

A METHOD TO DETERMINE ECOCIDE FROM A LANDSCAPE PERSPECTIVE

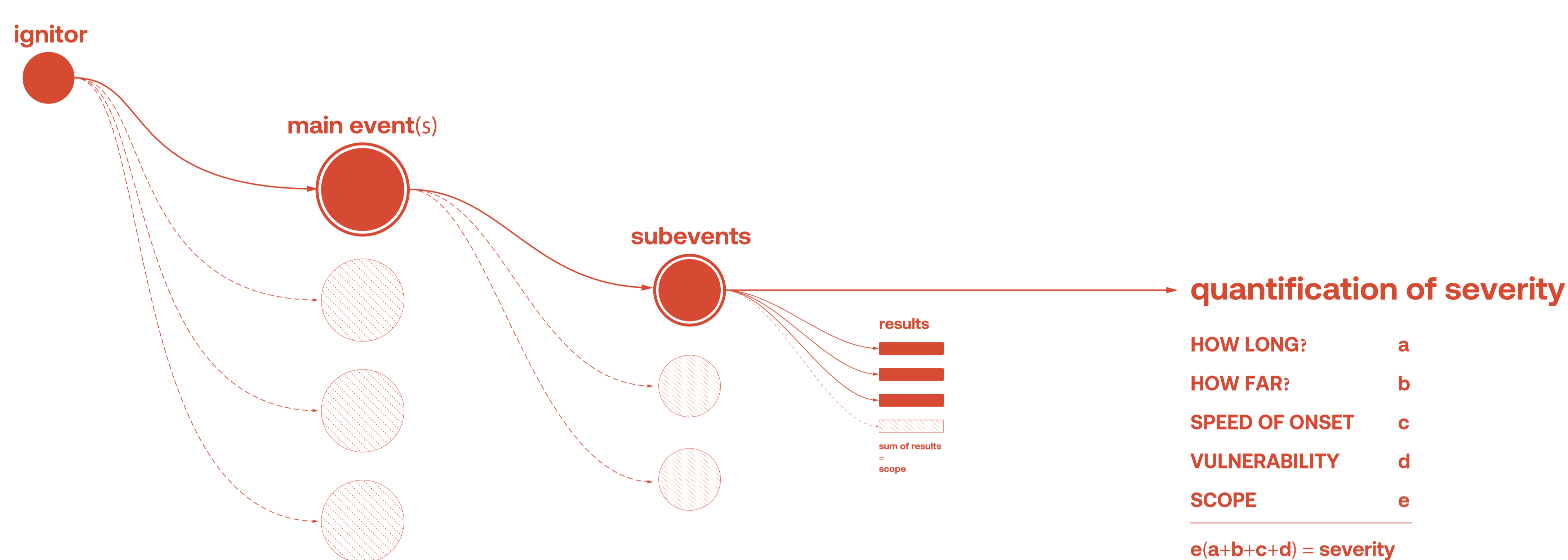
THE NOVA KAKHOVKA DAM CASE IN THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

