

# Precautionary Approach and the basin management in Rio de Janeiro

Adriana Bocaiuva

Forum Fluminense de Comitês de Bacia

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# Environmental Principle of Precaution



## PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

### 1992 - Rio Declaration on Environment and Development/ Principle 14

“In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, **lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.** “

### 1992 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)/ Preamble

“where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, **lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.**”

### 1992 UNFCCC/ Article 3(3)

“The Parties should **take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize** the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects.”





**What are the challenges to incorporate climate change data in basin management, addressing the Environmental Principle of Precaution?**



## Challenges to integrate climate change risk into river basin management planning

- 1) **Downscaling climate projections to a river basin scale:** Investment in space–time resolution to refine the available data from global and regional climate models
- 2) The multifaceted impacts of climate change on the quantity and quality of water requires an **integrated strategy between the different scales of governance** [ Different public polices addressing different risks: rising sea levels , intense extreme weather events - droughts/ storms/ heat waves, flooding]
- 3) **Economical and political cost** to address precautionary risk management despite the cost-efficiency of the adaptation measures compared to remediation measures
- 4) Low **public budgets for adaptation measures** at national and subnational levels





**Good practices in basin management planning to address climate change.**





- Baía da Guanabara Hydrographic Region Basin Plan includes a new chapter related to coastal zone
- Risk management plan for Baía da Guanabara Hydrographic Region
- Inclusion of the requirement of precautionary approach to the Brazilian Climate Change Adaptation Plan



**Thank you!**  
**abocaiuva@gmail.com**

**Adriana Bocaiuva**  
**Forum Fluminense de Comitês de Bacias Hidrográficas**

