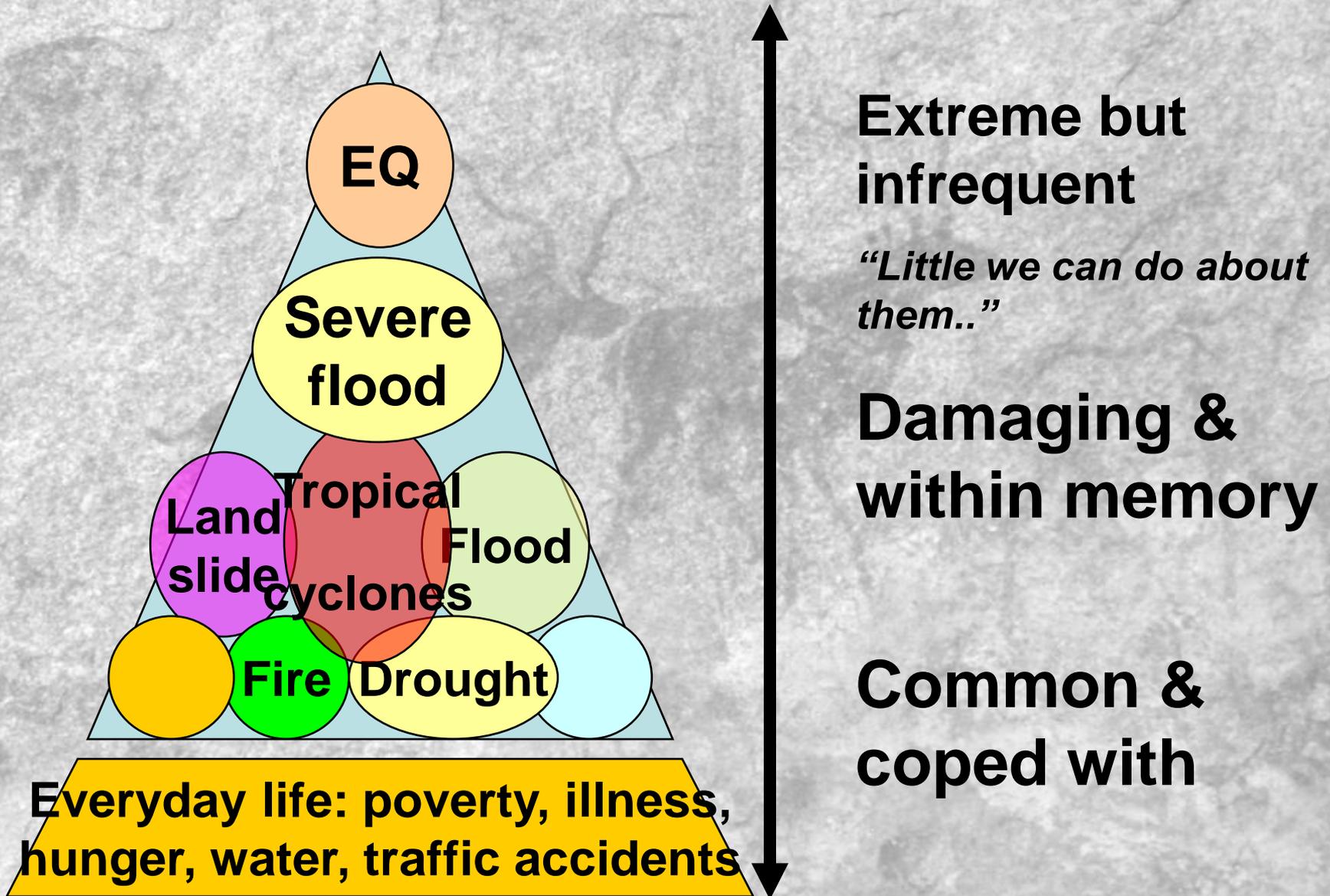


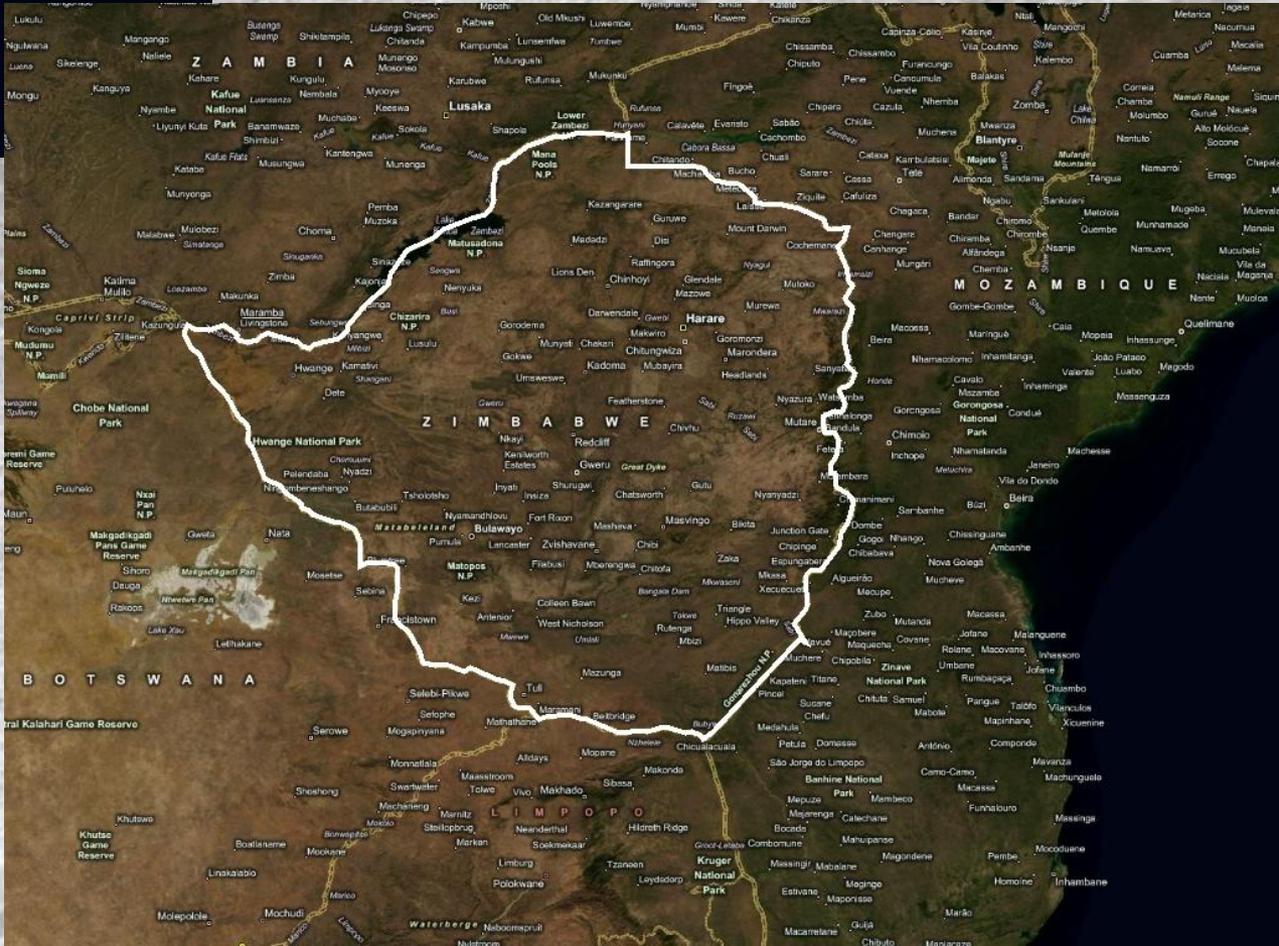
**Risk in Zimbabwe: a study of  
local exposure to risk in  
Masvingo province: implications  
for risk management**

