



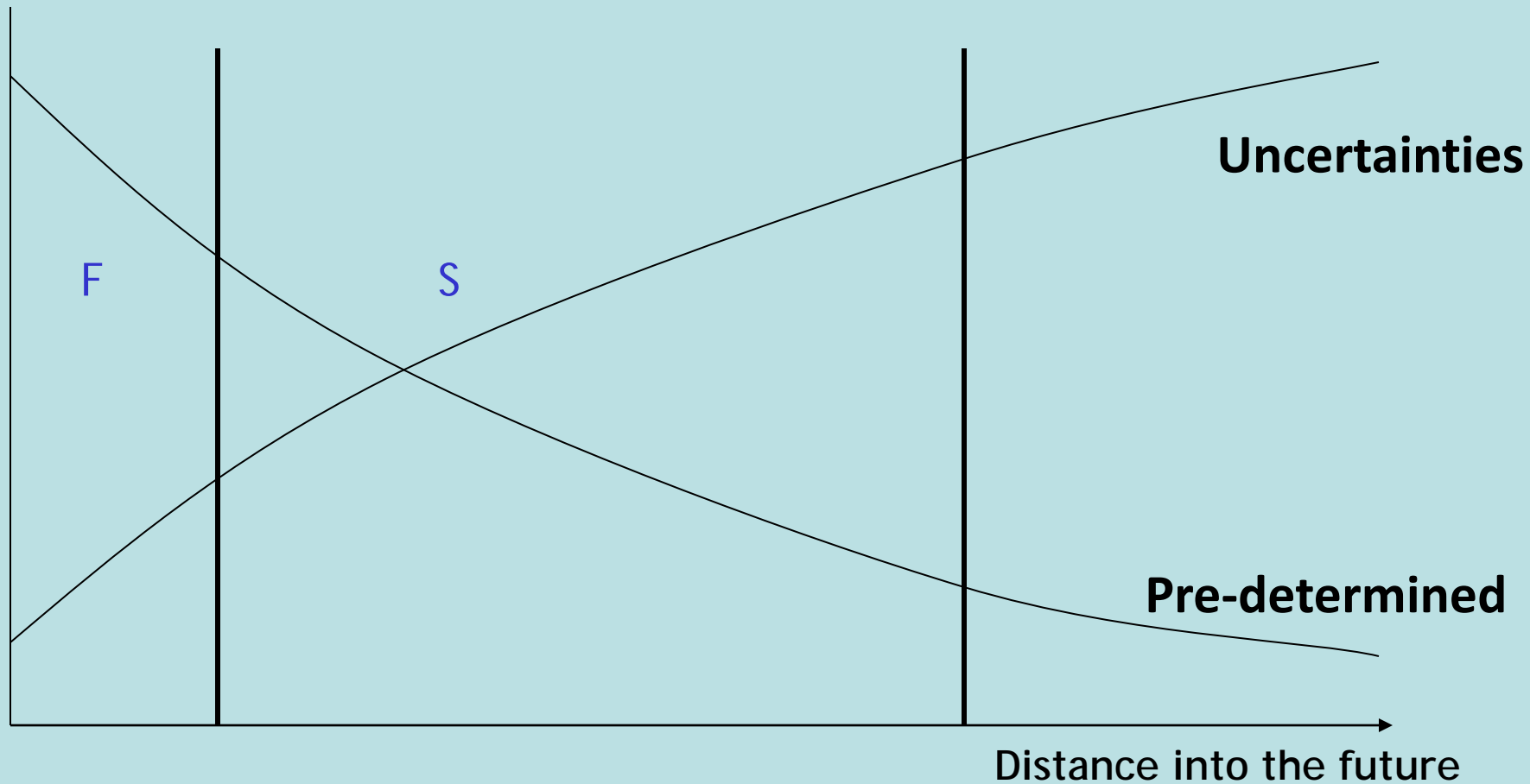
“Mutually Acceptable Mechanisms for Integrated Use of Water Resources in Central Asia through Applying a Scenario Approach”

Supporting the Strategic Dialogue in the Aral Sea Basin

Geneva, April 2013

The Future is built on

Pre-determined Elements and Uncertainties



Source: Van der Heijden

What are Scenarios?



