

USING CONFIDENCE TERMS

WHAT ARE CONFIDENCE TERMS?

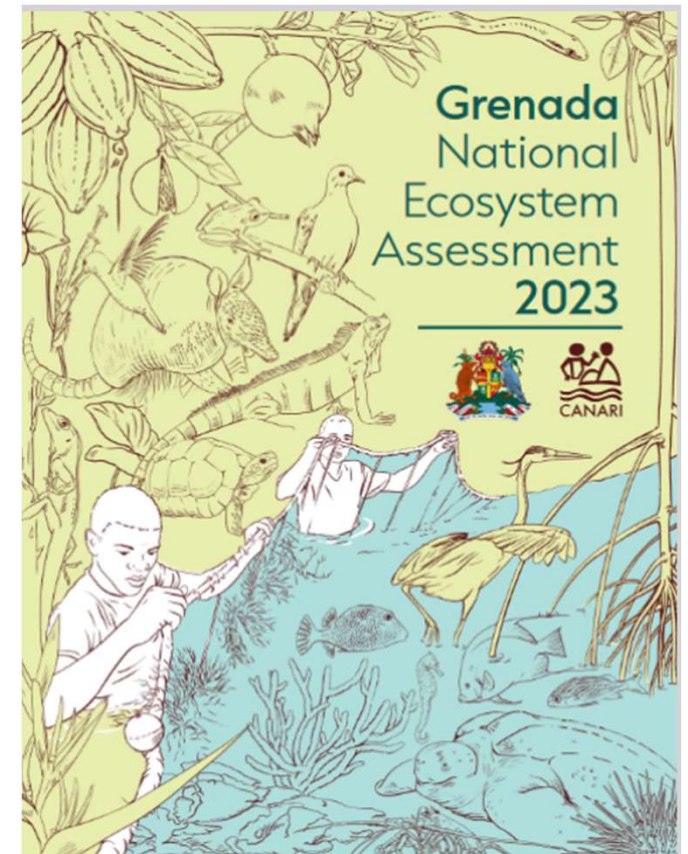


- Convey **authors' confidence level** in knowledge and evidence behind key findings
 - Help ensure **consistency** and **transparency** in assessments
 - Based on authors' expert judgement of:
 - **Level of agreement** on **accuracy** of knowledge
 - **Quality and quantity** of supporting **evidence**
 - Indicate **well-established knowledge** vs topics needing **further research**
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CONFIDENCE TERMS: WHEN/WHERE?



- During the *Expert Evaluation* stage
- Assigned to **Key Findings**
- **Chapter Summaries** of the technical assessment report
- Key findings of the **Summary for Policymakers**



CONFIDENCE TERMS: HOW?



- **Identify key findings** of each chapter
 - **Evaluate level of knowledge** within each knowledge system & **supporting evidence**
 - Determine whether the evidence is based on **probability** (i.e. related to a probable outcome)
 - **THEN** assign confidence level to each key findings
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QUALITATIVE

