

Unit 2. Elements of a Vulnerability Assessment

Goals

Goal 1. Be able to identify, recognize, and discuss the different components of vulnerability and how they are measured (scientific basis).

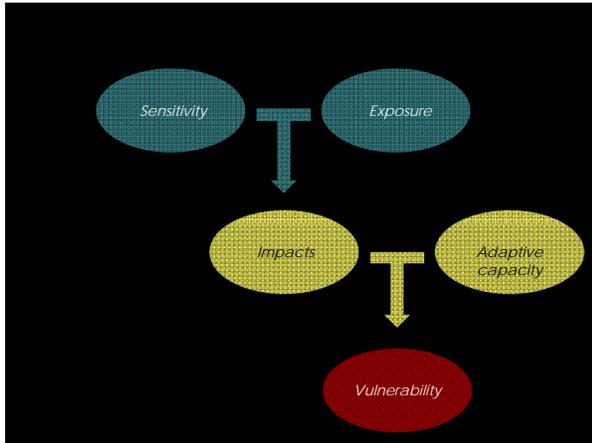
Goal 2. Recognize how to assess those components by comparing the data, tools, and models used in the assessment.

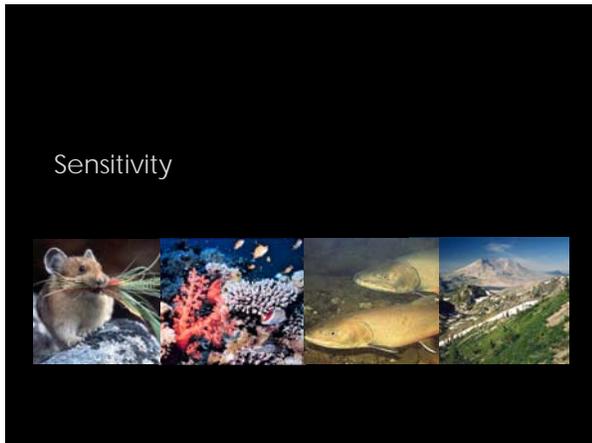
Vulnerability

Sensitivity – the degree to which the persistence or functioning of a species or system is dependent on climate or factors driven by climate

Exposure – the magnitude of the change in climate or climate driven factors that the species or system in question will likely experience

Adaptive capacity – the degree to which a species or system can change or respond to address climate impacts







Species' Sensitivities to Climate Change

- Physiological sensitivity
- Sensitive habitats and disturbance regimes
- Interspecific interactions
- Location and range
- Phenology
- Additional stressors



Sensitivity of Ecological System



System sensitivities to climate change

- Climate breadth
- Individual species sensitivities
- Disturbance regimes
- Other stressors



System sensitivities: Examples



Activity 1. Assessing sensitivity
