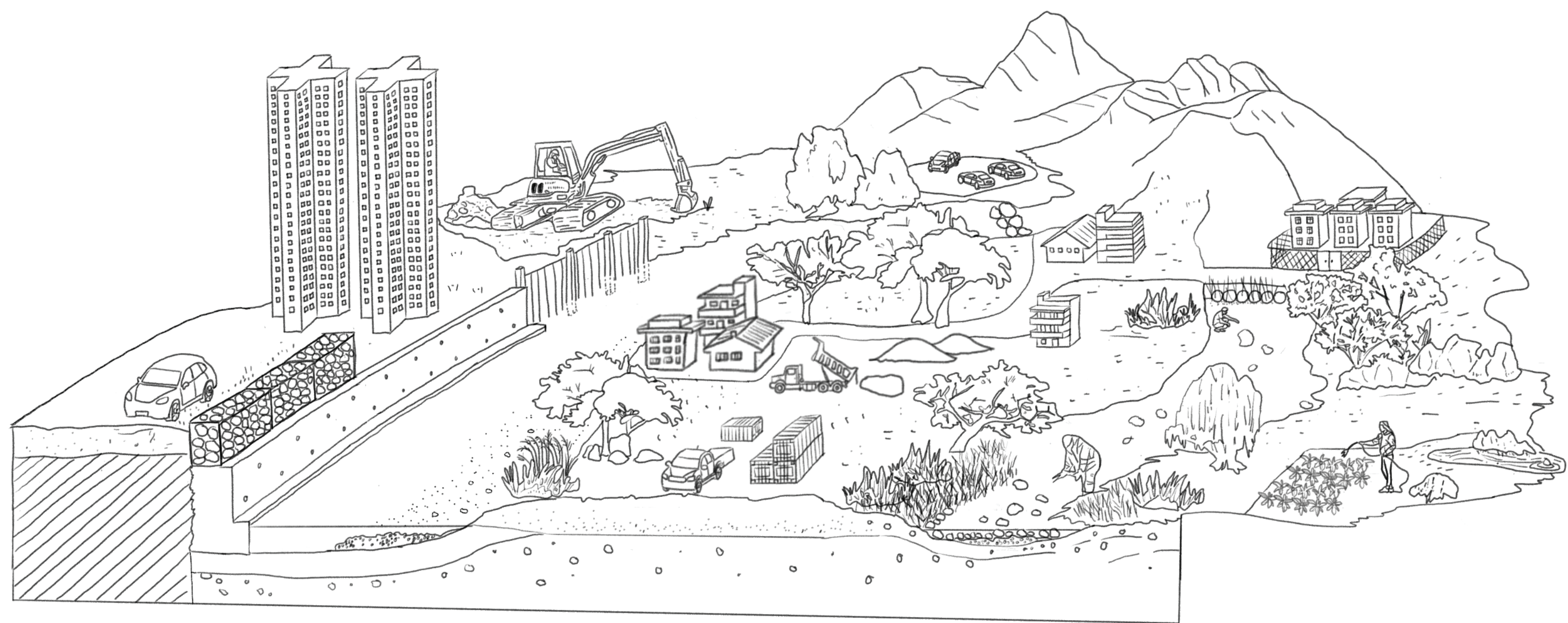


Reimagining River Landscape

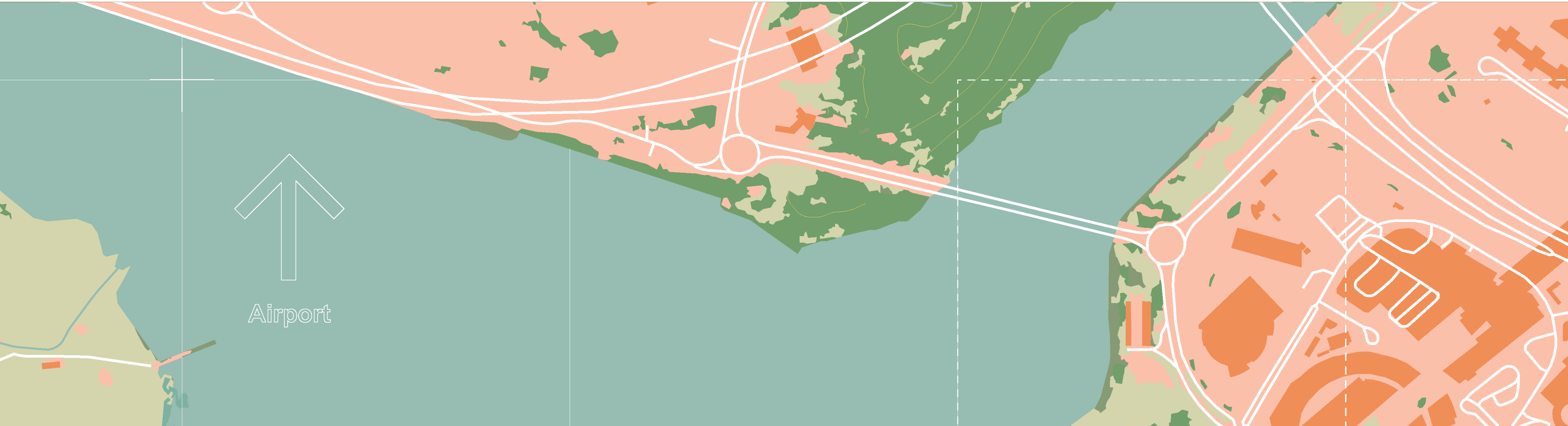
Revitalizing Tung Chung Valley Through Sustainable Rice Agriculture and Community Engagement

The project seeks to redefine agriculture as a means to rejuvenate cultural identity and foster a sense of belonging within the river landscape. Tung Chung Valley, once flourishing with rice fields, has seen its agricultural heritage eroded by extensive development over recent decades. This initiative, spearheaded by an NGO dedicated to community support through river and local ecology initiatives, envisions revitalizing the local economy, benefiting both existing villagers and newcomers. By reviving rice agriculture and implementing advanced farming strategies, the project aims to serve as an incubator for the area. It will provide new training and practices for the local community, integrating their ecological wisdom to attract broader interest. Once rice straw is recycled, efforts will focus on rebuilding the embankments and maintaining thatched roofs, transforming the area into a scenic park with diverse orchards. This demonstration project for Hong Kong’s mountainous river regions will highlight sustainable land use and showcase the capacity of the land to support a thriving, ecologically integrated community.



- Suggested Measures**
- A. removal of invasive species
 - B. minimise impervious surface coverage
 - C. protect riparian buffer e.g.Orchid Ladies Treese
 - D. ecological stepping stones

- Existing River Condition and Threats**
- 1. overly wide channel
 - 2. invasion of non-native species
 - 3. streams with low canopy coverage
 - 4. sewage from active farmland, village and urban
 - 5. polluted surface runoff from large-scale development projects
 - 6. increasing impervious surface
 - 7. Feng Shui fish



THE
EVOLVING RIVER PERSPECTIVE

INFLUENCES ON THE RIVER LANDSCAPE IN HONG KONG

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THE CHANGE OF RIVER LANDSCAPE

RESERVOIR

Extract river water to meet the increase demand of water

8 IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS

LOCAL FARMING

14067 ha

In 1920s, there are more than 8000 hectares of paddy field in Hong Kong. Vegetable production can still meet nearly half of the demand of local population.

In 1920s, more rice paddy field were replaced by vegetable and commercial flower farming due to higher market value.

55000

1950 INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM CHINA

Due to Chinese Civil War, it also promoted transformation of local agriculture

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE

In the 1950s and 1960s, Since British diplomatic relations were unstable, and the Government tended to support local agriculture.

1960s IMPORT SOUTHEAST ASIAN RICE

Hong Kong opened up to the market, importing a large quantity of Southeast Asian rice at low price. Organic farming movement was launched.

