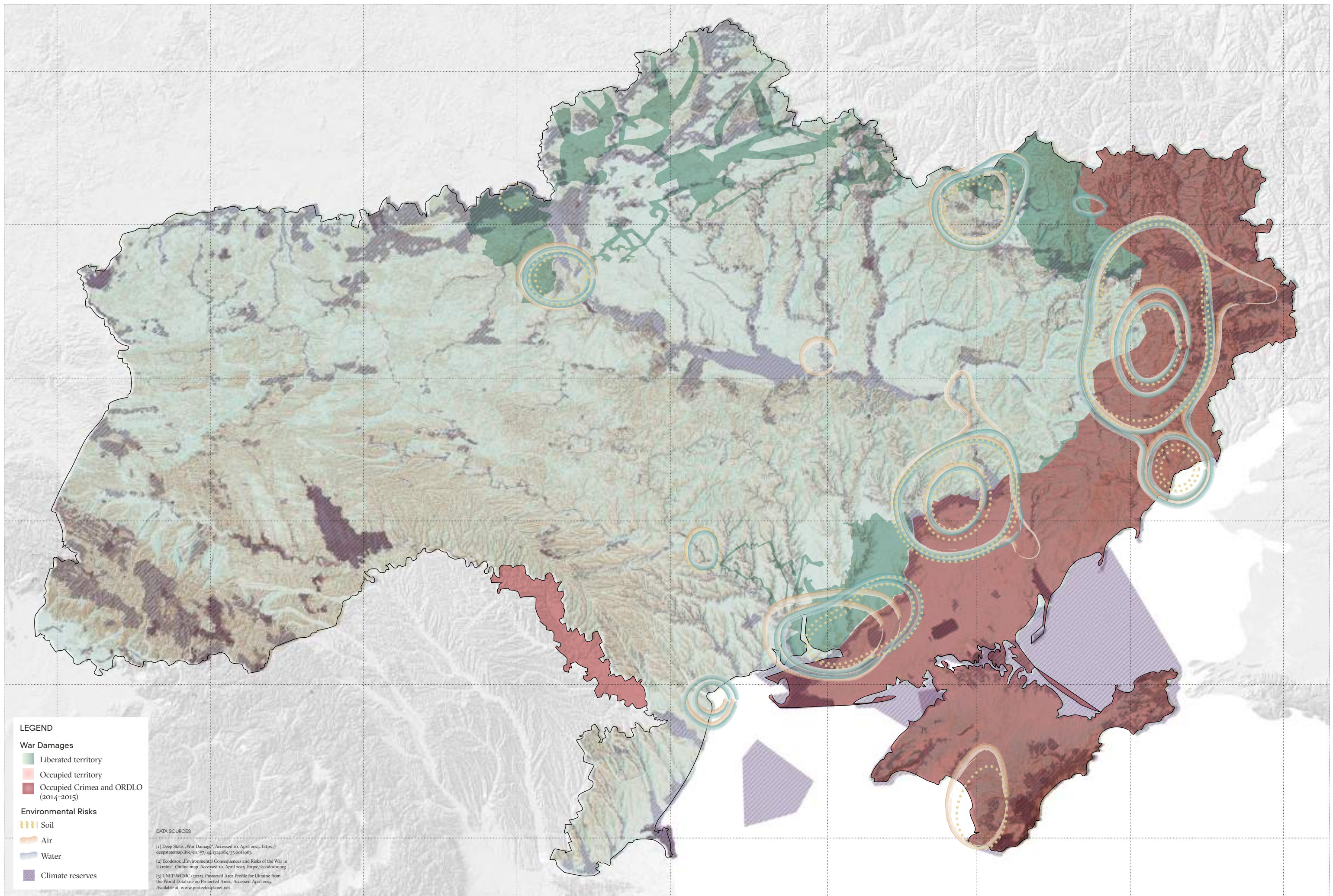
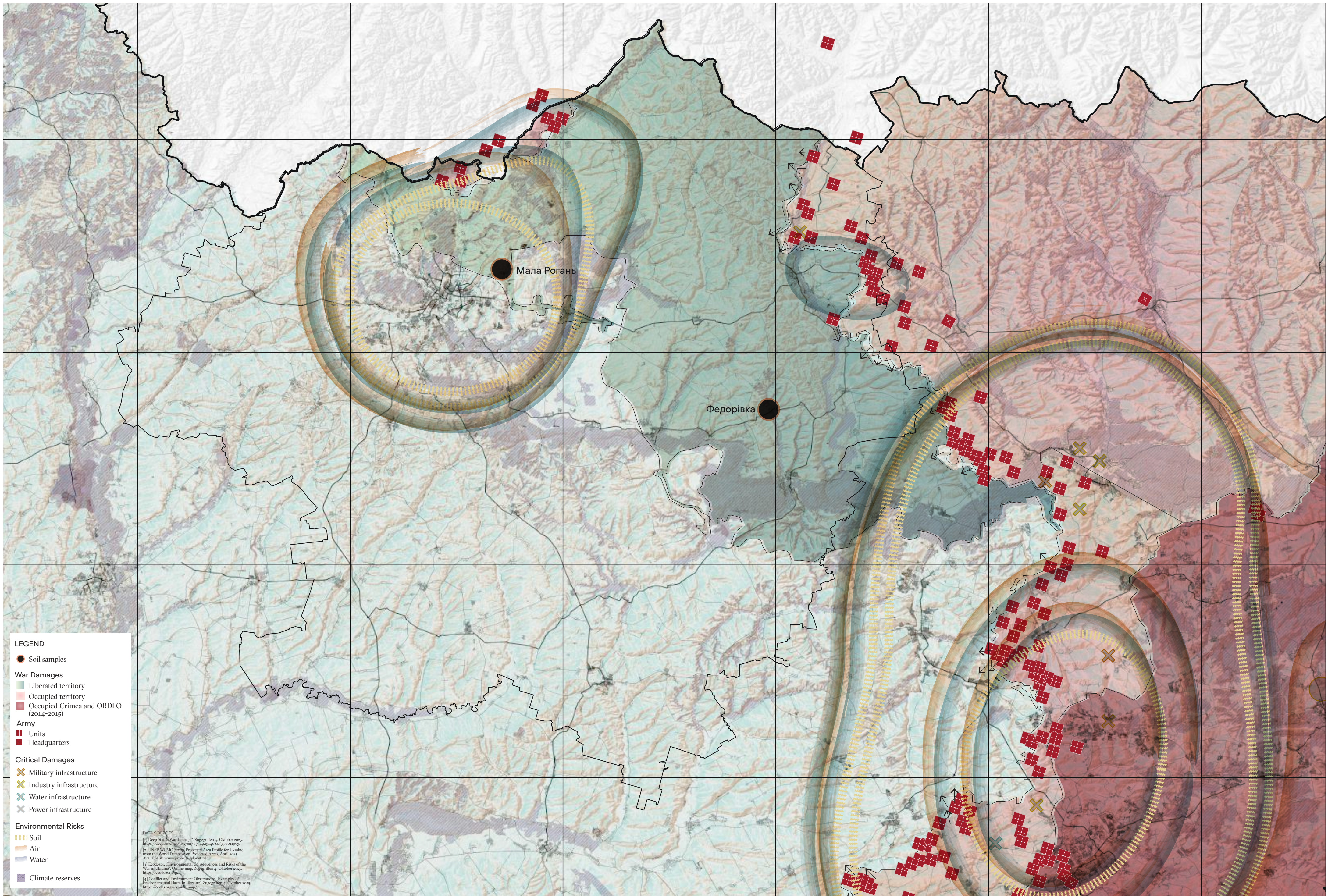




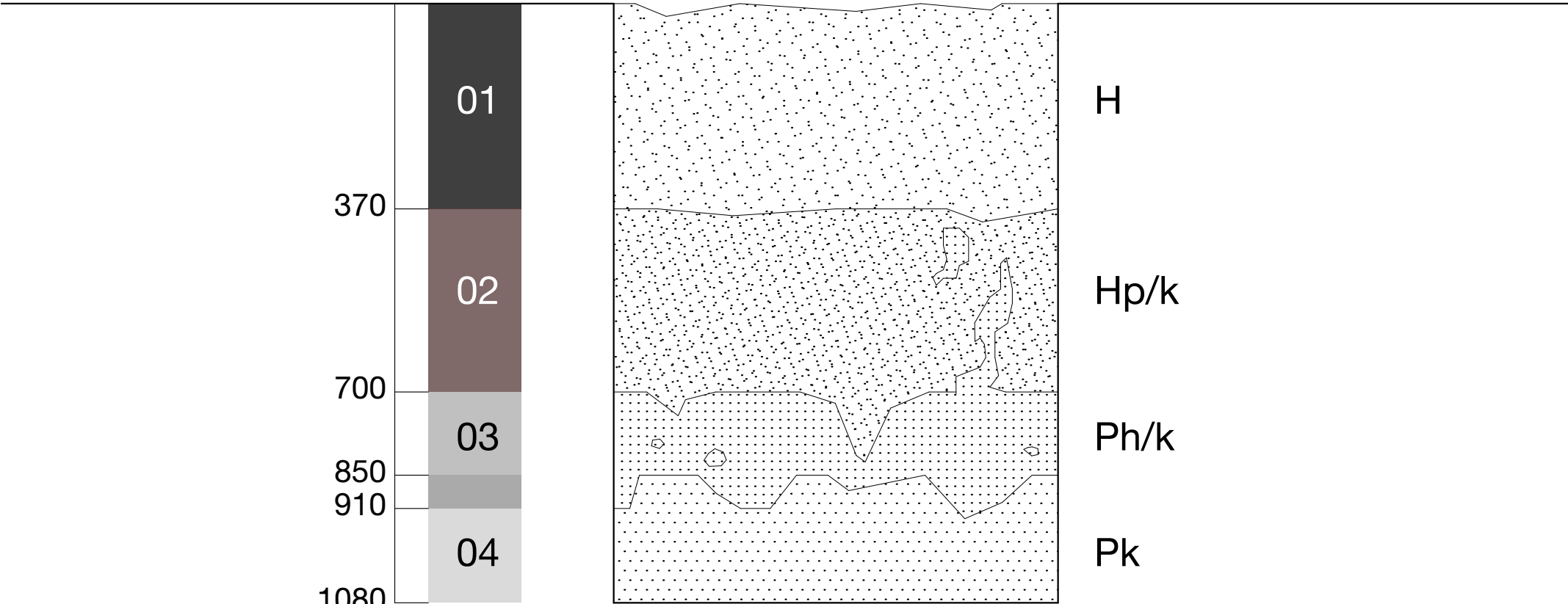




Fedorivka, village in Kharkiv Oblast
 49°17'25.7"N 37°18'43.2"E
 agricultural land
 launch site of the multiple rocket launcher "Grad"