DIPLOMA, AHO, SPRING 2024
CHRISTOPHER FETTKE VON KOECKRITZ

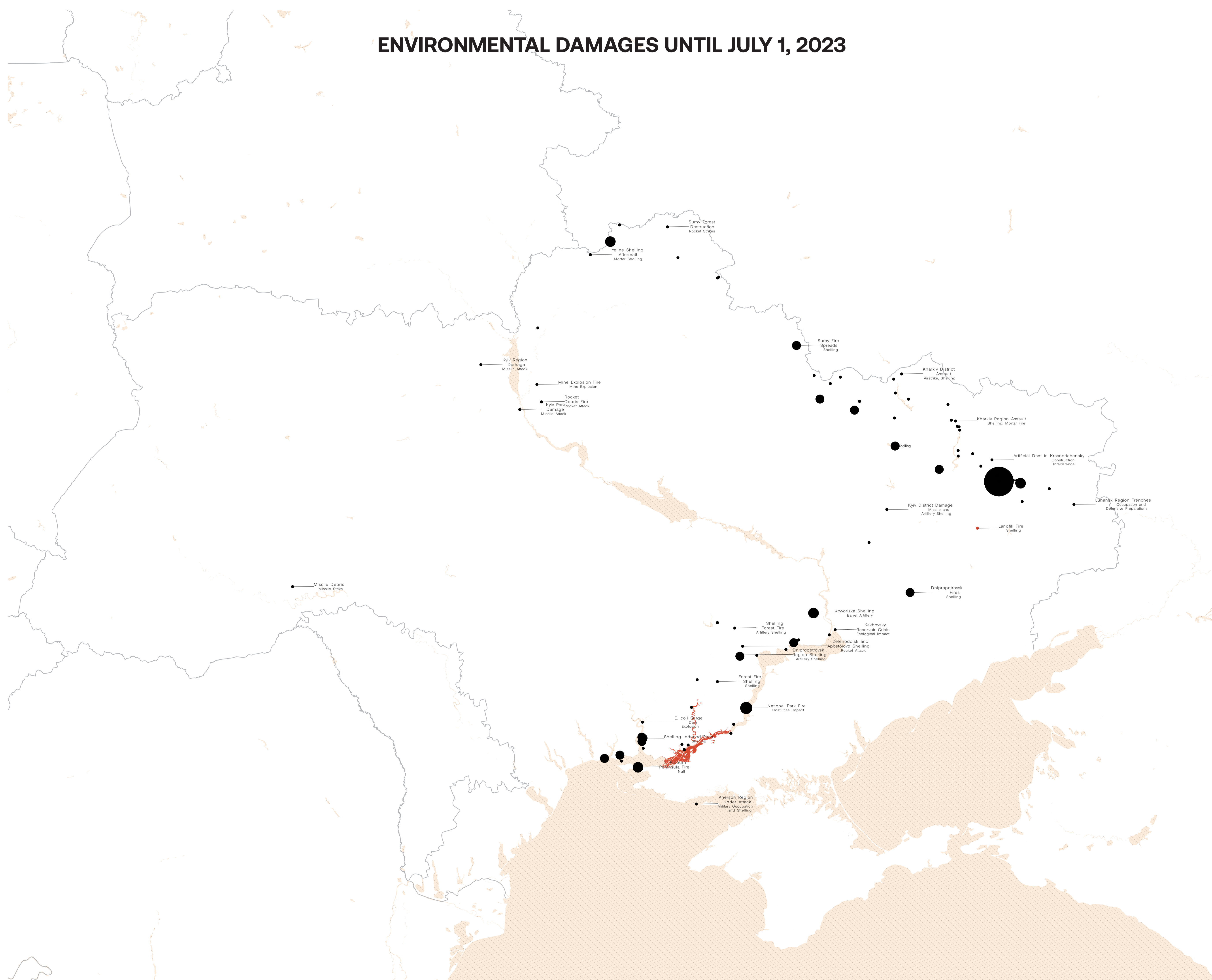
ABSTRACT

Focusing on the ongoing war in Ukraine as a case study, this project intends to create a method capable of determining whether ecocide events occur — a potential crime prosecutable by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The project considers data collection and its gaps, expressing and scaling ecocide through mapping, and quantification of severity informed by ecological and crises theory. The testing of the method also calls for adjustments in the legal ecocide proposals to make the case to adopt ecocide to the Rome Statute stronger and more relevant to the scope of ecocide. While centered on Ukraine, the methodology is designed for global applicability in various conflict situations.

