

Diana Mazhari – Greenest

Day 13: Indigenous peoples

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Tabriz university

Turks

There *are* traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) systems among Turks (specifically Azeri Turks) but they're rarely labeled as "TEK" in research; because Turkic traditions have been recorded through folklore, agriculture, and pastoral culture, not through the modern environmental science lens.

1. Pastoralism and Seasonal Migration

Historically many Turks practiced transhumance, called yaylaq-qışlaq:

Yaylaq (summer pasture): In the mountains, cooler and rich in grass

Qışlaq (winter pasture): In the lowlands or plains, warmer and easier for animals to survive.

This system prevented overgrazing, maintained grassland fertility, and balanced livestock pressure between regions.

2. Water Stewardship and Kahriz systems

In rural Azerbaijani regions, people used kahriz(qanat) systems—underground channels that carried water from mountain aquifers to fields without evaporation. Maintaining this required generational knowledge of water flow, soil type, and seasonal patterns.

3. Traditional Agriculture and Biodiversity

Azeri farmers cultivated diverse grains, herbs, and fruits, using crop rotation and natural pest control.

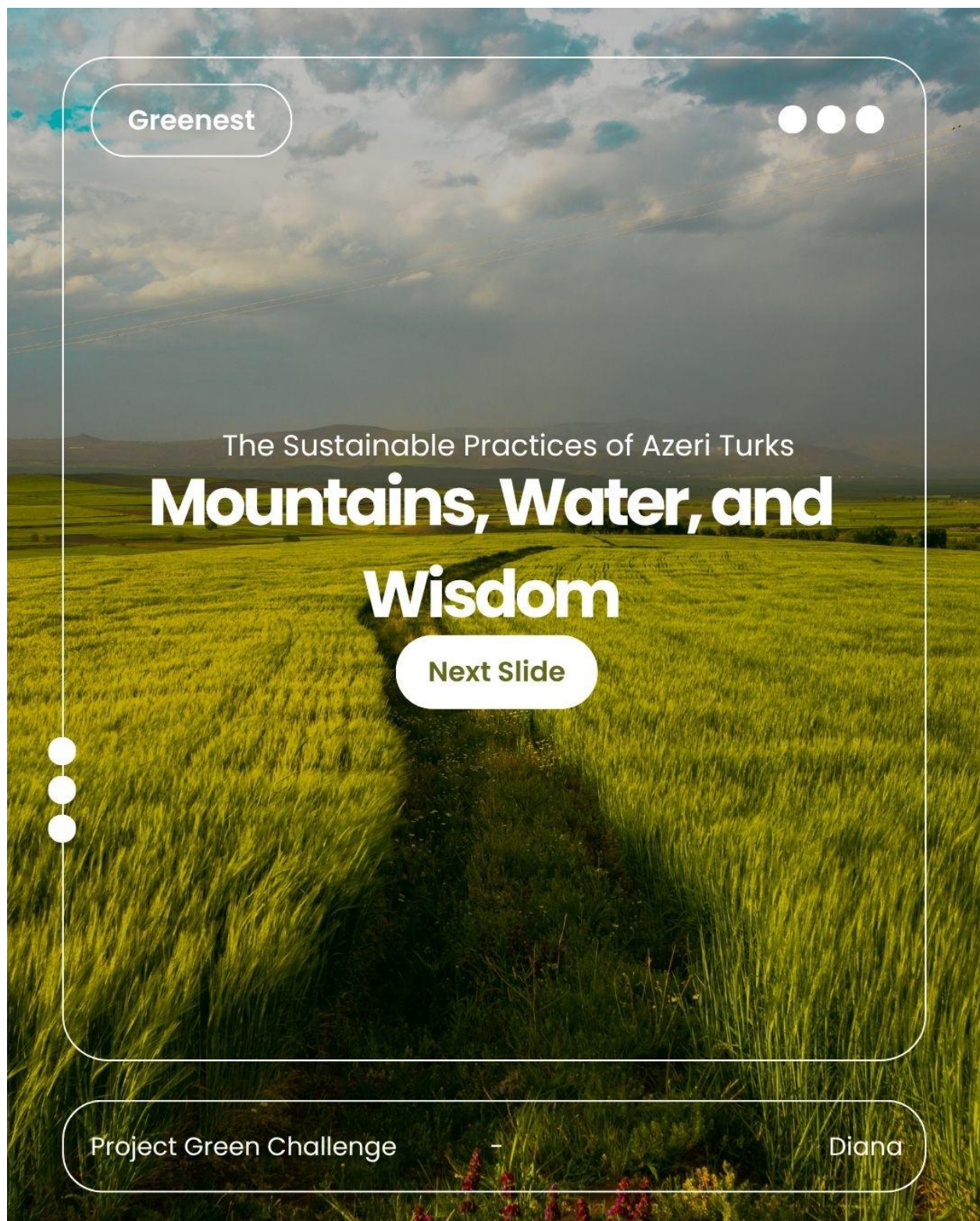
In the mountains they used terraced fields to prevent erosion and retain water.

