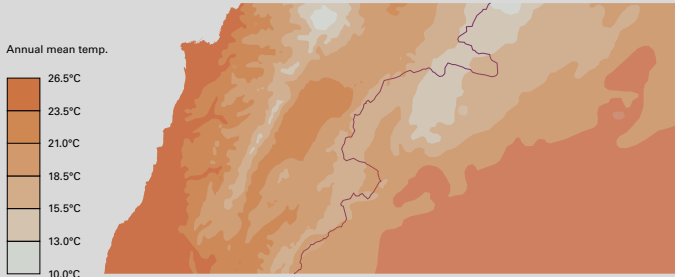
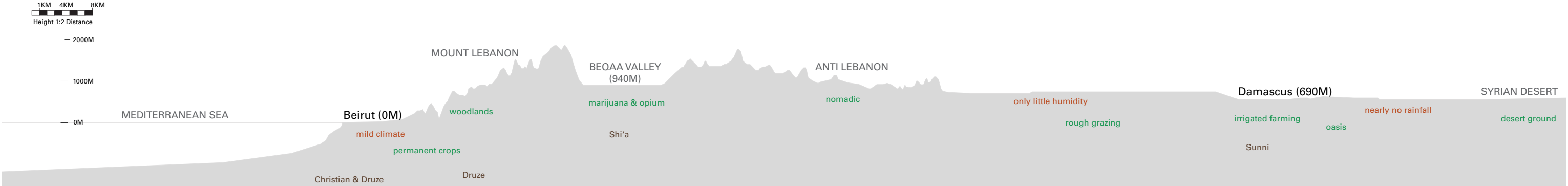
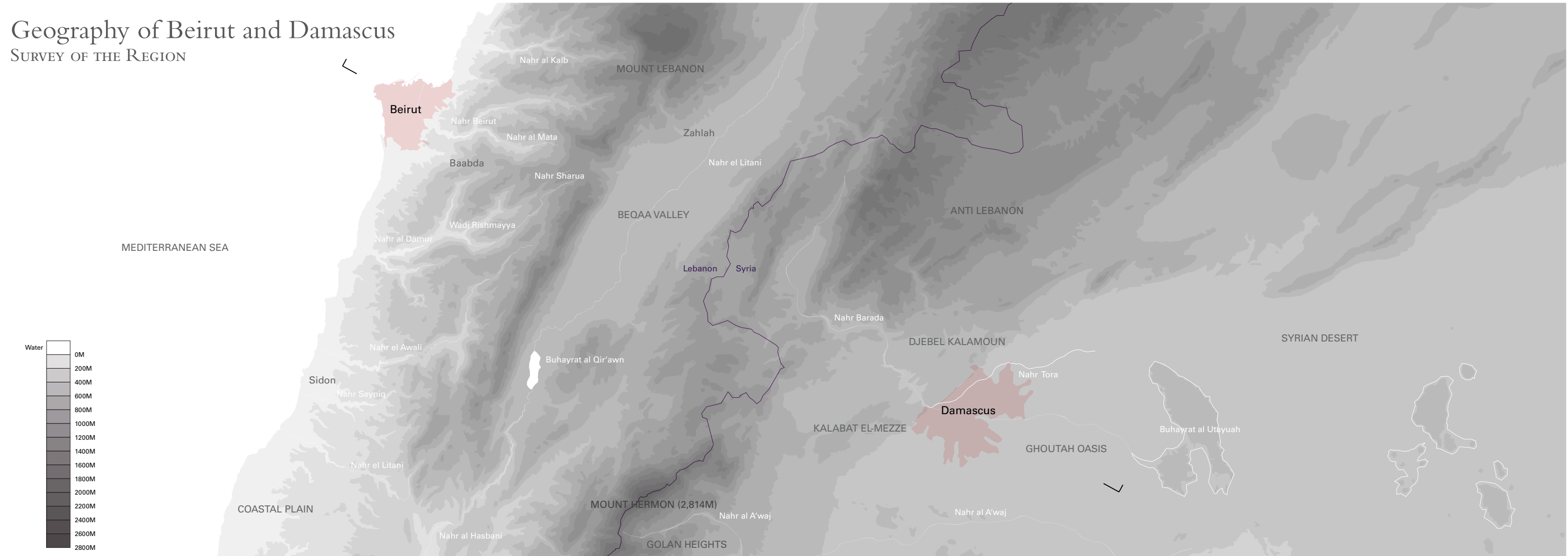