1964 IMPORT WATER FROM MAINLAND CHINA

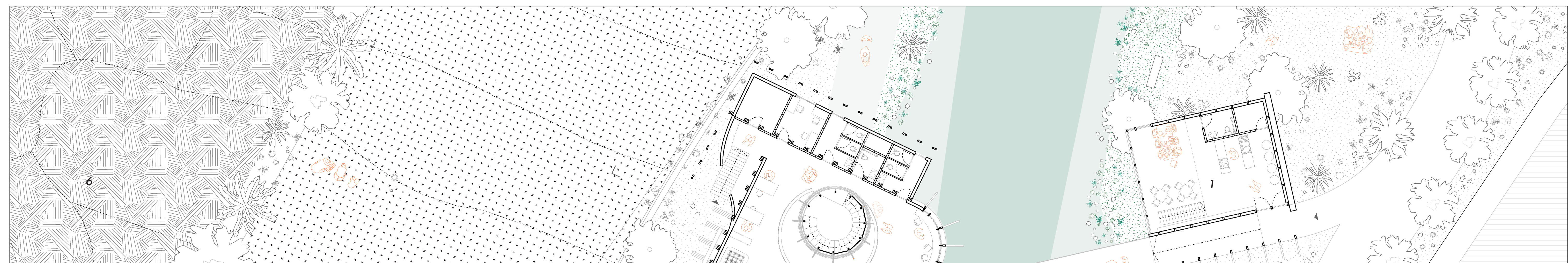
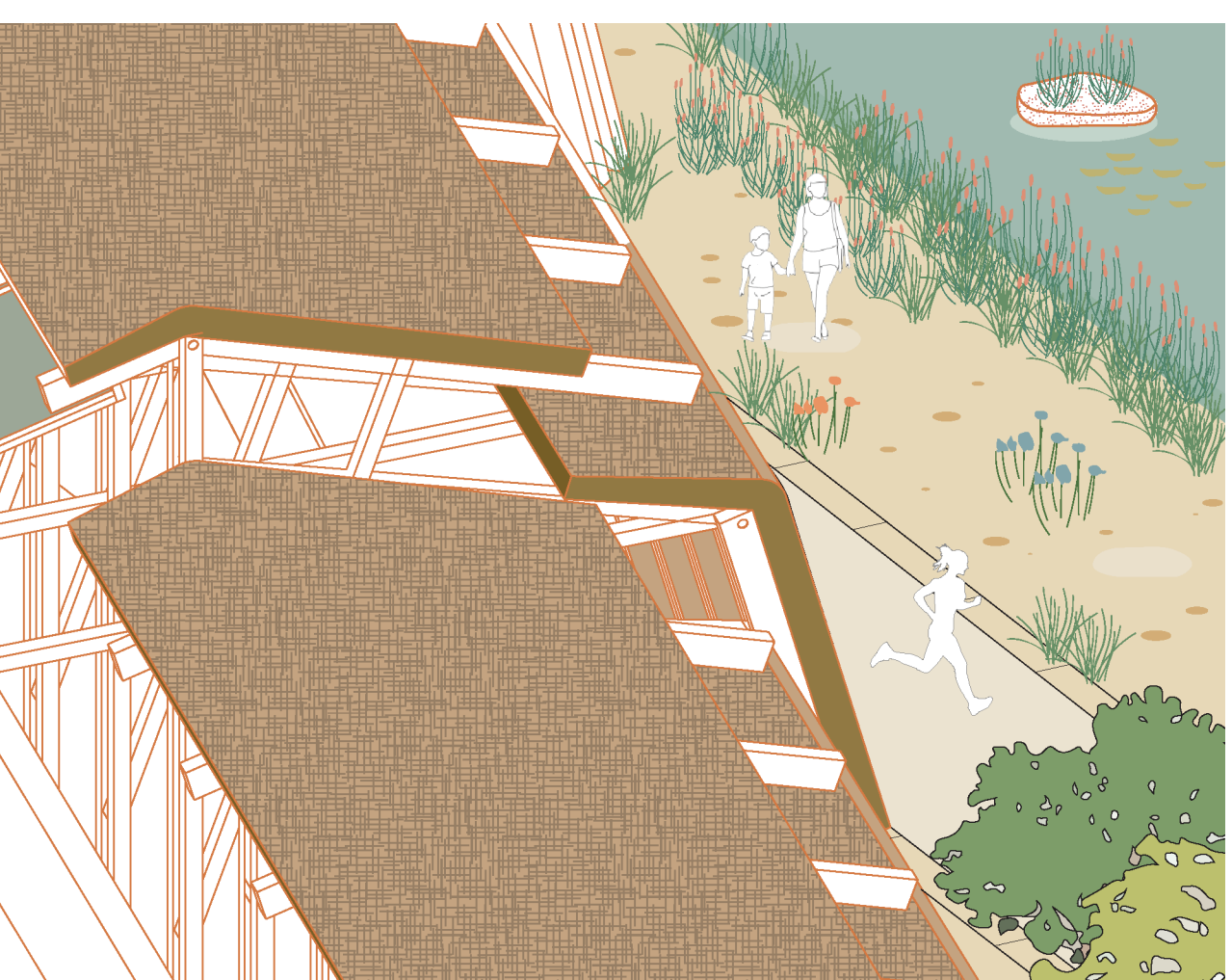
Shifting Hong Kong water supply system from relying on local river supply.

