Trampled by Elephants

David Ingram May 2019





Four seasons of risk



http://www.calculatedriskblog.com/



Four beliefs of risk

The Key Question is "What is next?"





Risk environment impacts risk attitude

In the insurance industry, this shifting can be delayed due to the time it takes to recognize losses – especially for long-tailed lines

During the boom	During the bust
Attitudes shift towards	Attitudes shift towards
Maximizer	Conservator
In uncertain times	In moderate times
Attitudes shift towards	Attitudes shift towards
Pragmatist	Manager



Risk management strategies





Favorite risk strategies





ERM development objectives

	Loss Controlling	Risk Trading	Risk Steering	Diversification
Risk Management Systems	Strict limitsStrict authorities	FlexibleOpportunities	Formal policies and standardsCRO	FlexibleHigh communication
Risk Models	 Stress testing 	Pricing modelsRating agency	 Economic capital & value 	 Simplified economic capital
Risk Management Reports	Limit breachesEmerging risksExtreme loss	 Profit and risk weighted sales 	ROECapital budget	 Risk aggregates & concentrations



Typology of Surprises

Actua	World

	Uncertain	Bust	Boom	Moderate
Uncertain (Pragmatist)	No Surprise	Expected windfalls don't happen-only losses	Unexpected runs of good luck	Unexpected runs of good and bad luck
Bust (Conservator)	Caution does not work	No Surprise	Others prosper (especially Maximizer)	Others prosper (especially managers)
Boom (Maximizer)	Skill is not rewarded	Total Collapse	No Surprise	Partial Collapse
Moderate (Manager)	Unpredictability	Total Collapse (when only partial was expected)	Competition	No Surprise

Expected World



Risk management strategies

What if you could get it right?

Risk Environment	Boom	Bust	Uncertain	Moderate
Risk Attitude	Maximizer	Conservator	Pragmatist	Manager
Risk Management Strategy	Risk Trading	Loss Controlling	Diversification	Risk Steering

A perfect ERM program will adapt to the risk environment



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Expected World



Changes as a result of Surprise

Change to	Changes in behavior
Pragmatist	Reduce size and duration of commitments
Conservator	Pull back, reduce exposures as percent of capacity
Maximizer	Take advantage of market hardening to add high profit business
Manager	Adopt more formal risk management program

More often change will come via turnover at the top, rather than a change of belief at the top.



Plural Rationality becomes Rational Adaptability

ASTIN Bulletin

 SURPRISE, SURPRISE: From Neoclassical Economics To E-Life, 2012 (Thompson, Ingram, Tayler)

North American Actuarial Journal

- Collective Approaches to Risk in Business: An Introduction to Plural Rationalities 2013(Ingram, Bush)
- Bulletin Français D'Actuariat
 - ERM Rainbow 2012 (Underwood, Ingram)
- InsuranceERM.com
 - Rational adaptation for ERM in a Changing Environment, 2013, (Ingram, Thompson, Underwood)

Intelligent Risk

- All on the Same Train but Heading in Different Directions, 2014 (Ingram Thompson, Underwood)
- Risk culture, neoclassical economics and enterprise risk management, 2014 (Ingram, Thompson, Underwood)



A Surprise Occurs 12 Subsequent Questions



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12 Questions

- 1.Was the strategic risk trajectory appropriate for the company's financial situation, the risk environment and the primary strategic objectives of the firm?
- 2.Did the specific plans of the company in the years prior to the loss support the chosen trajectory?
- **3.**Were the risk appetite, tolerance and limits set through a robust process that considered the pertinent factors?
- **4**.Was compliance monitored regularly?



12 Questions

- 5. Was the company in compliance, especially for the risk that resulted in the major loss?
- 6. If risks exceeded their limits, where actions taken to get back in compliance
- 7. Did the risk assessment process use the best available methodology?
- 8. Was that methodology actually used?



12 Questions

- 9. Were the risk assessments performed and reported in a timely manner?
- 10. Were the planned mitigations capable of reducing the frequency and/or severity of losses in the manner expected?
- 11.Were the planned mitigations carried out as expected?
- **12.**Did your peers suffer comparable losses?



Thank you!

David Ingram
 D +1 212 915 8039
 M <u>Dave.Ingram@WillisTowersWatson.com</u>



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