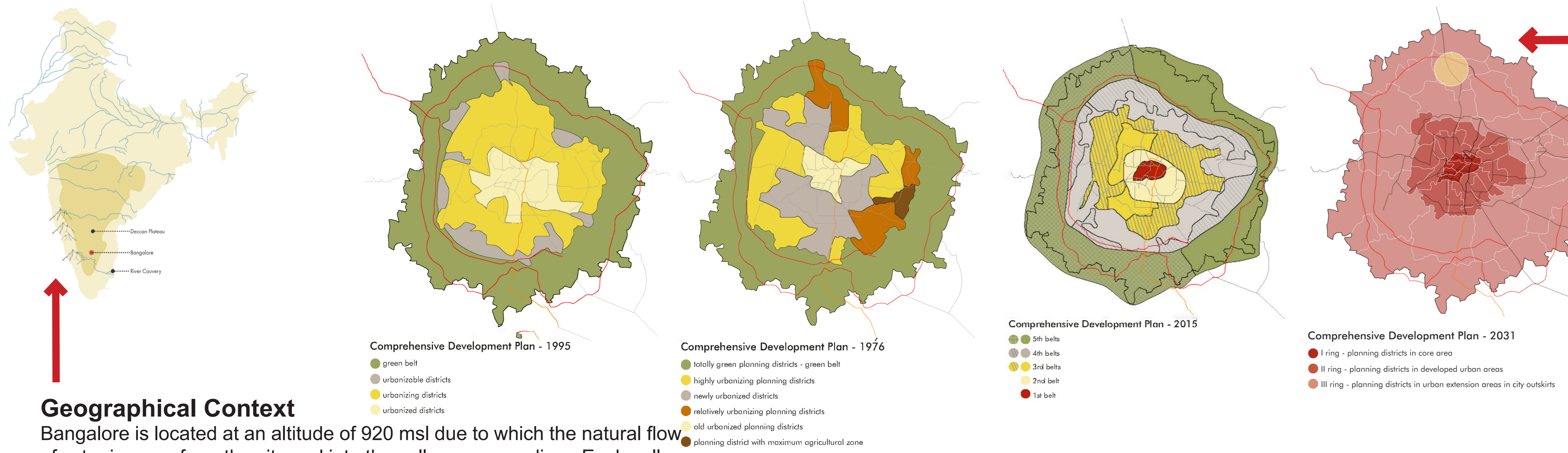
# Puttenahalli Lake as Urban Commons

## Bangalore, India

PROJECT: PROFESSIONAL

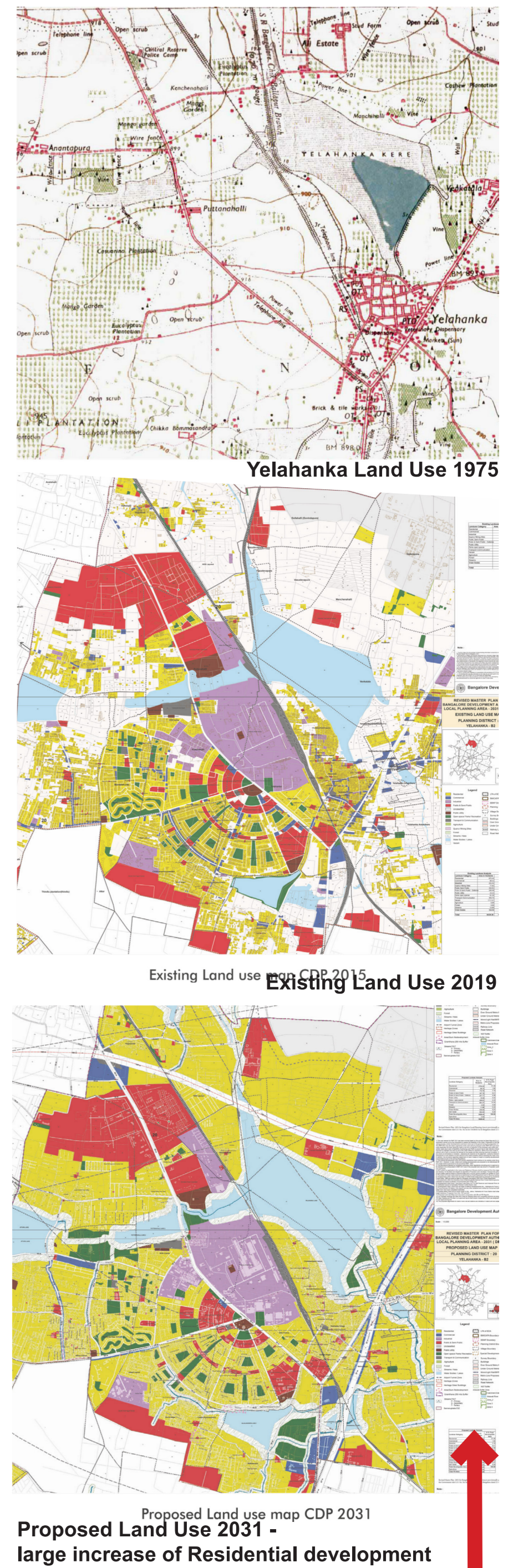
SDGs CONSIDERED:  
3 - 6 - 11 - 13

STATUS: IN PROCESS



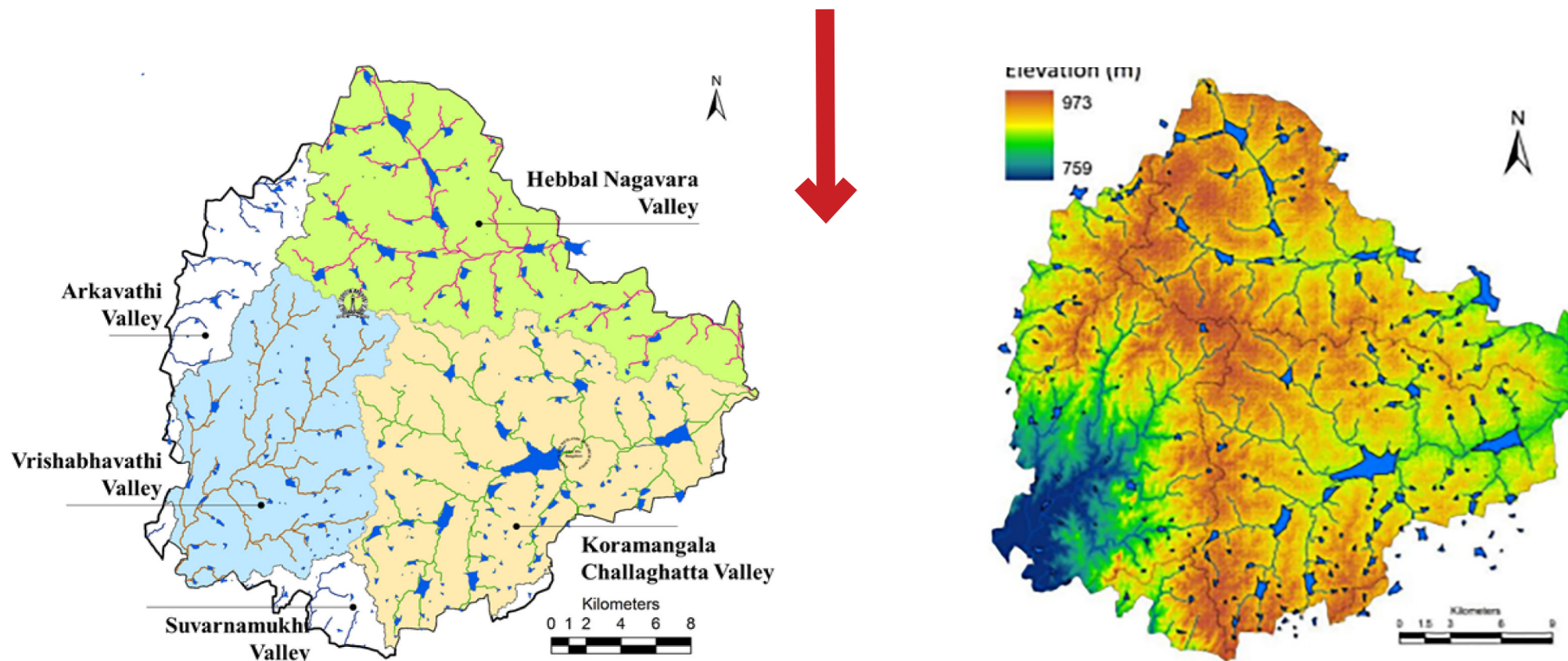
### Urban Development framework

Developmental Plans indicate the rapid urbanisation around Bangalore between 1975 and 2019. This massive growth has resulted in the gradual depletion of significant urban ecology including the takeover of a large no of lake systems for a variety of uses, prominent amongst which are governmental acquisition such lands for large infrastructure works - stadiums, transport interchanges, market places, etc. This process of conversion of lake land into recreational & other developmental uses started in the colonial era, when dried up lake