HOW TO REPRESENT OBSERVATIONS IN THE FIELD?

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The graphical representation of your work should simplify the global organisation of the agrarian landscape: it is not appropriate to represent each plot of land, plant or rocky outcrop. It is therefore a theoretical model that is not an exact replication of reality.

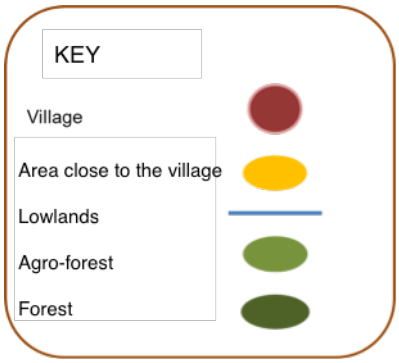
There are no rules: the representation must help you to illustrate your point.

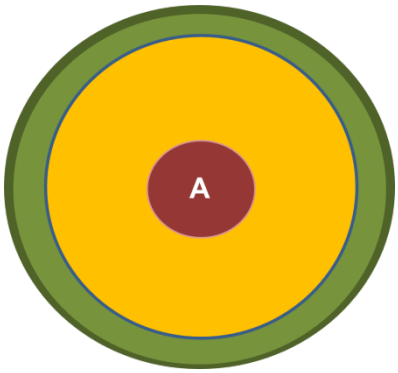
In this document you will find some examples of how to represent data from landscape observations. These are not exhaustive examples but will show you the most frequently used representations.

1. “I wanted to show that the diversity of the landscape is organised according to its distance from a place where people live.”

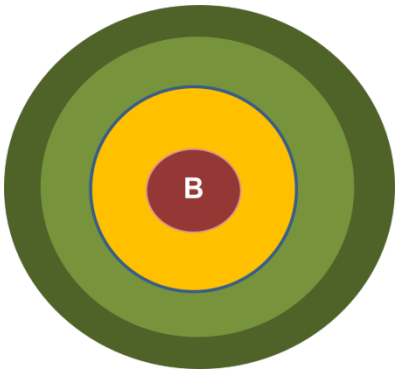
There are many different cases, in particular in areas where the topography is not very marked. In these places, practices often differ in relation to the distance with the living place: more distant locations mean less surveillance and greater difficulty to transport manure and water. In this case, a “bird’s eye view” can be appropriate.

In Haut-Nyong, in Cameroon, Bassuel et Schneider (2014) adopted this mode of representation.

