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# 1992 Rio Declaration

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In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capability. 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.



# 1980 IUCN World Conservation Strategy

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- ... keep in mind that in spite of present knowledge, what we know about the biosphere, ecosystems and their interrelationships is less than what we do not know. Consequently, it is often difficult to accurately predict the effects of human actions. Gaps in knowledge should be filled where possible ... but in the meantime risks should be reduced.

# 1982 World Charter for Nature (adopted by UN General Assembly)

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- activities which are likely to cause irreversible damage to nature shall be avoided; and activities which are likely to pose a significant risk to nature shall be preceded by an exhaustive examination; their proponents shall demonstrate that expected benefits outweigh potential damage to nature, and where potential adverse effects are not fully understood, the activities should not proceed.

# European Commission Communication (2000)1 def

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- Guidelines, toolkit on using the precautionary principle for scientists & policy makers
- Not acting against potential risks = choice
- Only making recommendations = option
- Ban provisionally while conducting further research to fill gaps = option



## Recommendation:

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- Ombudsman for Future Generations could prepare similar guidelines on using precautionary principle