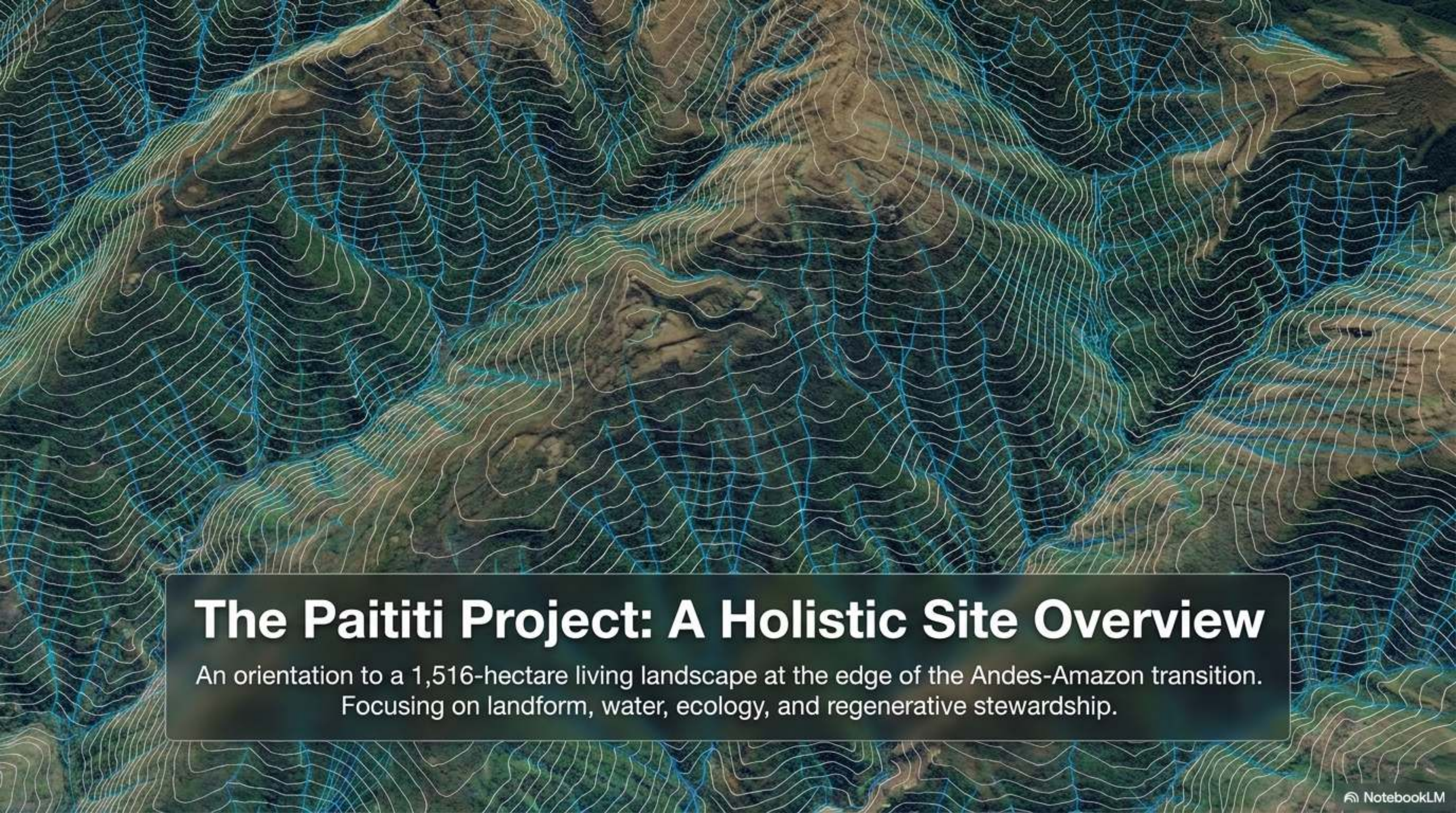


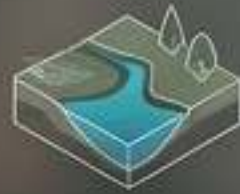


The Paititi Project: A Holistic Site Overview

An orientation to a 1,516-hectare living landscape at the edge of the Andes-Amazon transition.
Focusing on landform, water, ecology, and regenerative stewardship.

Understanding the land as a living system before we act

Context



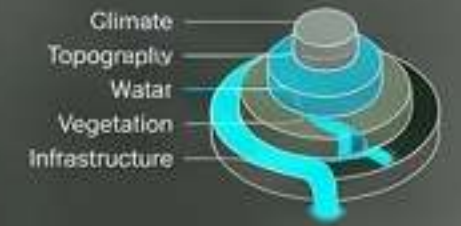
Establishing a shared baseline understanding of the terrain, existing ecosystems, and current human footprint across 3,746 acres.

