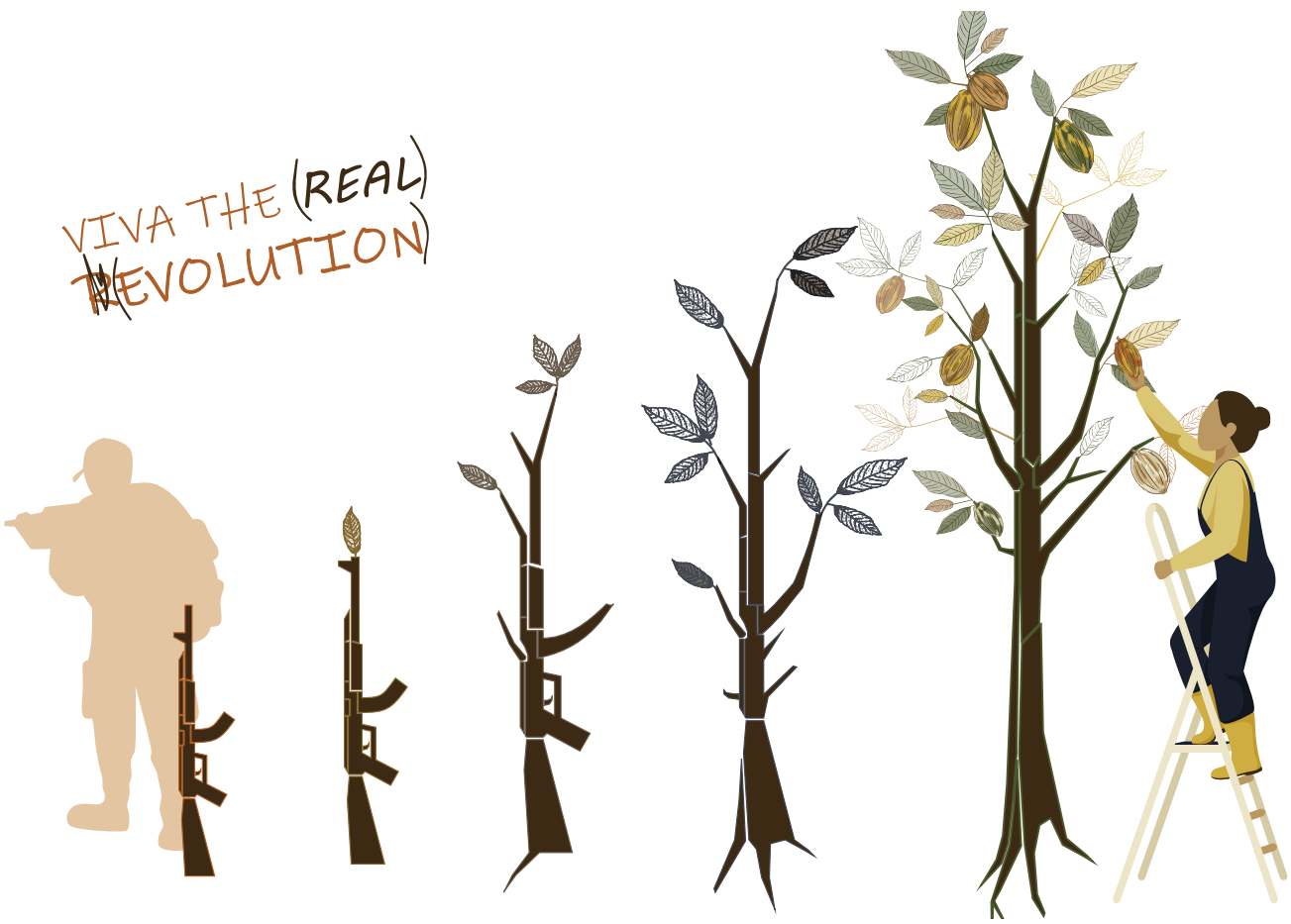


VIVA THE (REAL)
~~THE~~ REVOLUTION



THE FIRE → THE ASH → THE SOIL → THE SEEDS → THE LIFE

LIFE AFTER FIRE

Collective agricultural production for reincorporation communities in the Colombian post-conflict.



CHALMERS
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

LIFE AFTER FIRE

**Collective agricultural production for reincorporation
communities in the Colombian post-conflict.**

Laura María Estrada D'Amato

Architecture and Planning Beyond Sustainability (MPDSD)

Master's thesis in design activism beyond borders

Supervisor: Shea Hagy

Examiner: Liane Thuvander

2023

ABSTRACT

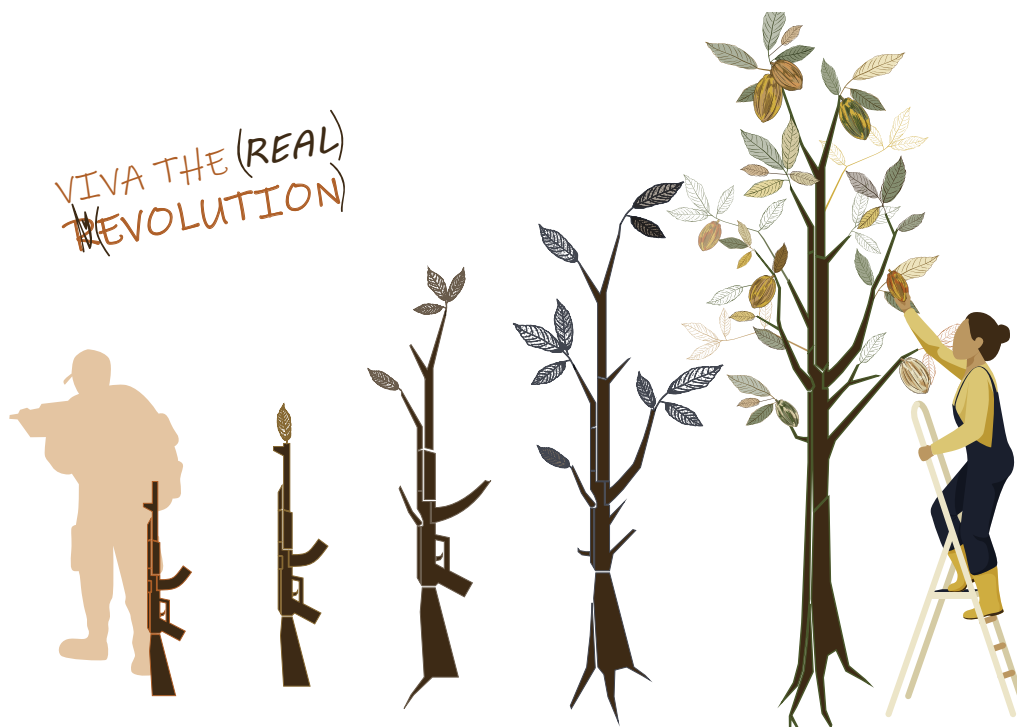
For many decades, Colombia was only perceived by the international community as a dangerous country, facing a cold-blooded war between the state and insurgent groups. With the signature of the Peace Agreement in Havana this image started to shift toward an example of transformation. This negotiation was only the beginning of a complex process that has demanded tremendous efforts from every sector of the society. Today, it is still relevant to re-evaluate what does it take to actually build a long-lasting peace: To repair a broken society after war it is necessary to go beyond cease fire, it is required to holistically understand the reasons that provoked the conflict in the first place, and create conditions to avoid these circumstances to repeat. In Colombia, social inequities and unequal access to land or work opportunities where

some of the main reasons that burst the armed conflict. Hence, they are now central points on the peace-building agenda and the focal point to this dissertation.

This thesis aimed to contribute to peace from the development of productive infrastructure to ensure economic stability to the demobilized ex-FARC community in Dabeiba, who had been developing collective production initiatives as part of their reincorporation plan. This “peace signers” have established in two separate settlements: one for housing (Llano Grande) and one for productive activities (Taparales), this segregation of uses, represents a mayor logistic complication for the development of their economic activity and consequently, a threat to the peace process, since it is hard to ensure dignified living condi-

tions for the former actors of the conflict.

The project is grounded on the historical background of the conflict in Colombia and the peace agreement implementation in Dabeiba and transcends to an empirical, collective knowledge-building through field studies to better understand the site singularities and analyse implicated stakeholders in terms of interests, possibilities and limitations. This research led to the proposal of a development plan for the production infrastructure in Taparales, oriented to improve working conditions for “agroprogreso” association members, increase production quality and efficiency and, ultimately built resilience in the farm by diversifying the income sources and the sustainable use of ecosystem services.



MANIFESTO

PEACE Is the only way to a life in **DIGNITY**

ALL INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES Should be able to exercise their

*Right of **self determination***

FOR INDIVIDUALS,

This means the chance of **Dictating** (and pursuing)

their **own life-plan** Without being prosecuted

FOR COMMUNITIES, These plans come together

To take a shape collectively defining their own



Territorial approach,

SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Economic activity

and **Cultural manifestations**

THE ROLE OF

ARCHITECTURE

Should be at the

SERVICE OF SOCIETY

To create an environment Where

these conditions ARE POSSIBLE

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

I am Laura, as an architect from Colombia, I've had the opportunity to work in projects with diverse social, economic, cultural and environmental backgrounds mostly in my city of origin, Medellín, allowing me to recognize features of the faces of a deeply segregated society, which arose my interest in learn-

ing about examples of peace, reconciliation and dialogue projects in architecture through sustainable, participatory processes; This was one of the main reasons for me to choose the master program "Architecture and Planning Beyond Sustainability" (MPDSD).



WORK EXPERIENCE

ALH taller

2019-2021

Medellín, Colombia

Project coordinator

AIA (Arquitectos e ingenieros asociados)

2018-2019

Medellín, Colombia

Technical Architect

Total Millwork, MS mechanics, AICubo

2017-2018

USA-various locations (online)

3D modelling - Technical drawings

B.T. Innovation

2016

Magdeburg, Germany

Intern Architect - Research and Development

Yarumo house

2015

Cali, Colombia

Intern Architect - Solar Decathlon L.A. 2015

EDUCATION

Architecture and planning beyond sustainability - Master

2022 - 2023

Chalmers University of technology

Architecture Bachelor Degree

2011 - 2017

UPB Medellín

Alternatives to environmental development

2020

Universidad de los Andes. (on-line)

Informal settlements in Colombia

2020

Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogotá & fundación Techo Colombia

Vertical and urban gardens

2019

Academia Superior de Artes. Med.

COURSES IN MPDSD

Master thesis 2023

Design Activism Beyond Borders

Life after Fire

Architecture for peace

2022

Kevliani - Bosnia Herzegovina

Regenerative spaces for reconciliation built with local wild-plants

Reality Studio

2022

Pretoria - South Africa

Community resilience through urban devices

Social inclusion Studio

2021

Bergsjön - Sweden

Co-created pavilion for social inclusion

2022

Circular Economy

Sustainable development

Beyond sustainability

Sustainable entrepreneurship and innovation

PREVIOUS PROJECTS

During the MPDSD program, I learned about how different societies have tackled contemporary challenges related to post-conflict, forced migration, and social exclusion. This cultural exchange proved beneficial in several ways, including the use of international foreign experience in my home country, collaboration between institutions in different countries, and the application of thesis findings in future projects for other students. The three design studios I took during the program were crucial in shaping my thesis topic, which focused on participatory processes for social inclusion, resilience struggles for living in dignity, and restorative spaces for peace and reconciliation. After completing this journey, I felt the need to bring some of my learnings back to my home country, which is plagued by a never-ending conflict that perpetuates old patterns of exploitation, indifference, and violence.



Informal settlement in Medellín

ARTEFACTS OF PERSISTENCE

With Reality studio we worked with social leaders and residents of plastic view, and informal settlement in Pretoria, South Africa where the conditions of impermanence and lack of access to basic needs affect the population's long term goals. with our project, we could trace barriers for social mobilization back to the poor sense of belonging a to the place, which restricted residents from mobilizing to demand their rights. The project created then, small scale artefacts with the community that provide a visualization of local organization an enhanced better communication flows in the community to potentiating the sense of belonging



Notice board in Plastic view

RECONSTRUCTIVE SPROUTS



Most Mira centre progressive scale model

In Bosnia i Herzegovina, with the Most Mira center, we worked with places devastated by war and testimonies from the local community. My project proposed a restorative construction method and landscape design using local materials and wildplants for the new most mira peace center in Kozarac. The project open my eyes to different perspectives, allowed me to see many similarities to my own country and also some differences, but most importantly, showed me a way to merge dialogue, participation and sustainability into the development of a space for peace and reconciliation.

THE MOBILION

In Bersjön, Sweden we develop tools for participatory and democratic processes in the architectural practice to co-create a mobile pavilion to host different activities in neighbourhoods that have been socially excluded and isolated from the local centralities in Gothenburg. the learnings from this project were applied to the participatory process that the master thesis followed, recognizing the value on cultural diversity to propose more inclusive and equitable interventions, the planned workshops and co-creation methods proposed in the thesis were inspired by this studio.



Participatory design workshop

KEY CONCEPTS

Important abbreviations and concepts used throughout the thesis, about peace-building, territorial development and life in dignity. Acronyms will be referenced by the initials in Spanish, since is the original language where the institution is know.

ARN

Agencia para la reincorporación y la normalización
Agency for Reincorporation and Standardization

AUC

Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia
United Self-defense (groups) of Colombia - Paramilitary group.

CEV

La Comisión para el Esclarecimiento de la Verdad, la Convivencia y la No repetición
(The Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-repetition) Commission of truth.

CNR +

Consejo Nacional de Reincorporación
(National council of Reincorporation)

CTEP

Circunscripciones Transitorias Especiales de Paz
(Special Transitory Circumscriptions for Peace)

ETCR +

Espacios territoriales para la Capacitación y la Reincorporación
(Territorial Spaces for Training and Reincorporation)

(A)ETCR +

Antiguos ETCR
Former ETCR.

FARC-EP +

Fuerzas armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia - Ejército del pueblo
(Colombian Revolutionary armed forces - people's army) guerrilla group, target group of this thesis

GAOML

Grupos armados al margen de la ley.
(Armed groups outside the law)

JEP

Jurisdicción especial para la paz
Special Jurisdiction for peace

PDETs

Programas de Desarrollo con Enfoque Territorial
Territorially Focused Development Programs

POT

Plan de ordenamiento territorial
Territorial organization plan

UPDB

Unidad Especial para la Búsqueda de Personas dadas por desaparecidas
Unit for the Search for Missing Persons

Reincorporation

Peace-building process' phase to integrate former actors of an armed conflict back into the civilian life by providing dignified life opportunities away from war.

To ensure this is necessary to ensure income sources or means of subsistence, access to rights, basic needs' supply and to built a strong social tissue where every actor can actively participate.

Vulnerated / victimized communities.

The thesis refers to "vulnerated" or "victimized" communities instead of vulnerable or victims. This distinction is to emphasize the agency of these communities during the conflict and acknowledge the experiences of harm and trauma they have endured as a result of violence.

Also, the use of the term "vulnerable" could lead to victim blaming by suggesting that the victimized subjects are somehow responsible for their own vulnerability. By using terms like "victimized" or "vulnerated," we acknowledge that the harm inflicted upon them is not their fault, and that they deserve support and assistance.

+ Actors relevant for the field studies, will be described further in more depth.

READING GUIDE

The thesis explored various aspects related to peace-building, sustainable habitat, and agricultural production in Colombia. Each chapter represents a stage from fire to life, through the lenses of the research question and the thesis delimitations in the following way:

P2. BACKGROUND	P3. CONTEXT	P4. FIELD STUDIES	P5. OUTCOMES	P6. CONCLUSION
THE FIRE <i>Historical context; show how the armed conflict and peace process influences the community and site of study.</i>	THE ASH <i>Present context, Environmental, social and economic characteristics of the site today. (what is left after fire)</i>	THE SOIL <i>Local identity, Immersive understanding of the territory and local's perspectives (preparing the field for planting)</i>	THE SEEDS <i>Tools for dignity, Results from previous chapters, tools to plant seeds for prosperity and PEACE PRESERVATION</i>	THE LIFE <i>The cycle restarts, Learnings and reflections from the thesis and prospects of future continuation projects.</i>

The research done to reach the specific outcomes had to include information that could not be included visibly in the final results but was necessary for the analysis and development process. For this reason, the booklet is designed to highlight the aspects that were included in the final project more directly without ignoring the research to lead to those conclusion. In this way, this booklet can be read in different ways:

PX. CHAPTER

Ape exceptipiti quis aut placcatur aut rae volute volutatem id est vid quibus sunt reat dolorem namet, sequam dicitur in volum subterpania dolere, conserctam aratur, at indispellabur rerum volit quae voluerbam delictam aut voligat aevicia dem. Itaq quid quid quae de il l'espall' cum quandre, ornati, alti plabo. Itumam ullam audi di alia, cum reat dolerem quia que modit aut qui aut ploma gatum audi te voluptat' Ulliquae.

Itaq quid quid quae de il l'espall' cum quandre, ornati, alti plabo. Itumam ullam audi di alia, cum reat dolerem quia que modit aut qui aut ploma gatum audi te voluptat' Ulliquae.

Itaq quid quid quae de il l'espall' cum quandre, ornati, alti plabo. Itumam ullam audi di alia, cum reat dolerem quia que modit aut qui aut ploma gatum audi te voluptat' Ulliquae.

TITLES

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SUBTITLES

Ape exceptipiti quis aut placcatur aut rae volute volutatem id est vid quibus sunt reat dolorem namet, sequam dicitur in volum subterpania dolere, conserctam aratur, at indispellabur rerum volit quae voluerbam delictam aut voligat aevicia dem. Itaq quid quid quae de il l'espall' cum quandre, ornati, alti plabo. Itumam ullam audi di alia, cum reat dolerem quia que modit aut qui aut ploma gatum audi te voluptat' Ulliquae.

HEADINGS

Ape exceptipiti quis aut placcatur aut rae volute volutatem id est vid quibus sunt reat dolorem namet, sequam dicitur in volum subterpania dolere, conserctam aratur, at indispellabur rerum volit quae voluerbam delictam aut voligat aevicia dem. Itaq quid quid quae de il l'espall' cum quandre, ornati, alti plabo. Itumam ullam audi di alia, cum reat dolerem quia que modit aut qui aut ploma gatum audi te voluptat' Ulliquae.

IMPACT TO THESIS

Ape exceptipiti quis aut placcatur aut rae volute volutatem id est vid quibus sunt reat dolorem namet, sequam dicitur in volum subterpania dolere, conserctam aratur, at indispellabur rerum volit quae voluerbam delictam aut voligat aevicia dem. Itaq quid quid quae de il l'espall' cum quandre, ornati, alti plabo. Itumam ullam audi di alia, cum reat dolerem quia que modit aut qui aut ploma gatum audi te voluptat' Ulliquae.

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EXPRESS READING

CONTEXT READING

ANALYTICAL READING

The “Express reading mode” by going through the information on the coloured boxes, chapter intros and diagrams.

check only the readings on the white background, which will give deeper context on the facts that lead to the conclusions highlighted on the coloured boxes (express mode).

Read both white and coloured texts and diagrams to understand how the contextual research led to the formulation of the thesis project.

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P1.

INTRODUCTION

CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE

As humanity, we have had to struggle infinite times to overcome the devastation that comes from war. In all cases, regardless if the causes of the conflict were social, racial, ideological, cultural, religious, economic, power or territory control, etc, the war affected every member of the society, and for this, everyone plays a part in the reconstruction of **life after fire** has ceased, some actors are aware of their implication and act according to that, but some are yet unaware of the role they play, and that indifference is also a role.

This chapter, as the beginning of the thesis, reflects on my role as a Colombian and as an architect in the reincorporation process of my home country, and how can I personally contribute to the transformation of the society through my professional practice. Personally, it was not an easy task to define an orientation for this project, maybe due to the personal connection to the context and the feeling that every choice to center on a certain aspect of peace-building was a “rejection” to another field that I could not cover on the research.

For this reason, the introduction chapter was probably the one that took the longest to finish as it was constantly changing. Finally, the project was delimited to a certain place, group and activity: the agricultural production farm of ex-FARC combats (now in the reincorporation process) in Dabeiba, Antioquia, Colombia. This chapter will define the scope of the project, by defining a specific problem to be attacked, a research question, objectives, expected outcomes, time planing, tools and methods used to structure the research process and to evaluate the final results.



PROBLEM SETTING

The peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary armed forces of Colombia -People's army (FARC-EP) was signed in the Havana, Cuba in 2016, and since then, the road to peace has been a rough path, the implementation of the agreement was not always respected by the subsequent government, some FARC dissidences return to weapons and many social or environmental leaders have been assassinated after the agreement. In addition to this, other types of confrontation both in rural and urban areas such as other guerrillas, paramilitary organizations, criminal bands and activists repression have disrupted the road to peace.

This situation is a clear evidence that peace-building is not as easy as signing a piece of paper and all parts need to align toward a common goal. To guarantee the no repetition of the conflict, it's

necessary to ensure life opportunities away from war to the former actors of it, this is why the reincorporation program offers the possibility to ex-combats to develop productive enterprises collectively to provide them economic sustain. Nonetheless, executing this plan is trickier in practice than the theory due to several causes found on site such as:

Unlike the common belief, not all ex-combats come from an agricultural background and do NOT have experience in working the land

The long distances and poor road conditions add many logistic and security complications that hinders the community to mobilize to the work field.

The physical environment is complicated to tame, and there are many legal restrictions to farm any type of product.

There are several external bodies to the community that heavily influence the decision-making process for the community without a deep understanding of the social context on site.

These issues (among several others) are the reason why after more than 6 years after the agreement, most collective production lines in our field of study Taparales, are still unable to financially provide for the implicated associates. This thesis analysed the difficulties faced in the farm to ensure economic sustain to the associates and propose some alternatives to face those difficulties such as strengthening the resilience plan, improving work conditions for farmers and providing conditions to ensure the participation of all implicated members even for those who live apart from the site.

OBJECTIVES

This dissertation was born as a personal goal to contribute to the peace process from the architectural practice. More in detail, the general objective is to improve reincorporates' association capacity to provide sustainable alternatives of life away from war in Dabeiba. Furthermore, the thesis sets three specific objectives to define the first steps to reach the general goal:

Build a resilient subsistence system by spatial interventions

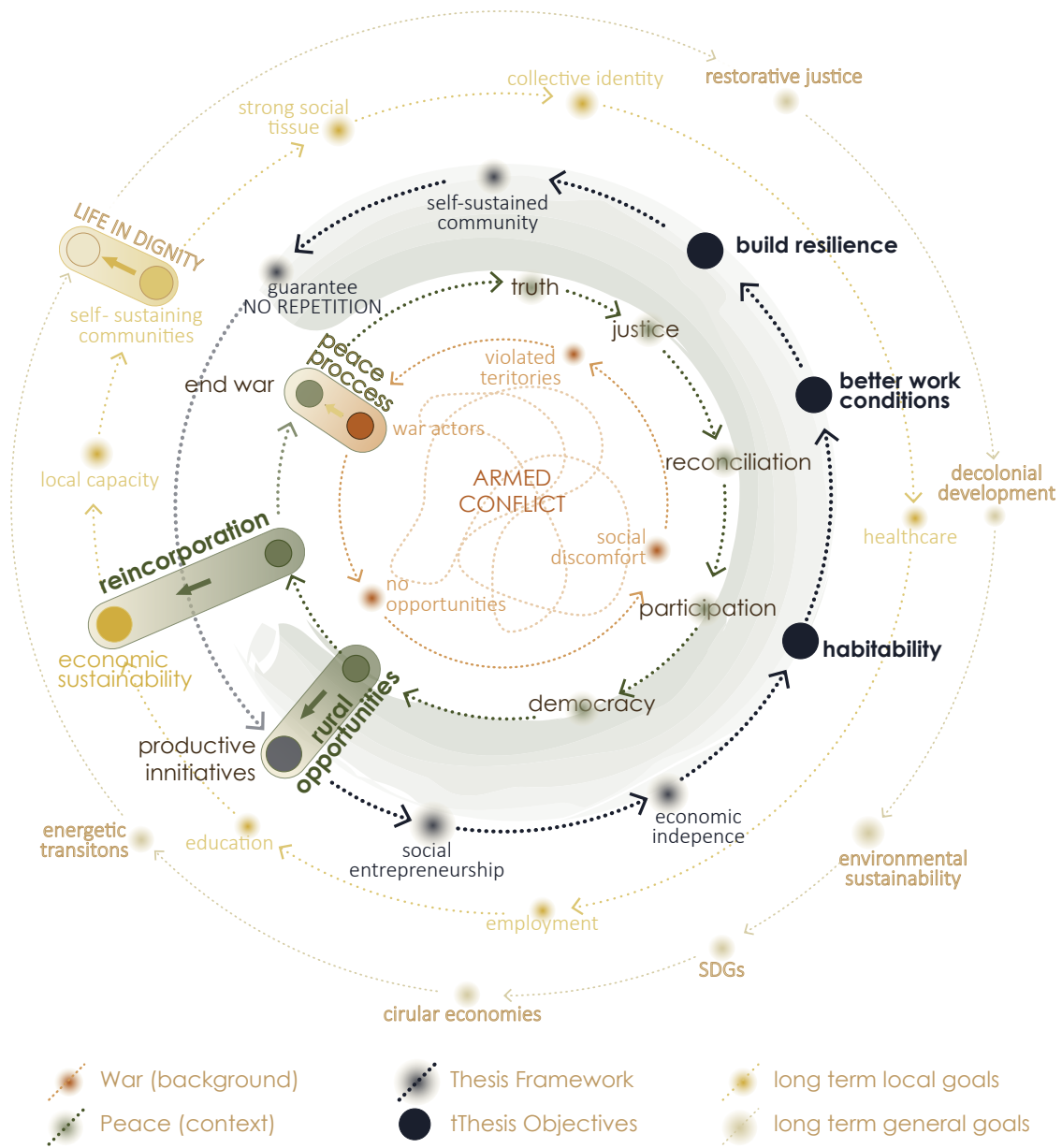
to enhance and diversify production infrastructure.

Improve working conditions for the associated farmers by providing the safe spaces to reside in the farm.

Add value to the farm products to give better gains to the producers instead of traders or manufactures.

The scope of the thesis is to align with the opeace process to break out from negative cycle of

war. On the following diagram, the red circle shows causes and consequences of the conflict, which thanks to the peace agreement, has shifted to the green circle, which shows the components of the process and how the thesis takes two of this components to define the main objectives of the research on the blue circle: build resilience, add value and improve work conditions; that will enhance the growth of positive cycles to achieve long term goals.



Scope diagram.

EXPECTED LEARNINGS

The objectives take the understanding of the social dynamics and physical context to develop an architectural project.

The expected social learnings relate directly to the peace process: how the implementation has affected the target community and how the actors interact with each other. In this field, the expected learnings are to understand power dynamics around the ETCRs and NARs,

particularly the role and impact of actors involved in reincorporating territories and to identify the implications of the peace process in post-conflict communities focused on productive initiatives on sustainable or regenerative development.

