

Incorporating Climate Change in the EIA process: *Tools for climate risk management*

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Overview

- The case for integrating climate change in EIA
- Decisions and uncertainties in EIA
- Climate change mainstreaming tools
 - Screening for risks
 - Adaptation guidance
 - Mitigation guidance
- Factors enabling climate risk mainstreaming
- Key messages

The case for integrating climate change in EIA

EIA is a systematic process to predict future consequences...

- Historic climate no longer best predictor
- Exacerbation of risks
- Affects environmental performance
- Increases uncertainty in prediction of impacts



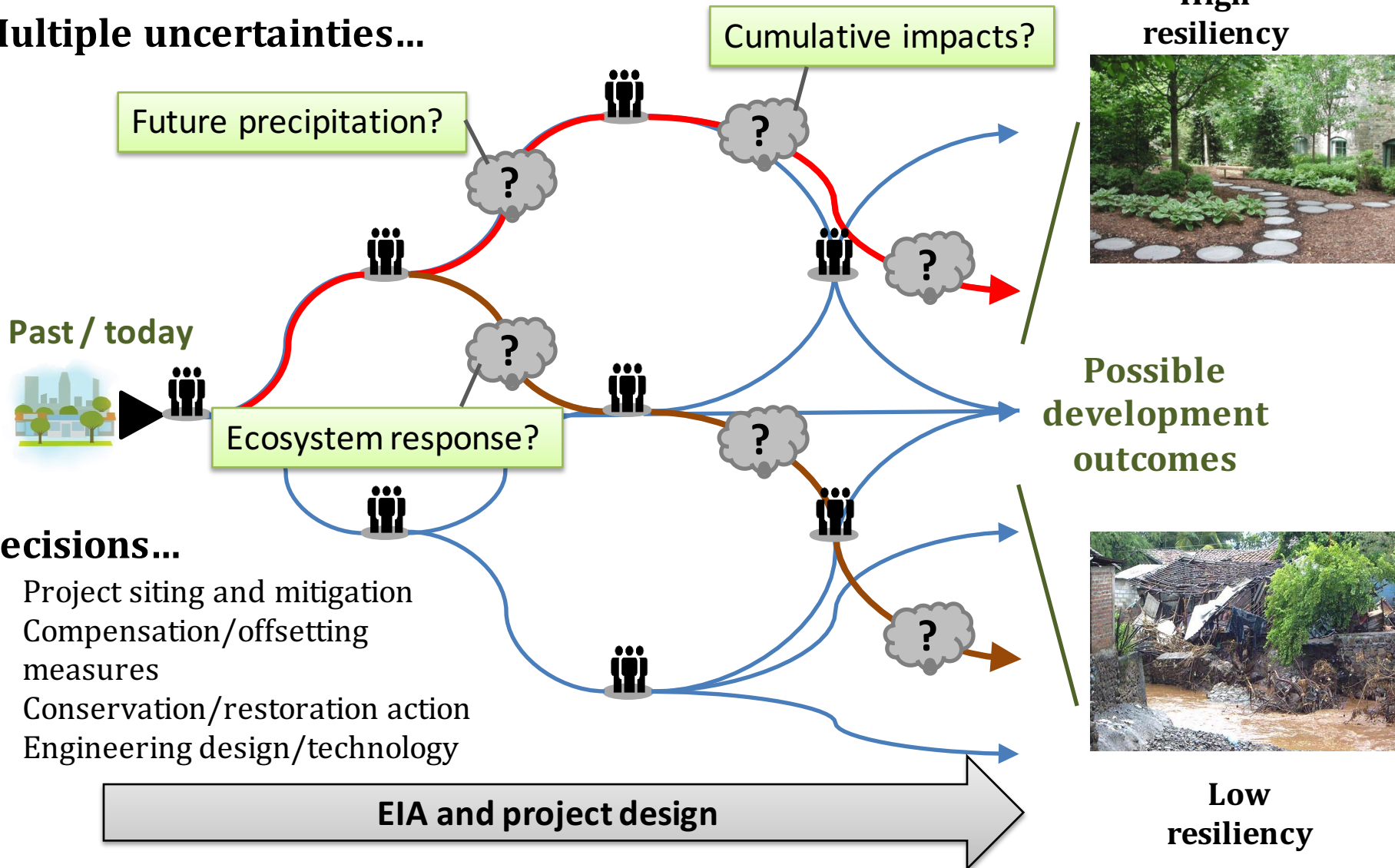
EIA is a planning and regulatory tool extensively applied...

Development has implications both on emissions of greenhouse gases and on the vulnerability of societies and the environment to climate change.

(Agrawala et al. 2010)

Decisions and uncertainties in EIA

Multiple uncertainties...



Decisions...