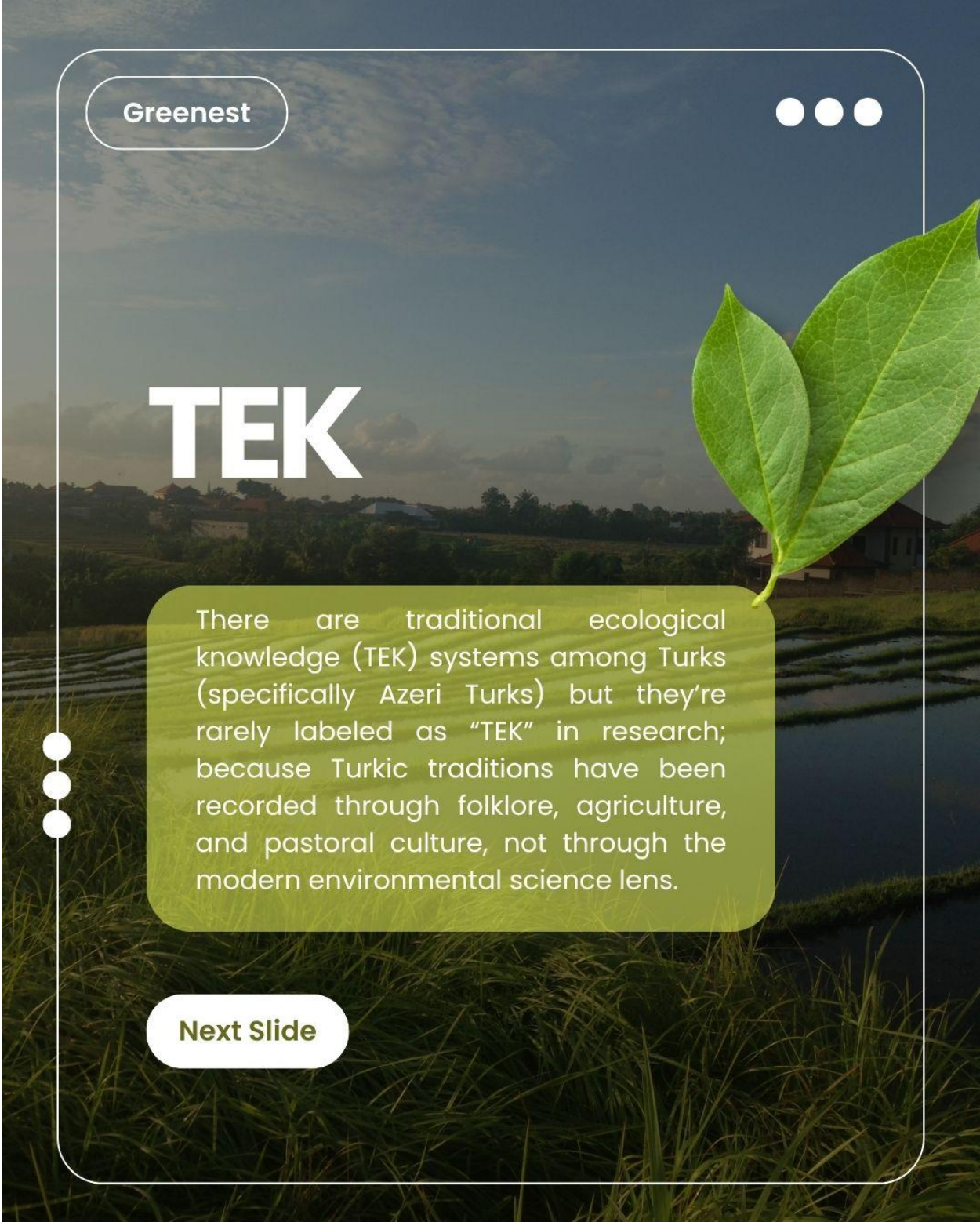
Cultural connections

Azeri Turkic oral tradition is filled with respect for mountains, rivers, and animals—for example:

- Farmers and shepherds used astronomical knowledge to time planting and migration.
- The wolf and eagle are seen as wise, sacred creatures.
- Folk songs and poetry describe harmony with land and water.