On the other side, the practical learnings are related to the architectural project, providing technical, legal and environmental information relevant to

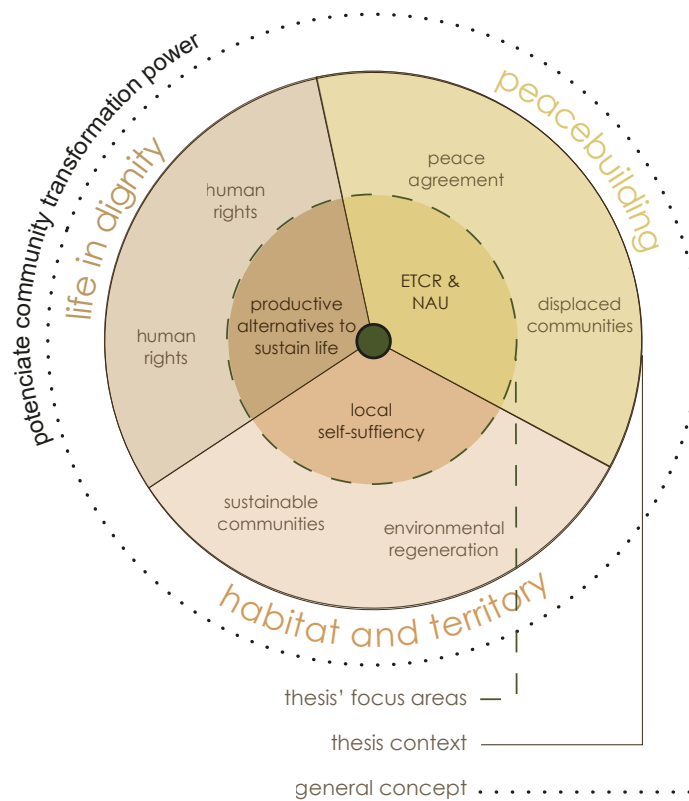
define tangible outcomes. In this field, the expected learnings are to propose tangible interventions on the existing infrastructure. to enhance productivity and to present feasible solutions to enhance working and living conditions for the reincorporation community by adressing the social needs analysed on the theoretical framework (background, context and field studies chapters).

RESEARCH QUESTION

How can the reincorporation community build resilient systems of subsistence through physical interventions on the production infrastructure to ensure dignified life opportunities after the peace agreement?

The research question is delimited under three main components that guided both the research and project development process: Peace building, Territory and life in dignity.

Peace building will cover social aspects related to conflict and peace process actors involved now as stakeholders of the thesis (who are the actors); The habitat and territory delimitation relates directly to the environmental preservation and regeneration initiatives on site (where- place characteristics); and the life in dignity will take care mainly on the financial income sources that have allow the reincorporation community to find life opportunities away from war (what is the economic vocation). In this way the research questions introduces subject, place and activity.



WHO

The study seek for input from every possible actor related to the production activity with ex-combats in the region. We found cooperation programs between the ARN, ETCR, private companies and governmental institutions for housing projects. Also, for the production activity we explore the role of actors like Salvaterra, Indeleble social, PEDT Dabeiba, Proantioquia and the farmers association Agroprogreso. The study later concentrated in agroprogreso as target group and salvaterra and proantioquia as project developers.

WHERE

The target group of this thesis is located in Dabeiba, a diverse territory with multiplicity of land uses and communities, The ETCR settlement for example, limits with local community of civilians and an army quarter and Taparales on the other hand, has indigenous communities as neighbours and has big areas for ecological preservation within its limits.

Even when all surrounding population and land uses affect our site of study, the thesis centered on the areas used by Llano grande and Taparales community for economic purposes.

WHAT

The thesis explore subsistence alternatives in the country side for former FARC combats after their agreement; some of them survive with government subsidies, others have got an employment (body-guarding is common among this group), others have started a personal business or individual farming activity and other have engaged en collective initiatives in cooperation with private companies, NGOs and development programs from the national reincorporation agency (ARN). this thesis focused on this last group.

ALIGNMENT

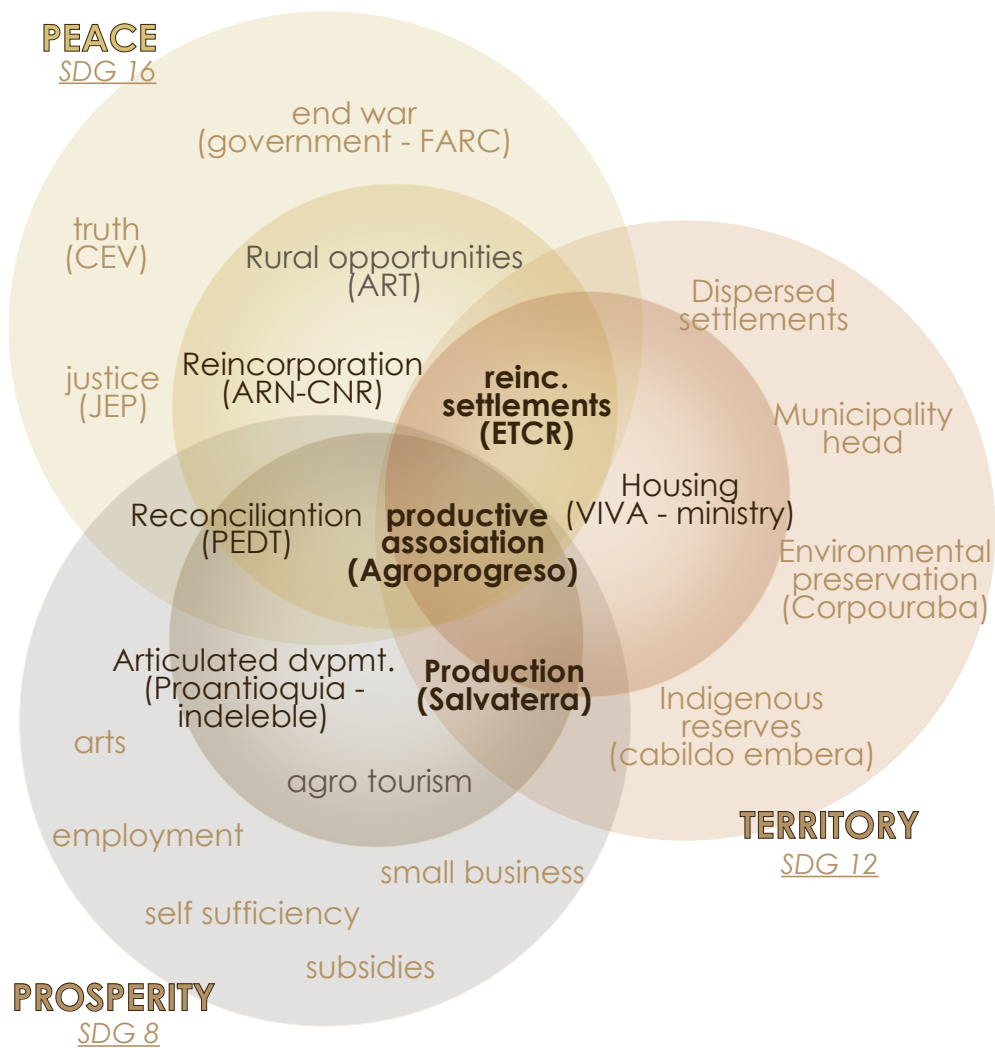
Aligned on a global, national and local scales with sustainable development goals, peace institutions and local projects. On a global scale the thesis aligned with three main SDGs:

- **SDG 16** “peace and strong institutions”,
- **SDG 8** “decent work and economic growth”

- **SDG 12** “sustainable production and consumption”

On a national scale, the dissertation aligned with the first point of the peace agreement “integral rural reform” to guarantee rural development and work opportunities away from war. Locally, the thesis focused on rural associations for agricultural production and their role in

the transformation of devastated rural areas into peace territories. The thesis highlights the value of peace-building as the primary condition for development, stressing that without peace, there are no real possibilities of developing resilient society able to provide universal conditions for life in dignity.



Thesis focus areas diagram.

Social delimitation (peace agreement actors): collective agriculture associations

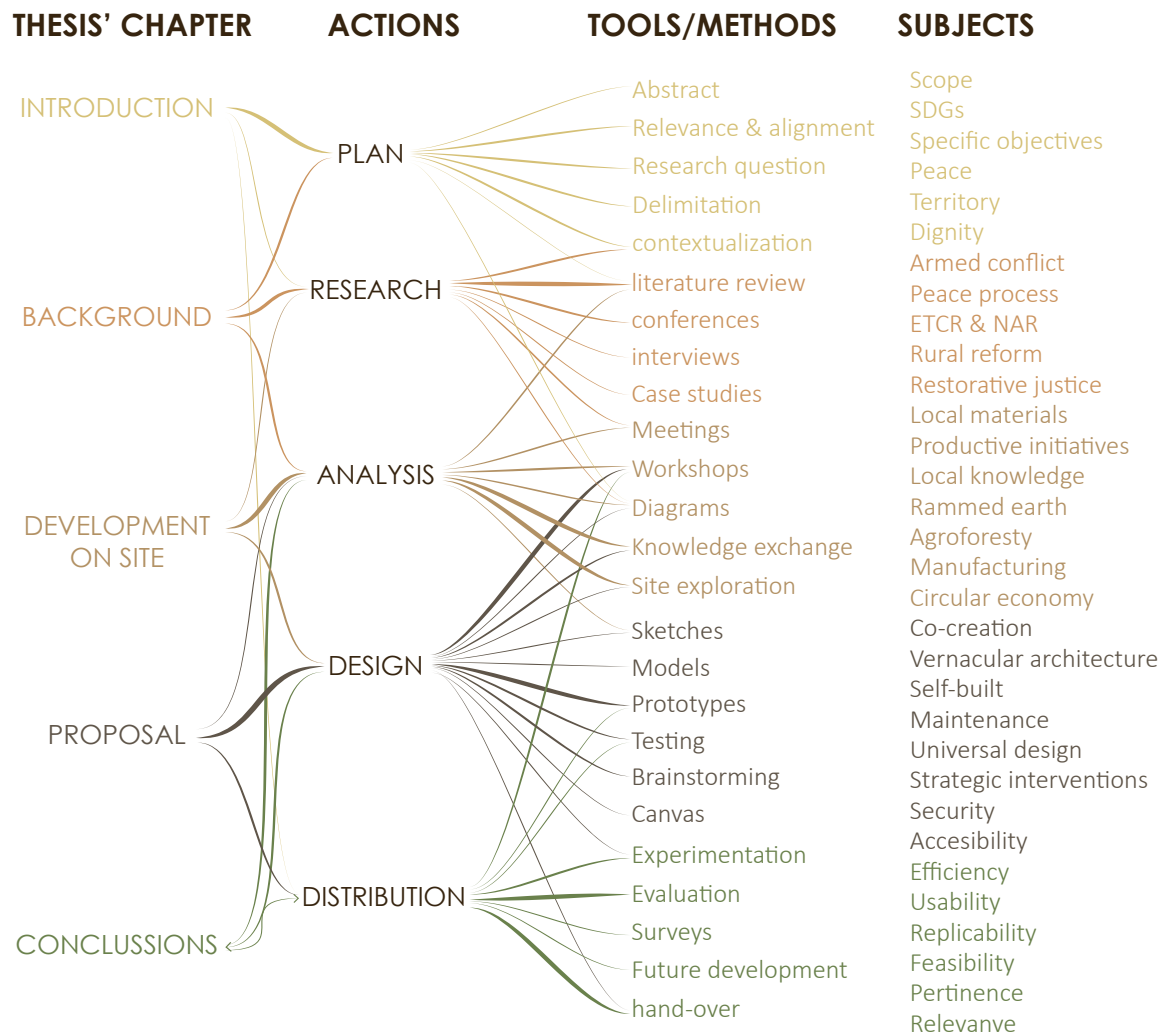
Spatial Delimitation (Land uses): Productive farm Taparales and ETCR Llano Grande

Economic activity delimitation: agricultural production

TIME PLAN AND METHODS

The study plan was structured by three phases: context analysis, field studies and project development:

1. The context analysis (or theoretical framework) explained both the historical development war and peace in the region as well as the current situation there in terms of physical environment, social actors and economic activities. This phase relied on readings, videos and conferences.
2. The field study, gave a deeper understanding of the context as it validated (or invalidated) theories created on the initial phase. The meetings and interviews from the field study were the main source to develop the project.
3. Project development: urban and architectural proposal co-created with association members to intervene in the farm layout to improve production capacity by building resilience and improving working conditions for the associates.



Timeline and methods diagram.

Even though the thesis is presented in chapters with an apparent linear structure, the methods and activities performed to conduct the analysis, proposals and results alternated between chapters. In general, during the first stages, the study depended on theoretical research through literature, interviews, videos and multimedia. Later, on the field study sections, the analysis and design methods relied mostly on co-creation methods on site, using the knowledge in the community as main source.



P2.

BACKGROUND

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: HISTORICAL REVIEW

The history of violence in Colombia has a long trajectory; to fully understand the causes and particularities of the armed conflict it is necessary to carefully review historically bellicose patterns such as social injustice, racial segregation, neglected minorities, vulnerated communities, prevailing corruption, racism and other constant ways of repression that have allowed to perpetuate one of the longest civil wars on the world.

The complex variety of conflict actors can explain the struggles faced by Colombians to reach an agreement and a responsible system of justice and reparation. The profound scars of decades of war are also responsible for the many difficulties to actually implement the agreements and to cover other armed actors involved in the conflict other than FARC and the government.

This chapter is a basic walk through in four phases around remarkable events in the Colombian history necessary to understand the historical circumstances of the thesis:

Causes of violence: unceasing social clashes and unjust institutions that incubated the perception of violence as the only way to solve differences, and subsequently, war.

Actors under conflict: short description of the major actors that took part in the conflict, focusing in FARC-EP, since this is the target population of the thesis.

The peace process: how the peace agreement was reached and how it is implemented in the thesis, focusing in the reincorporation process.

Future plans: Projections for a total peace in the country and how this project could contribute to that end.

ORIGINS OF VIOLENCE

It is not an easy task to pinpoint exactly when and how violence begun in Colombia, the causes that originated the conflict are excessively diverse and come from many actors, which makes it difficult to define precisely how the war started. Nonetheless, This compilation states some of the most relevant conditions that incubated the armed conflict in the country, focusing on our study site, north-western Antioquia. The section further reflects if

these conditions can be prevented to avoid similar confrontations in the future.

Some historians trace back the civil war's genesis to the guerilla movement formation back in the 1950's, others go back to the bipartisan confrontations between the liberal and the conservative party (Moreira, Forero,Parada. 2019) while others go far beyond that, until the Spanish colonization (Melo, 2017). Truth is, that

the social discomfort that have triggered most strikes, revolts and confrontations are not a new phenomena and have been cooking for a long period; in this way, we can understand how the socio-economical unequally, cultural discrimination, lack of progress opportunities and security guaranties have triggered the origins of violent confrontation and keep perpetrating the same unfair condition up until this day. (Silva, 2021)

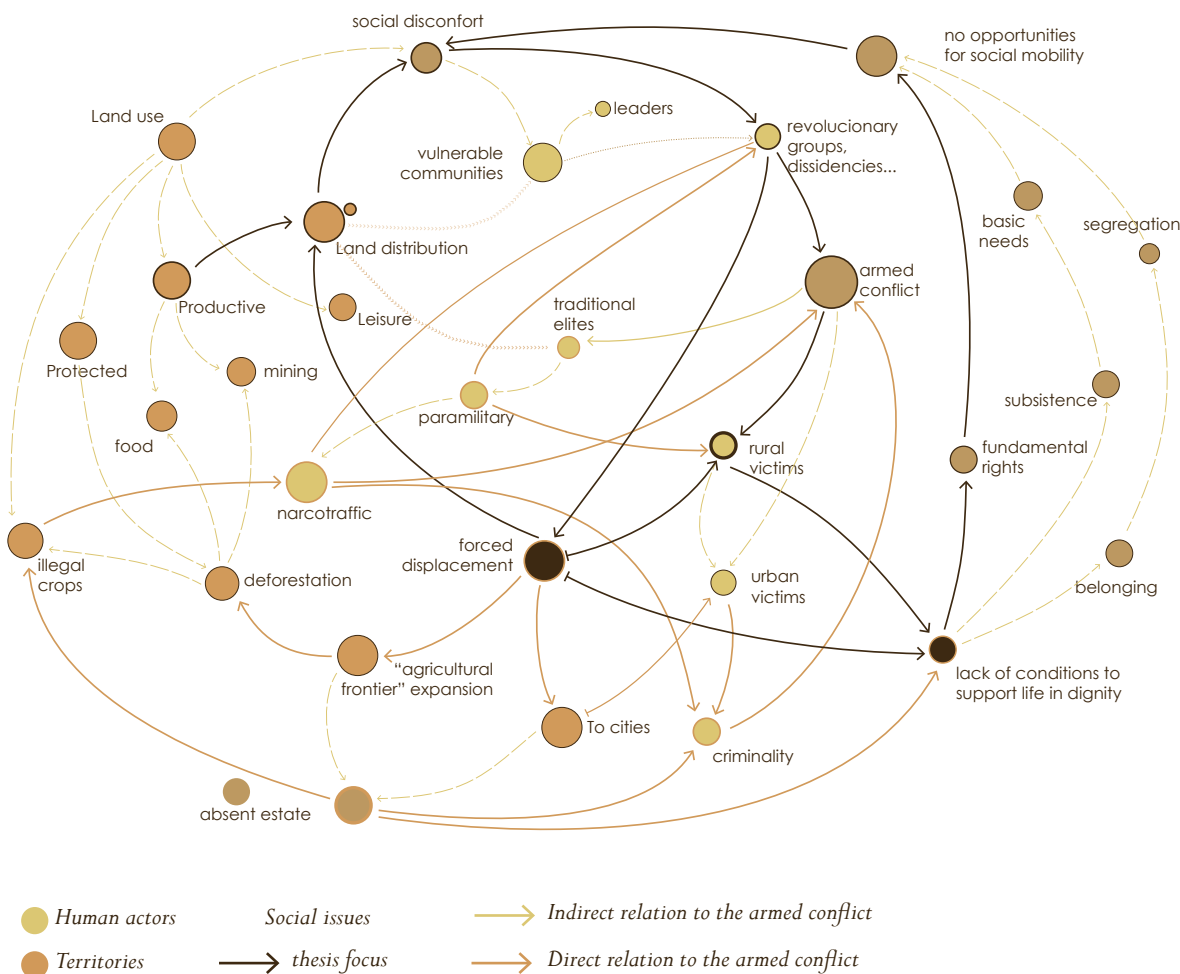


Diagram: Dynamics of the armed conflict. Personal and chaotic interpretation of the relationships between war actors, territories and social issues of the armed conflict. highlighting the thesis focus on the land distribution for productive purposes

HISTORIC CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT

Pre-hispanic period

Before colonizers arrival, indigenous communities inhabited territory grouped under “ethnic families”.culturally separated by the territory’s characteristics and the difficulties in transportation and communication that this implied.

In the Andean mountain chain, differences in altitude generate variations in the weather conditions know as thermal floors, which offer a great variety of products, this provided a rich locally grown indigenous diet and bust the trade with neighbouring communities different products proper from other weather conditions. (Melo, 2017). This situation changed during colonization with the imposition of an “European diet” that change the biodiverse farming tradition for the mono-cultive system brought from slave plantations that prevails until today.

Colonization

Colonization transformed both Europe and America: In Europe, the resources looted from the colonies supported the Industrial revolution and the beginning of the extractivist, capitalistic system still imperative until today at the expense of “less develop territories”.

In the colonies, the social transformation was abrupt and many of the hierarchical power structures remain until today, where the segregated social causes are a direct consequence from the racial hatred brought by slavery and miscegenation.

Indigenous reserves

These are territories designated to indigenous communities since colonial times, although they have been dramatically reduced, they still exist and are respected by the constitution, they have special rules according to their cultural heritage and **own the land collectively**, condition that some reincorporation communities today ambition to achieve.

Segregation after independence

Initially, independence was effective only for “criollos” (spanish descendants born in the territory), other social sectors didn’t have any space for political participation and racial segregation determined which civil rights were accessible to each individual, this structure developed into the strong socio-economical division and inequality today, Colombia is today the country with worst income inequality coefficient (GINI) in South America (54.2) (GINI index 2023)

Consequences on site today

Today in Taparales, the aim for the reincorporation community is to gain back resilience in their production systems, by diversifying again their production lines in a way that if there is a problem with one product, they can provide for themselves with the other crops.



Today, Dabeiba still hosts a big Embera population (ethnic group originary from the north-west) and our site of study neighbours various indigenous reserves (informe indeleble, 2022). The signers hold good relationships with these communities and hope to also own the land collectively as the indigenous communities do (informal conversation with Carlos Duica)

The inequitable land tenure, poor access to quality education and subsequently well remunerated jobs is perpetuated today in low income communities such as Dabeiba, making it extremely hard to brake out from the poverty cycle

The Republic

After independence, many internal discrepancies on how the country should be governed destabilized politics, federalists and centralists began to fight on the right way to govern the territory. The constitution constantly changed according to the group on power (Colombia had in total 9 constitutions between 1810 and 1886). This instability could explain the general mistrust on the official decisions and the governmental capacity of implementing the laws they've created.

“The violence period”

The XX century was marked by the confrontation of two political parties still relevant today: liberals and conservatives. The fight unleashed more than 54 civil wars around the country (Moreira, Forero and Parada, 2015) the tension sharpened with “*El Bogotazo*” in 1945 which provoked a destruction avalanche all over. With the “*frente Nacional*”, civil wars ceased by granting power to the two parties switching every period. This avoided confrontations between them but denied political participation to other perspectives, which led to the formation of some revolutionary movements.

Extreme polarization

The XX century wars, specially the cold war had critical impact in all Latin America due to the influence of capitalist and communist intimidation actions in the south cone, causing a tense environment of extreme polarization. Most south and central American countries suffered from extreme right dictatorships supported by the American government to avoid the flourishing of leftists movements. This brutal repression to socialist sympathizers reinforced the formation of several revolutionary groups such as FARC-EP

Corruption and social unconformity

As the elite social classes grew in fortune and power, the lower working classes and the rural communities were neglected and silenced. Minorities perceived the country was managed for and by a reduced elite urban group of families who had been using corruption to keep anchored in power, disrespecting cultural, social and environmental needs of the country. This generalized point of view, caused popular raise for opportunities and dignified life condition

Drug trafficking

The existing social issues at this time were aggravated by the appearance of “narcotraffick” a new type of illegal organization that cooperated financially and logistically with practically every actor of the conflict: guerrilla movements, paramilitary groups, army forces, political representatives etc. This added a new layer of complexity to the conflict and drag higher participation of the US government in it fight against drugs.

Today, the community on site still shows lack of trust in official institutions in peace implementation, which hinders cooperation between all sides.

The constant armed conflicts were taken as an excuse for many groups to justify **violence as the only way to transform the society** (M,F&P, 2015). Traces of this mentality prevail today in the territory.

Nowadays, ex-guerrilla members continue fighting for political participation and visibility, and to avoid the false dichotomy perception of the political offer.

The extreme polarization still divides most political postures into “black or white” nowadays, reducing spaces for dialogue and common grounds between opposing parts

The inequitable Land tenure and exploitation led to ecosystem degradation and impaired rural communities that resulted in the lack of opportunities for the country side.

Power concentration on a elite class and corruption still provokes social instability and manifestations

It is still difficult to encourage legal crops among low-income rural communities who have been forced into illegal crops and found a more decent source of livelihood in growing coca, poppies or marijuana instead of legal products.

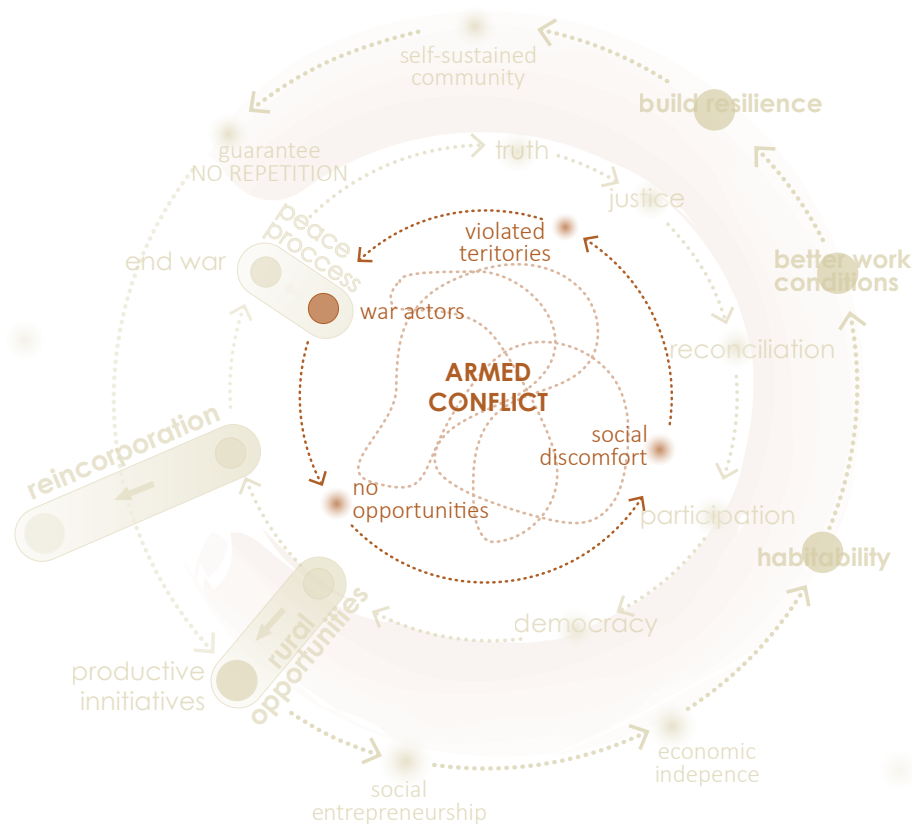
THE CONFLICT

An internal armed conflict is a violent confrontation in a country characterized by the asymmetry in the acting parts, typically, between military forces and organized armed groups or between insurgent groups (ICRC, 2020). In Colombia the plurality of actors is a result of the accumulation of the many causes

mentioned before, the chaotic war dynamics put traditionally fraternal actors up against each other, usually leaving vulnerable rural and urban communities in the middle of the cross-fire.

In rural areas, the negligence towards violence victims, the absence of governmental pres-

ence and lack of reconstruction opportunities, obligated many rural inhabitants to join one of the many bands of this story or abandon their land to survive in urban informal settlements. This situation only increased violence and criminality in the country, reinforcing war cycles.



Armed conflict cycle diagram: Cycle where the social discomfort causes victimized communities to turn into violent confrontations (armed conflict) leaving countless victims that can't see life opportunities away from violence, reinforcing the war.

RELEVANCE FOR THESIS

The historical negligence of rural communities and lack of opportunities were crucial factors to select a rural territory as site of study. If the country could ensure access to basic human needs and dignified life opportunities for all rural communities, it can guarantee that the demeaning social conditions that toughen the conflict won repeat again.