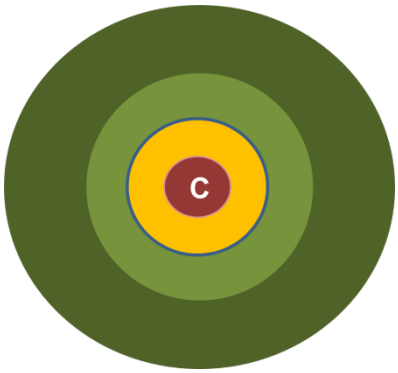




A. Typical village of accessible peri-forest savannah



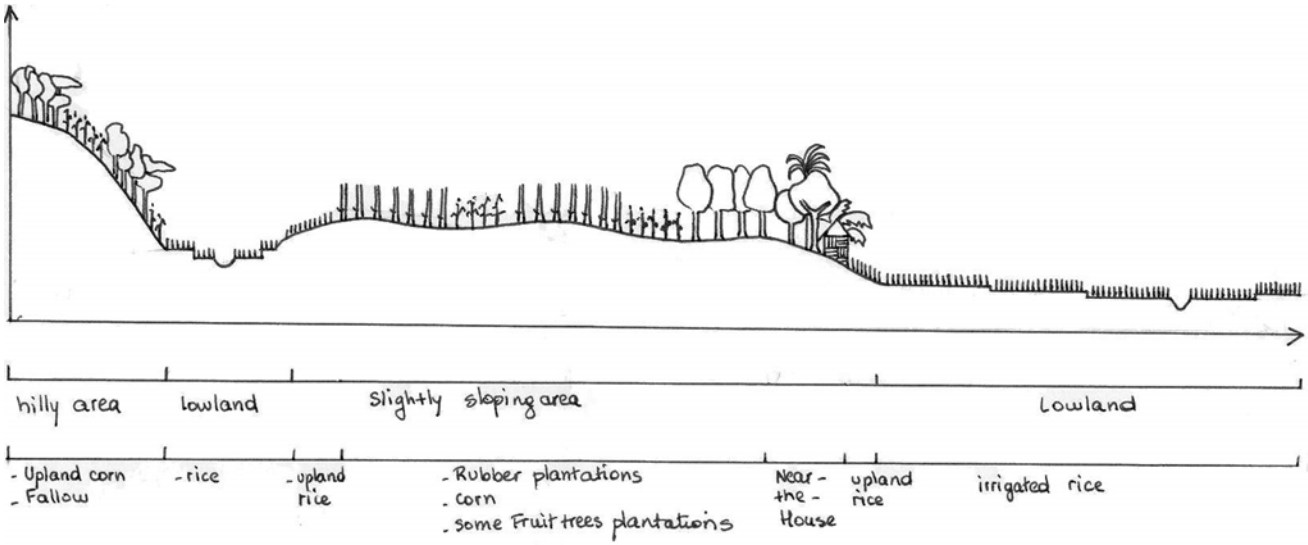
B. Typical village of isolated forestry zones



C. Typical village of the South of the Haut-Nyong department

2. “I want to show that the landscape diversity is organised according to agro-ecological levels (altitude and gradient).”

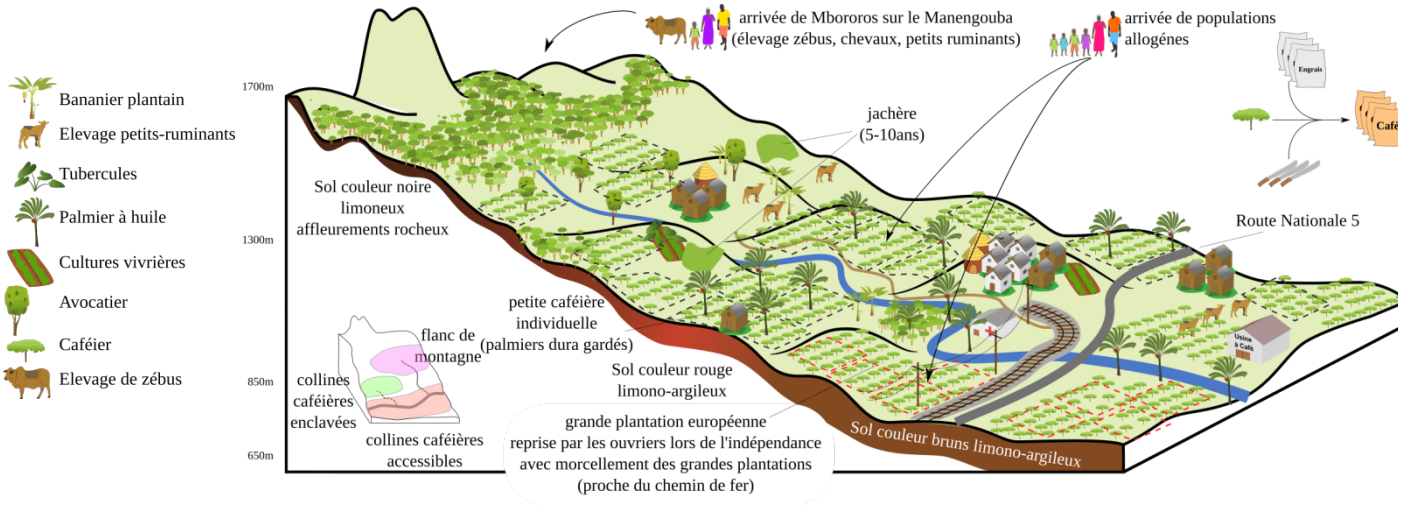
The land’s toposequence, the altitudinal tiering of crops or asymmetric land occupation on the different slopes, are agrarian landscapes that are very common in hilly and mountainous areas, from the Andes to the Bigorre hills in France. In this case, the landscape can be effectively modelled with a two-dimension profile or transect.