Geography of Beirut and Damascus

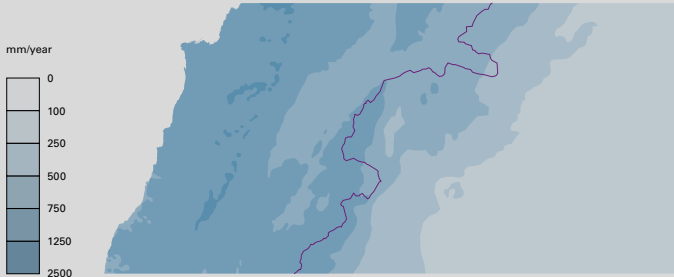
SURVEY OF THE REGION



TEMPERATURE

Since the Lebanon borders the Mediterranean Sea in the west, Beirut's climate is best described as mild to cool, with a cool and wet winter and a hot, rain-free summer. August is the hottest month with an average high temperature of 29°C, January and February are the coldest, reaching a low of 6°C. During afternoon and evening, wind blows onshore from the west, while the direction reverses to offshore at night.

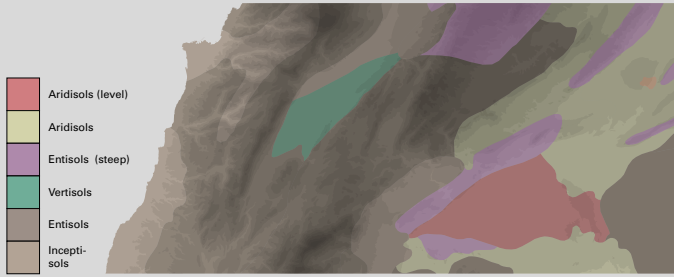
On the other side of the Anti Lebanon Mountains, Damascus' climate is semi arid. Summers are hot and dry, reaching a high temperature of 35°C in August. Winters are cool and rainy or even snowy with a low of 0°C.



PRECIPITATION

Beirut has a typical Mediterranean climate with dry summers and wet winters. The average annual rainfall is 860 millimetres, of which nearly all falls during winter, often in heavy downpours. Snow is quite rare in Beirut, though it does snow in the nearby Mount Lebanon Region.

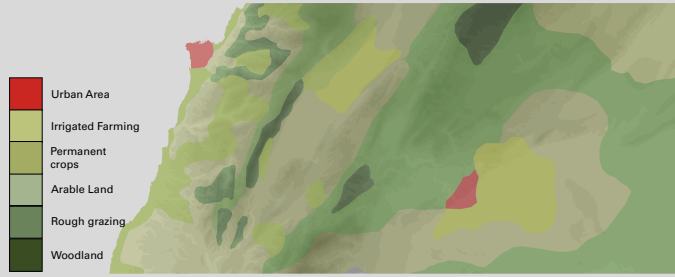
Due to the rain shadow effect of the Anti Lebanon Mountains, blocking the rain-producing weather, summers are hot with little humidity in Damascus. Dust- and sandstorms do occur. Annual rainfall is around 200 millimetres, mainly from November to March.



SOIL

Dominant element of the Lebanon is the narrow coastal plain. Soils of the typus Inceptisol, going over to Entisol as the Mount Lebanon rises, dominate the region from the coast to the mountains and even further till Damascus, where the sloping merges into the less steep Entisol again and eventually into plain Aridisols (Desert). The Beqaa Valley in-between the mountains, surrounded by Entisol grounds, consists mainly Vertisols.

In both Beirut and Damascus, deforestation, soil erosion and desertification are important environmental issues.