Instagram link: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DPxnr9AERp6/?igsh=YXk1emx4anNpOXgw>





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TEK

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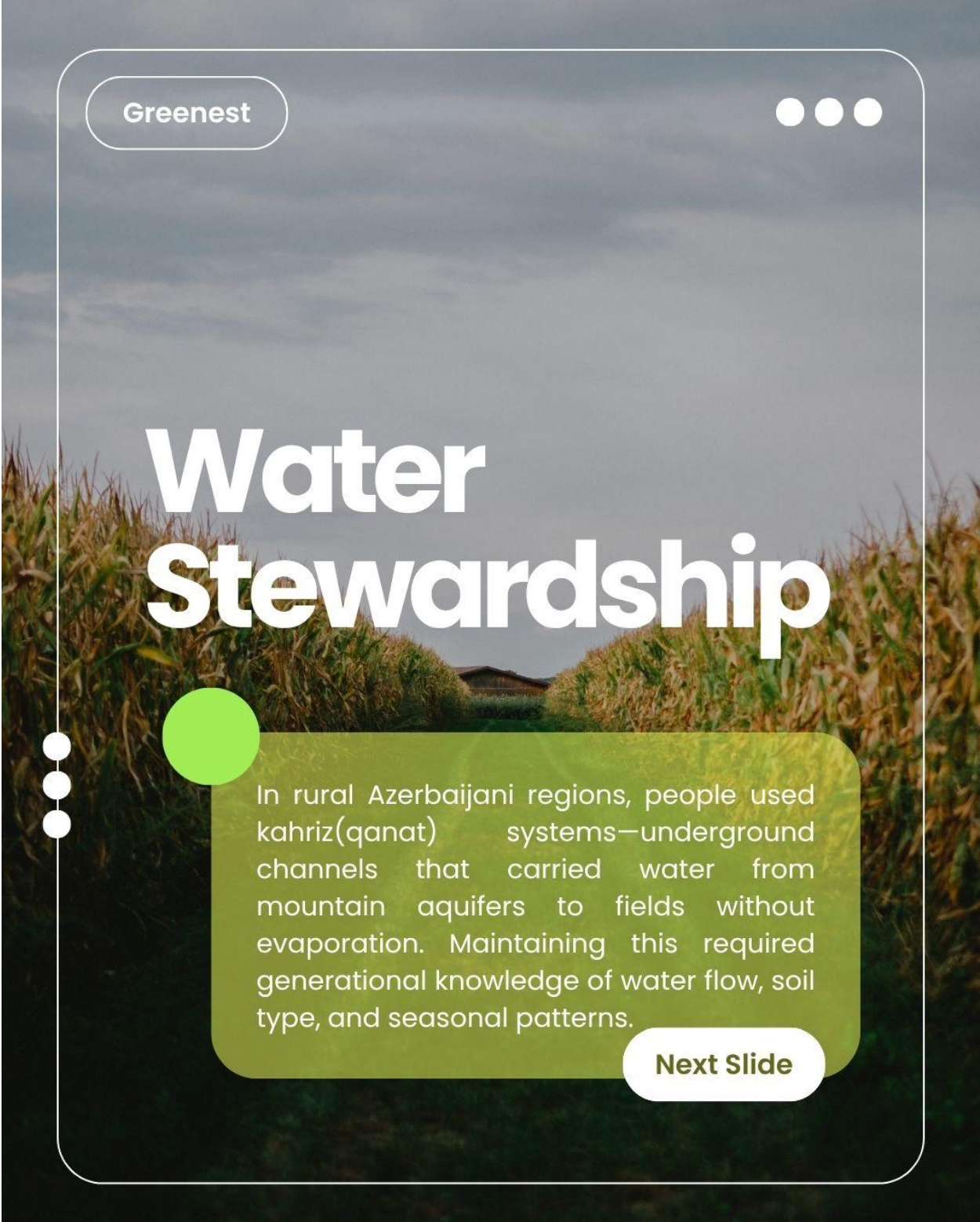
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Pastoralism and Seasonal Migration

