The argument

The seas are rising

So?

It affects everyone

From where I sit, it does not seem to be my problem

So you don't stay along the sea, is that your argument?

Exactly

Even in this present day and age, the symbiotic nature of the lives of all inhabitants on this planet cannot be overlooked. There is enough empirical evidence to support sea level rise, and to predict the levels of the oceans in the times to come if it goes unchecked.

Are you sure?

What do you mean?

The rise is so slight that it is hard to perceive. And hence the effects impossible to gauge. I'm not sure it is actually happening

And what if I could show you? Would that change your opinion? Would that be incentive enough to act?

Hmm...

Sea level rise

All evidence supports the rise in sea levels. And all of it points to a bleak future for the coastal communities in particular and the world at large. The factors leading to this rapid increase in sea levels have also been discussed at length in the past few decades. We as a race are responsible for this dilemma and the onus to get ourselves out of this mess is in our own hands.

Our industrial and consumptive past have put us at the tipping point where we are presented with two choices. We can accept the inevitability of the seas rising rapidly and prepare ourselves accordingly by all means necessary. The second, more optimistic option is that we hold on to the hope that this situation can be salvaged, and amends can be made to keep the sea levels at check.

I believe that there is still hope to combat this onward march of the sea. What is lacking is the foresight and the commitment amongst the world leaders to accept this very real phenomenon and take proactive measures to combat it. This in turn would only be made possible if there is sufficient awareness in the public at large. Only then can a change in policy and implementation be mandated by the people and enforced by the government.

Loss- a motivator for change

There can broadly be three categories of people- the ones who are aware of the problem and the impacts, the ones who are unaware of the problems and the impacts, and the sceptics. A sceptic who believes that the change is so far away that it is not really their problem. The sceptics and the uninformed constitute a vast majority. And it is these numbers that will govern the future of policy making with respect to sea level rise.
Observation has the power to shake people out of inaction. A loss witnessed and a loss experienced. **The intent is to amplify this loss so it becomes perceptible in a relatively short time frame.**

Loss- the mechanism

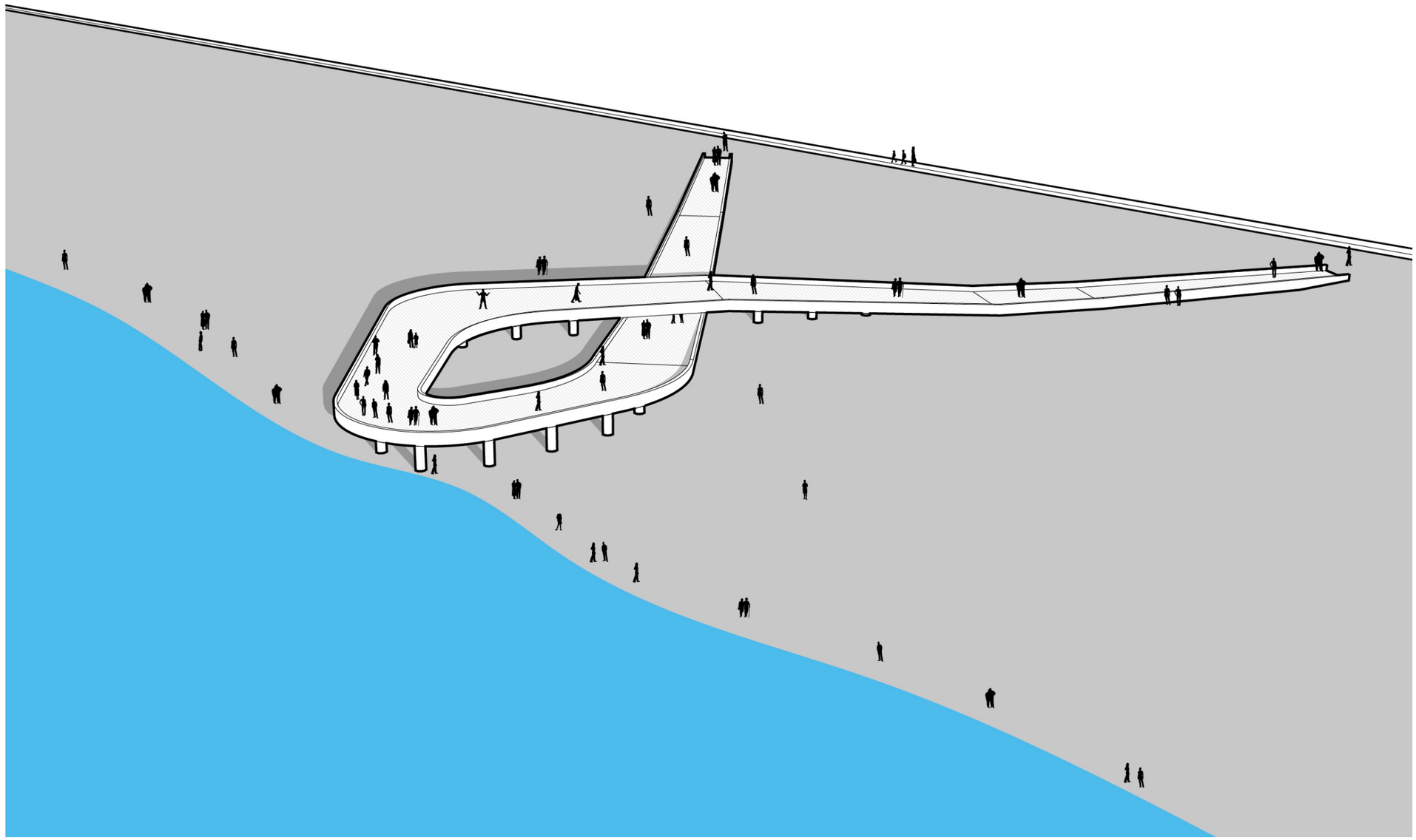
Borrowing from the industrial concept of planned obsolescence, a series of landscape suggestions are proposed that exaggerate the movement of the seas and the resultant loss. Structures are built / used over a period of time and then reclaimed by the sea. The structure and their associated purpose is thus rendered unusable if the levels of the oceans rise as predicted. I have chosen three mechanisms to highlight loss. These by themselves are not important. And neither are these the only solutions. What is important is the concept that these structures form a fragment of the collective imagination of people over time. This in turn dictates the location of these interventions- for maximizing visibility to a vast number of people. They then witness the forced decay and usurpation by the sea in a relatively short period of time. This, in my opinion, would be motivation enough to change opinions and effect policy.