ACTORS

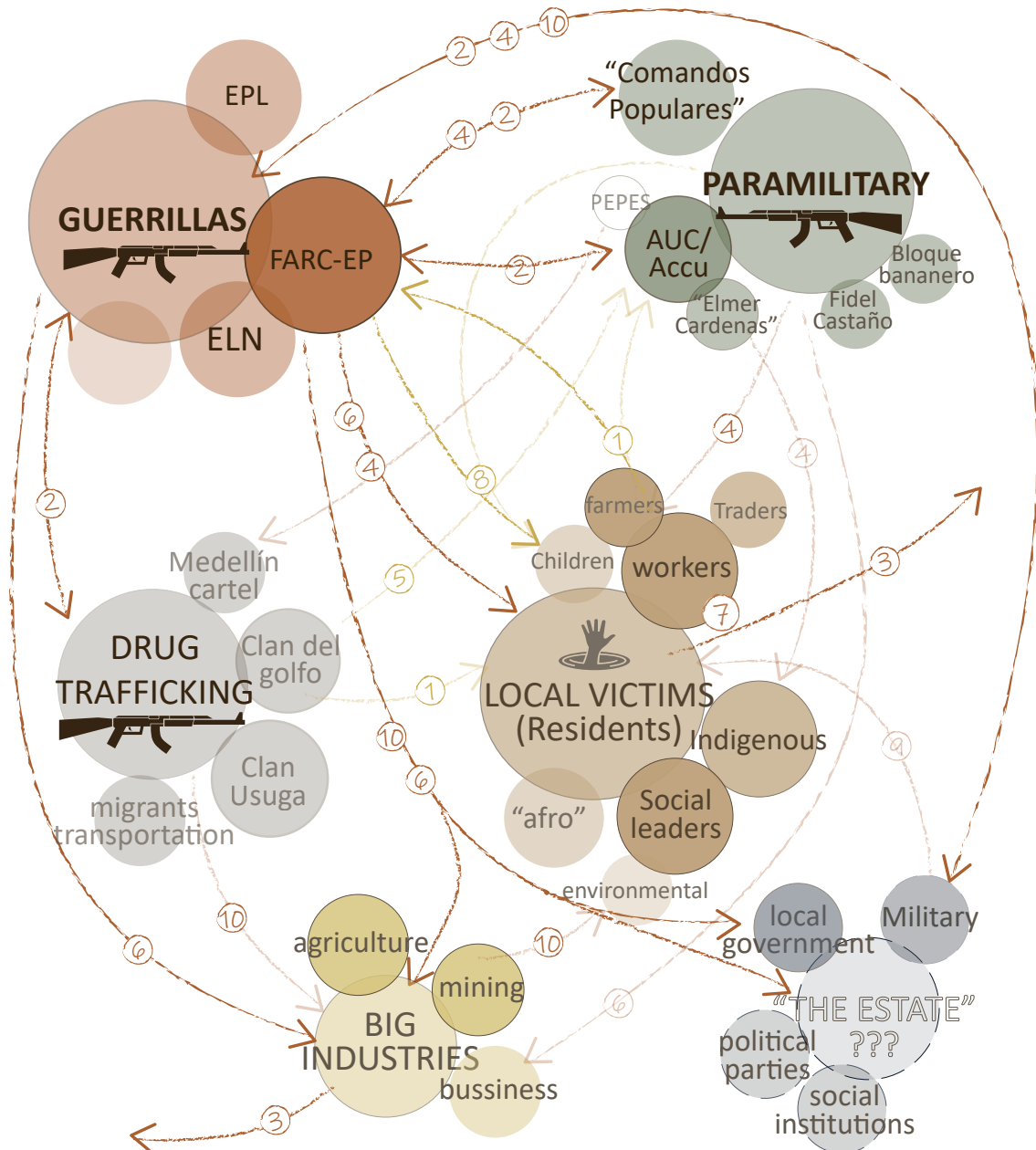
+Conflict actors' victimizing relationships: The arrows represent violent dynamics happening in Dabeiba (and the region in general) during the armed conflict. The purpose of the diagram, beyond stating the ways violence was infringed among all sectors, is to reflect on the type of environment and atrocities endured that can force an individual

to shift from being a victimized person to being a perpetrator. This could help us understand the pointlessness of pointing out the sinners and the innocent and work on building a future in peace together instead.

Conventions

1. Forced cooperation with GAOML

2. Confrontation between two or more armed groups.
3. Displacement - dispossession
4. Massacres
5. Financing from illegal sources
6. Kidnapping
7. Deaths in cross-fire
8. Child forced recruitment
9. False positives
10. Threats - Extortion



Armed actors

Although this thesis focuses on the ex-guerrilla group FARC-EP, it is very important to understand other armed groups and actors involved in the conflict in order to fully understand the reasons behind the complex power dynamics and trust issues behind the development of productive initiatives with ex-combatants, when there are so many affected communities in need of this kind of support. This is why it is important to see war actors beyond their actions and understand their drivers, based on transactional analysis theory, which describes the link between personal responsibility and power in conflict, and the destructive and shifting roles people play in the 'drama triangle' developed by Stephen Karpman (Murdoch, B.Ed., Edna. 2015).

In Colombia, as in many other long conflicts, it is not easy to make such distinctions, because the roles played by the actors are constantly shifting according to the situation. This is the particular case of FARC-EP, since it was formed by rural dwellers and peasants who felt neglected and oppressed by the government (act as victims), took up arms to become a kind of people's army (EP) to fight injustice (act as saviours), and became another violent group to the point of being catalogued as a terrorist organisation (act as persecutors). The following actors in the conflict (armed or unarmed) can only show a small part of the war, which is more related to the site and community of the present study and the roles they played during the confrontation, although these roles have changed over time with the peace process.

Estate's Security forces

Representing the Colombian Estate It was integrated by the Army, the police and the air forces. Their main goal was to fight insurgency, eradicate the communist threat and terrorism with the National security doctrine. During the last years before the peace agreement, the government received economic aid from the US to combat guerrilla groups and drug cartels, this help to push them back into the most rural parts of the country (JFC, 2019).

Nonetheless, according to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) at least 6402 persons were illegally killed and presented as guerrilla combatants deaths in combat by the Colombian Military forces between 2002 and 2008(JEP, 2021). This scandal known as "*falsos positivos*" (false positives) along with other abuses of power.

Paramilitary

These private security groups emerged in places without estate's presence to fight against guerrilla movements and protect private interests of land owners and fight for territorial control on the rural side. Unfortunately, during confrontation with other GAOML, paramilitary groups put rural communities in danger and also infringed violence on them, most of the times with impunity thanks to "unofficial" support from the estate and foreign countries.

Although the main paramilitary group in our site of study (AUC) officially demobilized in 2005, according to residents of Taparales, the north-western region of Antioquia is still under paramilitary control.

Guerrilla movements

Armed organizations formed under communist/socialists ideals who revealed against government corruption, social inequities and lack of political participation. They were integrated mostly by excluded groups such as rural or indigenous population and college intellectuals. Some of the most relevant organizations were:

M-19 (April 19 Movement) anti-oligarchic, anti-imperialist and union movement formed in 1973 and demobilized in 1989).

ELN (National Liberation Army) born in 1965 inspired by the Cuban revolution, currently under peace negotiations.

EPL (Popular Liberation Army) started in 1966 and partially demobilized in 1991.



FARC-EP:

(Revolutionary armed forces of Colombia - army of the people) Initiated in 1950 under Marxist - Leninist ideologist in Marquetalia, Tolima. Its main objective was to represent the rural population and constitute a government to "redistribute wellness" among less privileged communities.

Principally located in the south-eastern regions of the jungle and in the Andean base, FARC controlled about 40% of the country's territory by 2000.

Source: Moreira, Forero and Parada, 2015



Narcotraffic

Since the 1970s, big drug trafficking organizations quickly gain control over the Urabá region by subsidizing guerrilla, paramilitary, governmental entities and other armed groups to have protection and territorial control to produce and distribute illegal substances like marijuana, cocaine and heroin.

The cartels' presence intensified the conflict and region soon became a war territory due to the dispute of trafficking routes, illegal crops and access to maritime transportation. Local farmers were obligated to work on illegal crops and cooperate with Narcos.



Industries

Big industries have played a complex role, both as victims and perpetrators. On one hand, industries have suffered from extortion, kidnappings, and other forms of violence perpetrated by paramilitary and guerrilla groups seeking control and resources with detrimental impact on their operations and overall security.

However, on the other hand, some industries collaborated financially with these armed groups in exchange for protection and access to farming land. This collaboration has had severe consequences, including the displacement of local farmers and indigenous communities from their ancestral lands.

Victimized communities

The armed conflict in Urabá and Dabaiba led to a climate of fear and insecurity for the local community, who was left unprotected between the crossfire and attacked based on the perceived association of an individual with a particular armed group. Many rural residents faced threats, extortion, and violence on a regular basis. The following minorities were particularly targeted:

Farmers: destruction of crops and land forcibly taken over for illicit business.

Indigenous communities: faced forced displacement, loss of land, and racial violence.

Women: faced sexual violence including rape, sexual slavery, forced abortion, forced sterilization, and sexual torture.

Minors: forced recruitment into armed groups through threats, intimidation or abduction. They were trained and sent to the frontlines, where they were significantly exposed to danger. The conflict also disrupted education on the region, with severe long-term consequences.

Low-income and Afro-Colombian communities: the

limited access to resources and services exacerbated their already vulnerable situation.

“false positives” extrajudicial killings of civilians, who were falsely presented as guerrilla fighters by the Colombian military in order to boost their apparent success in the conflict. Many innocent people were killed in this way, further fueling the cycle of violence and distrust in the region.

Displaced groups implication in urban areas the forced displacement affected informal settlements and security and unemployment rates in the cities.

Today, there's an emphasis on healing the scars of war within victimized communities before engaging with demobilized actors who were responsible for inflicting those wounds. It is crucial to understand that all actors involved in the conflict, including armed groups, were both perpetrators and victims in different capacities. Recognizing this complexity is essential for effectively healing the wounds inflicted by the conflict and foster a sense of understanding, empathy, and reconciliation.

The profound impact on vulnerable groups in Dabaiba still haunts the population today, which becomes evident while seeing the lack of trust in reconciliation processes from some sectors of the society. This is translated later in complex power dynamics and inefficient bureaucratic systems.

Sustaining support for entrepreneurial activities for ex-guerrilla combatants is though due to a lack of trust and resentment towards perpetrators of violence and human rights abuses during the conflict. To overcome these barriers, it's important to build trust, promote transparency, accountability, and effective communication, and take a collaborative and inclusive approach.

Massive mobilization

In the 2000s there were massive mobilisations for peace and campaigns for demobilization which brought together social and political groups in support of a negotiated peace. The government of Juan Manuel Santos began talks with the FARC-EP in 2010 (not publicly), and formal peace talks began in Havana, Cuba, in 2012.

To peace, or not to peace

The Havana talks sparked a debate about whether or not to make peace with a group that was at the time listed as a terrorist organisation, and under what conditions this agreement could be accepted. On the one hand, opponents of the peace process criticised the government for making too many concessions to the FARC-EP, including the possibility of political participation and amnesty for crimes committed during the conflict. On the other hand, supporters of the agreement hoped that it would put an end to the war once and for all, and that it would lead to a future in which such atrocities would not be repeated. A referendum on the peace agreement was held in 2016, and the opposition managed to get a 'no' vote.

Nevertheless, the government and the FARC-EP continued negotiations and signed a revised peace agreement in 2016. The extremely polarised environment of the referendum campaign created a generalised mistrust of the peace process, and the following government's (right-wing) failure to fully respect the implementation of the agreement, creating a sense of insecurity among the signatories and 'peace supporters'. This lack of confidence was

clearly felt during the fieldwork in Dabeiba.

While the peace agreement was an important step towards ending the conflict, it did not bring peace to Colombia overnight. Many challenges remain. These include fully implementation of the agreement, the reintegration of ex-combatants into society, and to ensure security to every Colombian.

The agreement

With the agreement, an implementation plan was defined to seek a successful transition from fire to life by ensuring the satisfaction of the basic social demands that provoked the conflict in the first place; this thesis will focus on the first and fourth points of the agreement to ensure rural opportunities for ex-combatants that keep them away from weapons.

However, it is important to recognise that these points are accompanied by other political and social programmes of reconciliation, truth and reparation to ensure that the conflict does not recur.

1. **End the war**
2. Truth, justice and reparations for the victims.
3. Against narcotraffick.
4. **Better opportunities for the rural areas**
5. Better participation and democracy
6. Implementation of the final agreements.

The road map to peace

Peace is not created by signing a paper; the process requires a comprehensive approach that includes steps such as disarmament, demobilisation, reinsertion, reintegration and finally reincorporation. The steps include the disarming and disbanding of former combatants, the provision of basic social services, vocational training programmes, promotion of economic development, access to health care and education, and finally the reintegration of former combatants into society as productive and peaceful citizens. This thesis will focus on the last two steps: **reintegration and reincorporation**.

DDR

DDR is a UN process to assist societies under war to lay down their weapons and return to civilian life while building capacity to ensure long-term development and no repetition of violence. (UN)

Disarmament is the removal of the weapons from all sides

Demobilization is the dissolution or abandonment of the armed groups

Reintegration is to bring former combatants into civilian society.

*The R in this anagram can also refer to Reincorporation, reconstruction or reconciliation.

Reinsertion

Short period of time (around 1 year) that last from when the combatant leaves an armed group (demobilization) until the ex-combat joins a reintegration process. (UN). during this time food, shelter, health and education is provided to the ex-combat.

This term also refers to individuals who demobilized voluntarily before the peace negotiations.

Reintegration

Is the process where an ex-combat integrate back into the civil life and finds means of subsistence away from violence and criminal activity. (Commission of truth, 2022) In Colombia, this process is offered during 6.5 years to demobilized GAOML (FARC-EP, ELN, EPL, AUC, etc) individuals who Have not committed crimes against humanity or violated International Humanitarian Law, among others, Have transitioned to legality, contributed to truth, justice and reparation and commits non-repetition of violent acts.

In this case, ARN provides communities under reintegration process: economical support, psycho-social attention, education, professional training and health coverage as long as they stay commitment to no repetition of war acts and attend at least 90% of the activities planned by the ARN.

Reintegration instances

Several institutions were established after the agreement to ensure the proper implementation of the accords across various aspects. These institutions include:

Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) is the judicial body that investigates, prosecutes, and sanctions serious human rights violations committed during the armed conflict. It aims to repair the social tissue by *Accounting for responsibility and awareness of the offender. Seeking for material and moral reparations to the victims and Facilitating community participation Prison Fellowship international.* (2021), JEP promotes truth, justice, reparations, and non-repetition, offering alternative sentences for those who fully disclose their crimes and provide reparations to victims.

The **Commission of Truth** is in charge of clarifying the truth about the conflict, including the victims' suffering. It conducts investigations, collects testimonies, and produces reports to contribute to historical memory, reconciliation, and the prevention of future conflicts.

The PDET are **Programs for Territorial Development with a Comprehensive Approach.** These territories, affected by the armed conflict, are prioritized for development interventions to address historical inequalities and promote peacebuilding.

ETCRs (Territorial Spaces for Training and Reincorporation) are designated areas where former combatants can undergo the process of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration into civilian life. (ARN, 2022)

The **National Council of Reincorporation (CNR)**: focuses on implementing rural reforms and addressing structural inequalities in rural areas. It aims to promote land restitution, agricultural development, access to basic services, and infrastructure improvements to foster rural development and reduce poverty.

The **Special Unit for Missing Persons** is responsible for locating and identifying missing persons, including those who disappeared during the armed conflict. It supports the rights of victims and their families by conducting investigations, forensic work, and providing support throughout the process.

These **houses of memory** serve as spaces for memorialization, remembrance, and education about the armed conflict. They collect and preserve testimonies, artifacts, and documents related to the conflict, providing a platform for victims to share their experiences and for society to confront the past. The Houses of Memory contribute to the collective understanding of the conflict's impact, promote empathy, and foster dialogue to build a more inclusive and peaceful society.

These institutions together play vital roles in addressing the complexities of the peace process, which is necessary to be understood as a whole. This thesis will only concentrate on the instances present in the site of study: the CNR, the ETCR Llano Grande and Dabaiba PDET. Nonetheless is important to keep in mind the coordination efforts carried with other peacebuilding actors.

REINCORPORATION ON SITE

This process is solely for people who demobilized within the framework of the Final Peace Agreement on 2016 and transitioned to legality. The reincorporation roadmap facilitates the adaptation of the individual to the economic, social and political sphere

The process comprehend 2 stages: first, a short stage for 2 years where the person joins the ARN, receive a single normalization allowance and a basic income every month. After this, the long stage involves cross-cutting co-responsibility, comprehensive support and monitoring-related actions (ARN,2020). The second stage includes the following 7 components:

1. Education
2. **Economic sustainability**
3. **Habitability and housing**
4. Comprehensive psychological well-being
5. Healthcare
6. Community*
7. Family

CNR

The Territorial Reincorporation Councils (CTR in english) are instances created Peace Agreement parts to coordinate the management of the institutions in the territory, articulate the actions with international cooperation, the private sector, academia and other sectors, and permanently monitor the process of social, economic and community reincorporation. (ARN, 2021)

PDET Dabeiba

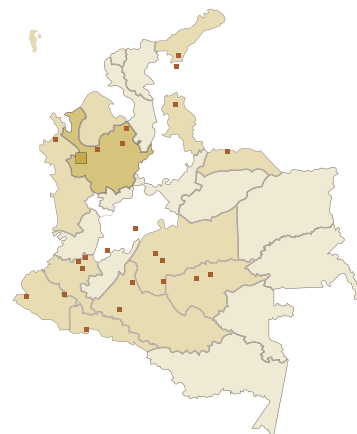
Special programs for peace implementation focus on the most conflict-affected municipalities, fostering reconciliation among all segments of society: victims and perpetrators, public and private sectors, rural and urban areas, as well as indigenous communities, farmers, and workers. In Dabeiba, as a PDET municipality, the ETCR under study is supervised by the PDET initiatives for reconciliation and projects that promote the integration of ex-FARC members with other actors in the region. The PDET collaborates closely with the municipality, the victims unit, the indigenous association, and the ETCR in Llano Grande to facilitate these efforts.

ETCR Llanogrande

The municipality of Dabeiba has a total of 201 people active in the reintegration and reincorporation process, 5 in reintegration 196 in reincorporation, most of this community is located in the aETCR Llano Grande, which follows the same guidelines as the national ETCRs plan goals:

1. Rural well-being
2. Protection of pluriethnic richness
3. **Rural economy**
4. Integration of affected regions
5. Recognition of community organizations
6. **Turn the rural side into a reconciliation territory**

(The thesis focuses on 3 and 6)



Territorial spaces for training and reincorporation

- ETCR Llano Grande
- Other ETCR

Taparales (NAR)

After the reintegration period finished, many ex-combatants chose to remain in the ETCR Llano Grande, but opportunities for entrepreneurship here were limited due to the scarcity of available land. To address this, the Antioquia business sector, in collaboration with **Fundación Proantioquia** and the Association for Reincorporation and normalization (ARN), acquired 275 hectares of land in Taparales. It was given to the **Agroprogreso cooperative** to foster socio-economic initiatives for ex-combatants and their families. The land will be used for productive projects (59%) and biodiversity conservation (41%). As soon as the cooperative meets the conditions for sustainability, the land will be donated to them, allowing them to manage it autonomously.

Agroprogreso cooperative is the entity that unites reintegrated combatants, facilitating resource generation and social integration.

FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Just as the Colombian peace process was inspired by other acts of reconciliation around the world, such as South Africa's restorative justice system of truth and reparation or the demobilisation process in Bosnia after the Balkan war, it can also serve as an example for future negotiations, including the current process with the ELN.

If successful, reincorporation projects such as those in ETCR's Llanogrande and Taparales farm could demon-

strate that reintegration into prosperous civilian life is possible. This could inspire other armed groups to seek a peaceful resolution to their conflict.

To move towards the so-called 'total peace', it will be important to address the root causes of the war, such as ensuring basic human rights, tackling pockets of violence in rural areas and providing adequate protection for community leaders and ex-combatants.

These rights are essential to breaking out of the poverty trap and demand respect, inclusion, participation and security. This can be achieved by prioritising the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights (ESC rights), which include the rights to work, education, culture, health, housing, food, water and sanitation. While the future is uncertain, there are opportunities for progress and continued efforts towards peace are essential for the country's future.

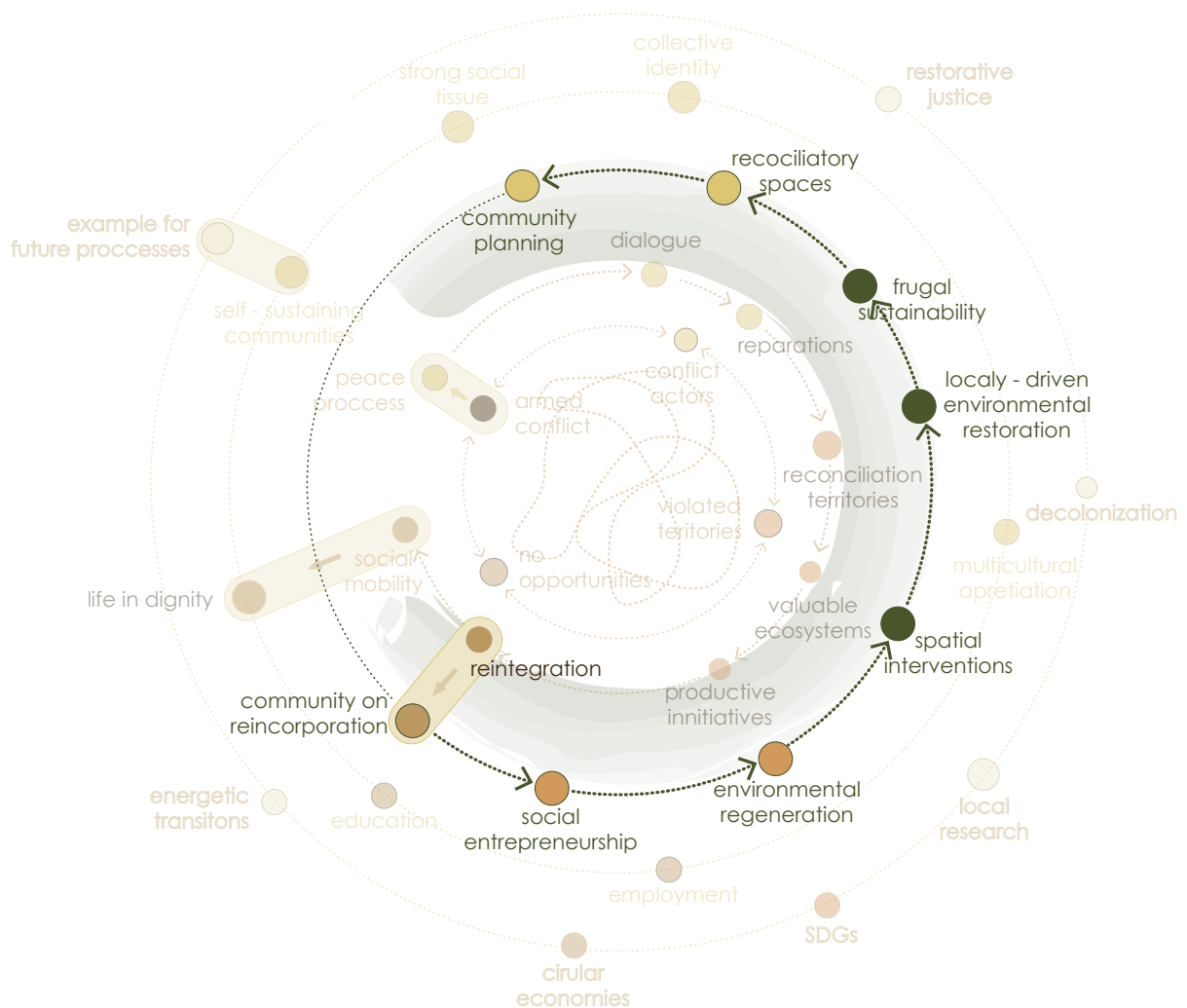


Diagram 6. Present: thesis intervention The thesis aligns with the rural transformation goal of the peace process, it will expand on current initiatives of the ETCRs to reach long-term goals and international standards

World potent in life

“Colombia, potencia mundial de la vida” (Colombia, a global power in life) is the name of the current government plan to position the country as a leader in sustainable development. This strategic plan aims to harness the rich natural resources, cultural heritage, and human capital to create a prosperous and environmentally conscious nation. The plan includes sustainable economic growth while prioritizing social inclusion and environmental preservation.

Within this context, a project like the one proposed in this thesis (which focuses on building resilience and sustainable systems for agricultural production, environmental preservation, and planned habitation) aligns with the long-term objectives of this government plan. By addressing social, environmental, and economic dimensions

From a **social perspective**, the project will foster participatory processes during the development of strategies for

resilience. By involving local communities, including former actors of the conflict, in the planning and implementation of the project, promoting inclusive decision-making and acknowledging local agency to take ownership of their future. Furthermore, the project can provide opportunities for skill development, education, and capacity building, enhancing social well-being and promoting social cohesion.

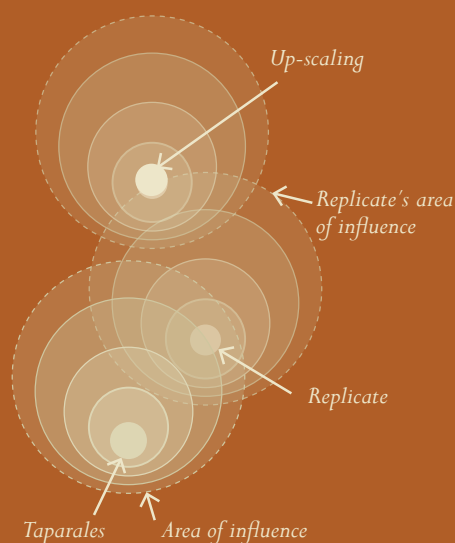
In terms of **environment protection**, the project can contribute to biodiversity regeneration by adopting sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic farming, agroforestry, and biodiversity conservation techniques. This will help restoring ecosystems, protect endangered species, and promote sustainable use of natural resources. Also, the project can promote the celebration of the cultural heritage associated with local traditional products, ensuring the sustainability of indigenous knowledge and practices.

From an **economic perspective**, the proposed “strategies for dignity” can promote responsible and conscious agricultural production practices. The implementation of sustainable and efficient farming techniques will improve productivity and create economic opportunities for former combatants and those affected by the war. The project, in the medium term, can support the development of value chains for local products, fostering economic growth, in the long term, it can attract eco-tourism and promote sustainable livelihoods, contributing to economic prosperity of the community.

Overall, this project aligns with the Colombian government’s long-term plans to position the country as a global leader in sustainable development. By addressing social, environmental, and economic dimensions, it aims to build resilience, promote reconciliation, preserve biodiversity, and foster prosperity in Dabeiba and beyond.

RURAL DIGNITY FOR NO REPETITION

The success of the production project in Taparales and the ETCR Ilanogrande can have a positive impact on the surrounding community as the ex-combatants work alongside them, sharing their skills and knowledge and contributing to the local economy. The success of the enterprise can also serve as a model for other similar projects, attracting investment and creating employment opportunities for both ex-combatants and the wider rural population. Overall, a successful case of sustainable social entrepreneurship with ex-combatants can have a transformative impact on the region, creating a virtuous circle of economic growth, social inclusion and sustainable development.



RESUME (TIMELINE)

ORIGINS OF VIOLENCE

CAUSES

- **Racial** discrimination → social segregation → inequality
- Extreme polarization → war between two parties → **poor political participation** for other groups.
- **Inequable Land tenure and exploitation** → ecosystem degradation → impaired rural communities → lack of opportunities for the contry side.
- Power concentration on a elite class → corruption → **social instability**



ARMED CONFLICT

ARMED ACTORS

- **Guerrilla movements:** reactionary against previous causes) left wing inclination. M19, FARC, ELN, EPL (and others)
- Paramilitary groups: “self defence” against guerrilla groups: AUC and others
- Urban criminal organizations: services for other war bodies.
- Narco-trafficking groups: allied to guerrilla, paramilitary and government intances.



PEACE PROCESS

AGREEMENT

- **END WAR:** Cease fire, demobilization, reinsertion, reintegration and reincorporation
- Truth, justice and reparations for the victims.
- Against narcotraffick.
- Better participation and democracy
- **Better opportunities for the rural areas.** Economic development for the country side.
- Implementation of the final agreements.

