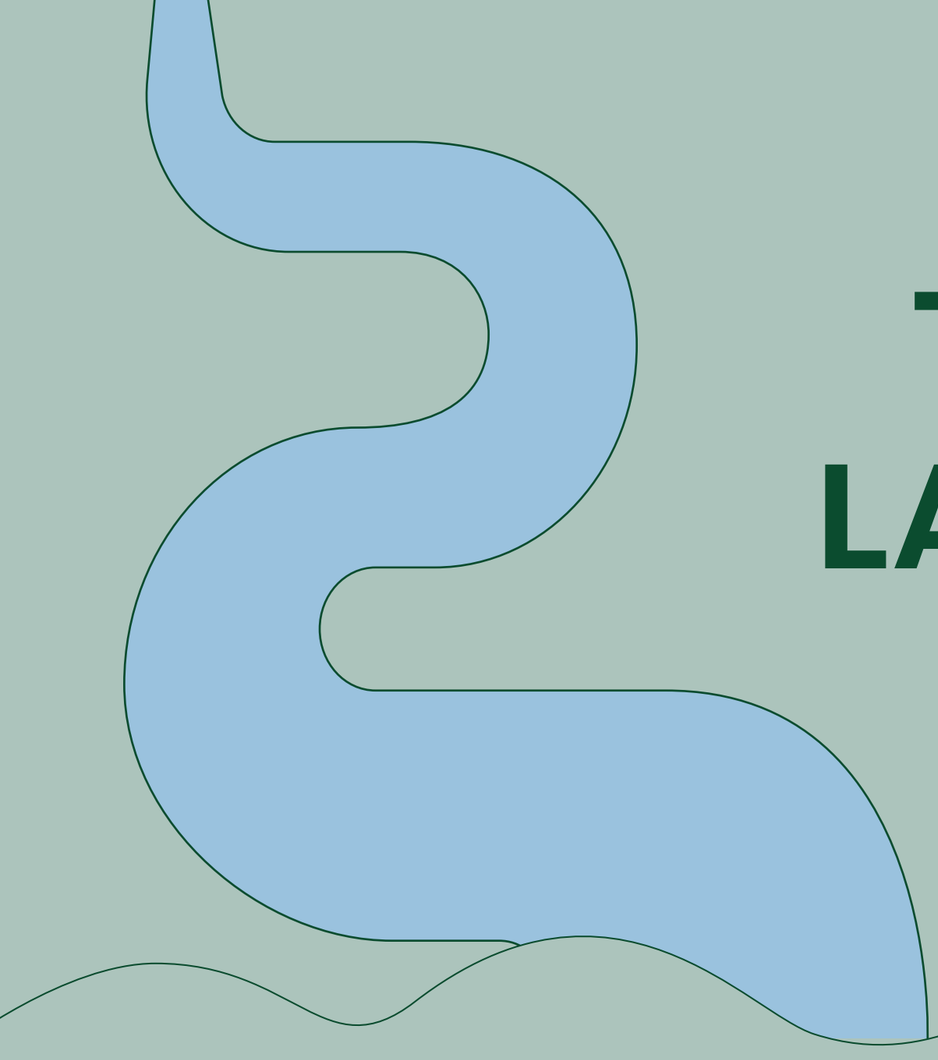
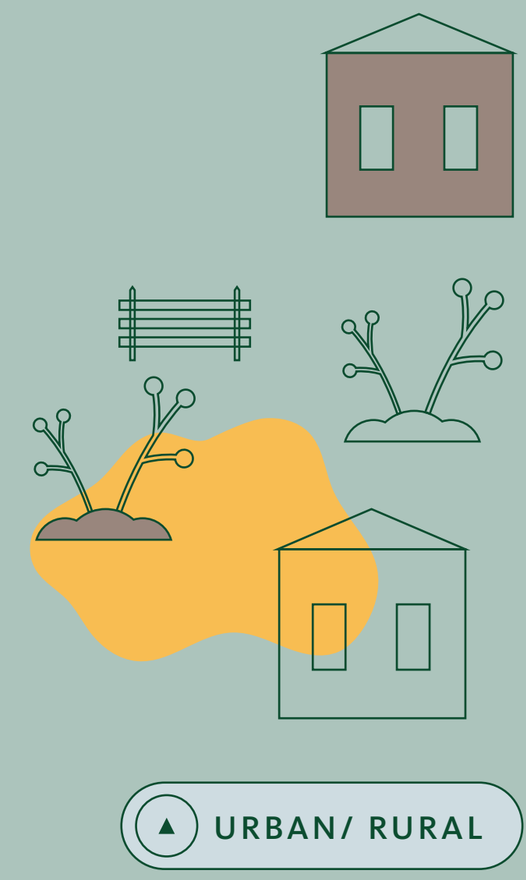
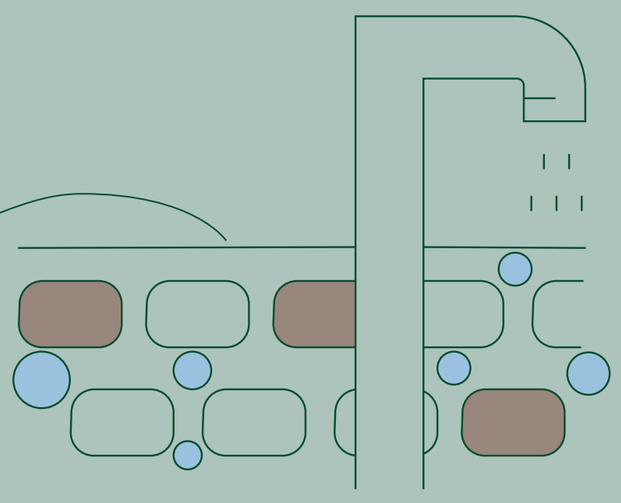
WATER THROUGH LANDSCAPES





