

ACES 2014 Morning Workshop 5
December 8, 2014 | 8:00am-11:30am

Title: *Back to the Future: Scenario Development for Ecosystem Services*

Description – What are scenarios, and why do they matter for ecosystem services? Our session will answer these questions and prepare participants to design their own scenario development process. Through lessons drawn from the literature and from practice, we will explore the essentials of scenario development and propose best practices. Using real cases, we'll discuss which elements make them more and less successful to inform decision-making and scientific research. We will present – for the first time – a new tool to design spatially explicit scenarios with stakeholders, the Scenario Generator. We will combine presentation, discussion, games, and hands-on activities to build knowledge and skills related to framing, stakeholder engagement, and designing and interpreting map-based scenarios.

Goals – Our goals for this workshop are to help participants: (1) learn basic concepts and principles for scenario development; (2) explore several approaches and tools for scenario generation; and, (3) provide basic training to use a new scenario development tool for practitioners, the Scenario Generator. We aim to prepare participants to embark on a scenario development process of their own that supports an ecosystem service assessment and informs decisions.

Technical issues – Participants will learn how to develop scenarios for ecosystem service assessment, including challenges and skills relating to resource and tool decisions, framing, stakeholder engagement, and designing and interpreting scenarios with field-tested scenario development tools.

Format – This 3-hour workshop will include lecture, case exploration, discussion, tool training, and a game.

8:00am	Overview: scenario concepts, principles, case examples	Presentation, Q&A
8:45am	Future Shock!	Game
9:30am	Break	
10:00am	Introducing a new scenario tool: Scenario Generator	Presentation, demonstration, hands-on exercises
11:00am	Design your own scenario development process	Facilitated activity

Target Audience:

The workshop will accommodate a range of skill and knowledge levels from beginner to intermediate in developing scenarios. It will help prepare practitioners, students and researchers aiming to develop scenarios for ecosystem service assessment and valuation. The intended audience is broad, and those with an array of skill sets and interests can take advantage of the lectures, discussion, and group activity; but, those who have at least a beginner's level in use of a GIS software (e.g. Arc or Q) will benefit most

from the hands-on session for the Scenario Generator. It is recommended that attendees bring a laptop for hands-on exercises.

Workshop Organizers & Facilitators:

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Organizers' Qualifications:

The organizers of this workshop have collectively led or supported the development of over half a dozen scenarios for ecosystem services assessment. These scenarios have been applied to science-policy processes to influence policy and management decisions across the globe, including coastal management planning in Belize, land-use planning in Tanzania, and green economy design in Myanmar. Emily and Amy are co-authors of a recently released guide on [scenario development for ecosystem services](#), and with Nirmal, Gregg and Nasser, [co-authors of multiple case studies](#) that exemplify alternative approaches to scenario development. Nasser is the creator of a new open-source, free software tool, the [Scenario Generator](#), which helps practitioners and researchers design alternative scenarios for ecosystem services assessment. Amy also has conducted extensive research and practice of stakeholder engagement for scenario development and ecosystem services assessment.

¹ Lead organizer; please also copy Nasser Olwero.

² Organizer only