#1- the loss of connectivity

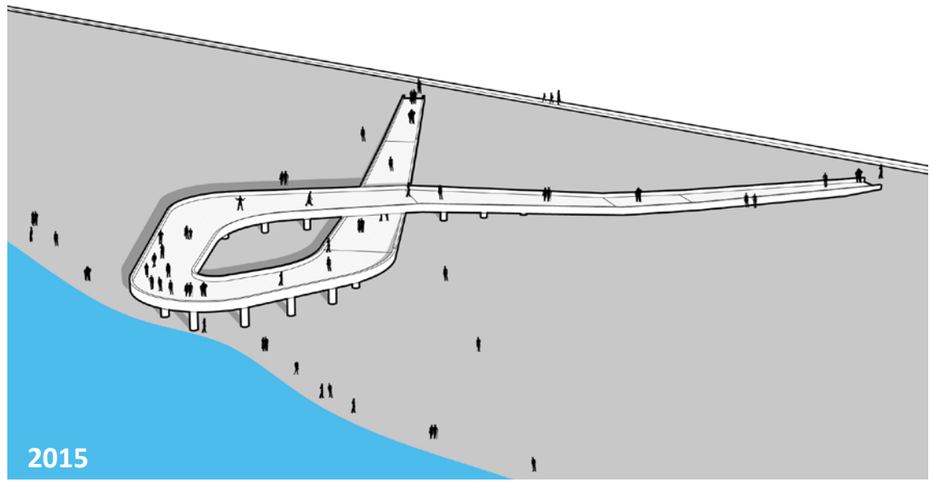
The loss of connectivity- the advance of the sea

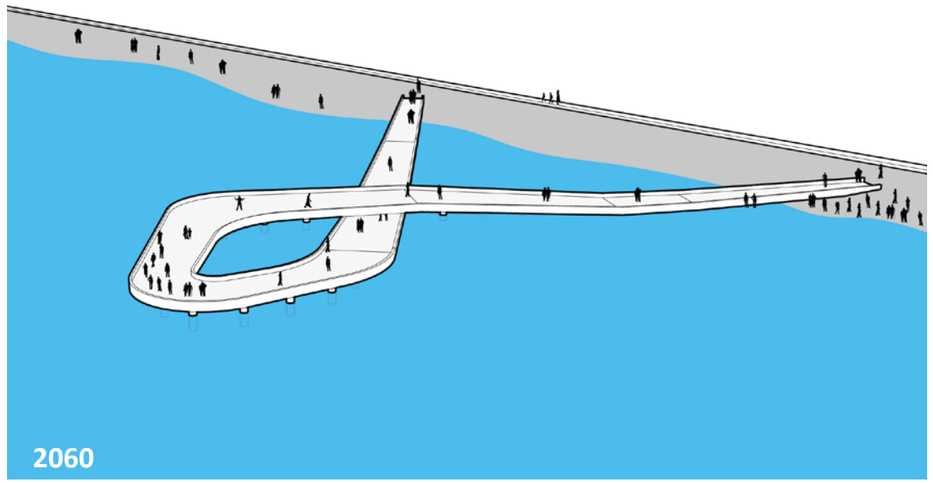
A viewing deck designed to welcome water rather than fighting its advance. A structure that provides people with a view of the advancing ocean. And in time, this rise in water level makes the approach unusable. In the final stage it stands as a remnant of the past- a structure abandoned but not forgotten, symptomatic of all the built forms and connections we stand to lose if this trend is not checked. This loss is witnessed at an accelerated pace with tidal cycles as well.

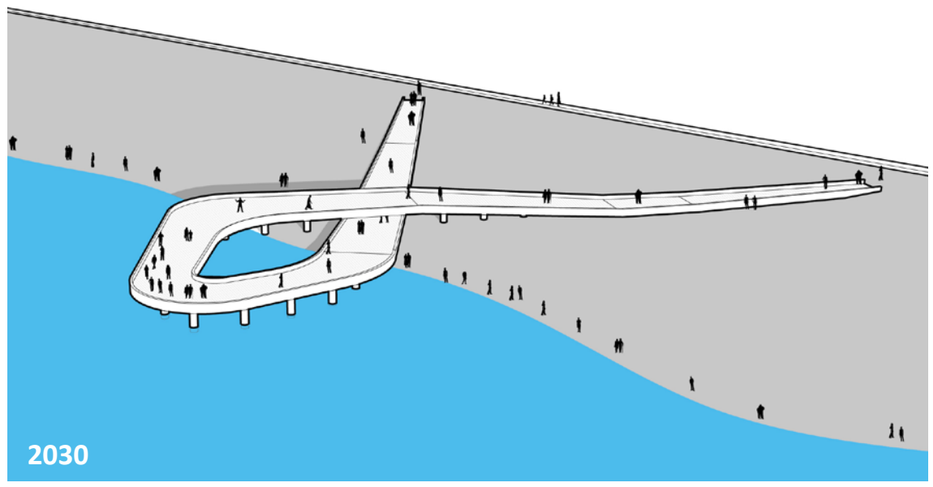
The access to the viewing deck slopes downward before it starts leading people up to the sea facing view. This ensures that the connectivity is lost even though the approach is accessible- an intentional failure, an intentional loss.