Code	Mercury (Hg)			Cadmium (Cd)			Lead (Pb)			Arsenic (As)			Copper (Cu)			Cobalt (Co)			Selenium(Se)			Zink (Zn)			Nickel (Ni)			Chromium (Cr)			Strontium(Sr)		Vanadium(V)	
	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 1	Lab 2		
FED-01	0,05			4,2			5,1			(<0,2)			21			(<0,2)		(<0,5)			60			(<0,5)			62			62		64		
FED-02	0,049			3,9			4,8			(<0,2)			18,5			(<0,2)		(<0,5)			56			(<0,5)			59			65		64		
FED-03	0,051			4,2			3,4			(<0,2)			15,4			(<0,2)		(<0,5)			54			(<0,5)			57			90		61		
FED-04	0,048	(<0,1)	(<0,05)	4,1	0,73	0,2	3,3	17,5	12	(<0,2)	6,2	10	13,4	25,4	21	(<0,2)	10,8	(<0,5)	(<0,1)		50	51,8	52	(<0,5)	38,3	38	56	46,1	47	126	95,8	59	(<0,1)	
FED-05 2023				(<0,1)			8,75						5,19						44,15			22,55			31,45			65,13						
Background	(<0,1)			0.6			12.5			6,5			6.1						59,7			30.1			41.2			59.3						
MPC Ukraine	2,1			3			32			2									0,6											150				

Code	Naphthalin	Acenaphthylen	Acenaphthen	Fluoren	Phenanthren	Anthracen	Fluoranthen	Pyren	Benzo(a)anthracen	Chrysen	Benzo(b)fluoranthen	Benzo(k)fluoranthen	Benzo(a)pyren	Dibenzo(a,h)anthracen	Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	Indeno(1,2,3,c,d)pyren	SUM PAH
FED-01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	0,015	0,013	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	0,028
FED-02	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	-
FED-03	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	-
FED-04	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	-
MPC Ukraine														0,02			
MPC Germany														0,3			3



FED 01 - H (Humic horizon)
Black, granular, non-dense (moist, light clayey)
Depth: 0 cm – 37 cm (sample taken at ~15 cm)

FED 02 - Hp/k (Upper transitional, well-humified, carbonate-rich)
Carbonates start at a very high concentration, dark gray, moist, very dense, cloddy-prismatic structure
Depth: 37 cm – 70 cm (sample taken at ~55 cm)

FED 03 - Phk (Lower transitional horizon)
Dark brown, carbonate-rich, prismatic, dense, with numerous mole burrows
Depth: 70 cm – 91 cm (sample taken approximately at 77–85 cm)

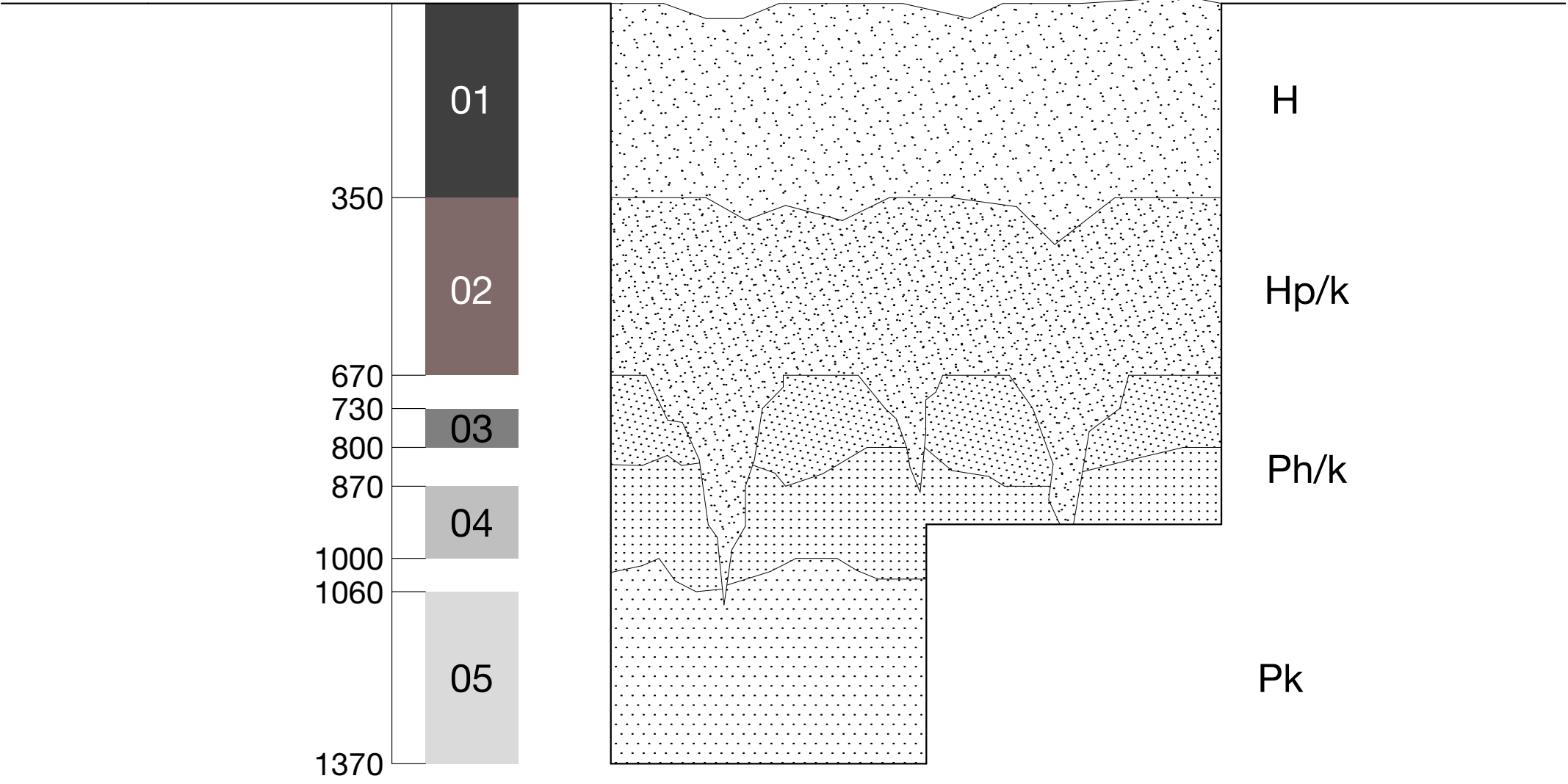
FED 04 - Pk (Loess horizon)
Extremely dense loess
Depth: 85 cm – 100 cm



Mala Rohan, village in Kharkiv Oblast
49°56'42.7"N 36°30'07.2"E
abandoned farmland
site of the military helicopter crash

Code	Mercury (Hg)			Cadmium (Cd)			Lead (Pb)			Arsenic (As)			Copper (Cu)			Cobalt (Co)		Selenium(Se)		Zink (Zn)			Nickel (Ni)			Chromium (Cr)			Strontium(Sr)		Vanadium(V)		
	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 1	Lab 2	
MRO-01	0,052			4,8			4,4			<0,2			17,3			<0,2		<0,5		52			<0,5			52			62		54		
MRO-02	0,044	<0,1		3,6	0,62		3,7	15,2		<0,2	7,1		14,2	22,3		<0,2	12,7	<0,5	<0,1	49	64,2		<0,5	29,8		57	44,8		61	57,8	62	<0,1	
MRO-03	0,047			3,7			3,6			<0,2			13,8			<0,2		<0,5		47			<0,5			52			77		57		
MRO-04	0,044			3,5			3,5			<0,2			10,2			<0,2		<0,5		43			<0,5			48			91		53		
MRO-05	0,046	<0,1	<0,05	3,6	0,59	4	3,1	11,1	10	<0,2	5,8	8	10,4	17,2	25	<0,2	9,5	<0,5	<0,1	45	48,3	46	<0,5	33,1	31	49	39,7	37	117	78,2	55	<0,1	
MRO-04 2023				41,23			9,34						64,98						95,36			16,23			36,12			45,23					
Background				0,87			8,15						8,15						59,18			19,55			34,52			33,2					
MPC Ukraine	2,1			3			32			2									0,6													150	

Code	Naphthalin	Acenaphthylen	Acenaphthen	Fluoren	Phenanthren	Anthracen	Fluoranthen	Pyren	Benzo(a)anthracen	Chrysen	Benzo(b)fluoranthen	Benzo(k)fluoranthen	Benzo(a)pyren	Dibenzo(a,h)anthracen	Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	Indeno(1,2,3,c,d)pyren	SUM PAH
MRO-01	<0,04	<0,04	<0,04	<0,04	0,072	<0,04	0,31	0,24	0,14	0,15	0,1	0,19	0,11	0,092	0,08	<0,04	1,5
MRO-02	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	-
MRO-03	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	-
MRO-04	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	-
MRO-05	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	-
MPC Ukraine													0,02				
MPC Germany													0,3				3