Intent



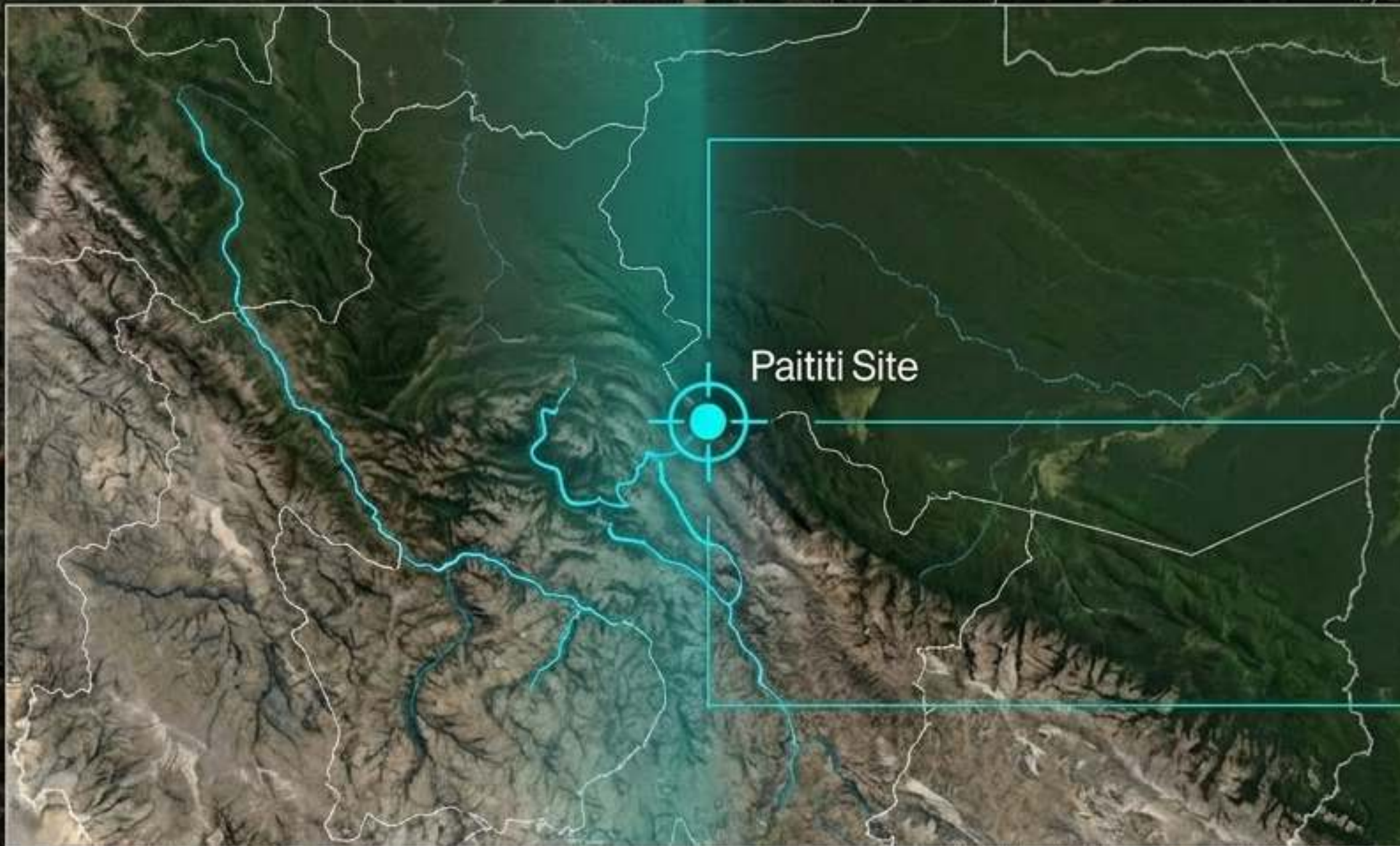
To guide future planning, architectural design, field research, and sensitive stewardship, ensuring all collaborators operate from a unified reality.

Lens



Viewing the site through the 'Scale of Permanence'—prioritising the immovable forces of climate, topography, and water over human infrastructure.

Situated at the critical transition between the high Andes and the Amazon basin



Location



Situated in the Mapacho Valley, Paucartambo region (4.5 hours drive from Cusco; 3.5 hours from the Sacred Valley).