lands were taken over for use for games of Polo, by British officers, a practice that finds resurgence in urban middle class perceptions of lake lands as recreational spaces today. This has been paralleled with a concurrent process of governmental administrative takeovers of erstwhile revenue / afforested land, originally allotted to members of communities historically for the maintenance and upkeep of lakes and forests in lieu of the service. As the city has grown rapidly & exponentially, this growing disconnect between the traditional custodians of these lands and numerous governmental agencies that administer these lands today, has resulted in a dysfunctional, inefficient & non-inclusive developmental framework.



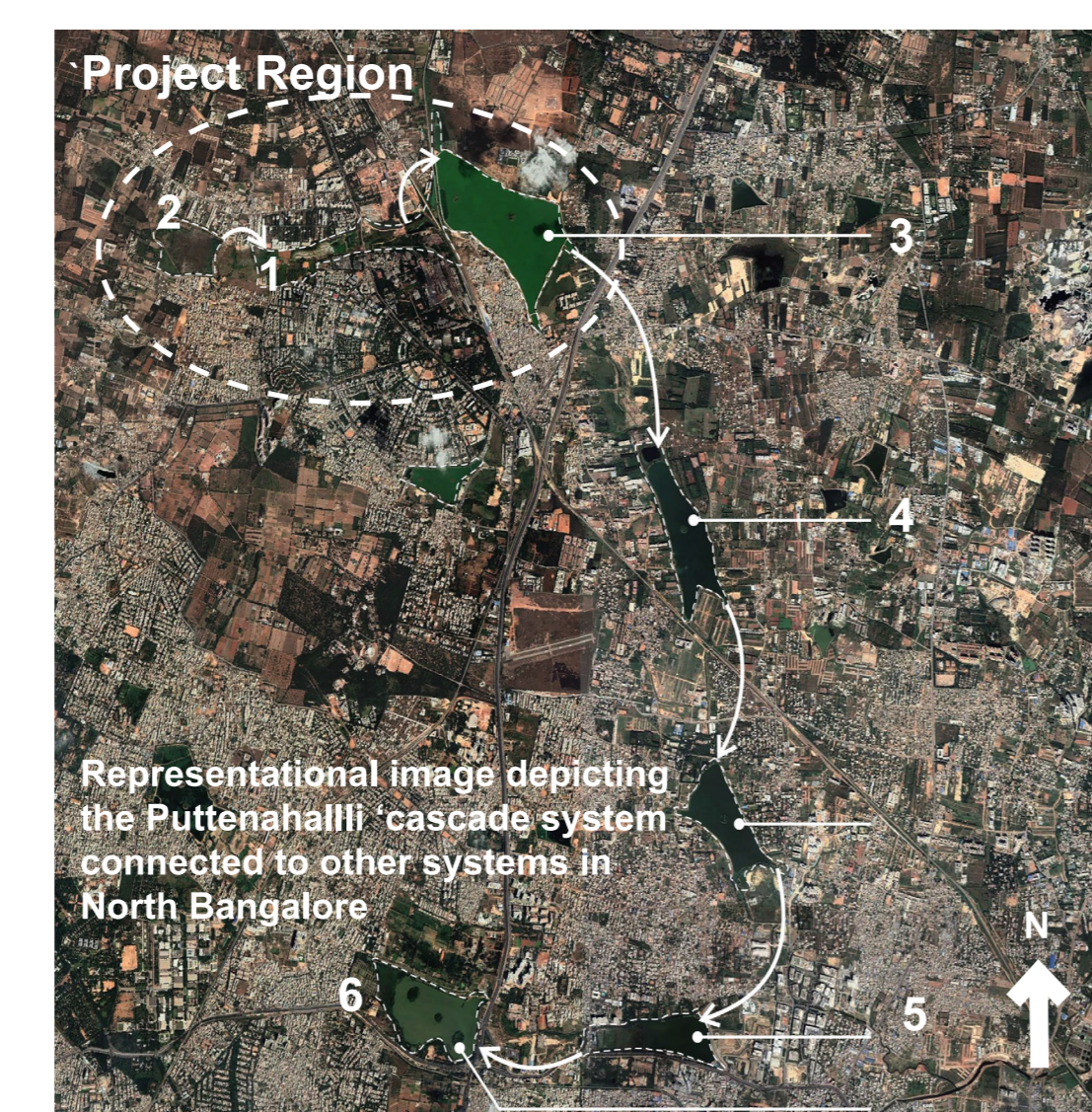
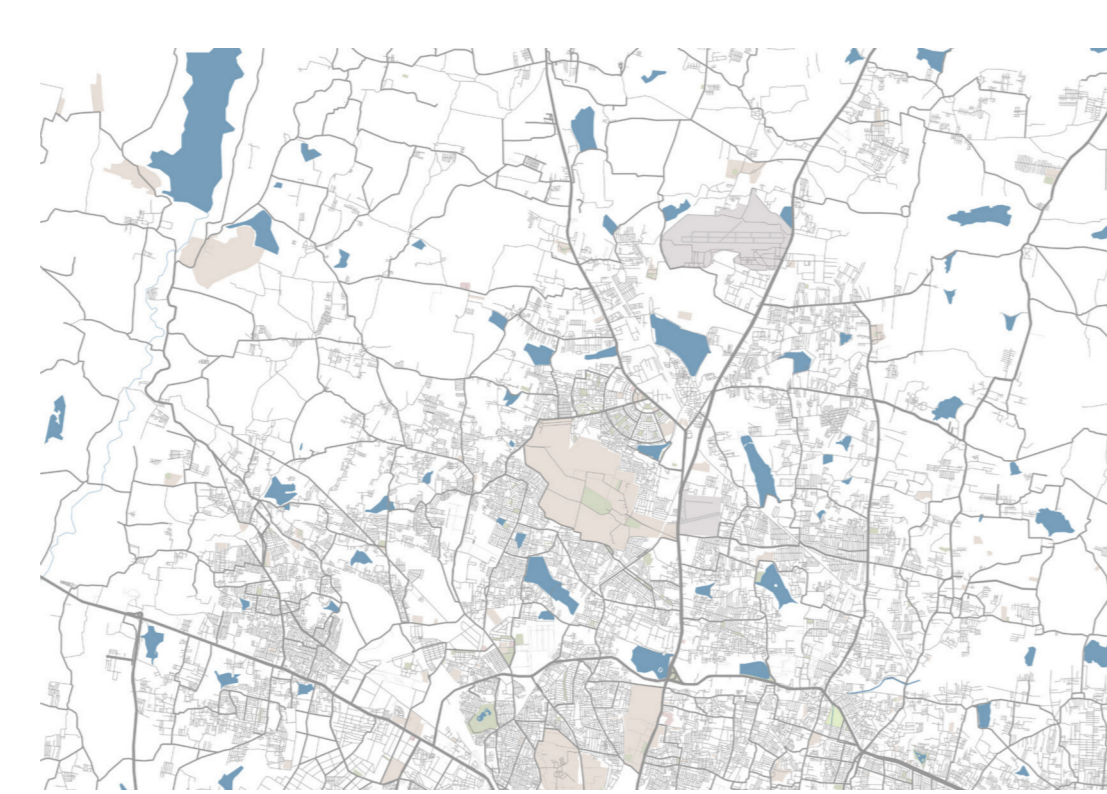
### Geographical Context

