

KAVA_LAGI FIJI 2025

Kalokalo_Aqua_Vernacular_Adaptation



KAVA Module

Conditions of the place.

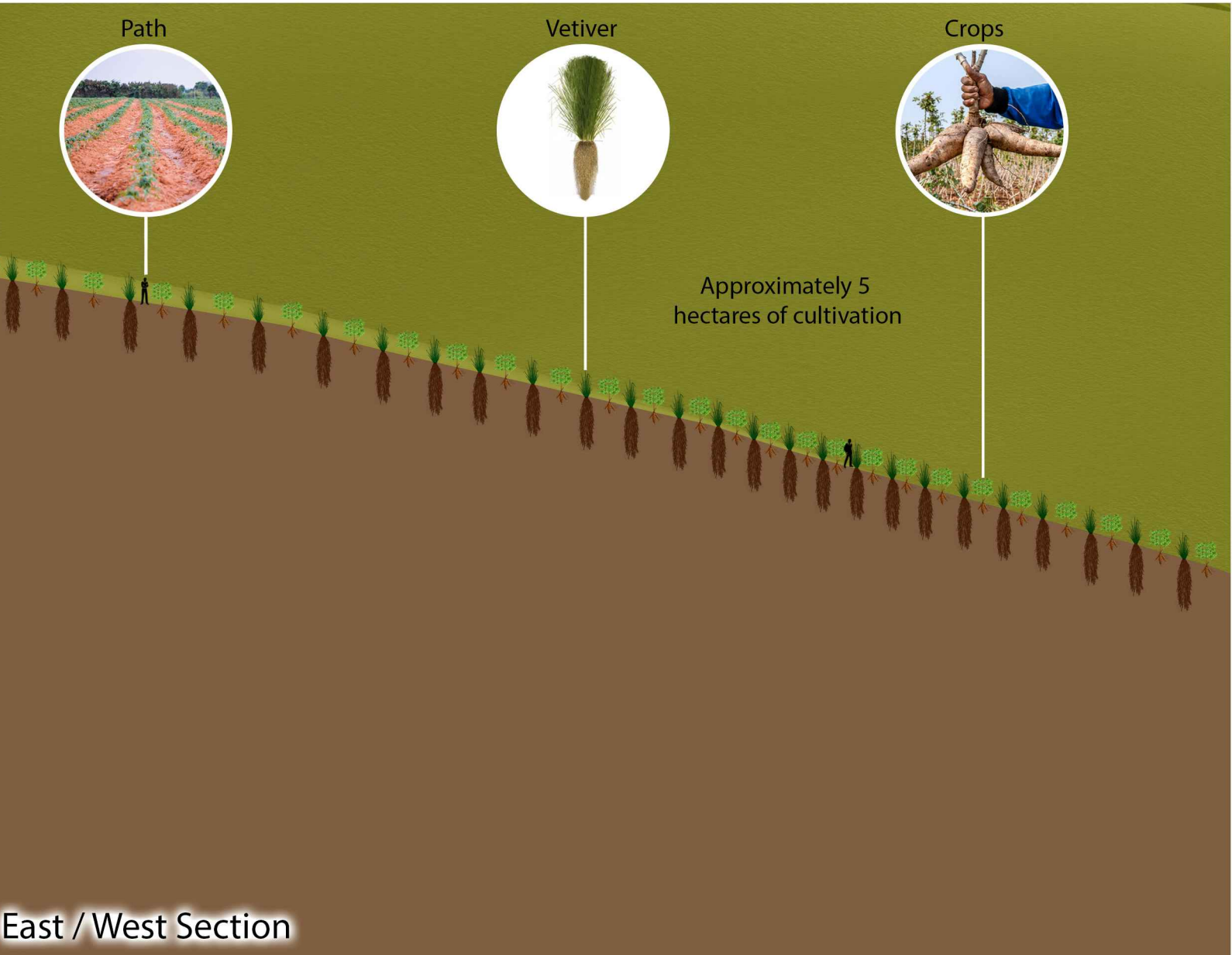
We consider it an important and evident fact that, given the current conditions in Marou, both in terms of access to materials, tools, specialized machinery, and other technical resources, it was unrealistic and impractical to undertake the entire construction of the artistic work in a single phase. This reality led us to reflect on the importance of proposing an alternative strategy, one that is more in line with the actual capabilities of the territory and the vernacular and manual way in which the community carries out its constructions.

