

Why we need transformative scenarios for people and nature: Diverse scenario approaches, including the Nature Futures framework

IGES, 26 February 2024

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Madagascar on the brink of climate change-induced famine

By Andrew Harding
Africa correspondent, BBC News

2 days ago



Climate change



South Korean flood deaths expose government indifference to climate change



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Europe battles heatwave and fires, record temperatures scorch China



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Extreme weather live: heatwave red alerts expected for more cities in Italy; Greece wildfires spread

Twenty-three of Italy's 27 main cities expected to be under red alert as temperatures continue; wildfires north and west as residents to flee
Italians report sharp rise in emergency cases as Rome

Fires and floods, heatwaves and hurricanes

Heat Waves Grip 3 Continents as Climate Change Warms Earth

Across North America, Europe and Asia, hundreds of millions of people endured blistering conditions. The U.S. special envoy for climate change called it "a threat to all of humankind."

by New York Times
The Fires in Greece Are a Terrifying Warning

Aug. 27, 2023, 1:00 a.m. ET



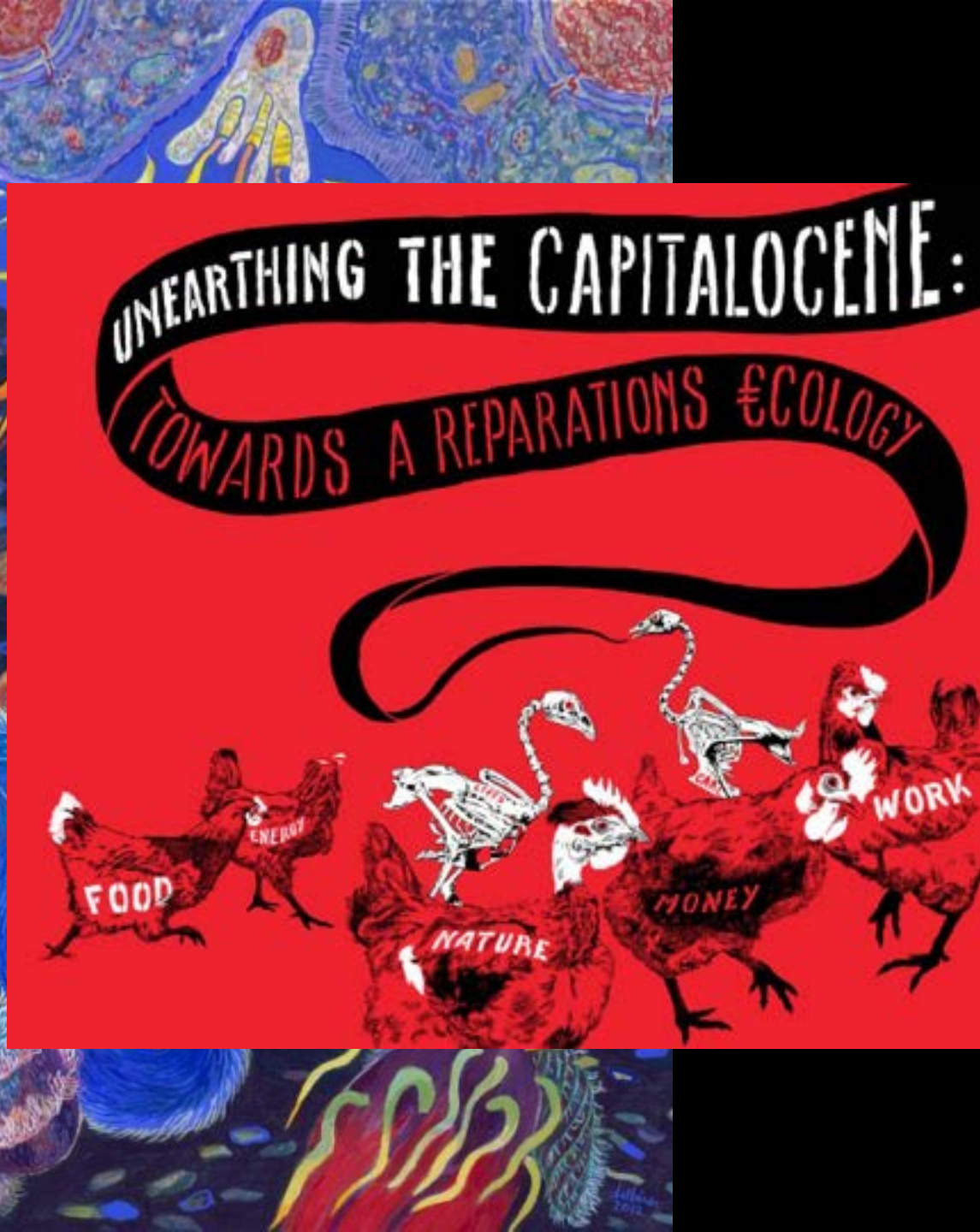
Climate change extreme weather costs Germany billions annually

Reuters





Chthulucene







**Anthropocene is
novel,
turbulent,
accelerating,
hyperconnected
and unequal**

‘The future is already here it is just unevenly distributed’ William Gibson



What do preferable futures for people and nature look like?



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Towards the vision 2050 on biodiversity: living in harmony with nature

The vision of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a world of living in harmony with nature where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”





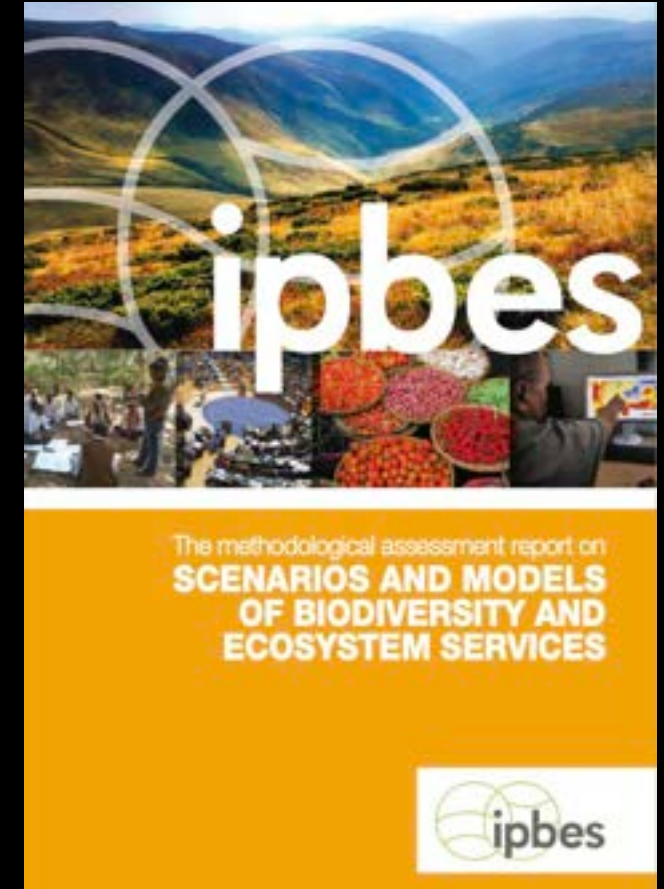
Before we can think of pathways or interventions, we need to build capacities to envision where it is we want to go and what these transformed futures could look like