Bangalore is located at an altitude of 920 msl due to which the natural flow of water is away from the city and into the valleys surrounding. Each valley at the ridge top gives birth to small streams which cascade down to form major stream systems. Bangalore City sits on two river basins, the Cauvery (the river is approx 150km away from Bangalore) and the Dakshina Pinakini Lakes and Tanks: Over 200



### Historical Background

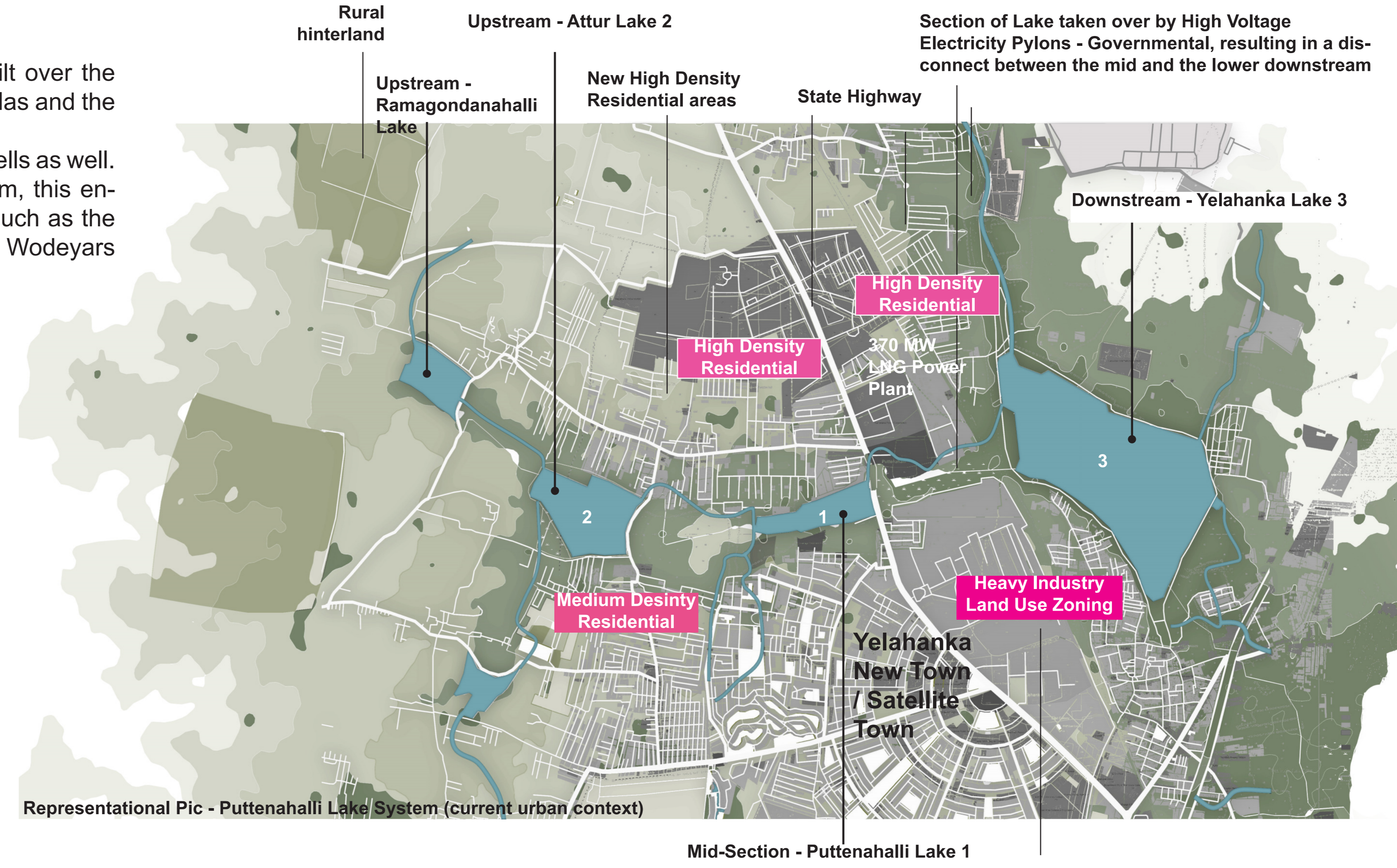
Most of Bangalore's lakes are actually irrigation tanks, built over the course of many centuries, starting with the Gangas, the Cholas and the Hoysalas who built tanks with high bunds to store water. In the 16th Century, Kempegowda built tanks and irrigation wells as well. Traditionally interlinked through a chain or 'cascade' system, this ensured water was not wasted. Several Rulers and Empires such as the Hoysalas, Vijaynagara, Marathas, Tipu Sultan, Haider Ali, Wodeyars have all been patrons of lakes and tanks.



- The Lakes Legend -**
- 1 Attur Lake - Upstream
- 2 Puttenahalli Lake - Mid section
- 3 Yelahanka Lake - Downstream
- 4 Jakkur Lake
- 5 Nagwra Lake
- 6 Hebbal Lake

## The 'Cascade' system

The Puttenahalli Lake System -



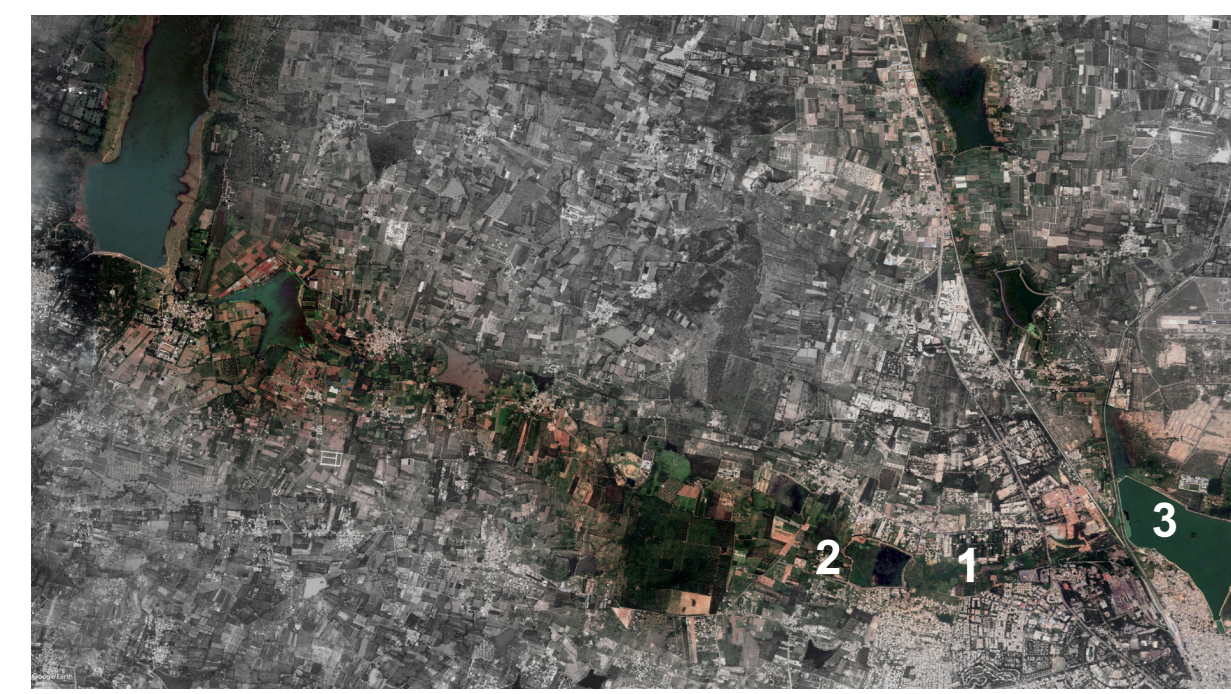
The Puttenahalli Lake System comprises of an upstream 'Attur' Lake, a middle section referred to as the 'Puttenahalli Lake' and the downstream collection space called the 'Yelahanka Lake'. At a sort of junction between the Yelahanka Satellite township and new high density residential areas to the top, the 'cascade' system has been subject to indiscriminate dumping of sewage and effluent generated from adjoining residential and industrial areas. A notified 'bird sanctuary' now thrives at the mid-section but is constantly under threat from large infrastructure projects planned by the local governments on the watershed areas of the lakes, an increasingly busy state highway and growing urban development