FUTURE PROJECTIONS

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

- **TOTAL PEACE:** adopt agreement with FARC-EP as a “pilot example for agreements with other groups.
- Guarantee the **NO REPETITION OF THE CONFLICT** by ensuring dignified conditions of life to all former war actors and victims
- Promote the preservation of rural **self-sustaining communities** by building resilient systems of production and consumption



P3.

CONTEXT

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The inequitable land ownership and use in rural areas has been historically both a cause and a consequence of the armed conflict. The unfair land distribution structures that began during the colonization and remain until these days helped to cultivate the strong social discomfort that led to the formation of many revolutionary groups more than 50 years ago (Silva, 2021). At the same time, the violent actions of these groups forced the rural population to migrate to the big cities, where they were denied from the basic means for survival or dignified life, increasing social discomfort and violent mobilization in urban areas. This is why the integral rural land reform is the first point on the peace agenda and is also the reason why the thesis has chosen the rural community under reincorporation in Dabeiba as the site of study

This chapter will depict an approximation of the territory of study, explained under three complementary lenses: the physical environment, the social context and the productive activities. The physical approximation will zoom in from a continental scale to the reincorporation settlement, highlighting the most relevant features of the environment that have shape social and economic behaviour en the specific territory, ETCR Llano grande and the farm Taparales.

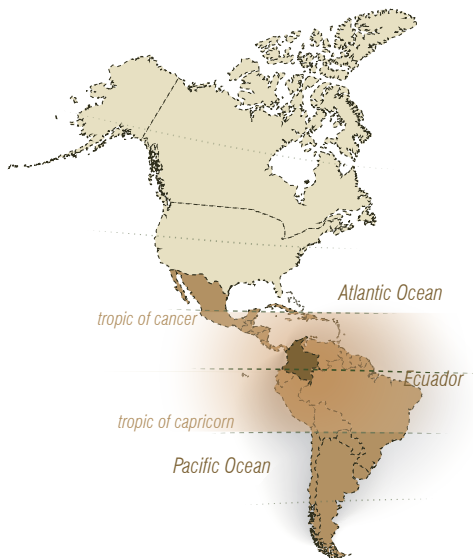
On a social perspective, the ETCRs and NARs are crucial elements for peace since they are territories where ex-combats can build their life plan away from war and reintegrate to the civil life. To guarantee conditions for **life in dignity** and prevent the repetition of the conflict, the ETCR have developed social and economical plans through entrepreneurial initiatives led by the community and assessed by different organization, most of the production lines are focused on agropecuerial activities because many actors from the conflict come from a rural background (Silva,2022), but they also developed some manufacturing projects.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

To understand the community of study it's not enough to know the history of violence in the region, it is necessary to comprehend the territory that has foster the ETCR members and how it has shaped features of the community. As the commission of truth (CEV) has stated *"Armed actors did not act in hollow spaces, but rather related and interacted with the territorial actors, the regional power structures, the local authority systems, the state institutions present in the territories, the economic dynamics of regions and culture."* (CEV, 2022) the society can't be understood in disconnection to the territory but as hole symbiotic unit where *"the geographical limits are permanently reconstructed and respond to the symbolic appropriation of a community, its social representations, cultural constructions and political, economic-productive and affective demarcations"* (CEV,2022)

GENERAL APPROXIMATION

Continental location



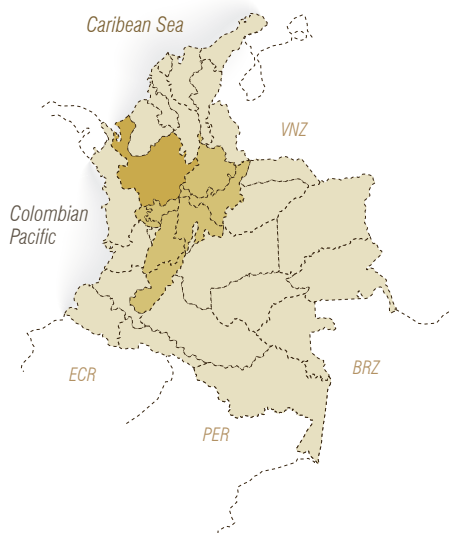
The tropic

The relatively constant weather conditions allows stable crops and sunlight all year round. This reflects on the high biodiversity and variety of agricultural products. This condition makes the tropics the "lungs of the world", the place where most oxygen is produced and a crucial territory for local and migratory species.

Latin America

Since the Colonization, he constant extraction of materials have taken away the chance of Latin American countries to fully define their own destiny in terms of economic and social development to be used as a pantry for "the first world" erasing native heritage and transforming the territory and local dynamics for ever.

Location in Colombia



Colombia

During conflict, several ecosystems could not be exploited due to the presence of armed groups disputing the territory. So paradoxically, the war helped to preserve some areas- The debate on the land use and exploitation was delayed until these days, when many discussions (and confrotations) are now taking the light-spot.

RELEVANCE ON THESIS



Despite the role of tropical ecosystems for global balance, they are threaten by deforestation actions for mining, urban development, livestock farming, or agricultural use. The preservation of these areas is crucial for our live on earth, both Taparales and Llanogrande include vast preservation areas that restrict other uses on the site.



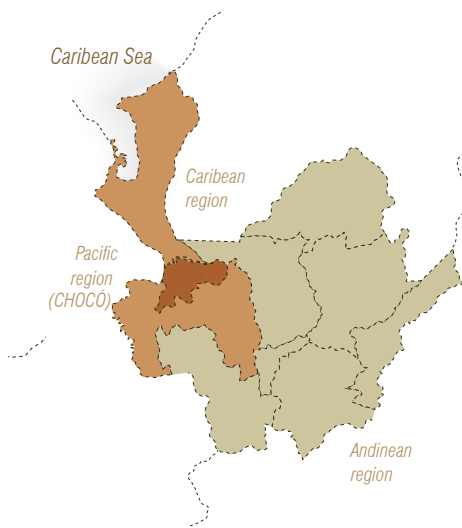
Taparales in particular explicitly presents the current tension between preserving life supporting ecosystems and the need to exploit the land for economic subsistence



◆ Andean region

Ecosystems in Colombia are categorized under 6 natural regions depending on various environmental factors. Dabeiba is located on the Andean region, which is densely populated and due to the altitude's changes in the Andes mountain-chain, very naturally diverse, with varying agricultural products to their thermal floor, stimulating rich economical trade between settlements. Also a rich hydrological system allows the settlement of disperse communities along the many rivers.

Location in Antioquia



◆ Antioquia (State)

Is the gate from the Andes to the ocean, an essential feature for the economic development of the region. Most of the municipalities are rather unconnected between each other due to topographic challenges that bind the settlements to the main valleys, most of them are only linked to the state's capital where the main social services like hospitals and universities are located. Many people from the towns distant from Medellín need to travel for hours to attain these services.



◆ North-western Antioquia

Connects the department with the Pacific and Caribbean regions as well as to the Atlantic, mixing the mountain ecosystem with the pacific rainforest and the semi-arid weather reaching the northern part by the ocean. This gives the area not only a rich environmental diversity but also an intense cultural mix that includes afro population from Chocó, indigenous communities (Embera), farmers, transporters and both people from the coast and from the "interior"

RELEVANCE FOR THESIS

Difficult topography plus the high humidity of the terrain is a challenge for construction on site due to the risks of mudslide

Variety of ecosystems and high biodiversity is a great advantage for the environmental regeneration potential of the farm

During the armed conflict many of the mountain ecosystems such as the humid tropical forest were adopted by guerrilla groups as a refuge, using temporary huts and mimetic living techniques similar to vernacular architecture of the zone, this tradition is shown in taparales farm.

Strategic location for international commerce, easy access to ports in both atlantic and pacific oceans

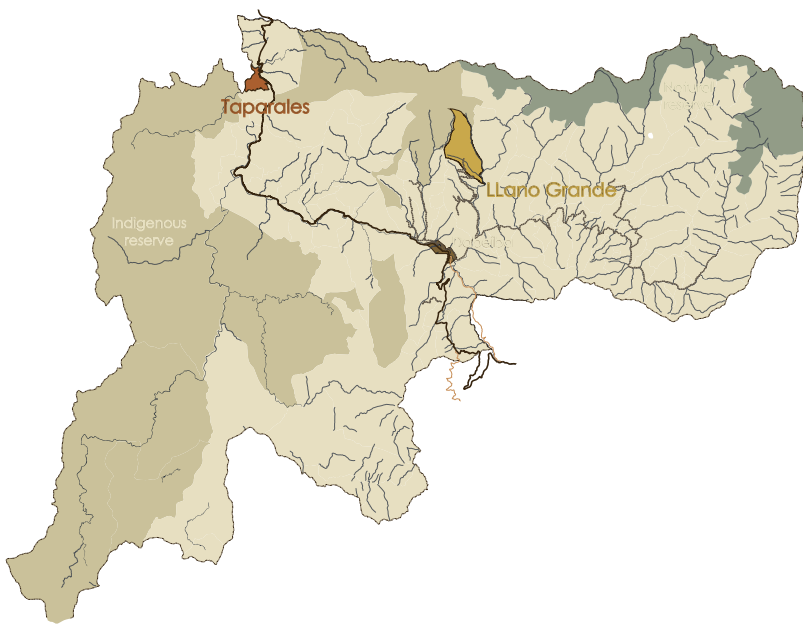
But the area still struggles with the fight for territory domain today.

The isolation from state's capital difficults residents' accessibility to development opportunities outside agroindustry

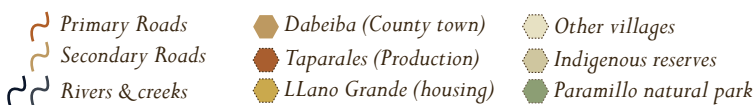
◆ DABEIBA

The municipality has strategic areas for biodiversity and water conservation such as the natural park “Nudo del Paramillo” which borders with Ituango, the place where the polemic hydroelectric project “Hidroituango” is located. the county also posses some dry tropical forest remaining areas (a type of ecosystem on danger of extinction).

Dabeiba is home to 201 people under the reintegration and reincorporation process, this study will center specifically on the territories where this process currently takes place: the county town (where administrative decisions are made), Llano grande (the plot adjudicated for living) and Taparales (the land bought for production activities)



Project location map



IMPACT ON SITE

The nature reserves in the Dabeiba region are not only important for their ecological value, but also offer great potential for ecotourism. One of these is the Nudo de Paramillo, which was a coveted control point for all the actors in the armed conflict and is now free from armed groups. The Node is home to a variety of wildlife, including margays, spectacled bears and jaguars.

If properly managed, these areas of regenerative tourism can bring economic benefits to local communities and encourage conservation of natural resources. The Nudo de Paramillo and other similar areas in Dabeiba such as our sites of study can therefore serve as a model for sustainable development and environmental regeneration in the post-conflict era.



SITES OF STUDY

Since the thesis focuses on the study of the community under reincorporation in Dabeiba, the site of the study was not limited to one place, but moved to where the community was. In this sense, although the study began in the special reinsertion area in Llano Grande, which is the space the government offered to the V front of former FARC after the agreement, the research needed to move to a second place where the ex-combatants develop their productive activities as a collective, namely the Taparales farm. These two sites are described in more detail in the chapter on fieldwork.



Football court at Llano Grande ETCR "Jacobo Arango"

Llano Grande

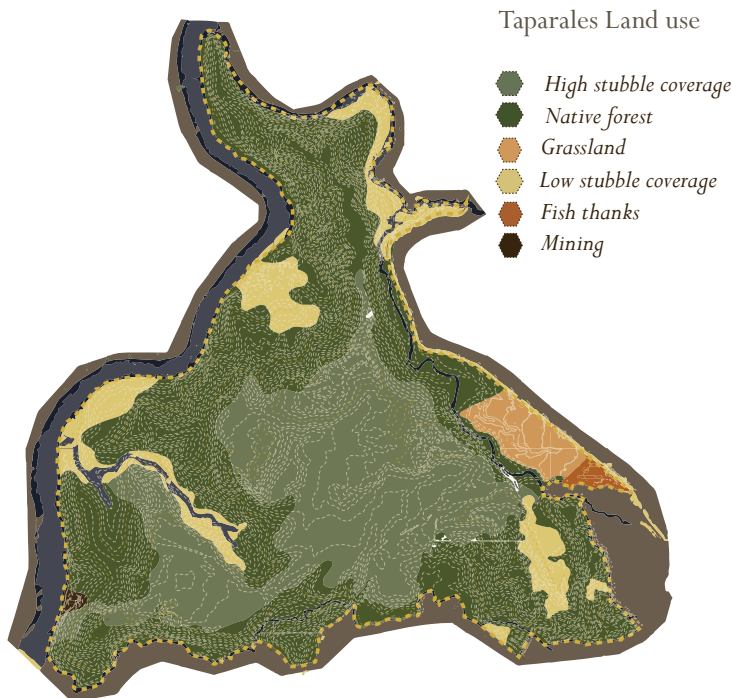
ETCR Jacobo Arango in Llano Grande is a remote community located 45 minutes away from Dabeiba by car. Accessible via an unpaved road with 6 critical points, it poses challenges for small vehicle transportation, which difficults construction processes and daily activity such as getting groceries, houses supplies or

getting to work. The community has a Drinking Water Treatment Plant, electrical interconnection, septic water sanitation system, gas supply, and solid waste collection. It also features a nursery, library, and recreational areas. Spanning 16 hectares, it hosts over 100 families with a changing popula-

Taparales

In opposition to the ETCR Jacobo Arango, Taparales is well connected trough a national road, but does not account for so many facilities as the nursery, library or the small business present in the ETCR.

Taparales present a great opportunity to tackle challenges associated to climate change resilience, since it combines agricultural production and environmental preservation areas, which could enhance food security for local population. But the territory presents challenges regarding the physical characteristics of the site such as the high humidity, the steep topography or the undergrowth prominence over the desired crops.



- Reserve area → Building restrictions
- High humidity → Agricultural difficulties
- Highway proximity → Transportation facilities

STAKEHOLDERS

As a municipality where the Agency for Territorial Renovation (ART) is present, Dabeiba has been heavily reconfigured by the armed conflict. As mentioned above, the lack of protection of the estate allowed the growth of various actors who, through the indiscriminate expansion of the agricultural frontier, are endangering strategic ecosystems for life. For this reason, the geographical approximation to the site and the historical background are not enough to fully understand the context of this thesis, it is also necessary to take into account the socio-economic factors that currently manipulate the site of study.

In this context, two major projects are being developed at national level: First, the “TOTAL PEACE POLICY”, which aims to end armed confrontation through humanitarian agreements and to promote submission to justice with actors involved in illegal economic activities, in order to prevent a fragmented peace. Secondly, a policy to promote the territorial transformation and productive conversion of areas with coca, marijuana and/or poppy crops, in favour of “a productive economy that dignifies communities and protects nature” (DNP, 2022).

This section presents the actors involved in this process of territorial transformation that affects the community studied in this thesis, at different levels, from the international organisations involved, to the residents and farmers on site, going through national authorities responsible for defining and implementing policies in the area.

International Bodies

Foreign or international institutions that supervise, verify or support the process of reincorporation throughout the country, such as the UN Verification Mission, which monitors the fulfilment of the commitments made in the agreement, or international aid organisations or NGOs that have contributed financially and with technical assistance to reincorporation processes in the country.

These institutions, despite their

willingness to collaborate, usually lack local understanding and the funds provided are not well implemented due to unorganised procedures in the community, payment to external bodies or professionals to guarantee the correct development of the plans (not to the community or due to miscommunication between the international institution, the community and third parties such as regional organisations that make the links and manage the resources).



National institutions

These are peace institutions such as the **ARN** or the **CNR** mentioned before, in charge of looking after the ex-FARC interests in the community, are directed from the headquarters in Bogota, which difficults their constant presence in the territory due to lack of funds to maintain a delegate in all the peace territories, or complicated bureaucratic procedures that slow down the satisfaction of collective individual requirements on site.

The need of a constant presence of these reincorporation institutions on site has created a perceived inefficiency in projects like housing or agroindustrial development in the community, and a sense of mistrust in governmental institutions.

Regional organizations

Foundations, organisations or institutions that support different aspects of the department: **ProAntioquia**, for example, is a private foundation that supports the local economy in sustainable development and links the farmers' association in Taparales with a conglomerate of companies and industries in the region, creating new opportunities for commercial cooperation. Another example is the housing development agency **VIVA**, which is currently managing a new housing project in the ETCR Jacobo Arango, which is being implemented as part of a rural housing project by the fictitious Ministry of Housing. In addition to these, Corpourabá is the one that supervises anything related to natural conservation and environmental capital in the region, they are very relevant to approve agricultural or construction activities, especially

in Taparales and its protected areas.

Despite the efforts of some of these institutions to carry out truly participatory processes in the community, not everyone feels involved in the final decision making, partly due to internal power structures and partly due to the strong influence of external forces in the community, resulting in slow participatory processes that feel more like an imposed series of meetings that take time and energy but in the end are not listened to.

Local stakeholders

Active presence on site to assess, supervise and collaborate with reincorporation activities.

This is the case of **Salvaterra**, a non-profit organization who manages, formulates, executes, and evaluates agricultural productive projects that protect the environment in territories within the framework of the human rights; Salvaterra is the current legal owner of Taparales and will handle the ownership to the association **Agroprogreso** once they have fulfilled a series of requirements. The organization supports and defines the lines of production along with association members.

Also the **PDET** coordination team coordinates reconciliation activities between ex-combatants and other society members in Dabeiba.

Target group

The target group of this thesis is the community under reincorporation in Dabeiba, since most of them were located in the ETCR Llano Grande. The inhabitants were the first focus of the field studies, especially those with entrepreneurial activities, but this focus soon expanded to include the population that migrated to Taparales in search of better access to their workplace. The majority of this population are members of the peasant association **Agroprogreso**, which reunites reincorporated individuals who voluntarily join a production line of their choice.

TAKEAWAYS

The multiplicity of stakeholders and diversity of interests on the site have created a complex power dynamic and draw some limitation to the development of locally led participatory processes, such as the stiff and complicated bureaucratic structures, the slow participatory processes, the sense of exclusion by the target group or the need of constant presence, aid or approval of external bodies not fully aware of actual situation on site. These limitations invite to rethink and redefine the traditional architectural (or non architectural) projects in this particular case, and focus on local initiatives and geographic opportunities to carry more inclusive, pragmatic and efficient projects that recognize local agency.



P4.

FIELDWORK

COMMUNITARIAN AND TERRITORIAL APPROACH

The field studies allowed to submerge in the territory and provide a deeper understanding on the peace process contributions to the ex-combatant's adaptation to the civilian life, the main driver to choose this kind of on-site, ethnographic and socially-driven approach comes from the inspiration from the commission of truth's statement that "*dedicating sincere time to a person is a way of loving, recognizing and dignifying. [and that] perhaps what we have lacked as a nation, in addition to listening, is dedicating time to each others. In a world of worries, goals and statistics, listening is by itself a restorative act.*" (CEV, 2022) In this way, during the field studies it was required to change direction and focus more in experiencing the site and understanding local needs, details or complexities that cannot be found on papers or "official sources" instead of focussing on developing a physical project without the proper understanding of the context.

The first contact with and actor on site was thought Carlos Duica, an architect from the National council for reincorporation (CNR) who introduced me to ex-FARC peace signers and other actors present in the territory such as VIVA and representatives from the housing ministry. Later on, I could establish contact with other organizations like Salvaterra, Indeleble, representatives of Dabeiba PEDT and Proantioquia. Each Stakeholder entering the study added a new layer of complexity to the context and exposed opposing perspectives about the same situation, in many cases, the tension of a post conflict environment was still somehow evident, and to find points of agreement to physically start a project turned into a rather problematic task, even to suggest participatory design activities was a polemic initiative due to the fear of what rising expectation in the community could cause, this dynamic turned the thesis into an more mediator process to find common points instead of a more technical or product-led kind of approach.

METHODS

The field studies for this thesis took place in different places in Dabeiba where the target group is located (ETCR Llano Grande, Taparales farm, ETCR Becuarandó, NAR San José de León and Dabeiba), but also in the capital of Antioquia, Medellín, where many of the organisations present in the territory are based and where many of the relevant administrative and political decisions for the community being reincorporated are taken; this type of remote operation reflects the fact that, despite efforts to intervene locally, many of the relevant decisions for the community are made externally by entities that do not understand the complexity of the territory, minimising the community's power to make its own decisions.

To gather information, the research complements literature reviews and information from the peace process, such as visits to the House of Remembrance (a museum of the conflict) and material from the Commission of Truth (CEV), with field interactions with various stakeholders, such as local residents, farmers, the PDET municipality, the architect Carlos Duica, and organizations supporting reincorporation and development, such as the CNR. The field interactions consisted mainly of ethnographic research methods such as casual conversations, participatory meetings, observation, sketching and a collective mapping activity, where qualitative information and personal views were the main source of information rather than quantitative inputs or precise data.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	
GMP 9	VIVA + CNR 10	presentation 11	Direction meeting 12	booklet plan 13	JANUARY
introductory meeting 16	historical background 17	historical background 18	timeline 19	House of memory 20	
GMP planning 23	Dabeiba 24	Field study course Llano Grande 25		key concepts 27	
Tutorial timeline 30	timeline 31	timeline 1	Salvatera peace agreement 9	peace agreement 10	FEBRUARY
GMP peace actors 7	peace actors 7	Tutorial CNR 8	travel day 9	Salvatera PDET 10	
fish plant 13	PDET 14	Tutorial location 15	location 16	site analysis 17	
Indeleble 20	Indeleble 21	Tutorial PDET 22	Taparales 23	Becuarandó & San José de León 24	
GMP field methods 27	meetings' needfinding 28	pre-midterm meeting 29	presentation 30	interin 31	MARCH
6	Salvatera 7	Tutorial Proantioquia 8	ARN 9	abstract and booklet hand-in (50%) 10	
midterm preparation 13	midterm preparation 14	midterm seminar 15	midterm seminar 16	midterm seminar 17	
farming 3D model 20	midterm corrections 21	GMP + tutorial midterm corrections 22	Proantioquia 23	24	
physical context 27	Dabeiba 28	Tutorial collective mapping 29	outcomes maps 30	outcomes maps 31	
booklet draft 3	CNR debriefing 4	Tutorial need finding 5	need finding 6	outcomes planning 7	APRIL
outcomes planning 10	11	12	Back to Sweden 13	Back to Sweden 14	

typography Color codes

On site group activities

Field interactions

Literature reviews

Chalmers' programmed activities

FIELD INTERACTIONS

The ethnographic field interactions played a crucial role in gaining a deep understanding of the decision-making processes and the complex dynamics within the target group and supporting organizations. These interactions involved personal involvement and direct engagement with stakeholders to gather qualitative information and personal perspectives, allowing me to build trust with some participants, foster open exchange of information and to contextualize the data collected within the broader social, cultural, and historical factors that shape decision-making processes. The field interactions consisted of both individual or collective actions such as:

CASUAL CONVERSATIONS

Some community members felt uncomfortable or tired giving formal interviews, since they have received already many external actors (government institutions, international organizations, education establishments, etc) that have repeatedly asked for the same kind of information and the community had not seen the results of these studies.

For these reason, most of the interactions with the ETCR community and agroprogreso cooperative occurred as casual conversations while following some members while they were performing their every-day activities, such as working the field, doing household chores or working in their small business.



INTERVIEWS AND FORMAL MEETINGS

Most community decisions taken in the ETCR are taken through participatory meetings where everyone is invited to share their opinion on the subject. Although this method brings many voices to the discussion, sometimes the need to conciliate every choice slows down the decision-making process and some members have started to complain about the long time that takes to get concrete actions done.

Nevertheless, community decisions still require internal (only ETCR members or leaders) and external (with external bodies) meetings with the purpose of redefining the strong hierarchical system left by the military organization from the war times, where a few guerrilla leaders used to define the unit's course of action. This operation mode is still current today in Llanogrande.



SITE EXPLORATION

The two main sites inhabited by the community have specific features hard to understand only my plans or external information: the topographic complexity, the rich biodiversity, the humidity conditions, the weather sensation and the human interaction with the territory are just some characteristics that need to be experience in person in order to understand why the local social behaviour has developed in one or another way.

The field study accounts for a physical exploration of the two sites of analysis (Llano Grande and Taparales) of the territory which includes pictures, sketches, personal reflections and also some impressions from similar contexts nearby.



Casual conversations

Each meeting, visit or casual conversation with a stakeholder, showed a new perspective of reality, confirming that there is no such a thing as “one truth” but reality is built by many truths of different colours and that a careful dialogue of these is required for a peace-full development.

“It has been hard to establish after the peace agreement, for many of us is still not safe to transport outside the ETCR for work, and the subsidy we received is not enough, also if we find a temporary job, this subsidy is stopped and very difficult to reactivate. We can't find much job opportunities, because our knowledge is not compatible with the society standards”

ETCR (LL.G.)member

“Participatory processes with the ETCR community are complicated and take a lot of time, but is still the only way to get the housing project done. For example, we still can't understand why the previous company's proposal got turn down”

VIVA

“There is a huge rural housing deficit in the country, we are trying to meet up with the demand's expectations but we need to work with legality and efficiency for this, so we work with standardized dwellings prototypes that could adapt to any region and the beneficiaries should fill all the expectations

Housing ministry

“Most relevant decisions about the production lines are not taken by us, who labour the field, but by external organizations, private companies, the municipality, the government and some of our leaders, we can choose the production lines we want to be part of, but we cannot suggest new ones without experts approval; despite the fact that sometimes the plantings made by us without any kind of “expert assesment” give far better results than the ones using fancy techniques”

Taparales farmer

“Many production initiatives in Taparales haven't prosper not because of lack of funding or support to the community but rather due to the lack of internal organization that prevents them to make choices as a unit instead of a group of multiple actors with different interests”

Indeble

“Dabeiba, as a municipality heavily wounded by war, has had to overcome several obstacles to work toward reconciliation, for many residents can be hard to co-exist with perpetrators of their casualties (from any GAOML) in the same territory, but we have had dialogue and community-building activities that have helped to heal some wounds”

PDET municipality

“The production lines need proper assistant from technical experts, as well as cooperation with private companies, the public sector and, off course, the farmers. It is very risky to suggest participatory design activities with the community when it is not 100% sure it can be further developed”

Salvaterra - ProAntioquia

“We don't really have control over the kind of products we can farm, we can not plant long-term crops, so we can only produce short or medium term goods such as yuca or plantains, and our individual plots are not big enough to commercialize, it is only enough for self-consumption.

ETCR SJL

“The ETCR community have a fascinating trajectory of resilience and adaptation to the territory since they have learn habitation way with the least intervention level on the environment, they can use this knowledge to provide them a sustainable habitat specially for this environment without becoming a burden to the territory”

CNR

RECOGNITION VISITS

The following chart is a synthesis of relevant meeting during the field studies that helped to outline expressed and latent needs in the community, these points led to possible intervention points where the thesis could develop project proposals to potentiate local capacity to fulfill the mentioned needs.

