

Investigating the implementation of biodiversity mitigation in EIA in Chile



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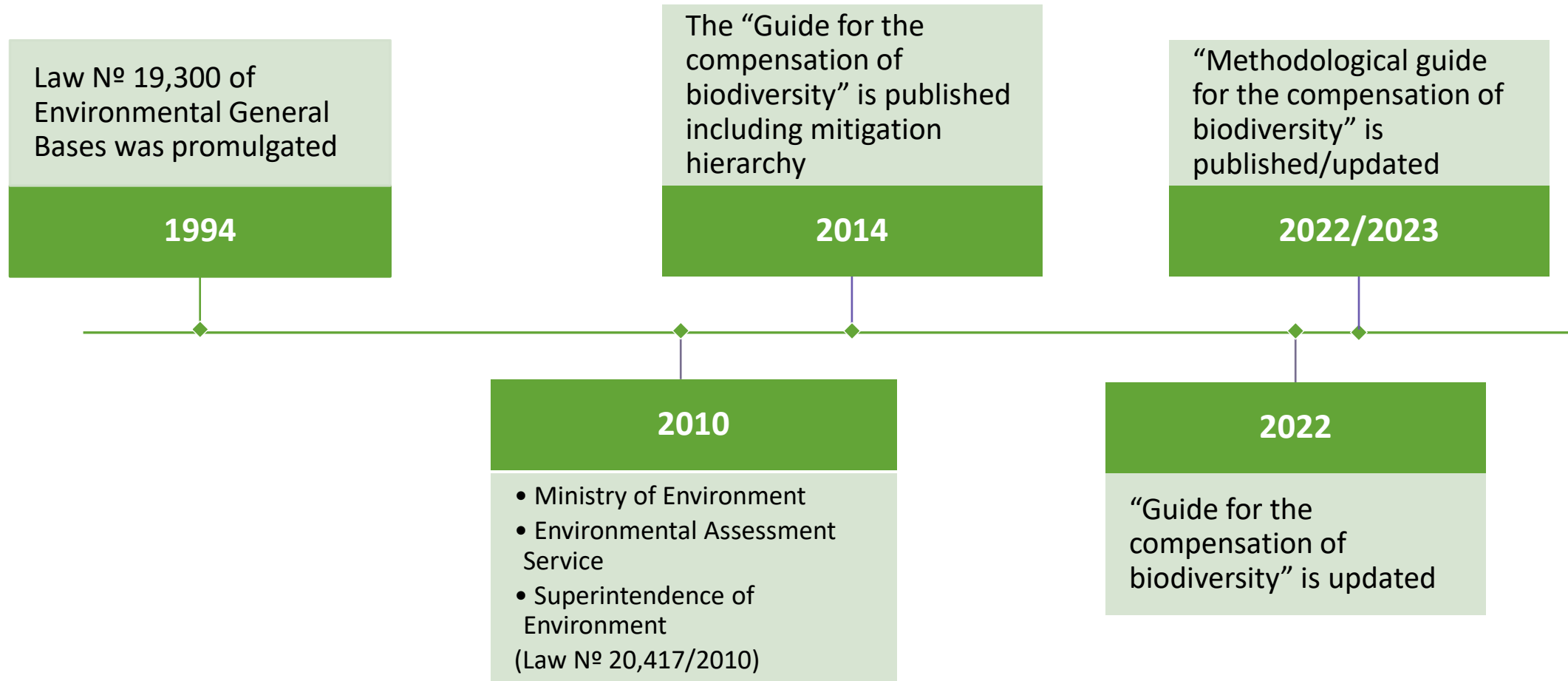