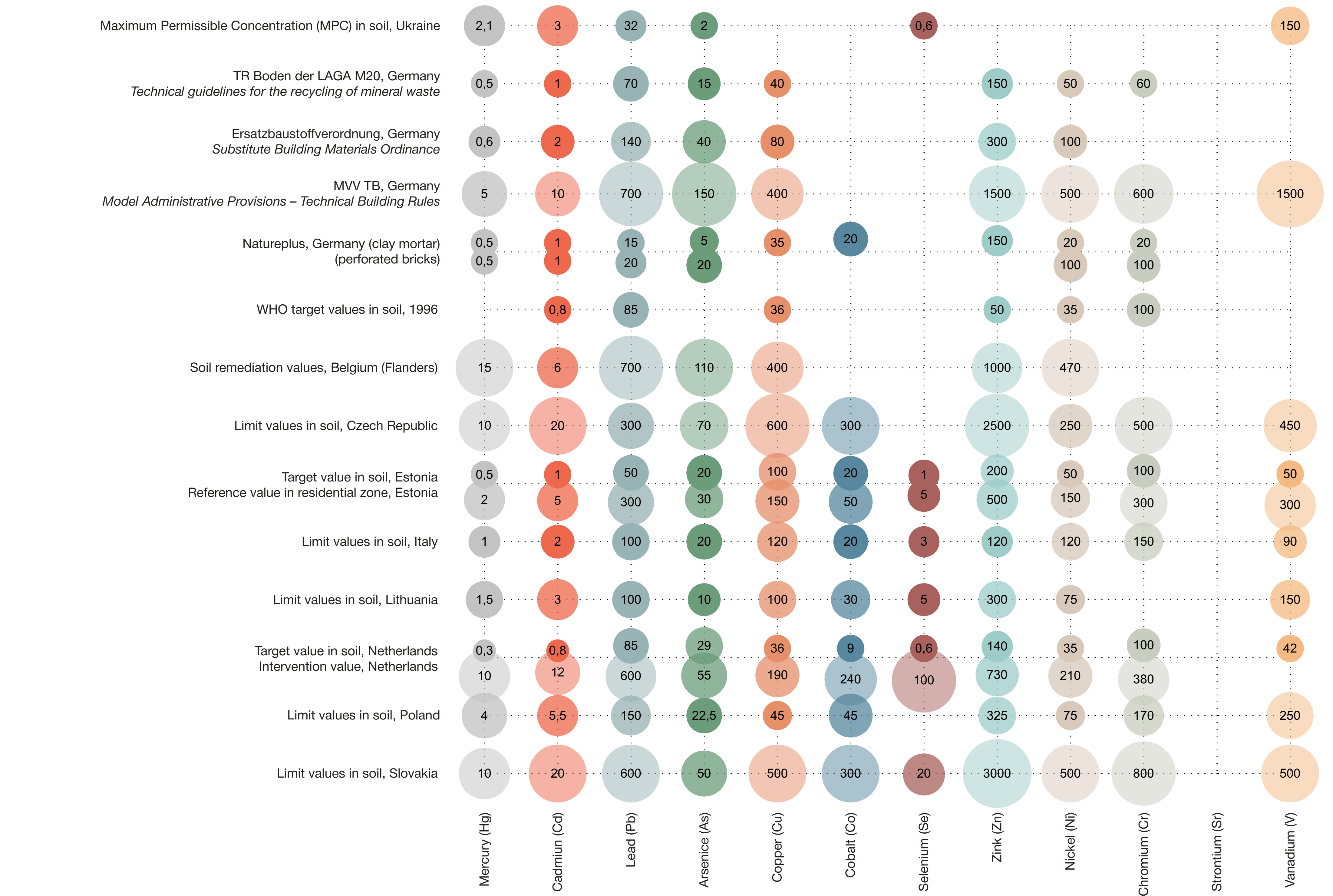
MRO 01 - H (Humic horizon). Black, loose, granular, with a distinct transition (visible as a sharp boundary from above), includes tree roots and worm burrows
Depth: 0 cm – 35 cm (sample taken at ~15–20 cm)

MRO 02 - Hp/k (Dark gray, slightly lighter than previous, well-humified, carbonate-dusted, cloddy-granular structure, with wavy transition) Inclusions: Small roots, brick fragments
Depth: 35 cm – 67 cm (sample taken at ~45 cm)

MRO 03 and MPO 04 - Samples taken from Phk horizon. At the beginning of the horizon, carbonate tongues intrude from loess, making it rather sticky, whereas at the lower boundary, it is compact
MPO 03: 73 cm – 80 cm
MPO 04: 87 cm – 100 cm

Phk Horizon (Lower transitional). Brown, carbonate-rich, dense, with infiltrating humic tongues, prismatic structure
Depth: 67 cm – 106 cm

MPO 05 - Pk (Parent material)
Loess, prismatic, very dense

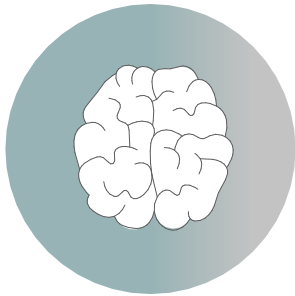


IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH

Heavy metals enter the human body through inhalation of toxic dust, ingestion of contaminated food and water. Building materials can be substantial contributors to this exposure. While many construction materials appear stable, they can release heavy metals over time as dust, fumes, or leachates, contaminating indoor air, water supplies, and surrounding soils. These pollutants infiltrate air, food, and water supplies, increasing the risk of exposure. Cadmium, lead, and mercury, commonly found in building materials, have been linked to cancer. (*Healthy Materials Lab*). Additionally, certain metals, including (Al), antimony (Sb), arsenic (As), barium (Ba), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr II), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), nickel (Ni), selenium (Se), tin (Sn), and vanadium (V), are classified as metal–estrogens due to their ability to mimic estrogen activation, potentially increasing the risk of hormone-related cancers, such as breast cancer (*Campanale et al., 2020*).

USE OF SOME HEAVY METALS AND THEIR EFFECT ON HUMAN HEALTH

HMs	Additives	Effects
Hg	Biocides	Mutagen or carcinogen; induction of the disruption of DNA molecular structure and brain damage.
As	Biocides	Congenital disabilities; Carcinogen: lung, skin, liver, bladder, kidneys; gastrointestinal damage; death
Cu	Biocides	Formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS); inducing DNA strand breaks and oxidation
Cd	Heat stabilizers, UV stabilizers and inorganic pigments	Osteomalacia and bone fractures; lipid peroxidation and the promotion of carcinogenesis; cellular apoptosis; DNA methylation.
Pb	Heat stabilizers, UV stabilizers and inorganic pigments	Anemia; hypertension; miscarriages; disruption of nervous Systems; brain damage; infertility; oxidative stress and cell damage.
Co	Inorganic pigments	Formation of ROS; neurological (e.g., hearing and visual impairment); cardiovascular and endocrine deficits.
Cr	Inorganic pigments	Allergic reactions to the body; nasal septum ulcer; severe cardiovascular, respiratory, hematological, gastrointestinal, renal, hepatic, and neurological effects and possibly death.



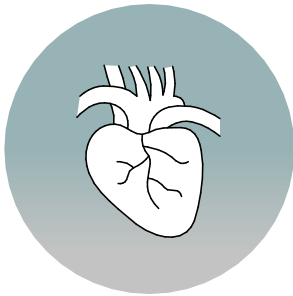
Brain
lead, mercury



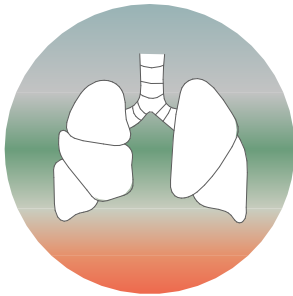
Lymph nodes
lead



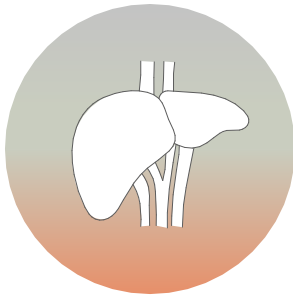
Thyroid
cadmium



Heart
lead, mercury



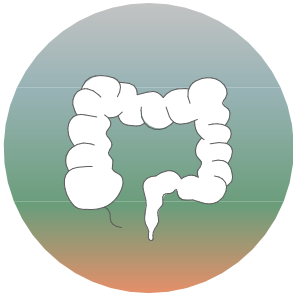
Lungs
arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper mercury



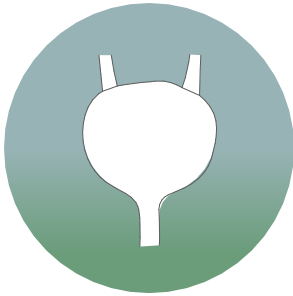
Liver
chromium, copper, mercury



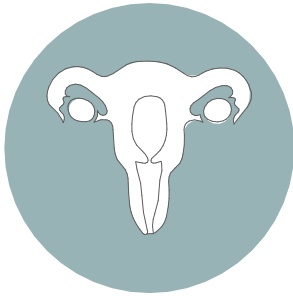
Kidneys
cadmium, lead, mercury, arsenic



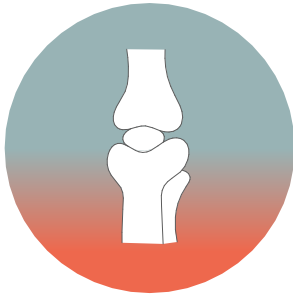
Intestines
Arsenic, lead, mercury, copper



