



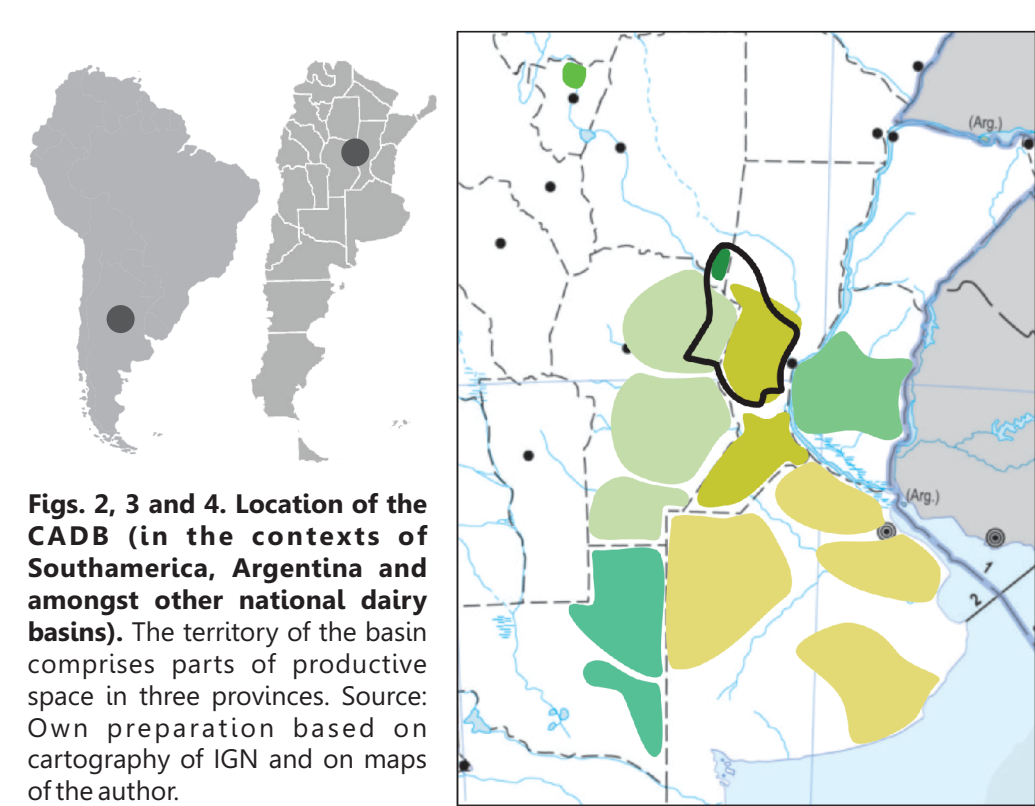
the Landscape of the Central Argentine Dairy Basin

the trace of production on territory

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Fig. 1. Rural landscape of the CADB nearby Sunchales, Department of Castellanos, Province of Santa Fe. Photograph taken by Mauro Williner.