Environmental Impact Assessment System in Chile

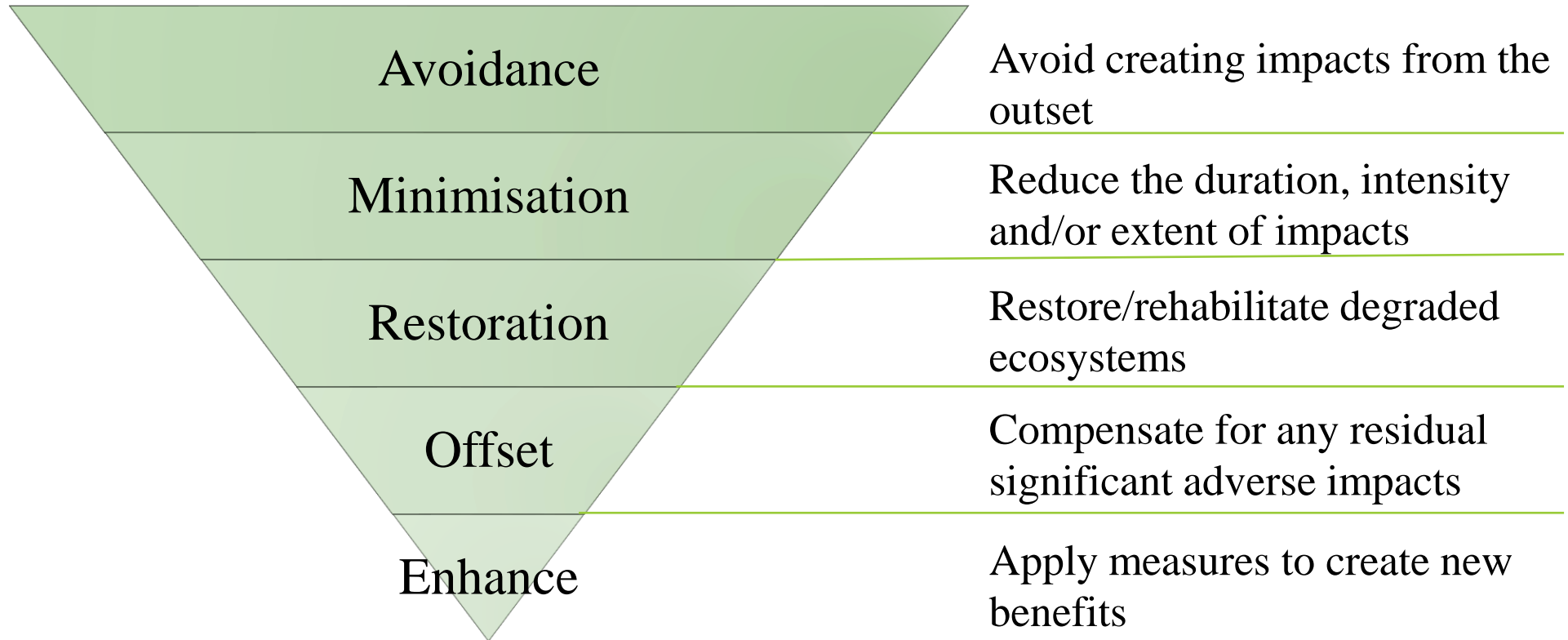


- ✓ EIA involves an assessment of the impacts of a proposed development, including the proposal of mitigation measures to address potentially significant impacts, and subsequent monitoring to determine the environmental outcomes.
- ✓ The biodiversity of Chile is known for its high degree of endemism and the exclusivity of some of its ecosystems, caused by the biogeographic conditions. Chile presents multiple types of ecosystems (terrestrial, marine, coastal and oceanic islands), which are critical to the economic development.