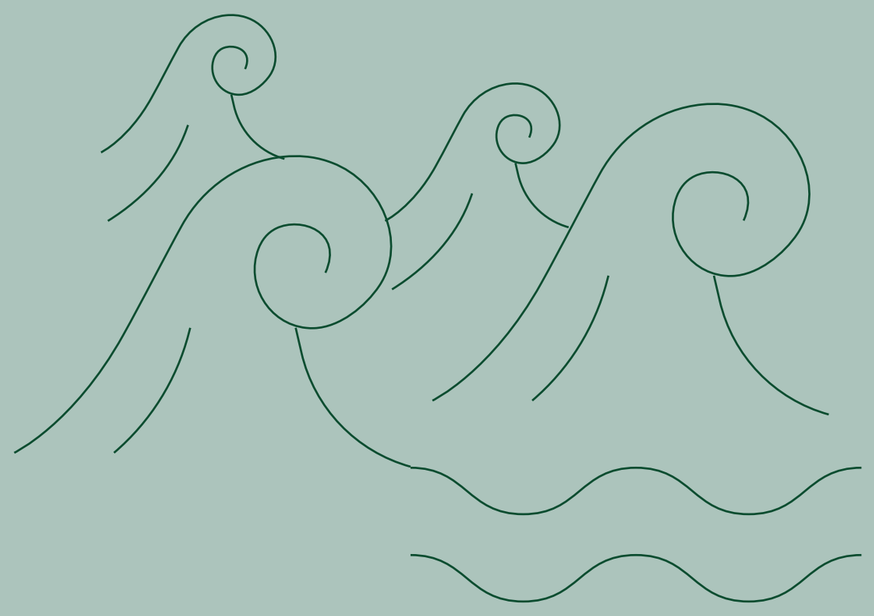
URBAN/ RURAL

Climate change induced changes to the hydrological cycle can bring too much or too little water to urban and rural landscapes. This impacts the quality and quantity of water available for drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.