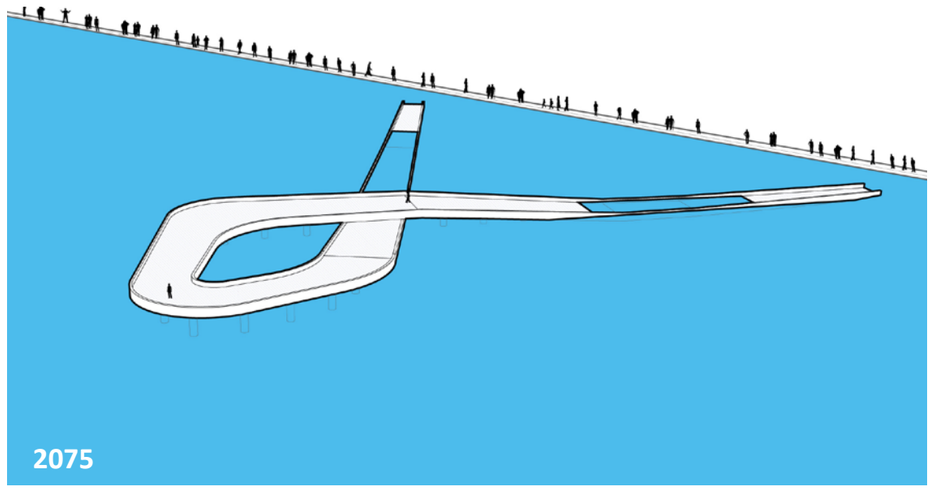


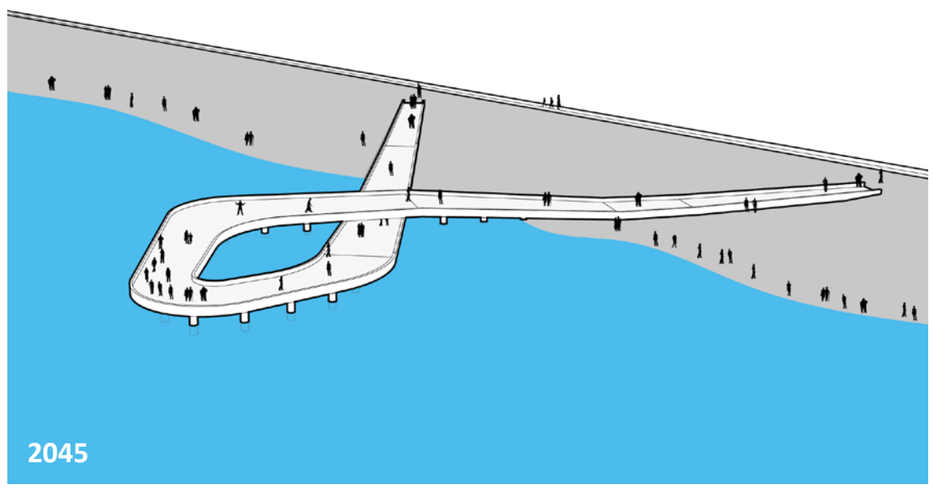
PROGRESSION if unchecked

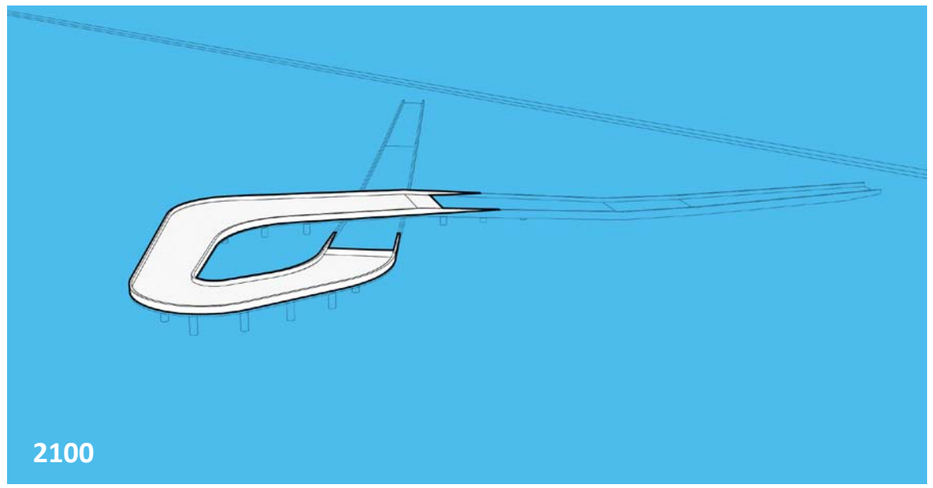


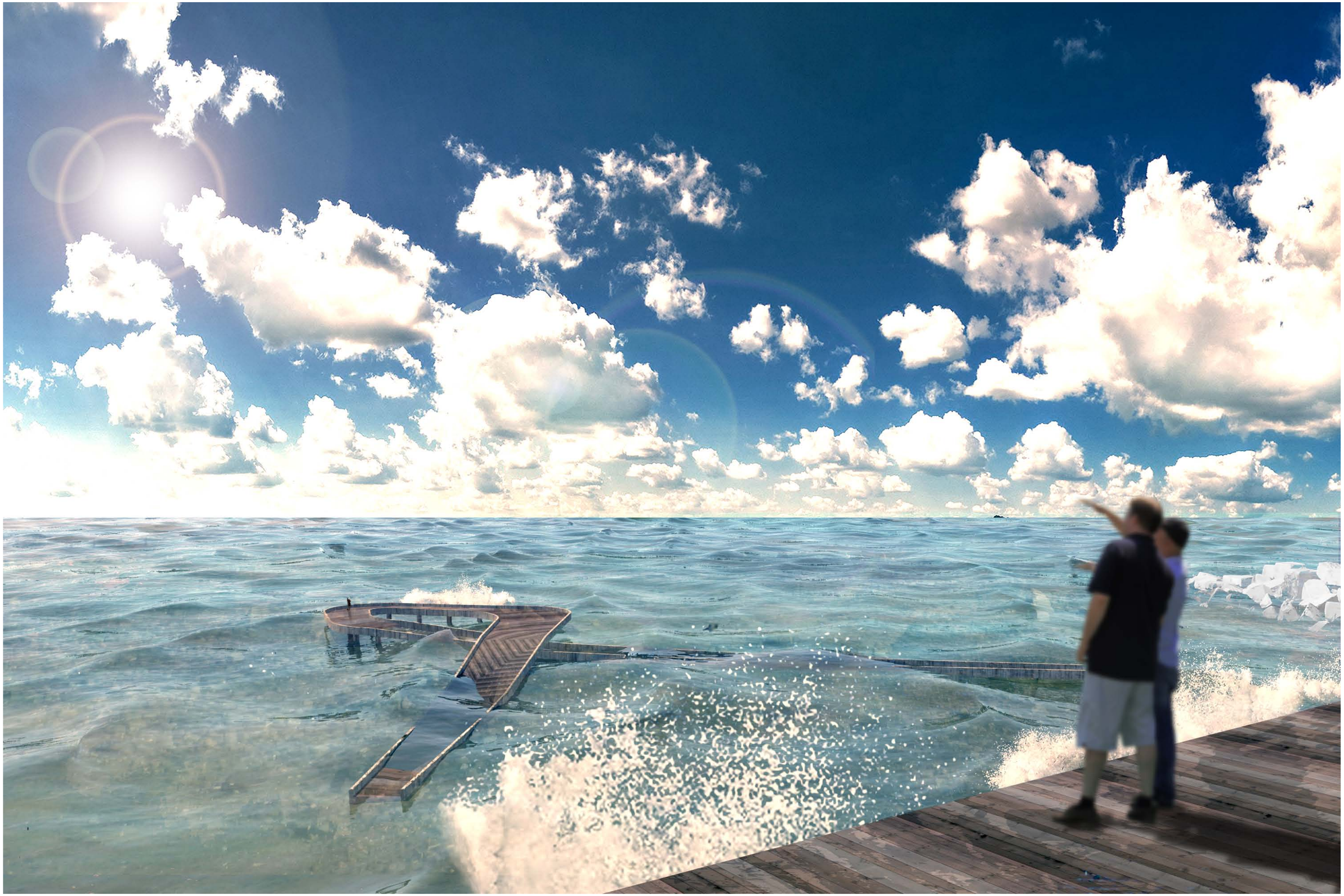












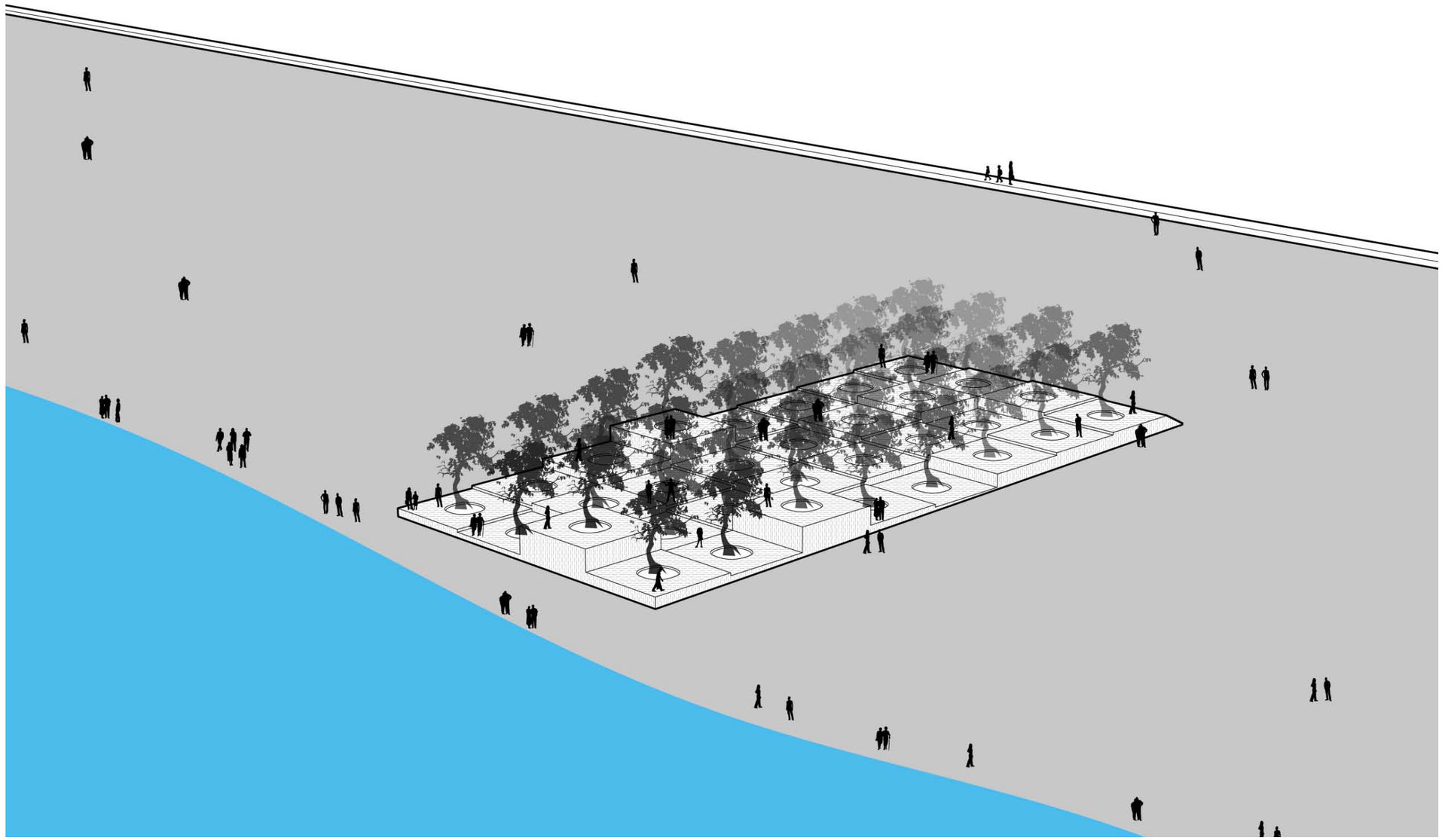
the lost connection- a folly in the sea

#2- the loss of an ecosystem

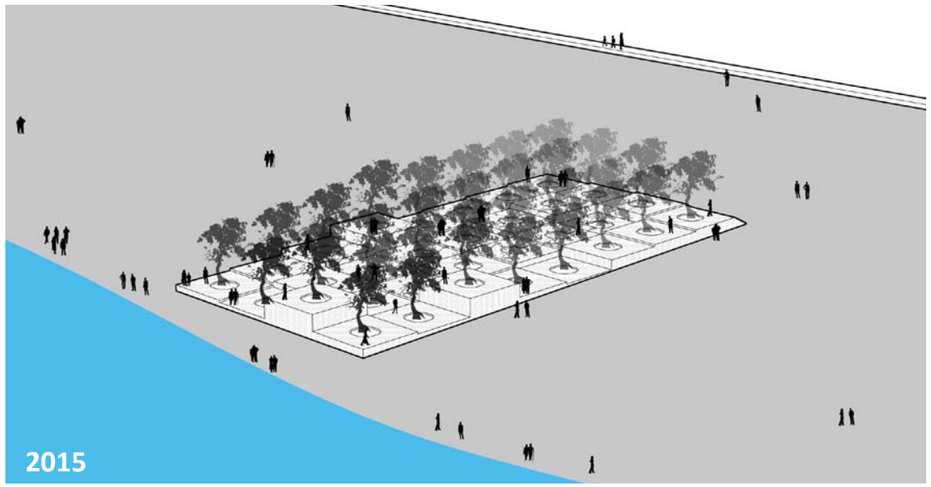