### Urban Planning Context - Yelahanka

The Comprehensive Development Plan for 2031 continues to indicate a dominant heavy industrial land use (purple) alongside large growing residential zones. This continues to place enormous pressure on the Lake system as high GHG emissions, high pollutants from a blast furnace and lit up night skies from these industrial areas continue to disturb the sensitive eco systems around the lakes including the bird sanctuary at Puttenahalli

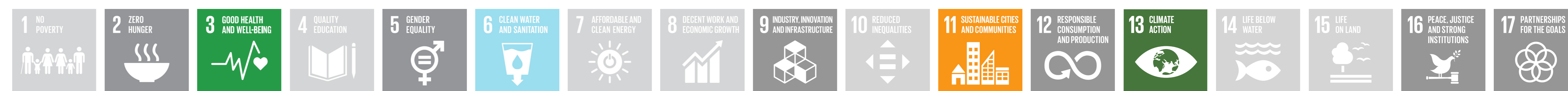
### Depletion of the Puttenahalli Lake Cascade

Satellite images (Google Earth) indicate the 'cascade' Lake System and the radical changes to this connected system resulting in gradual depletion of individual upstream and downstream sections of the system. It is generally agreed that the prime reason for the depletion of lakes in Bangalore is largely the disenchantment & erosion of a sense of ownership of traditional community users. Other reasons include, usage of erstwhile lake land as dumping grounds



**FUNDERS:** Local Governmental Agencies  
**PARTNERS:** YPLBCT  
**PROJECT TEAM:** Siddhartha Padhi, Manju Akash, Urvashi Jalali, Parina Dhruve

LOCAL PROJECT CHALLENGE 2020 is a partnership between the Center for Sustainable Urban Development, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, and the Faculty of Architecture, Federal University, Rio de Janeiro.