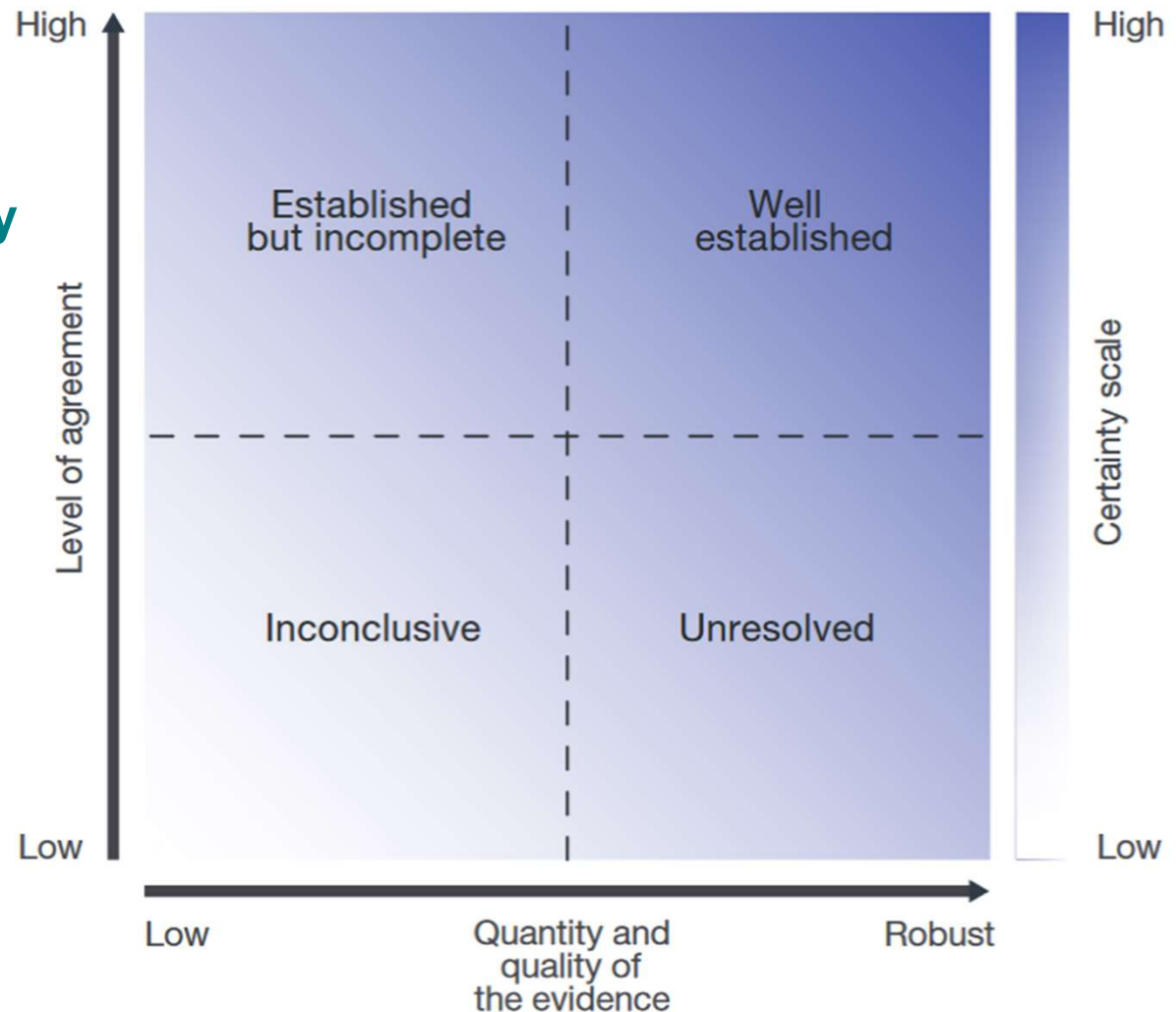
ASSESSMENT OF CONFIDENCE

Use this **four-box model** to **qualitatively** evaluate & communicate evidence:

- (x) = **Quantity & quality of evidence**
- (y) = **Level of agreement + certainty**

