

RURAL SEJERØ

Suggesting a utopian scenario and strategic projects for the development of the islands landscape



SUMMARY
It should be possible to develop Sejerø in coherence with its inherent qualities and in line with the inhabitants dreams and wishes, into a resilient landscape with high nature quality and a thriving economy and community. However, the island is struggling with depopulation and a dwindling economy. The situation is partly caused by external factors, but it is also caused by internal conflicts of interest and bad conditions for innovation. On a general level, it is necessary to solve the problem, because there is a need for well functioning rural communities to take care of production as well as natural resources and cultural values. On a local level there is a wish to solve this issue in order to maintain and nurture the community that they care for. We want to create a utopian scenario to suggest an alternative landscape development. To support the utopian scenario we want to suggest strategic projects that will be key to work determined towards a shared goal. By doing so the residents are able to turn the current development towards a more desirable and liveable landscape. The utopian scenario we suggest unifies the various interests of the residents and visitors of Sejerø without compromising the integrity of the natural conditions and landscape character. The utopian scenario and the strategic projects are founded in: an analysis and understanding of the history of the island, its geomorphology, spatial and structural landscape attributes and the interests of selected stakeholders. Inspiration for the utopian scenario is enlarged by inspirational case examples and islands similar to Sejerø. On this background the key problem dealt with in this thesis is to suggest a utopian scenario and strategic projects for Sejerø that are based on;

- Inherent landscape qualities
- The current landscape development, preferences and aims of the inhabitants
- A comparison of Sejerø with theory that discusses rural communities, multifunctional landscapes and resilience
- Theory on strategic planning and utopian thinking
- Exemplary case examples, and islands similar to Sejerø