# Puttenahalli Lake as Urban Commons Bangalore, India

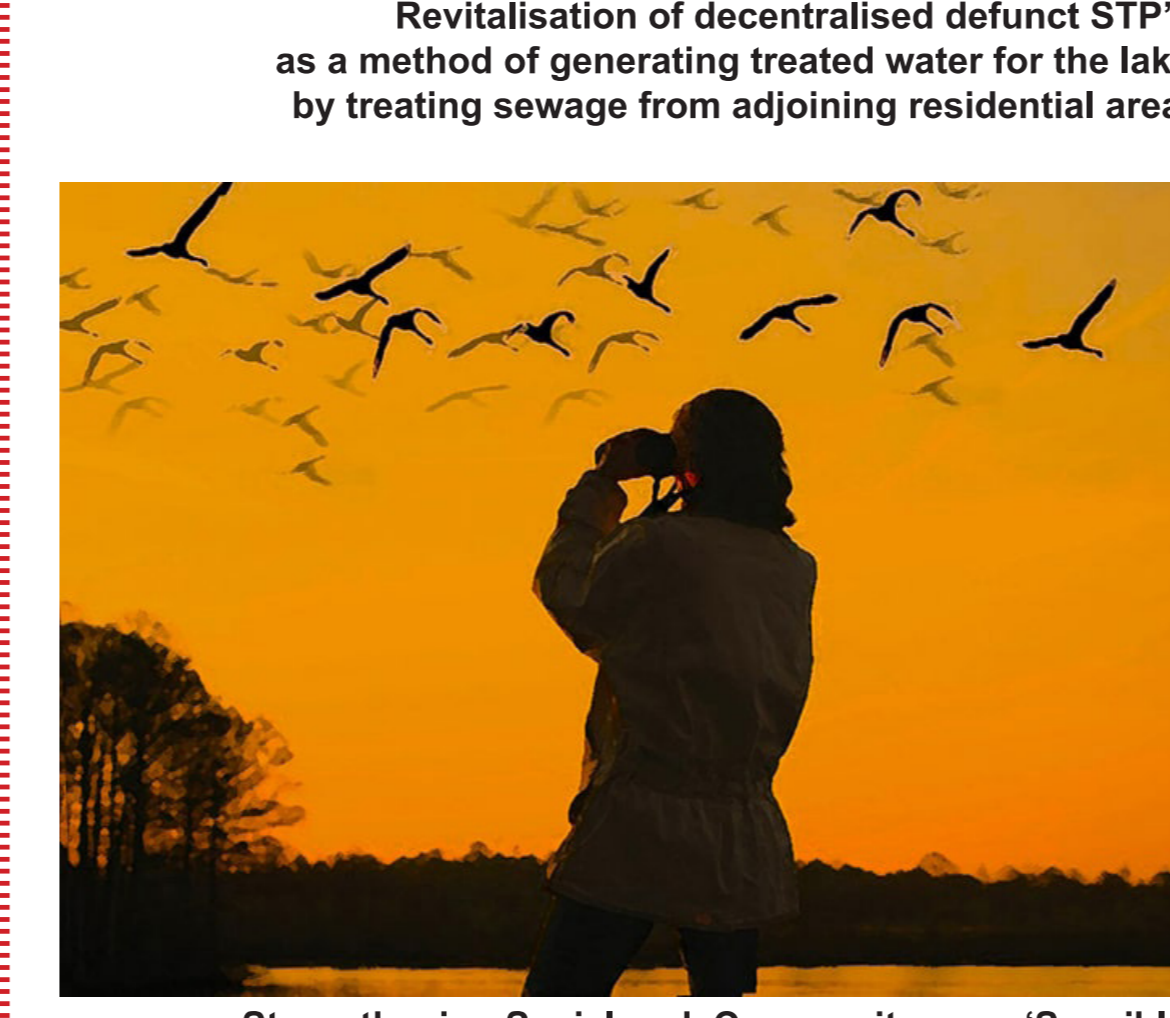
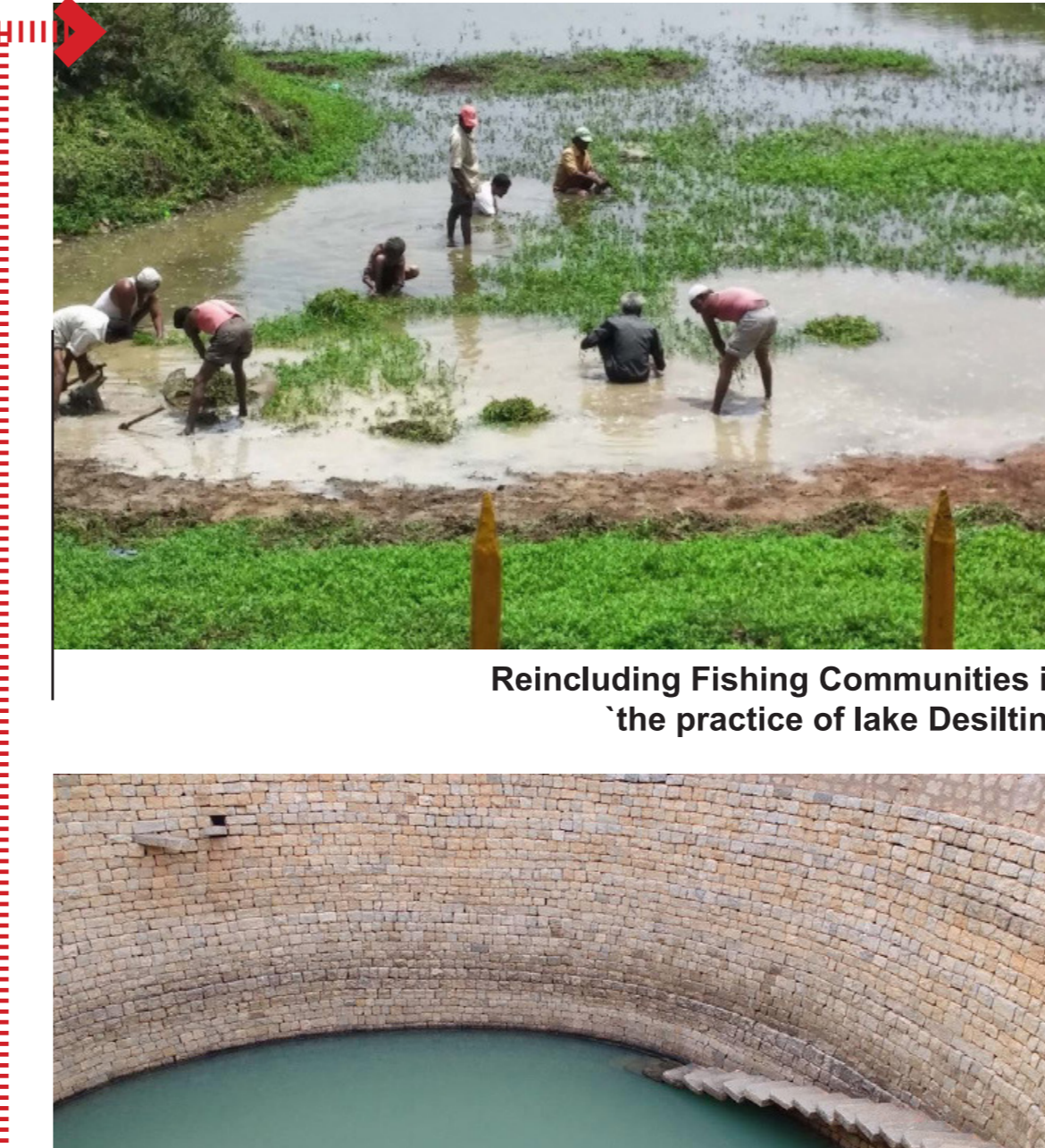
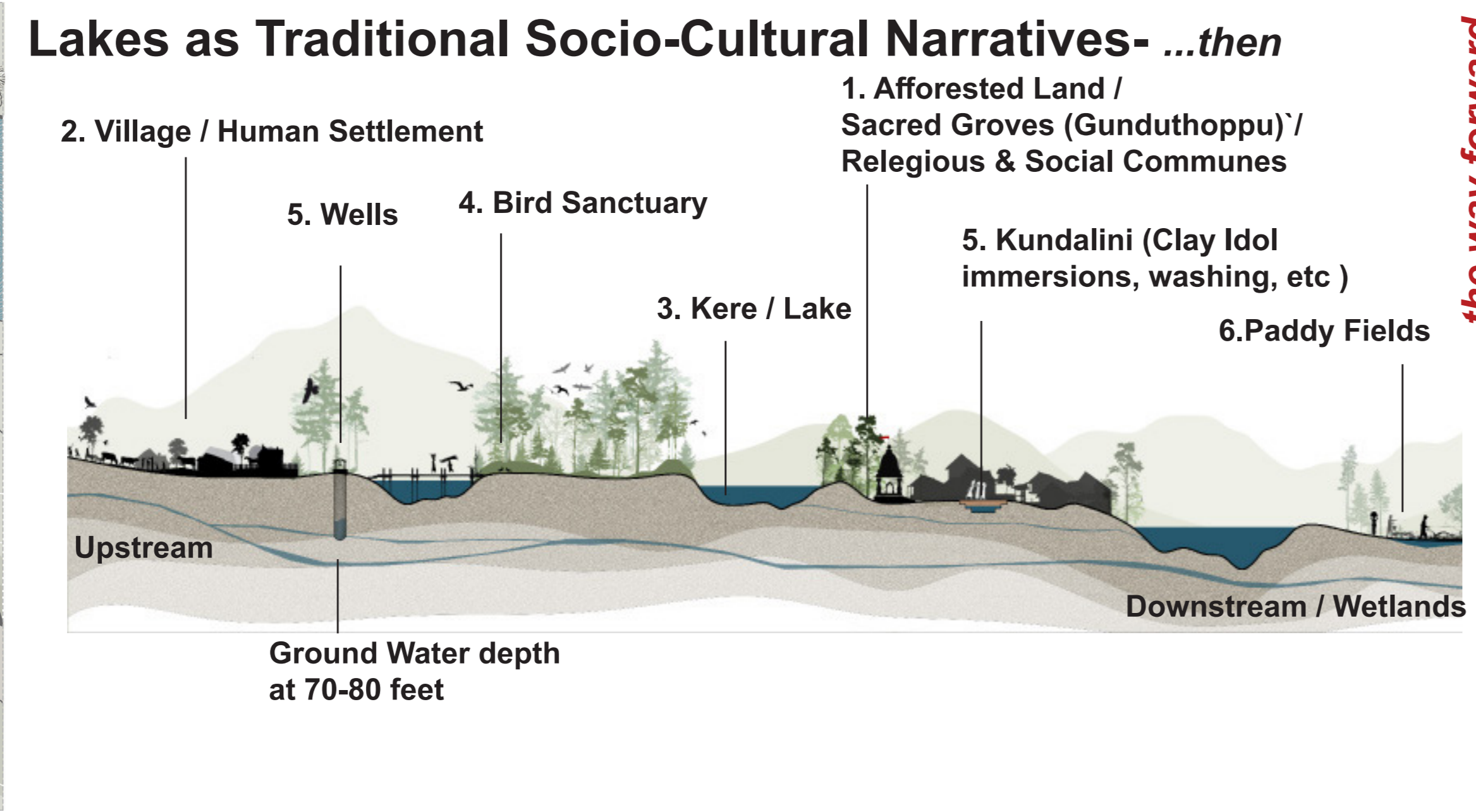
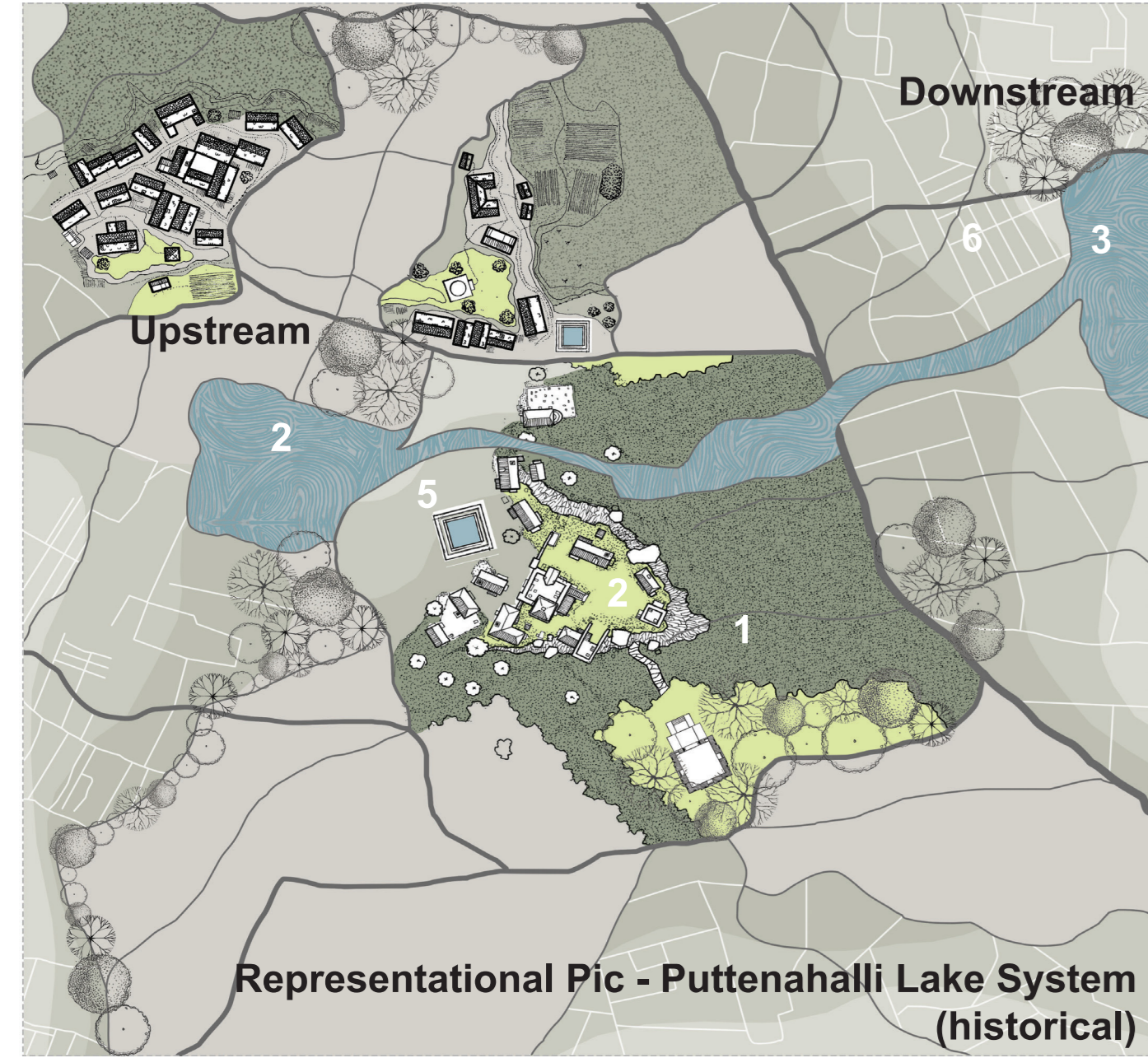
