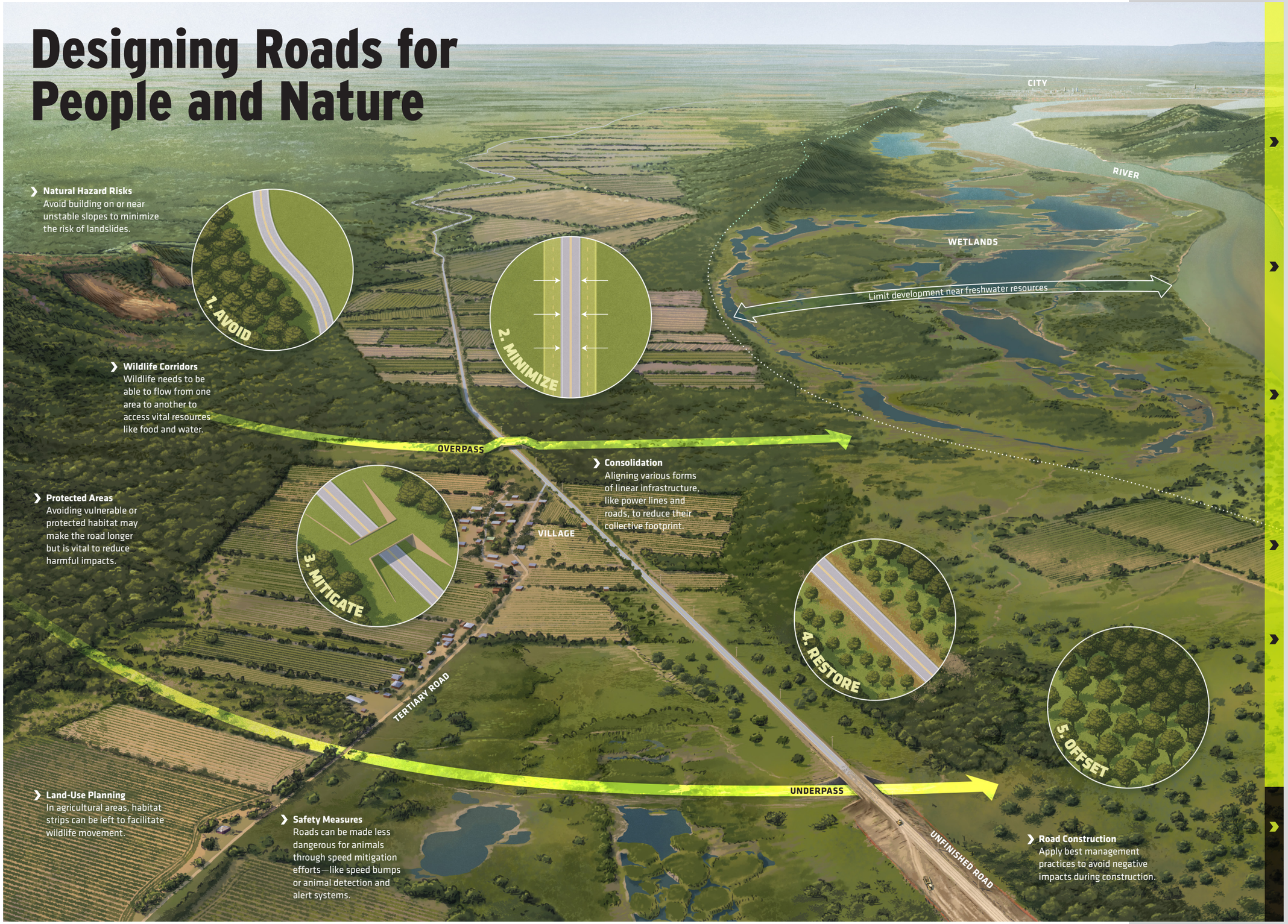
Designing Roads for People and Nature



Mitigation Hierarchy

A hierarchical framework to reduce infrastructure development impacts. (The earlier stages tend to be more effective for conservation than the later ones.)

1. AVOID

Planners should avoid building roads in **sensitive areas** like protected areas.

They should also take into account **climate change** scenarios to avoid unexpected impacts.

2. MINIMIZE

Care should be taken to minimize the impacts of the infrastructure project.

Roads, power lines, and railroads can be **aligned** to reduce their combined impact on a landscape.

3. MITIGATE

Roads should include **wildlife crossings** to allow animal movement and **vegetation buffers** to protect sensitive habitats.

Steps should be taken during **construction** to avoid contamination of water bodies and surrounding habitats.

4. RESTORE

Post-contruction, areas affected by infrastructure development should be **restored** with native plant species.

5. OFFSET

The least-effective step in the hierarchy, offsetting should be considered only after all other options have been exhausted. It involves taking various actions to compensate for the negative impacts of a project, such as rehabilitating similar habitat elsewhere.

Community involvement

Local community members, who are often most affected by a project, should be involved in decision-making and able to monitor road construction and conservation efforts.