Ecological Bridge



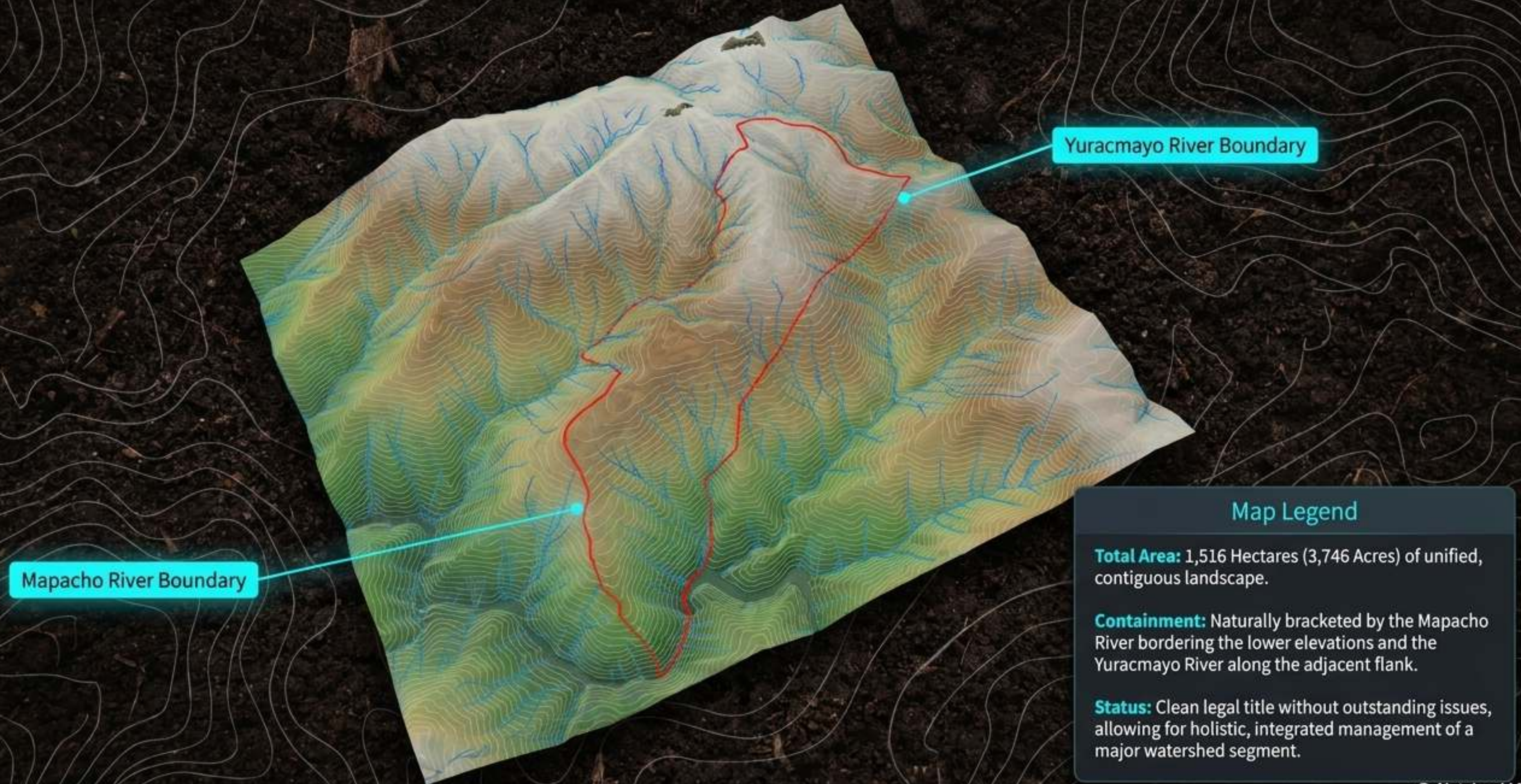
Positioned exactly where the high Peruvian Andes give way to the Cloud Rainforest.

Vital Buffer Zone



Operates as a critical protective buffer to the Manu National Reserve, safeguarding one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth.

A unified 1,516-hectare landholding bound by mountain rivers



Steep relief and folded terrain shape every ecological niche



Dynamic Relief:

Extreme elevation changes define the entire site, creating sheltered topographical bowls and highly exposed ridges.

Key Features:

Pronounced vertical ridgelines interspersed with sheer valley walls, dictating strict corridors for wildlife and human movement.

Constraint & Opportunity:

The steepness inherently limits conventional infrastructure and agricultural development, while the folds in the land create highly diverse microclimates.

