MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SCENARIOS AS A BOUNDARY PROCESS

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Principles of Boundary Work (Cash et al. 2003)

- *Credibility* – the perceived technical quality or adequacy of technical evidence and arguments
- *Salience* – the perceived relevance of the technical information provided to decision makers
- *Legitimacy* is the process viewed as fair, inclusive, and unbiased
- *Capacity Building* - build capacity to interpret scientific evidence by a non-science audience (Jones et al. 2008)

Regional Scenarios

- *Actor-oriented*: This type of process is based on interdisciplinary assembly of participants and mainly works with qualitative information
- Offers an understanding of environmental change at larger scales, such as agro-ecological zones and intra-regional trade; and biophysical and cultural similarities.
- Regional Clients & Partners: Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC).

Sample of Questions from the Scenario Questionnaire

Credibility	Salience	Legitimacy	Capacity Building
Have there been diverse groups of people who participated in the scenario building process from both scientific and non-scientific communities?	Do you foresee that these storylines will help you or those you work with, plan for climate change adaptation? Why or why not?	Do you feel that the process allowed for open participation and discussion on controversial or ambiguous topics between various stakeholders? Why or why not?	What techniques have you learned from the scenario building process so far that you will use in your own work in the future?
Do you think there was sufficient knowledge and expertise among the participants, and they were able to provide evidence and share experiences in addressing issues of climate change, agriculture and food security? Are there any issues which were missed or insufficiently addressed?	Do you feel that the scenario building process has helped you gain a better understanding of plausible development futures and pathways within your region from different perspectives? Why or why not?	Have the workshop facilitators helped to translate and make different jargon or experiences more understandable?	Has the process helped you think about adaptive capacity within the region?

Credibility

- Bias towards epistemic communities (56%)
- Low diversity does not mean insufficient knowledge (50%)
- Discussions were interactive and transparent (100%)
- Balanced viewpoints (79%)
- Respondents would use the scenario process and methods for their own work (93%)

Stakeholder category	August 2010 – Stakeholder Proportion (%)	November 2010 – Stakeholder Proportion (%)	Average (%)
Epistemic Communities	49	63	56
Policy Communities	44	30	37
Networks	0	0	0
Advocacy Coalitions	7	7	7

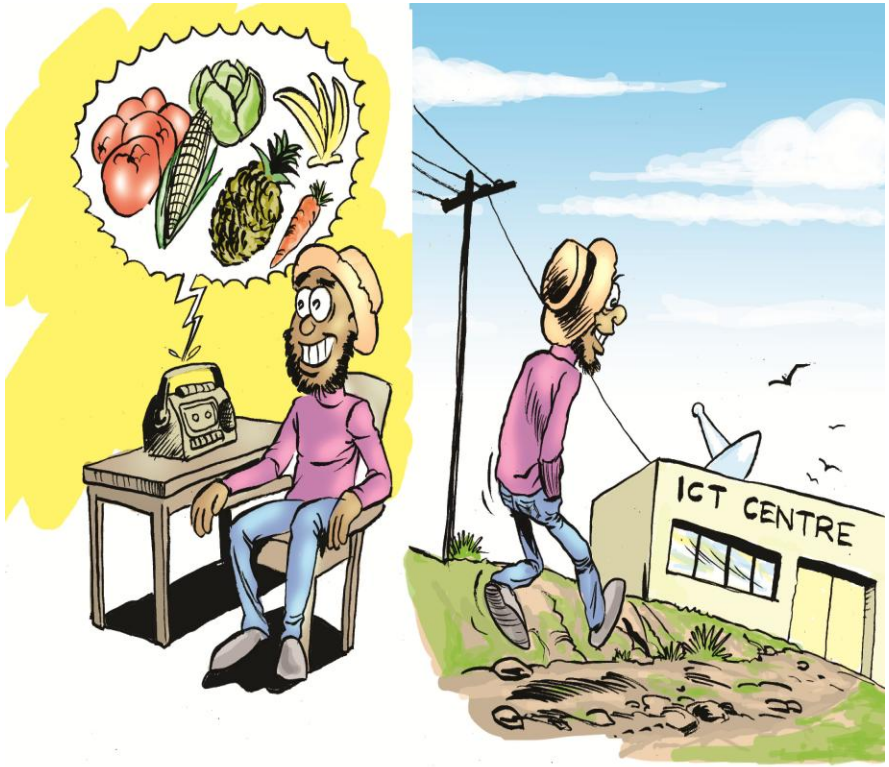
Salience

- Scenarios would be a useful policy making tool because they represent contrasting yet plausible situations and options that decision makers like to see (71%).
- Scenarios are an aid to reflect on regional experiences and help distinguish between terms such as “predictions” and “plausible” futures (78%).
- One respondent went on to take a course in scenario development at the doctoral level!

