

Does scenario planning catalyze transformational change? Evaluating a climate change policy case study in Mali

Edmond Totin

Derived from a study co-authored by James R. Butler; Amadou Sidibé; Samuel Partey; Philip K. Thornton and Ramadjita Tabo



Background

- *CCAFS*

- Interdisciplinary research initiative of the CGIAR system to foster development of responsive institutions and policies through science-policy platforms

- *ASSAR*

- Aims to better understand barriers and enablers for adaptation to climatic and non-climatic risks in semi-arid regions

Co-design development processes for more impact, under climate change

“... provide what is needed, not what we think is useful”





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Futures

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/futures

Stepping into futures: Exploring the potential of interactive media participatory scenarios on social-ecological systems

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Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

Land Use Policy

Land Use Policy 24 (2007) 546–561

www.elsevier.com/locate/landusepol

Participatory scenario construction in land use analysis: An insight into the experiences created by stakeholder involvement in the Northern Mediterranean

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A SCENARIO APPROACH TO CAPACITY PLANNING

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(Received February 1987; revisions received June, December 1988; accepted December 1988)

Production capacity has always been one of the most important strategic variables for the major automobile companies. Decisions by individual companies concerning the overall level of capacity, the type of facility (e.g., the level of flexibility), and the location of that capacity (e.g., in the United States or abroad) are discussed in great detail in the popular business press. In this paper, we describe a model developed for General Motors to aid in making decisions about capacity for four of their auto lines. The model incorporates elements of scenario planning, integer programming, and risk analysis. All the input and output is done using Lotus 1-2-3. Although the presentation is motivated by the particular application in the auto industry, the model represents a general purpose approach that is applicable to a wide variety of decisions under risk. An example in this paper uses actual data, appropriately transformed to ensure confidentiality.

Scenario Planning: A Tool for Strategic Thinking

Peter

Reg Environ Change (2013) 13:389–398
DOI 10.1007/s10113-012-0350-1

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Participatory scenarios as a tool to link science and policy on food security under climate change in East Africa

Moushumi Chaudhury · Joost Vervoort ·
Patti Kristjanson · Polly Ericksen · Andrew Ainslie

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Journal of Marine Biology
Volume 2011, Article ID 504651, 11 pages
doi:10.1155/2011/504651

AMONG THE MANY TOOLS A MANAGER CAN
SCENARIO PLANNING STANDS OUT FOR ITS ABILITY
possibilities in rich detail. By identifying basic
can construct a series of scenarios that will help

Essay

Scenario Planning: a Tool for Uncertain World

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Reg Environ Change
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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Participatory scenario planning in community adaptation responses from Latin America

Iain Brown¹ · Julia Martin-Ortega² · Kerry W

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Research Article

Scenarios for Knowledge Integration: Exploring Ecotourism Futures in Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea

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Multi-stakeholder Scenario Planning

Encourages:

- Social learning
- New knowledge
- Innovation
- Social networks



- Coordination
- Leadership
- Action
- **Adaptive capacity**



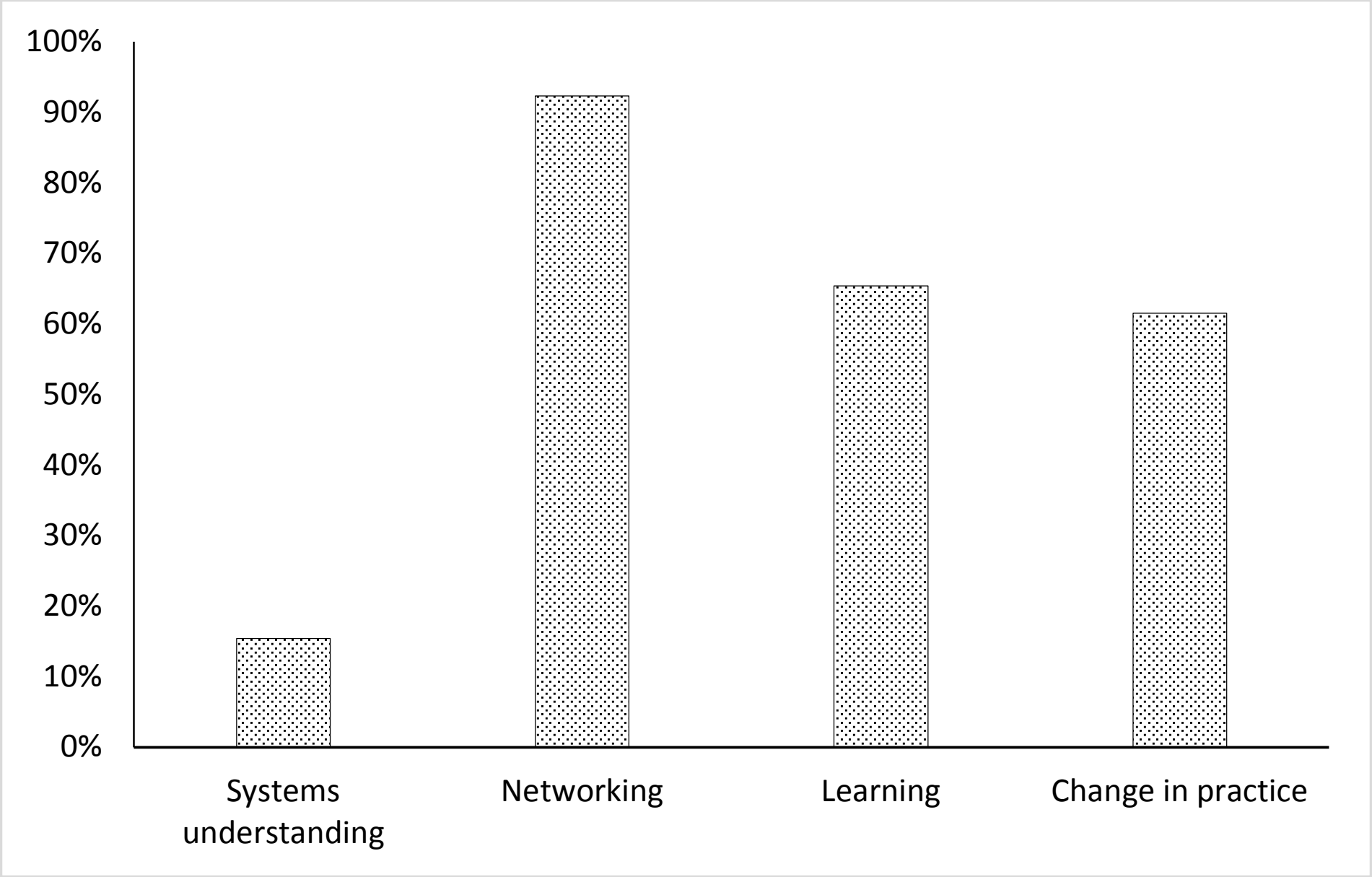
CCAFS Agenda

- *Phase 1: Regional exploratory scenario planning*
 - Engaged West African Region stakeholders in an explorative scenario processes
 - Assess major and plausible future development pathways for food systems, environments and livelihoods in the Region
- *Phase 2: Focus on downscaling of scenarios to a sub-national level*
 - Downscaling the scenarios to sub-national (district) level to generate information for policy actors
 - ... mainstream climate priorities into development plans and policies
 - ... stimulate change of policy formulation processes





Outcomes



Outcomes...

- Scenario workshop was **least effective at stimulating systems understanding**: About 15% of respondent stressed their capacity to “*see the bigger picture*” of social phenomena, by making the connections between different processes
- 62% of respondents agreed that the workshop **influenced their lives and stimulated changes in their practice** ... adoption of new practices
- Scenario workshop **created room for participants to discuss things they did not know before and challenge each other’s ideas**
- **Networking and relationship building was the major change** reported: 92% respondents agreed that the workshops helped them to create new relationships with other participants



Outcomes...