Introduction



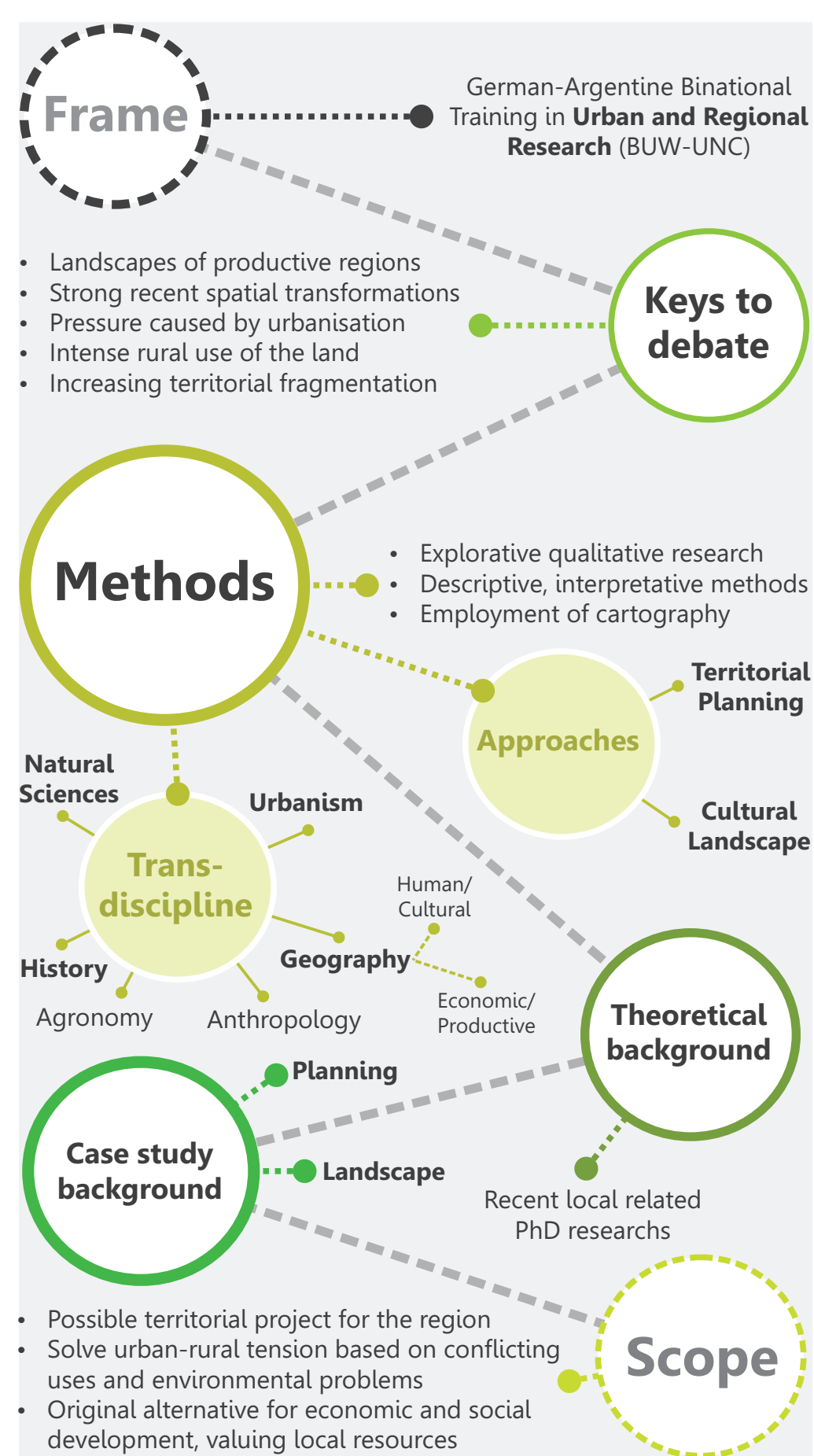
Figs. 2, 3 and 4. Location of the CADB (in the context of South America, Argentina and among other national dairy basins). The territory of the basin comprises parts of productive space in three provinces. Source: Own preparation based on cartography of IGN and on maps of the author.

Productive regions treasure cultural landscapes that enjoy particular identities that today, in a globalised world, far from being homogenised, are actually rediscovered and reclaimed.

Why the Central Argentine Dairy Basin (CADB)? This territory in the Argentine Chaco-Pampean plain is shared among the provinces of Santa Fe, Córdoba and Santiago del Estero. Its productive identity relies on the large amount of dairy infrastructure installed on it over the last 120 years.

On the other hand, other productive activities are also developed, such as livestock and agriculture, and there are urban centres with great development of industries and services (Rafaela, Sunchales, Esperanza, San Francisco).

Features



Map of Research

Objectives

4 particular objectives which tackle different aspects regarding the origin and relations that arise from the study of the CADB and its landscape.

