

❖ Prince Phillip House, 3 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DG

❖ Tuesday, 5 March 2019

Decision Making Under Deep Uncertainty Workshop



Clinic 4: 'Dynamic Adaptive Pathways'

Dynamic adaptation pathways provide a technique for strategic planning that helps make decisions on which (sets of) options perform robustly over time and under uncertainty. This session will describe the evolution of the pathways approach, with practical examples provided. The work of the British Standards Institute in developing new guidance for adaptation pathways will be introduced. Participants will be able to discuss the use of adaptation pathways in their own work.

Contents

- ❖ Introduction, need and terminology [Geoff Darch]
- ❖ Development of adaptive pathways and water resources planning case study [Tim Reeder]
- ❖ Adaptive pathways in coastal management [Peter von Lany]
- ❖ Adaptive pathways in transport planning [Katy Roelich]

BREAK

- ❖ Discussion

Why do we need them?

- ❖ No single future (lots of uncertainty...)
- ❖ Robustness-type analyses can help avoid regret but some uncertainties reduce / are resolved, and we need steps
- ❖ Visualise decision choices
- ❖ Relate to monitoring and thresholds

Terminology

❖ Adaptation pathways

❖ Adaptive policy / planning

❖ Dynamic adaptive policy
pathways (Haasnoot, 2013)

= strategic choices between
options over time

❖ Adaptive design

= adaptability at the asset or site
level e.g. ability to upsize without
complete change

British Standard (BSI) development

- ❖ ‘Decision Making for Climate Change – Adaptation Pathways’
- ❖ Working group chaired by Tim Reeder (inc. Peter von Lany, Geoff Darch)
- ❖ Consistency regarding terminology
- ❖ Guidance for organisations developing adaptation pathways
- ❖ List of good practice examples
- ❖ Drafting this year with consultation likely early 2020; publication mid-2020

Summary

Strengths

- ❖ Link risks to solutions
- ❖ Defines action points
- ❖ Identifies limits
- ❖ Visual

Challenges

- ❖ Multiple variables
- ❖ Geographical application
- ❖ Low frequency thresholds

Discussion questions

- ❖ How could you use adaptive pathways in your decision making?
- ❖ What are the potential advantages?
- ❖ What do you perceive as barriers to getting started with pathways?
- ❖ How can the AU4DM network help?

Analysis Under Uncertainty for Decision Makers (AU4DM) Network

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