HOW COULD WE IMPROVE ADHERENCE TO THE MITIGATION HIERARCHY USING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE AVOID STAGE?

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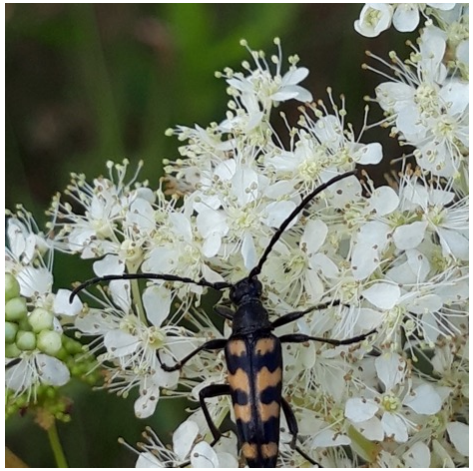
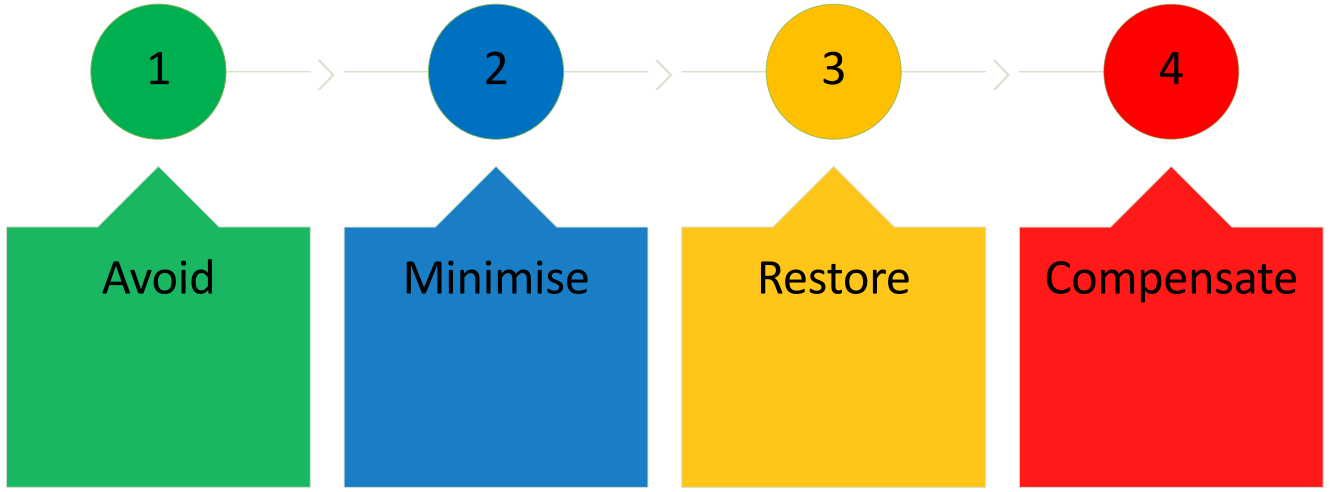
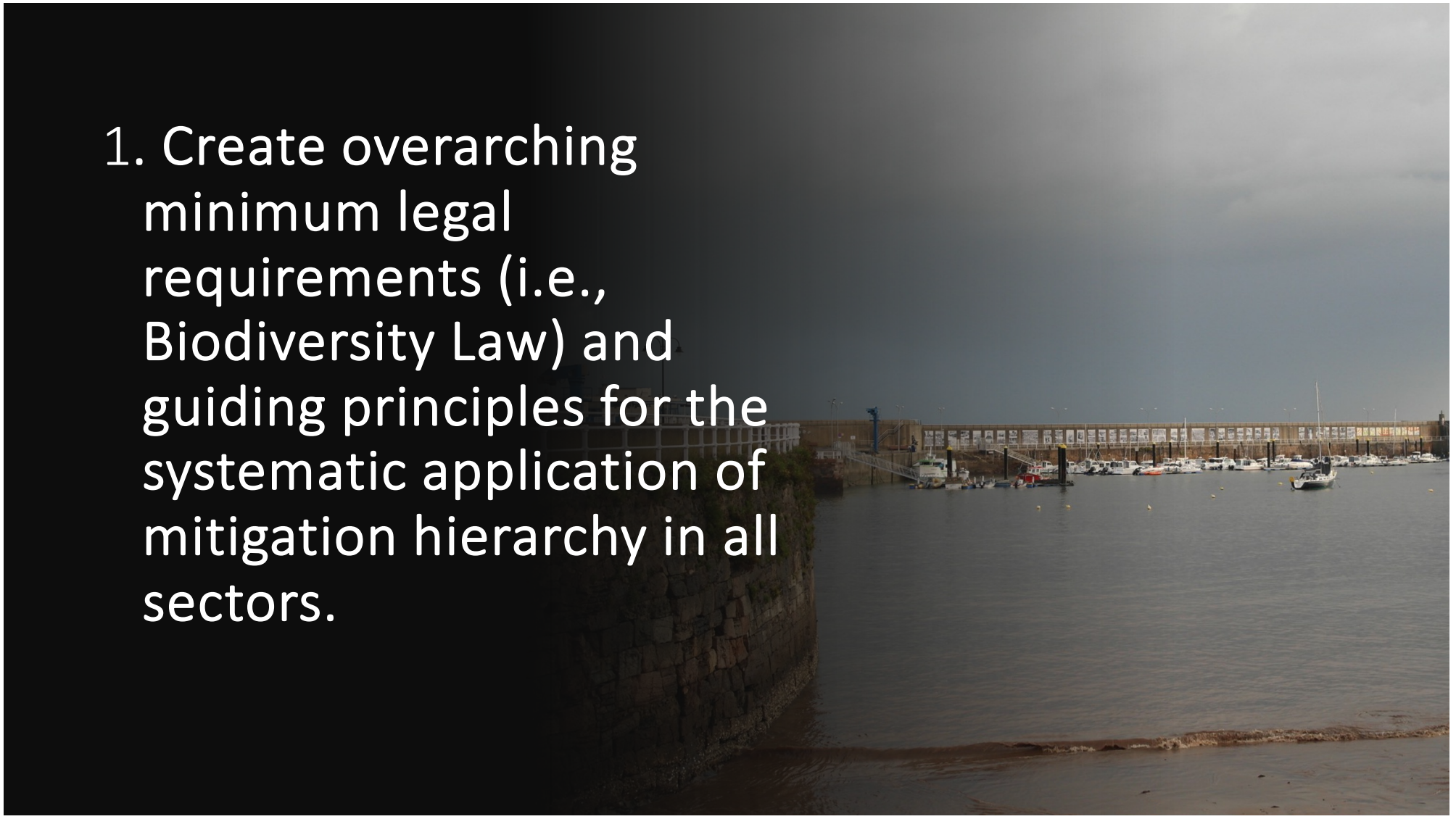