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Water Stewardship

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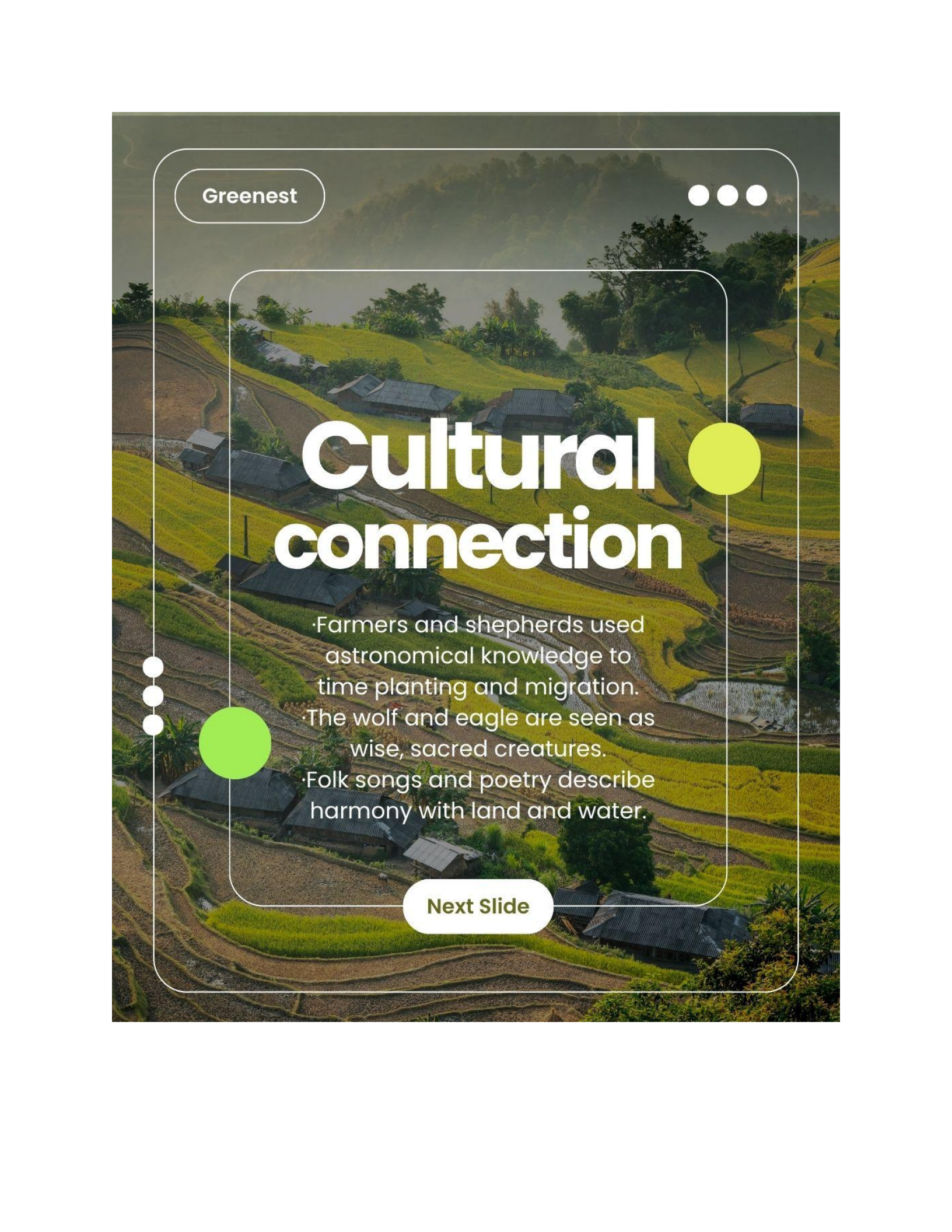
Biodiversity

Azeri farmers cultivated diverse grains, herbs, and fruits, using crop rotation and natural pest control.