Our objective from the outset was to conceive a work that did not rely on a large and immediate technical deployment, but rather one that could be scalable over time. We envisioned a structure that could begin with a single component or base module, an initial intervention constructed in a first phase thanks to the support of the initiative led by LAGI FIJI—serving as a starting point, a seed.

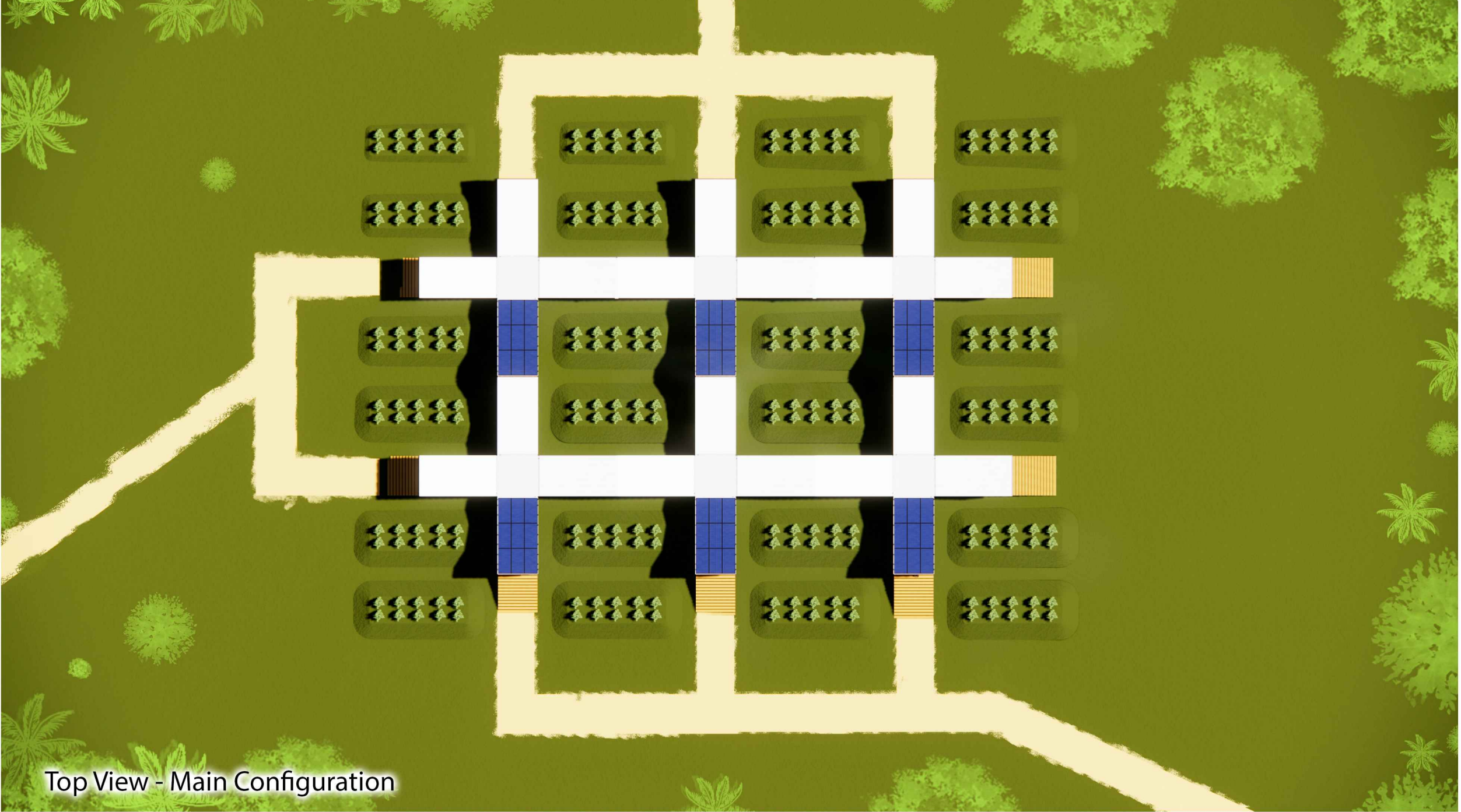
Crop protection.