Bladder
Arsenic, lead



Reproductive system
lead



Bones
cadmiun, lead



Skin
arsenic, chromium

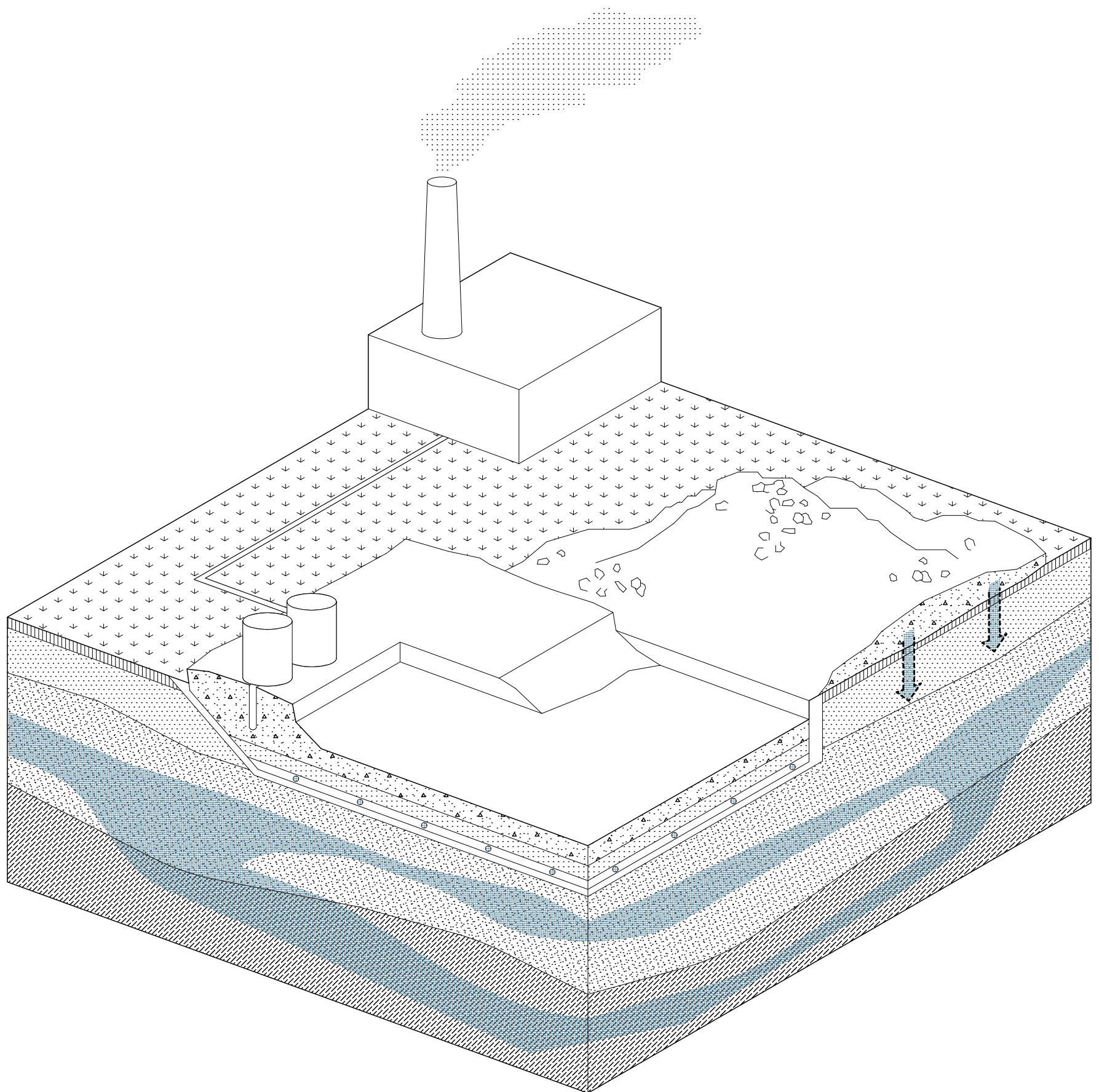
Sources: FAO and UNEP. 2021. Global assessment of soil pollution - Summary for policy makers. Rome, FAO.
Campanale C.: A Detailed Review Study on Potential Effects of Microplastics and Additives of Concern on Human Health. Campanale et al., Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Healt 2020
Healthy Materials Lab: Color x Health, Affordable Housing Starts with Healthier Spaces, Parsons School of Design,2017

LANDFILLING

The post-World War II era led to a significant escalation in waste management challenges due to two primary factors: the rise of consumerism and the advent of the chemical age. Together, these developments dramatically increased waste volumes, altered waste composition, and introduced new toxicity concerns, necessitating stricter regulations on landfilling.

As of 2021, in Europe, 24% of waste was recycled as secondary raw materials, while 18% was processed into compost. In contrast, Ukraine faces a critical waste management issue, with over 90% of waste being landfilled. Since solid waste is disposed of in both regulated and unregulated landfills (either dumped on the soil surface or buried) monitoring maximum permissible concentrations (MPCs) of toxic substances in soil is a crucial indicator. Currently, Ukraine has approximately 300 hazardous waste storage facilities, many of which were constructed without adequate technical safeguards, posing significant regional environmental risks.

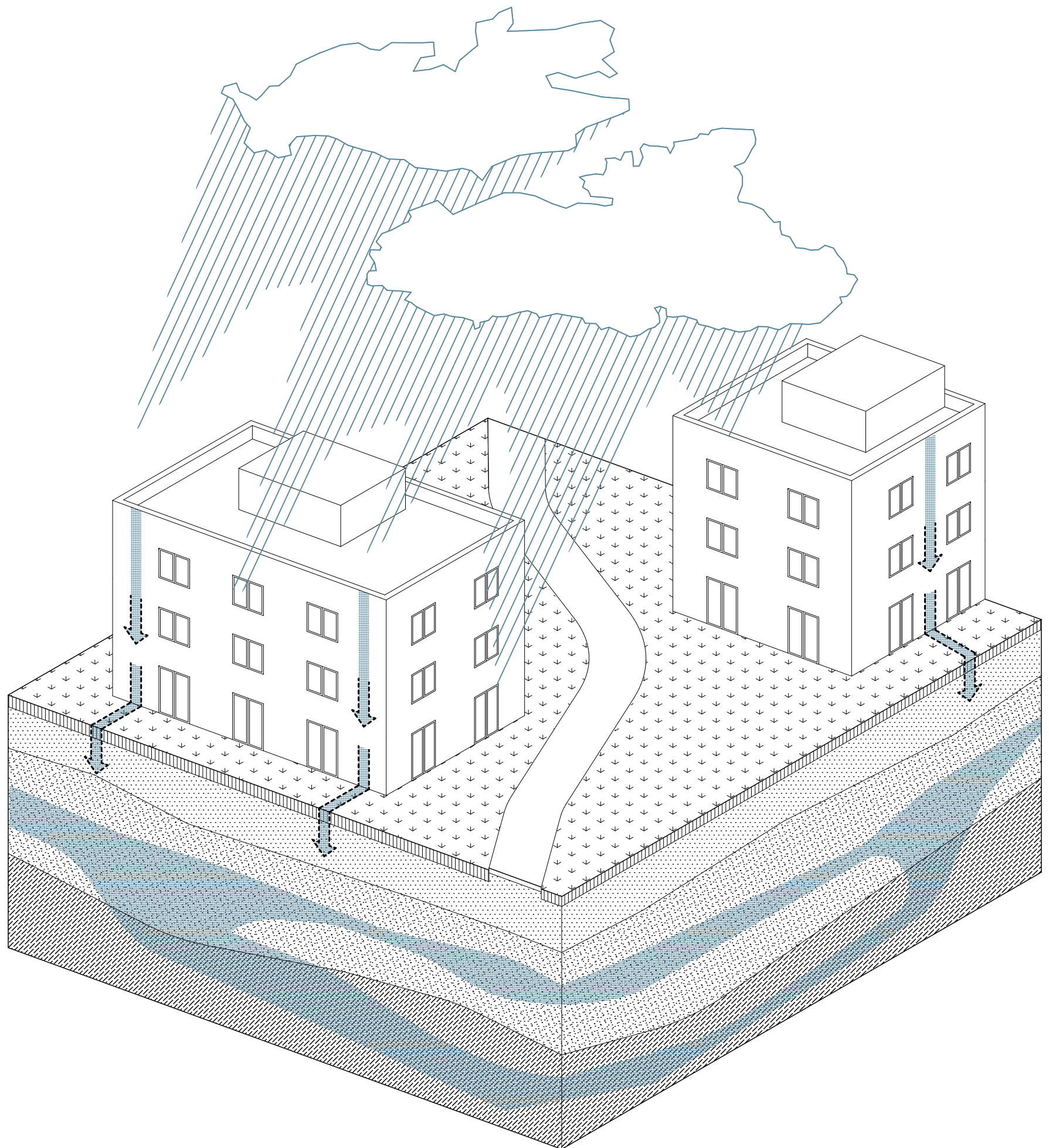
A substantial portion of landfilled solid waste originates from the construction and demolition (C&D) sector, which accounts for 30% of total global waste production. On average, over 35% of C&D waste is disposed of in landfills annually. In Germany, C&D waste that meets the criteria for inert waste under the Waste Framework Directive (2001) and the Landfill Directive (1999) can be deposited in specialized inert waste landfills. However, these regulations were only introduced in 1972. As a result, older landfills used for building rubble disposal in the post-WWII period lack adequate environmental protection measures. Studies indicate that building rubble-based substrates exhibit significantly elevated concentrations of heavy metals and organic pollutants compared to natural soil.



EMISSIONS FROM BUILDINGS

Building materials can contain heavy metals, that may leach out over time, potentially degrading soil and groundwater quality. Rainwater infiltration and percolation through building materials can facilitate the release of contaminants, which subsequently migrate into the underlying soil. The composition of the leachate, as well as the rate and total amount of contaminant release, varies depending on the material's composition. Once contaminants enter the soil, their downward transport may be slowed due to adsorption onto soil constituents. The extent of this retardation depends on soil properties such as pH, organic matter content, and clay composition. Many of these factors vary spatially and temporally. For instance, alkaline soil conditions promote pollutant sorption, reducing the risk of leaching into groundwater.