- Project siting and mitigation
- Compensation/offsetting measures
- Conservation/restoration action
- Engineering design/technology

High
resiliency



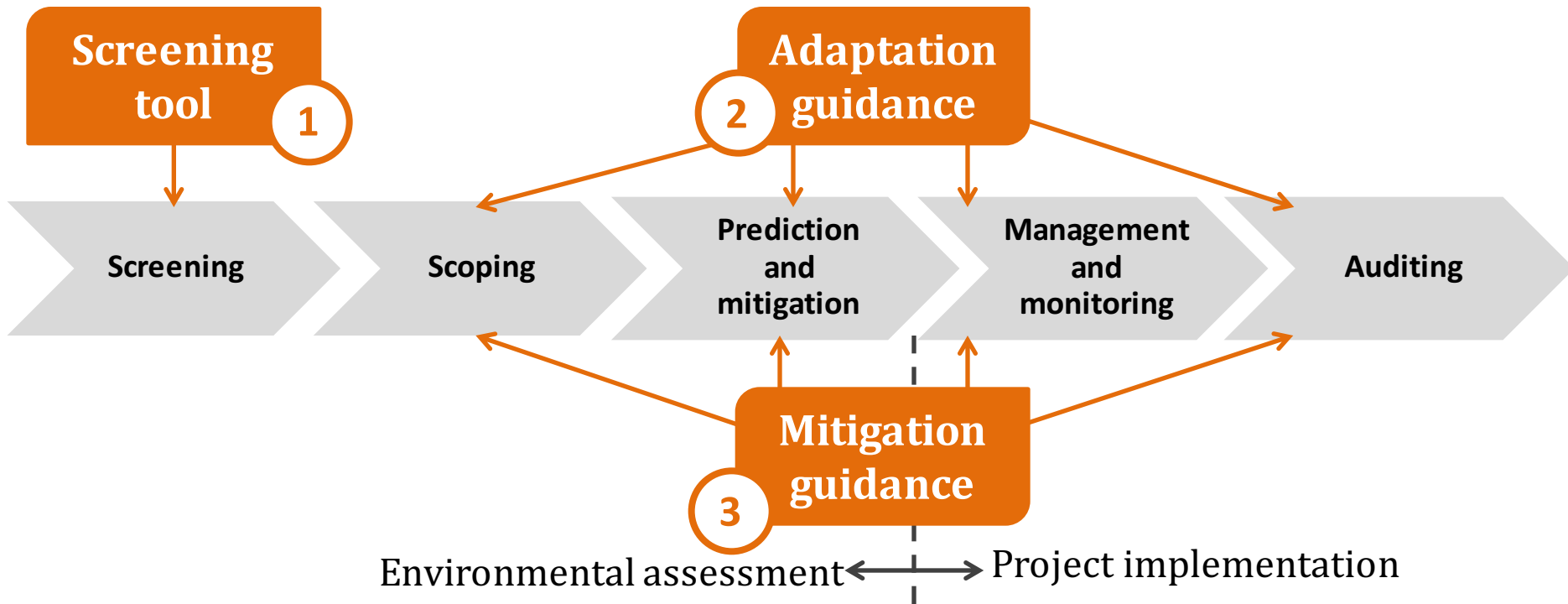
Possible
development
outcomes



Low
resiliency

Climate change mainstreaming tools

Identification of entry points in the EIA process:



Project: Institutional strengthening and tools to address climate vulnerability in El Salvador

MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y RECURSOS NATURALES

GOBIERNO DE
EL SALVADOR
UNÁMONOS PARA CRECER



Climate & Development
Knowledge Network

Climate change mainstreaming tools

Screening for risks

Screening tool

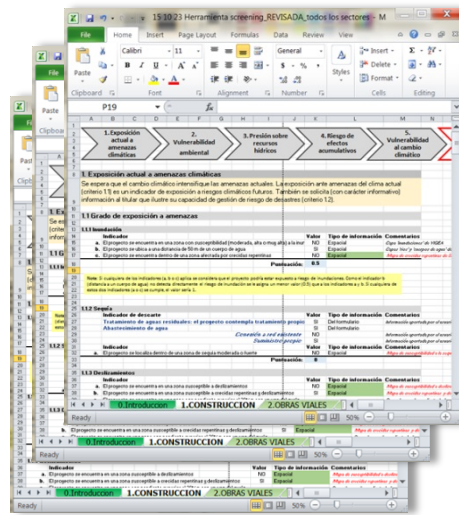
- ✓ Is the project susceptible to climate risks?
- ✓ Will the project involve high GHG emissions?



