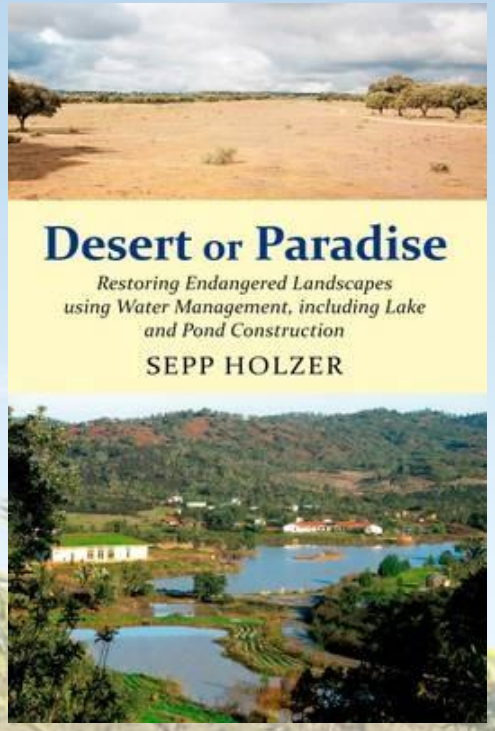
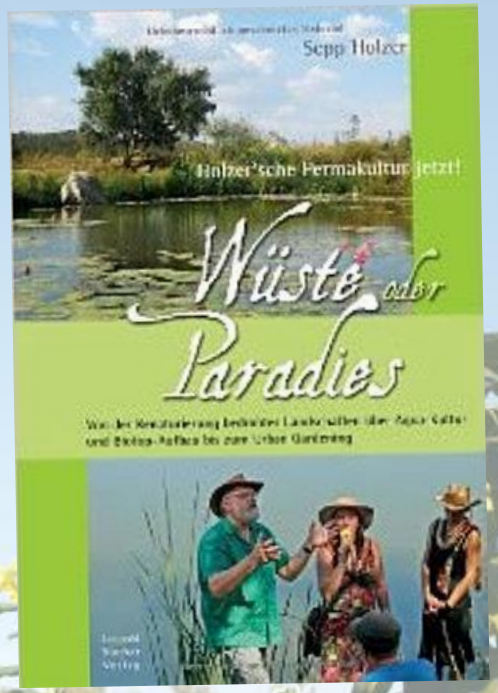
Creating Sponge Landscapes with the Method of Rebel Farmer Sepp Holzer

Presentation for „Agriculture & climate crisis: WATER – a scarce resource?“
10th of March, 2023 - Berlin
Christa Leila Dregger

Sepp Holzer, farmer and ecological visionary
from Austria.



