

resources may be achieved by the strategy of preserving and restoring the flood plain's natural functions, for example, by regulating land-use. For each of these strategies there is a range of risk management tools described below.

For any particular flood plain there are a variety of conditions to be taken into account by decision makers as they try to achieve this compatibility. The mix of strategies adopted for management will depend on the physical and natural conditions of the flood plain, existing land-uses and developments and, in addition, on a whole range of external factors including societal values and legal constraints. Flood plain management is thus a decision-making process that seeks sustainable use of the flood plain lands and waters.

## Strategies for reducing loss of life and property

Thomas's three strategies are listed in table 2, together with the tools available to implement them. Each strategy requires actions before the flood, during the flood and after the flood. All three strategies need to be considered in the management of a flood plain.

Reducing the flood concentrates largely on so-called structural measures including the construction of dykes, flood banks or levees to divert the flood waters; dams and reservoirs to retain flood waters upstream; and channel improvements to evacuate flood waters more rapidly. These structures have to be

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