Date and participants	Visit's goals	Main issue	Stakeholders' interests	
 <p><i>Housing units in ETCR Jacobo Arango</i></p>	<p>Housing project in Llano Grande (Dabeiba)- January 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing ministry VIVA (Antioquia's housing company) ETCR Residents. UN verification mission CNR representatives Topography and risk assessment experts Author 	<p>Present housing plan modifications for 109 new dwellings in Llanogrande ETCR.</p> <p>Evaluate possible building sites for housing, regarding geological risks, water springs and existing common buildings. seeking for the biggest possible plots.</p> <p>Review the list of residents eligible to apply for the housing aid and those who are still interested.</p>	<p>The Housing ministry will provide 109 dwellings on the ETCR under a rural housing program which will take up the whole plot, leaving little space for productive purposes. Adding to this, the geological conditions leaves even more land inaccessible for building or farming.</p>	<p>VIVA: Evaluate proposition with the community.</p> <p>Housing ministry: reduce building costs by building houses in pairs</p> <p>ETCR residents: start construction soon with single houses.</p> <p>UN: verification the fulfilment of agreement compromises.</p>
 <p><i>First self-built houses in Taparales</i></p>	<p>Production field Taparales (Dabeiba)- February 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PDET agent Taparales resident and Agroprogreso member. Salvaterra member (online). Author. 	<p>Analyse and present a fish treatment plant project for international aid, evaluate possibilities</p> <p>Explore farming fields, native forest areas and shrubs.</p> <p>Familiarize with self-built methods houses and facilities, see similarities with indigenous construction.</p>	<p>The Housing ministry will provide 109 dwellings on the ETCR under a rural housing program which will take up the whole plot, leaving little space for productive purposes. adding to this, the geological conditions leaves even more land inaccessible for building or farming.</p>	<p>PEDT: Propose reconciliation projects that include several side of the conflict.</p> <p>Salvaterra: boost production performance and added value for Agroprogreso by applying for international aid</p> <p>Agroprogreso: obtain economic results of their production soon, ensure commercialization.</p>
 <p><i>Government-provided housing in Becuarandó</i></p>	<p>Partner ETCRs in Becuarandó (Mutatá)- February 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becuarandó resident. San José de León resident. UN verification mission member. Author 	<p>Compare Llano Grande (housing) and Taparales (farming) with other ETCR / NAR in the area.</p> <p>Evaluate the possibility to share facilities to prepare products from both farms (Taparales and Becuarandó)</p> <p>Learn features from the self-built settlement San José de León</p>	<p>Even when the peace process recognizes the rural background of many ex-FARC militants, they don't have an important saying in the decision making of their productive activities, in most cases they are dictated which products they should produce, determined by agriculture experts, big companies, urban law makers or economic advisors</p>	<p>ETCR Becuarandó (Mutatá): Be able to farm whichever products they see fit for the land</p> <p>NAR San José de León (Mutatá): developed their own settlement without so many restrictions from the government about their means of subsistence.</p>

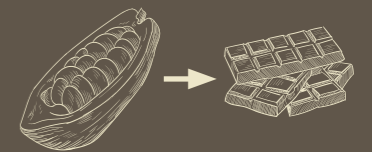
IMPACT ON PROJECT

Lack of space for productive activities in Llano Grande forces part of the population to migrate to Taparales.



NEED FOR A SPACE TO LIVE

Poor production infrastructure hinders the farm processes and forces the association to sell only unprocessed goods



NEED FOR QUALITY WORK INFRASTRUCTURE

Opposing views on the territory sometimes ignore the farmers' desires and ancestral traditions.



NEED FOR AUTONOMY

NEED FINDING

In a complex context like this is easy to see the problematic situation as a fuzzy cloud hard to define; The need-finding exercise, selected a list of particular and common necessities found on the visited sites, to make it easier to break down the source of the problem into its most relevant causes. This list allow to select those causes that the thesis could abord on the design activism perspective, and work with them as a part of a bigger plan where independent interventions communicate with each other to create synergy on a bigger plan.



Self-built house expansion in Becuarandó

COMMON NEEDS (REGIONAL)

It is important to understand the sites of intervention (Llano grande and Taparales) as a part of a system that includes social and economic relationships other ETCRs, Dabeiba (head of municipality) and nearby rural and indigenous settlements.

The following, are either regional issues that affect the sites of study, or needs that were firstly spotted in other settlements but also occur in Taparales or Llano Grande ETCR.



Self-built house, San José de León

EXPRESSED NEEDS

Small productive initiatives are often controlled by external bodies like private companies, NGOs or regional policies. It's required then to **reinforce communities' agency to enable them to decide over the type of production lines they want.**

DIFFICULTIES

The associates' weak "financial muscle" forces them to depend on external bodies' "aid" to fulfil their every-day necessities, **forcing them to satisfy urgent needs in the short term and forget about a long-term planning.**

LATENT NEEDS

Locally develop a solid subsistence system that doesn't rely on a single product or activity (build resilience). This system requires famers and producers to have higher influence and power in the decision-making processes.

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Study funding options that the associates could apply for by themselves without the need of external organizations.

Develop an intervention strategy on stages (short, medium and long term) to recognize local communities' control over production lines, diversification plans and added value initiatives.

LLANO GRANDE

Currently, most of Dabeiba's reincorporation community live in Llano Grande (former) ETCR, they have chosen to stay indefinitely in this rural location after the finalization of the transitory phase of the first two years after the agreement and now are working with the national government to generate sense of belonging through land acquisition, housing access and productive projects (ARN, 2020).

Apart from social or security issues, most difficulties for Llanogrande residents to settle without worries in the ETCR come from the territory itself: The remote location, the difficult access routes, the reduced space for productive activities or the geological instability of the territory are some of the physical reasons why the settlement have grown isolated from means of subsistence and "neighboring" communities.



EXPRESSED NEEDS

1 Better, easier accessibility:

The isolated location of the site and bad quality of the road, negatively affects the community, hindering housing development (building material transportation) and economic activity (customer absence)



2 Quality homes:

Residents require a housing development with durable materials, individual plots for self sustaining crops and access to basic services for each ETCR member.



Subsistence means:

The poor economic activity forces residents to rely financially on external subsidies or **to migrate to places with better possibilities, such as Taparales**. Member's desertion/migration is a threat to the housing project's survival, hence is also a threat to the peace process' prevail.



DIFFICULTIES

1uilding a road to Llanogrande ETCR is not a priority for Dabeiba municipality due to the small population and overall relevance for the municipality, there are plans from the building company and housing ministry to solve the six most critical points to transport building materials for the 109 promised dwellings, but this is uncertain. Without this, the community would remain isolated.

2g portion of the terrain is high geological risk, not suitable for building or farming. Leaving very little space for the housing plots the community had imagined.



3ufficient space in Llano Grande destined for productive or economic activities, most part is for living. The residents' migration to places that can provide better economic conditions is unavoidable.



Geological Risk plan in Llano Grande ETCR

Low risk

Medium risk

High risk

+The plan is based on the information shared by VIVA (housing company) to the community during the participatory meeting on January 25, 2023.

LATENT NEEDS

The sense of insecurity and mistrusts between ETCR members and governmental institutions or external organization obstructs cooperation and a healthy development of infrastructural projects.

More efficient ways to ensure community participation without letting projects fall into inefficient bureaucratic actions to “prove social inclusion” but in reality only delay important and necessary infrastructural projects. (For example the new housing development or the road to the ETCR)

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Reforestation project to help recover eroded land, this could later become a regenerative tourism project.

Integrate processing activities that required small working space in Llano Grande to add value to products from Taparales

Takeaways for thesis project

Develop local capacity (financial, technical, legal, etc) to manage these groups on site with local capacity.

Create local groups ON-SITE in charge of the development of current projects to ensure correct procedures, supervise schedules and plans and to coordinate internal and external actions.

TAPARALES

Initially, the field studies evaluated various locations with direct relation to the community under reincorporation; As the research advanced, the production farm Taparales was chosen as the MAIN POINT OF INTERVENTION to later implement the thesis findings due to the following reasons:

The place integrates three principal activities (housing, production and preservation)

The urgency that the rapidly increasing house construction on site implies for the residents and the territory.

Has better economic projections thanks to the location on a main national route

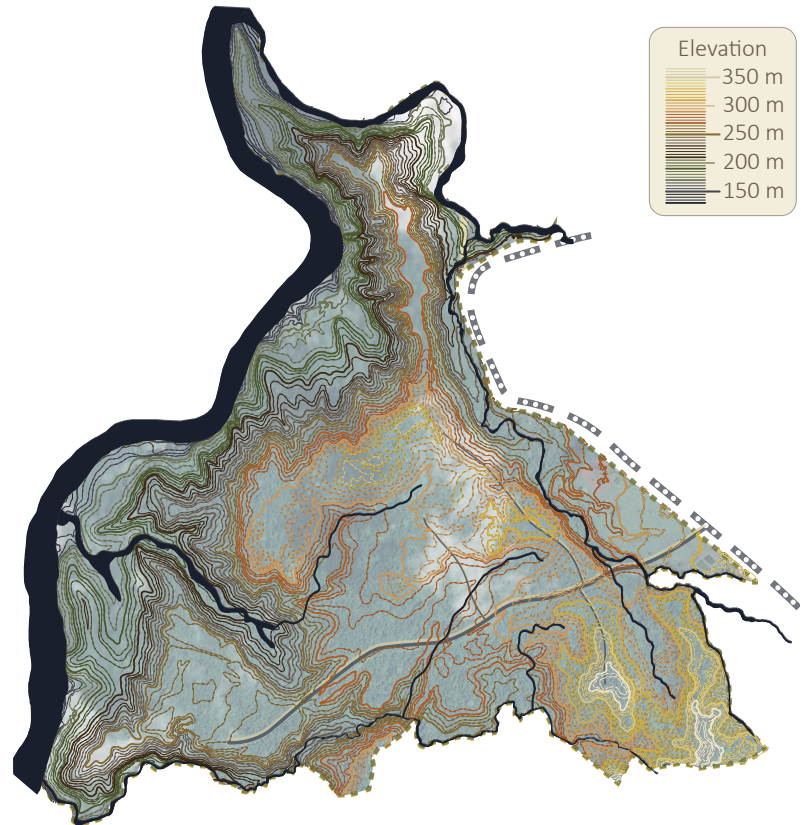
EXPRESSED NEEDS

To qualify the complete production cycle for the Tilapia fish, this pilot project could push the other production lines

LATENT NEEDS

Poor participation by the association members due to logistic complications

Decreasing associates commitment due to low sense of ownership and unclear power dynamics.



DIFFICULTIES

Legal complications to build plant on site due to the natural reservation area within the lot.

The multiplicity of external stakeholders, bureaucratic structures and redundant participatory processes slow down decision-making process.

PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

Analyse non-invasive architecture techniques to build sustainable facilities on site.

Develop a fish processing plant on site to trigger the tilapia pilot project

Design a workers' camp/refuge to host external associates while they work on site



COLLECTIVE MAPPING

During some meetings with Salvaterra and Pro-Antioquia, it was discussed the possibility to lead participatory design workshops or activities, but this kind of actions can be risky for the relationships with the community because design-oriented actions can raise expectations among the community about an actual project being develop, and when this doesn't get done it would disappoint Taparales residents. For this reason, the following participatory actions where plan in a way that they won't raise uncertain expectations about a possible project, but can bring value to the community.

In this way, a collective site mapping activity was carried out in the farm along with some residents and workers there to produce a visualization of the current physical infrastructure in the site, this information can



be of great use for the association in the future, since it is necessary for design purposes, building permits, funding applications, legal requirements, etc... the

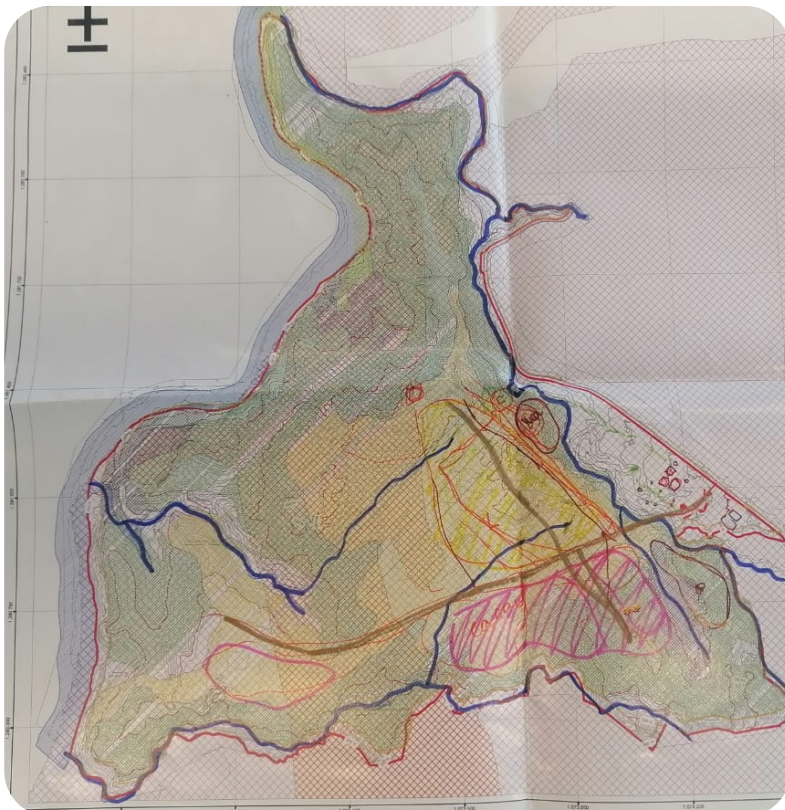
mapping was oriented to analyse the 4 following aspects:

Productive: Visualize in 2D and 3D the site most crucial features, to determinate urgent or relevant intervention points for future developments, according to associates' needs.

Technical: Recognize local building materials available for bio-architecture, possible potable water sources, energy supply and sanitation systems.

Social: Evaluate the applicability of indigenous traditions from the neighbouring communities, such as non-invasive architectural techniques and the use of local materials.

Legal: Compare urban law plans with the physical reality of the site, to analyse feasible building sites (high risk areas, reserve zones and water sources to be protected).



FINDINGS

Through the collective mapping conducted in Taparales, three main vocations of the site have been identified: production, preservation, and living. These vocations are interconnected, and indicate potential areas for improvement to enhance the quality of life for

both residents and farmers in the area. The interconnection between these vocations suggests that intervention strategies in one area can positively impact the others. For example, sustainable agricultural practices not only support economic growth

but also contribute to preserving the environment. Similarly, better infrastructure and services for residents can enhance their quality of life and also support agricultural and economic activities.

TO LIVE

Migration to Taparales from the ETCR and other locations has become unavoidable. The need for habitational services is constantly increasing. Residents have built their own houses, but the requirement for energy, water or waste management services is on the raise.

Main habitational needs:



Shelter



Nutrition



Clean water



Energy



Accessibility



Waste management

TO PRESERVE

Taparales accounts for a big preservation area, a land use that often competes with productive and habitational purposes. The following are elements to be preserved on site:



Tropical vegetation
Protected areas



Local fauna
Multiple species



Water sources
Water springs on site



Cultural heritage
Indigenous routes on site

TO PRODUCE

Taparales' first and main activity. Four production lines with external support (☺) and others led by community initiative (☺).



Lemon Honey Tilapia Cocoa



Sugar cane Plantains Yuca / Cassava Hens & eggs

Required actions:



Store



Plant



Process



Move



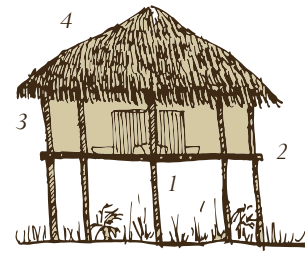
Dispose



TO LIVE

Most dwellings in Taparales have been self-build by the residents, or sometimes with help from Embera indigenous neighbours for the hay roofs. In addition to this help, there is a clear influence from the Embera building heritage on the farm's houses, specially evident by the use of the following elements:

1. **Ground separation** preserve natural terrain, avoids humidity, keeps animals away, least land intervention (legal restrictions)
2. **Light, natural materials** provide good air flow, building facility and are biodegradable.
3. **Open spaces and porch** allow social interaction and ventilation
4. **Hay roofs** are good heat insulation systems.



typical Embera "tambo" house sample



Services

Currently there is a low demand for energy and water supply, but this is rapidly increasing with new residents building on-site. If this is not planned with care, it could lead to ecosystem's degradation or insecure, illegal means of obtaining these resources.

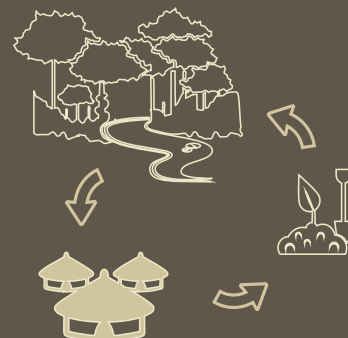


Elements to improve

Long term planning to avoid uncontrolled growth, legal problems or over-saturation of ecosystem services.

Circular systems design for a better use of resources, integrating production, preservation and habitat.

Improve comfort conditions inside houses



PRODUCTION FIELDS

Despite advice from agricultural production experts on the site, sometimes the random, farmers' intuition works better due to territorial knowledge. (On the image on right, drainage canals were built next to plantain palms to prevent over-flooded soil to push the plant out but the plantain fell anyway, and the ones planted on the left, without technical support, prevailed)



Against the tide

The excessive humidity and hygroscopic levels on the soil have represented a huge challenge for the production fields, a drainage system has been built to allow the soil to expelled water excess.



Preserve to produce

Without the natural reserved areas surrounding the production fields, it wouldn't be possible to obtain certain quality products, such as the honey here, where pollinators feed from the many species offered by the bio-diverse forest.



Taming the wilderness

Before AGROPROGRESO adequate Taparales for productive activities, the plot was mainly a tropical forest with some indigenous paths inside. To maintain farmable land is one of the association's commitments to gain the farm as their own, but this is a constant battle with the jungle, who claims its territory back and outgrows the planted products.



CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Meat processing

Deficient spaces to sacrifice, prepare, clean, store and pack the fish and chicken production on an industrial scale. The fish evisceration is merely a shade with some benches on the open field, right next to the tanks, and there is no plans to build such as space for the hens.



Transportation

The associates adopted existing indigenous routes (still in use by this communities) to transport their products and have open new paths as well, but these are deficient to transport goods and work tools due to the rivers that the paths should cross. To build bridges to pass above the river would be too expensive, so other alternatives are being evaluated.



Water irrigation

Irrigation system under construction, initially for lemon fields and later also for cocoa. The water is pumped from the closest creek to these tanks up in a nearby hill and then distributed to the plantations.



PLANS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

(Either planning or building stage)

Transportation of products and tools

Cable system

Better drain systems

Plants to help with absorption

Restaurant

To work together with the tilapia production.

New storage

Currently, lemon cacao and tilapia share space.

NECESSARY PLANS

(Possible projects)

Collection stations
Distributed on different production sites

Add value
Process a bit further the products (ex. dry and roast cocoa)

Irrigation system
Extend current water system to other crops.

Meat processing
Improve sanitary conditions for this process.

TO PRESERVE

Taparales is a “water fabric” due to the various creeks forming in the farm, this condition not only affects the residents and farmers here, but also everyone settled down the river, which gives an extreme importance to water conservation in the new dwellings on the site.



Biodiversity threat.

Post-conflict context such as Taparales, “many social and environmental changes are expected. Experiences from other countries have shown that some activities related to post-conflict, such as resettlement and rural reforms, can have negative effects on biodiversity” (Calle-Rendón, Moreno and Hilário, 2018)

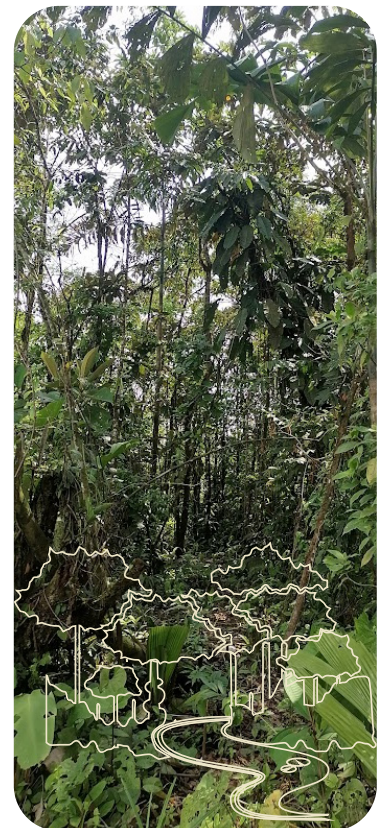


Symbiosis:

Cooperation relationships from the tropical jungle ecosystem are great examples to replicate later on in the farm with system design for permaculture, an example of this could be the symbiosis between epiphyte plants, small animals and their hosting tree.



+Pictures taken on-site by the author.



+Pictures taken on-site by the author.

Considerations

The struggle to preserve the natural environment comes from a long trajectory of conflict, where “different visions about that economic elites, companies, farmers, colonizers, ethnic communities and armed groups had about the territory and its exploration” (CEV, 2022).

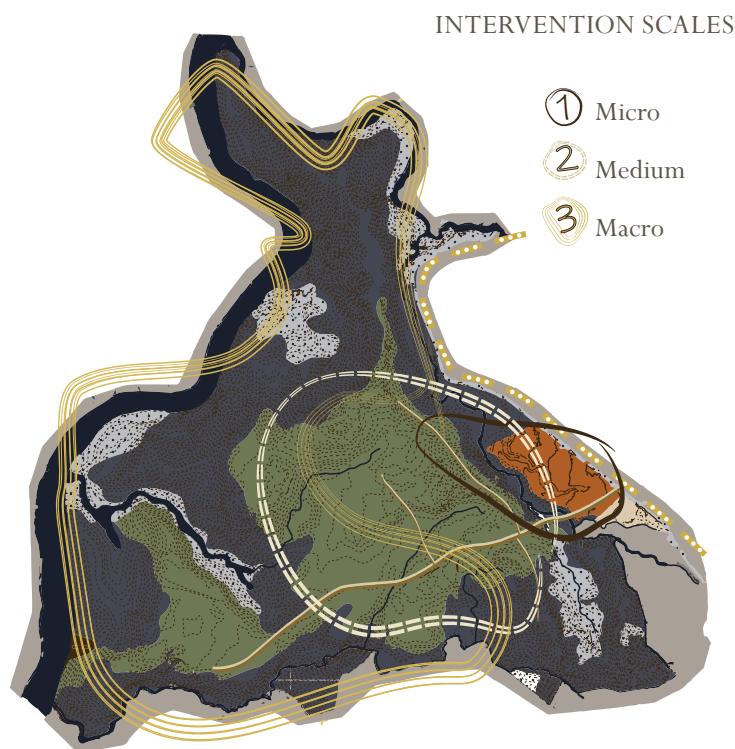
This makes the reconciliation of these visions on a site with multiple purposes ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES faced by all stakeholders involved in Taparales today.

PROJECT FORMULATION

Place-holder: land uses in the farm proposed by salvaterra and corpouraba years ago... how the land has been used compare to this.

Delimitation of the 3 scales of the project:

1. Micro: living space (habitability plan to be developed further)
2. Medium: production space (farming + processing / storage/etc) (improving working conditions plan further)
3. Macro: whole farm (will include other activities beyond production: agro-tourism, restaurant, carbon bonus, education) (Resilience plan later on)



General goals

Guarantee good living conditions to present and future residents.

Improve working conditions for the associated farmers

Build a resilient system of subsistence with the reincorporation community

Approach

Plan for future associates moving in.

Self provision of basic human needs for habitation.

Develop appropriate facilities for food processing and add value to offered products (possibly for Tilapia fish)

Provide working and resting facilities for associates living outside Taparales.

Explore possible funding alternatives for farmers association

Diversify income sources: agriculture, tourism, ecological preservation

Implement close permacultural cycles between the 3 main activities in the farm

Outcomes

Urbanization plan for an organized sustainable settlement.

Toolbox to use local materials for energy, water and sanitation supply.

Design for “pilot project” infrastructure plan. Technical requirements.

Co-created conceptual design for a workers’ refuge in Taparales.

Evaluate options: international aid, crowdfunding, impact capital investors.

General farm plan with intervention sectors by use and priority. This plan should include intervention phases.

List of locally sourced materials, feasible energy sources and permaculture techniques.



P5.

OUTCOMES

A RESILIENCE PLAN TO ENSURE DIGNITY

As Phaedra Svec of BNIM explains “while the technical performance of the building/infrastructure/landscaping project remains important, ‘below the line’ work, the essence of any regenerative project is its contribution to the ongoing health and evolution of the whole system.” (Duplestis and Hess, 2014) With this in mind, the context analysis and field studies with ETCR Llano Grande residents, Taparales Farmers, and other relevant stakeholders has led to a systemic analysis of the farm, based on its geographical context, social issues, and economic activity.

Through the past chapters, valuable insights have been gained into the challenges faced by the ex-FARC combatants in the region and the potential for regenerative agriculture practices. The system analysis and proposed circular concept presents a holistic approach to agricultural production that goes beyond the technical performance of the built environment and considers the overall health and well-being of the system. The thesis proposes the implementation of a series of intervention called “Strategies for Dignity”. which are meant to be adopted freely by the community, flexibly as pleased instead of presenting an standardized design that forces local ways to fit into traditional, static processes.

The outcomes of implementing these circular systems will go beyond the built environment, as they will enhance the economic and ecological sustainability of the farm and contribute to the social well-being of the ex-FARC combatants and the local community. Therefore, the thesis proposes an alternative approach to traditional architectural design, one that considers the social and ecological context of the project and promotes sustainability in a holistic manner. Overall, the proposed circular system strategy provides a model for sustainable agriculture practices that can be replicated in other regions, contributing to the global effort towards a more sustainable future.

CONTEXTUALIZED RESULTS

The original aim of this thesis was to provide a specific intervention to the built environment that could enhance productive practices in Taparales and provide a sustainable living environment for ex-FARC combatants. However, as seen in the previous chapters, field studies revealed some limitations to a traditional architectural approach to the project such as:

- **Constant vernacular transformation on site:** Residents has been adapting the built environment to their needs and traditions since their arrival, resulting in a dynamic and ever-changing environment that requires a flexible and adaptable approach to design.
- **Strict bureaucracy:** Unflexible procedure structures hinder the implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions.
- **The need for locally-led decisions:** Physical presence of multiple experts is required to ensure trust and collaboration in decision-making processes.
- **Unstable social system:** complex power dynamics and trust issues need to be considered when proposing

interventions.