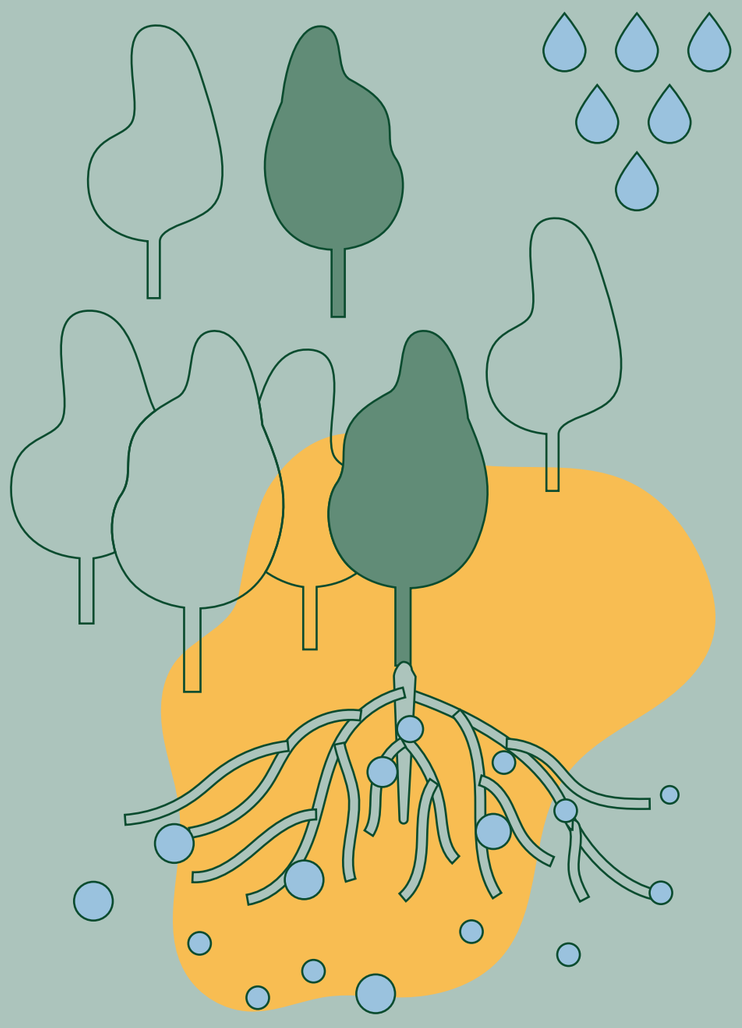
GROUNDWATER

Groundwater is essentially the regulator of the freshwater cycle. It acts as a giant sponge that can absorb surplus water and mitigate shortage, making it a vital component in adapting to climate variability. Quality of groundwater management in cities has a huge impact on the groundwater table.



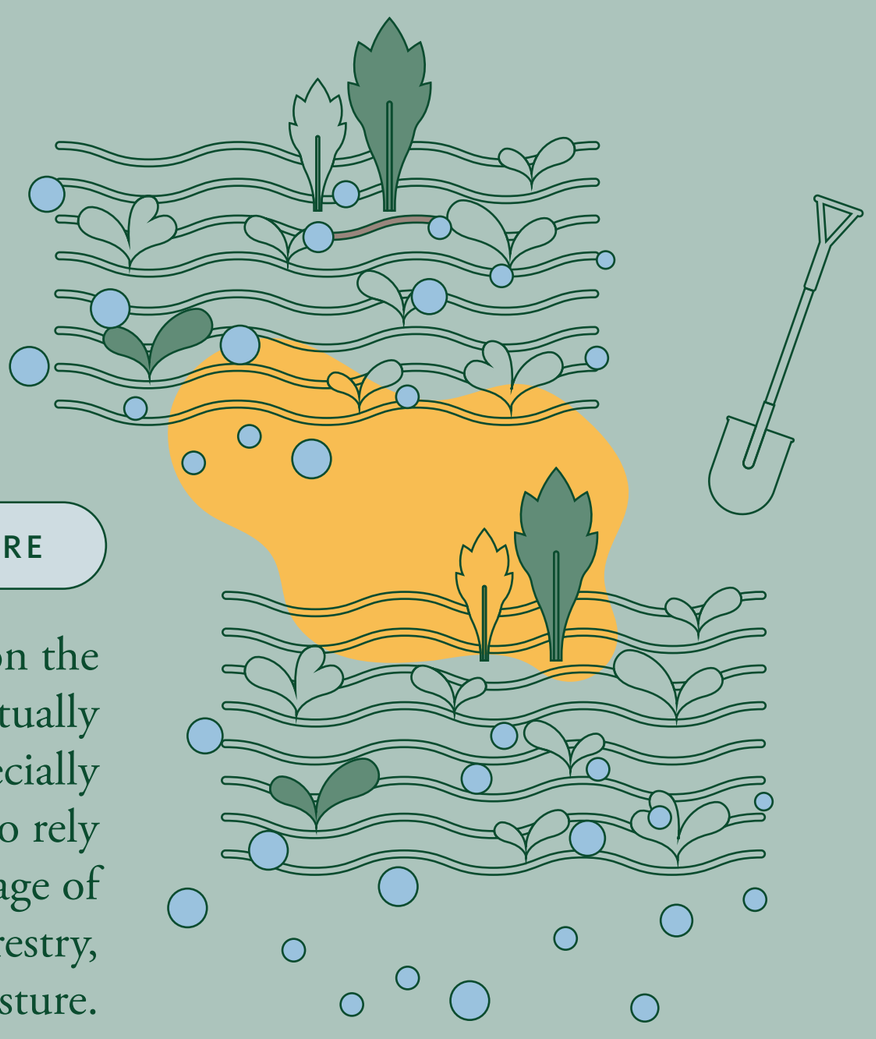
SOURCE-TO-SEA

Actions in one place have serious and unintended impacts elsewhere, like when rivers and the ocean are polluted by waste from urban areas or chemicals from farms and industries.



FORESTS

Forestry and agricultural practices that consider water availability and hydrological flows often have synergistic benefits. The water cycle plays a crucial role for resilient and productive landscapes. Landscapes with functioning hydrology sustain biodiversity and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.



AGRICULTURE

Green water is rainwater that falls directly on the ground, infiltrates into soil and is eventually sucked up by roots. This water is especially important for small-holder farmers who rely mainly on rain for crop production. Storage of greenwater is improved in areas with agroforestry, where tree shade helps restoring soil moisture.