Dimensions

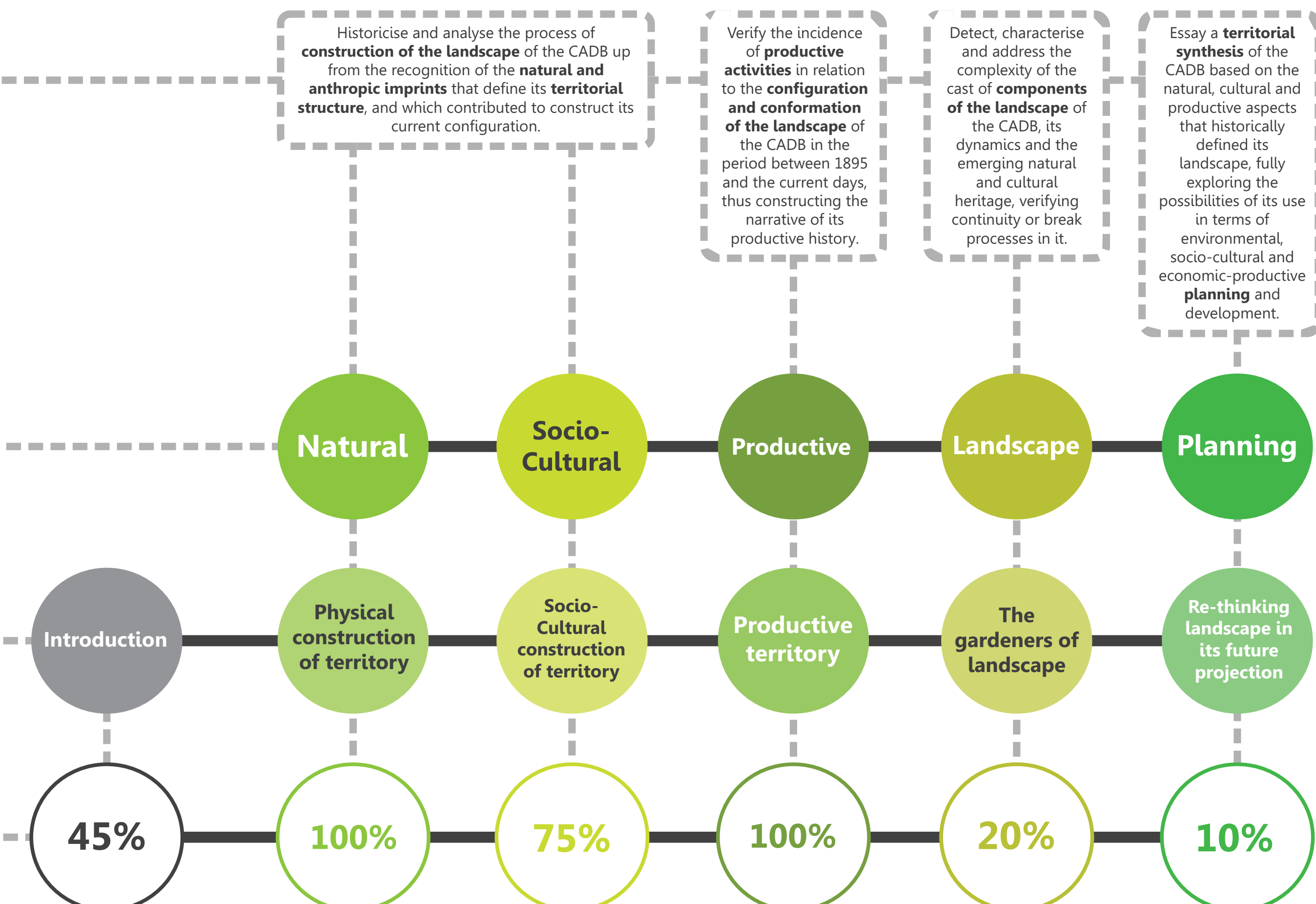
5 different thematic approaches in which the research is divided and conducted.

Chapters

6 parts comprising the results of the research in the final design of the thesis.