The loss of an ecosystem

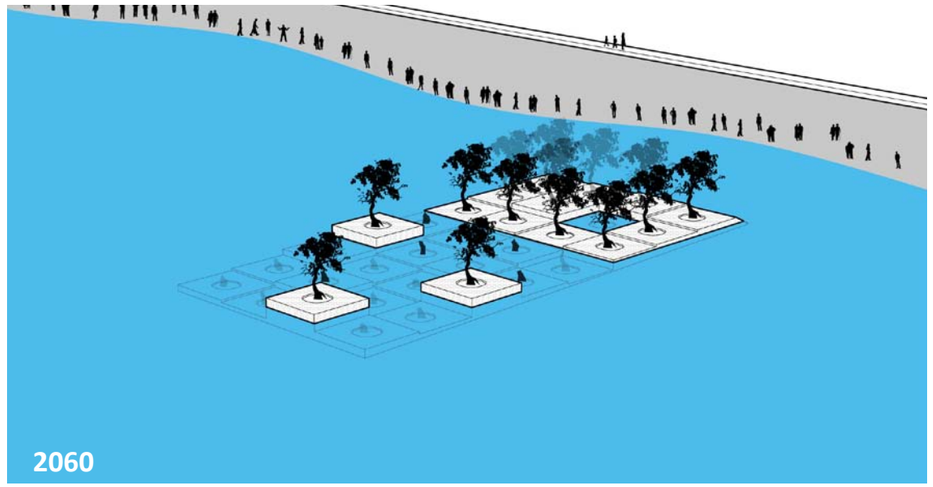
This scheme proposes condensing / abridging the time-line that defines the cycle of life and death in the natural world. A landscape / hard scape intervention that showcases the wasting away of plant life as the salt water pushes steadily inwards into the land.

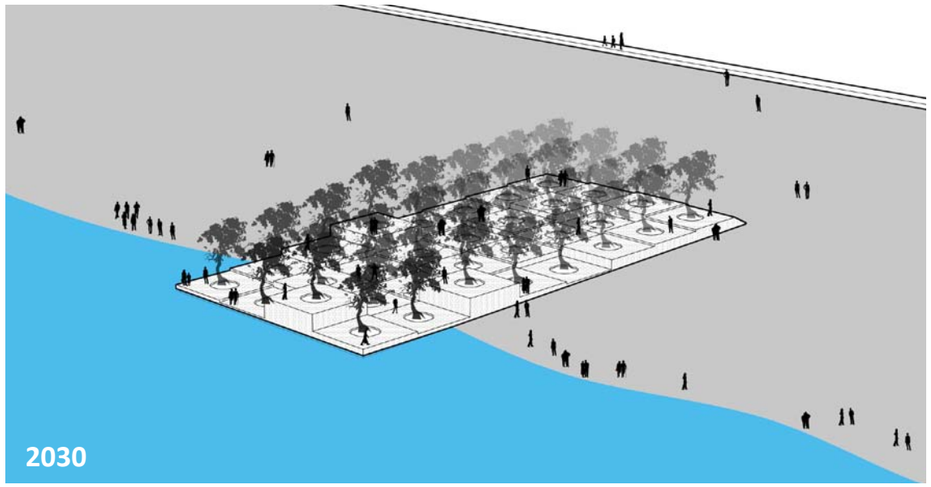
Trees are planted on platforms of varied heights, the lowest of which would be submerged over a period of 20-25 years, coinciding with the maturity of the tree. Provided the water level rises at the predicted rate, an orchestrated flooding of the tree beds will commence. A regular visitor will thus witness the birth, growth, eventual death and rot of trees along the water's edge.

