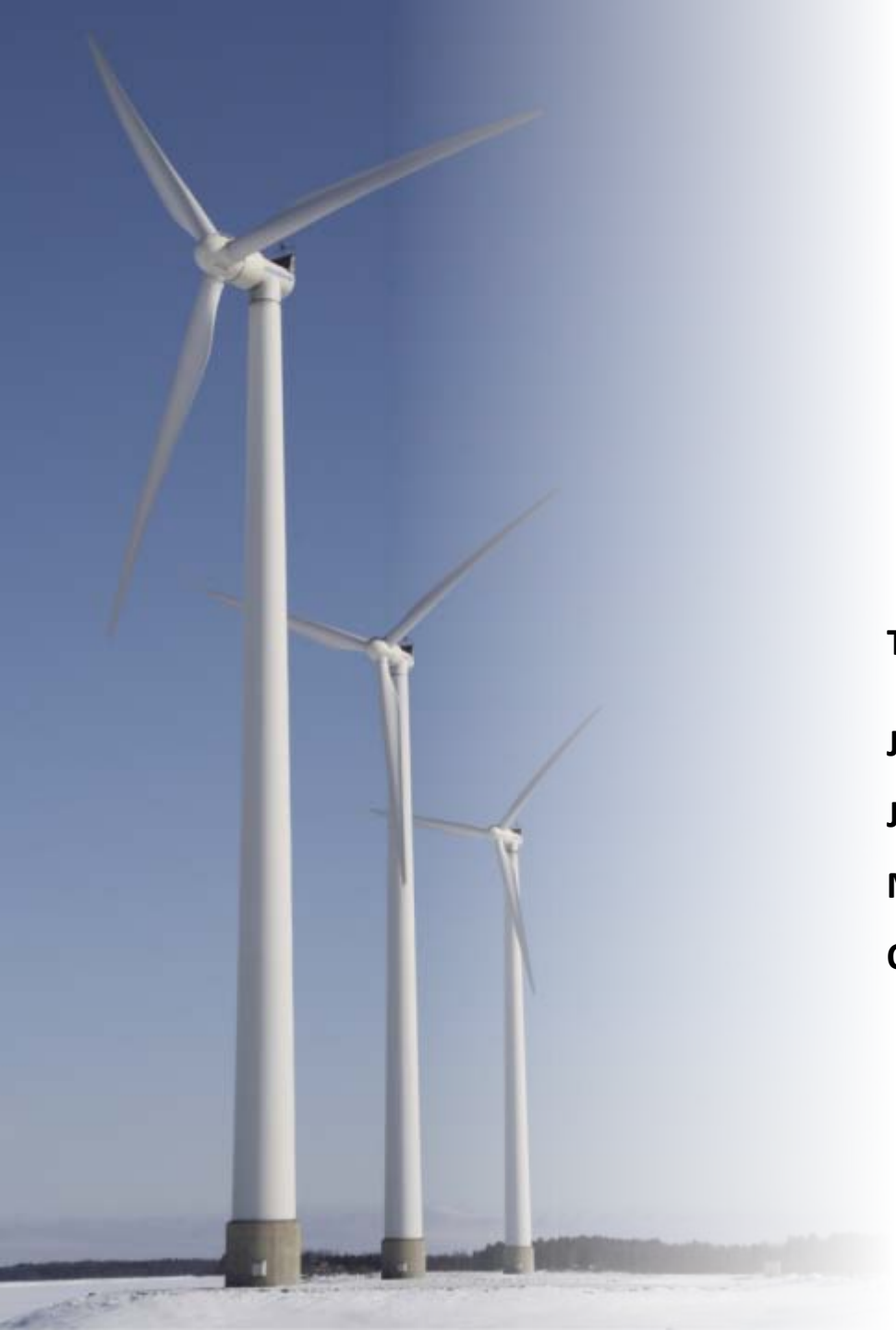

Improving effectiveness of EIA by an MCDA approach

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IMPERIA project

Improving environmental assessment by adopting good practices and tools of multi-criteria decision analysis

- Aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of EIA and SEA projects

Practitioners

Need to improve consistency and transparency of EIA

MCDA experts

Structured approach of MCDA

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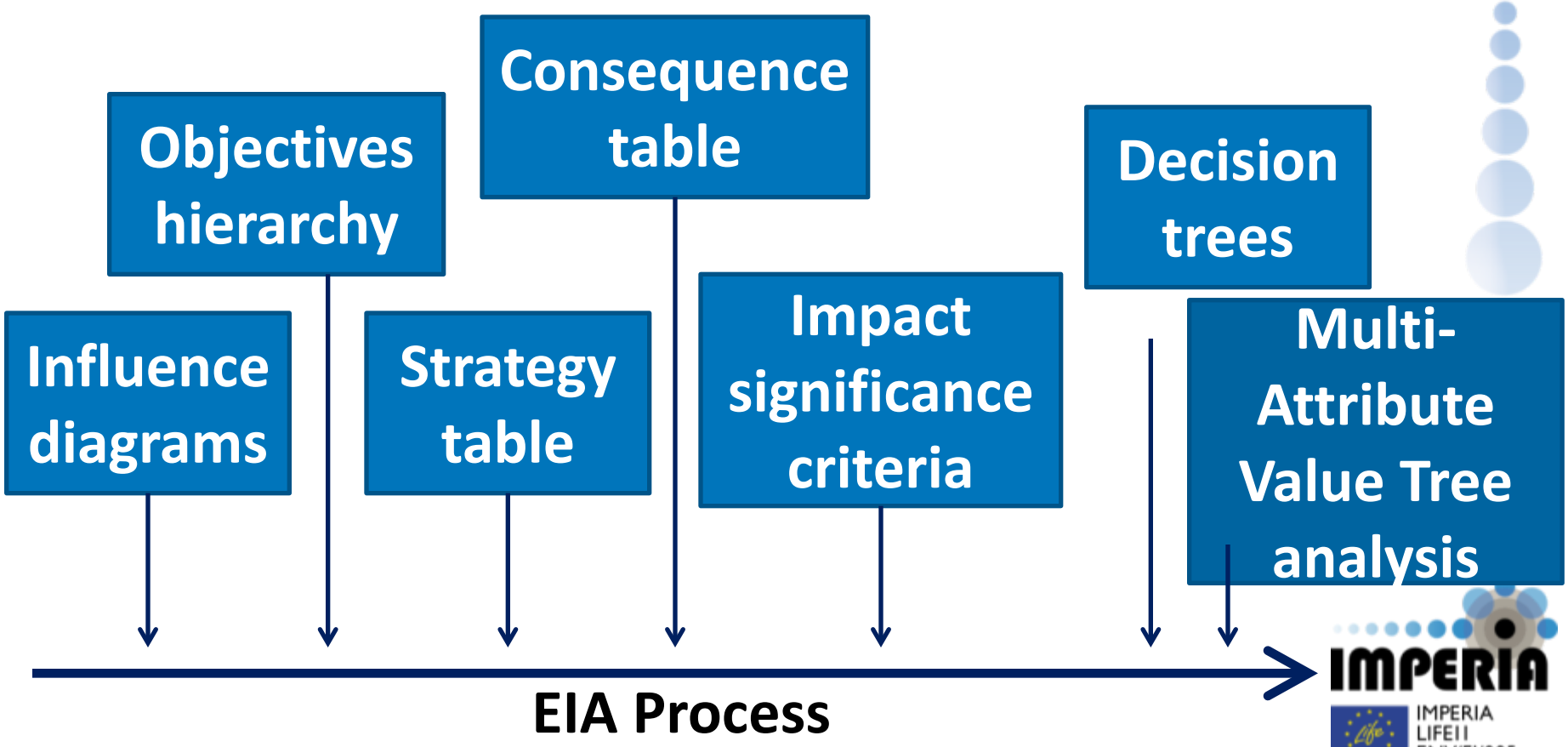
Various MCDA tools available



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Challenges of EIA

(Initial) Identification of significant and less significant impacts

Relevancy
(address key problems/issues)

Objectives hierarchy
Influence diagrams

Public and stakeholder involvement in the early phases of EIA is needed.

Legitimacy
(assessment perceived as fair)