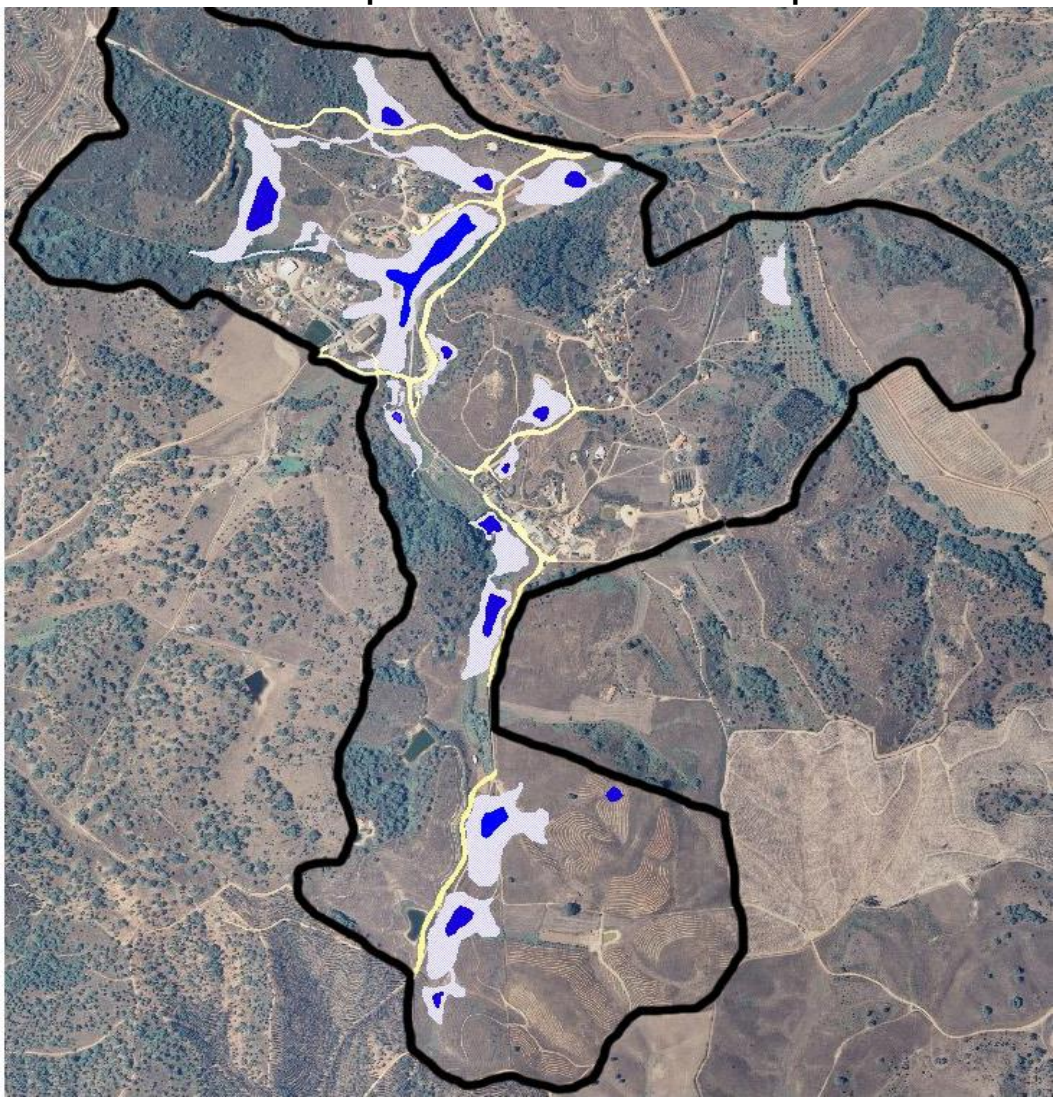


Sepp Holzer has consulted and supported land owners in many countries to build water landscapes.
I accompanied him in Portugal, Turkey, Spain, Ukraine, Austria and Germany and helped him to write this book.
This presentation shows the water landscape principles using the example of Tamera / Portugal.