Using scenarios for global biodiversity

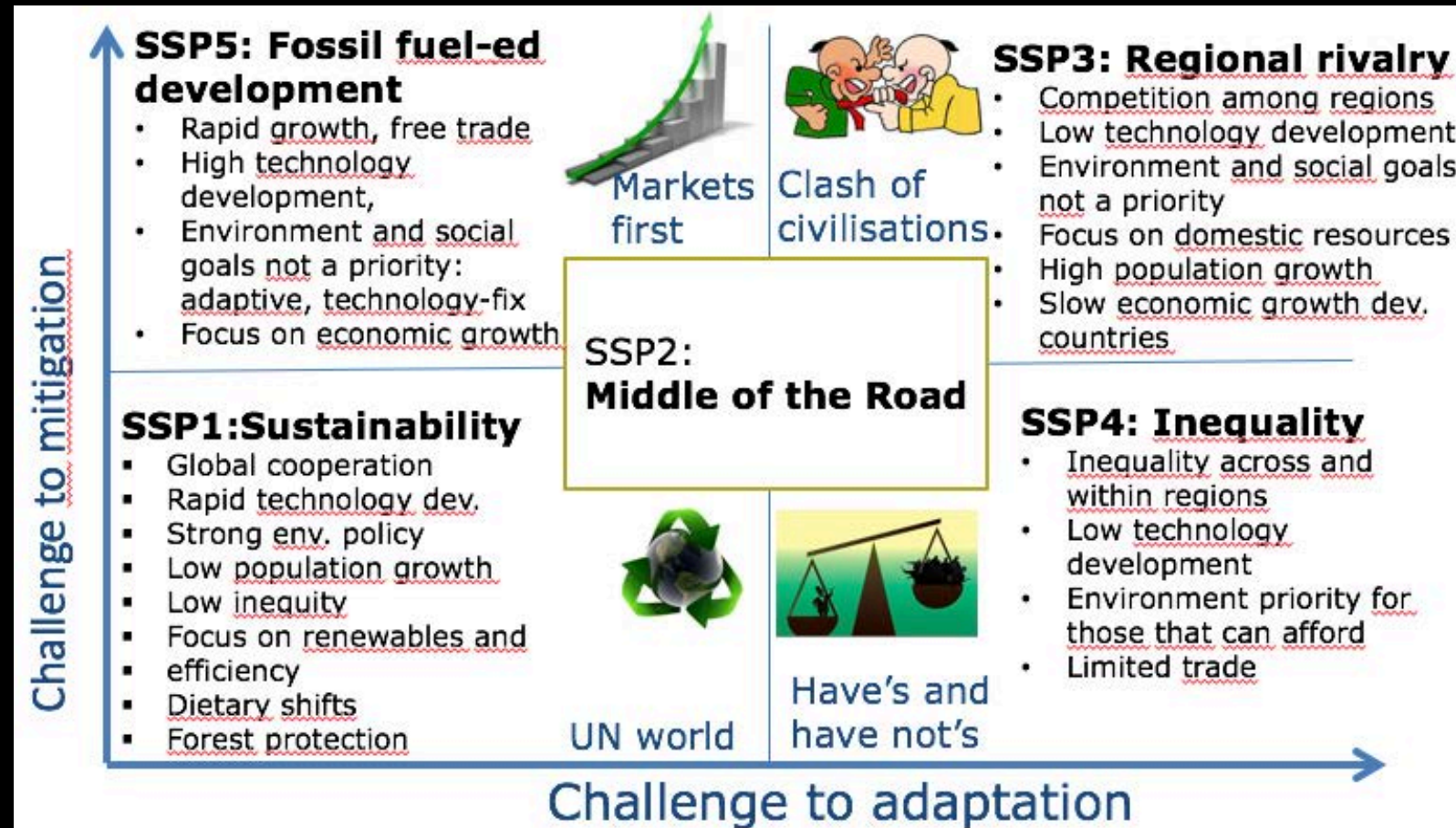
2016 IPBES Methodological Assessment

Scenarios are available and they are useful tools for policy support, but:

- Most global scenarios are developed for other purposes, e.g., climate change and its impacts
- Few scenarios detail 'positive' futures - most global scenarios are limited to assessing only impacts on nature, and tend to be negative
- Most global scenarios lack a participatory approach
- Different policy and management responses relating to nature are often not well represented




IPCC Shared Socio-economic Pathways: Findings from 2019 Global BES assessment



Nature is not a focus in the SSP-RCP framework

O'Neill et al. 2017 *Climate Change*

A night scene of a campfire with a quote overlay. The image shows a bright orange campfire burning in the lower center, with smoke rising into the dark sky. To the left of the fire are several tall, dark evergreen trees. To the right, a portion of a tent is visible, illuminated by the fire's light. The background is a dark, starry night sky. A quote is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“Stories are powerful things: they create our reality as much as they explain it.” – Alex Evans

We need to learn to tell better science stories



<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-02740-5>



Image: Simon Stålenhag/Radical Ocean Futures

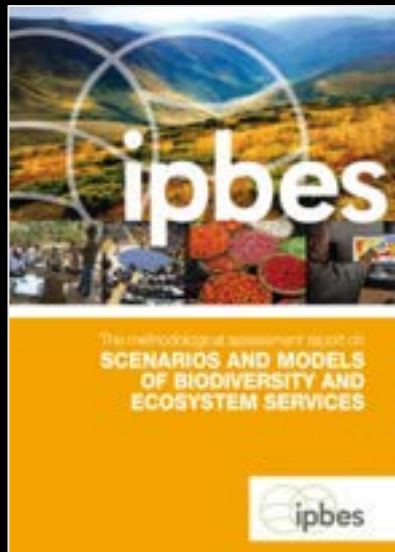
Science-fiction Prototyping (Merrie et al 2018, *Futures*)