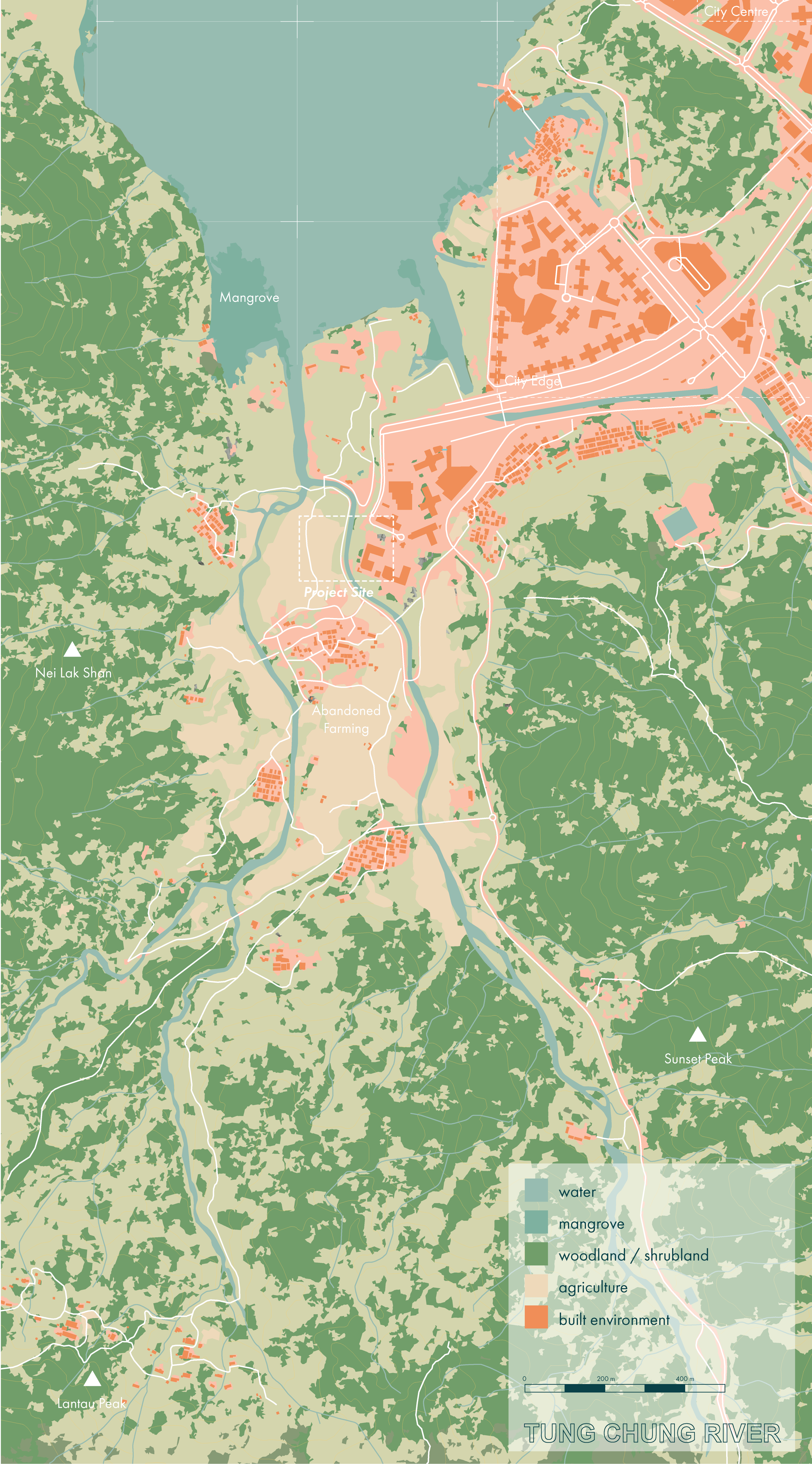
1965 COUNTRY PARKS WERE SET UP

For HK nature conservation and minimize erosion due to frequent heavy rains in Hong Kong.