All illustrations: Movin Were

Legitimacy

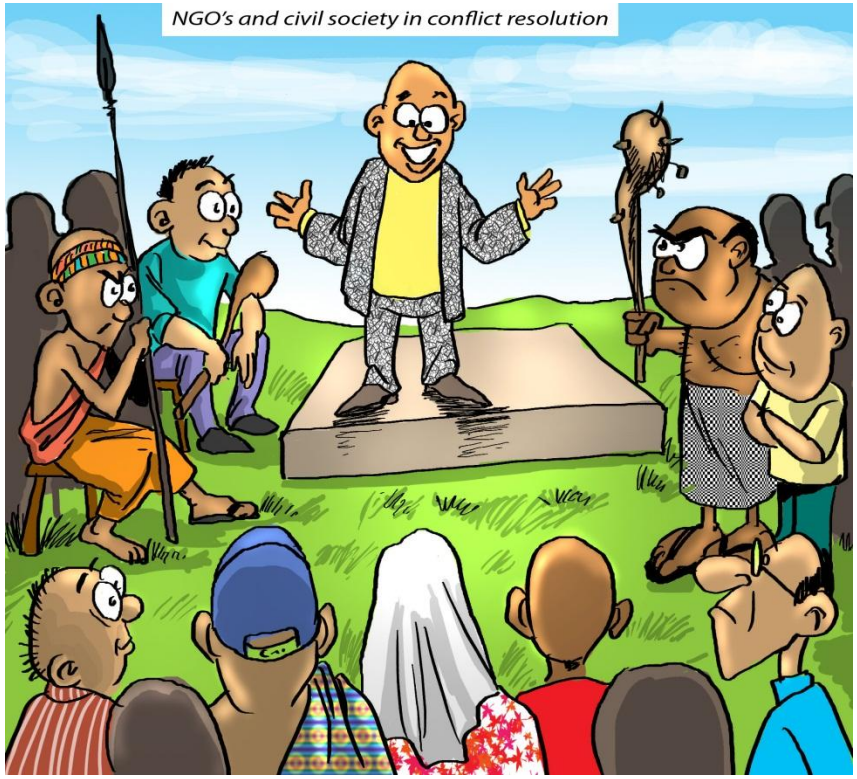
- Process of scenario development was fair and unbiased largely due to open and transparent discussions during the workshop (93%).
- Facilitators played a key role in translating jargon so that the process and methods were better understood (86%).



ICT: More airtime dedicated to agricultural programs and more ICT centres established in rural areas

Capacity Building

- 79% of the respondents reported having learned new skills, such as how to identify drivers of change, and how to develop storylines.
- Among those who thought their capacity to develop scenarios had increased or improved said the process helped them to better understand:
  - 1) the urgency of building adaptive capacity in the region;
  - 2) how scenarios can be incorporated in planning for climate change related work and developing future funding proposals



Lessons Learned

1. *The lack of participants from particular sectors and disciplines that were perceived to be important for producing credible outputs were missing.*
   - Commission a regional consultant to identify and bring on board these 'missing actors' by mapping key actors across sectors and disciplines in order to clearly identify all the organizational boundaries
   - Plan a number of strategic visioning workshops with different key user groups that is made up of a network of regional partners across sectors.

2. *Addressing credibility and salience through quantification*
   - Engage with experienced modeling teams to design an approach for quantifying the storylines to bridge the requirements of models with the storylines, as well as more general disciplinary boundaries.

3. *Building salience through long-term engagement with regional media networks*
   - Translate the scenarios into a range of different formats to cater to different audiences. Formats include radio programs, videos, maps, graphs, and comics, as well as distilling the main insights of the scenarios into simple, interactive, web-based learning models.

Conclusion

- Because the development and use of participatory, multi-stakeholder , actor-oriented scenarios provides a relatively open space for strategic discussion and the connecting of different perspectives, it is potentially an excellent tool for boundary spanning and integrating disciplines.
- We found the concept of boundary-spanning, and using the criteria credibility, legitimacy, saliency, and capacity development extremely useful for evaluating and improving the value of the scenarios processes at the regional level.