Mitigation Hierarchy Stages



1. Create overarching minimum legal requirements (i.e., Biodiversity Law) and guiding principles for the systematic application of mitigation hierarchy in all sectors.



Strengthen what we have!

- This should happen at all levels starting from the EU level.
- Policymakers should improve existing guidelines to strengthen the application of the mitigation hierarchy in protected areas.

National Restoration Plans

- A clear and harmonised definition of the scope and the goal of the mitigation hierarchy.
- A definition of relevant avoidance and minimisation measures.
- Mandatory registers for monitoring and disclosure of the wider mitigation hierarchy processes
- Technical guidance and knowledge transfer to help operationalise the legislation.
- Regulatory commitment and sufficient financial resources for effective implementation and monitoring of the results.

2. Decide where to avoid or mitigate in land-use planning processes.

Mapping & Scenarios

- Map biodiversity and ecosystem services at the local and regional level, particularly irreplaceable and vulnerable areas.
- Provide measures and scenarios based on multiple habitats and multiple species to integrate spatial and temporal dynamics into a connectivity approach.
- Aim to improve the overall ecological network and provide a set of ecosystem services.

Management of green and blue spaces

- Manage surrounding blue and green infrastructure networks more effectively .
- Support and connect protected and vulnerable areas by using:
    a) Restorative processes
    b) Support traditional semi-natural management techniques
    c) Introduce high-quality green areas using indigenous and sensitive planting.
- Employ a mix of mandatory and voluntary tools, ranging from taxation to payments for ecosystem services.