A dense hydrological engine feeding the wider Amazon basin

Amazonian Watershed: A primary, unpolluted catchment area whose waters ultimately feed the wider Amazon basin.

Water Wealth: Fed by dozens of crystalline mountain springs, supporting over 20 small waterfalls within the property boundaries.

Drainage Density: A high concentration of micro-drainages channels water rapidly down the steep slopes into the Mapacho and Yuracmayo rivers.



Three distinct ecological horizons stacked across dramatic elevation changes

3500m | High Sierra



Exposed, cool alpine climate. The origins of the headwaters and primary habitat corridors.

2400m | Temperate



Moderate climate zone. Home to the primary Basecamp, upper gardens, and temperate crop cultivation (potatoes, brassicas).

1800m | Sub-Tropical

Warm valley floor bordering the Mapacho river. Supports coffee plantations, tropical food forests, and river beach access.



Navigating the extremes of intense summer rains and freezing winter nights



Wet Season (Dec-Mar) | High precipitation (up to 200mm/month) drives explosive biological growth but severely tests drainage and road access.

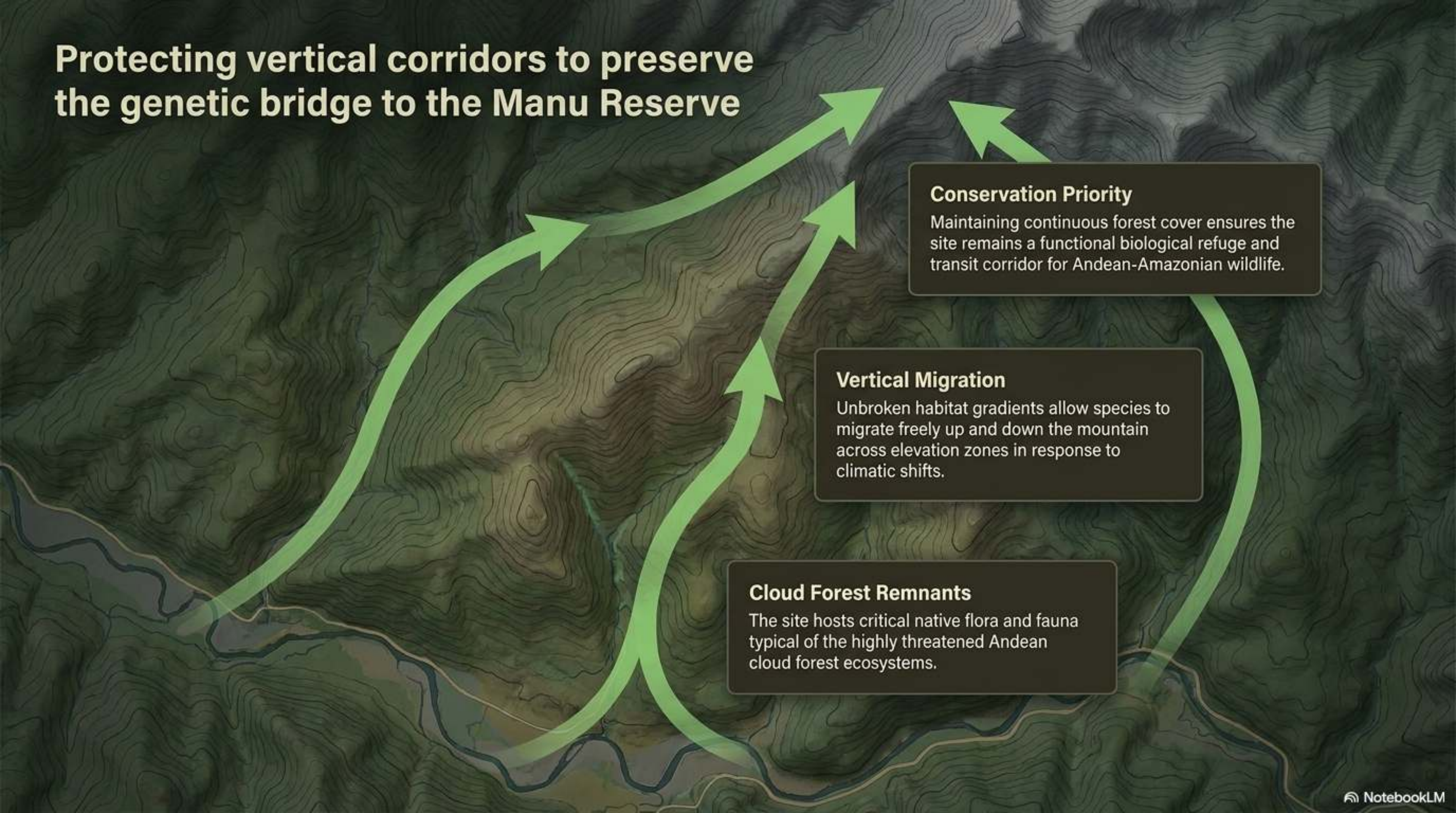


Dry Season (Jun-Aug) | Near-zero rainfall with completely clear days, exposing the land to heightened solar radiation.