Tamera, Portugal

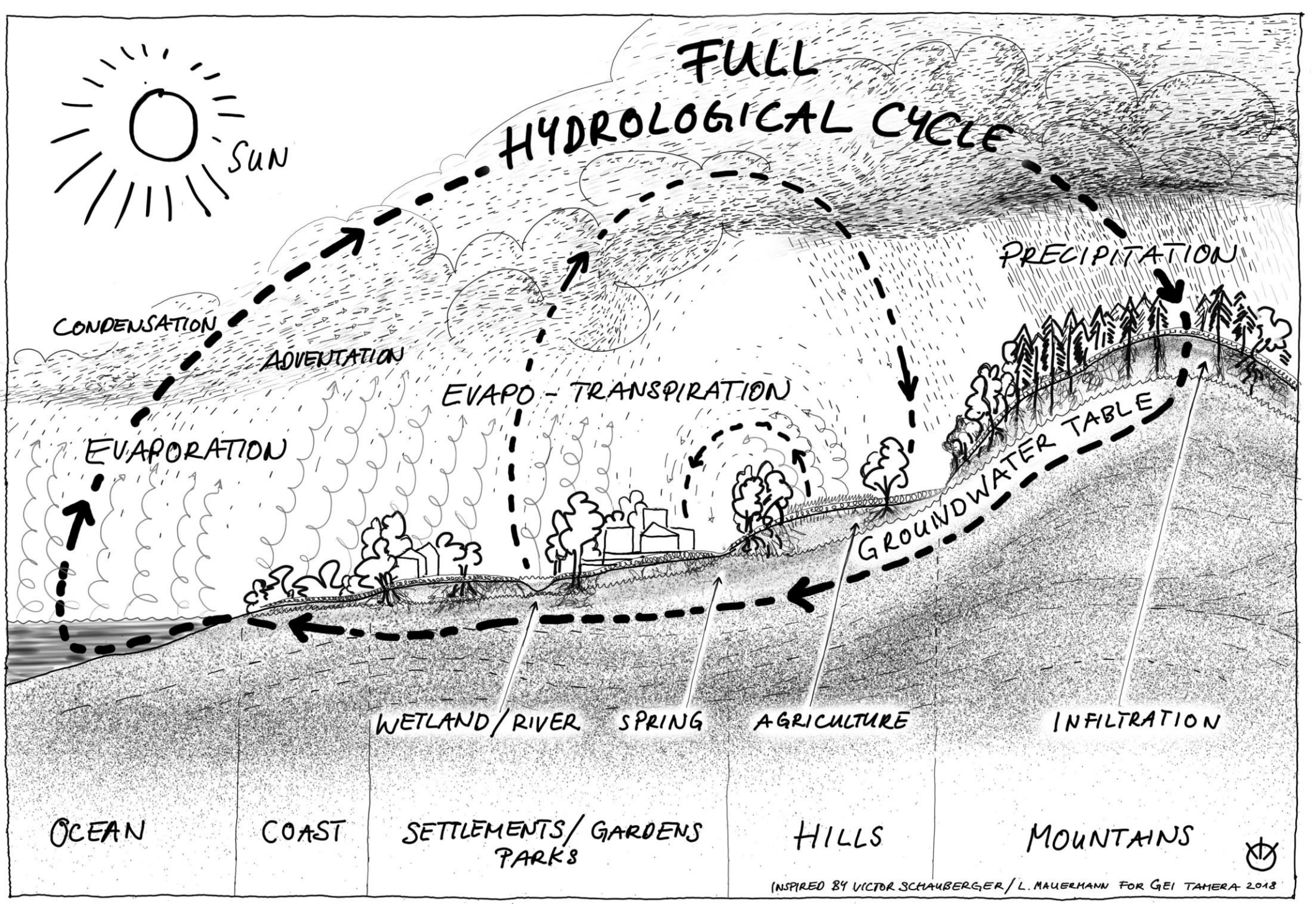
2006

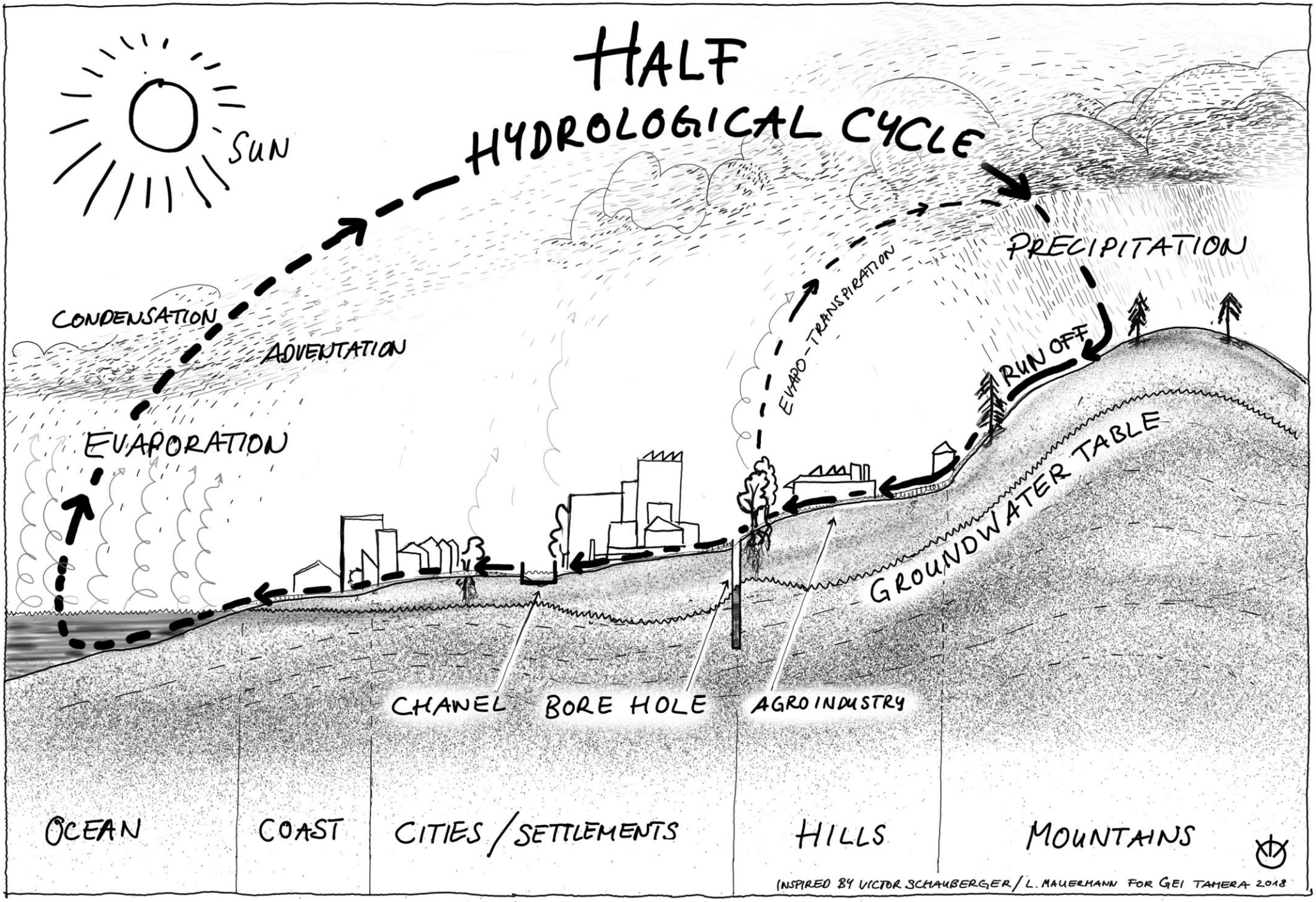
Vision of the completed waterlandscape



In 2007, Sepp Holzer consulted the Peace Research Center Tamera to build a Water Retention Landscape on its property of 150 ha.