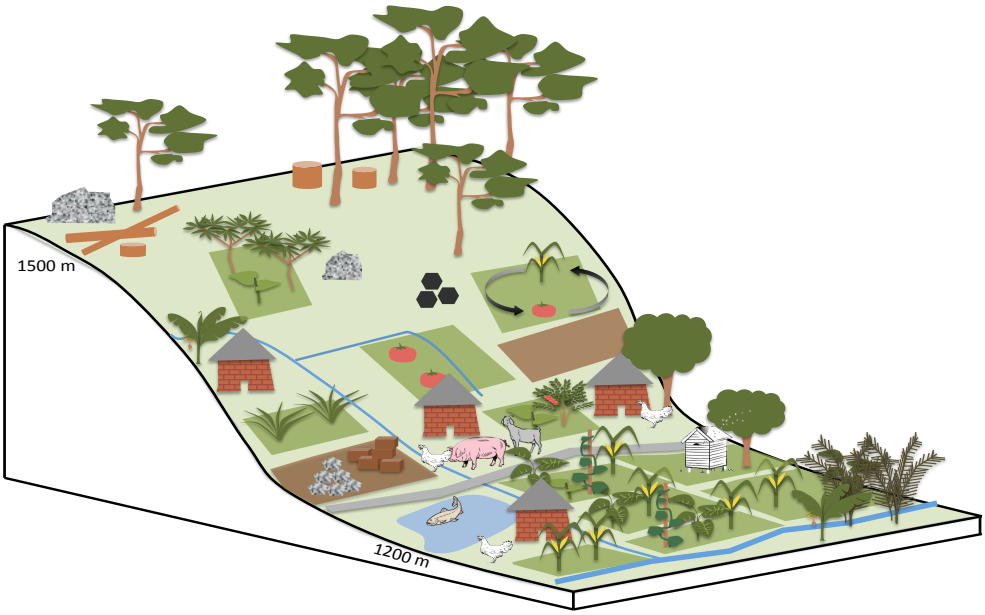
Source: Touzard I., Tallec M., Dreyfus F., Barbier J-M., Ferraton N. (2001)

3. “I want to show that the landscape varies according to the topography but that lateral variations also exist.”

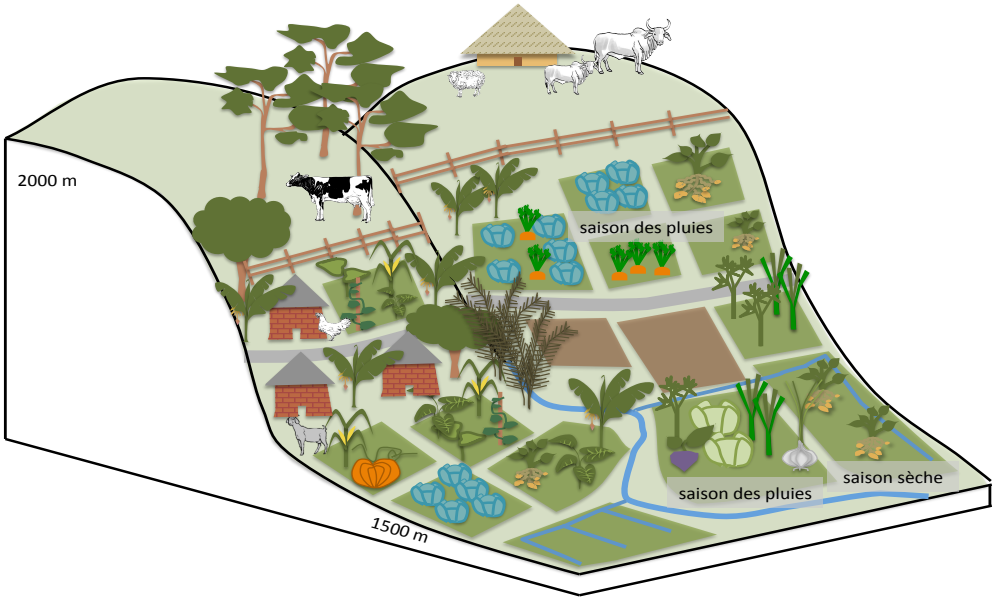
In this case, either you can create multiple transect-profiles, or you will have to use 3-dimensions with the block diagram. This mode of representation has the advantage of highlighting the organisation of the plots (size and shape).