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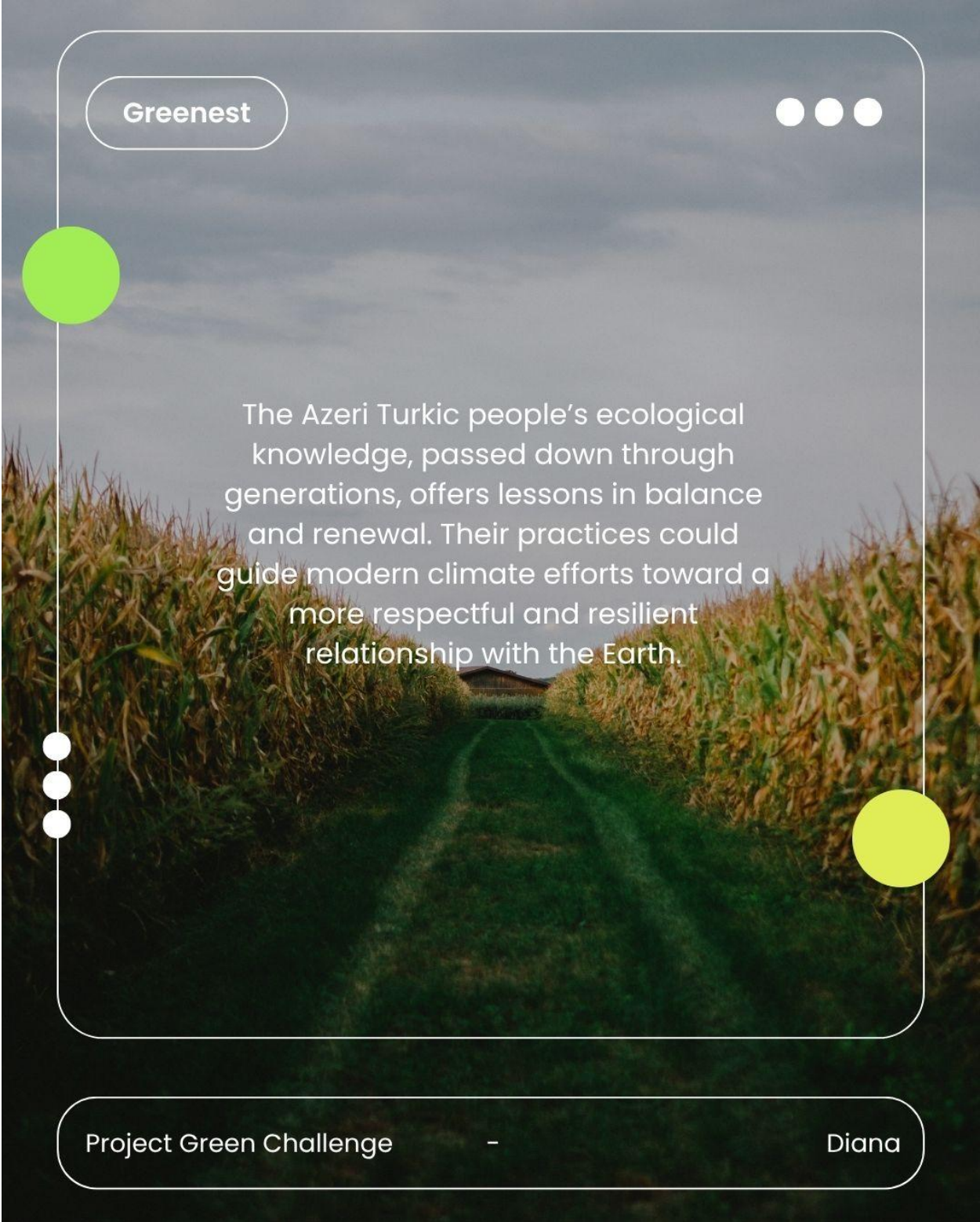


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Cultural connection

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of a dirt path winding through a cornfield. The corn stalks are tall and green, with some showing signs of being eaten. In the distance, a small wooden building is visible at the end of the path. The sky is overcast and grey. The image is framed by a white border with rounded corners. There are several decorative elements: a large green circle on the left side, a large yellow circle on the right side, and three small white circles in the top right corner.

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The Azeri Turkic people's ecological knowledge, passed down through generations, offers lessons in balance and renewal. Their practices could guide modern climate efforts toward a more respectful and resilient relationship with the Earth.

Project Green Challenge

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Diana