In Germany, regulations such as the Ersatzbaustoffverordnung (2021) establish guidelines for leachate testing of secondary building materials. Similarly, in the Netherlands, the Soil Quality Decree (2007) introduced a simplified set of emission limit values to facilitate the screening of primary and secondary building materials for permissible use. Mitigating emissions requires minimizing material pollution at the source. However, this presents challenges, as many substances added to building materials serve specific functions, for example, biocides in facade paints to prevent algae growth. Additionally, methodologies for assessing the environmental impact of such substances are still being developed, underscoring the need for further research and regulatory advancements.



IMPACT ON LANDSCAPES

Heavy metals can persist in the environment and accumulate through the food chain. Recent research has also highlighted that heavy metals can be adsorbed to microplastics. Microplastics act as carriers for these metals. As a result, increasing amounts of toxic substances accumulate in soils, ultimately entering the metabolic cycles of living organisms. Cadmium, for instance, is absorbed from contaminated soil by grass and fodder crops, accumulating in the liver and kidneys of animals before reaching humans through meat and dairy consumption. Lead exposure occurs via soil, water, industrial emissions, equipment, pipelines, lead-based pesticides, packaging materials, and household items. Arsenic, another highly toxic element, comes from sources such as industrial emissions, copper smelters, lignite-fired power plants, arsenic-containing pesticides, and feed additives.

IMPACT OF HEAVY METAL CONCENTRATIONS ON SOIL BIOCHEMICAL ACTIVITY

Level of HM Contamination in Soil (Relative to Background Levels)

2 orders of magnitude above
background

3 orders of magnitude above
background

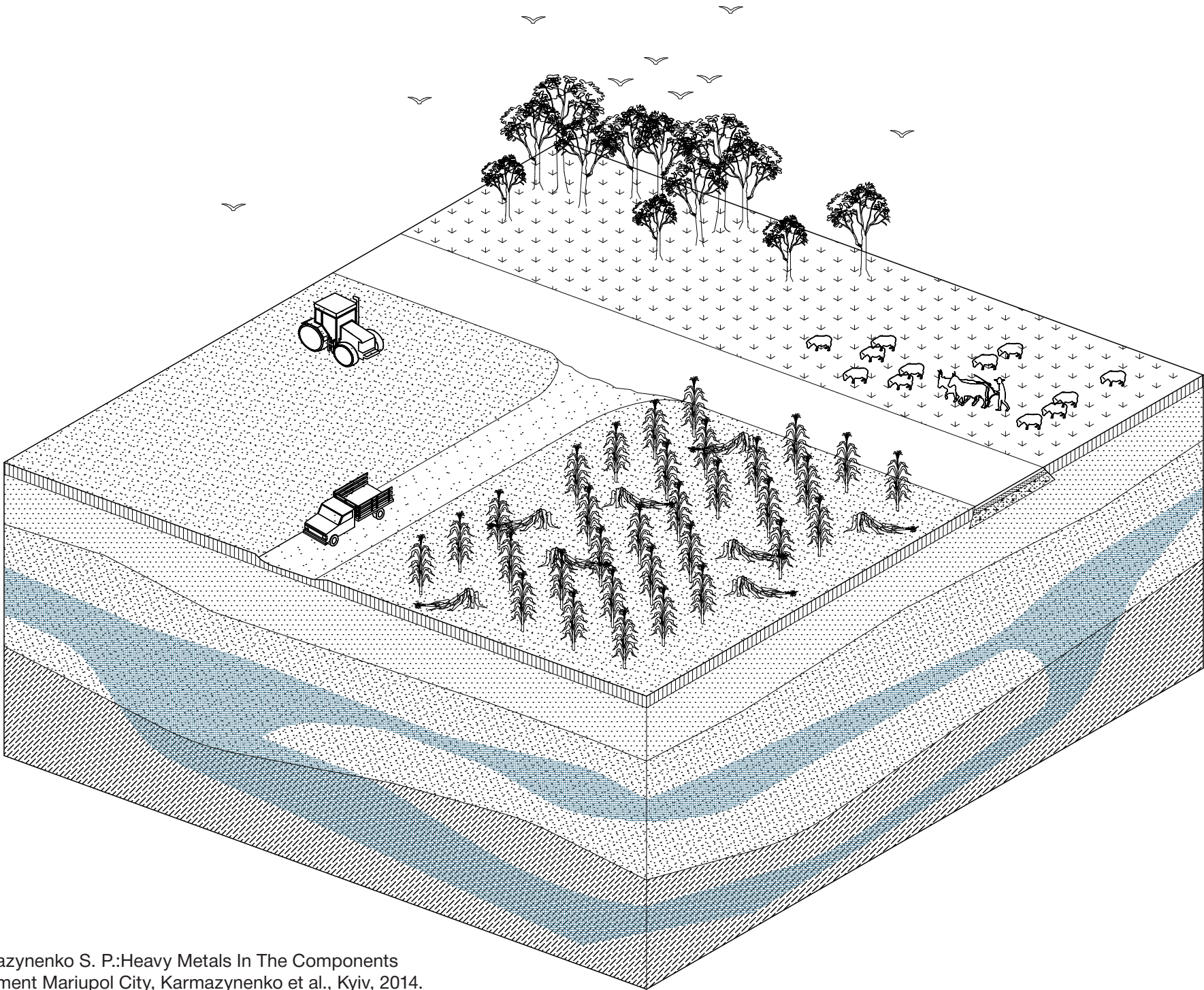
4 orders of magnitude above
background

Effects on Soil Biochemical Activity, Species Composition, and Microbial Abundance

Reduction in the diversity of soil micromycetes. Emergence of dominance by the most resistant species, particularly amylolytic microbial groups. Decrease in specific indicators of biochemical and enzymatic activity of soil microorganisms.

Pronounced alterations in nearly all microbiological indicators. Inhibition and mortality of the typical microbiota found in uncontaminated soils. Concurrent proliferation and even absolute dominance of a very limited number of HM-resistant microorganisms, predominantly micromycetes.

Manifestation of a catastrophic decline in soil microbiological activity, approaching the threshold of complete microbial extinction.



Sources: Karmazynenko S. P.:Heavy Metals In The Components
Of The Environment Mariupol City, Karmazynenko et al., Kyiv, 2014.

DILUTION STRATEGY

Since concentration is the key indicator of pollution, we aimed to dilute contaminated material by incorporating secondary raw materials with lower pollutant levels or different contaminants. To optimize the mixture, we used washed sand from a soil washing facility to enhance the natural sand content. Throughout the process, we closely monitored the balance between structural integrity and pollutant concentration.