Landscape situation in Southern Portugal:


FULL
HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE
SUN
PRECIPITATION
CONDENSATION
ADVEKTATION
EVAPO - TRANSPIRATION
EVAPORATION
GROUNDWATER TABLE
WETLAND / RIVER
SPRING
AGRICULTURE
INFILTRATION
OCEAN
COAST
SETTLEMENTS / GARDENS PARKS
HILLS
MOUNTAINS
INSPIRED BY VICTOR SCHAUBERGER / L. MAUERMANN FOR GEI TAMERA 2018


HALF
HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE
SUN
CONDENSATION
ADVENTATION
EVAPORATION
EVAPO-TRANSPIRATION
PRECIPITATION
RUN OFF
GROUNDWATER TABLE
CHANEL
BORE HOLE
AGROINDUSTRY
OCEAN
COAST
CITIES / SETTLEMENTS
HILLS
MOUNTAINS
INSPIRED BY VICTOR SCHAUBERGER / L. MAUERMANN FOR GEI TAMERA 2018

Lake 1, 2007

Lake 1, 2009

2018

A Water Retention Landscape

is a landscape that stores rainwater naturally: in the soil, in vegetation, and in retention spaces.

No rainwater will leave a water retention landscape, only clean spring water.

Tamera Valley Garden Lake, 2008

Tamera South Valley 2012

Construction site of a Water Retention Space: Building the earth dam

Tamera, South Lake

August 2011

Building Terraces with topsoil from the valleys

to slow down rainwater and stop erosion.

Tamera, South Lake
July 2011

Same spot
March 2012

Fields of further research:

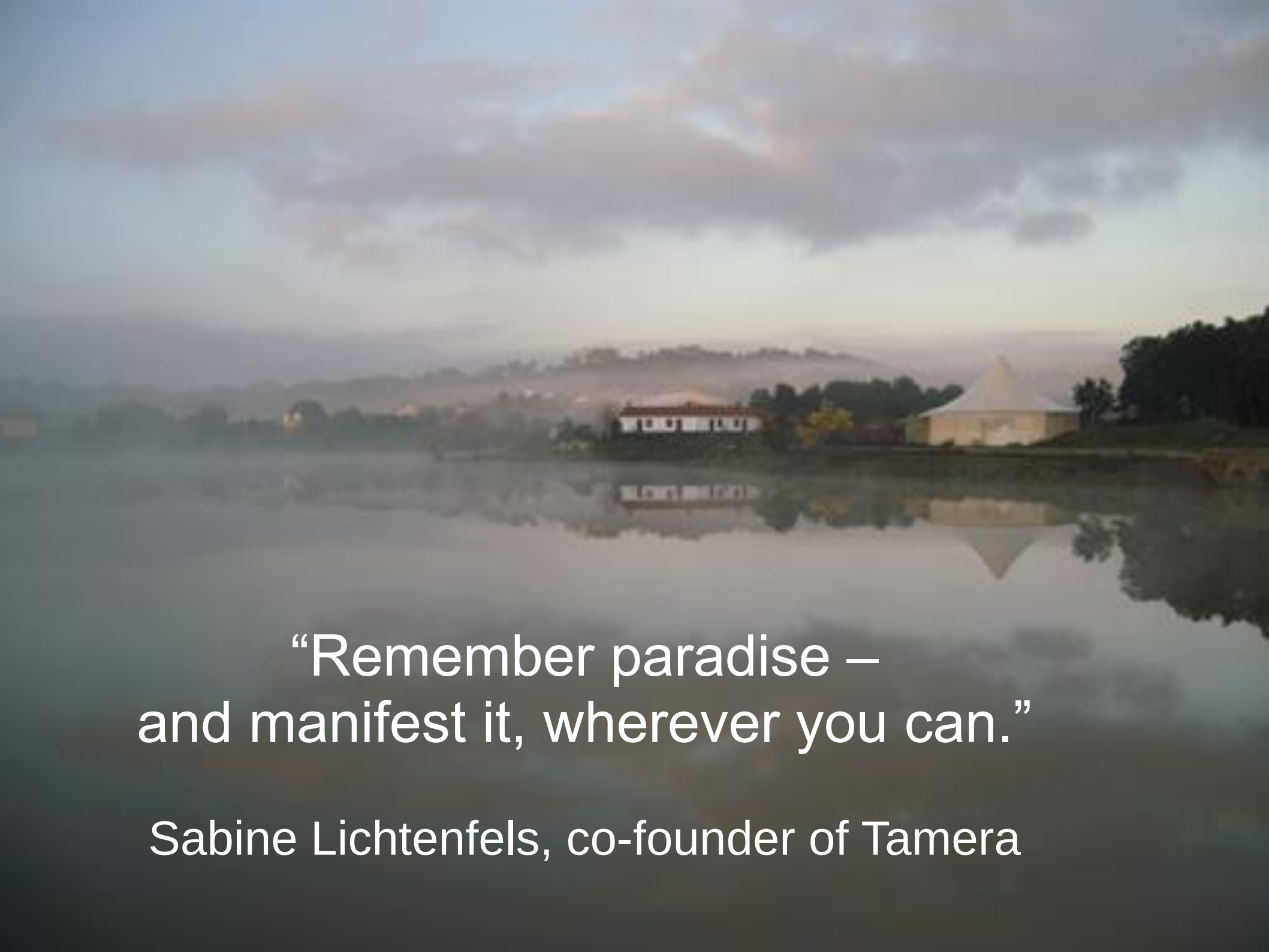
Effect on biodiversity

Sustaining local farming traditions

Reforestation in mixed cultures

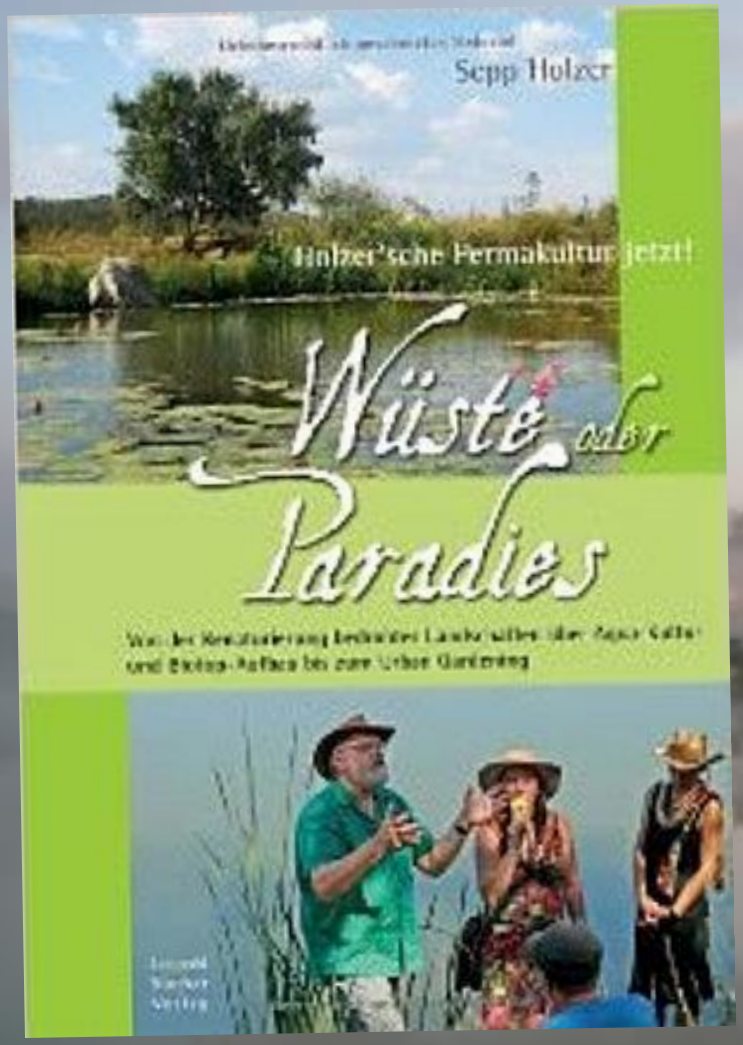
Productivity in mixed cultures at the shores