**Philip Buckle**

# Risk Hierarchy: Terry Cannon

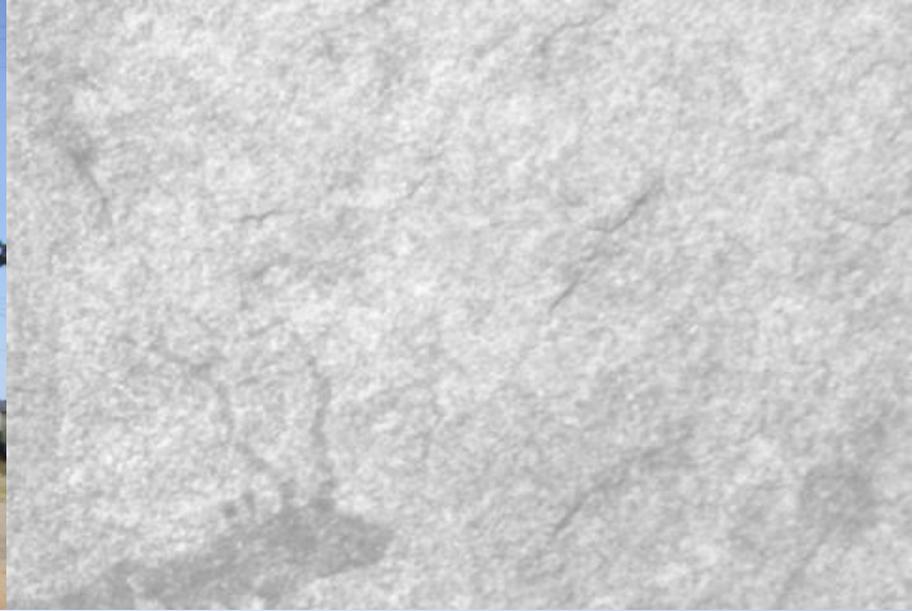


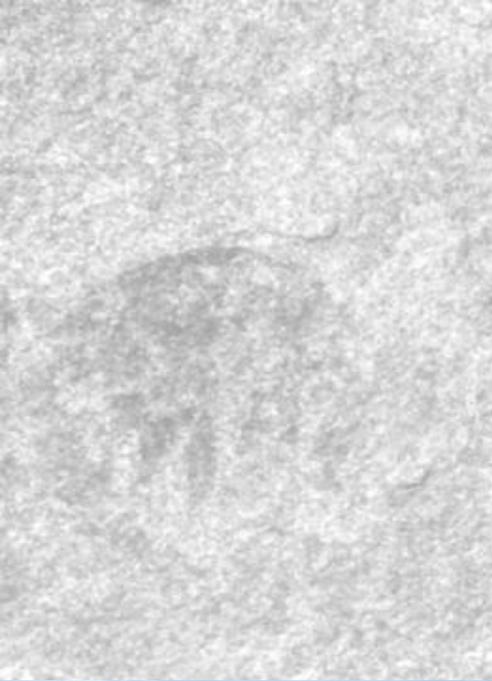












# Components of Risk

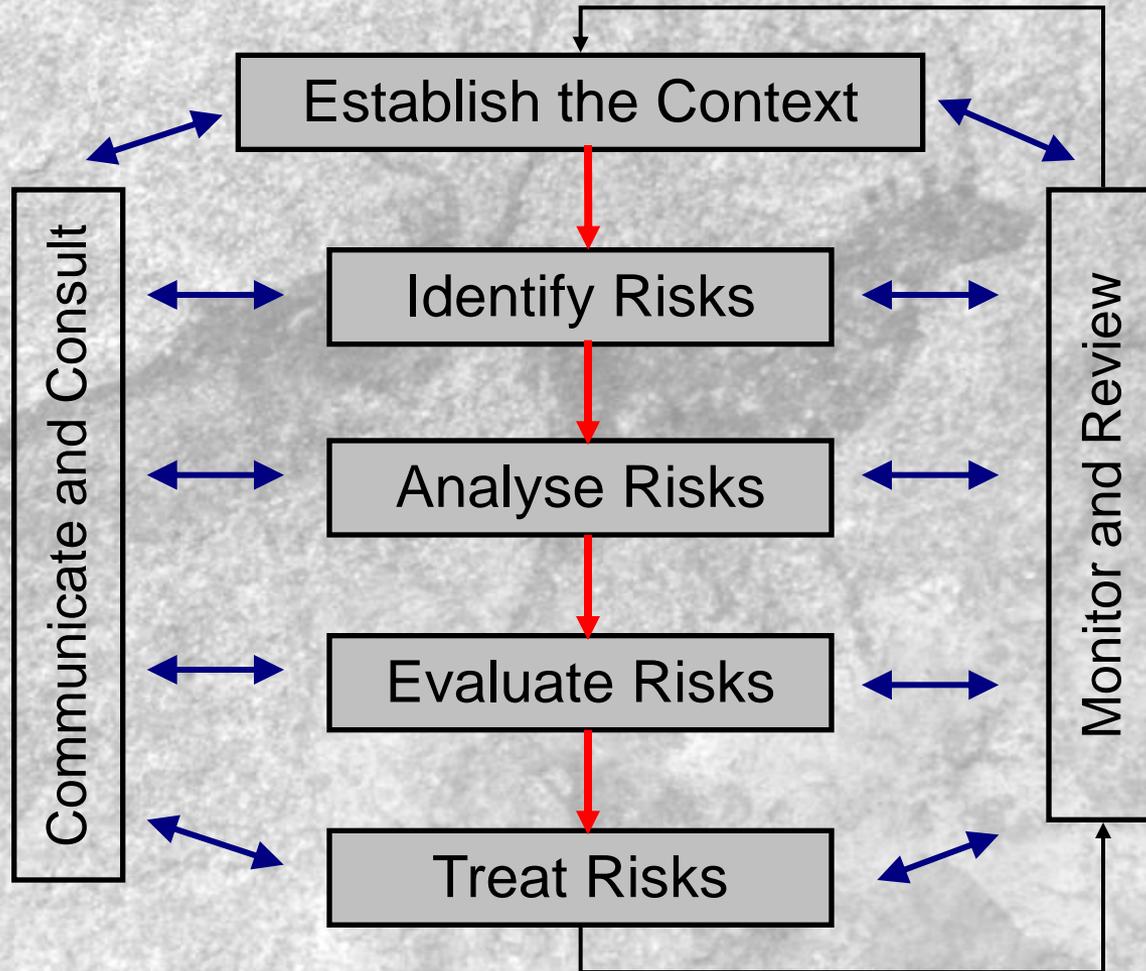
$$R = \frac{H \times V}{C}$$

Risk is a function of the hazard agent, the exposure of nations, communities or organisations reduced by their capacity to mitigate and recover from loss.

# Changing Approaches to Disaster Management



# Risk Assessment



Risk assessment is a systematic and consistent approach to assessing hazards, vulnerability, capacity and risk

# Risk assessment

- About identifying options, choices and alternatives and for these:
  - Resources
  - Management and operational systems
  - Schedules
  - Priorities
  - Outcomes

# Risk assessment

- Assumes:
  - Linear cause and effect
  - Single hazard (but there may be parallel analyses)
  - No values or norms, absence of culture
  - A point of stability on which interventions can be based
  - That ‘something’ can be done and should be done

# Risk assessment

- Does not assume
  - That ‘we’ know where we want to end up
  - Consistent application of social level in analysis
  - Consistent definitions
  - Clarity of purpose
  - Coordination of agencies and sharing of information
  - A knowledge of complexity, time and change

# Management of Risk

- Assumes
  - Intervention point
  - Source of resources
  - Stable politics (?)
  - Stable currency
  - Economic opportunities
  - Personal security (Otherwise it is just refugee assistance)
  - There is no going backwards

# Zimbabwe Context

- Climate change
- Hyperinflation
- Political insecurity
- Epidemic disease
- Infrastructure degradation
- Significant loss of amenity
- Emigration

# Zimbabwe – the political context

- Mugabe regime – authoritarian, violent
- Post colonial remediation
- Displacement as a political tool
- Corruption

