Managing Conditions of Uncertainty: biodiversity and climate change



What does uncertainty look like



Sources of uncertainty

- Models (climate and ecosystem) are not accurate on small scales
- There are too many variables involved in the complex interactions between biological and physical factors
- Baselines are often incomplete or out of date
- Monitoring can be expensive and complicated

Tools to manage uncertainty

Principles of adaptation
Guidelines from Technical Series 25
The ecosystem approach
Other tools

Adaptation

Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities

- Anticipatory adaptation –takes place before the impacts of climate change are observed.
- Autonomous adaptation triggered by ecological changes in natural systems and by market or welfare changes in human systems
- Planned adaptation deliberate policy decision, based on an awareness that conditions have changed or are about to change



The Ecosystem Approach



Other tools

Enhance Natural Adaptive Capacity

- Enhance resilience
- Alleviate other threats

Establish Legislation or Voluntary Guidelines

- Risk assessments
- Environmental impact assessments / strategic environmental impact assessments