Scenarios are logical, plausible stories about the future that help us recognize and adapt to changing aspects of our environment

Scenarios are about the external environment

Scenarios should be used as a set; all are plausible and should therefore be considered together, they represent a good understanding of the range of events that may unfold

The Tool



Four plausible story lines describing how the future of the Aral Sea Basin might evolve; there was general acceptance among the participants of the plausibility and relevance of the scenario set

It provides a structure for a systematic and multi-stakeholder analysis of complex policy issues in the region related to food security, agricultural trade, energy situation and environmental degradation

Steps



Interview mission to establish the scenario agenda

First regional workshop: to identify key driving forces and uncertainties

Research phase 1: better understand dynamics and inter-sectoral relations

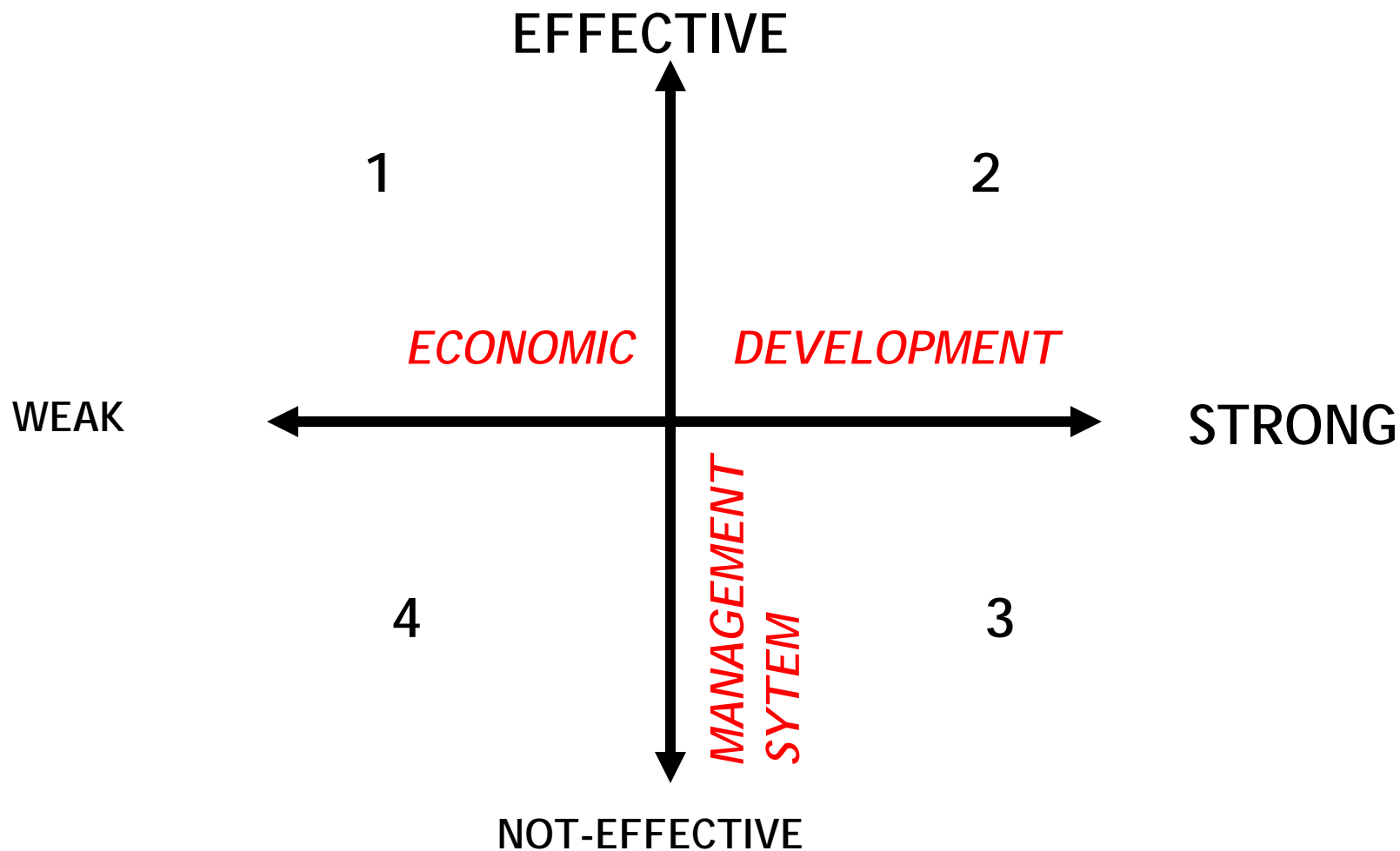
Second regional workshop: develop scenario frame