THE METHOD

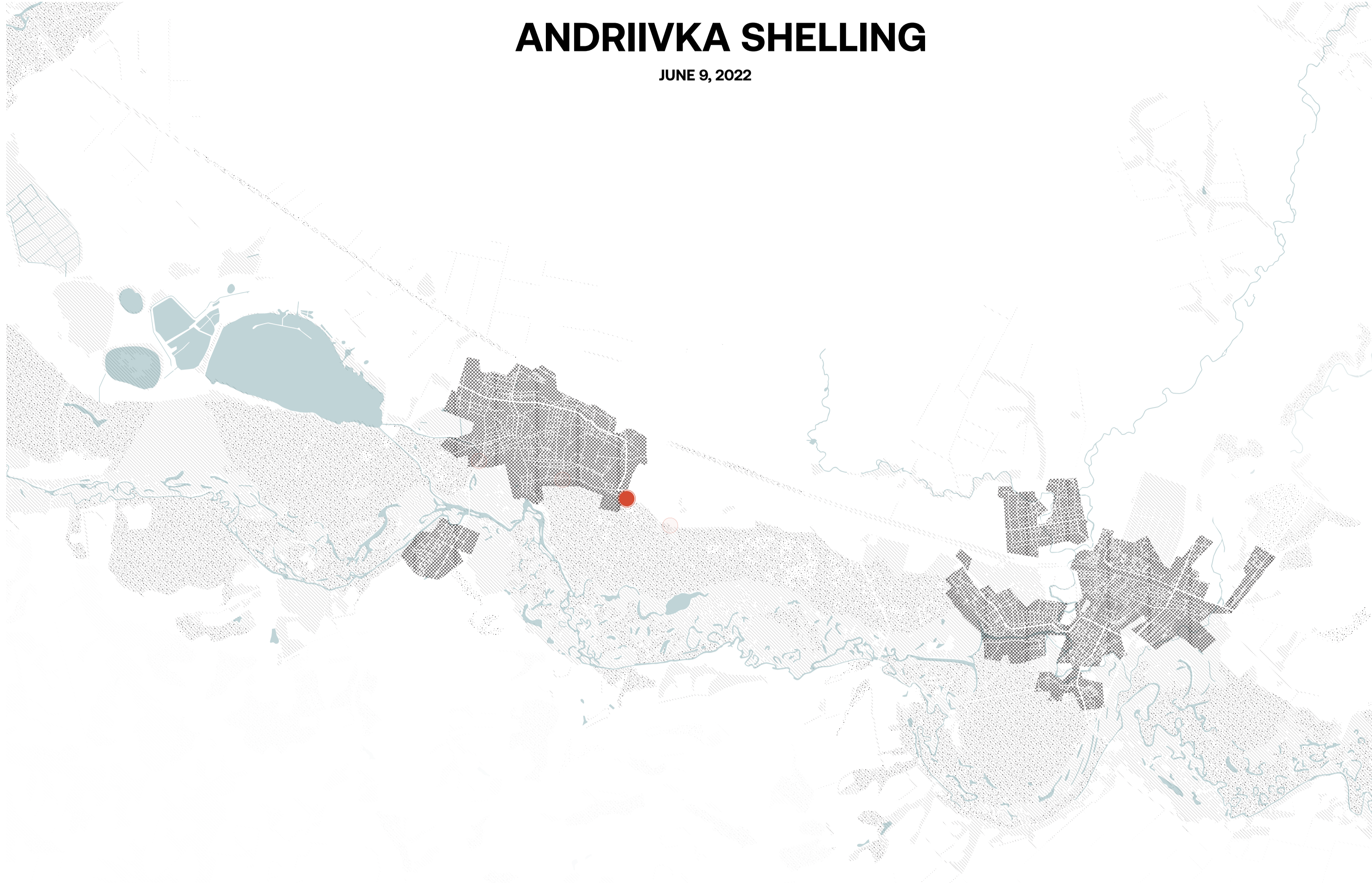


ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES UNTIL JULY 1, 2023