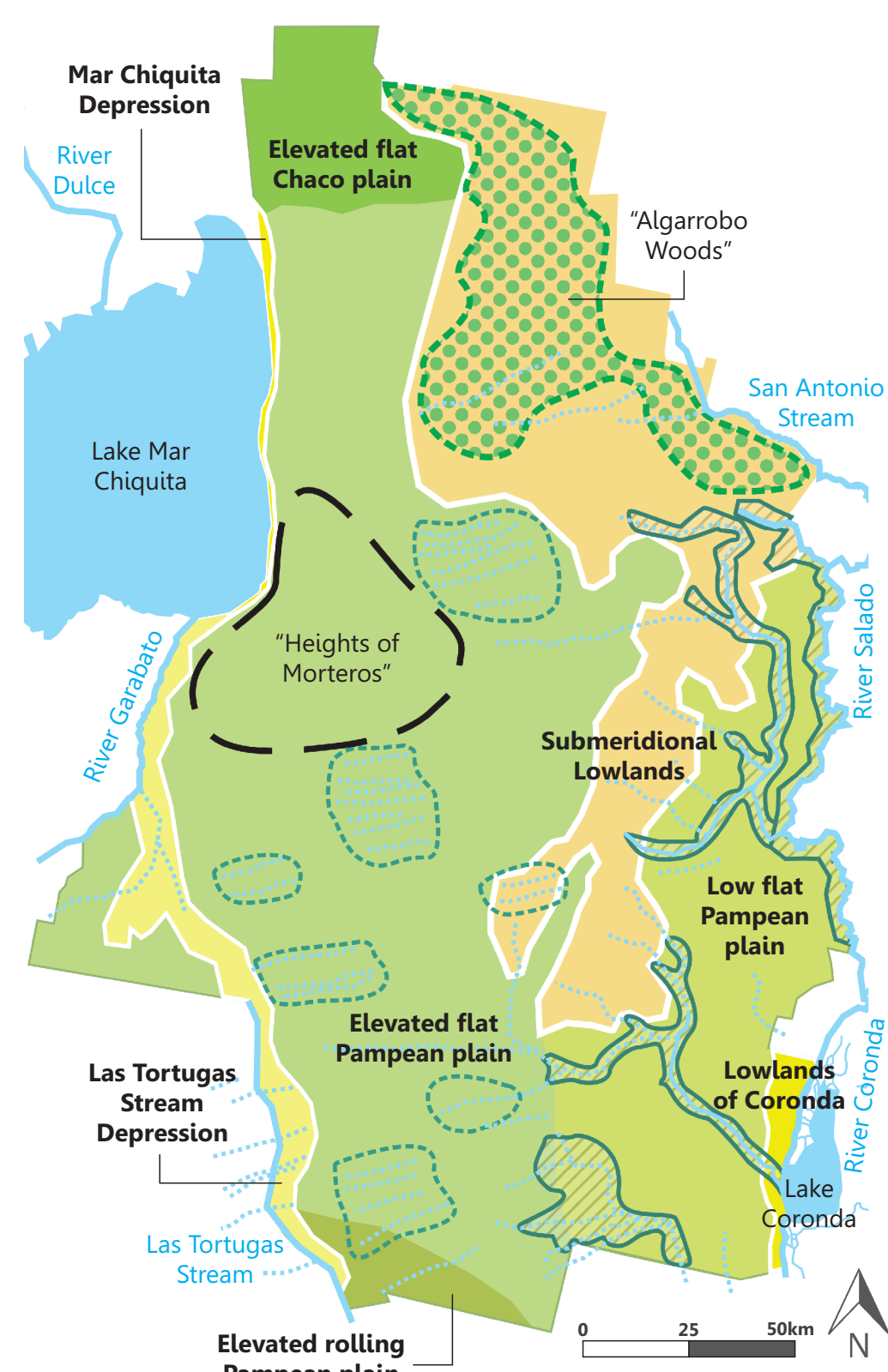
Progress

Grade of completion.