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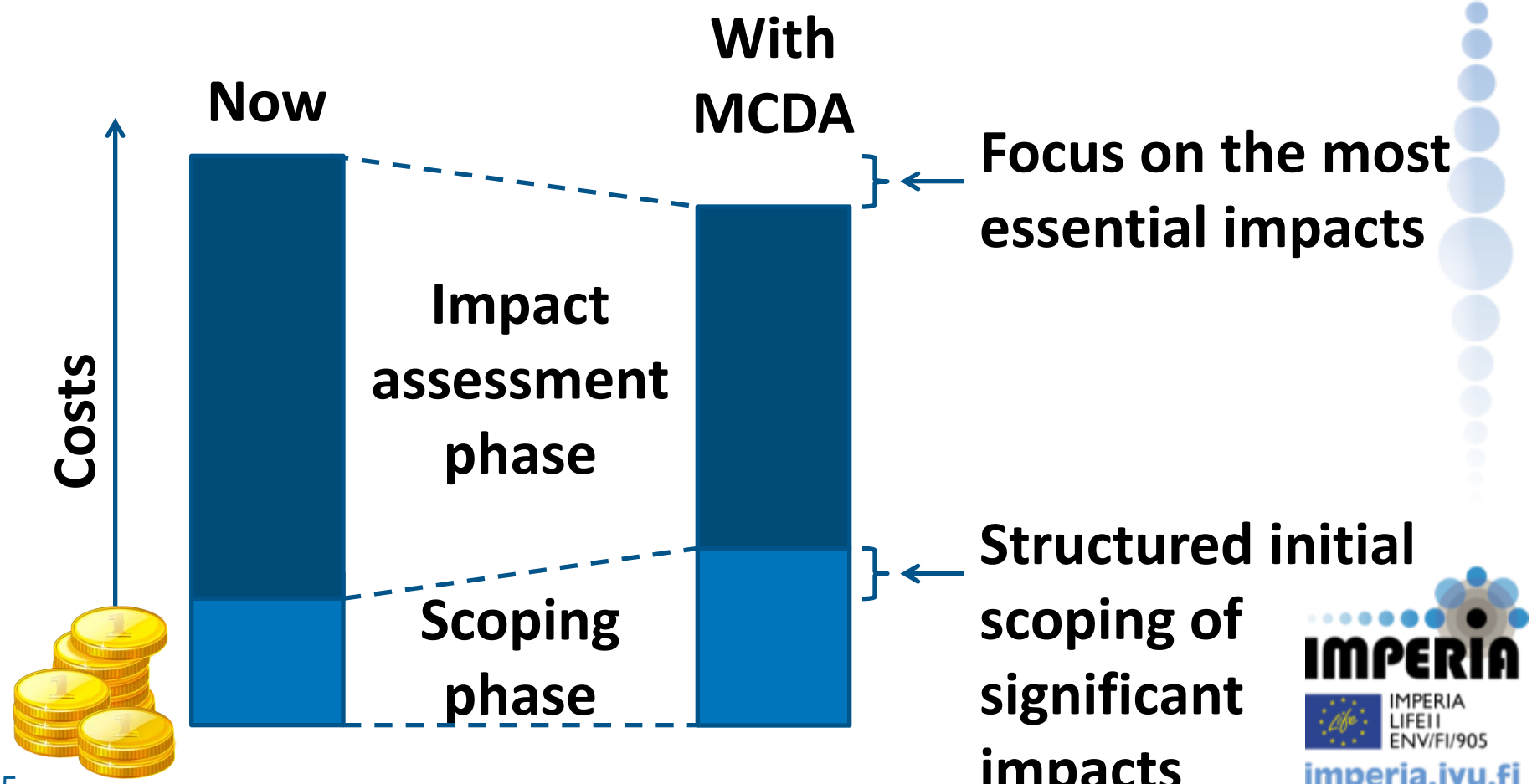
Support for initial scoping of the impacts



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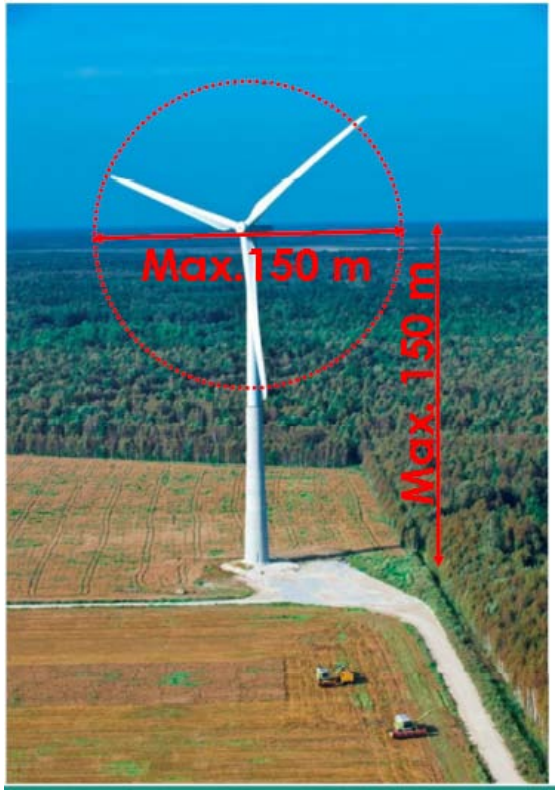
Piipari wind farm EIA case

- Max. 125 turbines (3 MW) – the largest planned inland farm in Finland
- Four municipalities, three regions



MCDA supported scoping phase

Collaborative identification of most important issues and impacts

- Expert meeting for the initial scoping
- Three meetings of the stakeholder assessment group (key stakeholders) for the initial scoping



Meetings of the stakeholder assessment group

1. The most important objectives and issues for the wind farm project and the land use in the area
2. Preliminary assessment of significant impacts (experts and stakeholders)
3. Commenting the draft scoping report

