

## SCENARIOS TECHNIQUES

### Definition

A scenario as a plausible descriptions of how the future may develop based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about key relationships and driving forces. Scenarios enable: (i) the envisioning of future pathways and accounting for critical uncertainties; (ii) addressing real-world questions for which the future is subject to human actions and choices and not preordained. The objective is to encourage people to consider and discuss alternative futures. The focus is on the internal consistency of the scenario storyline rather than on their likelihood of coming true. In COST RELY, pathways and choices relate to the development of renewable energy systems in different landscape settings.

A range of techniques may be employed in development of different scenarios. In general, two broad approaches can be defined:

1. Non-participatory: Non-participatory scenario development usually involves a model with some kind of exploratory or predictive capacity which is projected forward to a future date, usually after calibration against historical (observed) data. The output of various climate models under IPCC scenarios is a good example of this technique. It is non-participatory in the sense that it uses only data collected by researchers, and participatory processes are not formally used for information gathering or scenario construction.

2. Participatory: Participatory scenario development differs from the above in that scenarios are constructed by, or based on information supplied by stakeholders engaged in some kind of participatory process. For example, the European Environment Agency PRELUDE project (2004-2005) engaged stakeholders from multiple backgrounds from across Europe to create five scenarios for a Europe affected by changing patterns of land use, climate change, agriculture and demographics. In Spain, local stakeholders developed four “Ecofuture” scenarios for the threatened Doñana natural area in the year 2035 under an ecosystem services approach. They then illustrated the scenarios on posters using a range of materials, like press and magazine cuttings. A Follow-up project mapped these scenarios inside a land use model.

### Related terms

Landscape governance, Public participation, Planning process, Public participation process

### Keywords

Participatory scenario planning, Future scenarios, Scenario modelling, Strategy formulation

### Scenario Framework with Land Use Change storylines



Figure 43a Scenarios of alternative development pathways for land use. Developed from the UKCIP/Foresight socioeconomic scenarios. (Source: Brown and Castellazzi 2014)

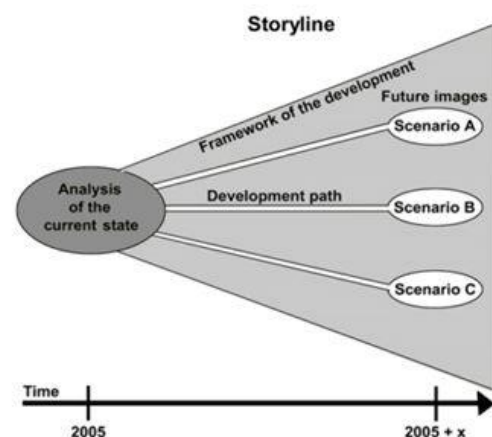


Figure 43b Scenario technique. (Source: Schroth 2010)



Figure 43c Workshop participants in Doñana, Spain locating hypothesized land use change under EcoFuture scenario “Trademark Doñana”. (Photo: Verónica Hernández Jiménez 2012)

### Source

Hewitt R., Van Delden H., Escobar F. 2014: Participatory land use modelling, pathways to an integrated approach. *Environmental Modelling & Software*, 52: 149–165.

Nakicenovic N., Swart R. 2000: Emissions Scenarios 2000 - Special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Palomo I., Martín-López B., López-Santiago C., Montes C. 2011: Participatory scenario planning for protected areas management under the ecosystem services framework: the Doñana social-ecological system in southwestern Spain. *Ecology and Society* 16(1): 23.

Raskin P., Monks F., Ribeiro T., van Vuuren D., Zurek M. 2005: Global scenarios in historical perspective, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. UNEP, New York.

Ringland G. 1998: Scenario Planning. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester.

Volkery A., Ribeiro T., Henrichs T., Hoogeveen Y. 2008: Your vision or my model? Lessons from participatory land use scenario development on a European scale. *Systemic Practice and Action Research*, 21(6): 459–477.

### Translations

Bosnia and Herzegovina Tehnike scenarija  
 Bulgarian Техника на сценария  
 Croatian Scenariji  
 Czech Technika scénáře  
 Danish Scenario teknik  
 Dutch Scenario-technieken  
 Esperanto Tekniko de scenaro  
 Estonian Stsenaarium / tulevikuväljavaade  
 Finish Skenaariotekniikka  
 French Scénario technique  
 German Szenario Methode  
 Greek Σενάριο  
 Hebrew תרחישים מתודת  
 Hungarian Szenáriók technika

Italian Tecnica di scenario  
 Icelandic Sviðsmyndagreining  
 Latvian Scenāriju tehnika  
 Lithuanian Scenarijai  
 Montenegrin Scenario (tehnike)  
 Polish Technika scenariuszy  
 Portuguese Metodologia de cenário  
 Romanian Tehnica scenariului  
 Russian Технический сценарий  
 Slovakian Technika scénára  
 Slovenian Orodja in tehnike sodelovanja javnosti  
 Serbian Технике сценарија  
 Spanish Escenarios técnicos  
 Swedish Scenarioteknik