

Discussion on (mis-)use of uncertainty in decision making

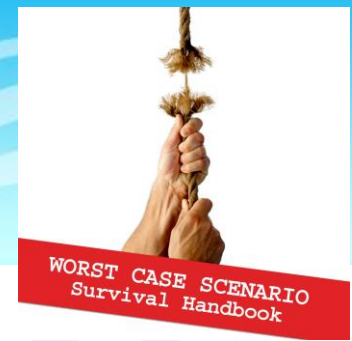
3 cases

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Case 1



- Examples of negative impacts dominate in the IPCC AR4 WGII report at summary level (PBL, 2010)
- The IPCC authors considered these to be the most relevant to policymakers.
- **Is IPCC WG2 legitimately emphasizing the worst case?**

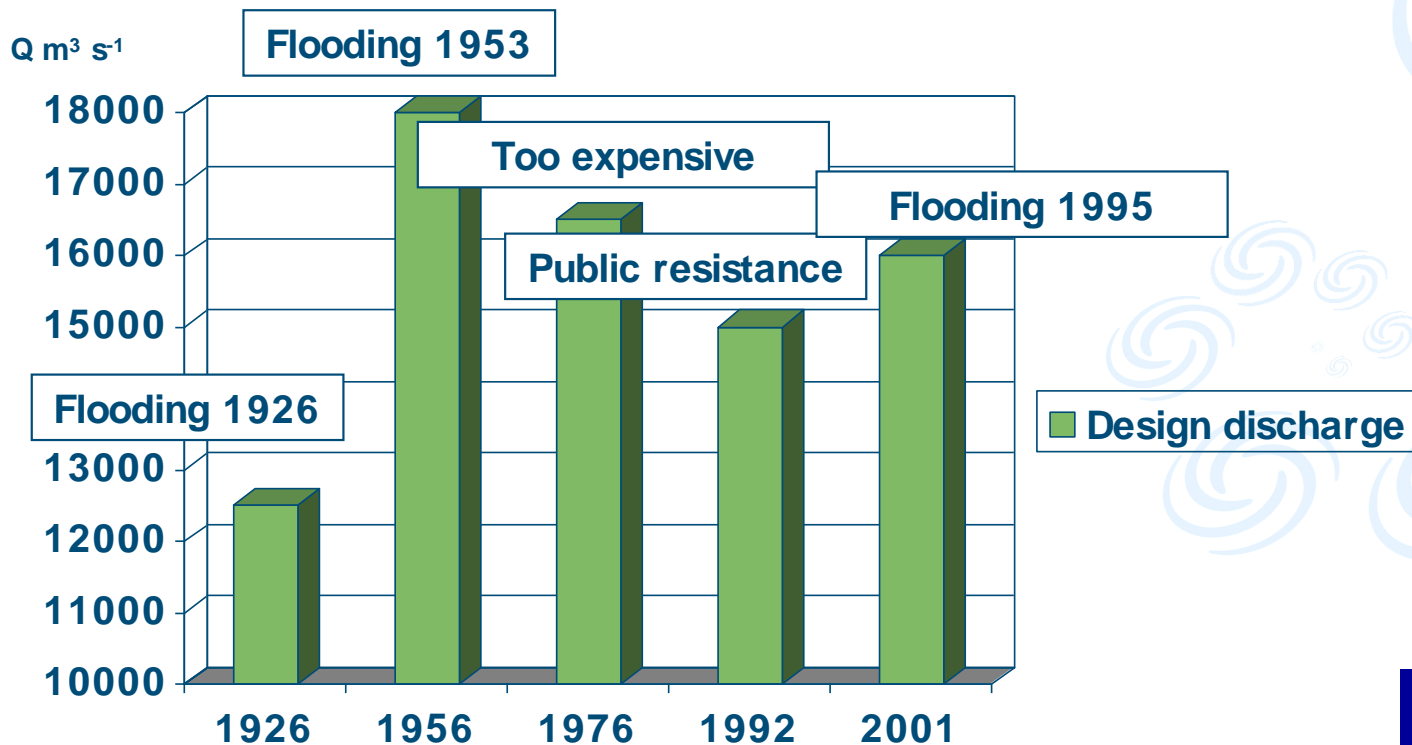
Question 1:

- **Can scientists take an “alarmist” role emphasizing the high end of possible negative consequences of environmental change and if not which other way should they choose?**
- **How should they communicate their research results in terms of potential climate change impacts?**



Case 2

- **Do scientific insights or political priority determine design discharges?**



Question 2

- **How should scientists react when policy makers use scientific information selectively or use (or ignore) prevailing uncertainties to motivate or defend political “science-based” decisions?**



Case 3



- *“Claim that the existing evidence is not good enough and demand more.”*
- *“Deliberately misrepresent the scientific consensus.”*
- *“Falsely portray scientists as so divided that basing policy on their advice would be premature.”*
- **How to respond to climate deniers?**

Question 3

- **How should serious scientists identify themselves in their role as “honest broker” to inform policy makers in a balanced fashion**
- **and how should they respond to incorrect or unbalanced statements in media or political debates?**