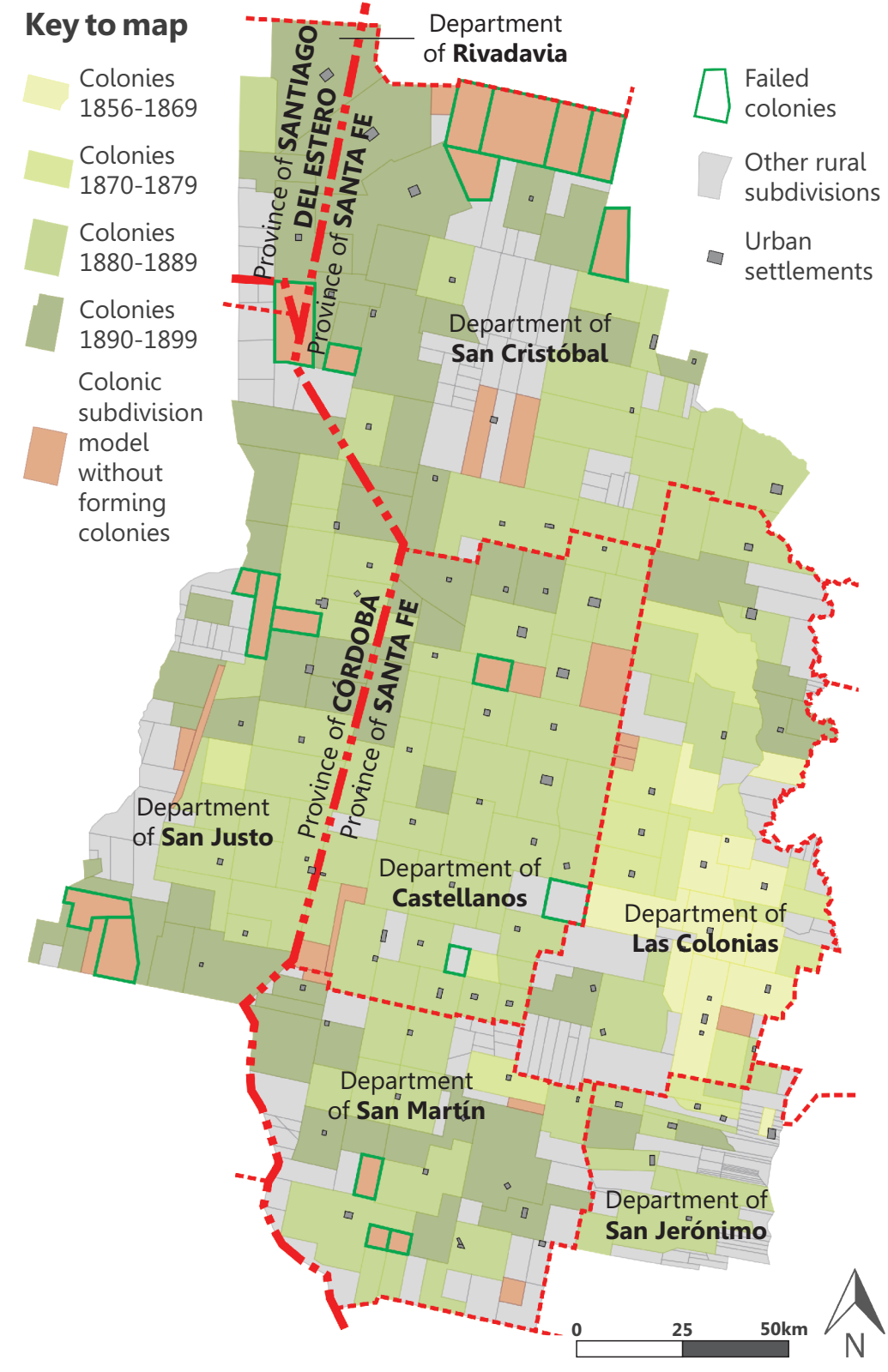
Results

Natural



Map 1. Natural landscape units of the CADB. Own preparation on the basis of maps of the author.