# Hazards

- Magic/Magical cures
- Alcohol abuse
- HIV/Aids
- Cholera
- Malaria
- Asthma
- Other disease and illness
- Drought
- Water shortage
- Food shortage
- Storm
- Floods
- Fires
- Earthquake
- Anthrax & other animal disease
- Pests (crop and animal)
- Wild animals
- Lack of infrastructure
  - Power
  - Roads
  - Bridges
  - Transport
- Lack of access (markets etc)
- Corruption
- Hyperinflation
- Violence and abuse
- Prostitution
- Displacement
- Emigration
- Lack of education
- Lack of health care and medicines

# Hazards Ranking by Masvingo villagers

## Hazards

- Drought
- Hunger
- Wild animals
- HIV/Aids

## Vulnerable Pop,n

- Elderly, orphans, vulnerable children, children, women
- Children
- Everyone
- Children, the ill

# People at Risk

- Children, infants and babies
- The Sick
- Elderly
- The Disabled
- Women
- Youths
- Everyone???

# Hazards - observations

- Changes in society and the environment leading to new, unexpected, unplanned for shocks and trends.
- These new threats will not go away, they may change but the new(ness) of riskiness will remain

# Elements at risk

- People (lives, health and well being)
- Infrastructure
- Crops
- Live Stock
- Homes and other assets
- Dams
- Soil
- Professional knowledge and expertise
- Capacity (to restore farms)
- Communities, 'community' and social capital
- Traditional authority (organising) structures

# Issue 1: Displacement

- Personal harm
- Community damage
- Exploitation by local employers
- Competition with local people
- Political threats

# Issue 2: HIV/Aids

- 18% of the population infected
- So! how many in 18 – 40 years group?
- ‘Cure by virgin’
- Inadequate medicines
- Inadequate health care
  - But levels of infection are dropping (?)
- Orphan headed households
- Grandparent headed (multiple) households
- Community ‘guardians’

# Issue 3: Storm

- Damage to houses (repair materials are hard to find)
- Soil erosion (increasing)
- Threats to dams, bridges, roads and thus to children (increasing)
- No insurance
- No money to rebuild (nothing to buy in any case, no government support, reliance on INGOs)
- Reliance on communal support (diminishing)