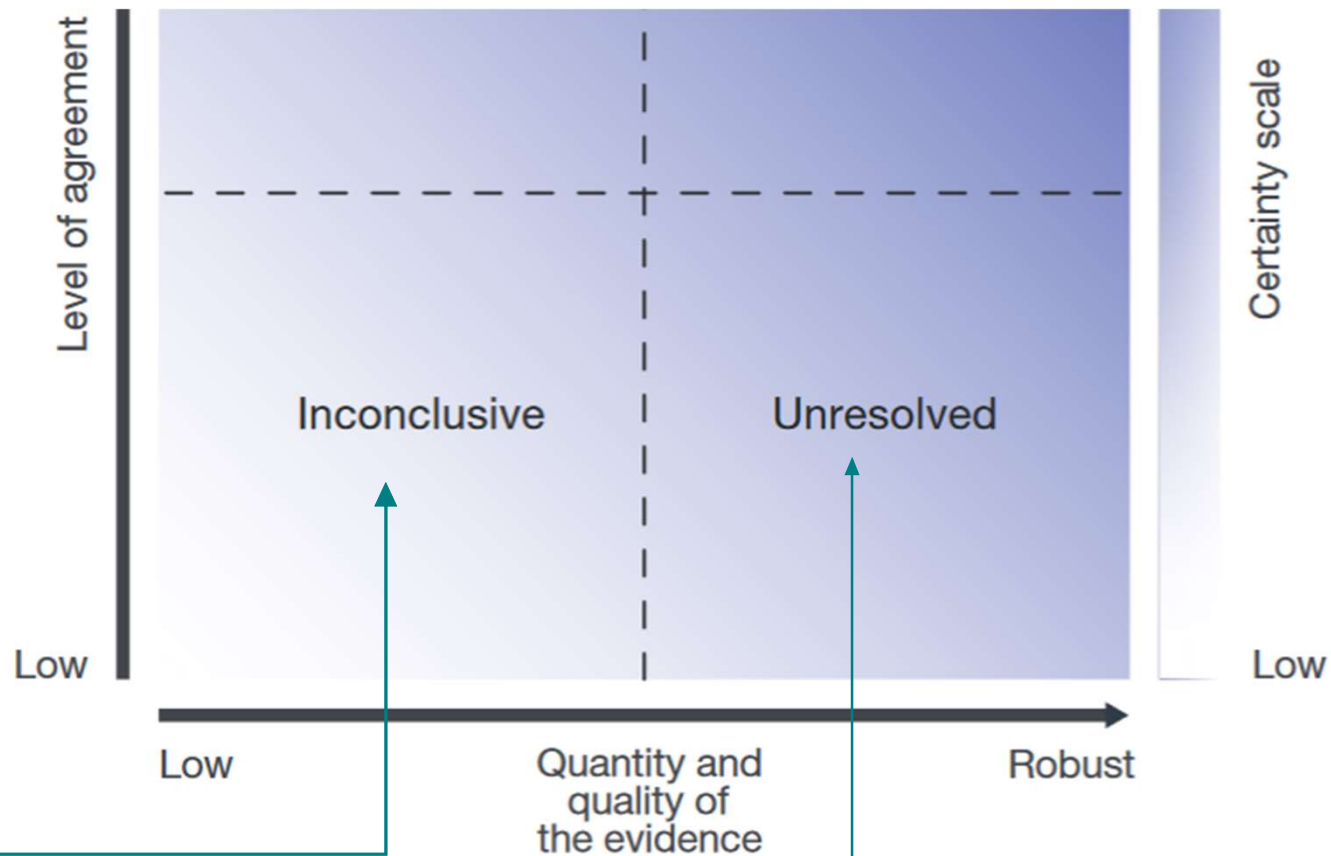
Apply **confidence term**:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Established but incomplete
low (x) low (y) | • Well established
low (x) low (y) |
| • Inconclusive
low (x) low (y) | • Unresolved
high (x) low (y) |



QUALITATIVE

ASSESSMENT OF CONFIDENCE



Inconclusive

- Low quantity + quality evidence
- Low agreement + certainty
- Based on a **suggestion** or **speculation**; **no** or **limited evidence**

Unresolved

- High quantity + quality evidence
- Low agreement + certainty
- **Multiple independent studies** exist but **conclusions do not agree**

