

Can scenario-planning tools aid co-production of knowledge for natural resource management?



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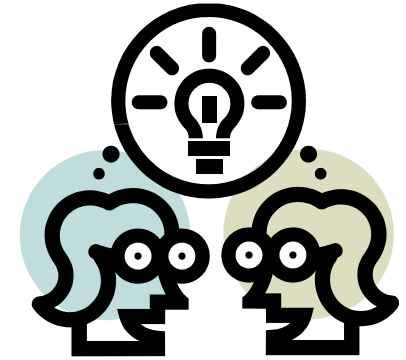


- Why scenario-planning?
- How did we study this?
- What did we find?



Knowledge co-production

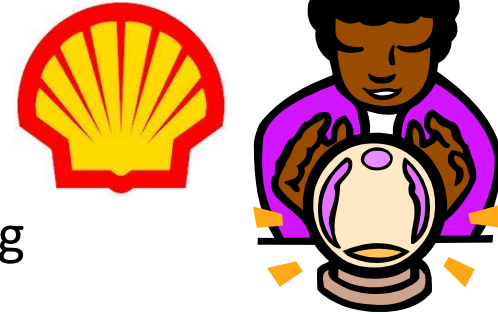
- Knowledge co-production
 - K is socially constructed
 - Interactions of multiple actors, pre-existing Ks, context
→ production, perception, understanding and use of K
- Helpful tools
 - Promote communication & interaction
 - Incorporate wide range of issues
 - Input from multiple actors
- Likely effects
 - changing understandings
 - of problems, other actors, potential responses
 - by multiple actors





Scenario-planning

- Scenario-planning
 - Methods for strategic planning considering “drivers of change”
 - Origins in business/military planning
- Process & products
 - May stimulate
 -dialogue
 -new ideas about future changes, challenges & responses
 -systems thinking.
- Potential?
Now increasingly popular in environmental sector



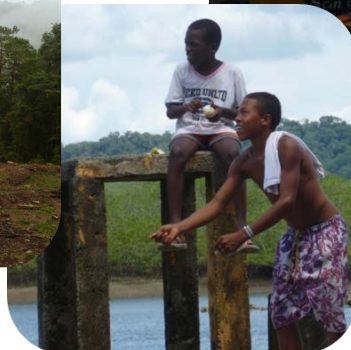
What is a ‘scenario’?

A coherent, internally consistent, and plausible description of a possible future state (including both social and natural aspects). It is not a forecast; rather, each scenario is one alternative image of how the future can unfold.



Our study

- FP7 COMET-LA project
 - Support sustainable community-based governance for natural resource management, in face of future changes
 - 3 different cases
 - Action research
 - Many partners





Our study

- Project activities
 - Focused on community
 - Trials methods for building understanding of
 - (1) socio-ecological system,
 - (2) links between issues,
 - (3) future changes & response options.
- Environmental K
 - > / ≠ scientific K
 - > single biophysical issues





Our study

- Our role
 - Propose scenario-planning method
 - Support implementation (March-July 2014)
 - Evaluate method



- → Written reports, interviews about experiences, discussion session on method, some direct observations



