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## **Topic 7**

### **Mitigation and impact management**

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## **The purpose of mitigation is to:**

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- find better ways of doing things**
- enhance environmental and social benefits**
- avoid, minimise or remedy adverse impacts**
- ensure that residual impacts are within acceptable levels**

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## **The purpose of impact management is to:**

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- ensure mitigation measures are implemented**
- establish systems and procedures for this purpose**
- monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures**
- take action when unforeseen impacts occur**

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## **Proponents have a responsibility to:**

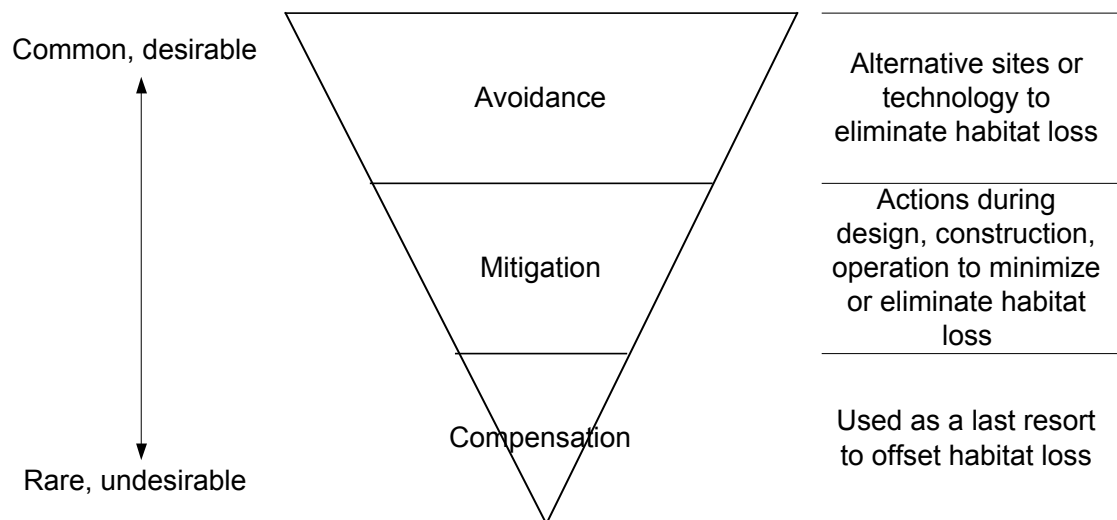
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- avoid, minimise and remedy adverse impacts**
- internalise the environmental and social costs of the proposal**
- prepare plans for managing impacts**
- repair or make restitution for environmental damages**

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# A framework for impact mitigation

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# Principles of mitigation

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- ♦ **give preference to avoidance and prevention measures**
- ♦ **consider feasible alternatives to the proposal**
- ♦ **identify customised measures to minimise each major impact**
- ♦ **ensure they are appropriate and cost-effective**
- ♦ **use compensation as a last resort**

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## **Impact avoidance can be achieved by:**

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- ♦ not undertaking certain projects or elements**
- ♦ avoiding environmentally sensitive areas**
- ♦ use of measures to prevent impacts from occurring:**
  - site remediation bonds**
  - resettlement plans**
  - in kind measures and offsets**

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## **Impact minimisation can be achieved by:**

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- **scaling down or relocating the proposal**
- **redesigning elements of the project**
- **measures to manage the impacts**



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## **Impact compensation can be achieved by:**

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- ♦ rehabilitation of resource or environmental components**
- ♦ restoration of the site to its previous state**
- ♦ replacement of the environmental values lost at another location**

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# Mitigation options

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- **develop alternatives that are better environmentally**
- **make changes in planning and design**
- **carry out impact monitoring and management**
- **compensate for**
  - residual impacts**
  - monetary payment**
  - site remediation bonds**
  - resettlement plans**
  - in kind measures and offsets**

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## **Environmental management plans should include:**

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- summary of impacts**
- recommended mitigation measures**
- statement of compliance with standards**
- allocation of resources and responsibilities**
- schedule of required actions**
- surveillance, monitoring and auditing programmes**
- contingency measures for greater than expected impacts**
- State policy and standards**