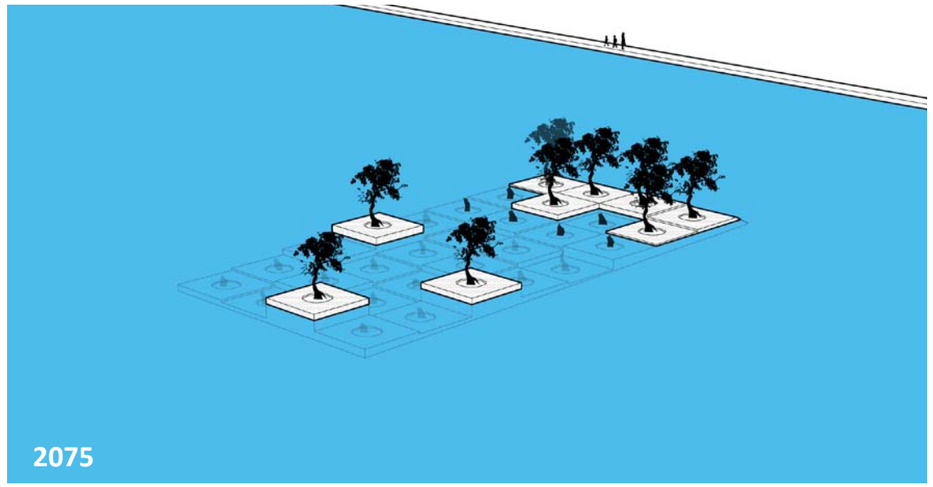


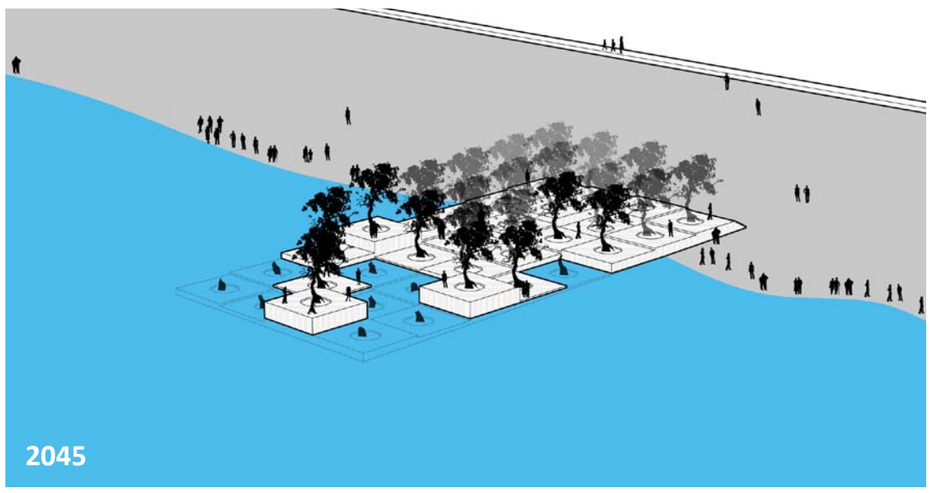
PROGRESSION if unchecked

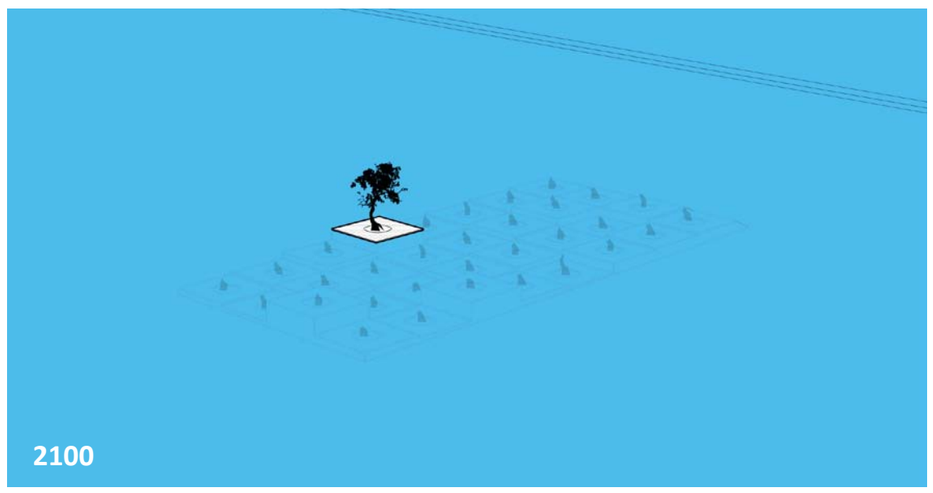














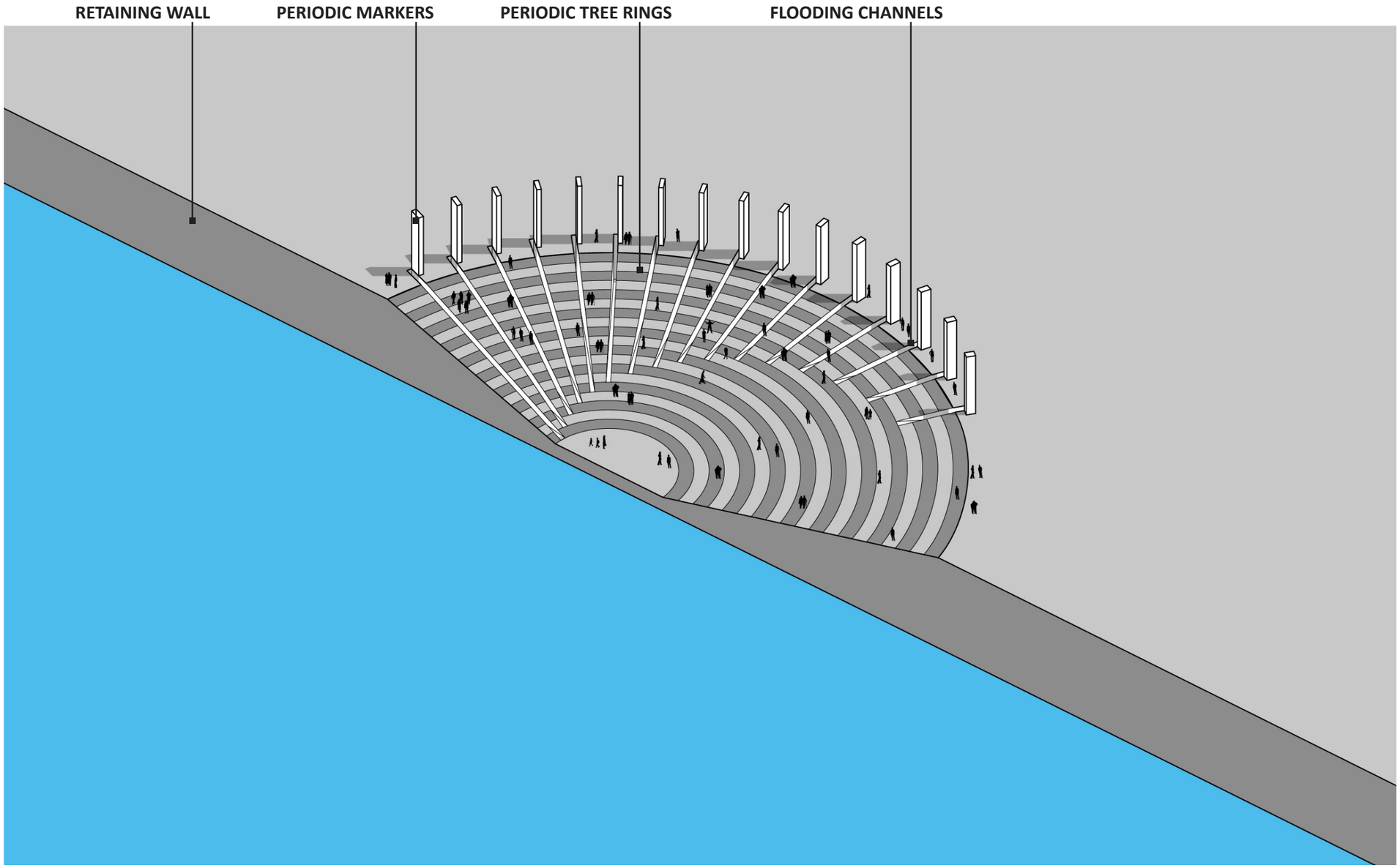
the loss of an ecosystem- remnants of life

#3- quantifying the loss

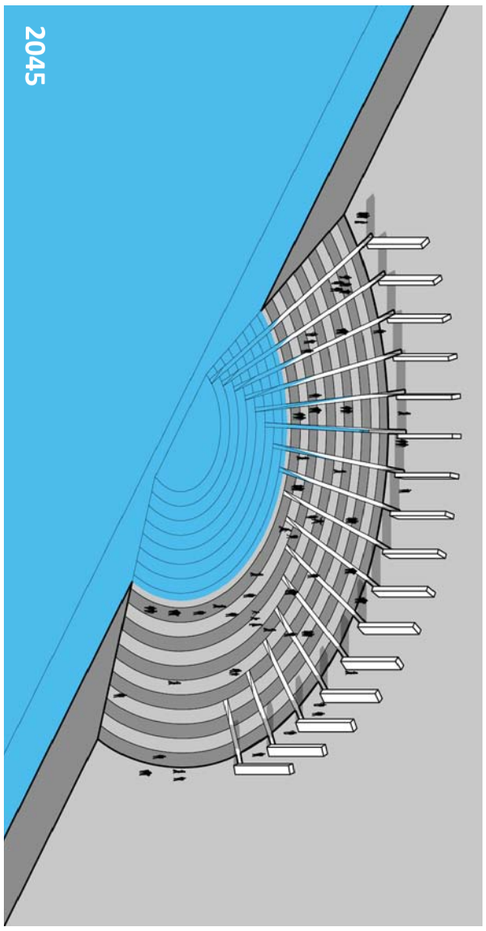
The measurement of loss

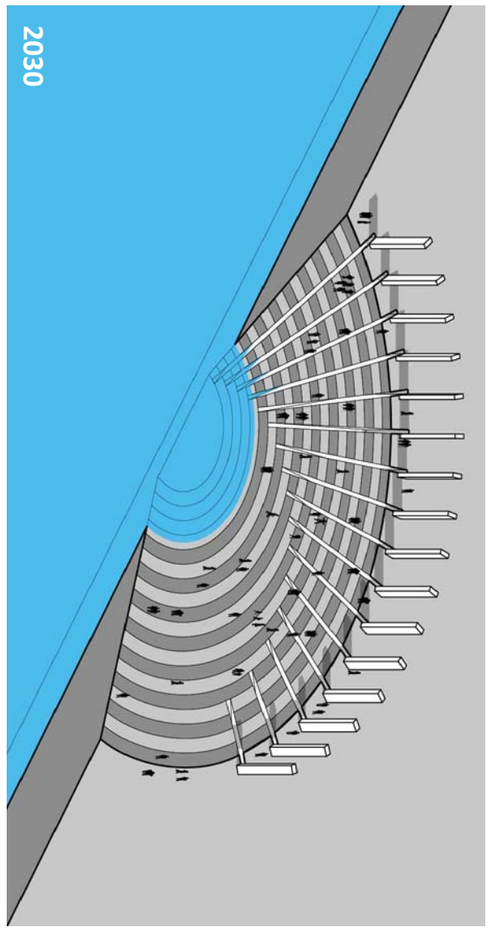
This scheme would be implemented along the coast where retaining walls have been built at the sea face. The presence of these walls suggest that a manmade intervention has overcome the force of nature. This scheme softens the hard built edge of the land to welcome the water in and make the water level rise more perceptible. The land is graded at an extremely gentle slope (1:200). This ensures that even a miniscule rise in water level manifests itself as a substantial loss in land area.

