NALÓN (ES)

Nalón estuary, between an industrial past and ecologic values

The actual Nalón river and estuary occupies a narrow area between the river slopes along its course called Bajo Nalón, and harbours, marshlands and at the mouth of the river. The aim of this project is to find a strategies that expand the river edge to beyond its actual limit, including multiple habitats and social values that will compose a complex and rich ecotone to responds to the climate emergency at the same time that engages with the existing ecological values and promotes them, without losing the industrial identity of the site and multiplies the economical values by opening up a wide range of possibilities.

The strategy of this project acts at different scales, all of them having in common two main concepts:

1. the expansion of the water edge from a thin line to a wide area from the riparian zone of the tributaries until the low tide of the coast
2. the blending between the three main elements that composes the ecotone:
   - range of *blues* for water (fresh, sea and brackish)
   - range of *greens* for habitats of the ecotone (marshlands, alluvial forests, riverbank, etc.)
   - range of *orange* for social values (harbours, beaches, seaside promenades)

Climate Emergency strategy

The expanded area of the new water edge is defined by the impact of the river flood (10, 100 and 500 return period) and sea level rise (0,65m max), which takes approximately the area of the floodplain of the river, now occupied by multiple uses, amongst them agriculture and pastures, and expands along the tributaries of the Nalón river. This is the area most affected by the climate emergency that needs to be addressed.

The ecological value of this area is on the existing mature between seawater and freshwater, which becomes brackishwater, that in different gradients support an ecological succession of habitats composing the ecotone, a very delicate ecosystem with a great power to respond to the climate emergency (see diagram BETWEEN WATERS).

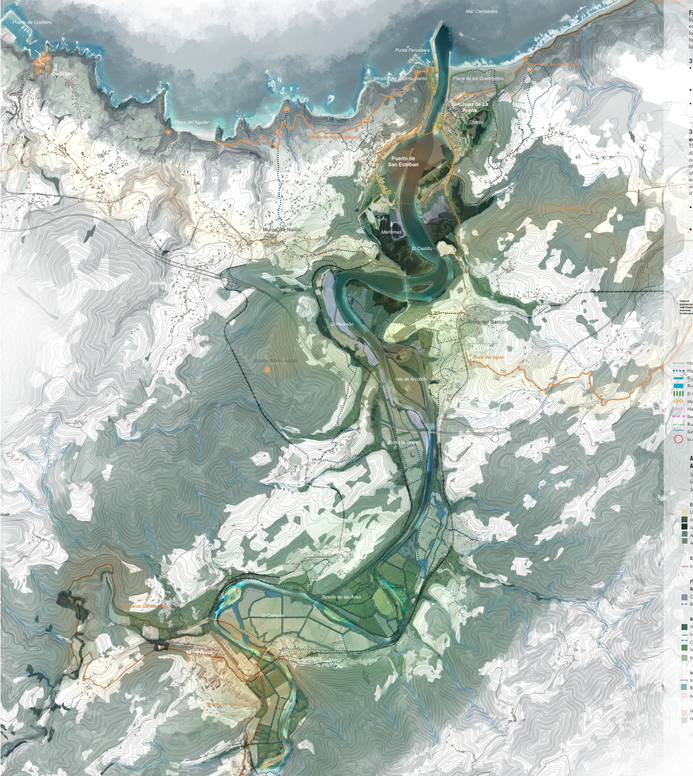
BETWEEN WATERS

- Sea level rise (+0,65 max)
- River flooding (10, 100 and 500 return period)
- Habitats of the ecotone

Existing habitats of the Ecotone, the agents to manage flooding by the coast and the river

Habitats affected by the tide and different gradients of salty water, from tide to tide: *Salt marshes, Tidal plains, Estuarine intertidal macroalgal communities, Estuarine mudbeds, amphibian mudbeds, submerged communities and mudflats*

Habitats on the river edge, from high level to low: *Alluvial forest, Alder swamp forests, Amphibian mudbeds in freswater lagoons and unvegetated river banks*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