# Anticipatory action for pastoralists

## Charting new approaches in the drylands

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# Pastoralism and uncertainty: what has changed and why it matters

Stability/equilibrium as ideal

Mobility as outdated/unsustainable

Uncertainty as vulnerability

Living with variability

Mobility as essential, strategic and adaptive

Uncertainty as a condition of prosperity

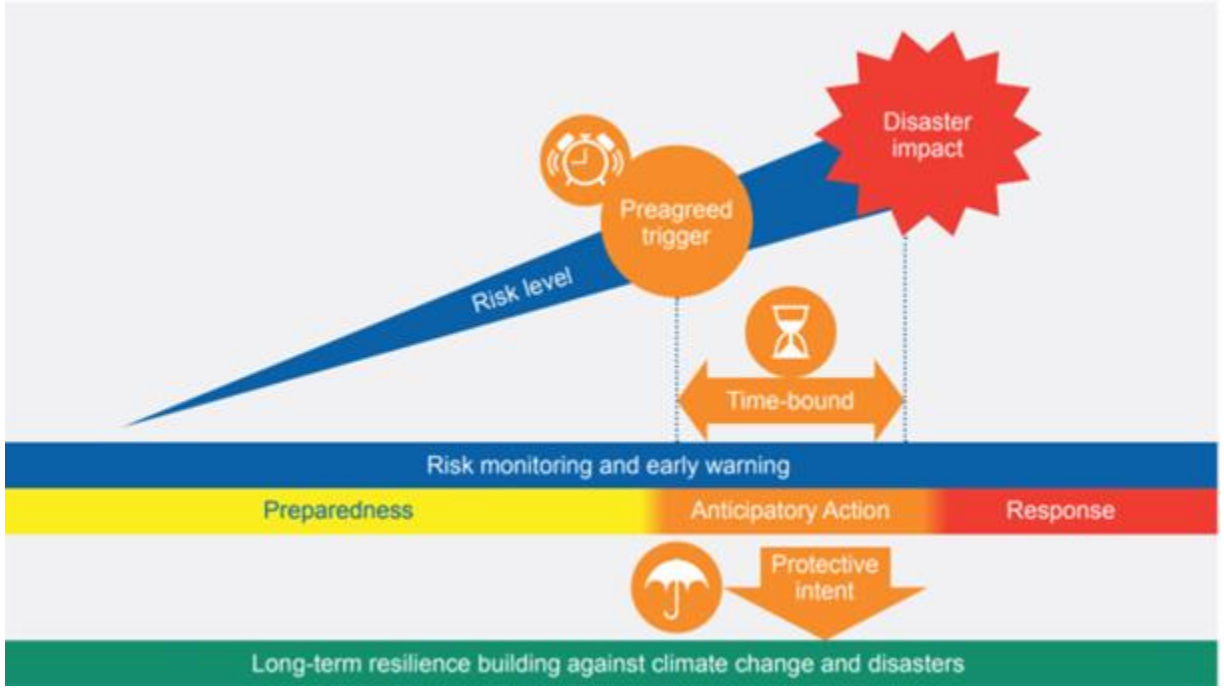






# Early warning systems and anticipatory action in the drylands

Dominant model of anticipatory action




Adapted from WFP 2023: 10

- Linear risk escalation
- Pre-defined triggers
- Pre-set protocols and action plans

# Anticipatory action as a site of change

Why stick with anticipatory action, and how can we offer more than just critique?

**Institutional traction**

(embedded in policy, funding and practice)

**Normative legitimacy**

(part of a longer-term trend attending to entrenched marginalisation)

**Conceptual openness**

(ambiguous, unsettled and contested)



# From critique to reconfiguration

**Why current anticipatory action falls short**

Trigger based and event focused, assumes stability and settlement, linear response, misallignment with existing pastoralist livelihood dynamics

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**How can research intervene?**

**Lived uncertainty** - how risk is actually navigated

- Mobility
- Seasonality
- Informal networks
- Human-animal inter-dependence

**Decision making logics** – how anticipation happens in practice

- Non-linear
- Relational
- Distributed
- Dynamic improvisation

**Leverage points** – where existing systems can change

- Timing
- Types of action
- Who acts
- Approaches to 'integration'

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**What can change?**

Anticipatory action moves from a purely trigger-based, technical model, to a flexible, caring approach, grounded in pastoralist logics of uncertainty

# What might be done differently?

**Targetting**

Are vulnerability assessments working, could assistance be better targetted towards collective institutions or vulnerabilities (rather than individual ones)