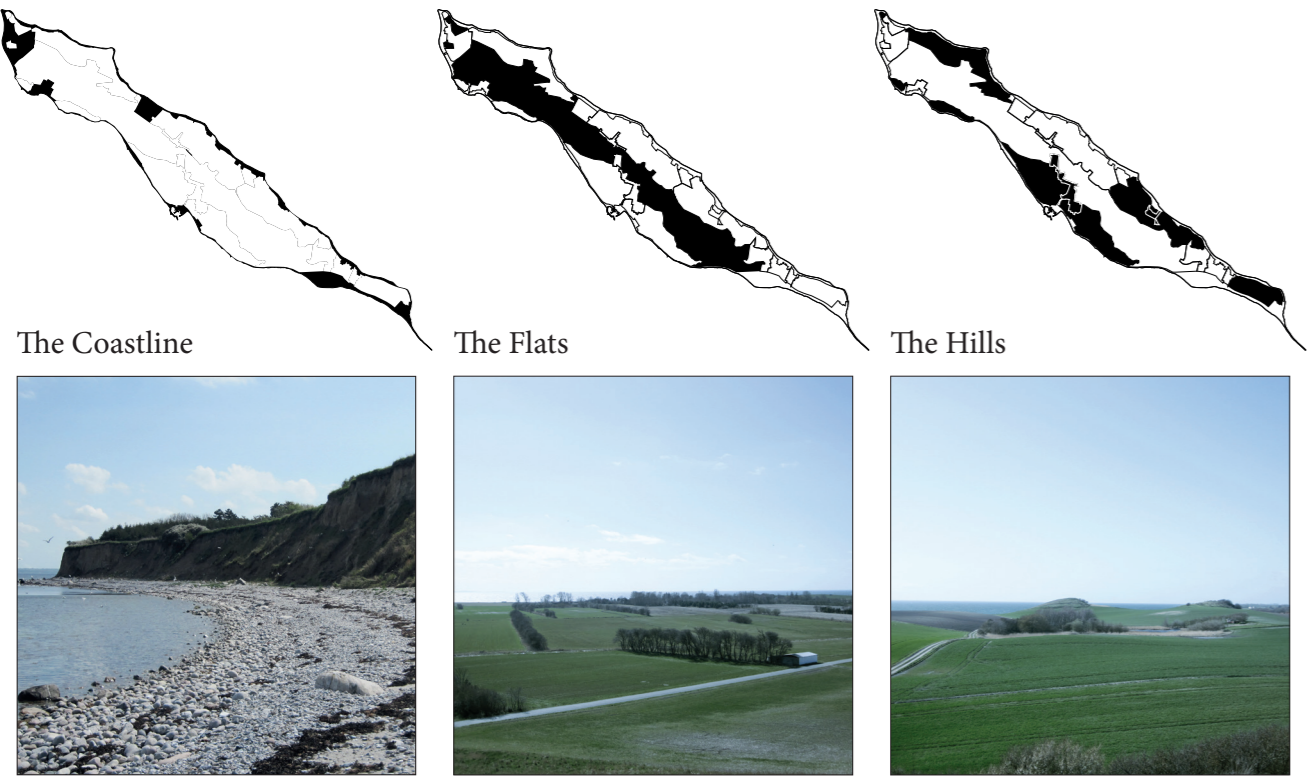
Strategic Planning

The Four Dimensions of Strategic Planning

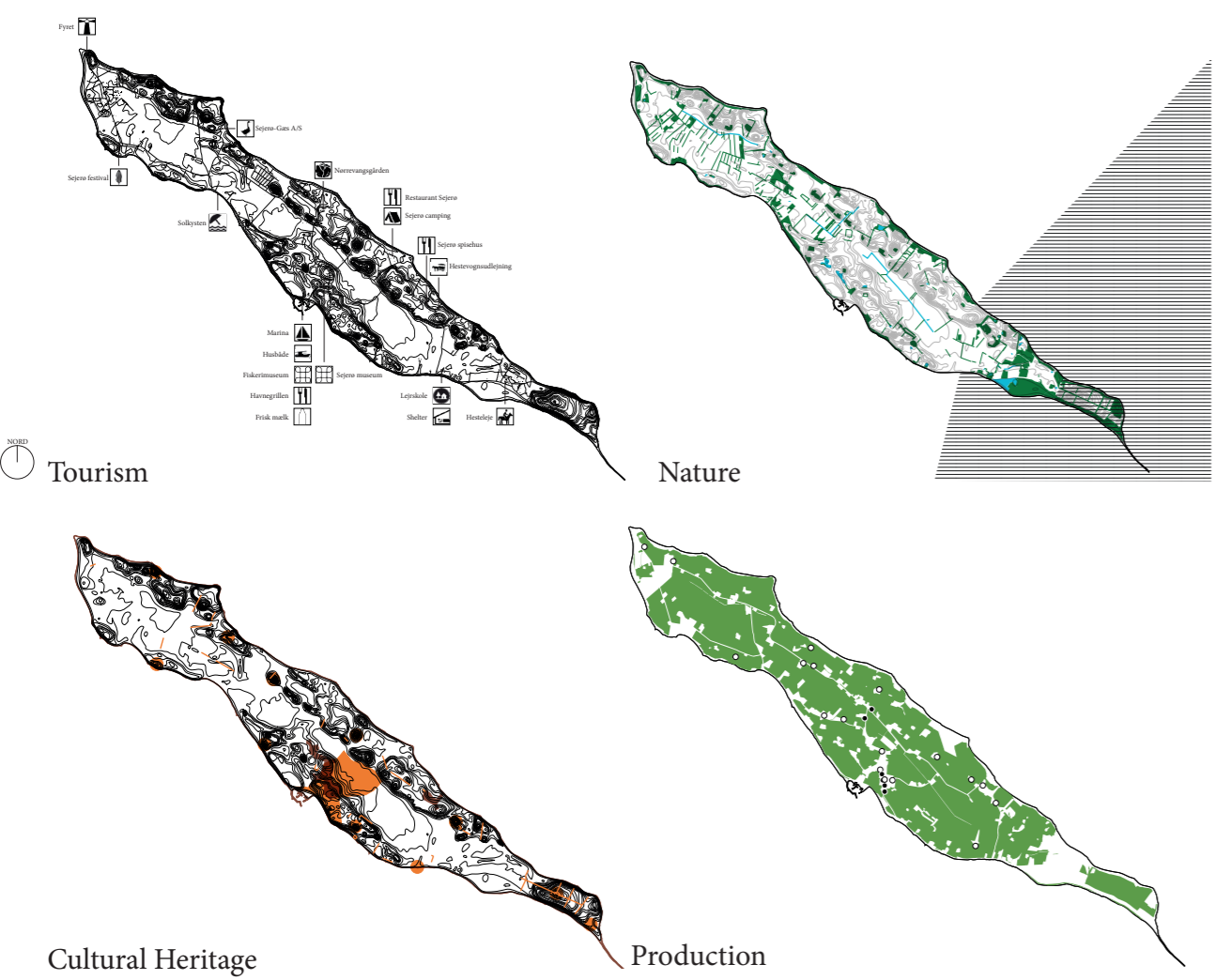
- Mobilizing attention
- Scoping the situation
- Enlarging intelligence
- Creating frames