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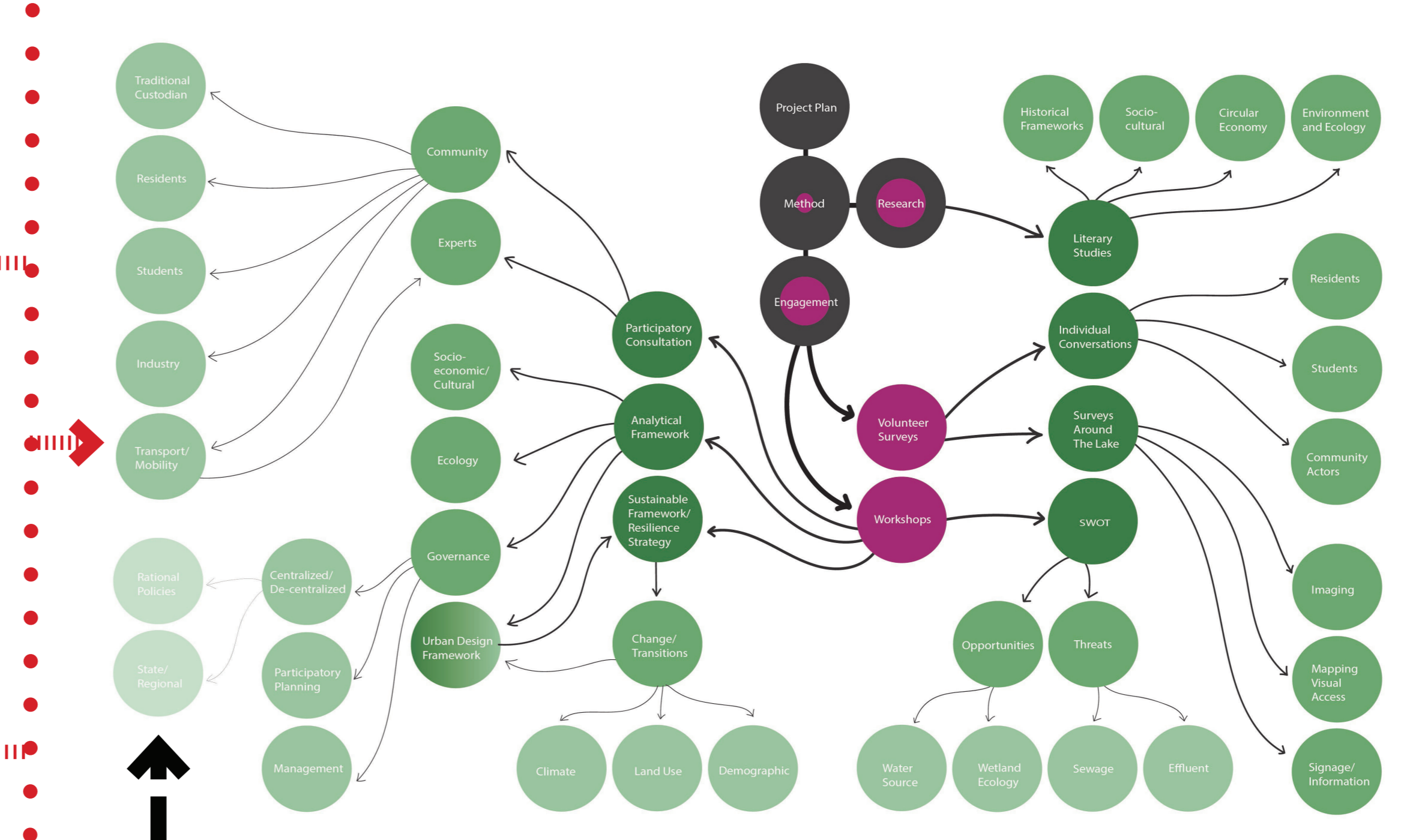
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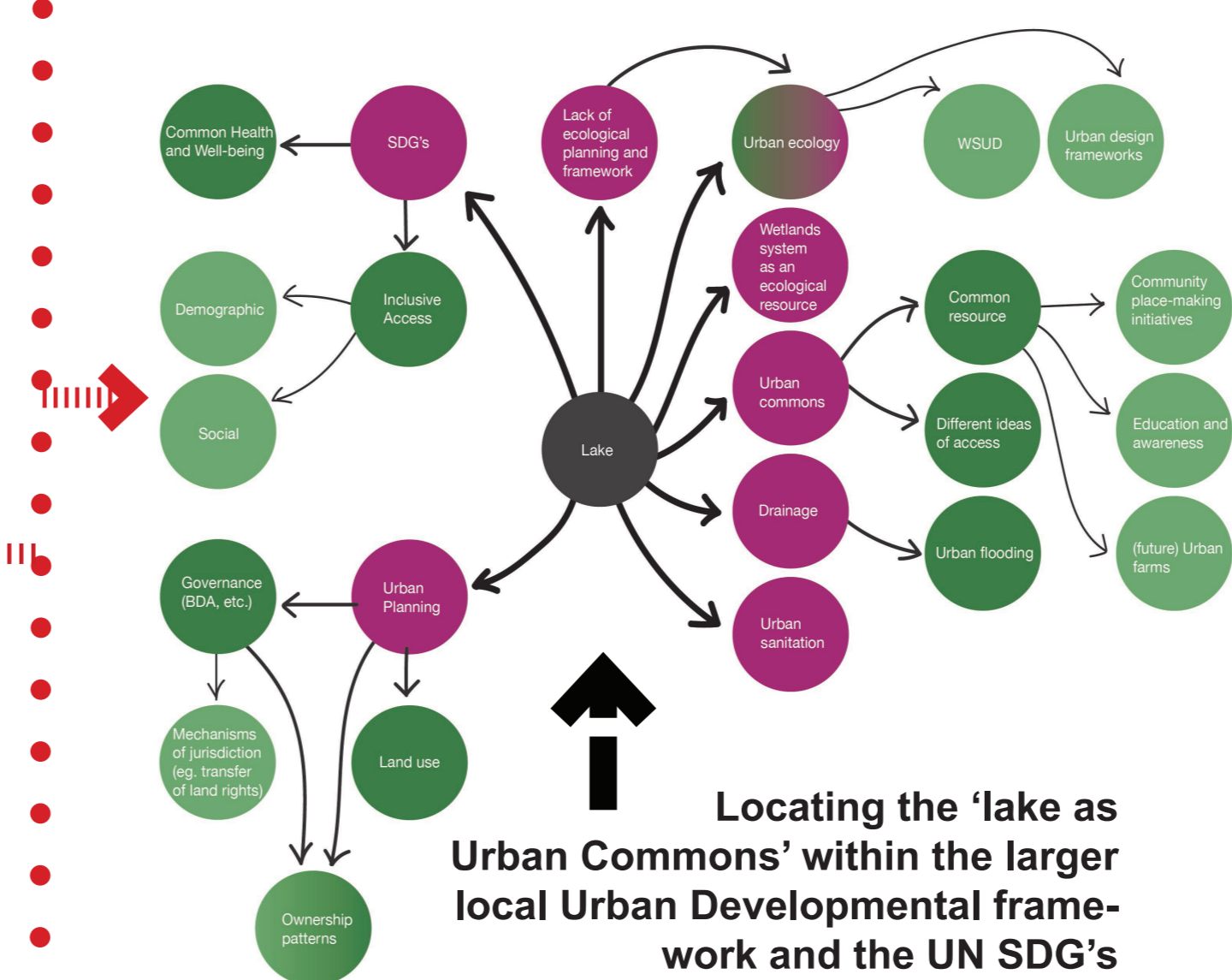
A Socio-economic Tapestry