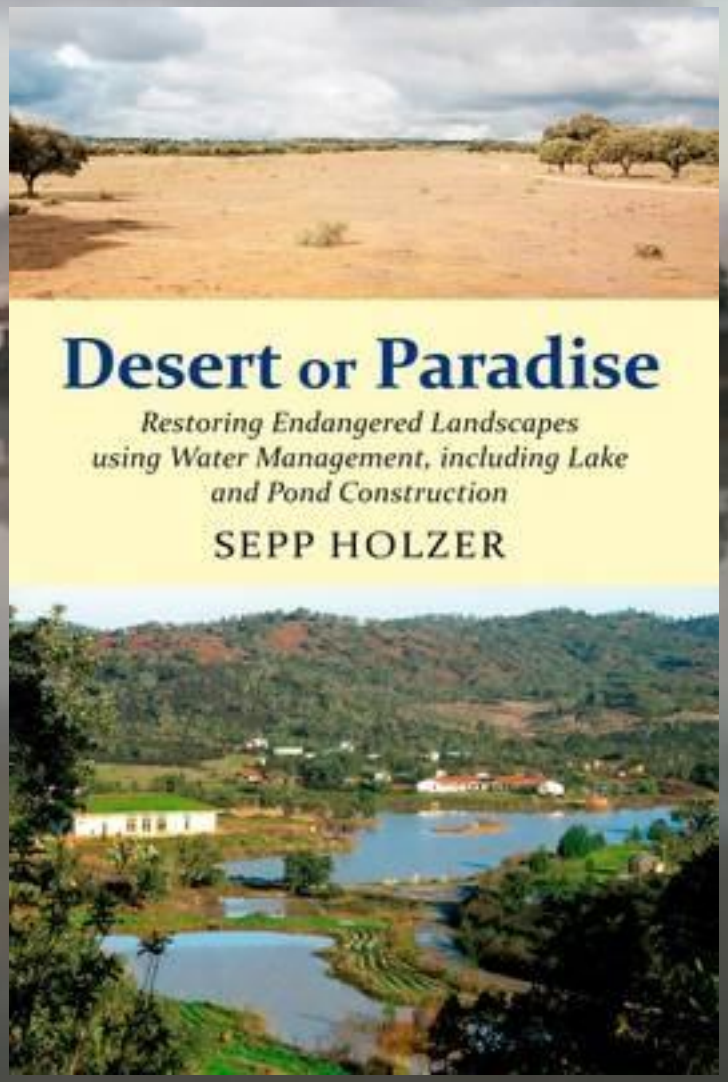
On the terraces around the lakes, the gardeners of Tamera harvest 3 kg / m2 of fruits and vegetables per year.



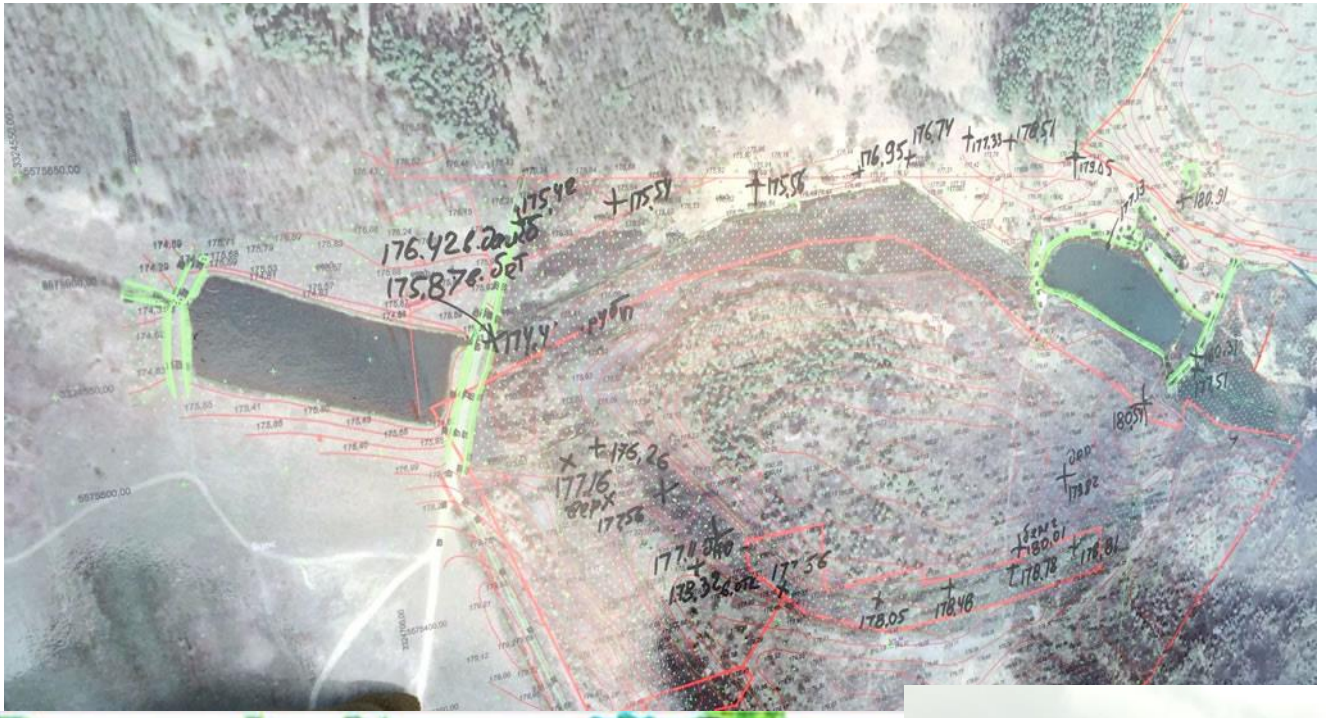
“Remember paradise –
and manifest it, wherever you can.”