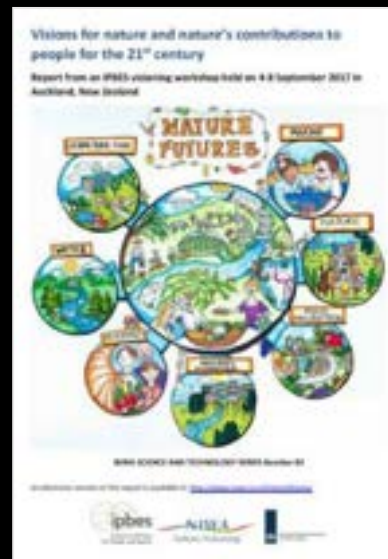
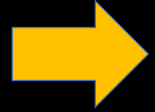
IPBES Expert group on scenarios and models (2016 - 2019) tasked to establish a new Global Scenarios Framework:

- Nature-centric
- Positive – provide direction for futures that we want to help us determine what we need to do to achieve goals and targets
- Recognise that there are different world views, knowledge systems, ways of valuing nature

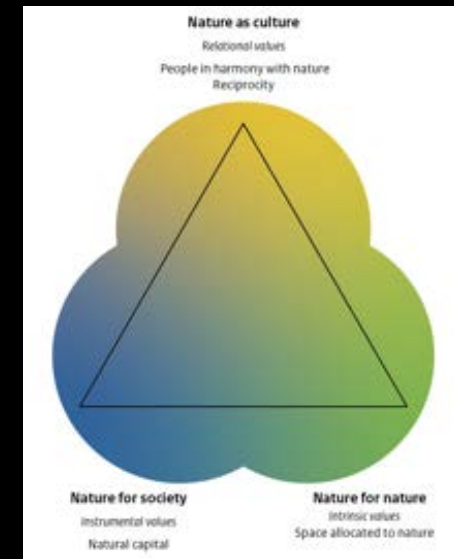
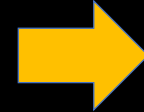
IPBES Task Force on Scenarios and Models of biodiversity and ecosystem services



Phase I (2014-2016):
Assessment of the use
of scenarios and
models of BES

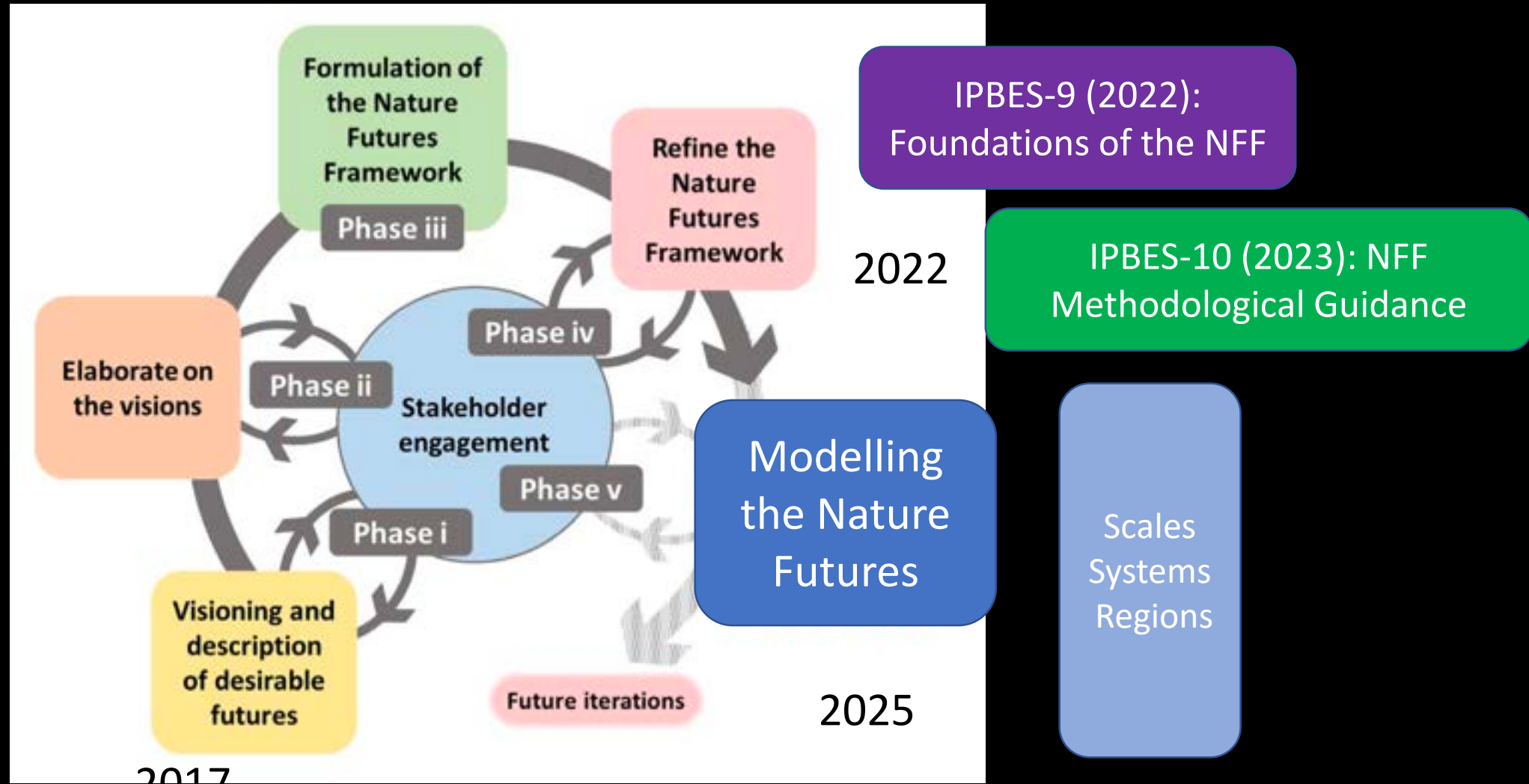


Phase II (2016-2019):
initial participatory
development of the
Nature Futures
Framework