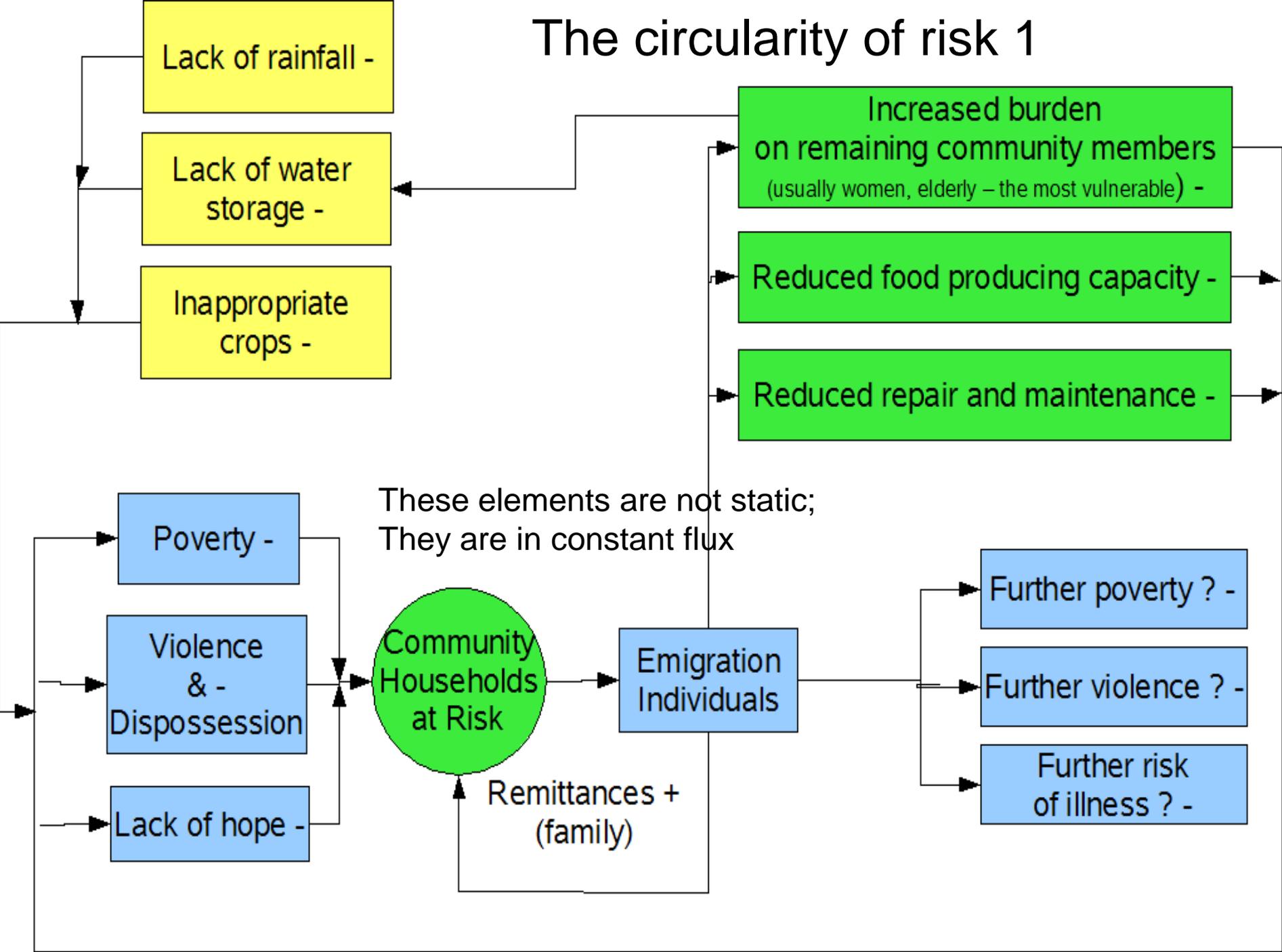
# Issue 4: Drought

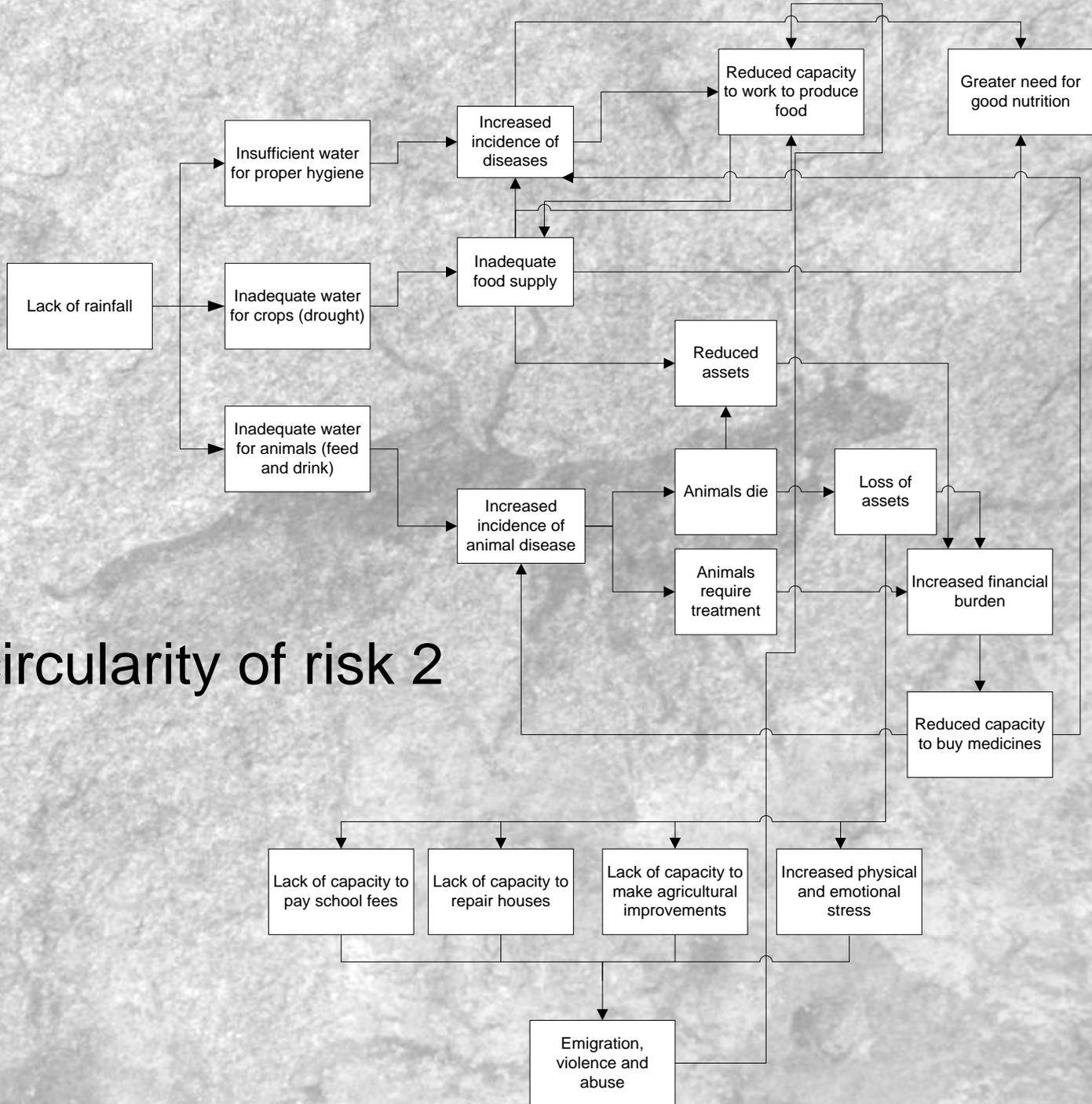
- Water shortage for crops
- Water shortage for stock
- Poor sanitation
- Lack of economic opportunity

# Capacity

- Magic (Faith, hope, deceptive reassurance)
- Traditional knowledge (being lost)
- Social capital (declining)
- Women (still subjugated)
- Savings clubs (money has no value)
- Funeral clubs (a/a plus western burials are expensive)
- Remittances (unreliable)
- NGOs (? Creating dependence)

# The circularity of risk 1





# The circularity of risk 2

# Issues

- Accepting the inter-dependence and mutual reinforcement of risks.
- Accepting the lack of start and end points and the need to accept acceptable risk; accepting losses
- Working with the national government
- Agency coordination and information sharing
- Lack of reliable data (lack of data!)
- Accessing resources
- Personal security

# What is to be Done?

- How long do we have?
- Continue providing services ?
  - Seeds
  - Fertiliser
  - Farming education
- Do nothing until the situation stabilises ?
- Focus services – more help for fewer people to attain a sustainability threshold ?
- Provide services through local conduit – e.g. Women ?
- Seek (political) change – what are the ethical dynamics of risk management