**Flexibility**

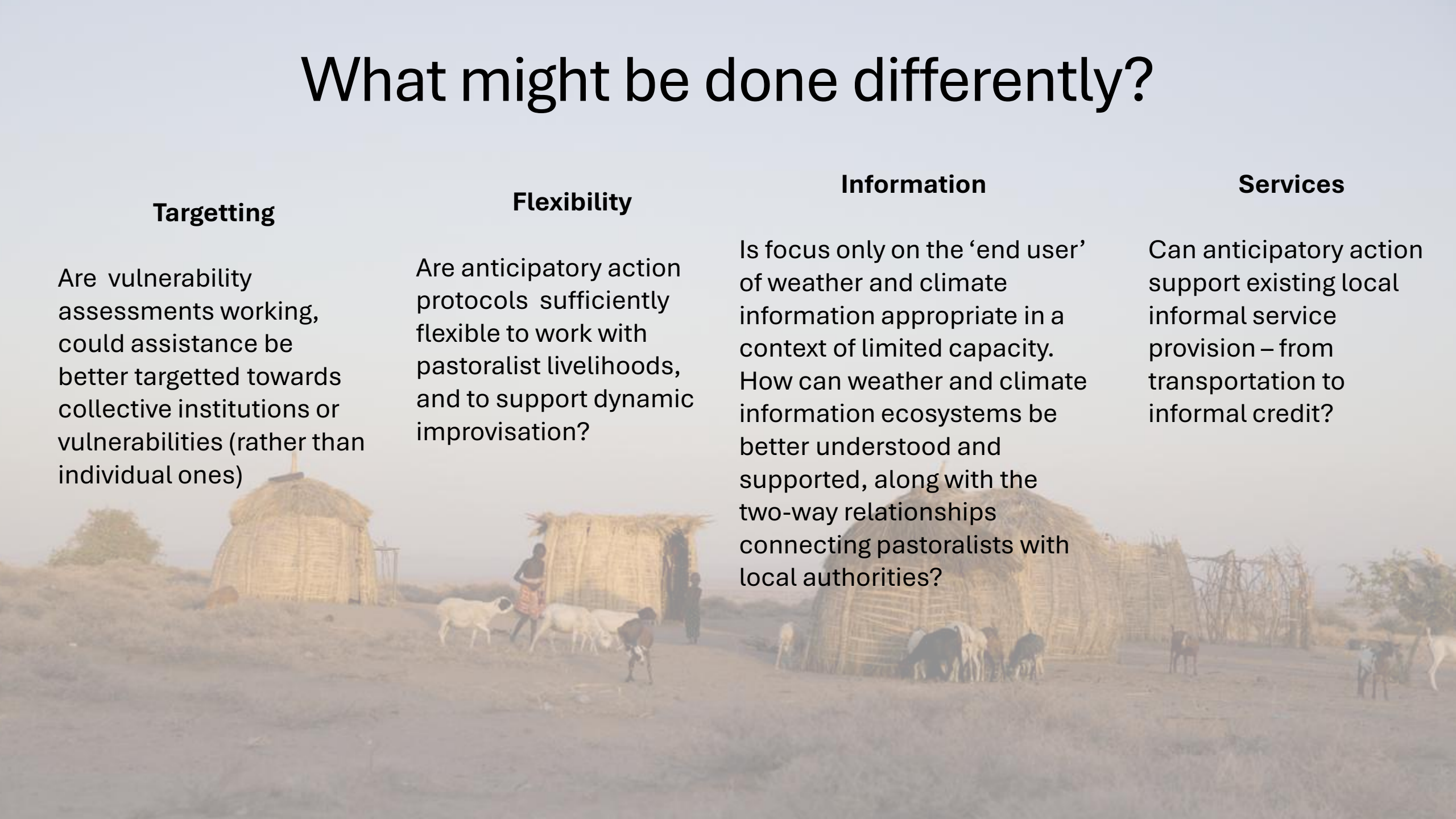
Are anticipatory action protocols sufficiently flexible to work with pastoralist livelihoods, and to support dynamic improvisation?

**Information**

Is focus only on the 'end user' of weather and climate information appropriate in a context of limited capacity. How can weather and climate information ecosystems be better understood and supported, along with the two-way relationships connecting pastoralists with local authorities?

**Services**

Can anticipatory action support existing local informal service provision – from transportation to informal credit?




Thank you!
I look forward to your questions