Phase III (2019-2023):
further development of
Nature Futures
Framework scenarios

IPBES Task Force on Scenarios and Models: Nature Futures Framework Timeline

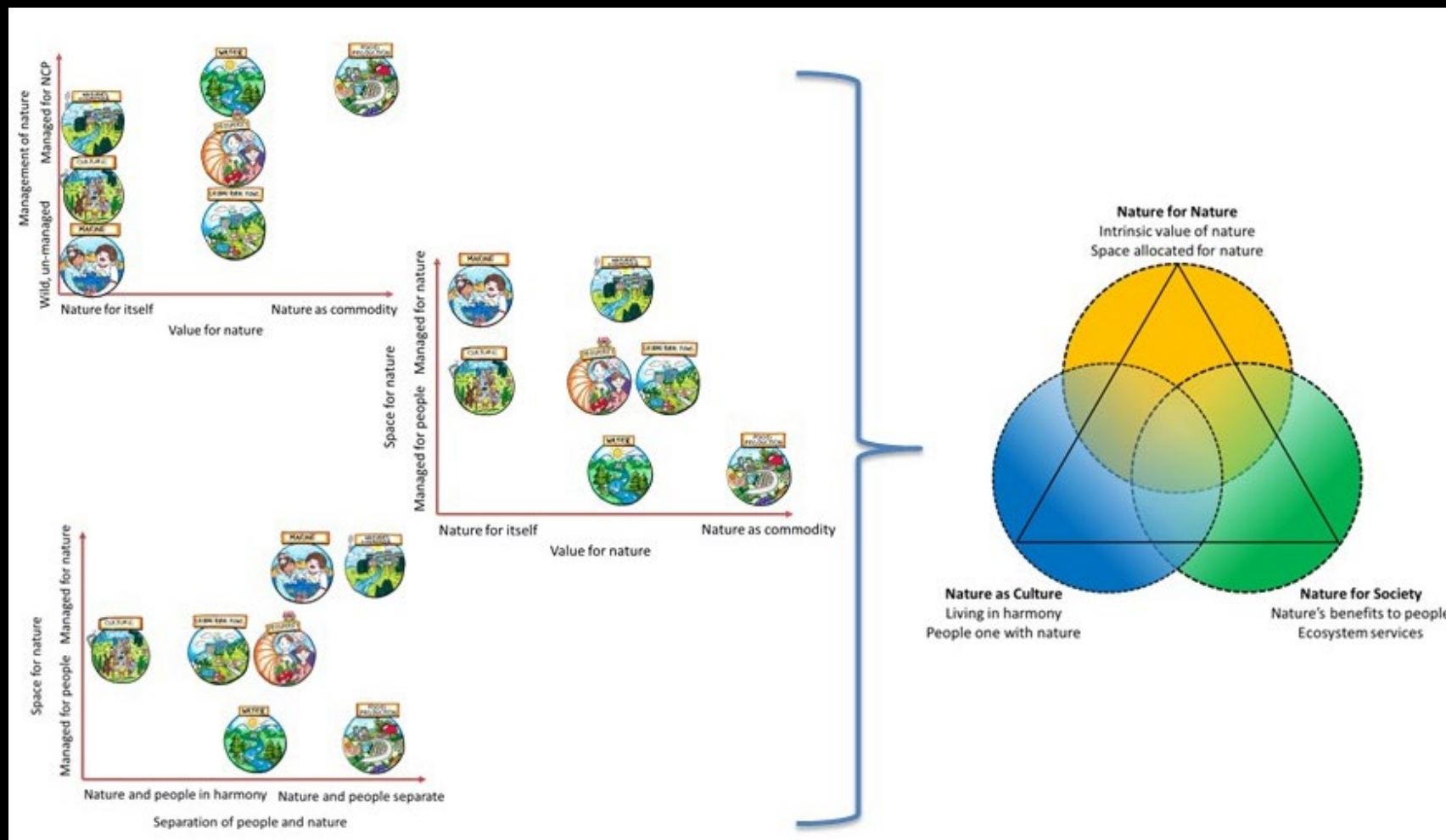


2017: Generating 7 visions of desirable futures for people and nature with diverse IPBES stakeholders

- 1st step in developing new global biodiversity scenarios “Visioning Nature Futures” Workshop 4-8 Sep 2017, Auckland, New Zealand



2018: Mapping visions across dimensions and drivers: The Hague



Pereira, L. M., K. K. Davies, E. den Belder, ...C. J. Lundquist. 2020. Developing multiscale and integrative nature–people scenarios using the Nature Futures Framework. *People and Nature* **2**:1172-1195.

2021: Online Dialogues with National focal points and ILK Task Force workshop



Choti Tekam (Africa)



Anjali Choudhary (Asia)



Naresh Bhoje (Americas)

INDIGENOUS & LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Dialogue Workshop on Scenarios & the Nature Futures Framework

We MUST Look
to the PAST to
INFORM the
FUTURE...

ALL IS IN EVOLUTION

COMMUNITY
FOCUSED
SOLUTIONS

SELF-DETERMINATION

NEED A SHARED VISION

ANCIENT PRACTICES
HELP US SHARE
FUTURE

Revitalize
roles of
Women

Conservation
Sustainability
STOP EXPLOITATION
of people + lands

FIRE, AIR,
WATER

ADVOCACY
HOLISTIC
MODELS

Defend
LANDS & WATER

PATHWAYS
SUPPORT INDIGENOUS
ECONOMIES

SCENARIOS
SHOULD NOT
HAVE
ENDING POINTS

CEREMONY
SONGS!

OUR
VALUES
ARE
RELATIONAL
to the LAND

RELATIONSHIPS
with NATURE

Land Based

Respect
Indigenous
& Local
Knowledge

INDIGENOUS
BIOSPHERES
CYCLES
CLIMATE

LAND & PEOPLE
CYCLICAL
and
INTERRELATED

Medicines

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE
is LOST and should be
used in Decision Making
LOCAL NATIONAL, Global



ENCOURAGE
youth to
work
with ELDERs

HARMONY
with NATURE
Change Policy
GOVERNMENT
Legislation
another Future
is POSSIBLE