"A sense of fragmented and overlapping initiatives, which, instead of producing creative synergies, undermine each other in a destructive manner"
- Patsy Healey, Momentum

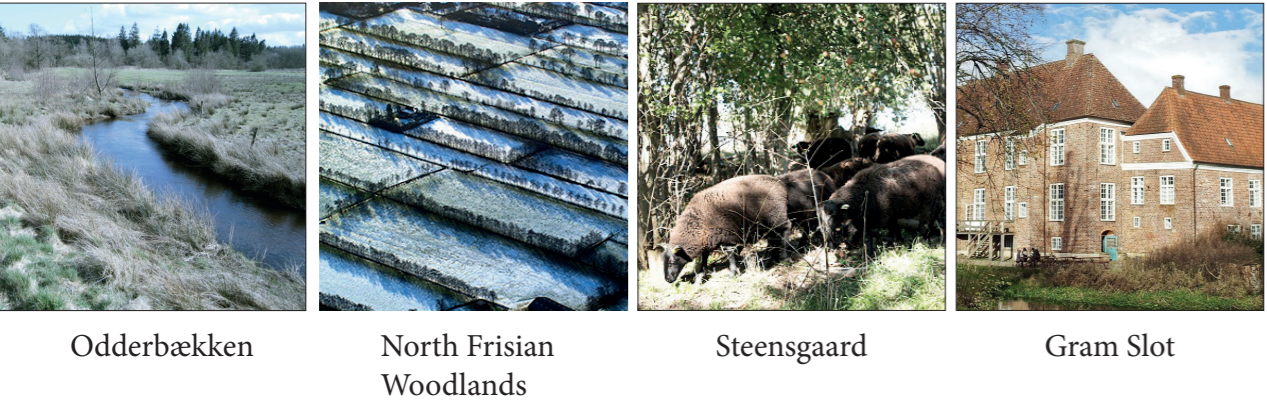
CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPES



RURAL CONTEXT



CASE EXAMPLES



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MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPES WISH MAPPING

New Graze is based on the dreams and wishes of the inhabitants, the inherent landscape qualities, precedent historic use and desires to make a resilient community. This way it is locally founded and validated by the natural foundation. The inhabitants' current activities and hopes for the future development are a crucial impetus, and the general landscape formations are a prerequisite for sustainable activities. Thus, the scenario is not a picture of what can be done but what should be done. It is a scenario for the Sejerø community as a whole. A holistic scenario making it possible for the community to attain synergy and to strive towards a shared goal for the future on their own island.

DESCRIPTION: NEW GRAZE

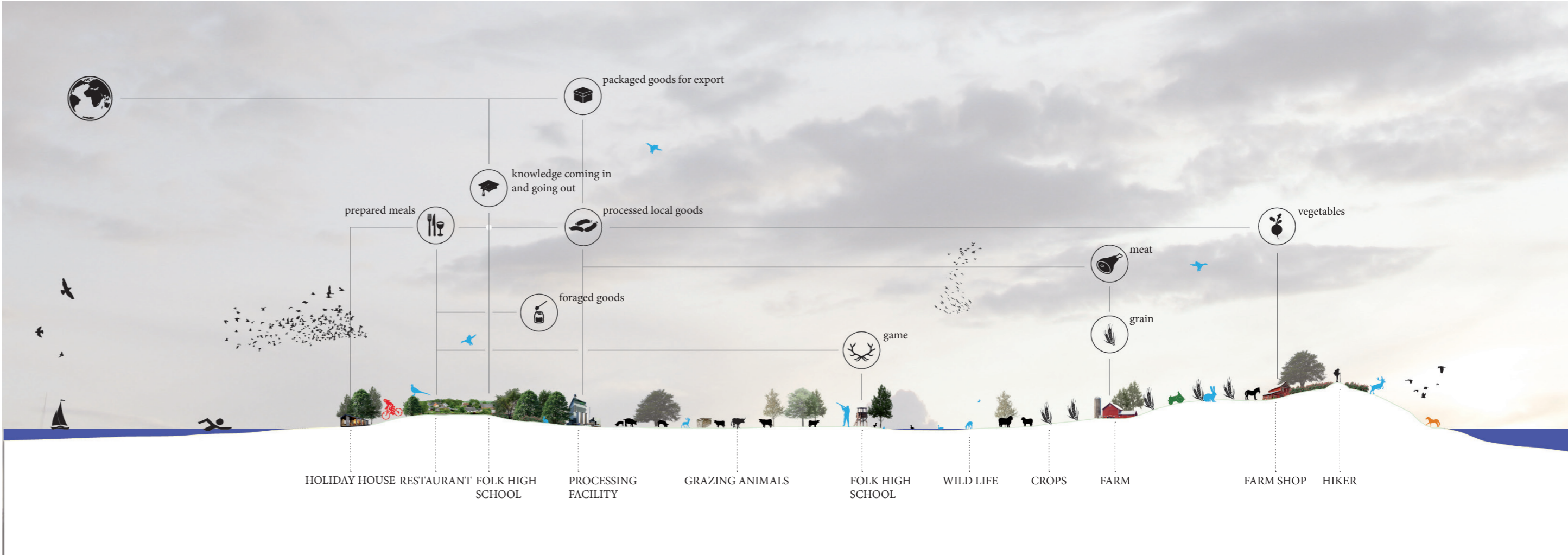
The flats along the middle of the island are one big pasture, the hills along the edges are used for crops and leisure and the coast represents an untouched natural resource. The vast flat pasture has a thriving flora and fauna amidst free range domestic animals. Nature has been strengthened by connecting the formerly fragmented islands of vegetation. In the hills we find production of fodder for the grazing animals and vegetables. It is also here that most of the inhabitants reside and where the yield of the grazing animals is processed. Milk is turned into ice cream, cheese and other dairy products. Animals are butchered, and the meat is sold whole or is processed into high quality export foods. Several restaurants serve meals from local produce to both tourists and inhabitants.