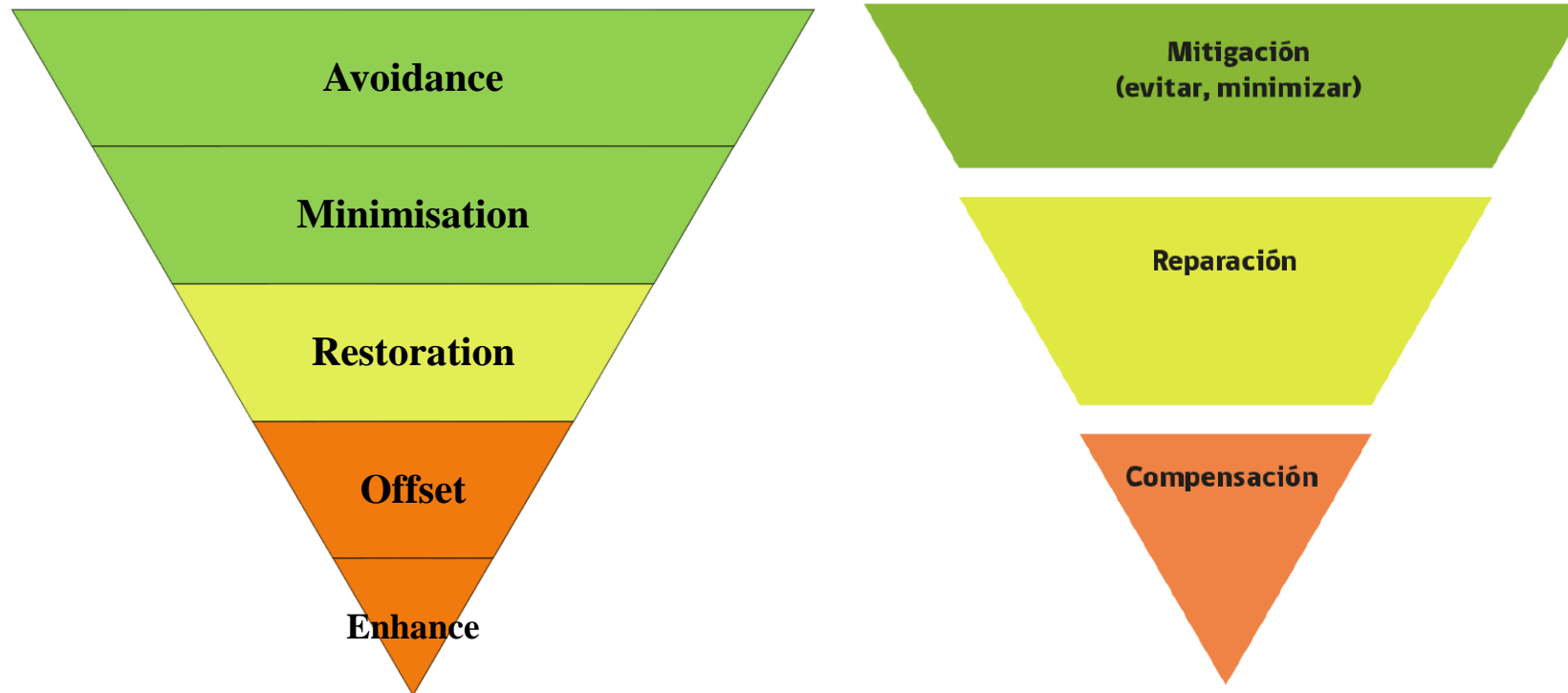
Biodiversity mitigation in the Environmental Impact Assessment System in Chile



Mitigation hierarchy



Appropriate mitigation of biodiversity



- SEA, 2022. Guía para la compensación de la biodiversidad en el SEIA. Santiago, Chile.
https://sea.gob.cl/sites/default/files/imce/archivos/2022/08/29/guia_teorica_compensacion_biodiversidad.pdf

Objectives/Methods

How can the EIA system in Chile help to achieve no net loss of biodiversity?

1. To evaluate Chilean practice in relation to national obligations
2. To analyse the opportunities for improving biodiversity outcomes in Chile

1. Documentary review of relevant documents

- Environmental Impact Studies (EIS)
- Authorisation documents
- Monitoring reports



Public online database

2. Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders involved in the EIA process

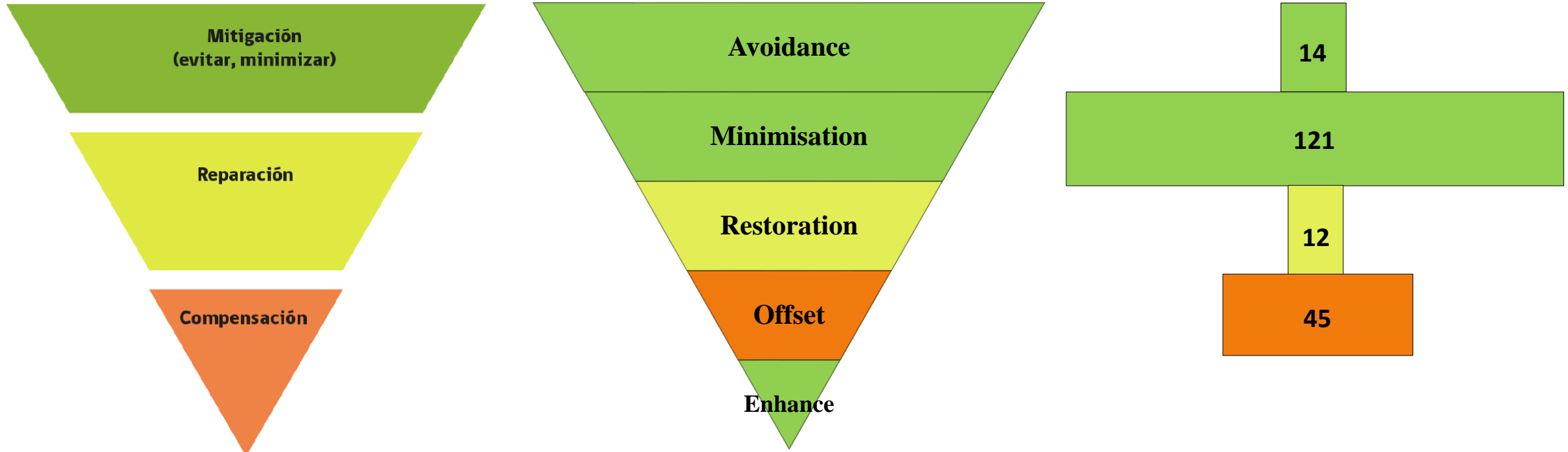
- Developers
- Environmental Consultants
- Decision makers
- Agency in charge of monitoring