Temperature Extremes | High-altitude zones face freezing night temperatures (dropping to 0°C - 3°C) in winter, contrasted with consistent, mild daytime highs around 14°C year-round.

Protecting vertical corridors to preserve the genetic bridge to the Manu Reserve

A topographic map of a mountain range with green arrows indicating vertical corridors. Three text boxes are overlaid on the map, each with a title and a description. The arrows show a path from the bottom left, curving upwards and to the right, then curving back down to the bottom right, and finally curving back up to the top right. The text boxes are arranged vertically along the right side of the map.

Conservation Priority

Maintaining continuous forest cover ensures the site remains a functional biological refuge and transit corridor for Andean-Amazonian wildlife.

Vertical Migration

Unbroken habitat gradients allow species to migrate freely up and down the mountain across elevation zones in response to climatic shifts.

Cloud Forest Remnants

The site hosts critical native flora and fauna typical of the highly threatened Andean cloud forest ecosystems.

Twenty strategic structures distributed across the mountain's climate zones



Upper Gardens (Near Ichiu village):
4 residential houses equipped with kitchens; one situated directly adjacent to the local children's school.



Basecamp (2400m):
Core living zone featuring communal spaces, main house, harvest house, carpenter's balcony, and a fully restored 100-year-old traditional chapel.



Lower Gardens (1800m):
River access point featuring an excellent future build site with micro-hydro generation potential.

Scale: 20 weather-proof structures featuring solid stone and cement floors, strategically integrated without clear-cutting.

Functioning as a closed-loop laboratory for off-grid living



Energy & Connectivity

Mains 220V electricity powered by installed solar arrays, paired with fully functional satellite internet.



Sanitation

High-capacity, 4-chamber composting toilets; chambers rotate every 12 months to safely transform humanure into rich, odourless soil.



Water & Heat

Gravity-fed passive solar showers powered by 100-metre black hose coils housed in corrugated acrylic niches to maximise solar gain.



Future Potential

The lower gardens offer immense water pressure from mountain streams, perfectly suited for micro-hydroelectric generation.

Cultivating high-diversity agroforestry tailored to specific microclimates



Sub-Tropical Syntropy (1800m)

Shade-grown coffee cultivated widely across the lower slopes, integrated with papaya, bananas, pineapples, mangoes, and avocados.



Temperate Food Systems (2400m)

Extensive upper garden beds yielding tomatoes, squashes, sweet potatoes, brassicas, root vegetables, and medicinal herbs.



Soil Generation

Dedicated composting bins enrich the soil, supporting fruit orchards ranging from peaches and figs to passion fruit and mandarins.

Extreme slopes and remote logistics dictate a sensitive, rigorous design approach

Constraint	Design Implication
Remote Access. 4.5 hours from Cusco; rugged terrain.	Limits the use of heavy machinery; requires local materials and highly resilient emergency planning.
Extreme Slopes. Pronounced verticality across the property.	Dictates a light-touch architectural approach; massive earthworks are unfeasible and dangerous.
Intense Seasonal Rainfall. Up to 200mm/month in summer.	High erosion risk demands meticulous surface water management and geotechnical verification for any new trails or hydro-infrastructure.



Operating as respectful stewards alongside local Andean history and communities

Neighbouring Communities

The property shares a physical and social border with the village of Ichiu, with project structures sitting immediately adjacent to the local children's school.

Historical Reverence

The meticulous restoration of the site's 100-year-old chapel, honouring its original design, reflects a deep commitment to preserving local cultural memory.

Ethical Role

Operating not merely as landowners, but as integrated stewards supporting local ecological and cultural integrity.

A living blueprint for ecological conservation, education, and community resilience

Protect

Absolute conservation of the headwaters, steep slopes, and vertical forest corridors serving the Manu Reserve buffer.

Regenerate

Expanding closed-loop agroforestry and off-grid living systems as a living laboratory for resilient human habitation.

Educate

Collaborating with researchers, designers, and local partners to study and document this unique ecological interface.

Next Steps: Comprehensive biodiversity auditing, micro-hydro feasibility studies, and collaborative master-planning.