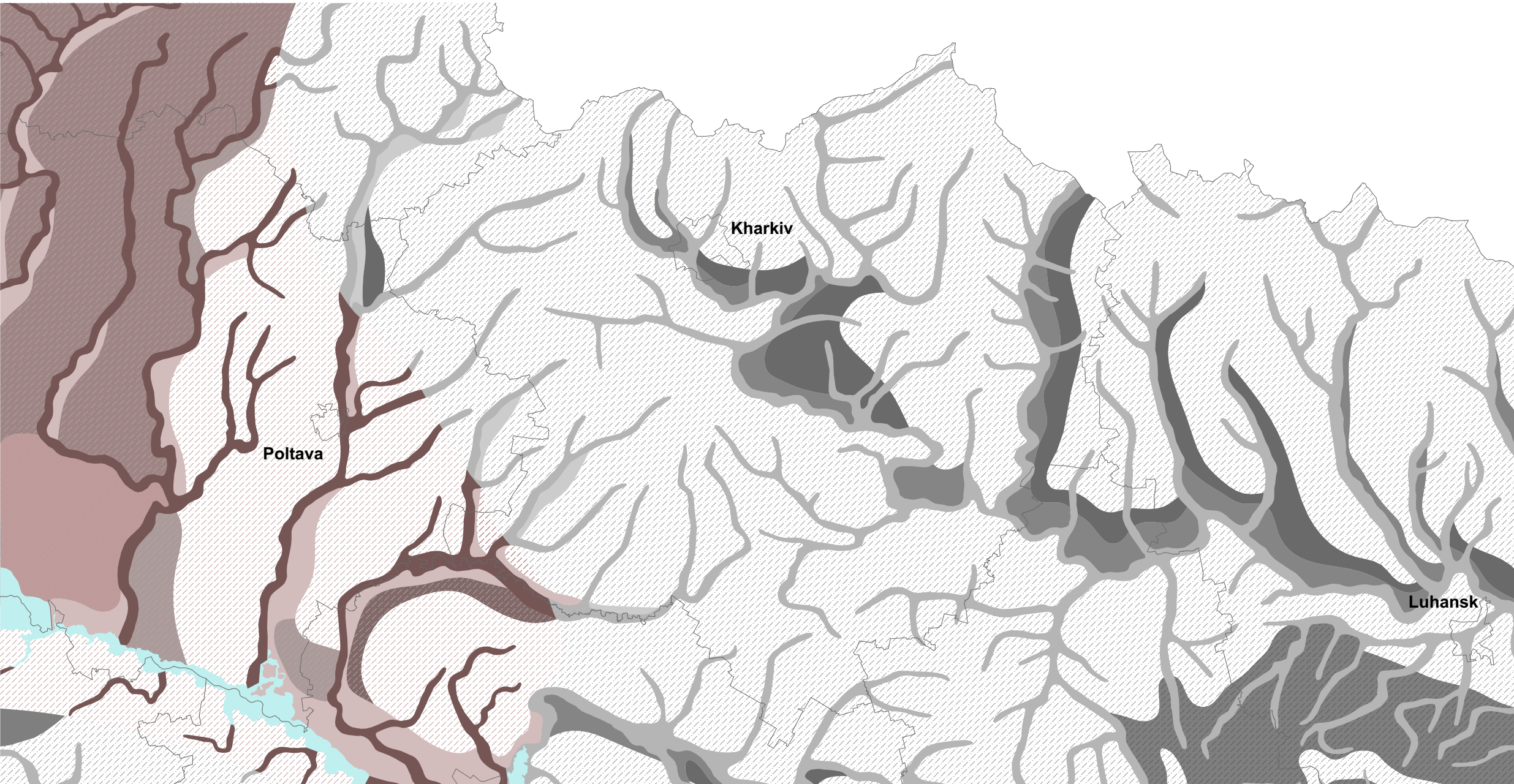
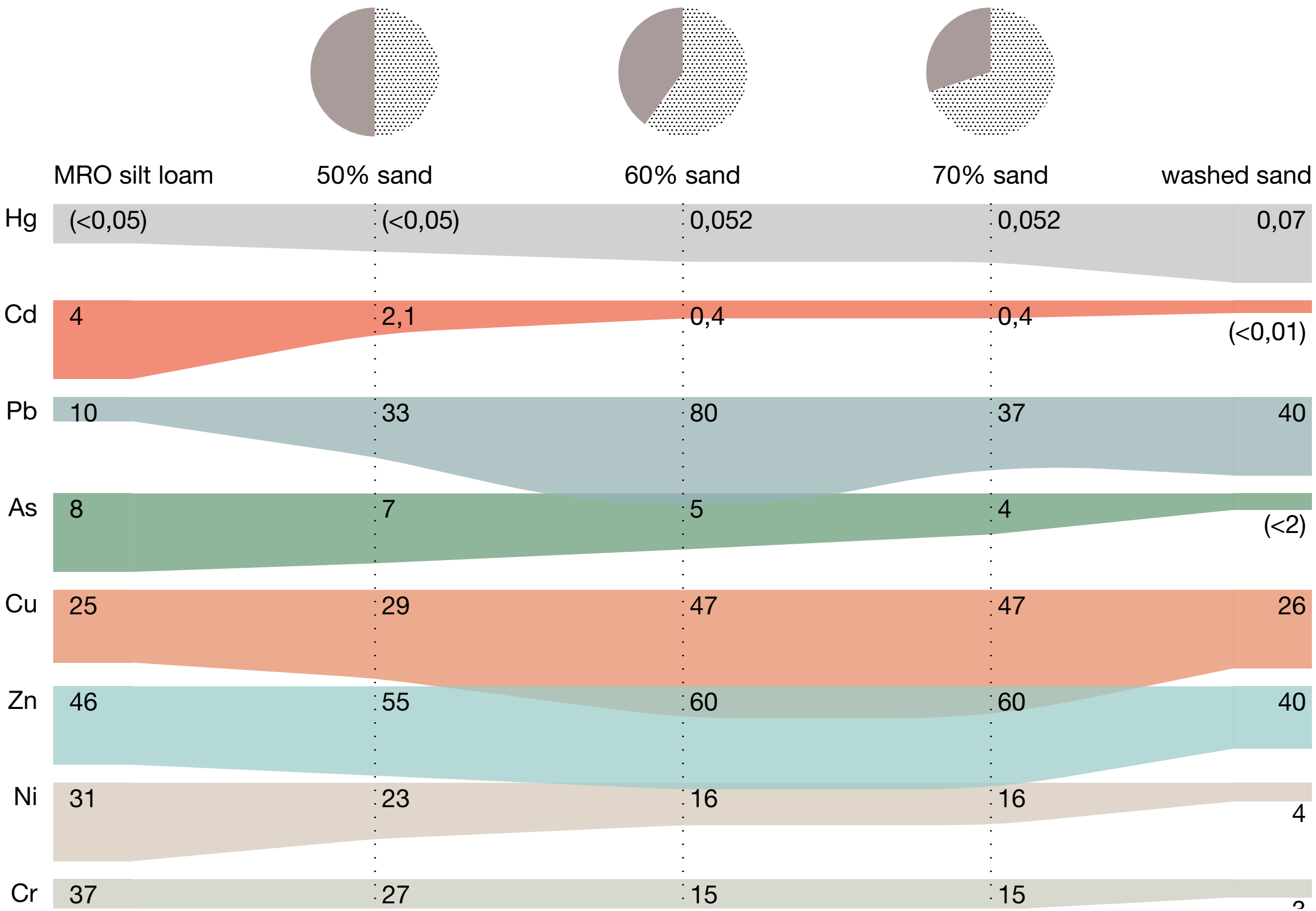
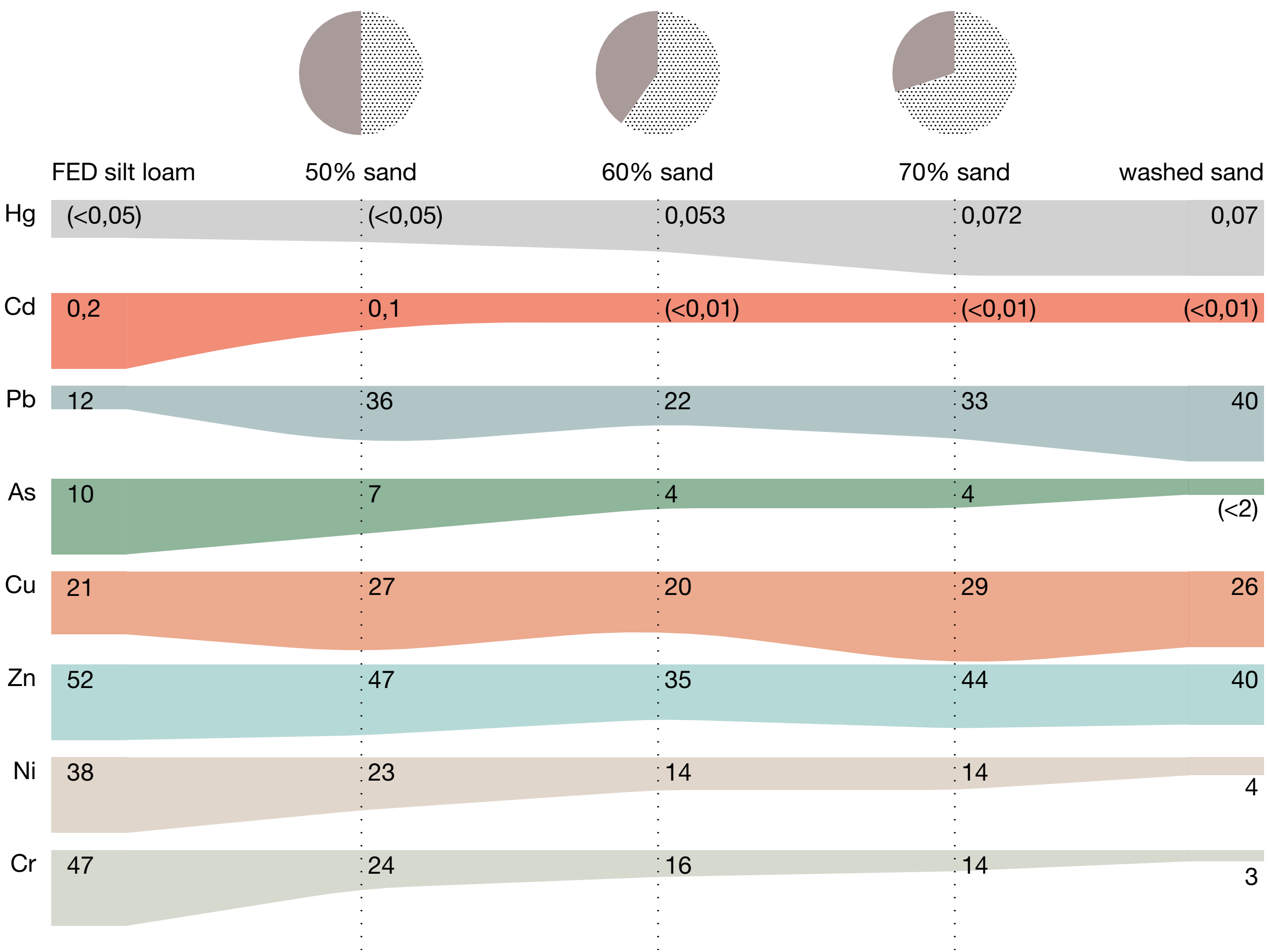
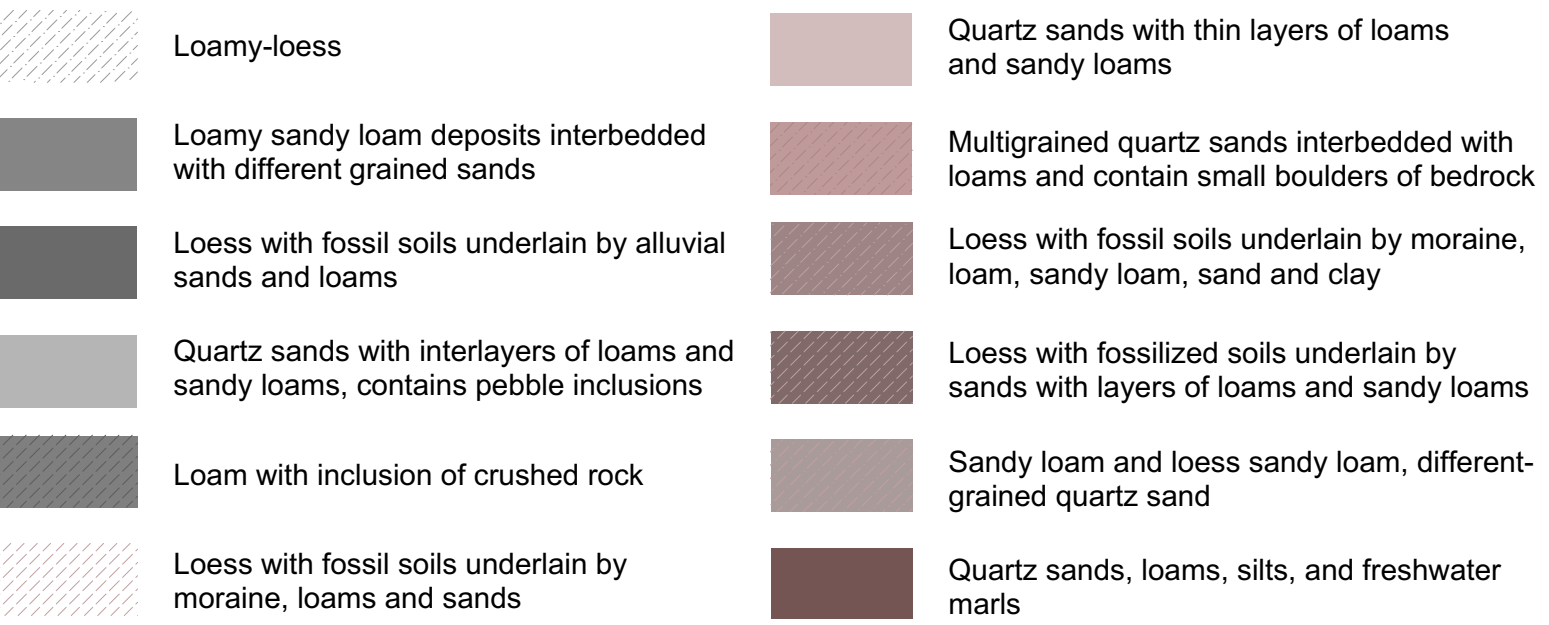


