



**SCIENTIFIC UNCERTAINTY, PRECAUTION  
AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT:  
HOW TO COPE WITH THE UNKNOWN ?**

Eve Truilhé-Marengo  
Chargée de recherche / Researcher  
CNRS  
Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches  
Internationales et Communautaires  
Aix-Marseille Université  
[eve.truilhe@gmail.com](mailto:eve.truilhe@gmail.com)

# HOW TO COPE WITH THE UNKNOWN ?

## Key issues

- Links between biodiversity, science and scientific uncertainty
- Complex and versatile notion of biodiversity: dominance and complexity of science
- Double phenomenon : epistemic simplification of nature and growing ecological complexity.



**Is Habitats directive able to face uncertainty ?**

# HOW TO COPE WITH THE UNKNOWN ?

## I – ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AS A PRECAUTIONARY TOOL

Randomness of impact assessments obligation

Insufficiency of conducted assessments

Possibility to avoid negative results : compensation

## II – CENTRAL ROLE OF THE JUDGE WHEN FACING UNCERTAINTY

ECJ, precautionary principal and Habitats directive

ECJ : expert judge ?

**Judge of science, Criteria of “admissibility” for expertise, Science and law dialogue ...**