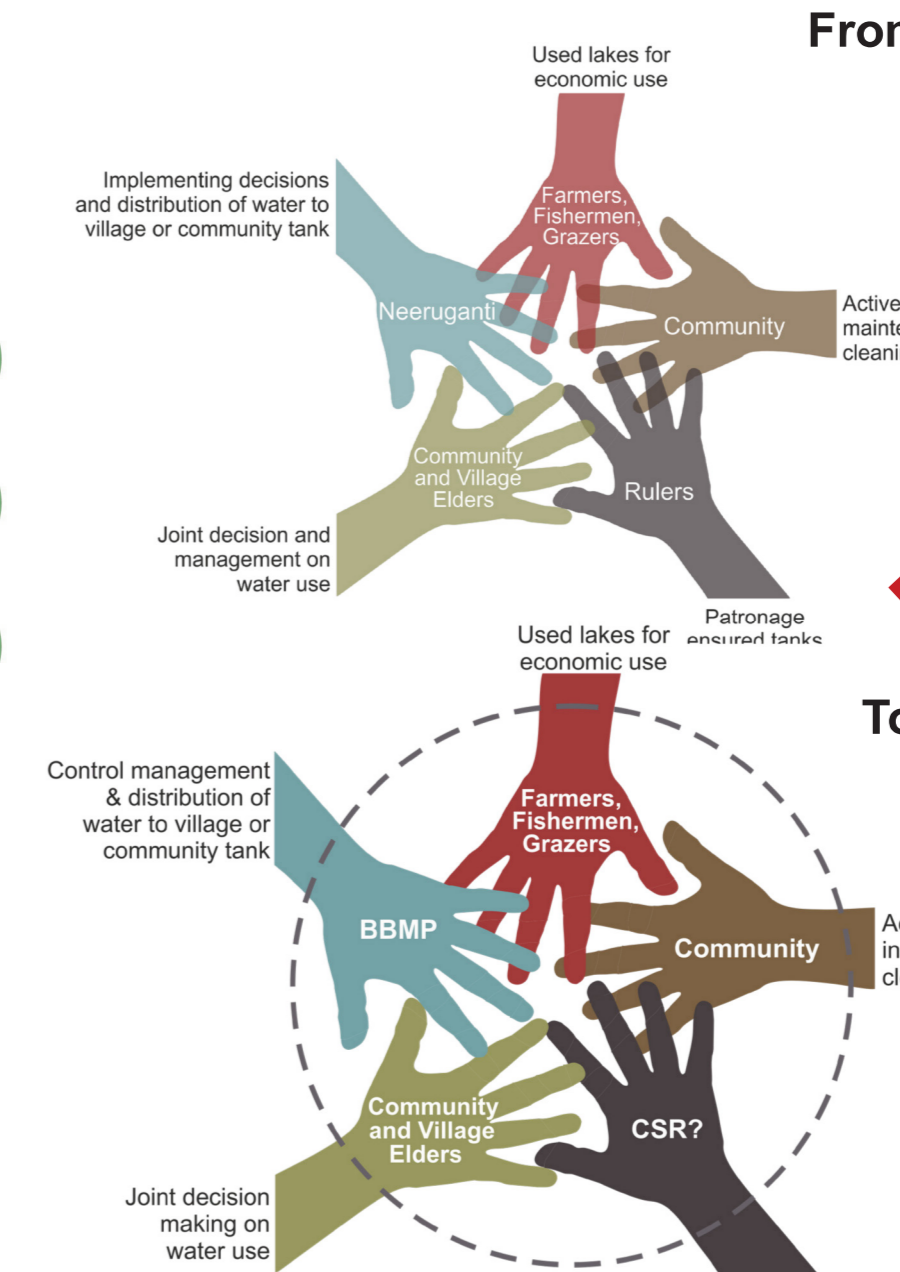
## A Participatory Model of Engagement towards Inclusion & Sustainable Communities