ANDRIIVKA SHELLING

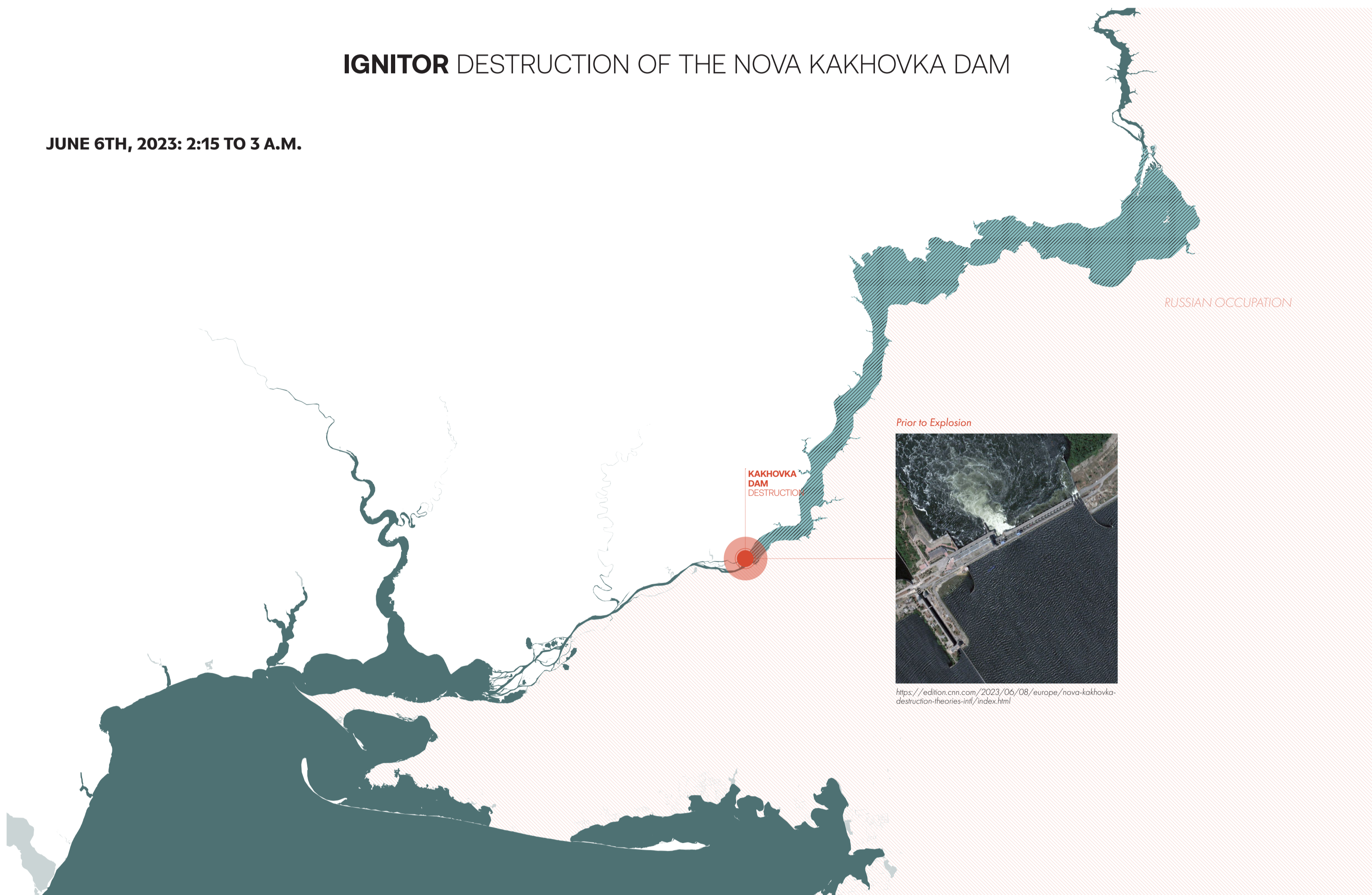
JUNE 9, 2022



KAKHOVKA DAM CASE