Sabine Lichtenfels, co-founder of Tamera





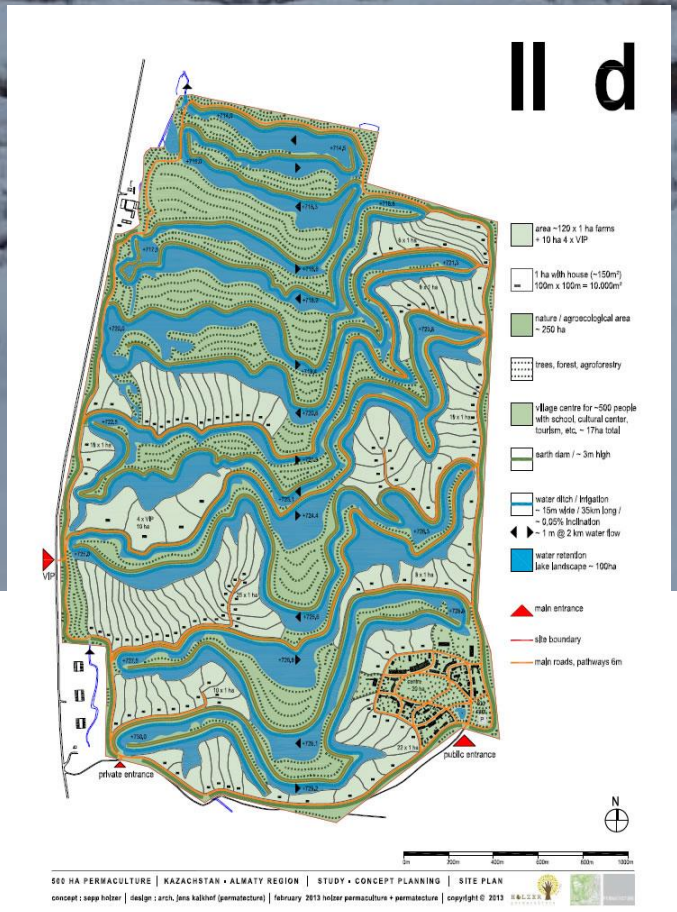
More information:
www.tamera.org
www.seppholzer.at



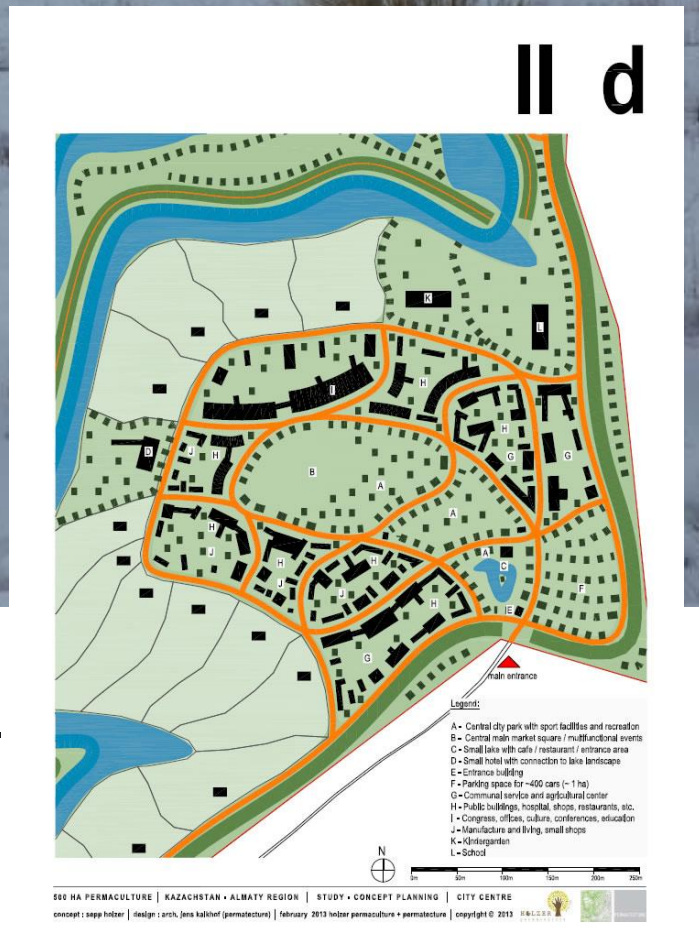
Ukraine - Kopylov

Projektarbeiten im November 2015 in Kiew „Kopylov“

Baubeginn einer Seenlandschaft
Gesamtfläche ca. 60 ha.