# What is to be Done? How do we envision community safety?

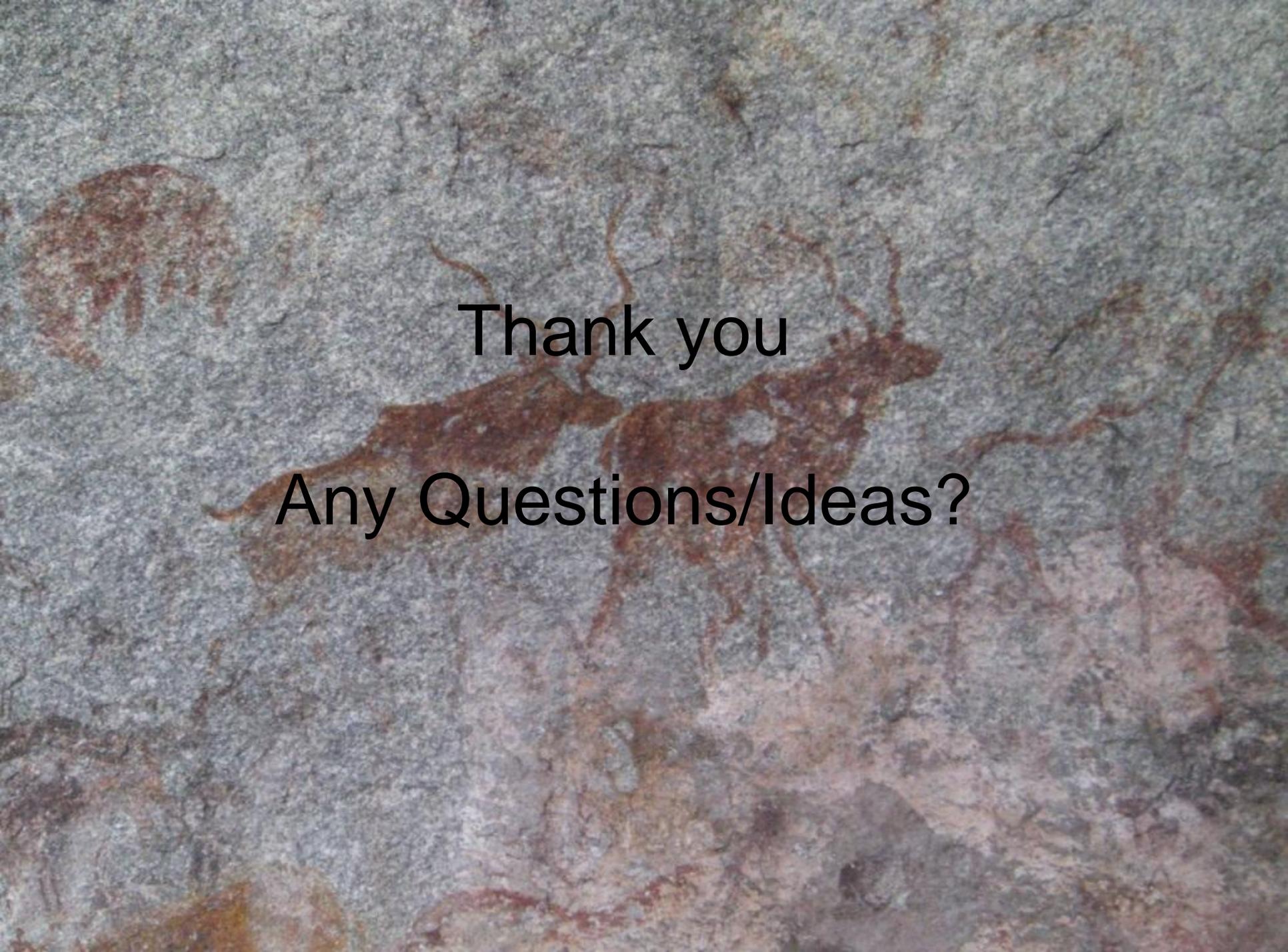
- What is the locus, move, timing and content of intervention? And what outcomes do we want?
- What does a safer, more capable, more secure household/village look like? And who decides this?
- What is the shape of NGOs response and of local responses?
- How do we shape, manage, explain and sell retreat, withdrawal and managed (?) loss?

# Risk assessment / management prospectively

- Accept uncertainty
- Accept irreversibility
- Acknowledge change and complexity
- Apply longitudinal studies / future studies
- Focus on what can be achieved, put emphasis on capacity and programme direction: manage by agreed outcomes, not by agency priorities
- Establish thresholds (e.g. more for fewer)
- Set priorities? But how and by whom?
- How do we measure vulnerability? Agree on what is being measured and the method

# Risk assessment / management prospectively

- Emergent risks (discontinuous, uncharted)
- Weighting of risk – whose risk, who does the weighting, opportunities for involvement
- Understanding the context of risk
- Classifying risks new – old; unpredictable (!) – predictable, continuous - emergent
- Adaptation/retreat is need if change is irreversible



Thank you

Any Questions/Ideas?