- CCAFS assumed that the scenario would result in the mainstreaming of climate strategies into development plans
 - ... **little evidence of policy-related impacts**
- Changes occurred at individual level, and largely incremental adaptation strategies, rather than ‘transformational’ changes
 - Policy change requires a **long term process**, ... a **multi-scale actions**



Key message

- Scenario planning has the potential to **enable networking and learning across boundary**
BUT,
 - *Scenario process alone may not be sufficient* to stimulate transformational change
 - For institutional and policy transformation to occur, a *more extended learning process is required*
 - *Need for actions* to strengthen local dynamics



How does CCAFS inform ASSAR?

Acting to Transform the System

To get closer to realising Vision 2035, two workshop participants were nominated to coordinate the efforts for moving toward implementation. The immediate actions (listed below) will be informed by the research findings of ASSAR students during 2017.

	Managing rainwater and soil fertility	Improving the seed sector
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships • Train farmers on sustainable rainwater management • Pilot new techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnose the barriers to the adoption of improved seed
Influencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create awareness • Strengthen interactions between national and local actors • Develop farmer skills • Create enabling environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform seed policy • Increase government allocation to the sector • Influence effective participation of local institutions
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased adoption of sustainable rainwater harvesting/use and soil fertility management practices • Increased crop yields • Increased household incomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of high quality seeds • Increased crop yields • Increased household incomes
Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More dry season farming opportunities • Improved food security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved living conditions and wellbeing • Improved food security



Using Transformative Scenario Planning to think critically about the future of agriculture, natural resources and food security in Koutiala, Mali

AN OVERVIEW

March 2017
www.ASSARadapt.org



Written by Amadou Sidibe, Edmond Totin, Alcade Segnon, Mary Thompson-Hall and Tali Hoffman

In West Africa, ASSAR works in the semi-arid and dry sub-humid parts of Ghana and Mali — areas that are increasingly exposed to climatic extremes of droughts, floods and heavy rainfall. These changing conditions impact different people in different ways. For all living here, figuring out how to adapt to these uncertain circumstances is a challenging task that requires input from many different groups.

Transformative Scenario Planning in Mali

The district of Koutiala in Mali is facing many pressing climatic and non-climatic challenges for agriculture, natural resources and food security. These include: access to farm inputs, technology and equipment; security, regulatory policy and governance; erratic rainfall; high population growth; and the subsequent high pressure on natural resources.

To bring fresh thinking on how to tackle these challenges, we turned to TSP, a process developed by Reos Partners that brings together stakeholders from diverse and often conflicting perspectives and transforms their thinking around complex issues. In so doing, TSP helps people to imagine the ways that the future can be changed, and to identify the leverage points that can facilitate this change.

KEY POINTS

- In the Transformative Scenario Planning (TSP) process in Mali, a diverse set of stakeholders deliberated the factors that could trigger a positive impact on agriculture, natural resource and food security challenges in the Koutiala district.
- We identified access to agricultural land and access to water for irrigation as the main drivers of food and agricultural security, and used these drivers to build four scenarios for the future.
- We then used the scenarios to develop "Vision 2035" — a shared view of how the regional challenges can be improved — and identified key actions that could enhance rainwater management, soil fertility and access to better quality seeds.
- Ultimately, we learnt that by building relationships, working collaboratively, and developing cross-sectoral understanding, we can devise and implement adaptation plans that can transform agriculture and improve regional food security.

The focus of TSP is the development, dissemination and use of a set of four scenarios (structured narratives or stories) about what is possible. These scenarios provide a shared framework and language for strategic conversations within and across stakeholder groups about the situation they are part of, and what actions they can, must, and will take to address it. TSP thereby offers a way for social systems to get unstuck and to move forward.

Working with a diverse group of relevant stakeholders over two workshops in the second half of 2016, we used TSP to imagine what might happen to Koutiala's agriculture, natural resources and food security from now until the year 2035.

Here we provide an overview of our full TSP process.



Thank You

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*Collaborative Adaptation Research
Initiative in Africa and Asia*



ASSAR
Adaptation of Scale in Semi-Arid Regions