Knowledge
SYSTEMS
SPIRITUALITY

Europe
& Africa
GOVERNANCE
SYSTEMS

Knowledge
SYSTEMS
Protect
LANDS &
WATER

Welcome from
Kamal Kumar Rai
Nepal
Carolyn Lundquist
New Zealand

FOOD SYSTEMS

Asia Pacific

THREE
REGIONAL
SESSIONS

Americas

LAND
Language
CULTURE
DYNAMIC
COMMUNITIES

Germany
mountain
Language



quantitative
qualitative
WE ARE FUTURE
possibilities



NEXT STEPS

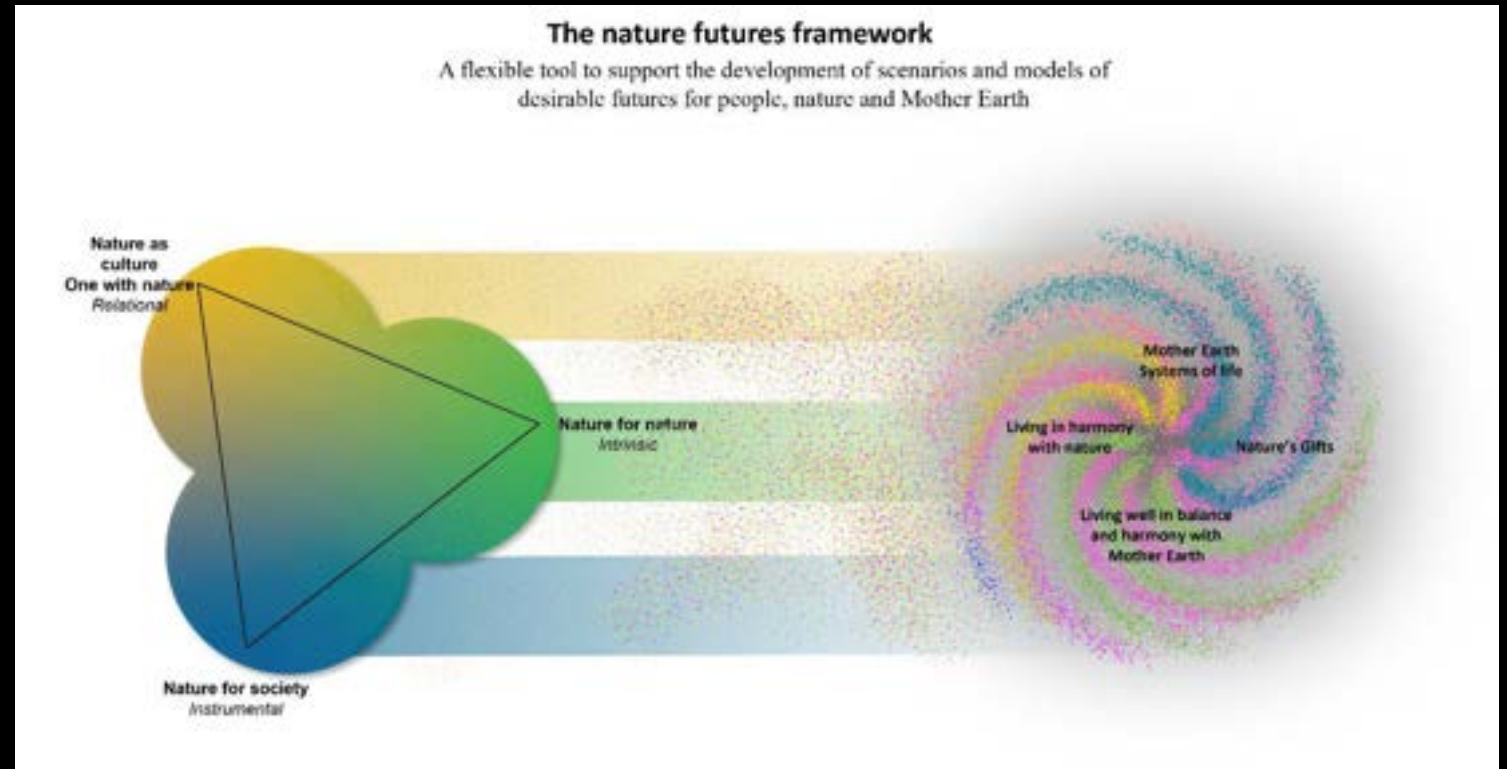
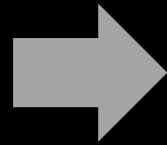
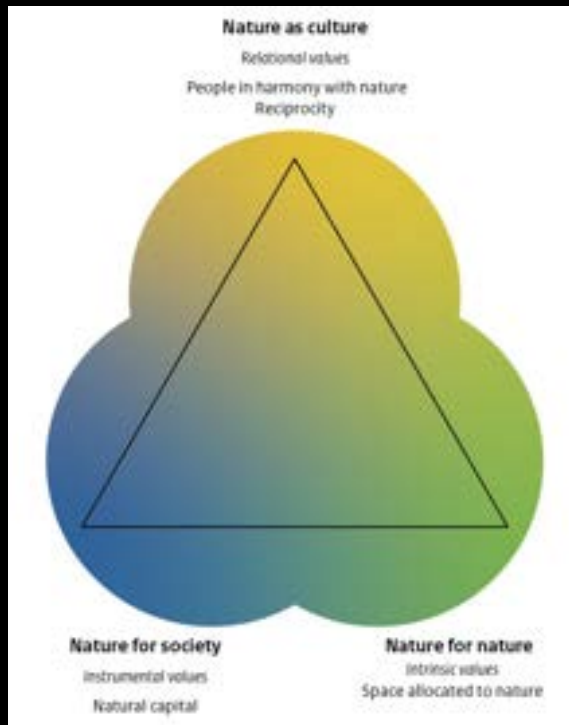
SCENARIOS
SHOULD NOT
HAVE
ENDING POINTS



PATHWAYS
SUPPORT INDIGENOUS
ECONOMIES

ADVOCACY
HOLISTIC
MODELS

The Nature Futures Framework: A flexible tool to support the development of scenarios and models of desirable futures for people, nature and Mother Earth

