The most likely future isn't

Herman Kahn, 1967
What are scenarios?

"A scenario is a coherent, internally consistent and plausible description of a possible future state of the world" (IPCC, 1994)

Scenarios are:

• alternative images of how the future can unfold
• not forecasts or predictions
• important tools for assessing future developments in complex systems with high uncertainties
Projecting climate alone is not sufficient

Source: Carter et al., 2001
Parallel Session 1.3.1 (Thread 1) Room 6  
Day 1: 1400-1530 – Tues 29th June 2010

Scenarios of the future for adaptation

Convenors: Timothy Carter (Finnish Environment Institute, SYKE, Finland) and Mark Stafford Smith (CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, Australia)

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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Welcome and introduction to session <strong>Timothy Carter</strong></td>
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<td>14:05</td>
<td>Oral presentations</td>
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<td>14:05</td>
<td>Systematic and transparent exploration of scenario spaces: Socio-economic scenarios for local climate change adaptation</td>
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<td>14:15</td>
<td>Perverse adaptation strategies: Four scenarios</td>
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<td><strong>Earl Saxon</strong>, Independent consultant, Washington DC, USA</td>
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<td>14:25</td>
<td>Future makers or future takers? A scenario analysis of climate change and the Great Barrier Reef</td>
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<td><strong>James Butler</strong>/Erin Bohensky, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Townsville, QLD, Australia</td>
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<td>14:35</td>
<td>Discussion on first group of papers</td>
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<td>14:40</td>
<td>Mapping population and climate change vulnerabilities: Challenges of reaching policy audiences</td>
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<td><strong>Sean Finnegan</strong>, Population Action International, USA</td>
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<td>14:50</td>
<td>Looking ahead and adapting? Comparative analysis of future scenarios for the fisheries sectors in Peru, Senegal, Ghana and Vietnam</td>
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<td><strong>Marie-Caroline Badjeck</strong>, The WorldFish Center, Penang, Malaysia</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Understanding Design for planning alternative landscape futures to adapt to climate change: Learning from temporal inconsistencies in vulnerability and adaptation studies</td>
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<td><strong>David Brunckhorst</strong>, Institute for Rural Futures, Armidale, NSW, Australia</td>
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<td>15:10</td>
<td>Discussion on second group of papers</td>
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<td>15:15</td>
<td>Poster plugs</td>
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<td>15:25</td>
<td>Summing-up and close <strong>Mark Stafford Smith</strong></td>
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Poster Session (Day 1: 6.15 pm – 7.30 pm, Foyer)

Scenarios of the future for adaptation

1. The Limits of Adaptation
   **Clive Attwater**, SGS Economics and Planning, Hobart, TAS, Australia

2. Adapting to the confluence of impacts in Australian cities: One shock away from disaster and the benefit of resilience planning
   **Donovan Burton**, Climate Risk Pty Ltd, Paddington, QLD, Australia

3. Promoting resilience to disasters and climate change: a review of current activities and future research needs
   **Riyanti Dj alante**, Macquarie University, Australia

4. Towards systematic and adaptive governance: understanding framings and relational dynamics of “climate change adaptation”
   **Andrea Grant**, Monash University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

5. Modelling scenarios of future adaptation using an agent based simulation framework
   **Sarah Hickmott**, RMIT University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

6. Scenario Planning for Climate Change Adaptation
   **Silvia Serra-Neumann**, Griffith University, Australia

7. Stakeholders, scenarios and systemic planning
   **Leon Soste**, Future Farming Systems Research Division, DPI Victoria, Australia

8. Scenario Planning for a resilient irrigated agribusiness community in Sunraysia
   **Caroline Welsh**, Department of Primary Industries, VIC, Australia
New scenarios for adaptation: what is needed?  
Please let us know your views

1. **What approaches, if any, do you favour for characterising the future?**

2. **General scenario needs:** What kinds of global futures could be used to address key research questions relating to adaptation?

3. **Specific scenario needs:** What are some of the critical scenario needs you have identified in your research?

4. **What time horizon into the future is important?**

5. **What is the maximum number of framing global storylines that would be manageable by adaptation researchers?**

6. **If new scenarios can be made available in time, would you be interested, willing and able to perform rapid analyses that could feed into the IPCC AR5 process?**
New scenarios for adaptation: what is needed?

Please let us know your views

Methods of communication:

1. With whom? Richard Moss, Tim Carter, Mark Stafford Smith
2. By email: rhm@pnl.gov; tim.carter@ymparisto.fi; Mark.Staffordsmith@csiro.au
3. On paper
4. Verbally: if you buy one of us a drink at the bar!

Your views will be compiled and next steps considered by the Conference Steering Group on Thursday 1 July