Because of this, a comprehensive approach was necessary to reorient the expected outcomes, one that considers the social, economic, and ecological factors that impact the farm's sustainability. The outcomes of this sustainable architecture thesis are twofold:

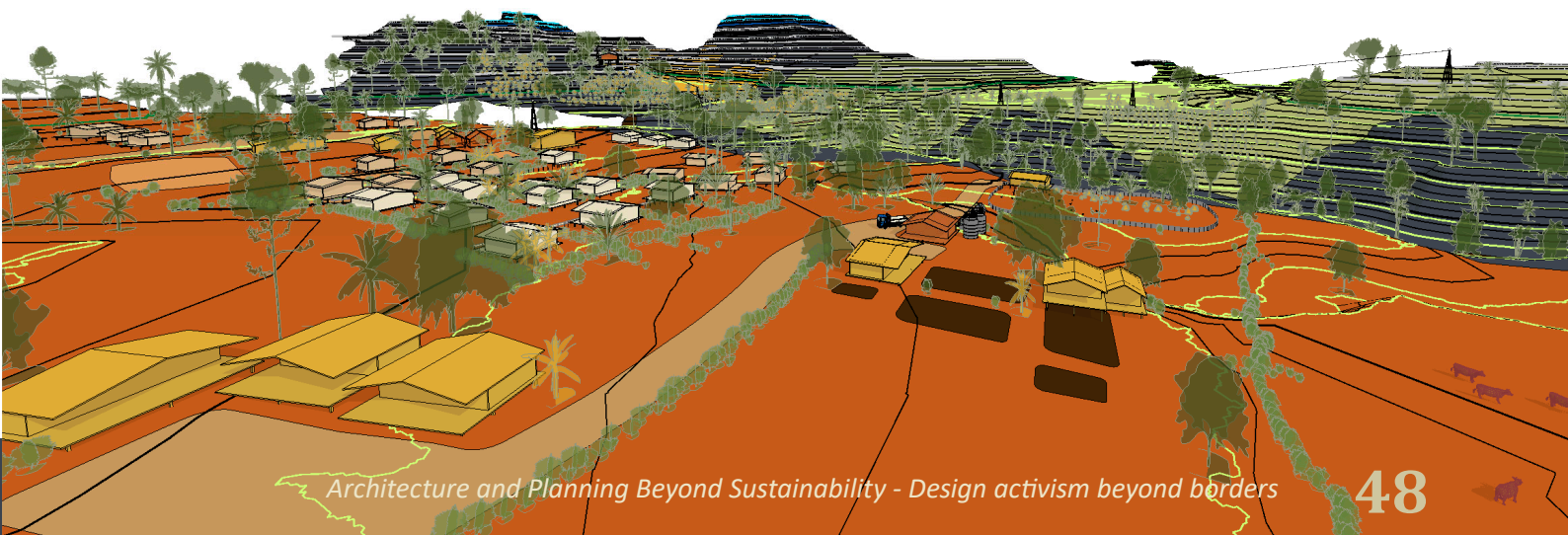
Firstly, it presents a systemic analysis of the Taparales farm and the social, economic, and ecological context in which it is situated. This analysis is the thesis document itself.

Secondly, based on this analysis, the thesis proposes a circular system strategy called "Strategies for Dignity," which interconnects the living space, the productive facilities, and the natural preservation areas into a closed circuit of materials, energy, and resources. The strategies, open to the community to improve their quality of life, are flexible and adaptable, allowing them to adopt suggested tools as they see fit instead of imposing a standardized design.

This toolbox is not limited to material aspects strictly related to the architectural practice and the built environment. They also encompass immaterial tools

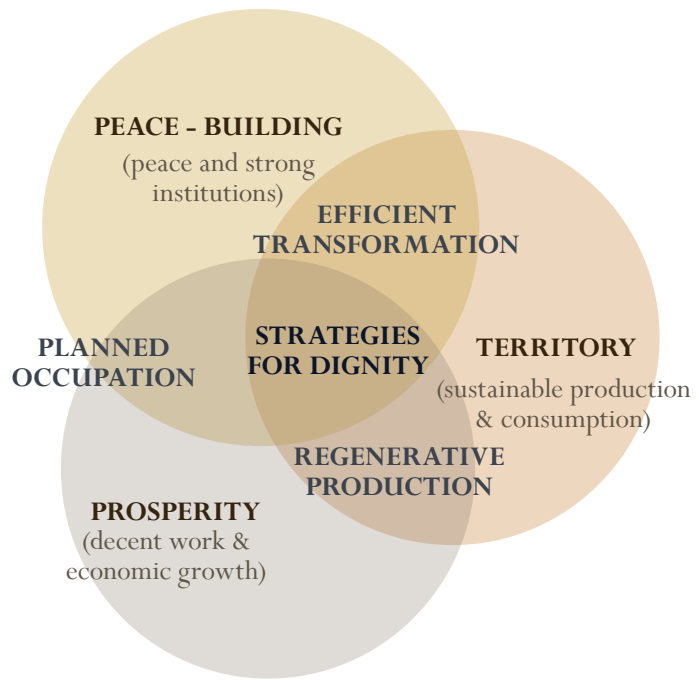
related to social practices and participatory multidisciplinary processes. This strategies aim to make visible the connections, relationships, and flows between the different components of the farm across scales and enable meaningful and inclusive dialogue that will build ownership, ongoing commitment, and personal transformation.

These strategies come from the vocations found during the field studies. The productive vocations highlights the need to involve local farmers and promoting sustainable farming practices to increase productivity and economic growth in the region; the habitational vocation looks forward to improve the quality of life for residents in Taparales, by interventions in housing infrastructure, access to basic services and recreational areas, these aspects can create a thriving and livable community. Finally, the preservation vocation emphasizes the need to protect and conserve the natural resources and biodiversity of the area by implementing sustainable land management practices, creating protected areas, and promoting eco-tourism and agroforestry, contributing to natural and cultural preservation.



STRATEGIES FOR DIGNITY

The proposed strategies trace back to the initial project alignment to the SDGs related to peace, economic growth, and sustainable production. In this sense, the strategies aims to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development: social (post-conflict context) economic (agricultural production) and environmental (natural preservation). These pillars are equally relevant for the project and confirm the need of interdisciplinary collaboration to make it possible, for these reason the implementation requires both material and immaterial strategies to succeed:



Material strategies

The outcomes presented in this thesis will focus on interventions in the built environment. Nonetheless, as stated before, these physical strategies alone would not be enough, **without the proper complement from social, legal, technical or political assistance, this plan would no be sufficient given the complexity of the**



context.The “material tools” can inculde:

1. Holistic place diagnosis and accurate information for future intervention.
2. Resilient systems of occupation, production and preservation.
3. Roadmap of a prioritized implementation plan.



Immaterial strategies

Those centered in the processes and social connections rather than tangible outcomes, these tools can be a participatory process design, capacitation of local specialised knowledge.

The objective of this ones is to recognize local authonomy and redistribute capacities and responsibilities between all implicated stakeholders.

This thesis only enunciates the need of this tools and possible stakeholders to develop them further, but the actual materialization of them falls out of scope in this case, and requires collaboration from other disciplines such as social work, political science, economics, agronomy or law to complement the architectural practice.

1. Social dynamics, participatory practices
2. Legal delimitations
3. Financial possibilities

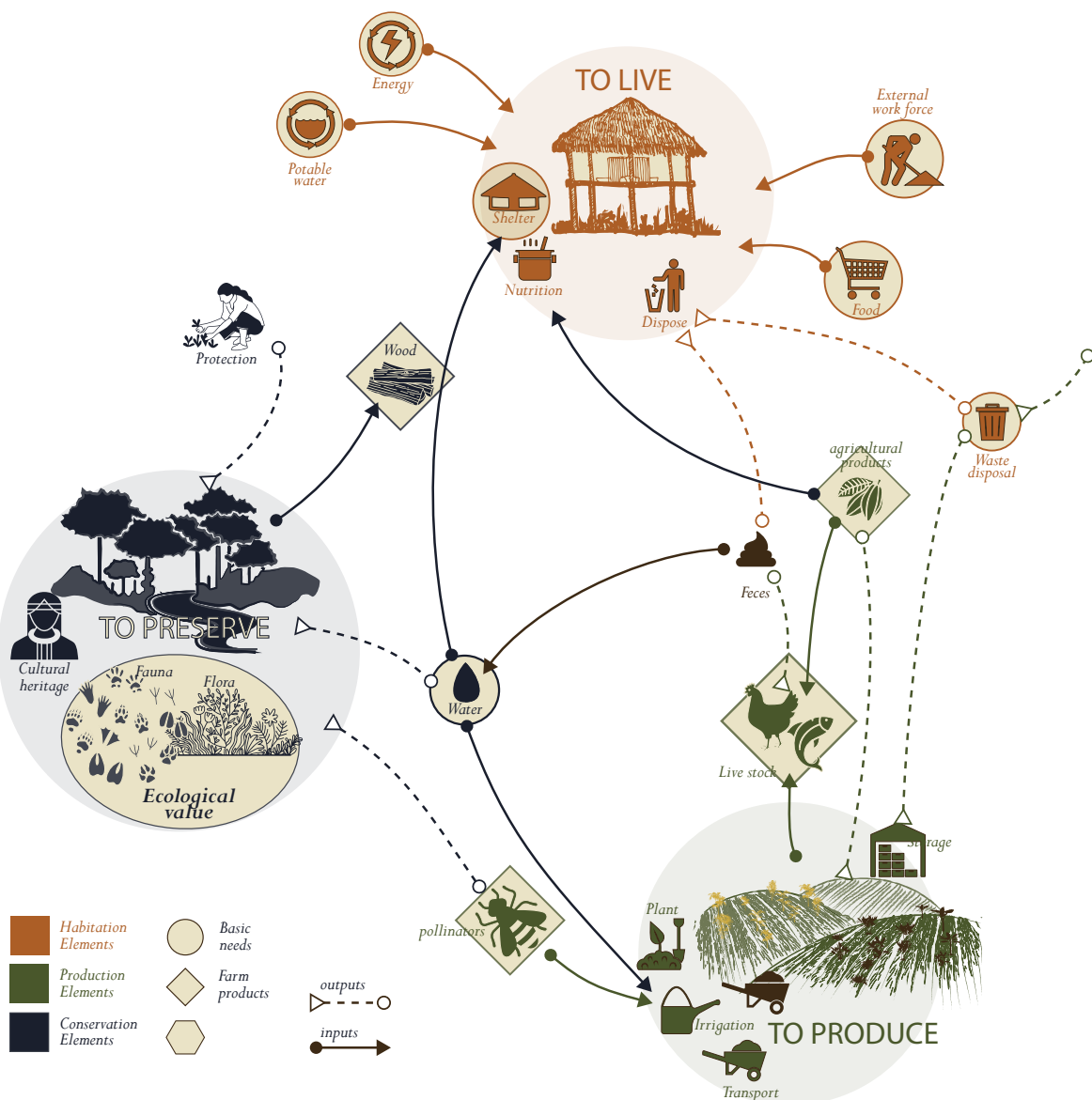
PLACE DIAGNOSIS

There are various methods to carry out an understanding site analysis for any development plan, most of which are based on collecting specific data, as in the system network analysis methods presented in the book “Designing for Hope” by Dominique Hes and Chrisna Du Plessis, where “the bottom line of systems thinking is

the concept of leverage (finding those places in the system where actions and changes can result in significant and enduring changes in system behaviour) However, they also recognise the emphasis on regenerative development and the importance of getting stakeholders to see their role in that place, starting not with performance measures but

with shared values, aspirations and purpose.

In a deeply wounded context such as this, data collection couldn't follow aseptic, standardised formats, but was heavily imbued with the nuances of human interaction and personal impressions. In this sense, the site diagnosis represents only an individual



Current system diagnosis diagram.

Currently the three main occupations of the farm don't interconnect much between each other, with the exception of the water sources use on site, the residents bring resources from outside to survive and produce their agricultural goods. the resulting waste from these is not exploited and the protection of the biodiversity is considered more like as a burden than as an asset.

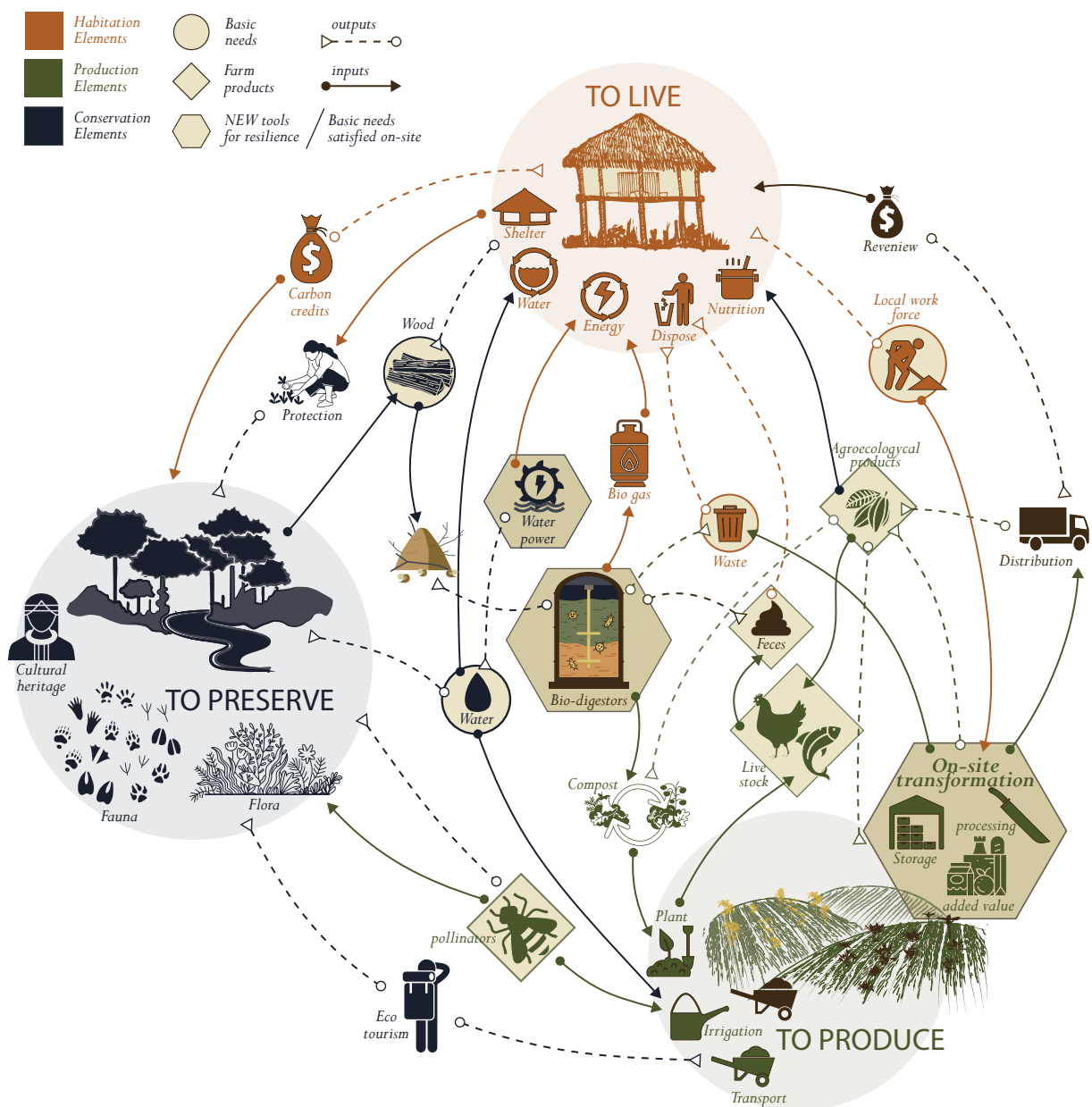
interpretation of how the three vocations of the farm are inter-related and how the needs of the site are currently being met. Today, the settlement system in Taparales relies heavily on external provision of goods and services, such as energy supply or waste management, while most of the local resources are used for the production system and the conservation areas are considered

more of a responsibility than an asset.

The site diagnosis identifies the need to create closed systems within the farm to meet all the needs of the occupants using local resources. This approach aims to minimise negative impacts and reduce pressure on the site's ecosystem services. In addition, assigning an economic value to

the protected areas will incentivise their regeneration and conservation, ensuring their long-term viability.

With the objective in mind, three strategies for closed systems of habitation, production and preservation are proposed to please the increasing demand of dignified living and working conditions on site.



Proposed farm system diagram

The proposed strategies aim to connect the farm vocations to minimize dependency on the supply of external sources of food and energy and reduce waste production through circular systems of farm and project transformation, also to incentivise the preservation of the cultural heritage and natural regeneration.

CLOSED SYSTEM STRATEGIES

The following closed system strategies aim to address site challenges by linking three points of intervention in the farm: living space, the production facilities and the natural conservation areas. The three systems involved in this concept will be called planned occupation, efficient transformation and regenerative production, they complement each other to create a closed cycle of materials, energy and resources.

The proposed systemic strategies are essential to ensure the fulfilment of basic human rights in Taparales. Through the interaction of essential resources such as shelter, financial stability, water supply, energy production, waste management, food production /consumption, and ecological value, these systems contribute to the realisation of basic human rights.

Access to adequate shelter is fundamental to ensure a safe and dignified living context. Financial stability, including diverse opportunities for income generation is essential for ex-combatants to meet their basic needs and fully reintegrate into society. A reliable water supply is a basic necessity for drinking, sanitation and hygiene, which are essential for human health and well-being and production standards.

Energy production is essential for basic daily activities, from lighting and cooking to communication and product transformation. Effective waste management promotes a clean and healthy environment and reduces negative environmental impact of the settlement.

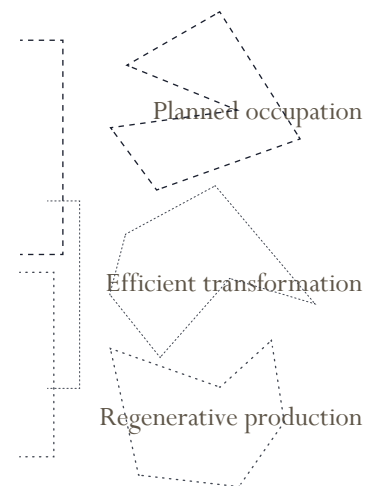
Food production and consumption ensure the right to an adequate living standard and



Resources

-  Shelter
-  Financial stability
-  Water supply
-  Energy generation
-  Waste management
-  Food production
-  Ecological value

Strategies



access to food. Ecological value, including of ecosystem restoration, contributes to the sustainability of natural resources and the overall well-being of present and future generations.

By incorporating these aspects into the circular systems, Tapa-

rales can uphold and promote basic human rights and an optimal environment for reintegration and peace-building, creating a sustainable and inclusive community that respects the dignity and well-being of all its inhabitants.

PLANNED OCCUPATION SYSTEM

The planned occupation system is crucial to the survival of Taparales, as it will ensure constant attention to agricultural production, product transformation processes and environmental protection. The farm was purchased with the sole purpose of agricultural work, but urbanisation became inevitable due to the complicated transport logistics to the site. The farm is now forced to adapt to the permanence of workers who build

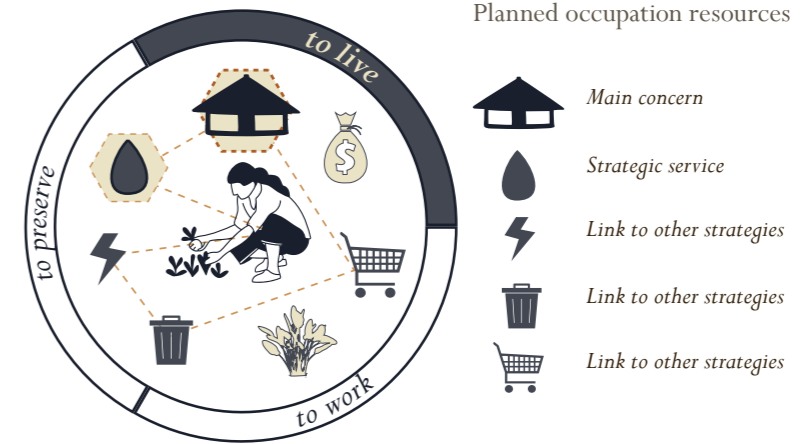
their houses on the land without a formal plan, there is no sustainable provision of basic needs such as energy, water or sanitation.

This spontaneous urbanisation, if allowed to continue, could damage local water sources, lead to dangerous building implantation and illegal electrical connections. However, planned settlement, if done properly, could be a great opportunity

to provide the constant attention that plantations need.

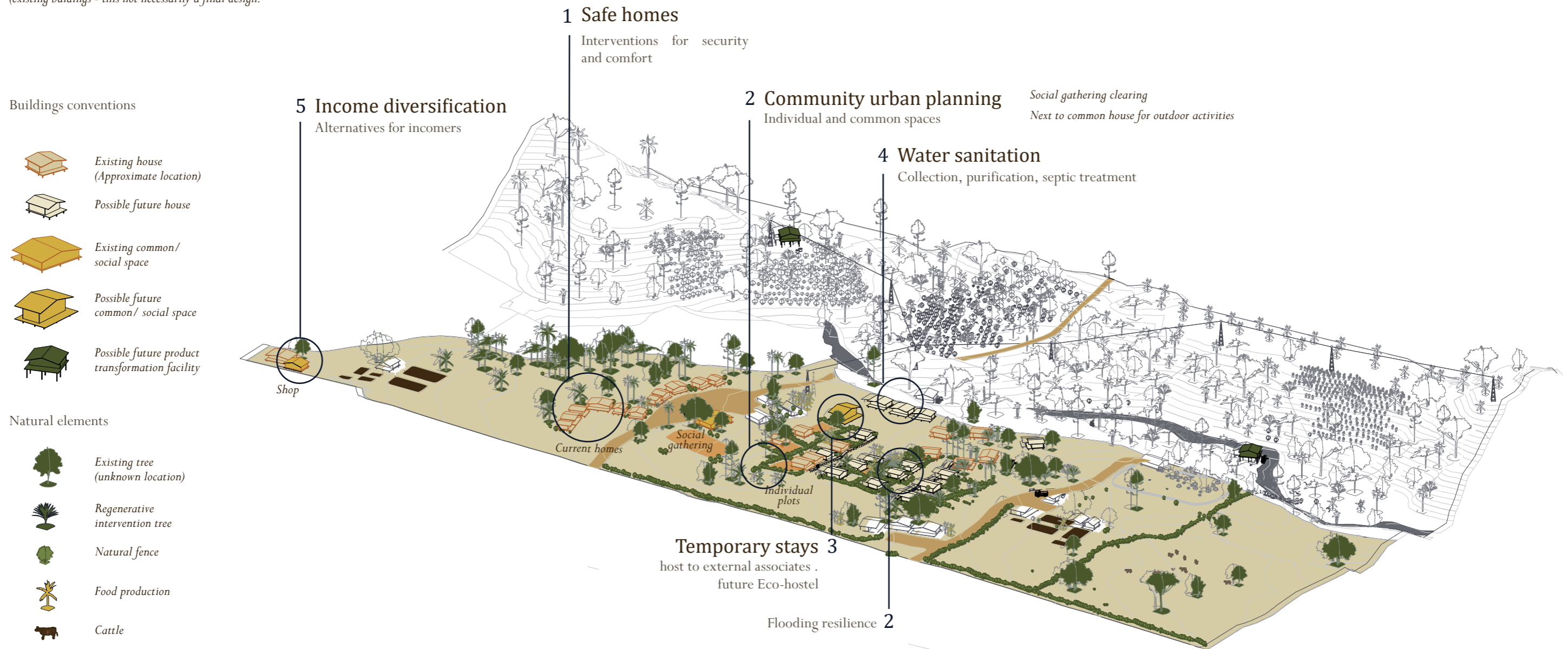
The main resource in this strategy is shelter, then other resources such as water and energy are meant to satisfy the needs of habitation. In this sense, the plan occupation strategy focuses on providing all the basic elements to live on the farm, linking adequate shelter to the other two strategies in different ways:

The waste and energy strategy provides households with energy for their daily activities, using their material waste. At the same time, the water sanitation system works with the agroforestry strategy by protecting the water sources and rivers that run through the site. The farm's biodiverse food production will provide nutritious food for the farm's residents, ensuring food sovereignty.



Planned occupation diagram

* The diagram is an example of a possible use of the tools based on current state of the farm (existing buildings - this not necessarily a final design).



Safe homes

Interventions on existing dwellings and guidelines to future buildings to enhance comfort and resilience by incorporating locally sourced materials such as earth, hay, and wood, while preserving the existing vernacular techniques. These strategies can be:

- Preserve elevated buildings and build also elevated paths for pedestrian access to homes
- Improve roof insulation with the sturdy thatch used by indigenous neighbours. Roofs should surpass facade walls to provide better shade
- Provide natural light and ventilation with big widow openings.

- Incorporate earth as wattle and daub compact blocks or rammed earth for better insulation conditions.



AI generated image



AI generated image



AI generated image

Community planning

A community planning strategy can play a vital role in adapting the farm for upcoming residents in a participatory manner while ensuring equal access to basic services and minimizing the impact on the local ecosystem. Here are some key aspects of such a strategy:

- **Participatory Approach:** Involve the community in decision-making and planning from the beginning.
- **Needs Assessment:** Understand the specific requirements of the community regarding basic services, housing, individual plots, and infrastructure..
- **Equitable Access:** Ensure equal access to reliable water supply, energy access, sanitation facilities, waste management and fair allocation of



AI generated image using Midjourney

housing units and individual plots that considers the needs, preferences, and family sizes of the residents.

- **Environmental Considerations:** Minimize disruption to the local ecosystem by incorporating green spaces, tree planting initiatives, and sustainable landscaping techniques.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** Develop necessary infra-

structure includes such as roads, footpaths, community centers, and recreational areas while promoting community interaction.

- **Education and Capacity Building:** Enhance residents' skills and knowledge through educational programs and capacity-building initiatives to maintain and manage the infrastructure and basic services effectively.

Diversify income sources

The Taparales farm can diversify its income sources and create economic resilience and employment for farming families by transforming local resources, cultural heritage and natural beauty, while promoting sustainable practices and environmental conservation. Three potential options to be explored are:



Diversify income - AI generated image using Midjourney

- **Farm-to-table restaurant** that uses the farm's products as the primary source for the preparation of traditional local dishes from the Pacific, Caribbean and Andean regions. This would not only showcase the farm's agricultural products, such as tilapia, chicken, plantains, cacao and yuca, but also promote local cuisine and attract visitors interested in experiencing authentic regional flavours.
- **Tourism routes and collaboration** within the farm to promote botanical expeditions, hiking trails and collaboration with neighbouring indigenous Embera communities. By highlighting the farm's diverse flora and fauna, visitors can take guided tours to learn about local biodiversity and cultural heritage. Working with indigenous communities can provide authentic cultural experiences such as traditional storytelling, crafts and music, creating opportunities for cultural exchange and generating income for both the farm and the communities involved.
- **Education programmes** for farm visitors to learn about sustainability practices, environmental conservation and cultural heritage. These programmes can include workshops, demonstrations and hands-on activities on topics such as organic farming, permaculture, water conservation and traditional farming techniques. By sharing knowledge and promoting sustainable practices, the farm can attract eco-conscious visitors and contribute to environmental education and awareness.



Hot cocoa.



Fried Tilapia



Chicken Sancocho



Beeajando (regenerative tourism company) picture



Embera settlement - pluricultural knowledge exchange



Beeajando educational session

Temporary stays - Common guesthouse

Provision of rooms for external workers and guests who need to work on the farm for a specific period. These accommodations serve as a temporary solution to accommodate workers and visitors. Additionally, there is a future vision to transform these temporary stays into an eco-hostel as part of the regenerative production strategy. This allows for the utilization of existing infrastructure while promoting sustainable tourism and supporting the long-term goals of the farm.



AI generated image using Gencraft

Water sanitation

Water sanitation is critical to the well-being of the people of Taparales, as it has a direct impact on public health. By implementing effective water sanitation measures, the community can access safe water, reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, and improve overall health. The water and sanitation intervention includes the treatment and purification of water sources using accessible technology and local springs, the implementation of adequate toilets and waste management systems that work in conjunction with the bio-digester system (efficient transformation strategy), and the promotion of hygiene practices within the community.

In order to use local water sources for human consumption while using accessible technology, activated carbon can be considered as a potential solution for water purification. The purification process consists of the following steps:

Collection of water from the springs into a storage reservoir or tank. A collection system is

already under construction for irrigating of crops.

Sedimentation to naturally remove larger particles and sediments.

Activated carbon filter, which is known for its excellent adsorption properties, which can effectively remove impurities, odours and harmful substances from water. Water is passed through a filter with layers of activated carbon in a container or using specially designed filter cartridges. This allows the water to come into contact with the charcoal and undergo the filtration process.

Disinfection (optional) Depending on the quality of the water

source, additional disinfection methods such as chlorination or UV treatment may be required for microbial safety.