The tourists spend a lot of time off the roads in the hills on the continuous path system which binds together all the main attractions and services. This is where they will be let to the lighthouse passing the old barrows, the dairy, a bed & breakfast and their favourite restaurant. The cultural heritage is thus highlighted and utilized as a stimulus for leisure circulation and is valued for its contribution to the historic depth of the island. The coast is a quiet natural frame around this new scenario emphasizing the unique island utopia in the middle of the sea, cut off from the mainland.

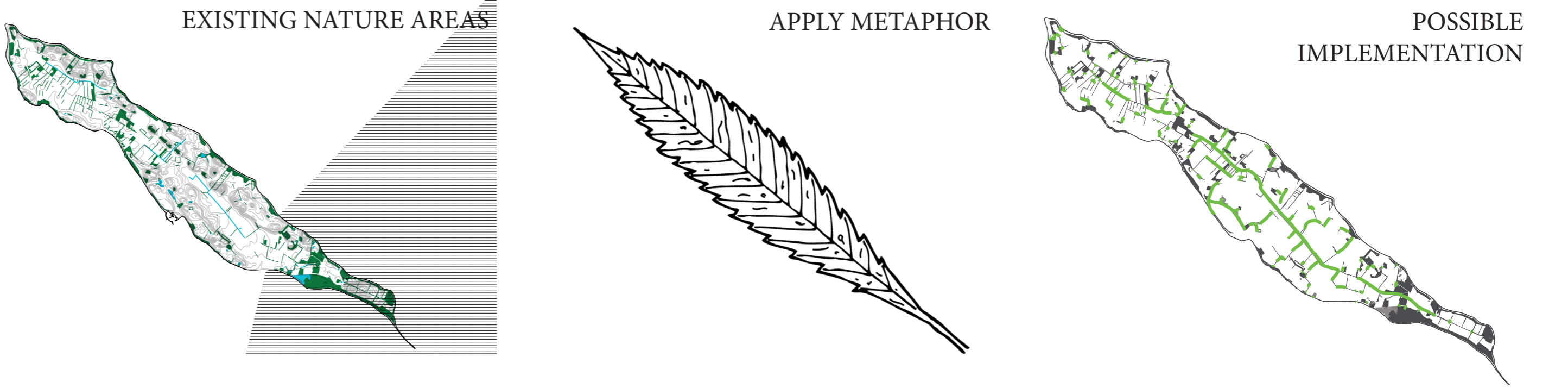
This utopia is turning the development of Sejerø towards a coherent landscape containing settlement and production in a setting of a thriving nature. More vegetation is growing wild, drains become fewer and water surfaces are plentiful, leaving perfect conditions for a thriving wildlife. Nature is not marginalized, it has room everywhere.



NEW GRAZE: LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS



STRATEGIC PROJECT: NATURE CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY



STRATEGIC PROJECT: THE HILL PATH