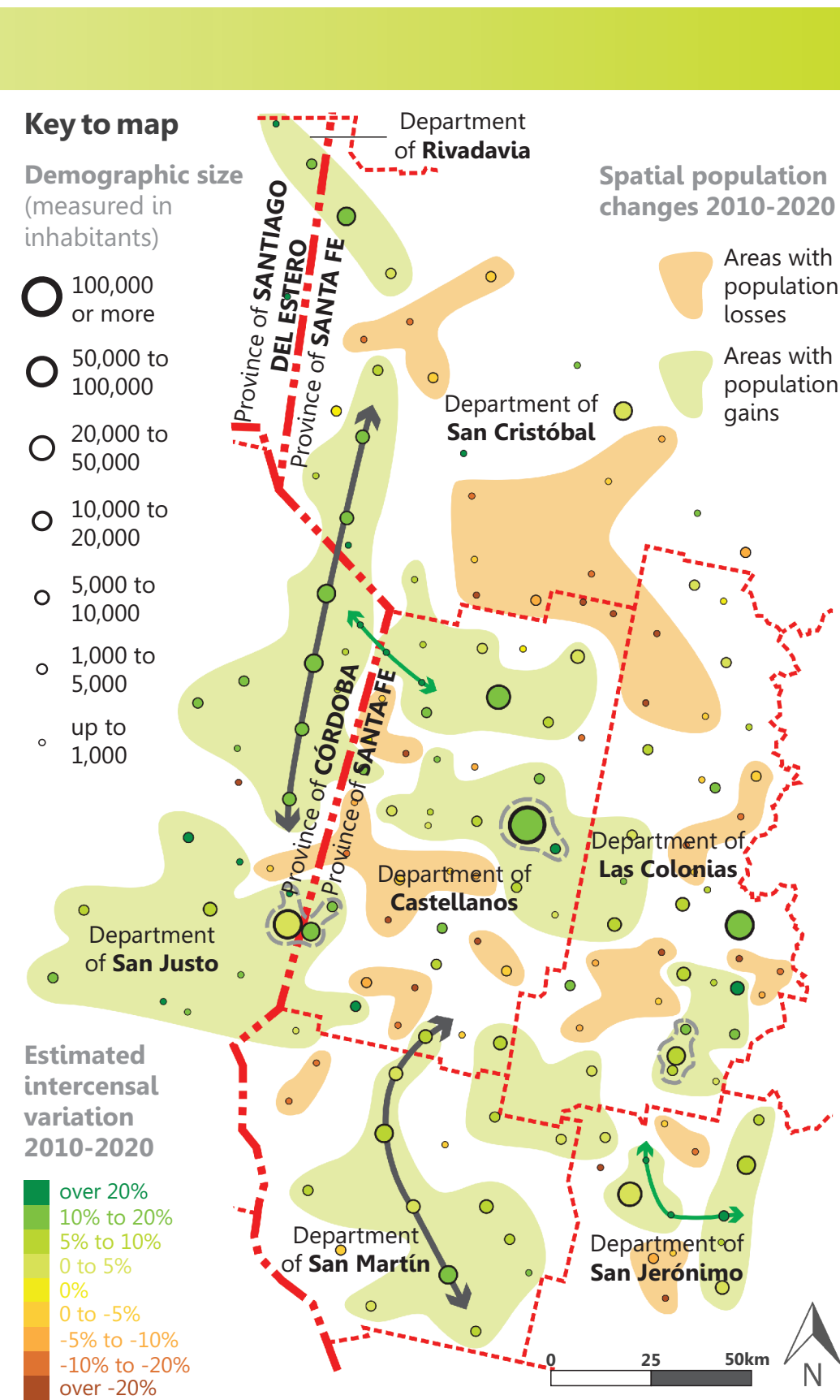
Socio-Cultural



Map 2. Phenomenon of agricultural colonisation in the CADB. Own preparation on the basis of Chapeaurouge (1903) and Barsky et al. (2016).