Spatial indicators



Environmental form



Simplified carbon calculator

- ✓ Exposure to climate hazards
- ✓ Environmental vulnerability
- ✓ Pressure on water resources
- ✓ Cumulative impacts risks
- ✓ Vulnerability to future climate

Overall susceptibility to climate risk and GHG emissions

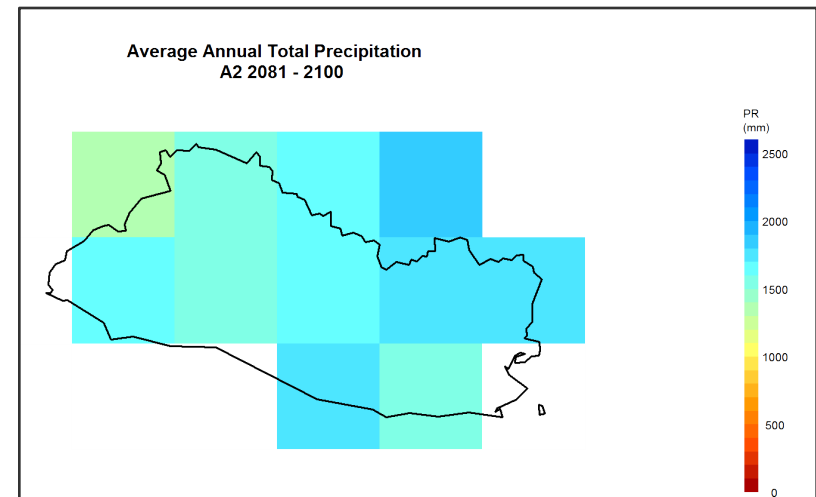
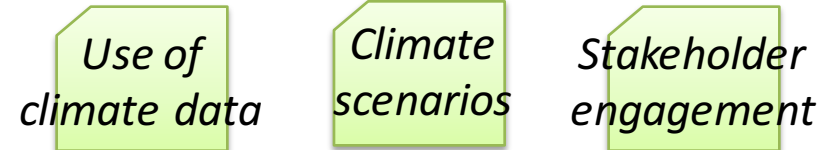
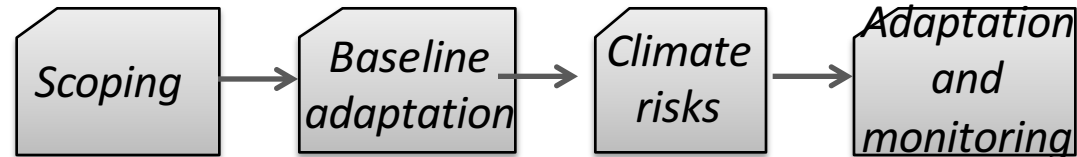
Climate change mainstreaming tools

Adaptation guidance

Adaptation 2 guidance

- ✓ Identify and assess climate risks
- ✓ Identify and select adaptation options

- ✓ Process-based tool
- ✓ Captures best practice and point to information/data sources
- ✓ Focus on:
 - ✓ Risks to communities and ecosystems



Climate change mainstreaming tools

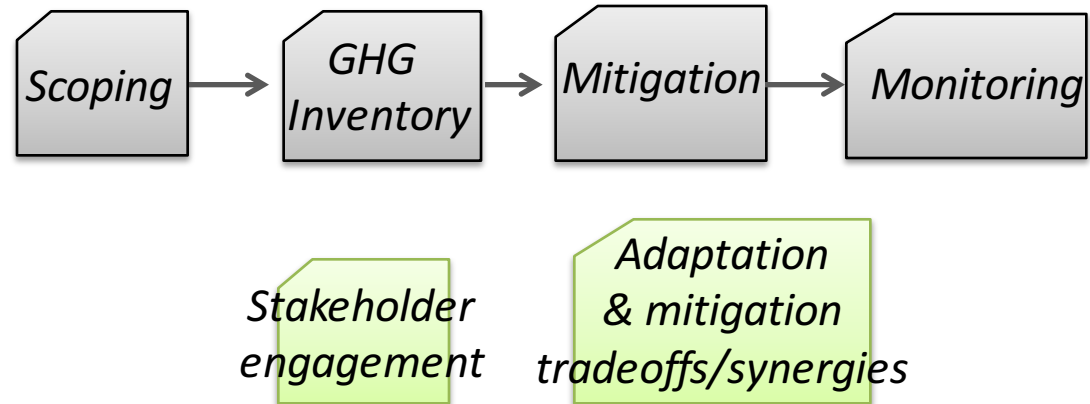
Mitigation guidance

Mitigation guidance

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- ✓ Identify and assess GHG emissions
- ✓ Identify and select mitigation options

- ✓ Process-based tool
- ✓ Captures best practice on GHG accounting
- ✓ Sectoral considerations
- ✓ Lack of regulatory framework for GHG emissions



Factors enabling climate change mainstreaming in EIA

- ✓ **Institutional context:** opportunities when EIA frameworks are changed/updated.
- ✓ Availability and easy access of **information/data;** especially downscaled projections and regional studies).
- ✓ **Consolidated body of practice:** need for guidance and training of EIA practitioners and update mechanisms of tools/materials.

Key messages

- ✓ **Uncertainties are pervasive** and unavoidable when preparing for the impacts of climate change; uncertainties matter to decision making.
- ✓ Despite its limitations, **EIA** is a good **vehicle for climate change mainstreaming** due to its generalized application and established practice.



Thank you!

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