1970s VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS REPLACED RICE

Higher returns of vegetables and flowers and they become a mainstay of Hong Kong cultivation.





RIVER RESTORATION PRACTICE INITIATED IN EUROPE

RAPID CHANNELIZATION OF RIVERS

+ 24 km/year

Rapid development of new towns in rural areas to cope with increase in population: the length of channelized watercourse in HK had increased by approximately 24 km per year

REDUCTION OF FARMLAND

HK Rice Production

CHINA ECONOMIC REFORM

The last rice paddy. Red was found in Tung Chung River in 1988.

OPEN STORAGE AREA FOUND ALONG THE RIVER

The real water developers were housing farmland, and the abandoned farmland had increased to more than 1500 hectares. The development of small houses and low-density housing on agricultural land had accelerated.

"ONE RIVER, TWO SYSTEMS"

During the 1970s and 1980s, HK's rivers and streams, particularly those in lowland areas, were heavily polluted by agricultural waste, wastewater and industrial by-products. Drainage Service Department was established to characterize rivers for flood control in 1980 while Water Supplies Department is mainly responsible for upstream water management.

WORLD SUMMIT PROMOTED IERM

The 2000 European Water Framework Directive (EU WFD) explicitly mandates member states to establish River Basin Organizations, and World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 identified the development of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) plans as a primary goal.

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

Most priority sites for enhanced conservation are located on the lower course of river.

INTRODUCTION OF RIVER REVITALIZATION

Guidelines on Environmental and Ecological Considerations for River Channel Design

Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy And Action Plan

"RIVERS IN THE CITY"

Guidelines On Design for Revitalization for River Channel

HONG KONG 2030+

It represents the Government's water policy and strategy for the territorial development of Hong Kong beyond 2030.

RESUME SINO-BRITISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

The Government suspended building reserves and reduced support for local agriculture

1970s

1973

1975 ESTABLISHMENT OF SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

To protect wildlife, habitat and geographic features based on scientific interest in Hong Kong

1976 HONG KONG WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE NO. 5

It is illegal to be in possession of or to trap any locally protected species, covering only turtles and a few amphibian species.

1978 REFORM AND OPENING-UP IN CHINA

1980 URBANIZATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES

More abandoned agricultural land were transformed into storage area, housing or other development

CHEAP VEGETABLES FROM CHINA

China's Reform and Opening Up attracted local farmers to rent farmland in the mainland to grow vegetables, and then transport the agricultural products back to Hong Kong for sales.

1983 MELHADO'S CASE

More abandoned agricultural land were transformed into storage area, housing or other development

1988 AGRICULTURAL LAND REHABILITATION SCHEME

1989 COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREA REGULATIONS

Conservation strategies of nature reserve were set

1991 TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE

Town planning policy "Town Planning Ordinance" was amended to protect agricultural land for agricultural use.

1997 HONG KONG RETURNED TO CHINA PRC

1999 HONG KONG ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION

1999 ORGANIC FARMING CONVERSION SCHEME

Assist conventional farmers to switch to organic farming and provide them with technical support

2002

2004 NEW NATURE CONSERVATION POLICY

To regulate, protect and manage natural resources for the conservation of the biodiversity of Hong Kong. 12 Priority sites for enhanced conservation are identified by the government and initiate conservation work between public and private sectors

2014 NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Modernization and environmentally friendly farming technologies, including Agricultural Park to assist local agricultural farming practices, facilities, infrastructures or operations in buildings new retail or online order collection point, agricultural Park

2015

2016

2019 DESIGN OF TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE CROSSING SYSTEM

To provide technical guidance to government departments

2021 HONG KONG 2030+

A strategic spatial planning framework for the future planning, land and infrastructure development by the government. It aims to provide sustainable development to meet present and future social, environmental and economic needs and aspirations

2048 VISION: LAND SUPPLY TARGET

Provide 2000 - 3000 hectares of land for housing, economic and government use for growing population

2050 VISION: CARBON NEUTRAL

Hong Kong 2030+ suggested the need to create, enhance and regenerate environmental capacity