Research phase 2: develop draft scenario logics and verify critical assumptions

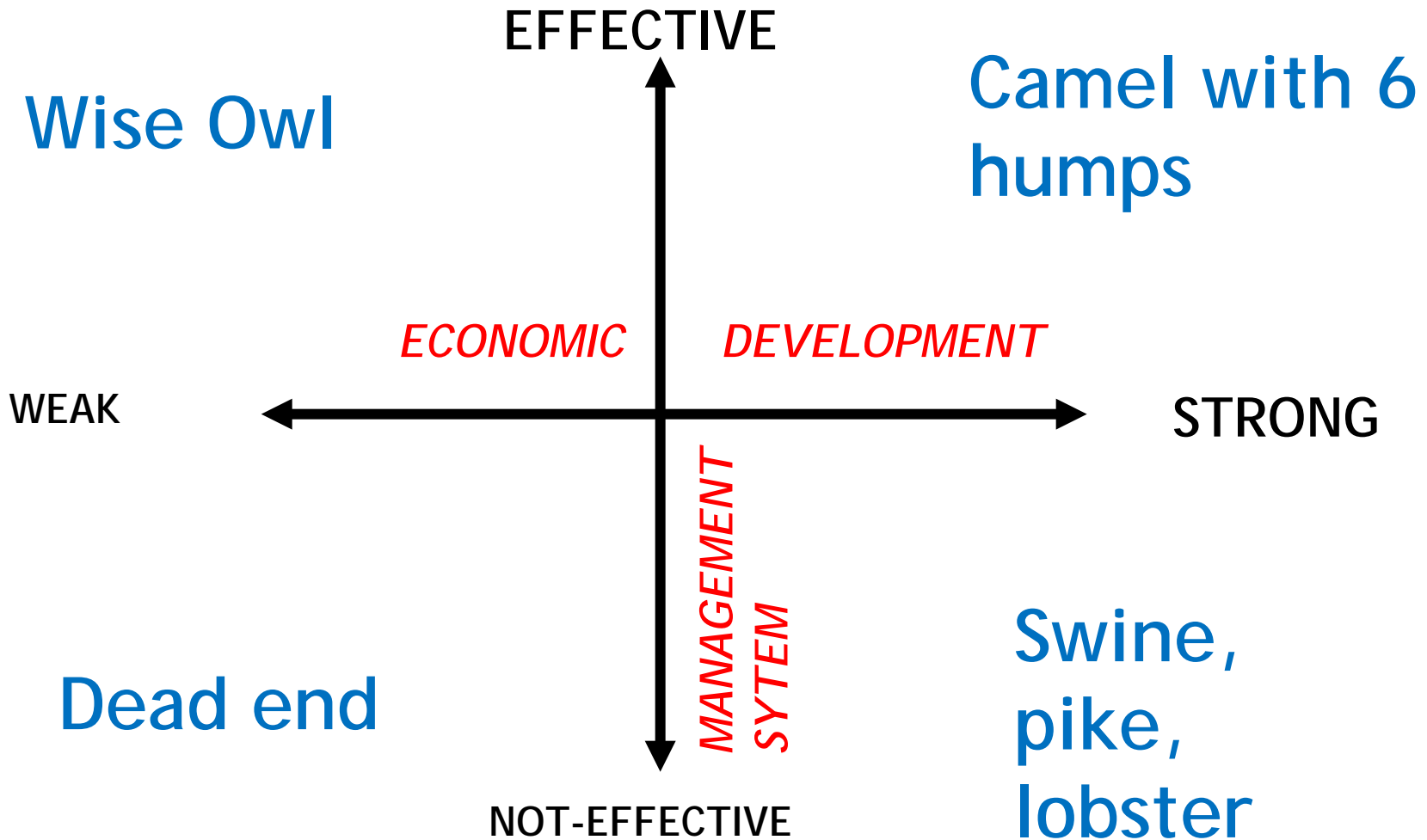
Third regional workshop: review and complete first-generation scenario logics