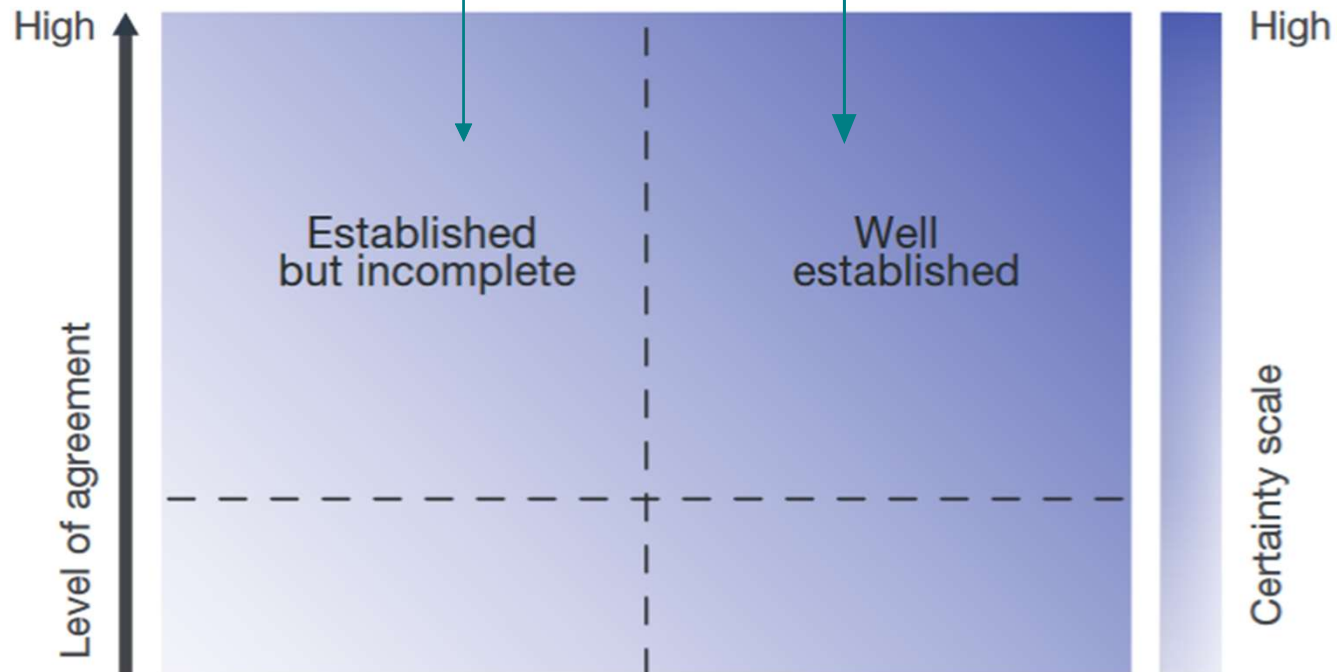
Established but incomplete

- Low quantity + quality evidence
- High agreement + certainty
- **Limited sources of knowledge**, however, they are in **general agreement**
- OR the **knowledge** that exists **does not relate directly** to the **key message and finding**

Well established

- High quantity + quality evidence
- High agreement + certainty
- **Comprehensive data agrees** with the finding / key message.

QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF CONFIDENCE



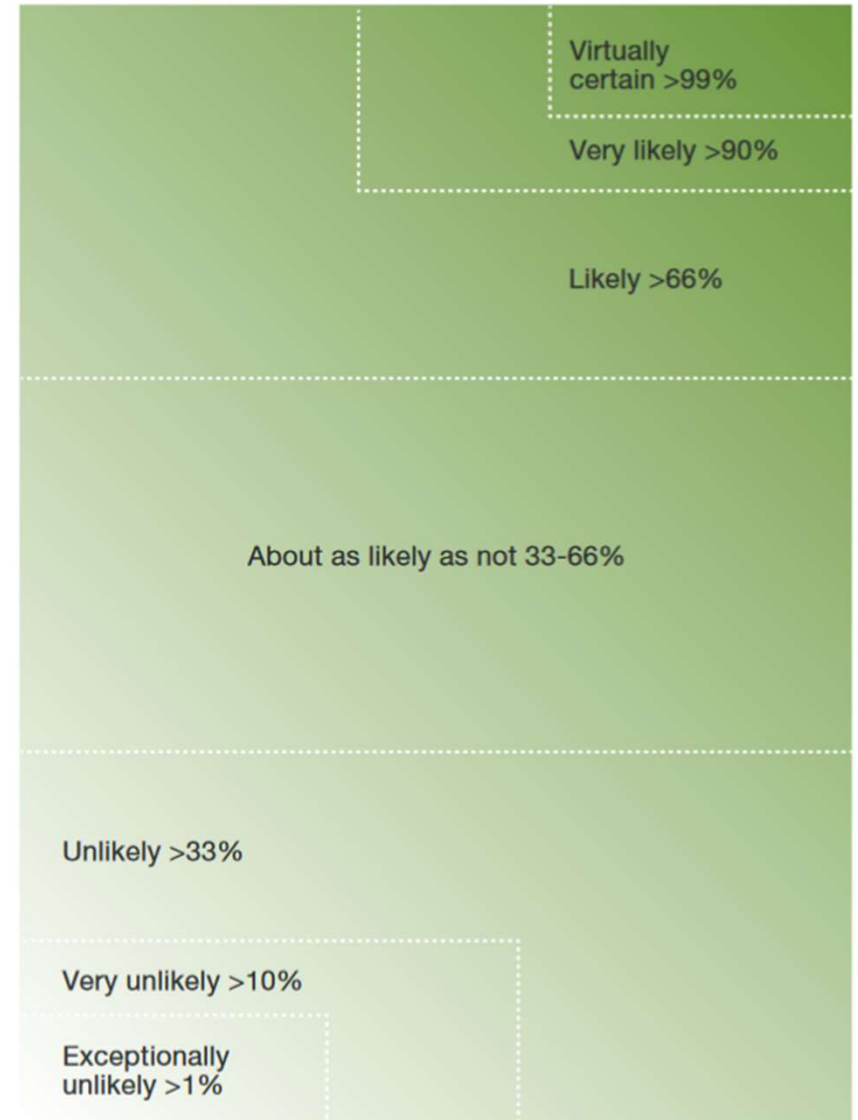
QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF CONFIDENCE