3. Focus Group and supplementary interviews

- Sub-group of stakeholders

1. Chilean practice in relation to national obligations: Documentary review

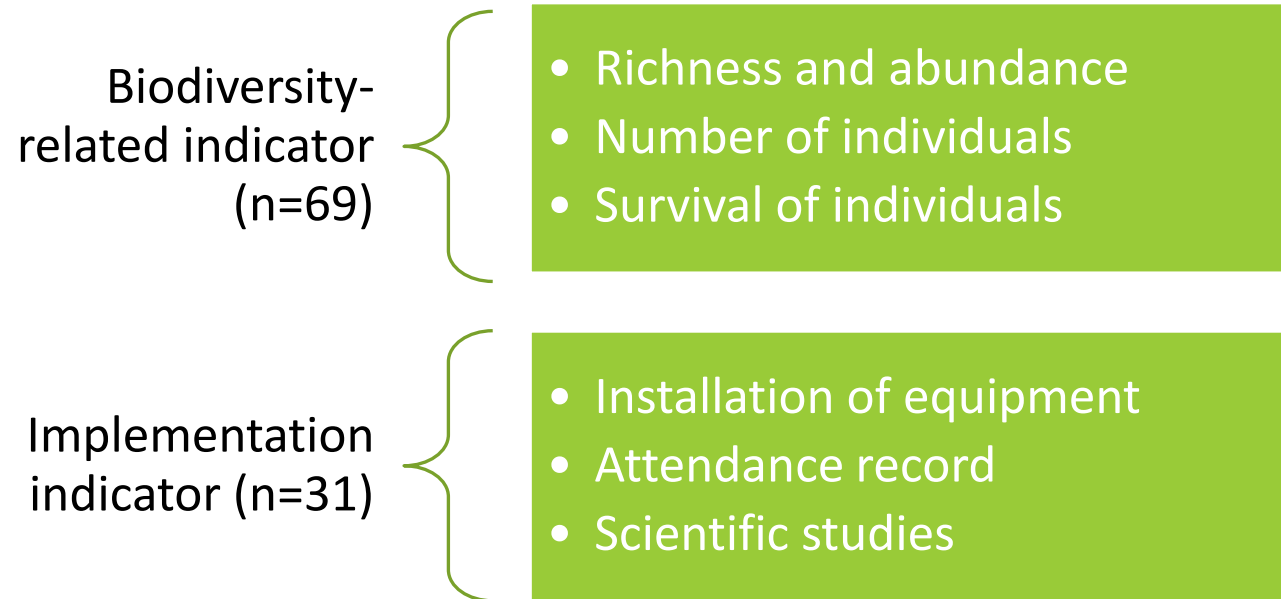
➤ 31 EIS: 215 mitigation measures identified



Cares, R. A., Franco, A. M., & Bond, A. (2023). Investigating the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy approach in environmental impact assessment in relation to biodiversity impacts. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 102, 107214

1. Chilean practice in relation to national obligations: Documentary review

- Out of 215 monitoring reports required for the 215 measures, 100 reports were available for examination (47%)



1. Chilean practice in relation to national obligations: Interviews



Tendency to favouring compensation measures rather than follow mitigation hierarchy.



Issues on effective implementation of proposed mitigation measures in practice.