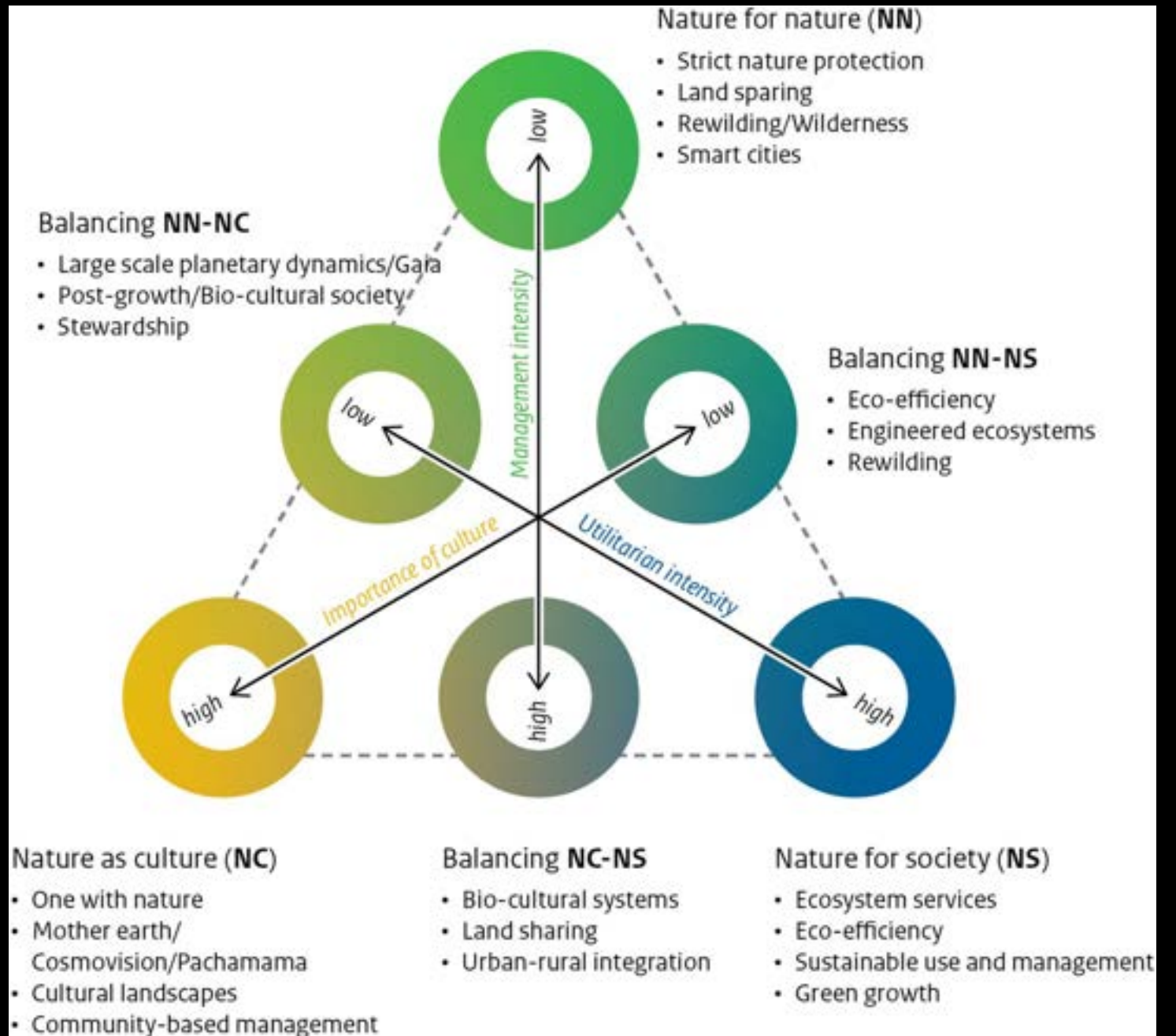


Many uses for the Nature Futures Framework

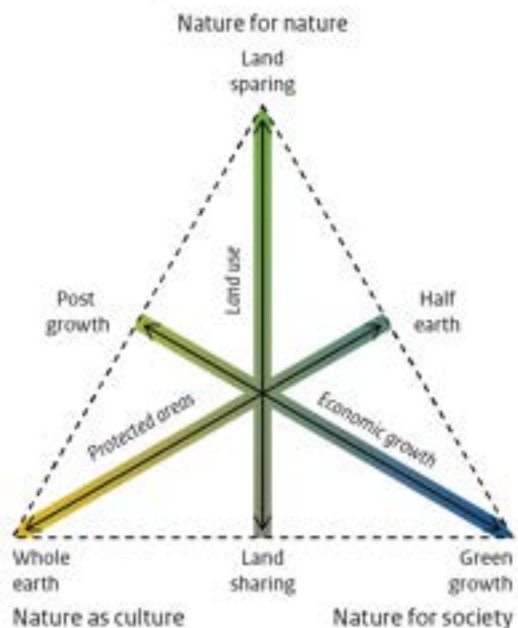
- Visioning
- Identifying pathways to positive futures
- Narrative development
- Qualitative modelling
- Quantitative modelling
- Developing indicators of pluralistic nature values



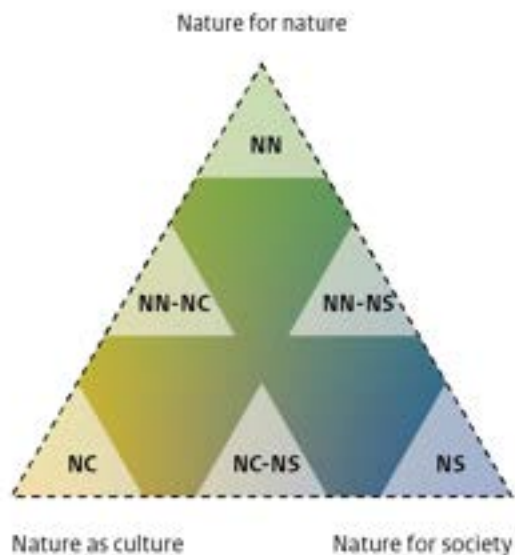
NFF illustrative narratives: Characterizing six areas of the NFF space



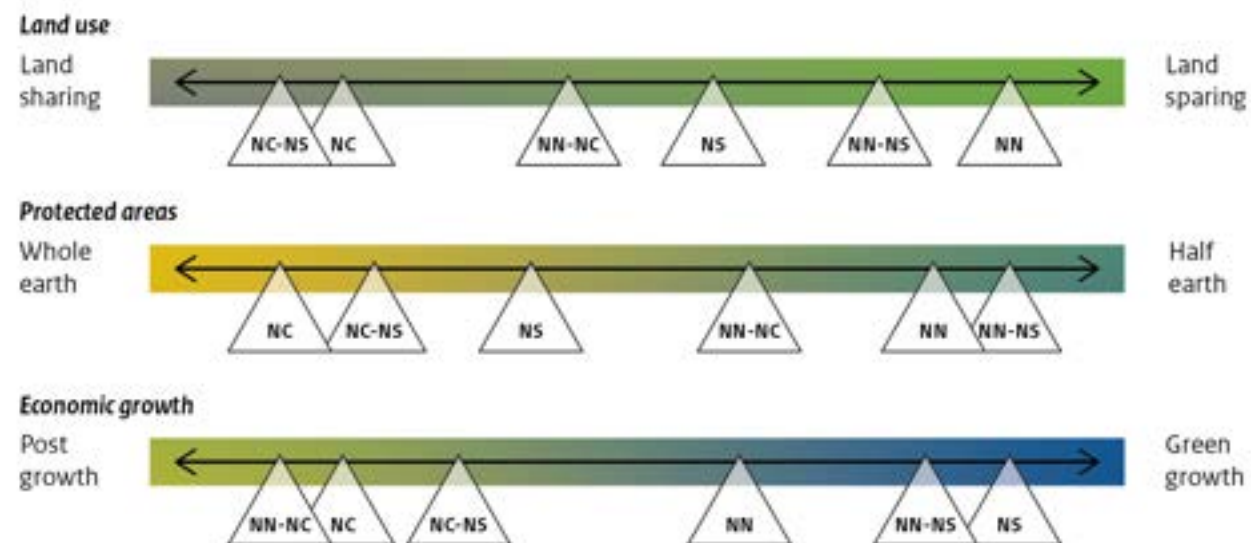
A. Scenarios of protected areas, land use and economic growth in the Nature Futures Framework