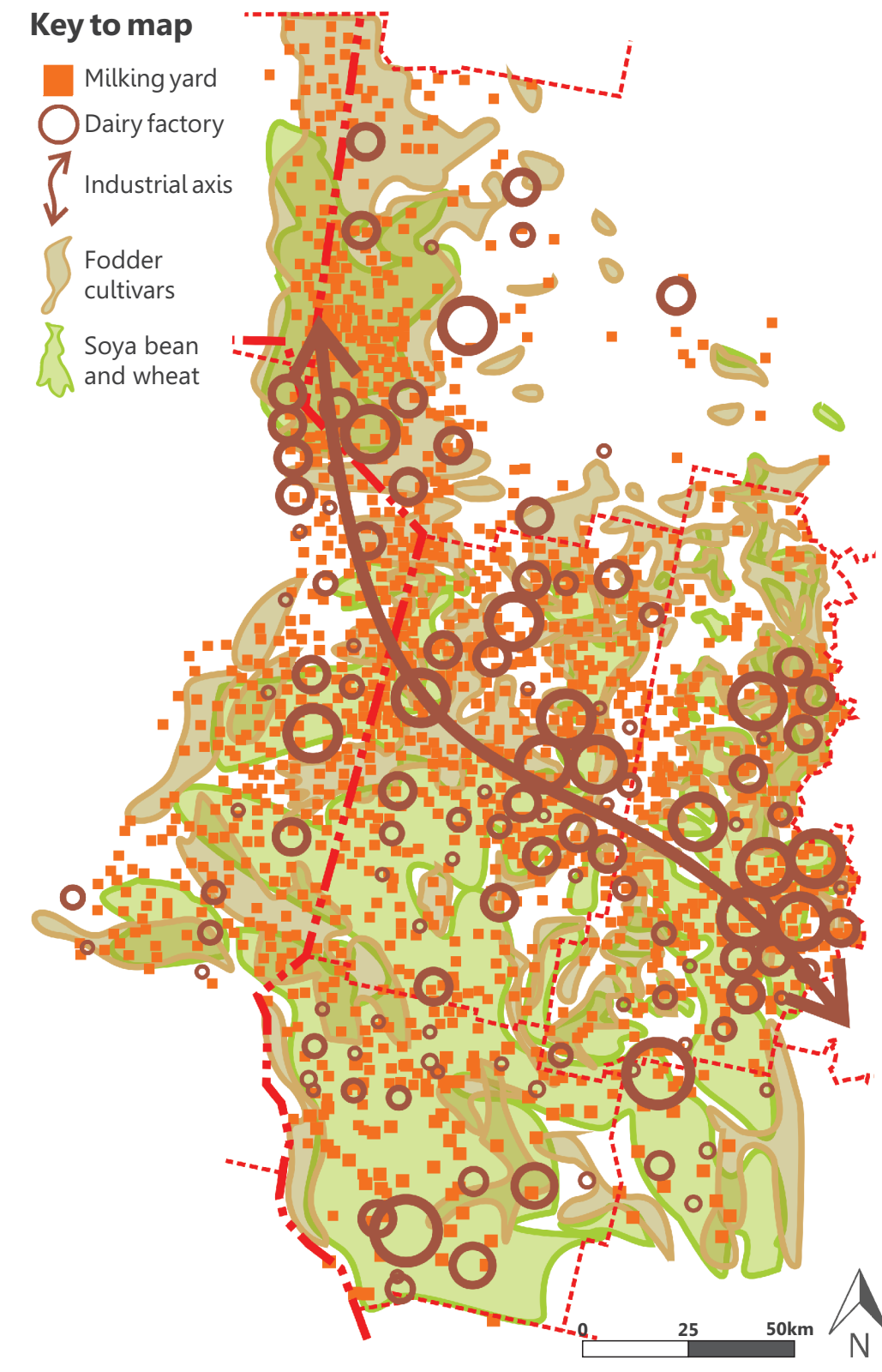


Map 3. Synthesis of the regional territorial structure of the CADB in 2020: physical-spatial and legal-administrative dimensions. Own preparation on the cartographic basis of IGN.



Map 4. Estimated demographic variation between 2010 and 2020 and hierarchy of the urban centres of the CADB. Own preparation on the basis of INDEC.

Productive



Map 5. Primary and secondary links in the dairy chain overlapping agricultural extension in the CADB in 2020. Own preparation on the basis of Ministerio de la Producción del Gobierno de Santa Fe (2008).

Conclusions

Natural

Local natural landscape does not respect the administrative limits that human beings have imposed on their domains: the biophysical matrix emerges strongly and is clearly shown with a solution of continuity in the interprovincial space of the basin.

Transitionality becomes a key characteristic of the non-antropised territory, being evidenced both at the level of the Pampean and Chaco plains that make up the basin, as well as at the climatic level, of its biomes and finally, in each of its natural landscape units.