Storage water in clean and covered containers to maintain quality. Regular monitoring and maintenance is required, with replacement of activated carbon as necessary to maintain its effectiveness. In addition, education and promotion of good hygiene practices within the community can improve overall sanitation and health outcomes.

This approach can provide an accessible and relatively low-cost solution to water sanitation in the farm, promoting the well-being and health of the community.



AI generated image using Midjourney



AI generated image using Midjourney

EFFICIENT TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

The efficient transformation strategy aims to optimize energy and resource usage by establishing closed cycles among the farm's main activities: habitat, agricultural production, and environmental preservation. The strategy emphasizes generating the required energy within the farm while effectively transforming resources by utilizing waste from one activity to enhance another. This approach reduces waste production, minimizes reliance on external energy sources,

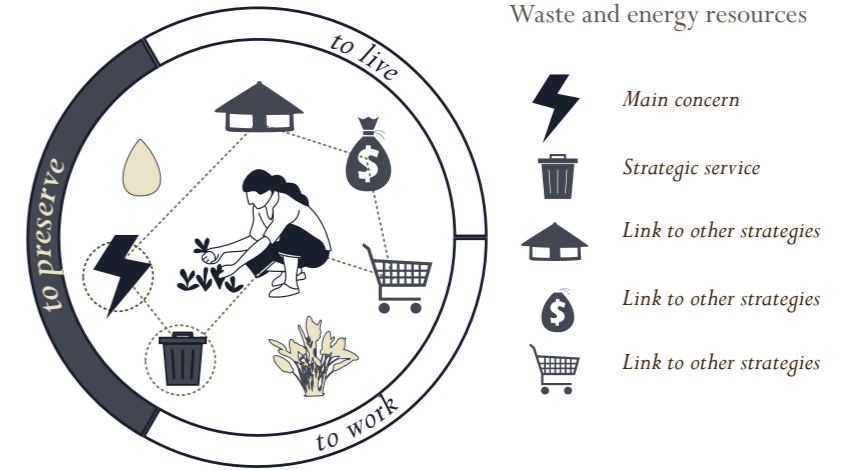
and incorporates efficient transformation facilities to add value to farm products.

The efficient transformation strategy can significantly contribute to a self-sustaining settlement and to ensure access to vital services and financial stability for ex-FARC combatants, providing them with life opportunities away from war.

This starter relies on five lines of action: generate diverse income

streams through agricultural value-added and product transformation; Job Creation through new activities that require manpower; Skill Development by involving the use of new technologies to manage waste, and adopt sustainable practices; Provision of vital services such as clean water, energy, and waste management to reduce dependency on external sources and resource optimization to align with the values of sustainability and responsible resource use.

Overall, the efficient transformation strategy will not only provide self-sustaining opportunities for the settlement but also offer a pathway for ex-FARC combatants to reintegrate into society, gain financial stability, develop new skills, and contribute to environmental stewardship. By creating a supportive and empowering environment, this strategy helps pave the way for a peaceful and prosperous future away from the ravages of war.



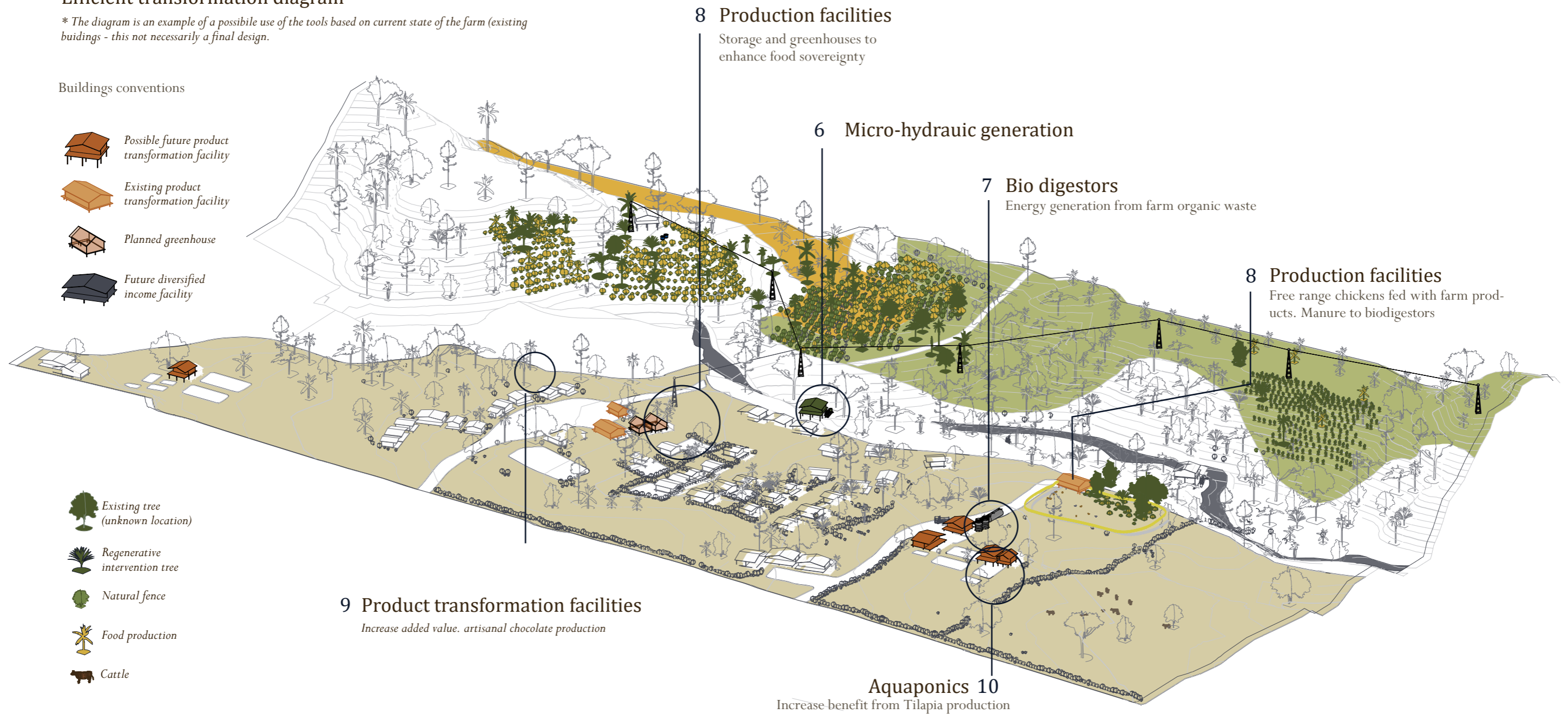
Efficient transformation diagram

* The diagram is an example of a possible use of the tools based on current state of the farm (existing buildings - this not necessarily a final design).

Buildings conventions

- Possible future product transformation facility
- Existing product transformation facility
- Planned greenhouse
- Future diversified income facility

- Existing tree (unknown location)
- Regenerative intervention tree
- Natural fence
- Food production
- Cattle



Micro hydroelectric

Micro-hydraulic generation using vortex technology provides a decentralised and sustainable approach to harnessing energy from flowing water sources on the farm. This technology offers several advantages over large hydroelectric power stations in terms of efficiency and environmental impact: The small-scale technology is designed to operate efficiently by matching the available water flow to the energy needs of the farm, ensuring that energy production matches the actual needs of the community. Vortex technology can be implemented in different types of water channels, such as streams, rivers or irrigation canals, adapting to the specific flow rates and dimensions of each site.

This type of technology is less damaging to the ecosystem than

large hydroelectric power stations because it requires less land, has minimal impact on aquatic ecosystems and avoids the need for large reservoirs or dams. Resulting in a lower disruption to natural water flows, fish migration patterns, local biodiversity, and fewer sedimentation and erosion problems. This intervention would increase the resilience and energy security by ensuring a continuous supply of energy for essential services and daily operations in the event of power outages. Finally, the intervention promotes community engagement and ownership of the energy production process by involving locals in the installation, maintenance and operation, fostering a sense of empowerment and responsibility.

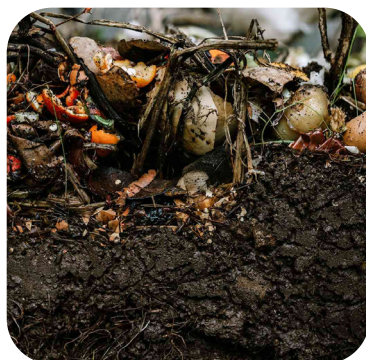
Micro hydraulic generation station images generated with AI with Midjourney



Bio digester image generated with AI with Midjourney



Bio digester image generated with AI with Midjourney



Composting

Biodigestors

The biodigester system could be implemented in stages without the need of complex technology, it uses manure and other organic waste from the housing units and the productive land to produce biogas and compost. The manure from the farm is placed in a sealed tank where it undergoes anaerobic digestion by bacteria, breaking down the organic matter and producing biogas. The biogas can be used for cooking, heating and generating electricity. Meanwhile, the remaining material in the tank becomes nutrient-rich compost that can be used to fertilise the plantations on site. This process not only generates renewable energy, but also provides a sustainable waste management solution and a source of fertiliser for agricultural production.

Production facilities

The production facilities are designed to improve the working conditions of the farmers by creating comfortable and hygienic spaces to take care of the agricultural production, from the incubation of the seeds to the packaged product ready for distribution; these facilities include greenhouses and collection and packaging stations.

The greenhouses will enhance food sovereignty by providing a more diverse and nutritious food supply, increasing yields, supporting local food systems, and building resilience in the face of unexpected events.

The collection and packaging Stations will set up dedicated stations for the efficient collection, processing, and packaging of farm products. This streamlines the post-harvest processes, ensuring quality preservation and value addition while providing better work conditions to the farmers.



artisanal chocolate production image generated with AI with Gencraft

Product transformation

Product transformation facilities play a critical role in adding value to agricultural products through essential processing steps. These facilities allow raw materials to be transformed into specialised products, such as toasting, grinding and blending cocoa beans to make artisanal chocolate, or producing sweets from tropical forest fruits from the regenerative production strategy. By adding value through these processes, the farm can diversify its product range and capitalise on new market opportunities. This value-added approach increases the economic viability of the farm, promotes local entrepreneurship, reduces waste, increases market access, creates job opportunities, and contributes to the sustainability of the agricultural sector.



Artisanal chocolate brand from Medellín "Medellín de chocolate"

Acquaponics

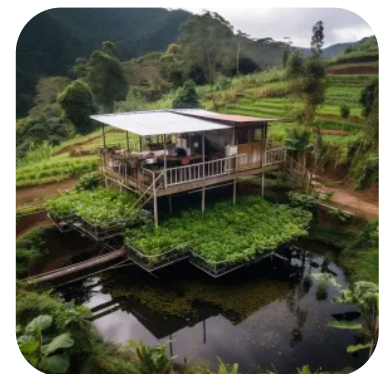
An aquaponic system is a sustainable food production method that combines aquaculture (raising aquatic animals) and hydroponics (growing plants in water). In this system, tilapia fish are raised in a tank, and the nutrient-rich water from the fish tank is used to fertilize aromatic herbs, such as basil or mint, which are grown in a hydroponic bed. As the herbs absorb the nutrients, they purify the water, which is then returned to the fish tank. This creates a symbiotic relationship between the fish and the plants, where the waste produced by the fish becomes the food for the plants, and the plants help to keep the water clean for the fish. This system produces both fish and herbs for consumption on site. Tilapia is a common fish used in aquaponics due to its adaptability and high tolerance to changing water conditions. Aromatic herbs such as basil or mint are suitable for warm tropical weather.



Aquaponics image generated with AI with Midjourney



Production facilities image generated with AI with Midjourney



Aquaponics image generated with AI with Midjourney

REGENERATIVE PRODUCTION

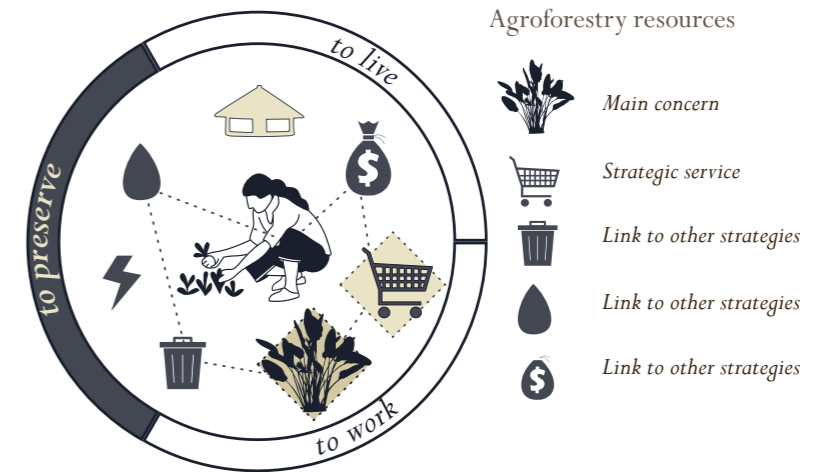
The regenerative production strategy can contribute to peacebuilding in Dabeiba by reconciling historically opposing views on land use, specifically between environmental preservation and production activities.

This strategy aims to incentivize protection of natural reserve areas and cultural heritage through diverse

financial income sources derived from environmental preservation actions.

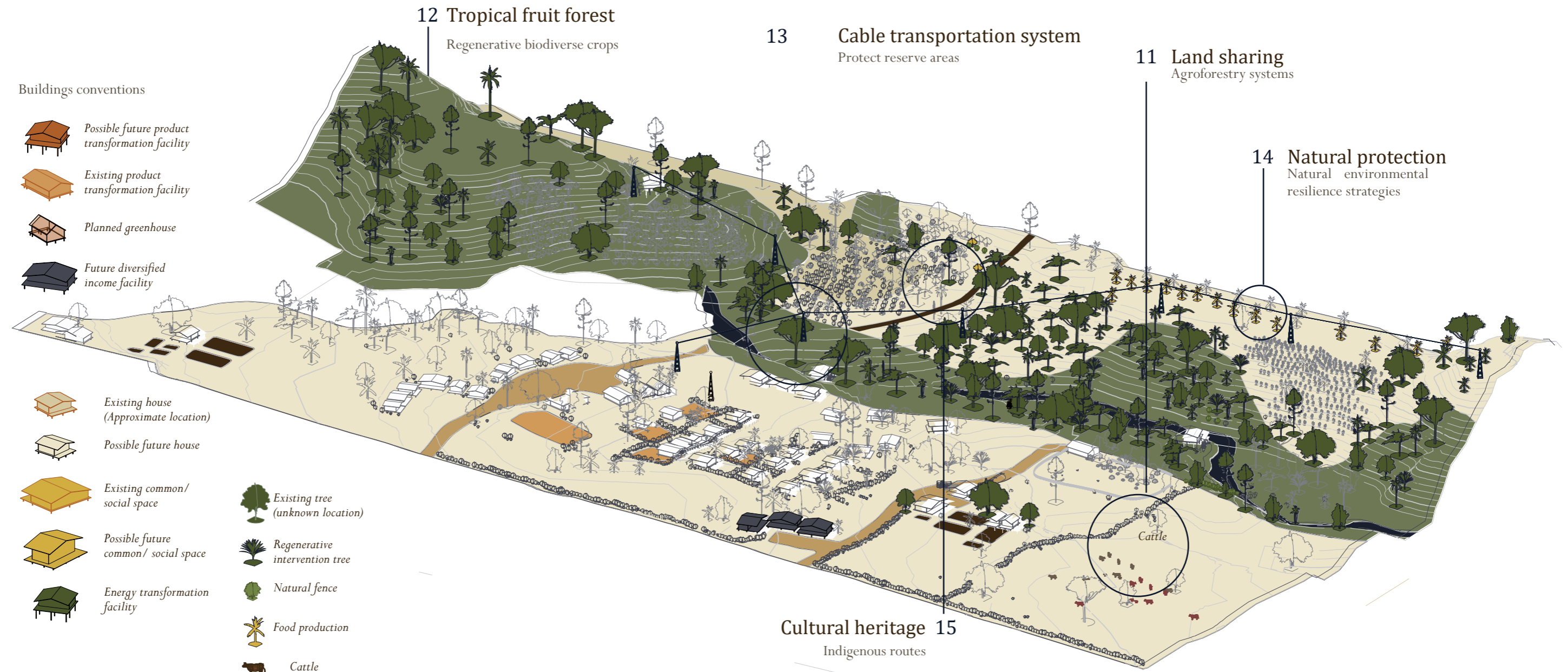
This includes agroforestry techniques, carbon bonuses, biodiversity regeneration sanctuaries, and non-invasive product transportation systems. By capitalizing on the region's natural and cultural heritage, the strategy promotes sustainable tourism and

heritage-based enterprises. It encourages collaboration and coexistence among stakeholders, fostering understanding and mutual respect. Overall, the regenerative production strategy promotes a shared vision of sustainable development that harmonizes economic activities with environmental preservation, contributing to peace and unity in Dabeiba.



Regenerative production diagram

* The diagram is an example of a possible use of the tools based on current state of the farm (existing buildings - this not necessarily a final design).



Land Sharing and natural protection techniques

An land sharing intervention in Taparales can integrate livestock, crops and biodiverse vegetation through agro-ecological farming practices. This approach emphasises the provision of multiple ecosystem services and relies on plant and animal diversity rather than external inputs. It involves integrating crop and livestock production on smaller plots of land, while preserving semi-natural habitats.

By applying agroecological principles, the farm can create synergies between different components. For example, integrating cattle grazing with rotational grazing systems can help maintain soil fertility and nutrient cycling, and help weed control by consuming plants that compete with crops for resources, reducing the need for manual weeding or herbicide use. The presence of diverse agricultural crops provides food sources for both humans and animals, reducing the need for external inputs such as synthetic fertilisers and pesticides. The biodiverse vegetation, such as hedgerows or buffer strips, can act as natural pest control and provide habitats for beneficial insects and wildlife.

This land-sharing measurements improve the overall sustainability and resilience of the farm. The smaller field sizes allow for better management and reduced soil erosion. The presence of semi-natural habitats, such as wetlands or forests, enhances biodiversity conservation and provides additional ecosystem services such as water filtration and carbon sequestration. By prioritising agro-ecological practices and integrating different components of the farm, the land sharing intervention promotes a balanced and sustainable farming system that promotes ecological health, productivity and long-term viability.



Land sharing image generated with AI with Midjourney



Biodiversity preservation strategies image from lecture presentation: "land use in the antropocene" on the Chalmers course "sustainable development"

Tropical fruit forest

A tropical fruit forest in Taparales can regenerate biodiversity preservation areas, promote pride in forgotten diverse fruit commerce, provide economic opportunities for farmers, and provide educational opportunities for local communities and visitors. By showcasing the ecological and cultural value of tropical fruits, farmers can contribute to the sustainable development of their community and promote the preservation of the region's natural and cultural heritage. The benefits of this biodiverse sanctuary can be:

- Natural regeneration of the area, which had decayed due to deforestation or the armed conflict
- The exhibition of local fruits that may not be widely known in commercial markets to preserve agricultural traditions and promote the cultural heritage of the region;
- Increased income for farmers by selling fruits that are in high demand or have a high market value.
- Provide educational opportunities for local communities and visitors by promote environmental awareness and education.

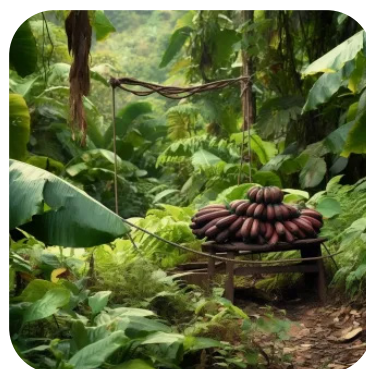


Product transportation with cable

A product transportation system with cables in the farm can help preserve areas that would be destroyed with traditional transportation paths building techniques; The elevated transport system requires minimal land disruption compared to traditional roads, which may require excavation, grading, and construction work.

The cable system can also reduce carbon emissions by eliminating the need for vehicles and machinery to transport products across the farm and increase efficiency by transporting products more quickly and directly across the farm. This can reduce the time and labor required.

This intervention is already under consideration by farmers and salvaterra-



Cultural heritage

To enhance cultural heritage and promote pluricultural knowledge exchange and reconciliation activities, the strategy includes the organisation of cultural festivals that showcase diverse cultures through music, dance, food and art. The cultural exchange programmes encourage interaction between different groups. Also, the creation cultural heritage museums to preservestories while promoting reconciliation initiatives and dialogue between former adversaries. Support for

the preservation of traditional practices, languages and artistic expressions ensures the protection of cultural heritage. Education and awareness-raising programmes, both in schools and in the community, integrate cultural heritage and raise awareness of the importance of diversity. By implementing these strategies, the site can become a vibrant space that celebrates cultural richness, fosters understanding, and promotes peace and unity among diverse communities.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Due to the high number of strategies to be implemented in contrast with the local capacity to develop them, it is understood that the proposal should be planned and organized on different implementation phases. These phases prioritize the interventions based on their urgency (how important is it for the system to function) and feasibility (the financial investment and experts requirement). The implementation plan is divided then in three stages/ phases:



Phase One

High feasibility or urgency:

Strategies either very urgent, already under development, or feasible on the short with low budget.

Planned occupation

1. Safe homes interventions
 - Existing
 - Upcoming
2. Urban community planning
 - Private lots (planning)
 - Social gathering
3. Temporary stays
 - Current common house
 - Guest house
4. Sanitation
 - Septic tank
 - Rainwater/ local water sources collection and purification.
5. Diversify income
 - Tourism
 - Restaurant
 - Education

Phase Two

Strategies necessary, but not urgent that are currently under ideation but require collaboration from stakeholders who currently hold relationships with the farm.

Efficient transformation

6. Micro-hydraulic generation
 - Vortex tech
7. Biodigestors
 - Separation
 - Composting
 - Fuel
8. Production facilities
 - Greenhouses
 - Collection and packaging
9. Product transformation
 - Meat processing (fish and chicken)
 - Honey
 - Cocoa
10. Aquaponics
 - Fish infrastructure
 - Herb usage

Phase Three

Beneficial interventions to a better functioning that could require higher investment and to contact new stakeholder with higher knowledge on specific subjects.

Regenerative production

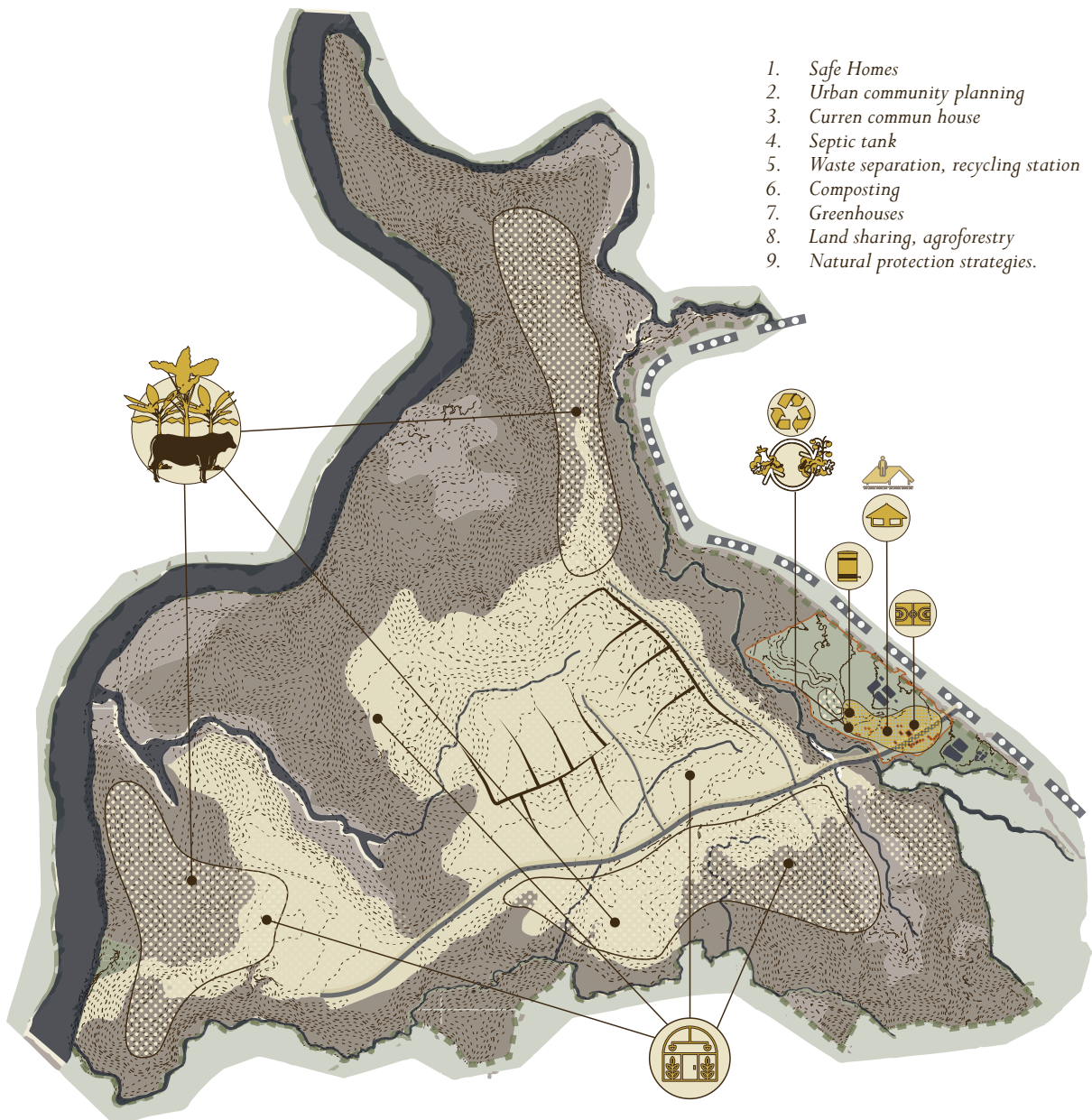
11. Land sharing
 - Cattle
 - Crops
 - Native species
12. Tropical products reclaim
 - Promote tropical fruits
 - Traditional products
13. Product transportation
 - Cable
 - Roads
14. Natural protection
 - Drains
 - Windbreak
 - Humidity control
15. Cultural heritage
 - Indigenous paths
 - Pluricultural link
 - Education

PHASE ONE

In a context where social, physical and economic constraints are prevalent, the role of architecture must be re-evaluated to prioritise the local community's agency. Rather than providing luxurious architectural solutions, architects and other professionals must provide the community with the technical, legal and financial tools necessary to manage and develop projects on their own. By complementing the existing practices in the community, architects can

help foster a sense of ownership and pride in the built environment, and promote sustainable development and social inclusion.

Phase one focusses then in the urgent measurements that can be tackled rather soon with local capacity and tools that don't require much external intervention or aid.



PHASE TWO

The generalised lack of trust among the stakeholders involved in reincorporation projects in Dabeiba is evident in the participatory actions that show a sense of inefficiency and mistrust in the many meetings that do not actually get the projects done. This observation calls for a new way of involving the community in the participatory design process without compromising efficient and appropriate results.