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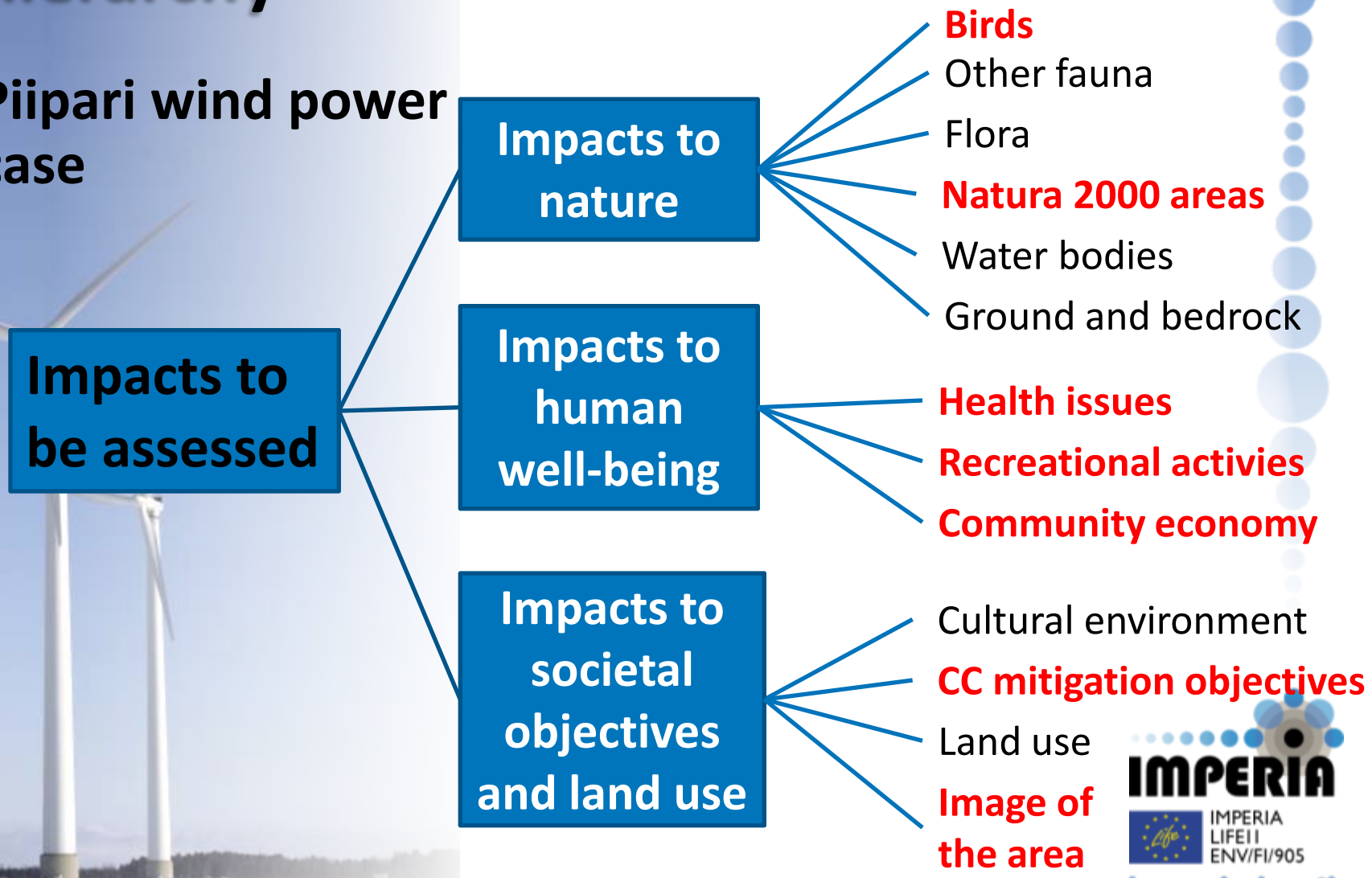
Structured scoping with objectives hierarchy

Piipari wind power case



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Preliminary impact significance in the scoping phase

	SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	
Criteria	**Experts**	**Stakeholders**
Birds	Moderate	Moderate
Other fauna	Low	Low
Flora	Low	Low
Natura 2000 areas	Moderate	Low
Water bodies	Low	Low
Ground and bedrock	Low	Low
Noise	Moderate	Moderate/Low
Landscape	Moderate	Moderate/Low
Blinking	Moderate	Low
Hunting	Low	Moderate/Low
Berrypicking	Low	Moderate/Low
.....	....	

Feedback (scoping process)

*”Discussion has been open and many useful issues came along” (*a member of stakeholder assessment group)

- Consultant and developer have been very interested in developing the process – although many challenges (e.g. timeframe of EIA, early publicity of the project, how to select key stakeholders)

- Few statements; few missing issues

-Co-ordinating authority’s statement positive

Conclusions

More collaborative and structured scoping phase

→increases relevancy and legitimacy of the assessment

→Focus on key issues and impacts in the early phase

→Fair process – stakeholders can see their input to the prosess and documents

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Thank you!

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