3. Include stakeholders at the beginning of the planning, design and implementation phases

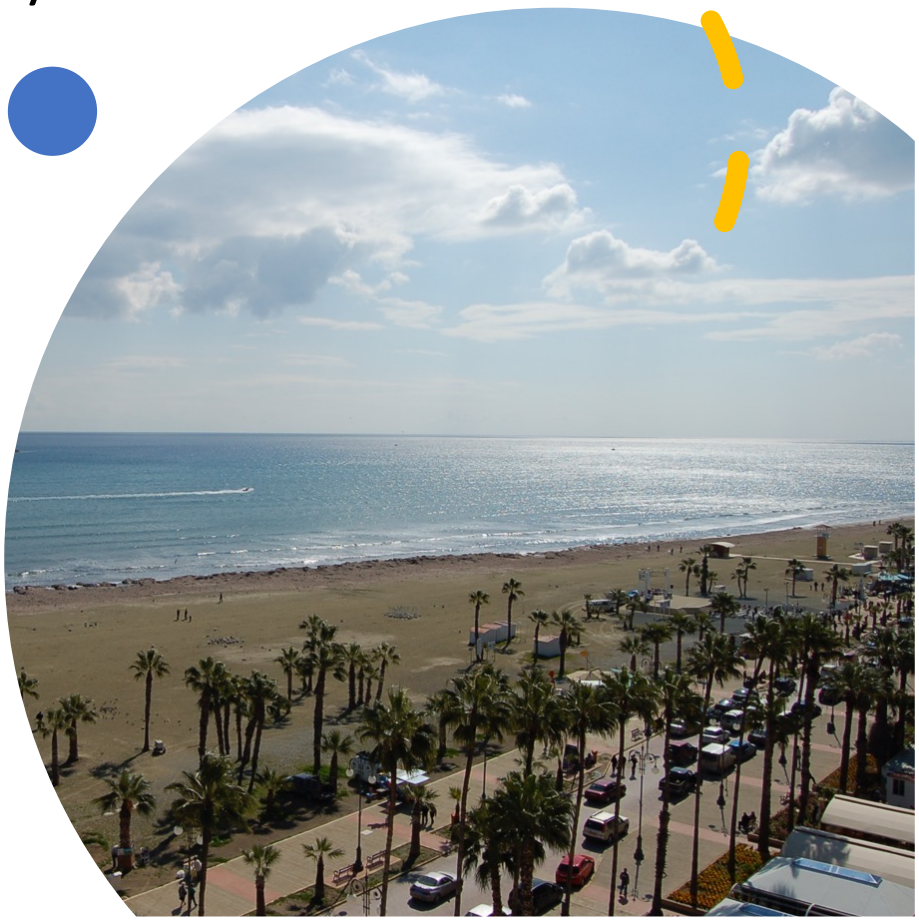
Stakeholders! Stakeholders! Stakeholders!

- Engage and include stakeholders at the beginning of the planning and design phase
- Recognise the plurality of forms of knowledge
- Establish dialogue, especially in areas where there are potentially conflicting perspectives.
- Engage stakeholders in a transparent, well-defined process with a common and agreed-upon language and terminology.

4. Address different impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services during planning processes.

Promoting beneficial ecosystem services

- Ensure social equity of the impacts on ecosystem services
- Incorporate synergies between biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Consider mitigation and avoidance measures based on multiple spatial and temporal scales
- Promote an explicit analysis of the trade-offs



5. Address connectivity and cumulative impacts during planning processes.

National authorities and land use planners should:

Define procedures to address the cumulative effects in the planning process using an impact chain rationale as follows:

1. Characterise the source(s) of pressure;
2. Address the single/ multiple pressures exerted by the source(s);
3. Address the impacts on biodiversity components (community, structure and function) and ecosystem services.
4. Apply mapping and expert knowledge to link the impact chain rationale to effective avoidance and mitigation measures.
5. Ensure that the current acceleration and simplification of administrative procedures to speed up renewable energy projects do not undermine a thorough assessment of cumulative effects.

6. Champion capacity building to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the results.

Planning authorities and institutions should invest time and resources to:

- Incorporate capacity building into institutional operational structures.
- Improve knowledge and communication.
- Institutionalise citizens' engagement to strengthen local and more sustainable dynamics where knowledgeable communities can act in the interests of biodiversity.

Thank you for your attention

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