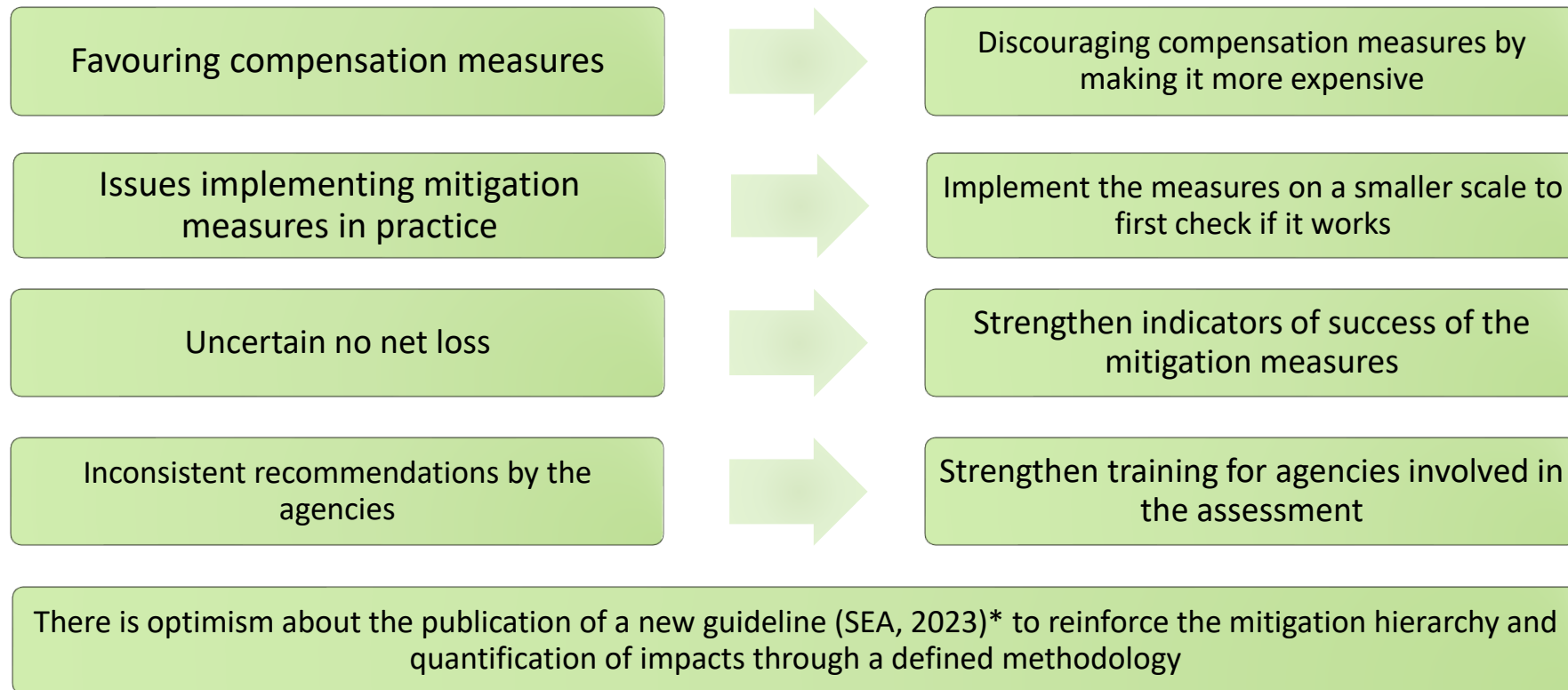


Uncertainty surrounding the achievement of no net loss.



Recommendations by the agencies sometimes incompatible or inconsistent with the biodiversity compensation guidelines.

2. Opportunities for improving biodiversity outcomes in Chile: Focus group/Supplementary interviews



*SEA, 2023. Guía metodológica para la compensación de biodiversidad en ecosistemas terrestres y acuáticos continentales. Santiago, Chile.
https://sea.gob.cl/sites/default/files/imce/archivos/2023/06/01/Guia-Compensacion-biodiversidad_SEA-2023_.pdf

Discussion and conclusions

- ✓ Projects should make a greater effort to include measures that avoid and repair impacts on biodiversity following the mitigation hierarchy, and evaluators must ensure that this is addressed.
- ✓ The quantification of impacts should be explicit in the environmental reports, allowing the monitoring of biodiversity losses and gains post authorisation.
- ✓ Indicators of success must be based on the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, in terms of biodiversity outcomes, rather than on the implementation of the measures.
- ✓ Inter-agency cooperation should be reinforced and the need of capacity-building of stakeholders should be discussed.
- ✓ Although a new guideline on methodology was published (SEA, 2023), there is still uncertainty in how effective it will be the application in the practice in order to address some of the issues identified in this research.

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.

Acknowledgements

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