Consider using **likelihood terms**:

- If **quantitative information** exists (e.g. **statistical analyses of models**)
- To communicate **probability** of well-defined **outcome/impact** occurring.

Apply **confidence term**:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| • Unlikely
>33% | • About as likely as not
33-66% |
| • Likely
>66% | • Virtually certain
>99% |



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT / IPBES GUIDE (SECTION 2.2.6)

- Ensure **consistency** and **standardized** approach across the whole assessment
- **Keep a record / traceable account** of how authors decided on each confidence term: info on quality, quantity, type & consistency
- **Indigenous & Local Knowledge:** additional considerations



CONFIDENCE TERMS - EVALUATION STAGE

WHAT?

Confidence terms¹ are used as a standard approach to help ensure consistency and transparency on how assessment authors convey to readers their level of confidence on the knowledge available for a specific topic (see The IPBES Guide on the Production of Assessments). Confidence terms are based on the authors' expert judgement of the level of agreement about the accuracy of the knowledge and the quality and quantity of associated evidence in support of key messages and findings. They indicate the knowledge, evidence and information which the authors are highly confident in and which topics require further investigation. Consequently, confidence terms support decision-makers to make better informed decisions as they showcase where the uncertainty associated with the assessment's key messages, findings and analyses are.



WHEN?

During the Evaluation Stage of an assessment, authors undertaking the assessment identify its key findings and assess the confidence level of knowledge agreement and quantity and quality of associated evidence. The confidence terms can be used in these key findings, both across the chapter summaries of the technical report and the key findings in the summary for policymakers. For more guidance on when to use confidence terms, please see The IPBES Guide on the Production of Assessments.

¹Confidence terms are also described as uncertainty terms in other assessment processes.

Assessing ILK Confidence Level

Assigning ILK confidence level effectively is necessary to ensure:

- ILK is not misrepresented, misunderstood or undervalued
- ILK is fairly considered in policy decision making for sustainable conservation

Caution

- ❖ Science validation largely depends on publications, citation and consensus
- ❖ ILK is largely tacit and undocumented, relying solely on scientific criteria could lead to underestimation and misrepresentation of ILK

Adopt multiple evidence-based approach

- **Tacit:** Open to the usefulness of qualitative and tacit knowledge
- Acknowledge legitimacy and validity of ILK
- **Valid:** ILK is **empirically tested, applied, contested and validated** through different means in different contexts.
- **Validation** within knowledge systems
- **Integrity** in the synthesis and confidence rating where there is **divergence & conflicts findings**
- ILK is often **communal and collective**
 - <> Quality over quantity
 - <> gate keepers vs random participants



How to ILK Confidence Level

Recommended:

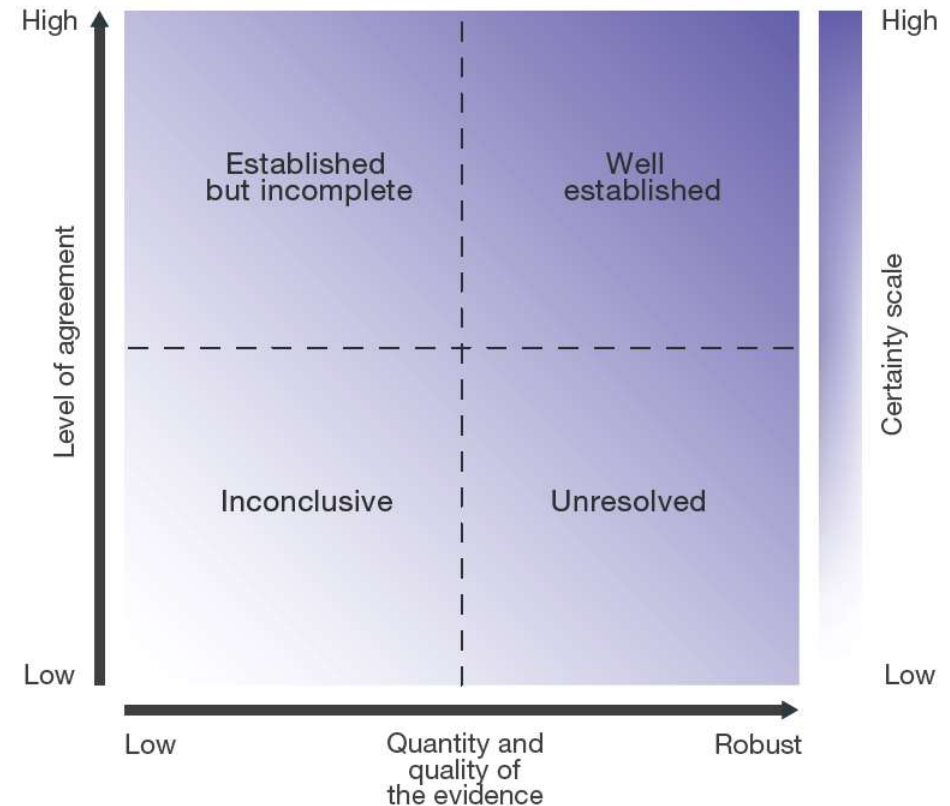
Assign confidence terms within ILK system, rather than through scientific criteria

Assigning ILK confidence level

- Expert opinion of ILK experts – ILK authors
 - ILK dialogue workshop – assess community consensus and/or inputs of ILK holder
 - Literature review – acknowledge exiting gap
- ❖ It might be essential to develop separate key messages and confidence rating for scientific & ILK

Rating based on ILK lens could Consider:

- Knowledge richness
- Practice, applicability and adaptability



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Selected Examples from IPBES and NEAs

IPBES Global Assessment (2019)

Much of the world's terrestrial wild and domesticated biodiversity lies in areas traditionally managed, owned, used or occupied by indigenous peoples and local communities (*well established*).

IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment (2022)

Policies that support secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests, as well as poverty alleviation, create enabling conditions for sustainable use of wild species (*well established*).

IPBES Assessment of Value of Nature (2022)

IPLCs undertake valuation of nature in their places and territories in accordance with their own worldviews and applying locally established procedures, which can offer new perspectives to improve and advance valuation processes (*established but incomplete*).

Bosnia and Herzegovina NEA (2024)

Nature is an important part of cultural and traditional social identity in BiH and it supports the improvement of human health and well-being through a set of non-material NCPs (*established, but incomplete*).

There is a great abundance of traditional and local knowledge and practices regarding the use and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in BiH, but its loss due to demographic changes is confirmed in our findings (*well established*).

Institutional and financial capacities for effective and high-quality application of tools/ instruments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of NCPs are insufficient. Scientific capacities are used as a platform to seek optimal solutions, while traditional and local knowledge are not included in decision-making efforts to identify sustainable solutions (*well established*).



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