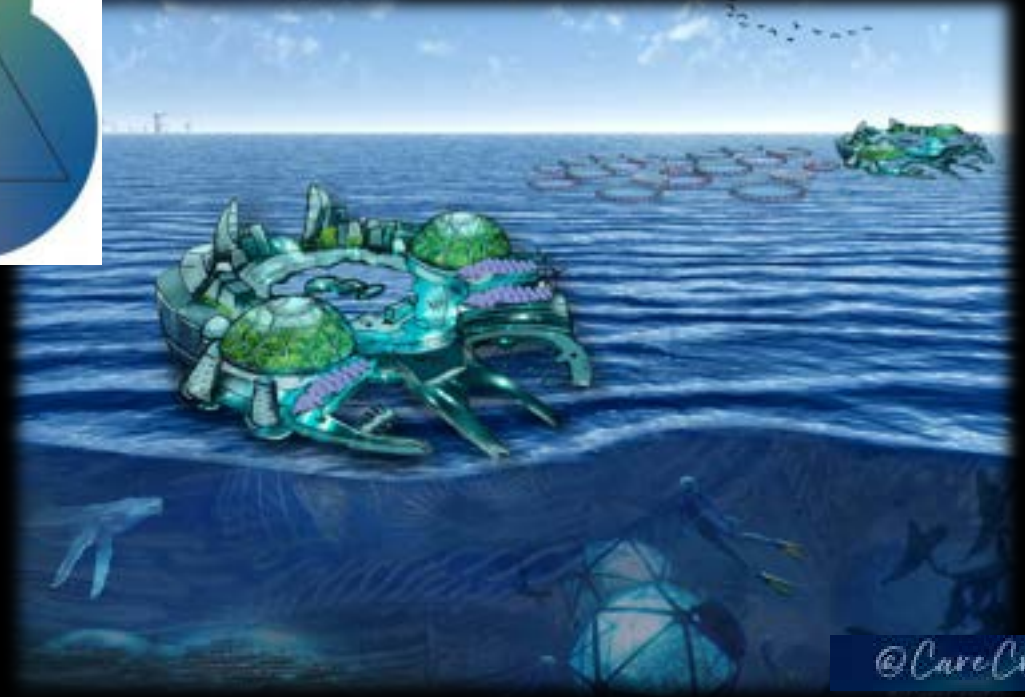
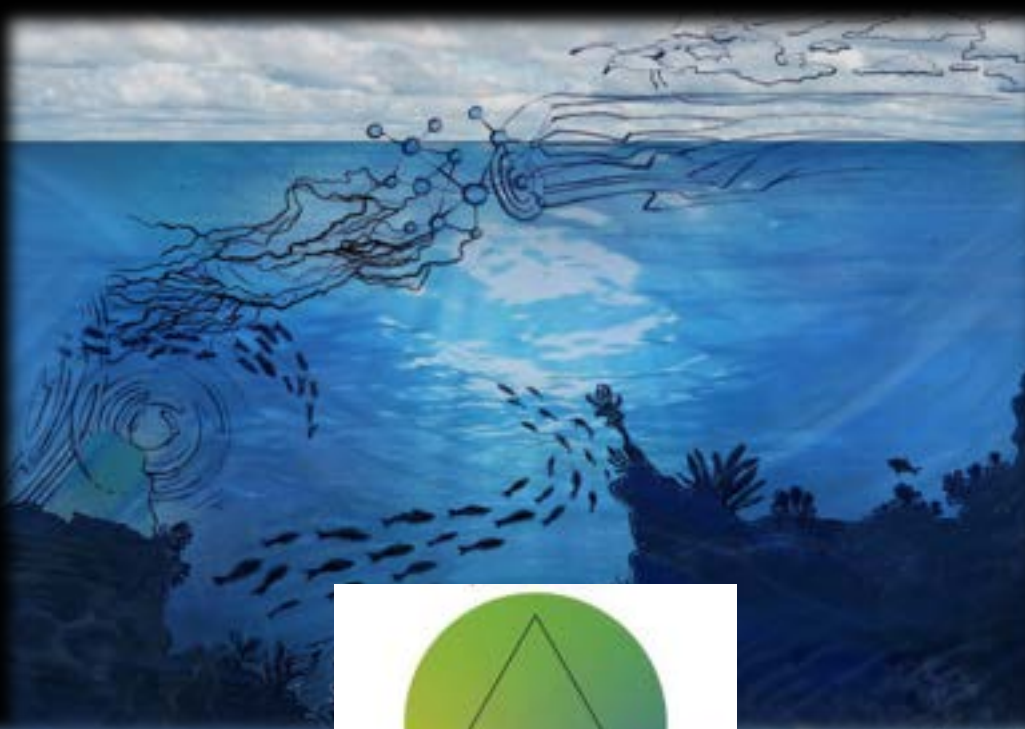
B. The 6 narrative points in the Nature Futures Framework