Source : Castaner Carrion E., Gumpinger E (2014)



Source : Atger J., Torbay M. (2014)

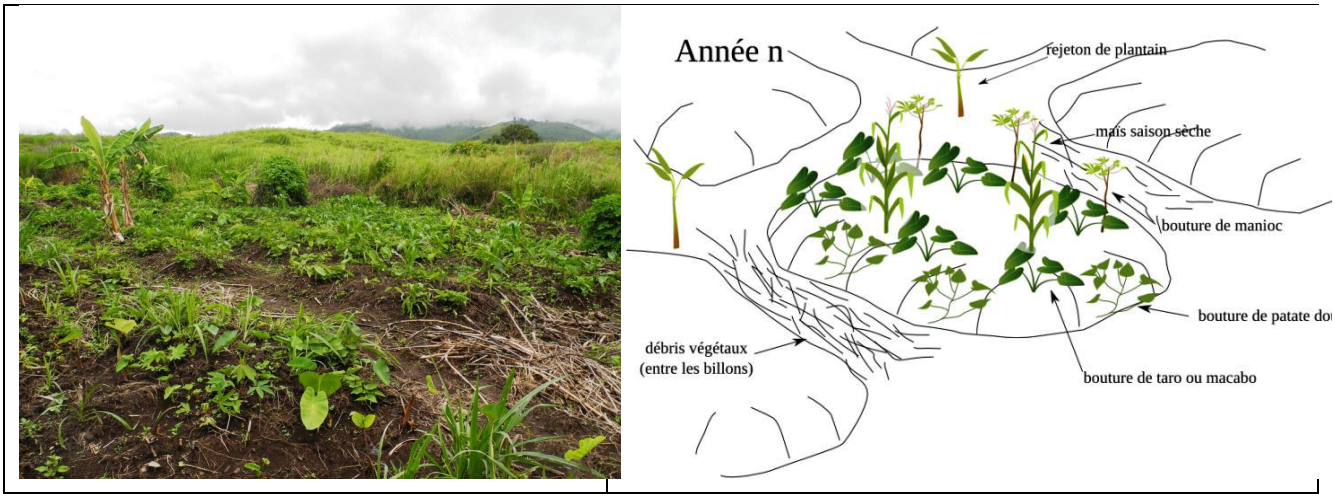


Légende :

- Habitation/village
- Habitations éleveurs Mbororos
- Maïs
- Taro/macabo
- Igname
- Haricot sec
- Manioc
- Arachide
- Patate douce
- Ananas
- Café arabica/robusta
- Cacaoyer
- Palmier à huile
- Bananier/plantain
- Fruitier : avocatier, manguier, safoutier, colatier, goyavier
- Arbre sauvage
- Eucalyptus
- Raphia
- Troupeau de zébus
- Vache laitière
- Chèvres en divagation
- Porc (porcherie)
- Poule locale/améliorée
- Pisciculture
- Ruches
- Riz
- Tomate
- Courge
- Pomme de terre
- Poireau
- Betterave
- Laitue
- Chou
- Carotte
- Oignon
- Céleri
- Cheval
- Mouton
- Parcelle cultivée
- Parcelle irriguée
- Parcelle inondée
- Parcelle en jachère
- Route en terre
- Route bitumée
- Cours d'eau
- Carrière gravier/ blocs
- Exploitation de la terre pour fabrication de briques
- Exploitation forestière

4. “I want to emphasise a particular practise, or the co-existence of a diversity of practices within an agro-ecological unit.”

You should not hesitate to make the most of your field observations as these are a fully-fledged part of the landscape analysis: pasture management practices, forage conservation, combined cropping, animal traction or irrigation will illustrate and complete your global representation.



Source : Castaner Carrion E., Gumpinger E. (2014)

▶ Bibliography mentioned:

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