Fourth regional workshop: verify scenario logics and discuss 'next steps'

Scenario Frame



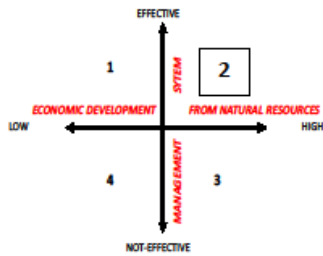
Scenario Frame



Core Structure



- Agriculture is the dominant water user;
- Water use efficiency is generally low;
- Towards optimized beneficial uses in terms of agriculture, energy, environment, etc;
- Predetermined elements (demography, irrigation dev. in Afghanistan, etc.) included in all scenarios



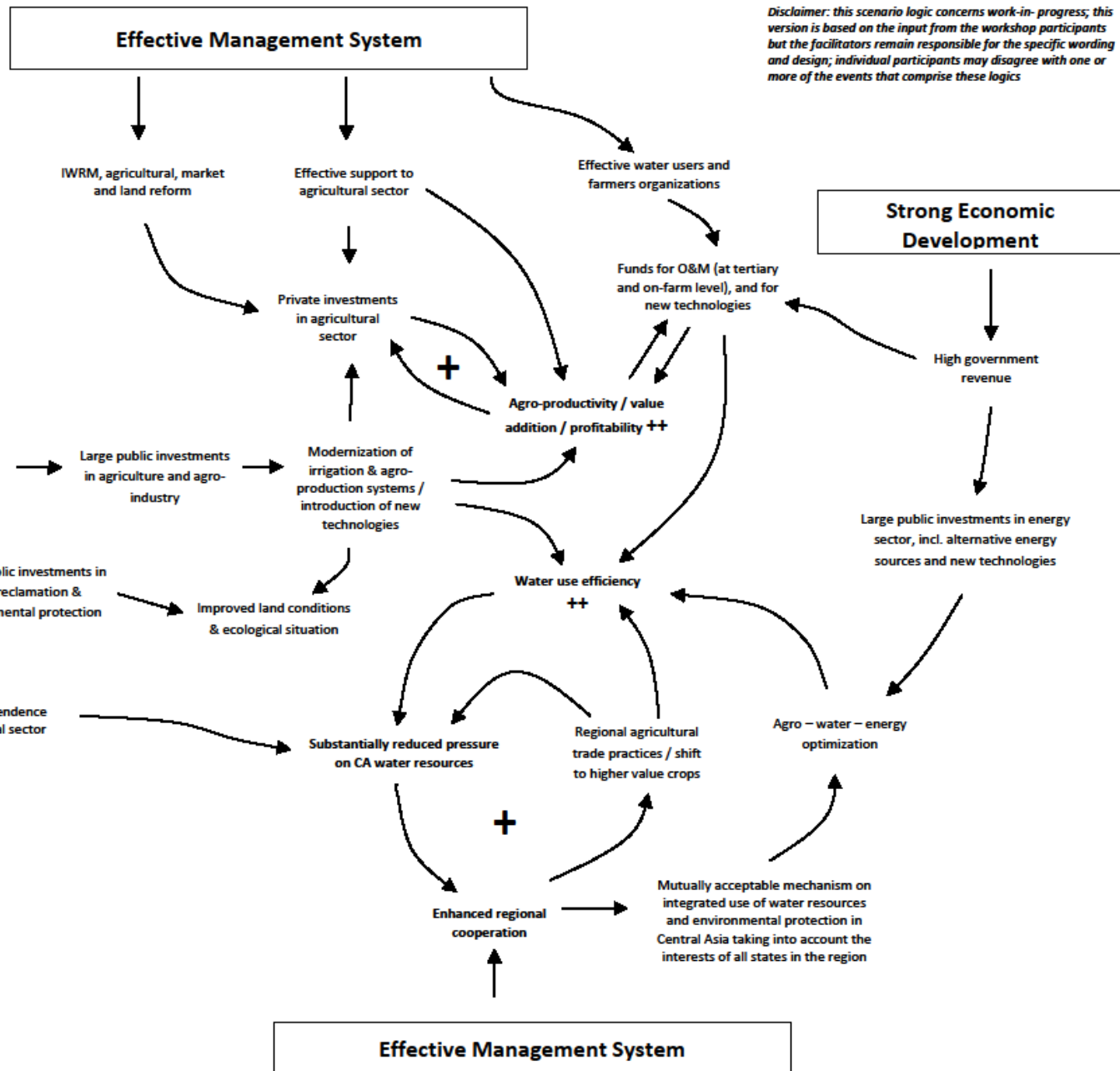
**Scenario 2:
"Camel with Six
Humps"**

**Strong Economic
Development**

- Favorable economic conditions
- High export revenue from commodities
- Economic diversification
- High economic integration
- Industrial Development

END STATES 2040:

- Water use efficiency improved significantly
- Substantially reduced pressure on water resources
- Strong gains in agro productivity
- Effective regional cooperation
- Well established regional agro-trade practices
- Food & energy secure
- Improved ecological situation
- Regionally coordinated climate change response
- Increased immigration
- Diversified economy
- Improved general welfare
- Improved socio-economic stability



Disclaimer: this scenario logic concerns work-in-progress; this version is based on the input from the workshop participants but the facilitators remain responsible for the specific wording and design; individual participants may disagree with one or more of the events that comprise these logics

Relevance