The sloped terrain surrounding the site designated for the artistic installation is ideal for implementing a sustainable cultivation system using vetiver (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*). This plant, with its deep and resilient roots, serves as a natural barrier against erosion by reducing water runoff during heavy rains and promoting infiltration into the soil, thus retaining moisture for longer and enhancing soil fertility.

The proposal includes the creation of planting channels flanked by rows of vetiver, forming induced terraces that stabilize the land and prevent runoff losses.



East / West Section



Top View - Main Configuration

Modular and adaptive.

This first intervention would aim not only to materialize a tangible part of the project, but also to generate a positive and perceptible impact within the community: to demonstrate what is possible. By directly experiencing the aesthetic, functional, and symbolic potential of what has been built, the inhabitants themselves could feel motivated and inspired to continue its development, progressively expanding it, adding new modules, adapting it to their needs, and taking ownership of the project as something living, evolving, and truly theirs.

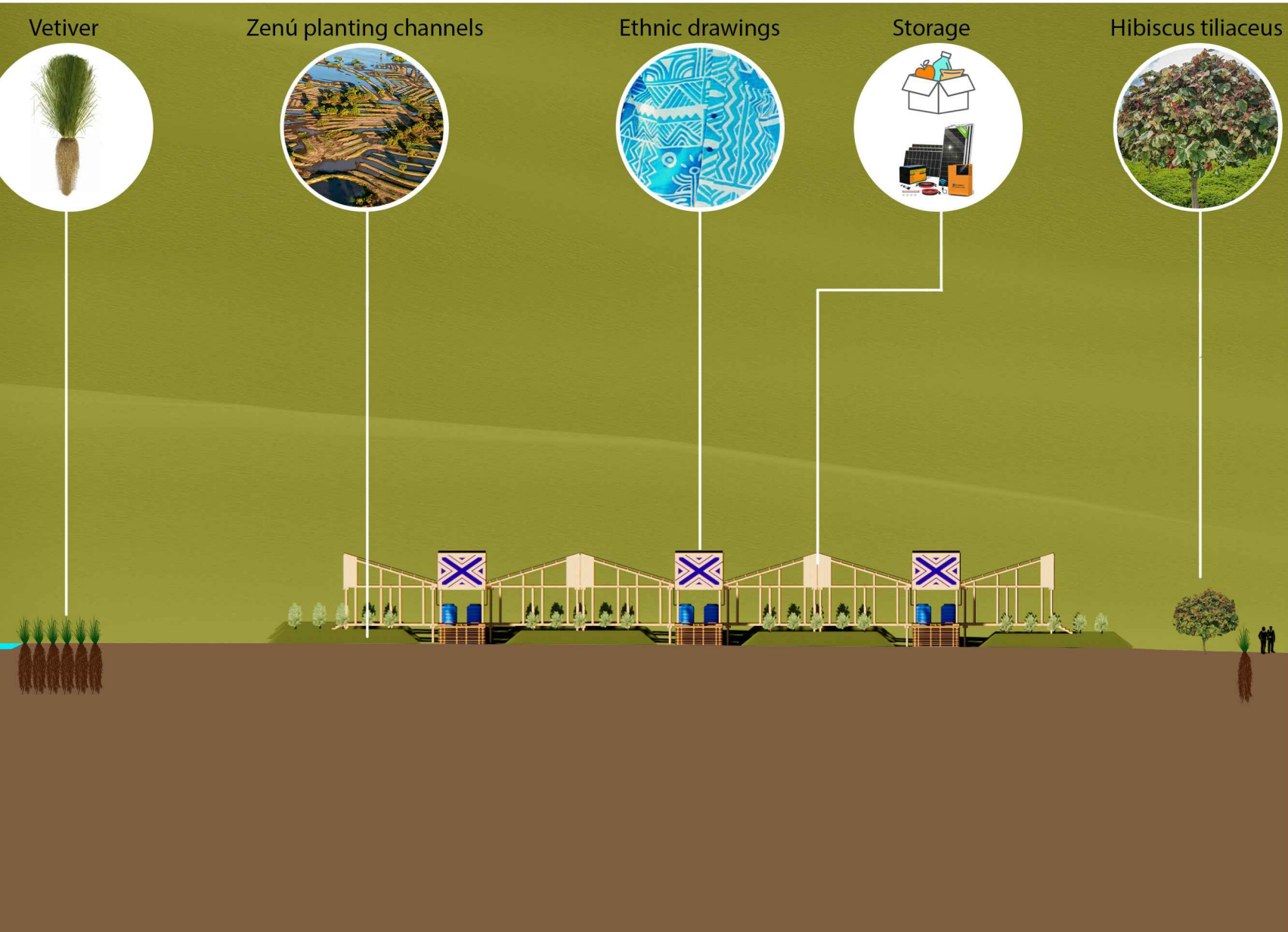
Beyond being a static and closed artistic installation, we propose an open, flexible system—one that allows for multiple adaptations in use and form, that engages in dialogue with the rhythms of the place, and adjusts to its available resources. In this way, we not only facilitate its technical and economic feasibility, but we also strengthen its social, cultural, and communal value.