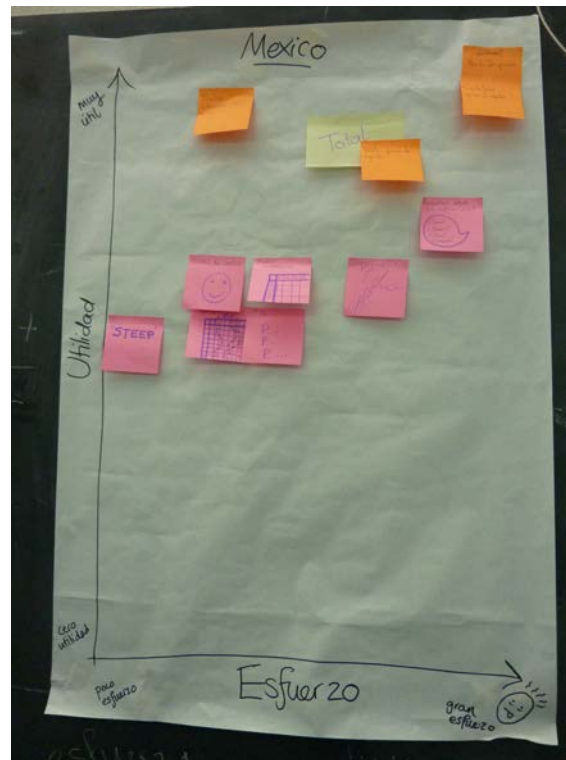
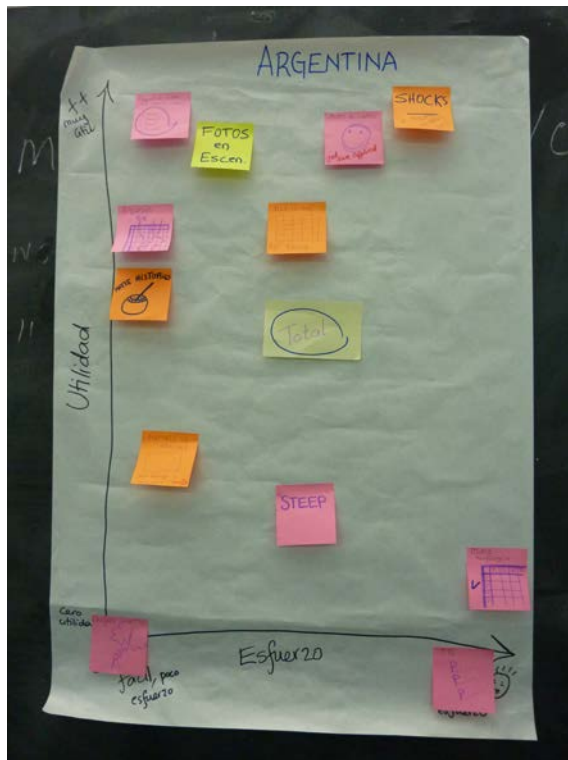
Our study



- The method (briefly)
 - Exploratory method
 - 4 phases
 - Systematic consideration of effects of drivers on system variables (via matrix)
 - Use matrix to create narrative scenarios (guided by archetypes)
 - Identify response options
 - Discuss ‘robustness’ and implications
 - Focus attention on implications for local adaptive management

For more details email Kerry.Waylen@hutton.ac.uk

- Usefulness v effort



- Overall, worth it.
Why useful?



Findings

- Why useful?

“it represents a fundamental step in adaptive management and systems thinking...”

(Argentinian partner, May 14)

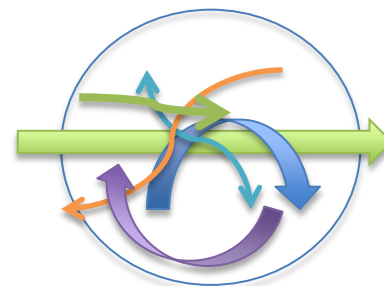
“it opened their minds to a perspective of 20 years”

(Mexican project partner, July 14)

“it allowed us to discover the complexity of relationships” ... [within a socio-ecological system]

(Colombian project partner, July 14)

→ New perspectives,
understandings & knowledge





Findings

- How was it useful?

“Provided a space for discussion”
(Mexican partner, April 14)

“[one group] complemented what other group said...
it enabled a deeper and wider discussion”
(Colombian partner, June 14)

“This has opened to them the ability to look beyond, to see farther
[... as] there are elements of each scenario that they are analysing”
(Mexican partner, June 14)

“They [participants] can see that maybe one of the response option starts to
relate to the other one... s o s t a r t b e i n g a w a r e o f
a l l t h o s e l i n k a g e s ”
(Colombian partner, July 14)

- Arose through/during group interaction
Details of method & facilitation matter

→ Useful tool for co-production?



However

- Scenarios as a magic bullet?
 - Teams say they could have used other tools
 - Quality of facilitation is critical
- Co-production as envisaged?
 - Whose knowledges are involved?

“This project is totally biased towards the social sciences”
(Argentinian partner, Nov 13)
 - Who is learning?

“We never thought that the community councils were going to be as aware as they are”
(Colombian partner, June 14)



Conclusion

- Scenario-planning useful
 - Co-produce new understandings of socioecological system, as well as visions of the future
- But...
 - Cannot obviate need for: facilitation skills +time, careful choice of tools.
- What is co-production anyway?
 - Scientific + Local K?



Any questions?

Acknowledgements

COMET-LA partners, FP7-ENV-2011
#282845, The Scottish Government
Strategic Research Programme.



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