Decision tree for choosing an uncertainty analysis methodology: a Wiki experiment

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It is impossible to suggest a universally applicable uncertainty analysis method. Any guidance on choosing a method, even for a well defined application, will reflect the views of the author. Even factual information on the assumptions underlying particular methods and choices that are necessary in their application can be difficult to find.

It may be possible to tackle these problems using a wiki, a form of collectively editable web site of which the collaboratively authored encyclopeadia Wikipedia is now the best known example. With a wiki, anyone can add apges or edit a page at any time. The underlying software offers a variety of mechanisms to help users and editors keep track of changes being made.

A wiki is under development containimg a catalogue of uncertainty analysis methods, with an index in the form of a decision tree. It is intended that the developers of and experts in uncertainty analysis methods, who want these methods to be used by other researchers and practitioners, will extend and update the descriptions of methods and the decision tree. Practitioners can then use the decision tree to find methods which might be appropriate given a particular situation. This approach explicitly acknowledges subjectivity by encouraging contributions from everyone.

The wiki will be online on http://www.floodrisknet.org.uk/ by April 2006.