### Mapping the Project



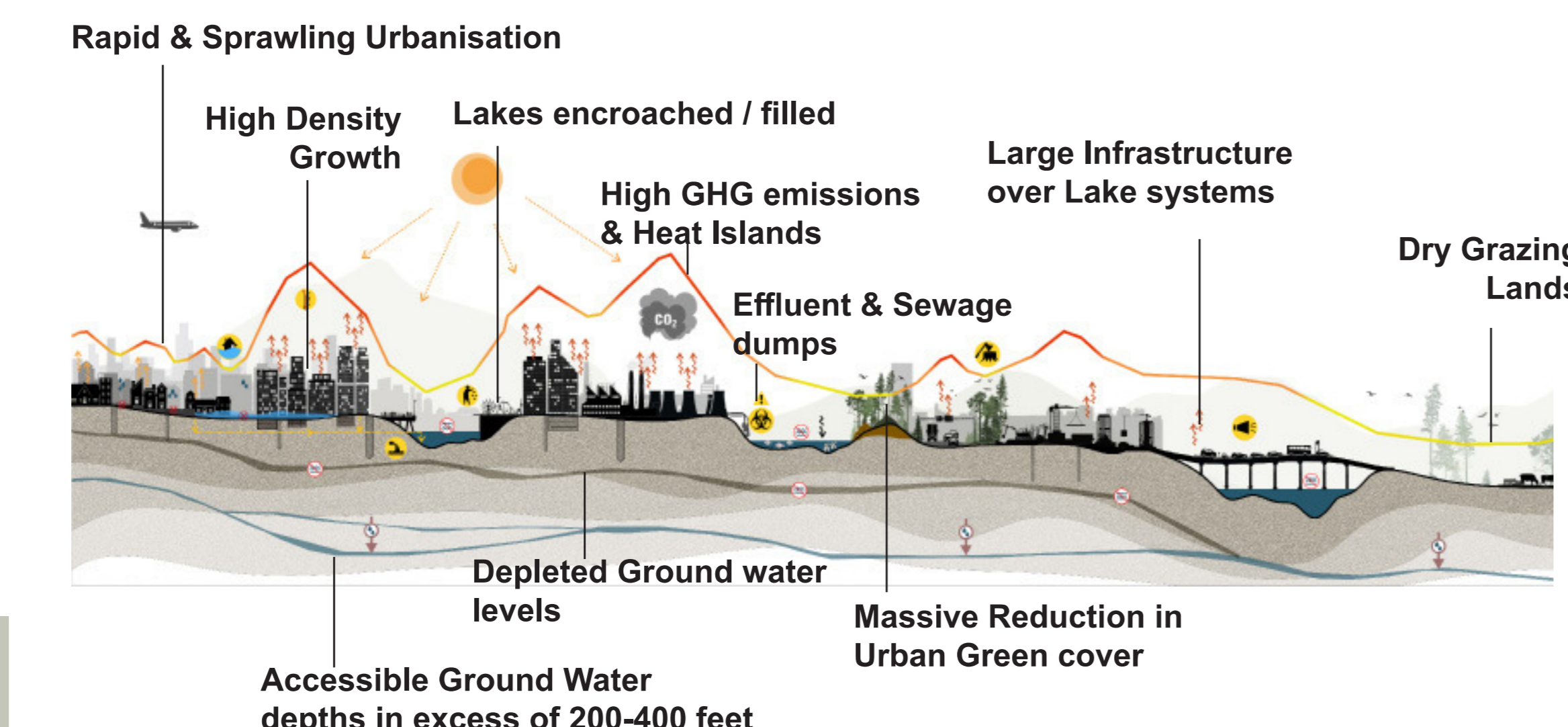
### Participatory Management



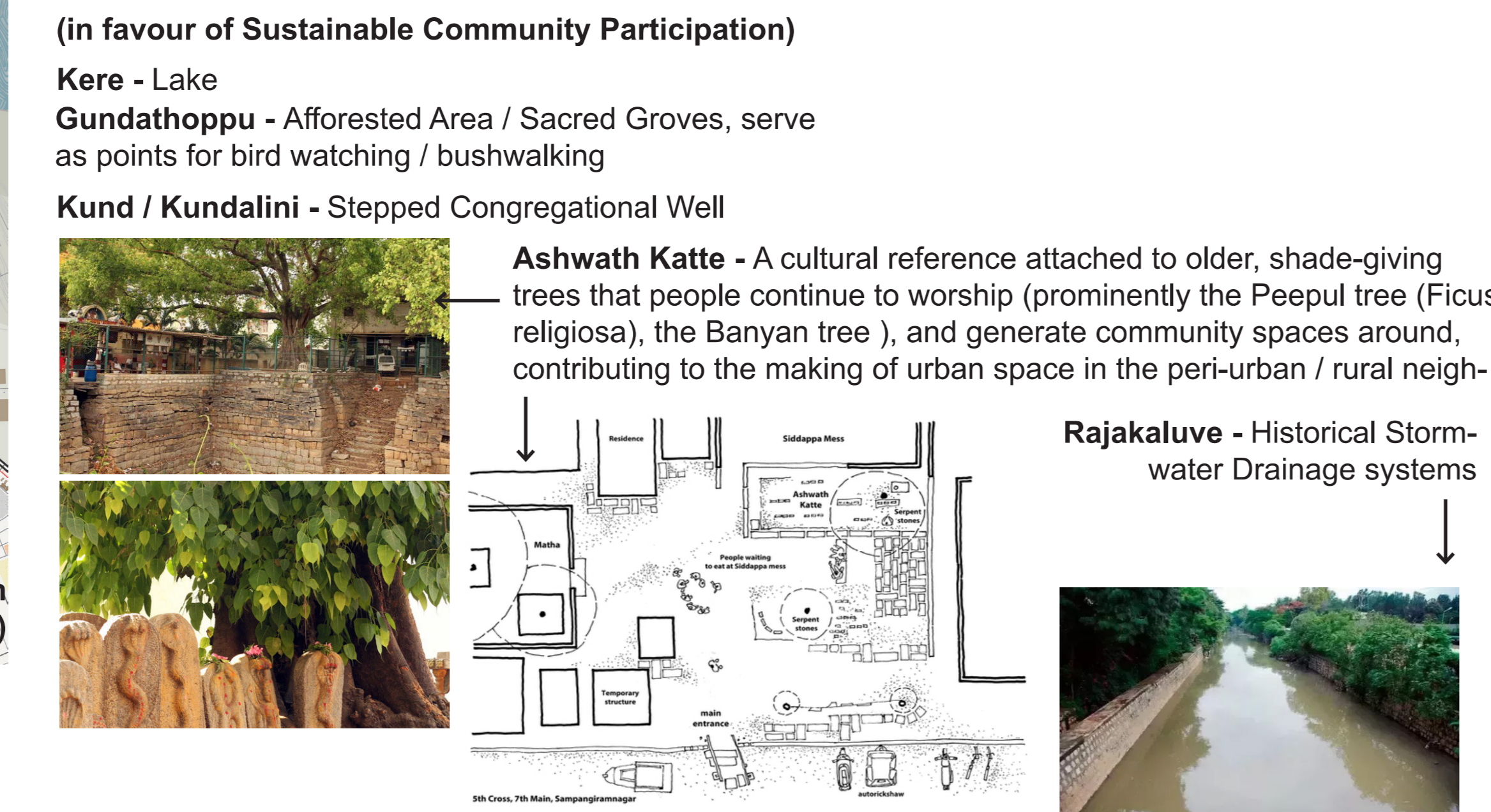
## The Urban Design framework - Placemaking & Alternative Mobility proposals for Inclusive access



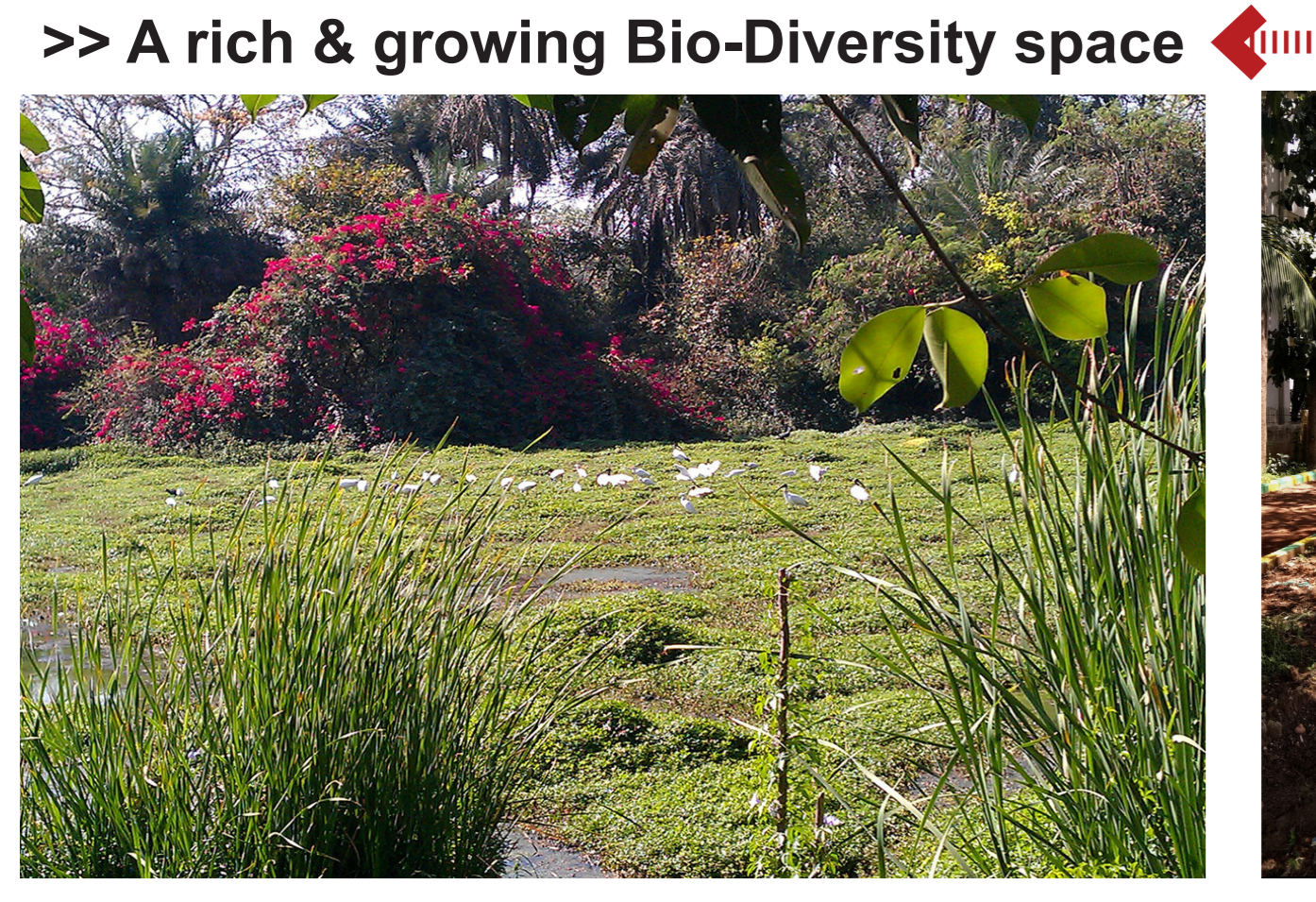
## A Dystopian Urban Scenario - Current Urban Context...now



## A Strong Regional Lingual & Visual Urban vocabulary - (in favour of Sustainable Community Participation)



The Revival...in progress



A series of stakeholder engagement workshop initiated as part of a local Design Conference, centred on the Puttenahalli Lake. The workshop initiated conversations on a range of issues connected to lake systems - management, sustainability mechanisms for urban living, mobility alternatives, ecology, bird conservation, health & well being of resident communities and Social Inclusion as a necessary tenet of the Urban Commons.