C. The 6 illustrative narratives along the axes of 3 scenarios



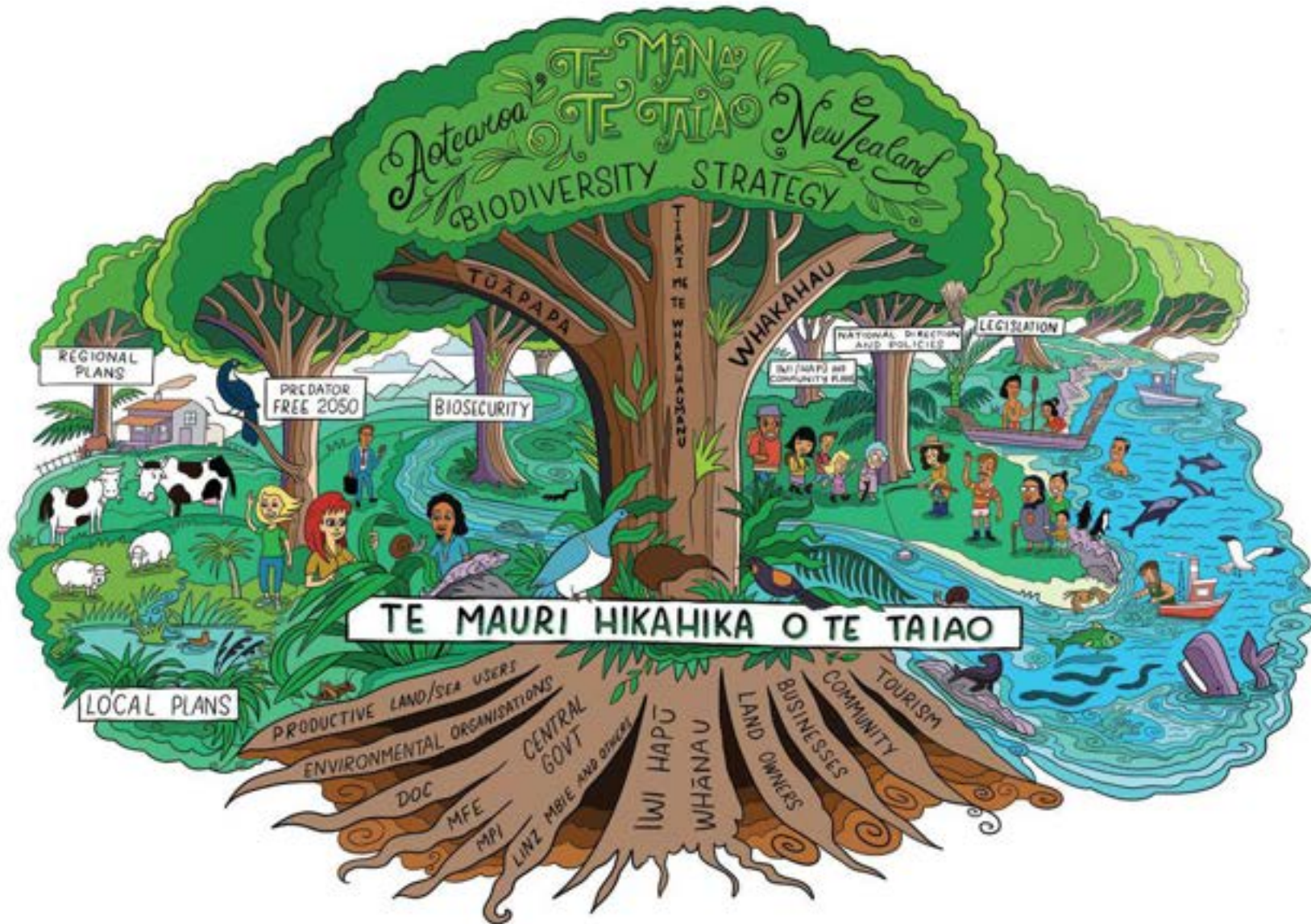
NFF for the High Seas





Nature Futures Visioning for the Korean DMZ

Informing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)



Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020

Nature Futures with the Ngoni Kingdom, Malawi





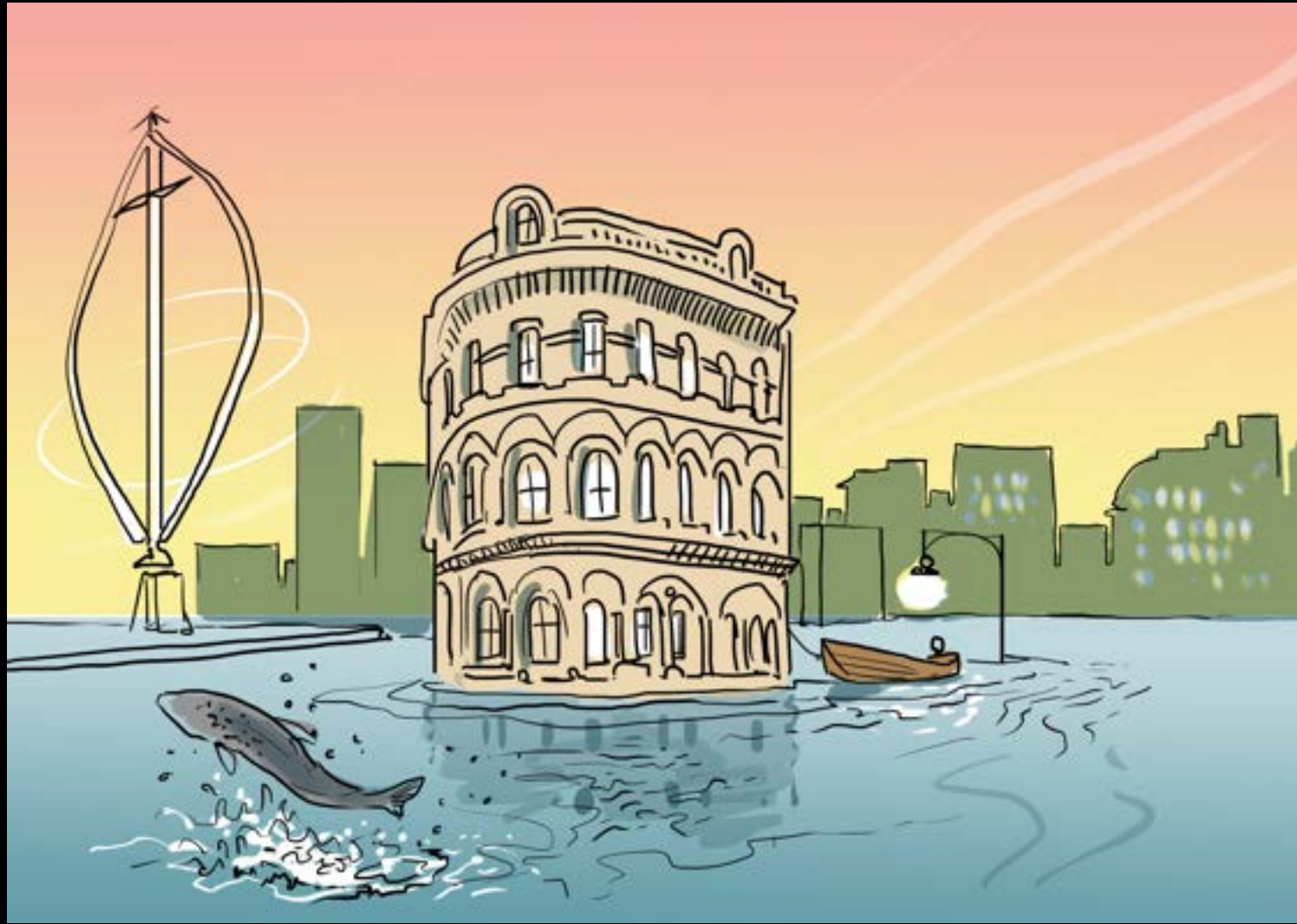
“Sci-Fi is the only genre that enables African writers to envision a future from our African perspective... The value of this envisioning cannot be overstated nor negated. **If you can’t see and relay an understandable vision of the future, your future will be co-opted by someone else’s vision, one that will not necessarily have your best interests at heart**” (Hartmann, 2012: 111).”

MULTIPLE
FUTURES

MULTIPLE
PRESENTS

MULTIPLE
PASTS





*Humans have changed the way the world works.
Now they have to change the way they think about it too.*
- The Economist, 2011