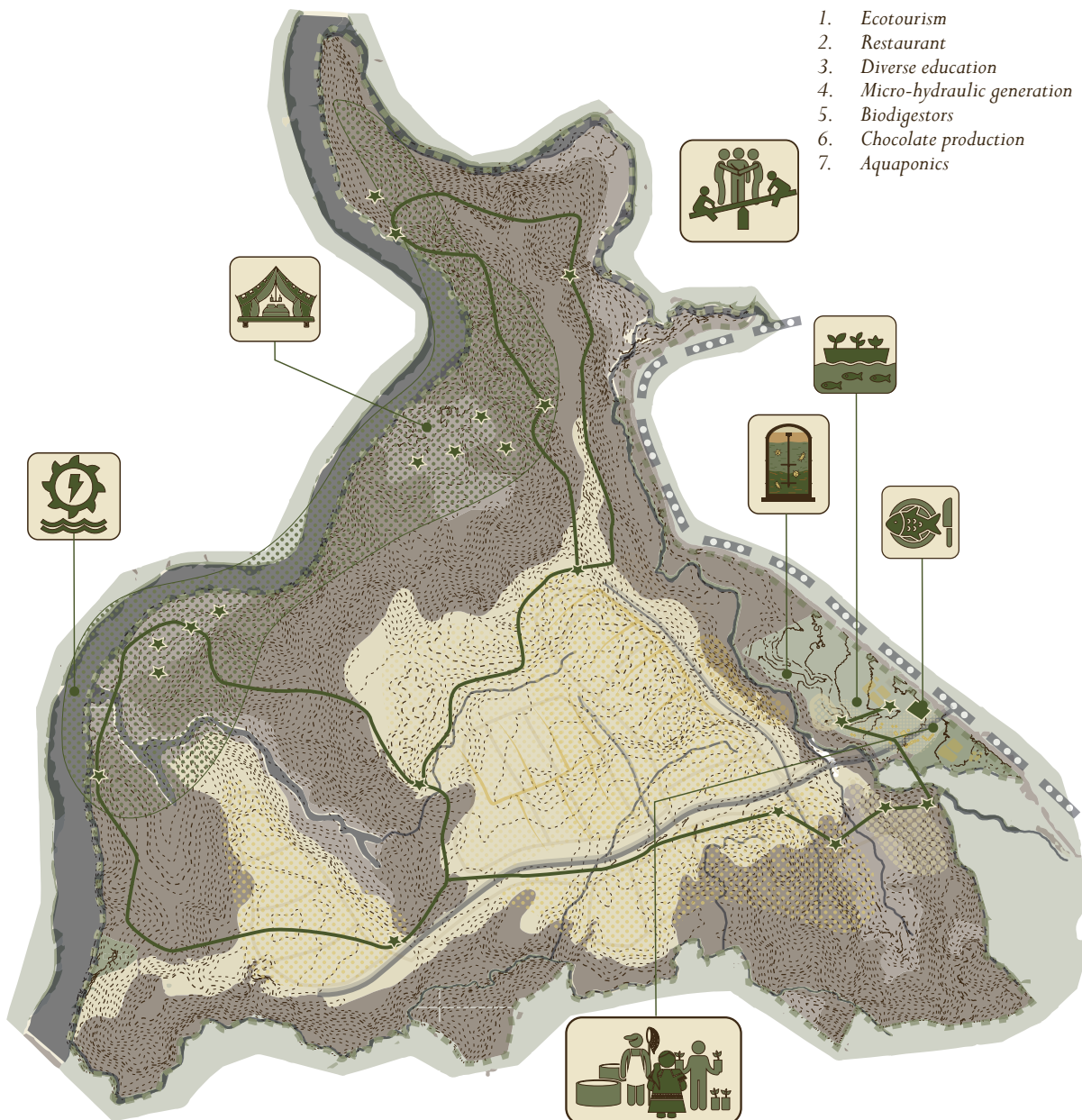
For this reason, phase two of intervention introduces strategies that are necessary, but not urgent to the community, these intervention can be already under ideation, but require a more efficient collaboration from the stakeholders who currently hold relationships with Taparales residents or agroprogeso farmers.



PHASE THREE

In a post-conflict context, it is essential that all actors, including architects, ex-combatants, NGOs, industry, political organisations, farmers, indigenous communities and others, come together to contribute to the common goal of peace. To achieve this, it is necessary to be open-minded and willing to work together across different backgrounds and professions.

Phase three calls out to this kind of collaborations through interventions that require higher economic investment and wider stakeholder involvement. This phase, guides the future collaboration needs and the required continuation plan for this thesis, which aims to provide valuable material for the community to continue with this process.



SUMMARY

Planned occupation

- 1. Safe homes interventions
 - Existing
 - Upcoming
- 2. Urban community planning
 - Private lots (planning)
 - Social gathering
- 3. Temporary stays
 - Current common house
 - Guest house
- 4. Sanitation
 - Septic tank
 - water collection and purification.
- 5. Diversify income
 - Tourism
 - Restaurant
 - Education

Efficient transformation

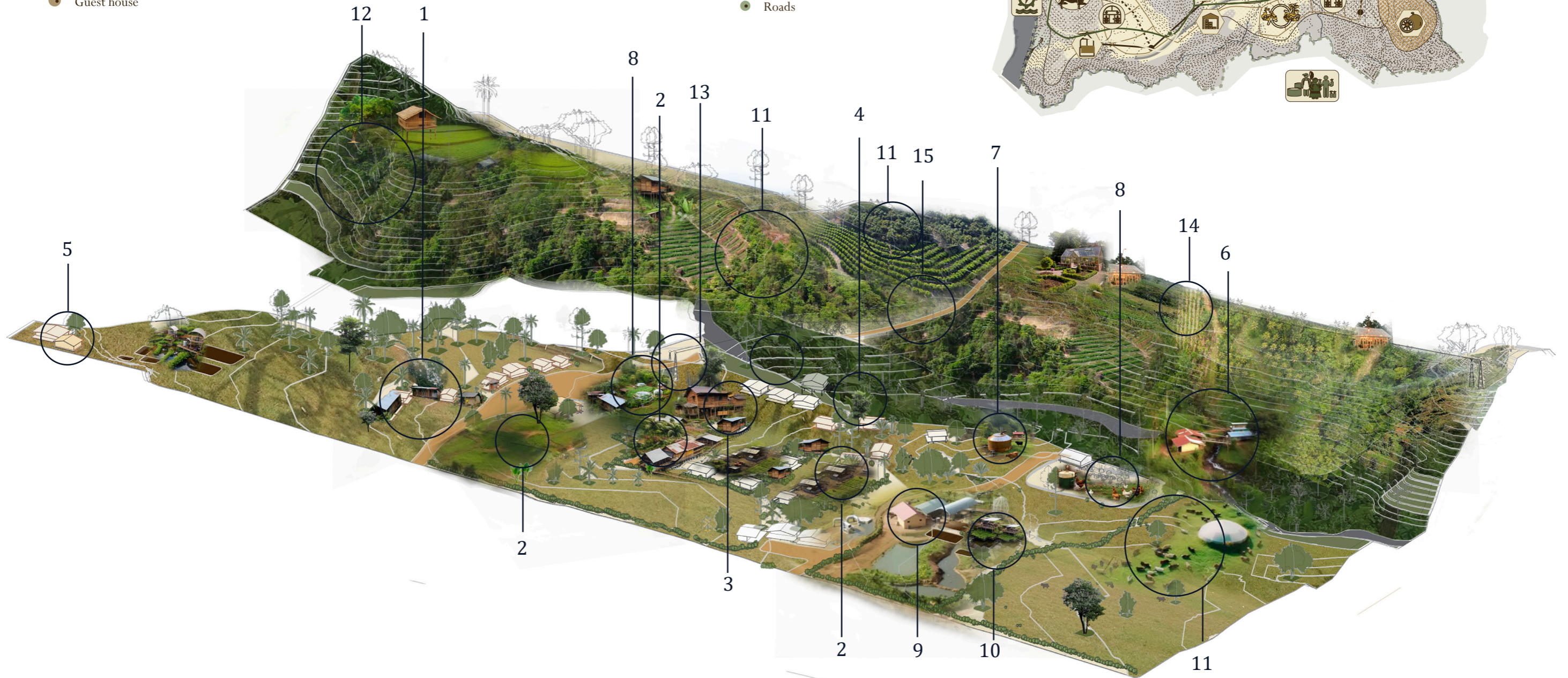
- 6. Micro-hydraulic generation
 - Vortex tech
- 7. Biodigestors
 - Separation
 - Composting
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- 8. Production facilities
 - Greenhouses
 - Collection and packaging
- 9. Product transformation
 - Meat processing (fish and chicken)
 - Honey
 - Cocoa
- 10. Aquaponics
 - Fish infrastructure
 - Herb usage

Regenerative production

- 11. Land sharing
 - Cattle
 - Crops
 - Native species
- 12. Tropical products reclaim
 - Promote tropical fruits
 - Traditional products
- 13. Product transportation
 - Cable
 - Roads
- 14. Natural protection
 - Drains
 - Windbreak
 - Humidity control
- 15. Cultural heritage
 - Indigenous paths
 - Pluricultural link
 - Education

Implementation phase

- Phase one
- Phase two
- Phase three





P6.

CONCLUSIONS

LEARNINGS AND REFLECTIONS

As this thesis comes to an end, it is important to reflect on the journey that has led to the proposed circular systems of energy, waste, and food on an agricultural production farm in Dabeiba, Colombia and why the outcomes proposed dynamic tools instead of a traditional architectural project as result. These tools, as stated by Du Plessis and Hess “*are tools for thinking about whole systems, making connections within the system, and enabling conversations that will result in the ongoing regenerative development of the place in which the practitioner may be working. Because they are dealing with complexity, the tools themselves tend to be complex, challenging to work with, and time and labour intensive*” describing quite accurately the system analysis approach carried out in this thesis.

The research question of the thesis aimed to explore ways in which the reincorporation community could build resilient subsistence systems through physical interventions on the production infrastructure to ensure dignified life opportunities after the peace agreement. Through this inquiry, the thesis identified the crucial role of stakeholders in the process, the impact of the context on the participatory approach, and the limitations that challenge the traditional approach of architecture. As this chapter reflects on the questions that emerged during the research process, it will shed light on the personal and professional implications of the proposed solutions for sustainable architecture, the potential for peace-building, and the need for coordinated efforts toward a common goal. This conclusion chapter emphasizes the idea that every end is a new beginning and that sustainable architecture can be a powerful tool for building resilient and regenerative communities, in this way the continuation plan for the research is drafted based on possible interdisciplinary collaborations, replicability on the proposed intervention and a hand over will.

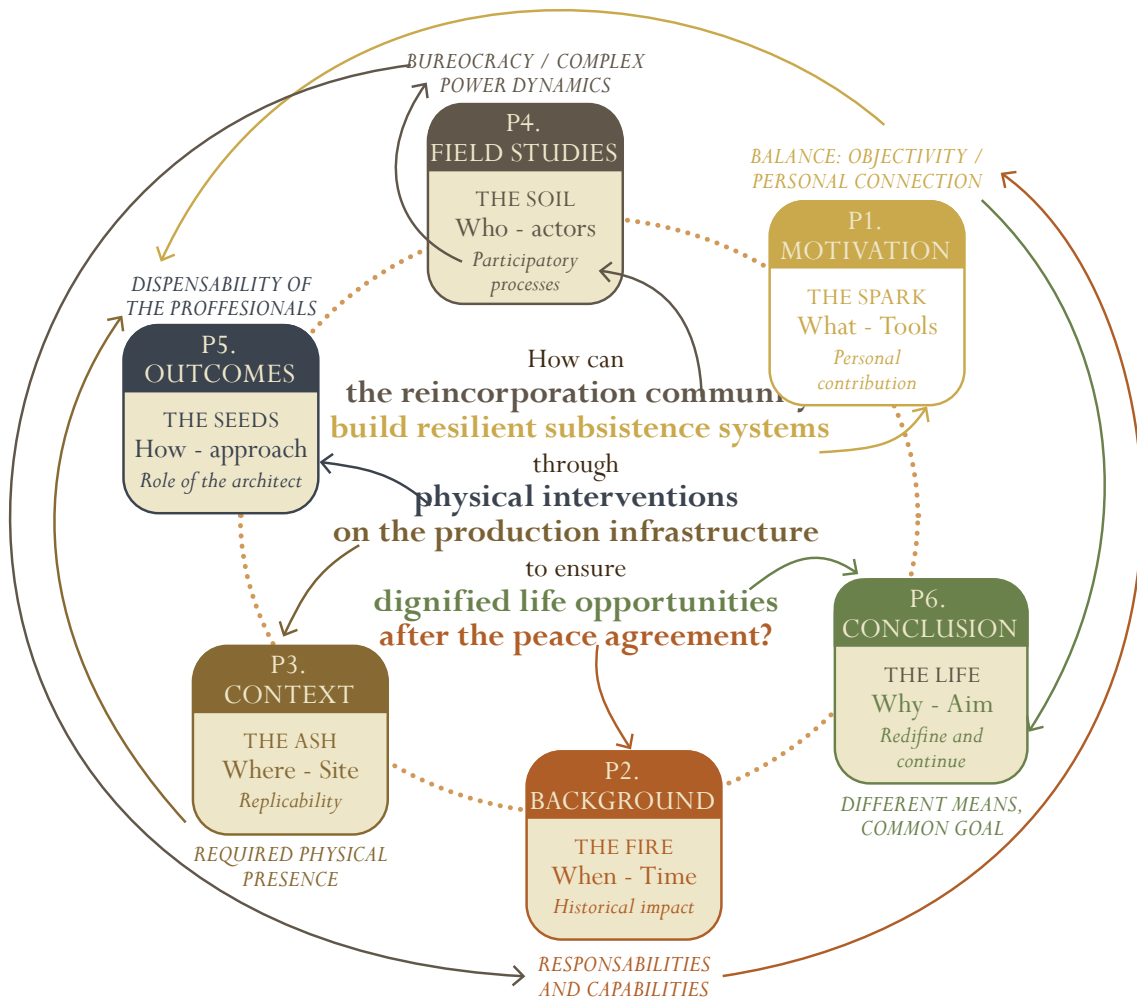
FROM FIRE TO LIFE

A compilation of reflections from the field.

Throughout the chapters of this thesis, the initial research question has been analysed in fragments in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the context from a social, economic, political and technical perspective. The introduction chapter delimited the subject of the thesis; the background chapter analysed the historical role of the ex-FARC combatants and their position towards the reincorporation process; the context chapter described the site of study in Dabeiba; the

field studies chapter provided an immersive understanding of the complex social dynamics of participatory processes around reincorporation; the results chapter helped to redefine the role of the architect in this type of process and presented project alternatives that emerged from the research; finally, this conclusion chapter reflects on the questions that emerged during the research process and possible continuation plans. It is important to consider future projections and deviations that this proposal could

take. The proposed circular systems of energy, waste and food can serve as a model for sustainable architecture in other post-conflict contexts. The participatory approach used in this research can be applied to other projects and contexts, enabling community empowerment and co-creation of solutions. The proposed solutions can also serve as a model for circular economy principles, contributing to a more sustainable and regenerative society.





THE FIRE

(Historical responsibilities around the conflict and the reconstruction of society after it)

As society, is natural for us to seek to separate the guilty and the innocent, and assign responsibility for the conflict. However, it is necessary for every member of the society to assume responsibility for building peace, regardless of their role in the conflict. This realization was crucial for me during the field studies to understand that the success of reincorporation projects depends on the recognition that historical responsibilities cannot be solely attributed to individuals or groups but must be shared collectively by the whole society.

THE SOIL

(Complex power dynamics around participatory processes)

The deep scars of the armed conflict have left a generalised lack of trust among the stakeholders involved in reincorporation projects in Dabeiba, which is evident in official participatory actions (that feel somehow forced, like a way of fulfilling an inclusion requirement, rather than naturally engaging all actors involved) this dynamic has led to a sense of inefficiency in participatory design processes and mistrust due to the idea that there are many meetings that do not get the projects done. This observation calls for a new way of involving the community in the participatory design process without compromising efficient and appropriate results.

THE ASHES

(Site limitations and requirements)

The contextual analysis uncovered a state of isolation from the site, where the physical separation from the main cities slows down official procedures, construction processes and government programmes, leaving the inhabitants in a spatial state of abandonment that obliges local communities to find self-sufficient alternatives; this situation requires a constant physical presence for almost any project to be implemented on site, and very pragmatic and resourceful initiatives to be implemented almost immediately, leading the architectural practice to a more bottom-up approach.

THE LIFE

(Cooperation bridges toward a common goal)

In post-conflict contexts, it is essential that all actors, including architects, ex-combatants, NGOs, industries, political organisations, farmers, indigenous communities and others, come together to contribute to peace building. This requires an open mind and a willingness to work together across different backgrounds and professions. This requires breaking down silos and exploring different approaches and tools to improve collaboration and communication. Architects, for example, may need to work with local communities to understand their needs and design solutions that are culturally appropriate and sustainable.

THE CYCLE

(Personalization of the practice)

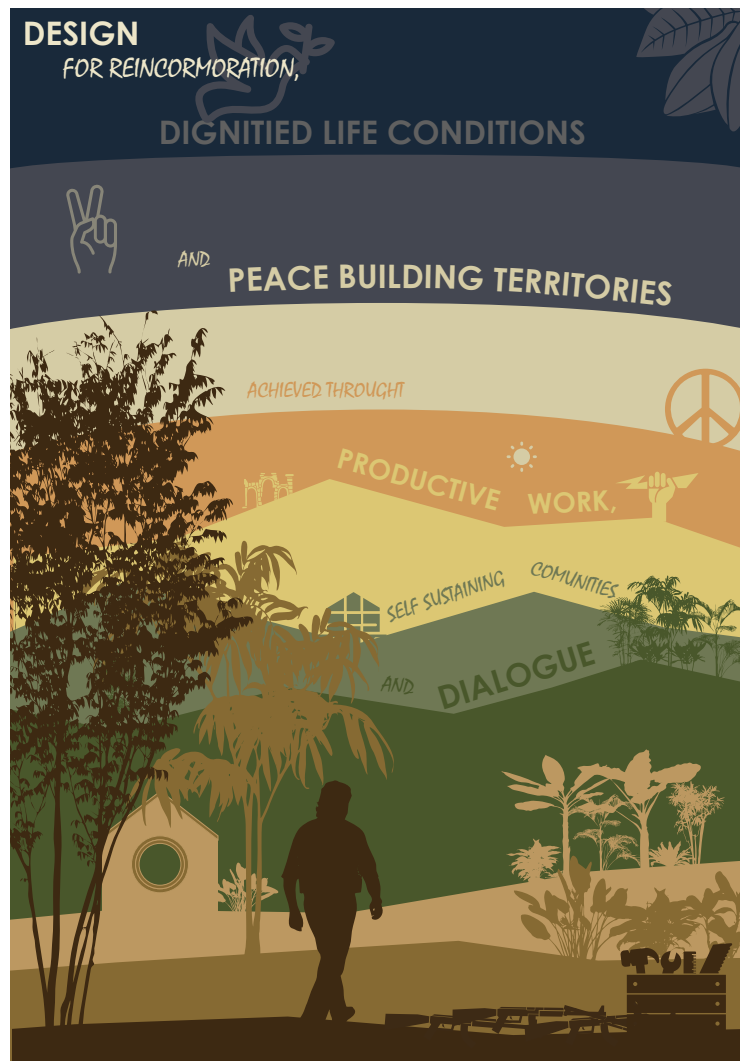
Through my dissertation research, I have learned that peacebuilding is not an aseptic process (as the CEV states), but rather a deeply human and emotional one. I understood that personal beliefs and biases cannot be ignored, as they are integral to the way individuals and communities perceive and experience the world around them. While it was important to strive for objectivity in my research, acknowledging and embracing my beliefs enriched the research by bringing a personal perspective and understanding to the issues presented. I have learnt not to be afraid of bringing my personal beliefs and emotions to bear on the findings of my thesis, as they are an integral part of the encounters between the people involved in this process.

THE PLANTS

(Redefining the role of the architect in the local context)

In a context where social, physical and economic constraints are prevalent, the role of architecture must be re-evaluated to prioritise the local community's agency. Rather than providing luxurious architectural solutions, architects and other professionals must provide the community with the technical, legal and financial tools necessary to manage and develop projects on their own. By complementing the existing practices in

the community, architects can help foster a sense of ownership and pride in the built environment, and promote sustainable development and social inclusion. This approach requires a deep understanding of the local culture, environment and available resources, as well as a willingness to design conjuncted solutions that meet the specific needs. In this way, architecture play a crucial role in addressing social inequalities and promoting social justice.



Reflections from the field summary

CONTINUATION PLAN

The dissertation presented a comprehensive approach to address the challenges faced by Taparales farm through a combination of theoretical research and field studies. The proposed interconnected intervention consisted of three strategies: planned occupation, efficient transformation, and regenerative production. Building upon this work, the continuation plan includes three essential elements: future interdisciplinary collaboration, takeaways for replication in other post-conflict contexts and a hand-over plan to the community.



Interdisciplinary collaboration

The need of interdisciplinary and pluricultural collaboration and active participation from all stakeholders was demonstrated throughout the thesis. To further develop the proposed strategies for dignity, it is crucial to increase stakeholder involvement and embrace interdisciplinary and pluricultural collaboration; at the moment the most critical areas of expertise require on the farm can be narrowed down to technical (engineering) financial and legal.

The technical assistance is essential for the successful implementation of interventions in the farm infrastructure, especially in the strategies related to energy supply, waste management and product transformation facilities. These advisors can bring expertise and guidance to ensure effective implementation.

Financial supervision plays a

significant role in supporting the community. It can involve collecting and disseminating relevant information regarding funding and financing alternatives, training local capacity to apply interventions independently, and researching international aid options, crowdfunding opportunities, impact capital investors, and conditions for governmental aid. By empowering the community to access various funding sources, they become less reliant on external organizations.

Finally, the legal aid can contribute by preparing a comprehensive report on legal conditions on site to analyze the feasibility of future development projects. Also it can assess legal restrictions and building laws that may impact the proposed strategies for dignity. It is also crucial to evaluate the accuracy of official maps on-site, specif-

ically related to water withdrawal, preservation areas, and soil stability. This assessment ensures that the interventions align with environmental regulations, sustainable practices and won't put the community in any kind of risk.

By incorporating these elements into the continuation plan, the thesis can contribute to the effective and sustainable development of the ex-FARC settlement in Dabeiba, Colombia. Interdisciplinary collaboration, stakeholder involvement, and attention to technical, legal, and financial matters will enhance the overall impact of the proposed strategies, promoting dignity and self-sufficiency for the community.



Takeaways for replicability

The thesis findings and learnings should be applied to other post-conflict contexts. For example, strategies like the implementation of biodigestors and aquaponics systems, hold significant potential for replication in other reincorporation communities, particularly those with a focus on agricultural production. These sustainable farming techniques can provide rural communities with alternative means of subsistence, promoting self-sufficiency and economic empowerment. These strategies should be re-evaluated to adapt to the specific contexts of other communities bringing similar positive outcomes.

Additionally, the participatory approach employed in community planning can have a tremendous positive impact on post-conflict communities. Creating spaces where former actors of war can come together to discuss development initiatives fostering a

sense of ownership, empowerment, and reconciliation. It allows community members to actively engage in decision-making processes, which can strengthen social cohesion and contribute to sustainable peace building efforts.

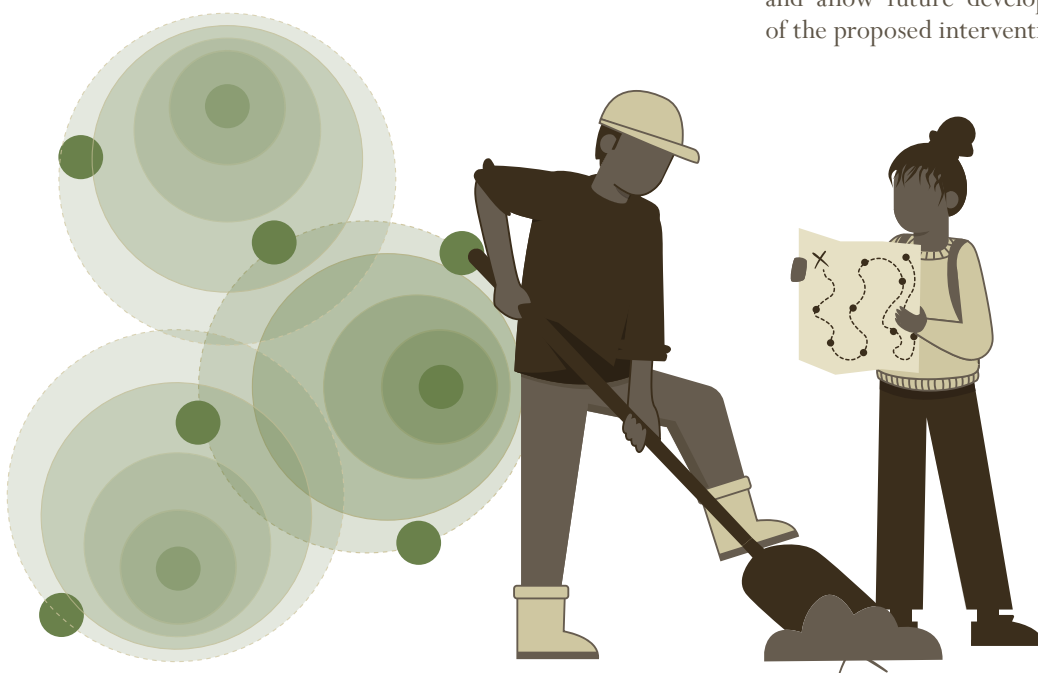
The takeaways from this thesis can play a crucial role in replicating the strategies within the framework of the government's plan for total peace. By emphasizing the importance of locally led initiatives, sustainable agriculture, and participatory approaches, these takeaways align with the broader goals of the government in promoting reconciliation, social integration, and the overall well-being of post-conflict communities. Showcasing a successful implementation example of these strategies in Dabeiba, can be tangible evidence that positive outcomes that can be achieved; serving as a blueprint for other reincorporation communities.

Hand over plan

The results and outcomes of the thesis will be shared mainly with two different receivers: the stakeholders involved on one hand and the academic community on the other.

Sharing the results with Llano Grande and Taparales residents will give them tools to develop their own initiatives in the near future. This information can be also useful to other interested stakeholders such as CNR, Salvaterra, Indelebe, Dabeiba PDET, and Proantioquia. The open distribution of this information is very important to enhance community agency to develop interventions independently. Encourage their capacity by using the interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge provided.

The reflections and outcomes of this thesis can be also hand over to the academic community so future students interested in this settlement or similar contexts can give continuity to this learning process and allow future development of the proposed interventions.





P7.

REFERENCES

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The use of a variety of sources is important to complement findings from the field and provide a more objective perspective on the Colombian conflict. Relying solely on my personal biases could limit the understanding of the complex reincorporation context and hinder the development of well-rounded and evidence-based conclusions.

By incorporating diverse sources such as reports from international organizations (e.g., United Nations Peacekeeping), academic publications (e.g., research articles, dissertations), government documents (e.g., agreements, official reports), and reputable NGOs (e.g., Prison Fellowship International, Justice for Colombia), I could gain insights from different viewpoints and expertise.

In the context of sustainable practices for reincorporation, this research aimed to contribute to the existing peace building movement by focusing on long-term solutions and promoting environmentally friendly and socially inclusive approaches. The research on the historical background of the armed confrontation in Colombia helped me to address the challenges faced by former combatants during their transition to civilian life and actually contribute to the overall success of the peace building process. Also the geographical approximation emphasized the importance of incorporating environmental considerations and limitations from the physical environment into the formulation of the strategies for dignity.

With a wide range of sources, the research provided a comprehensive understanding of social, economic and environmental issues around reincorporation activities in Dabeiba and generated the theoretical base-ground to develop the intervention proposal and reflections.

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