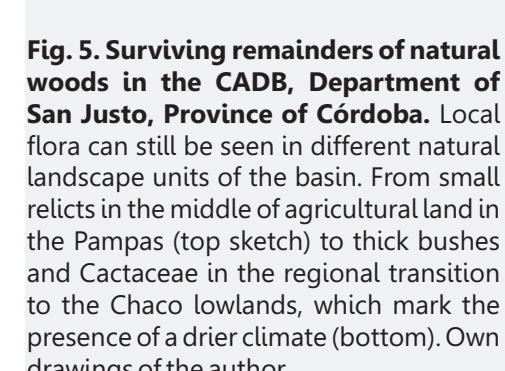


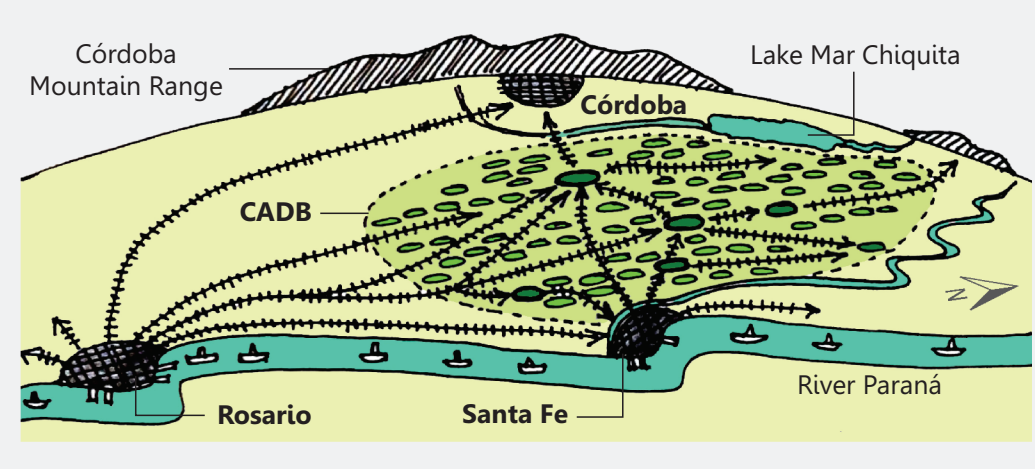
Fig. 5. Surviving remainders of natural woods in the CADB, Department of San Justo, Province of Córdoba. Local flora can still be seen in different natural landscape units of the basin. From small relicts in the middle of agricultural land in the Pampas (top sketch) to thick bushes and Castaños in the regional transition to the Chaco lowlands, which mark the presence of a drier climate (bottom). Own drawings of the author.

Socio-Cultural

Agricultural colonisation as a form of appropriation and usufruct of the territory, as an experimental laboratory on the move, as a mosaic of units with internal coherence and homogeneity in the sum of its parts: it all lasts to this day.

The construction of mobility infrastructures would re-shape the outcome of the landscape in the CADB. Roads have taken over, and railways have fallen into abandon and oblivion. A relevant urban network can be recognised today in the region.

Urban centres would begin to absorb population growth, yet the countryside experiences a progressive depopulation that has only worsened over recent decades, and as a consequence a truly dispersed habitat is the main feature of rural space.



Figs. 6 and 7. Sketches of the regional landscape of the CADB, by the 1900's (6) and these days (7). 120 years ago, the basin resembled a coherent mosaic of units (agricultural colonies), rural lands strongly populated and railways allowing the censuses. Today cities have become the recipients of demographic growth, whereas rural space is relinquished and the road system has replaced the railways as the preferred means of transport. Own drawings of the author.

Productive

Interestingly, dairy still acts as a bulwark of the productive identity of the CADB in spite of recent trends, which imply a re-primarisation of its base (in economic terms). Milking yards are denser in the central east-west axis of the basin, as well as dairy factories.

The main competitor for dairy nowadays comes in the face of agriculture, particularly soybean and wheat. The first has produced high profits for its farmers, thus guiding them to abandon milking yards. This phenomenon leads, in time, to people leaving rural areas.



Fig. 8. Dairy cattle nearby Bella Italia, Department of Castellanos, Province of Santa Fe. Milky cows are essential to dairy in the basin, and their presence has become a trademark of its landscape. The cows sustain the activity in local milking yards, the primary link in the productive chain. The milk is then sent to industries distributed in the CADB, so the landscape is also characterised by these buildings. Photograph taken by Mauro Williner.

Feedback

Sources

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