

Is scenario

analysis moving in the direction of earth system governance informed by global scenarios generated through increasingly complex and **comprehensive models**? Or will global environmental scenario analyses lose favour compared to more focused, policy-driven, **regionally specific modelling**? These questions animated a meeting held at Brown University and led to a set of papers examining key challenges facing the scenario community.

Where next with global environmental scenarios?

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Recommendations for improving global environmental scenarios

Production

- ▶ Focus scenario exercises on more **specific questions** so that results from multiple models can be more illuminating.
- ▶ **Boost the equity sensitivity of scenarios** by incorporating relatively simple measures such as sub-national disaggregation of income distributions and climate change impacts.
- ▶ **Improve social science inputs** and disciplinary breadth to examine scenario assumptions, logics, and measures of well-being.
- ▶ **Develop additional scenario approaches** that enable active learning in the public interest in the scenario process.

Process

- ▶ Create scenario institutions and activities that can adapt and extend global scenarios to specific, often local or regional decision contexts.
- ▶ **Create fora for discussing the process** of scenario construction among scenario practitioners, modellers, decision-makers, and social scientists of various kinds.
- ▶ **Analyze the social work of scenarios** in building communities, creating meaning, and enabling cross-disciplinary communication.

Use

- ▶ **Disaggregate scenario audiences** into a variety of global change decisionmakers.
- ▶ **Invest in scenario transparency** to enable extensions by users, rather than expanding global scenarios themselves.
- ▶ **Invest more resources in assessing scenario results** and in understanding and overcoming the barriers to carrying out such assessment.

Scenarios

Scenarios are plausible, challenging and relevant stories about how the future might unfold that integrate quantitative models with qualitative assessments of social and political trends.

Scenarios as **products**: emphasis on the findings of scenario exercises, including the environmental outcomes produced, their relation to various drivers, and their implications for impacts and mitigation. The **IPCC emissions scenarios** and the **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment** follow a product model.

Scenarios as **process**: emphasis on the interactions of scenario exercises, including their role in motivating organizational learning, enabling communication, building consensus, or creating networks of experts. The **Shell scenarios** follow a process model.

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