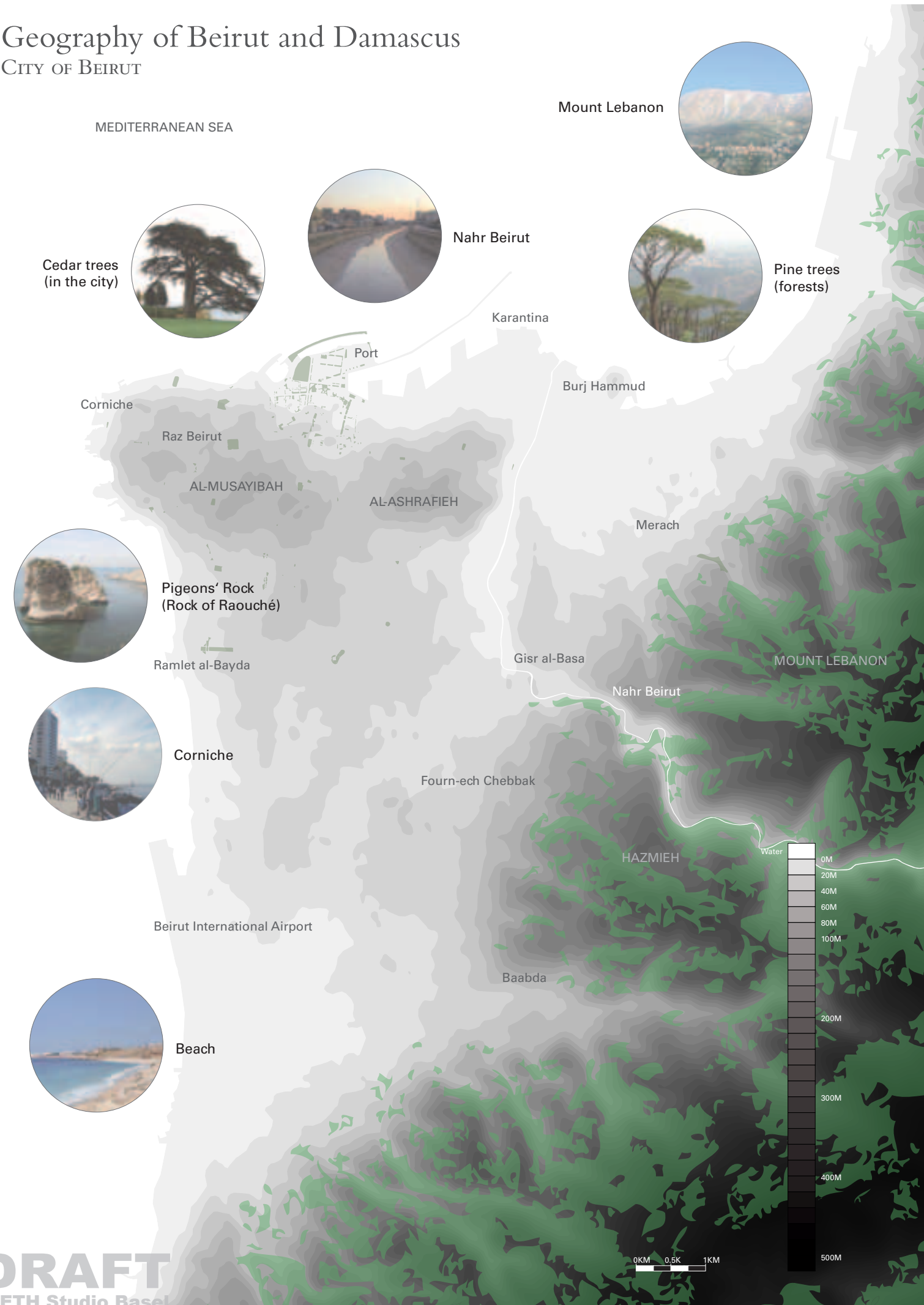
LAND USE

The whole Lebanese region between the coast and the submontane of Mount Lebanon is arable land (16.35%), while half of it is of permanent crop (13.75%), where mostly fruits and citrus with some vegetables are being cultivated. In the Beqaa Valley, grapes and lots of marijuana grow as well as opium in the northern part.

Sugar beets and several irrigated fruit and olives plantations can be found in the arable lands around Damascus, partly right next to the city.

Geography of Beirut and Damascus

CITY OF BEIRUT



CITY OF DAMASCUS