IGNITOR DESTRUCTION OF THE NOVA KAKHOVKA DAM

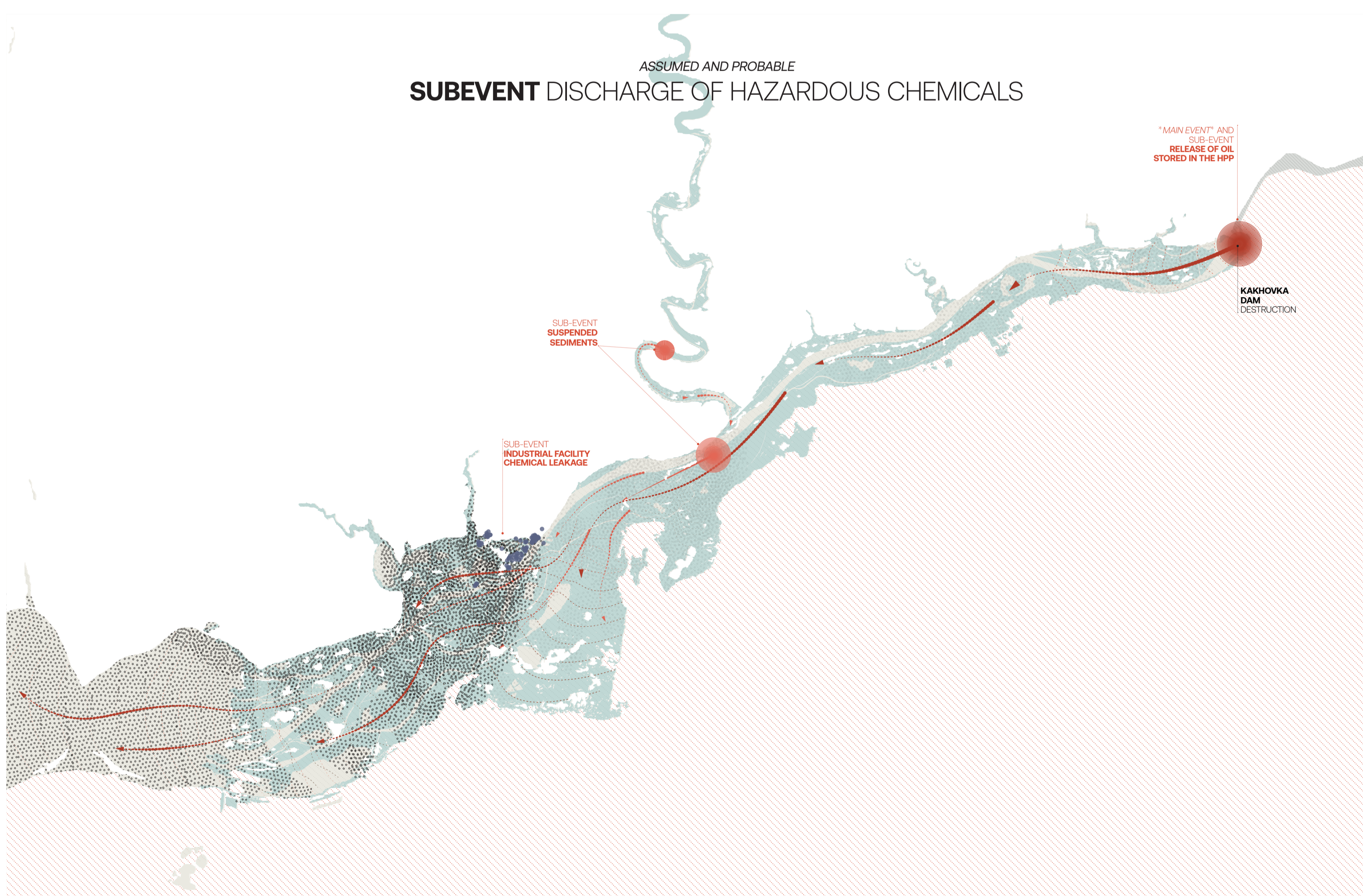
JUNE 6TH, 2023: 2:15 TO 3 A.M.