The Aral Sea Basin: Risks being a protracted negotiation in which parties are becoming committed to locked positions

Why?

Thinking is still mainly focused on the rivers: zero sum game

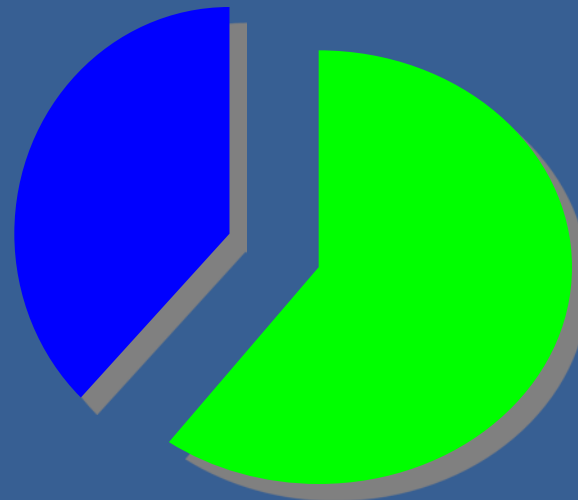
Enlarging Common Ground



Water conflicts often center around the river: their solution is typically outside the water domain

Enlarging common ground: jointly identifying areas where cooperation makes sense

- irrigation
- hydro power
- etc.



- agro trade
- trade regime
- stable prices
- Joint management

Aligning

Mental Models



The relevance lies in the joint discovery of these insights by a group of experts and decision makers, all from the riparian countries.

The strong communality of views that emerged in the scenario group is seen as an important outcome of the exercise.

Test



Test of a good scenario:

Not 'right' or 'not right', but.....

does it help to make better decisions?

Process Gains



- Focus on process gains:
- it is not the scenario set that matters, but the insights gained by examining relevant questions against the backdrop of the scenario set
- engage decision makers into scenario based strategic conversation; thinking through implications and options for the future

Joint thinking exercises



Use of the scenario set as backdrop for a series of systematic & participatory thinking exercises

Facilitated national & regional workshop to examine relevant policy questions: aim is to make 'better decisions''



Thank You !

www.fao.org/nr/water/