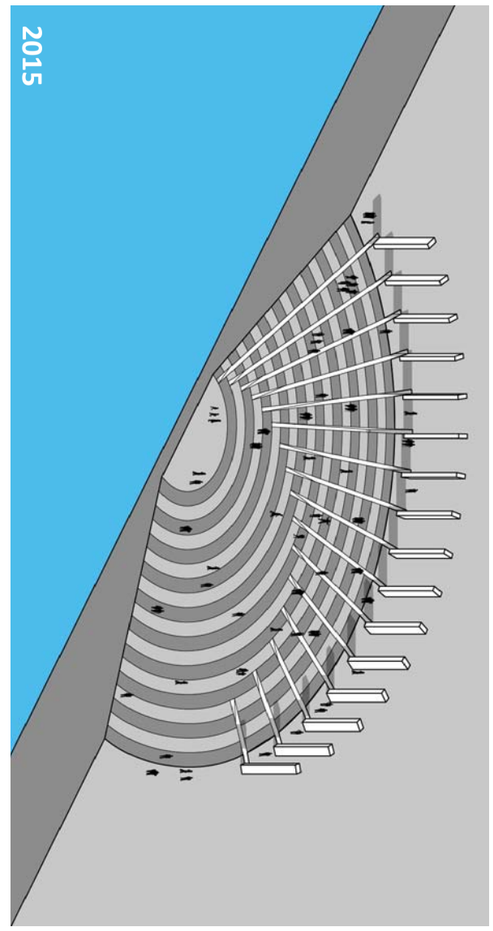
The landscape / hard scape components act as a warning system to record the rise in water levels. Over a period of time, the hard scape would record the increasing water levels in much the same manner as the annual rings in a tree, each ring mapped to record a regular time interval while also documenting the policy changes and their effectiveness by the help of periodic markers.

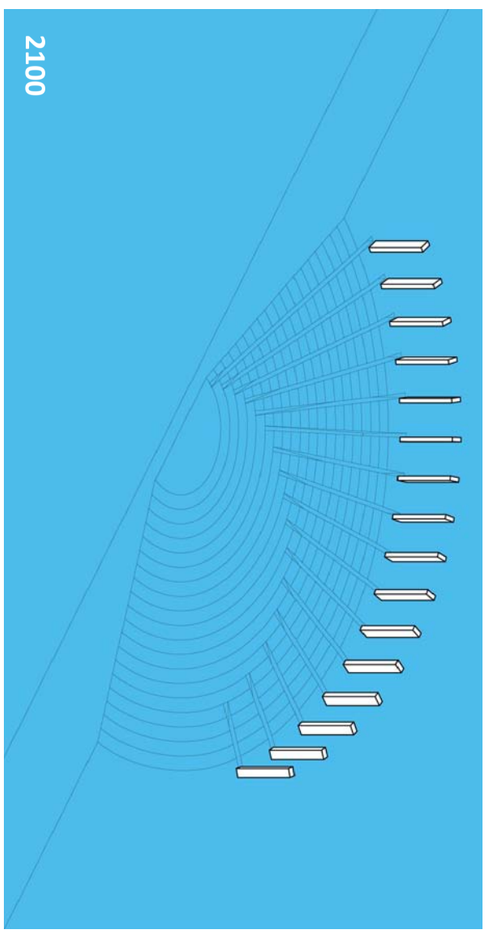


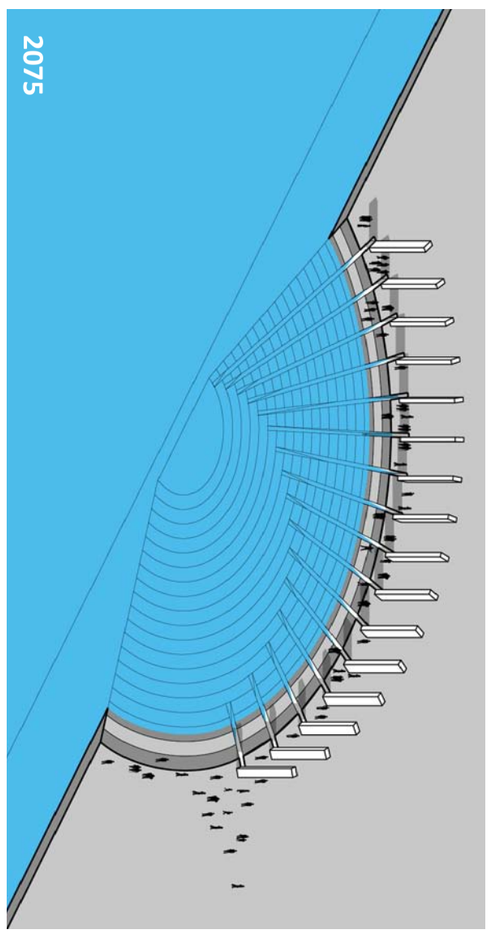
PROGRESSION if unchecked

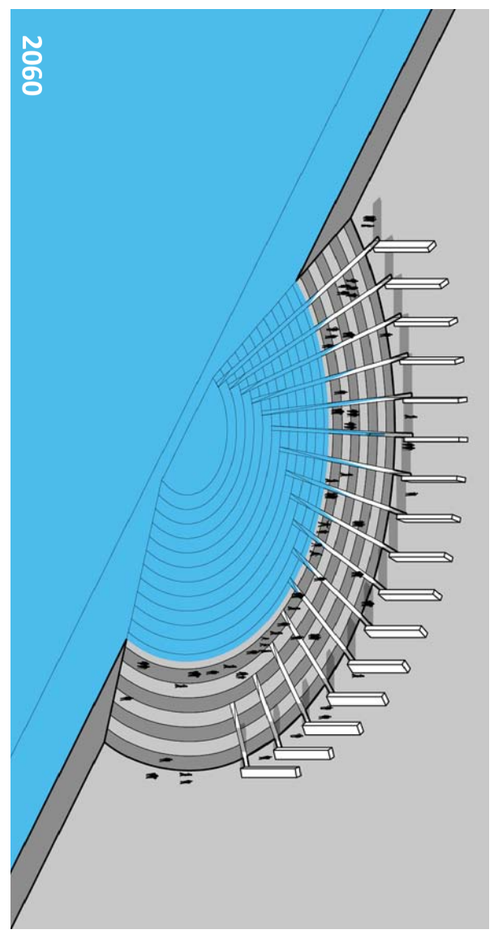














gauging the loss / halting the loss