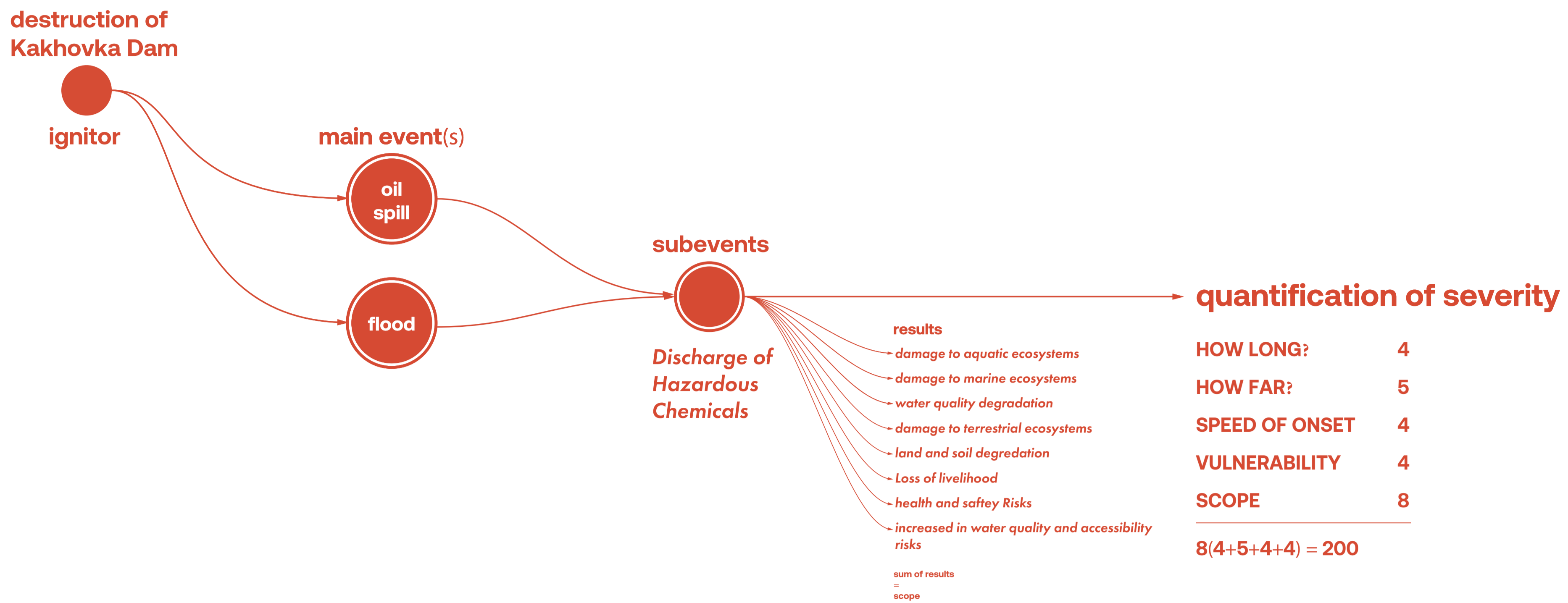
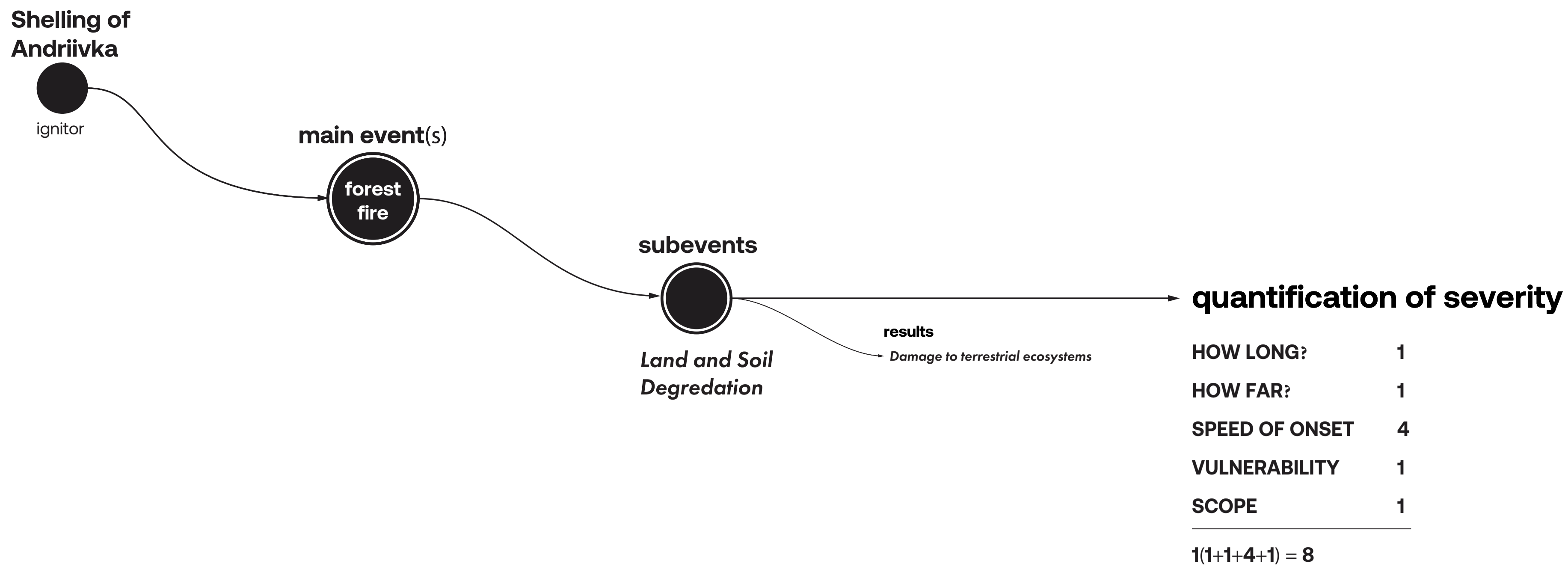