Loess from Fedorivka consists of 15% clay particles, 80% silt and 5% sand. Total proportion of particles <0.063 mm is 94,8%



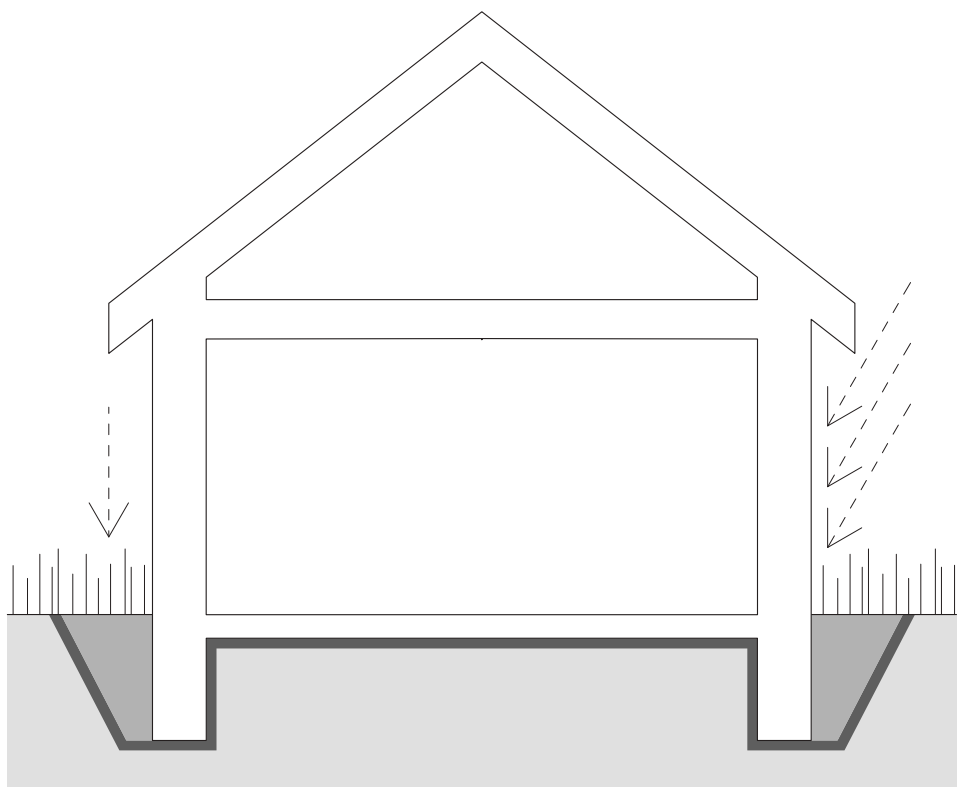
Loess from Mala Rohan consists of 23% clay particles, 62% silt and 15% sand. Total proportion of particles <0.063 mm is 84,9%

In the Kharkiv region, various natural sand sources are available to balance soil mixtures for CEB production. However, rather than depleting natural resources, we should prioritize the use of secondary materials, particularly demolition rubble in the context of war. Additionally, the demand for clean energy and water in processing these materials remains a critical concern.