A mimetic construction.

The site where the artistic installation is located is relatively flat, which makes it prone to flooding during the rainy season. For this reason, the structure is elevated on wooden piles made of Vesi (*Intsia bijuga*), protecting it from direct contact with water.

Additionally, the project incorporates small earthen mounds with flattened tops, which serve a dual purpose: on one hand, they reduce the speed of water flowing down from the surrounding slopes; on the other, their flat surfaces allow for the cultivation of tubers, keeping them safe from waterlogging when the land floods.

This ancient technique was used centuries ago by the Zenú indigenous people of Colombia as a response to rising river levels.



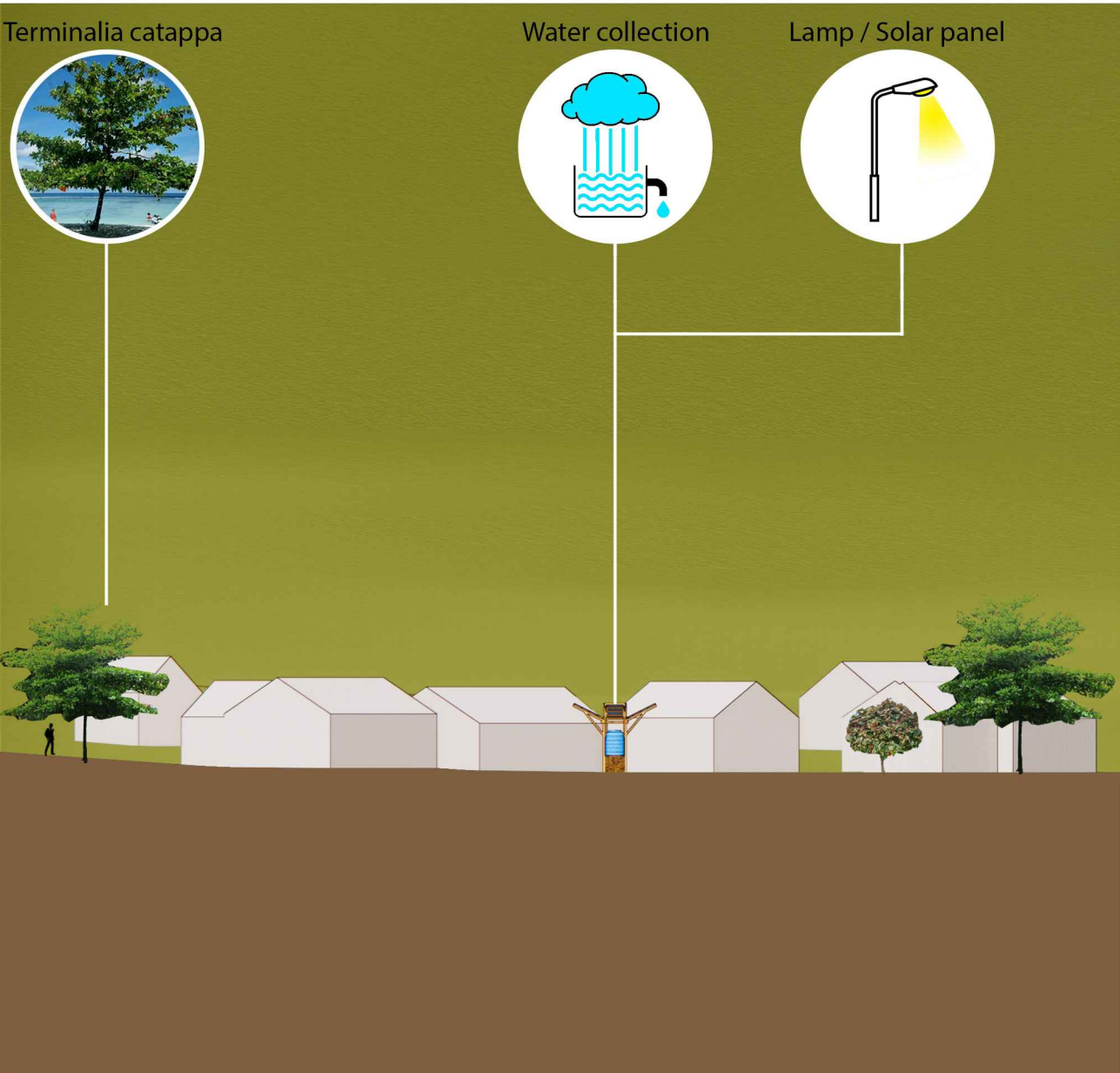
Safe housing.

Within the residential environment, three strategies will be implemented to help reduce the impact of flooding, slow down the southeastern winds, and collect rainwater for use during the dry season.

Strategy 1: Use of vetiver grass as a perimeter belt to slow down water flow and absorb it, helping to prevent soil erosion.

Strategy 2: Planting of *Terminalia catappa*, whose wide canopy will help reduce wind speed and provide shade for the homes.

Strategy 3: Installation of a palm-shaped element that channels rainwater through its “branches” into a storage tank. This device will also feature integrated lamps to illuminate the pathways at night.



The knowledge of its inhabitants.