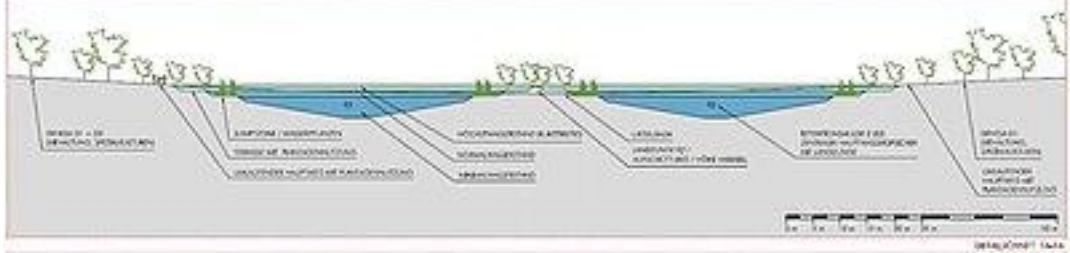


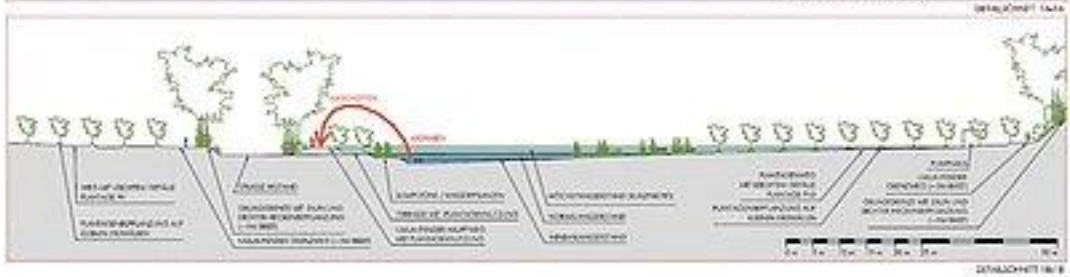
Region Almaty - Kasachstan

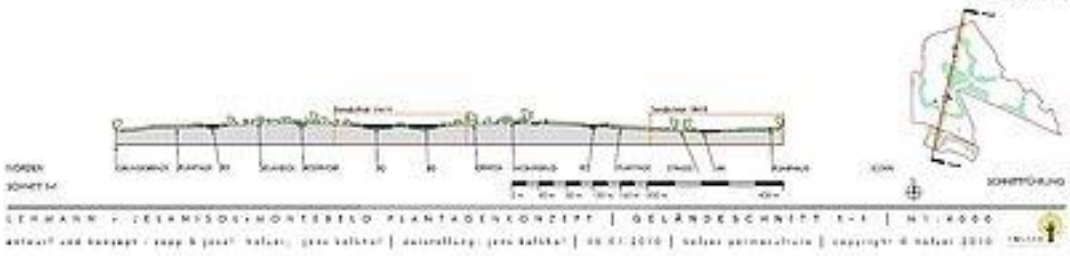
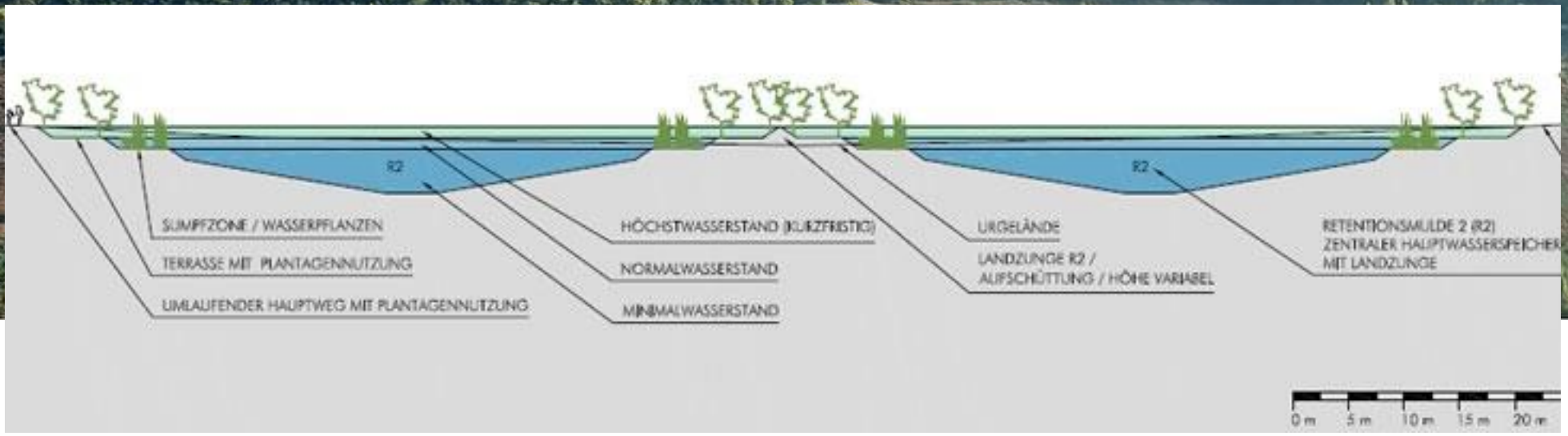


Projekt Valdepajares del Tajo -

Region Extremadura, Spanien







Lehmann Plantagenkonzept - Region Andalusien, Spanien