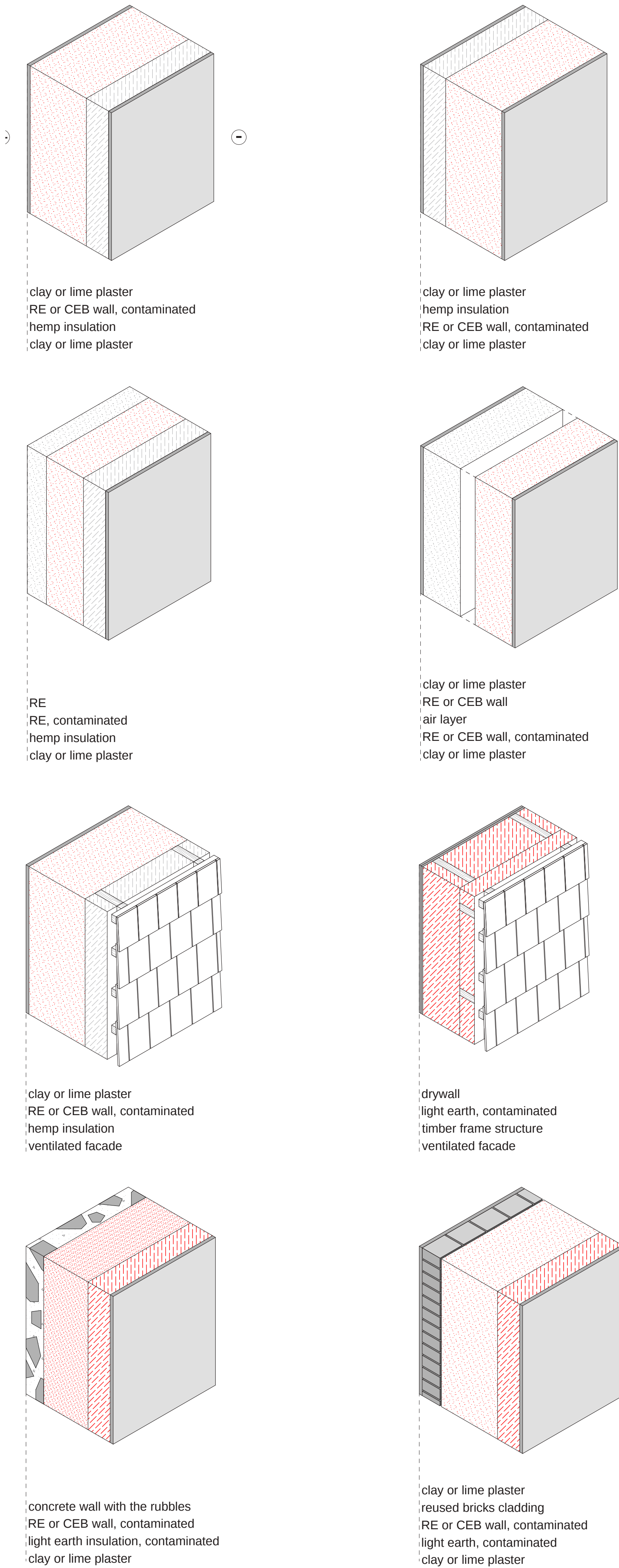


ENCAPSULATION STRATEGY

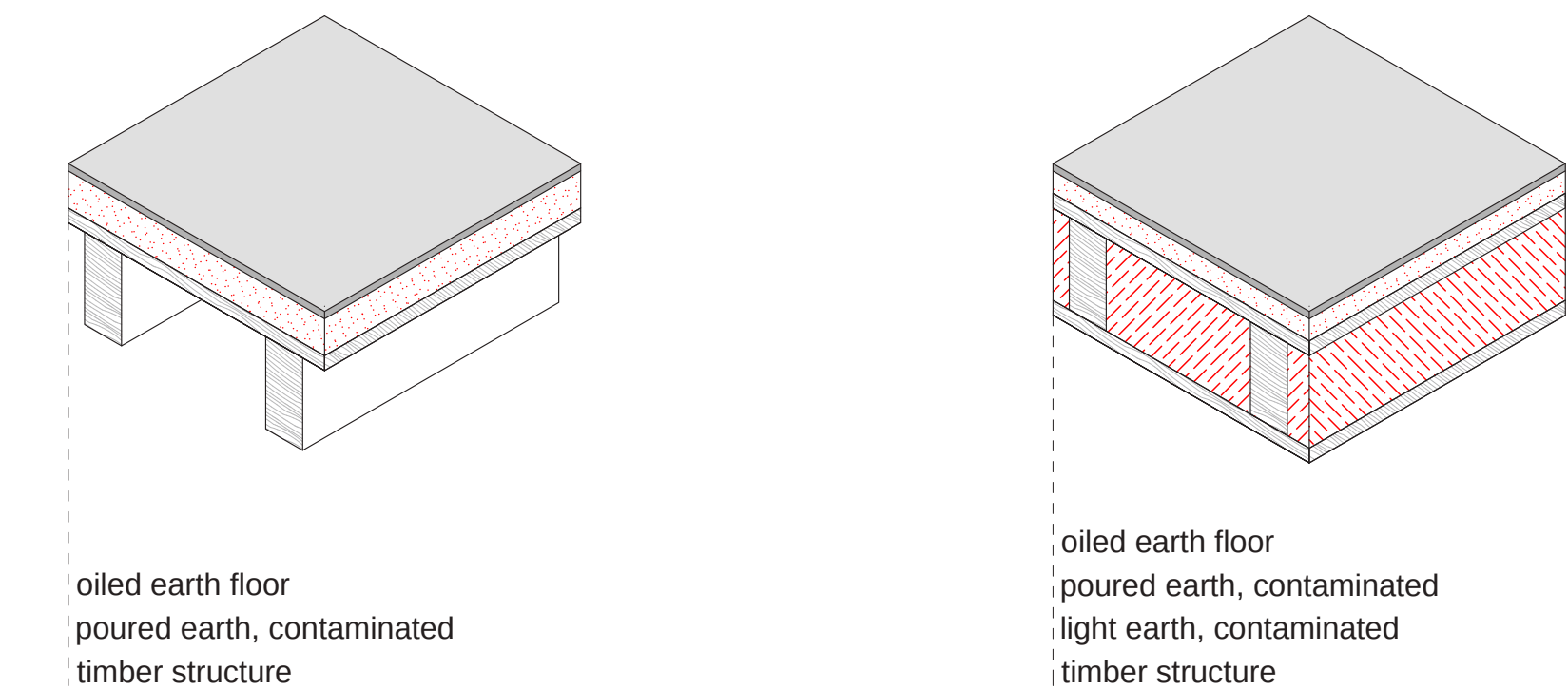
This strategy represents large-scale design details of building elements engineered to securely contain materials contaminated with heavy metals. We have created examples of building details that would be safe for users and would not create additional pollution by spreading contaminants already present in building elements. A key feature is the prototype of a ‘filter house,’ encircled by a rain garden equipped with an underground filtration system. This system gradually leaches contaminants from the exterior walls, effectively managing pollution over time.



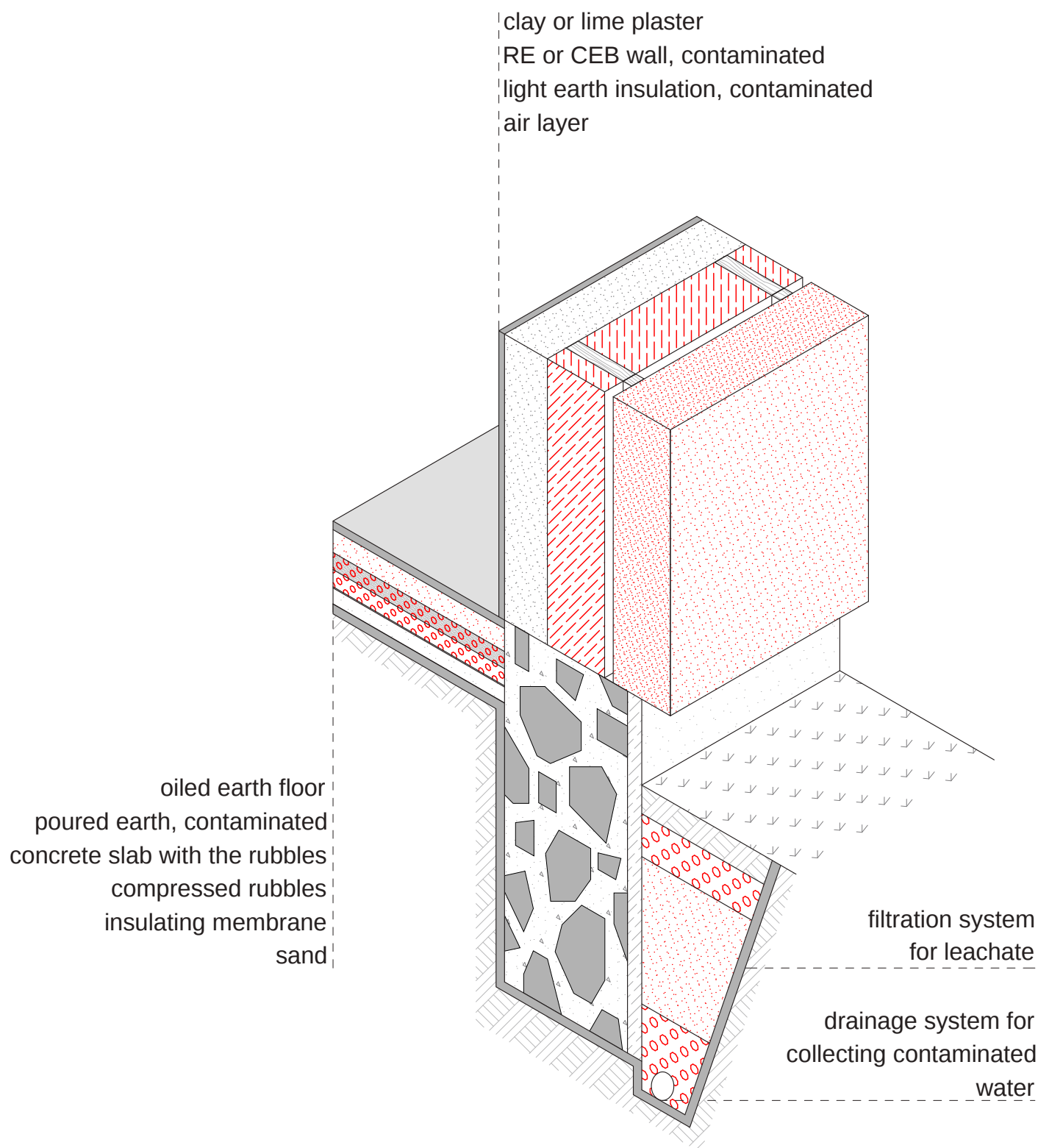
EXTERIOR WALLS



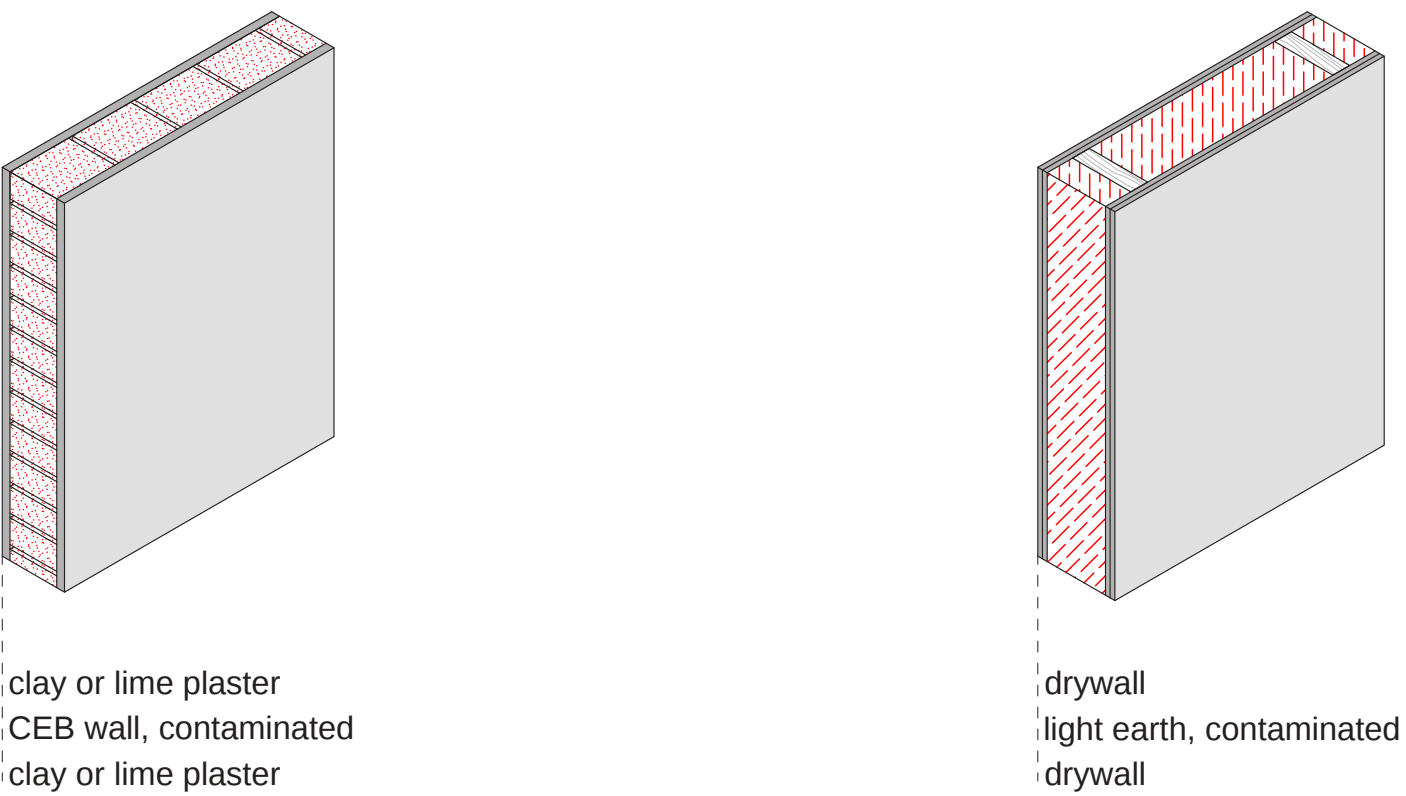
FLOOR SLABS



FILTRATION SYSTEM



INTERIOR WALLS



GROUND FLOOR