The inhabitants of Marou are known for their rich manual traditions, in which they make use of natural elements such as palm leaves. These leaves are first dried in the sun and then used to weave mats, baskets, and various household utensils. This craft not only demonstrates technical skill but also represents a deep connection to nature and community life.

Another distinctive feature can be seen in their clothing, which is adorned with intricate geometric patterns full of symbols and cultural meanings. These characteristics were also considered an important aspect of the project, helping to enrich the artistic piece and foster a stronger sense of belonging among the community.

Both visually and materially, the modules of the installation interlace with one another, creating a woven texture across the landscape. The roof folds in ascending and descending shapes, analogous to the movements of the Marou inhabitants as they weave and manipulate the dried palm leaves with their hands.

Natural coastal protection.

The coast of Marou is being affected by erosion, which puts both the stability of the homes and the resting place of deceased family members at risk. Due to the scarcity of resources to counteract this problem, a gradual solution is proposed, based on the implementation of a natural barrier. As it grows, this barrier will help compact the soil, retain sediments, and restore the areas of land displaced by the water.

The intervention includes, after the coconut trees, planting species such as vetiver, *Terminalia catappa*, and finally, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*. Additionally, to strengthen the estuaries and enhance protection, mangroves will be planted in the appropriate areas, making the barrier much wider.