MAIN EVENTS



ASSUMED AND PROBABLE SUBEVENT DISCHARGE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS





RESULTS

The system was tested using two cases: the fire in Andriivka and the Destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam.

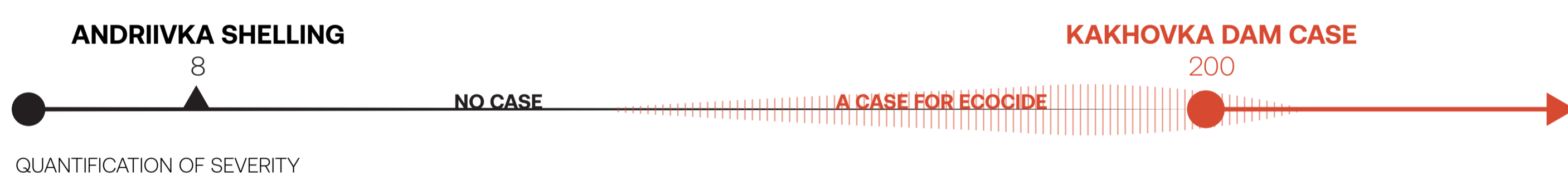
The fire in Andriivka scored 8, while the dam scored 200, a notably higher score than the fire case. The difference between the two cases lies in the number of cascading events and the complexity of the dam case, which challenges the system's ability to categorize events and quantify them. However, the results suggest that the fire is probably not an instance of an ecocide.

It should also be noted that only one sub-event was tested using the methods. However, the quantification still shows a clear and drastic difference.

In the case of the forest fire caused by shelling, the outcome would likely change if carpet shelling occurred over a wide area. In that scenario, the sub-event "land and soil degradation" would presumably cascade into a longer list of results, assuming it crosses a wide range of ecosystems. This would make it more difficult to prepare for and therefore likely to last longer.

Considering the two examples and the resulting numbers, it is likely that the number constituting ecocide must be between 8 and 200. This leaves room for arguments about what number should be considered as constituting ecocide.

While the number constituting ecocide is still unknown, this methodology, with the assistance of theories in crises and ecology, suggests that the discharge of hazardous chemicals from the dam destruction points to ecocide.



The following diagram is an early adaptation illustrating the cascading events resulting from the destruction of the dam. While this is not finalized according to the quantified severity and the criteria for ecocide, it highlights additional sub-events that should be considered for Ukraine. This helps in more accurately understanding the scale of severity that may qualify as a possible case of ecocide.

