

Facilitation Tool: Scenario Game of Futures



Photo credit: Susi Moser

Purpose of this Game

- To articulate individual and organizational needs to start working on and implementing adaptation strategies identified throughout the workshop.
- To reciprocally help each other find starting points, resources and other ways to meet those needs.
- To identify capacities and resources needed during the planning and implementation phases for identified strategies.

Target Audience

Key regional partners involved in community adaptation

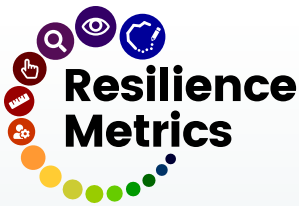
When to Use

- This exercise is ideally done before thinking about how to track indicators and metrics.

Directions

- **Materials Needed**
 - Sticky notes (at least 3-5/person)
 - Pens
 - Wall space
 - Candy/trinkets (at least 5 pieces per person)
 - Dice for all tables
 - List of existing planning processes and partnerships (optional)

This facilitation tool was created to serve as a reference for individuals interested in indicators and metrics to help communities define and track progress on their climate adaptation goals. Additional background and resources are available on the website: www.ResilienceMetrics.org. This website was developed in partnership with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System with funding from NOAA.



➤ **Step-by-step delivery of exercise**

• **Forming groups that represent individual agencies**

- ◇ Break participants into groups of approximately 5 people each.
- ◇ Each group represents an agency with a specific mission (e.g., stormwater management, natural resource management). The groups can represent actual agencies in the room (e.g., each group made up of representatives from a specific agency or department) or it can be hypothetical (e.g., the facilitator assigns people to random agencies).
- ◇ Each individual in a group then chooses an adaptation strategy to implement (either actual strategies being considered for implementation or hypothetical strategies assigned by the facilitator). Each individual in each group should have a different strategy. The more specific and diverse the strategies the better.

• **Reshuffle participants into mixed groups**

- ◇ Have the people in each group count-off 1-5. The room is then broken into new groups based on their numbers - all the ones form a group, all the twos form a group, and so on. The new groups should be made up of at least one person from each different agency (e.g., one individual from the stormwater agency, one individual from resource management agency...).
- ◇ The new group represents a community of different agencies/organizations with different missions and values. Each individual in the group is a representative of a different agency.
- ◇ Have individuals introduce themselves to the new group, outlining what agency they represent, and the adaptation strategy they have chosen to implement.

• **Providing each community with resources**

- ◇ It is assumed that each agency (individual) has the funding and capacity to initially implement the strategy.
- ◇ Each person (agency) is given 5 pieces of candy/trinkets. This represents the total money an individual/ agency has to repair, maintain, or modify the adaptation strategy as climate change is experienced.

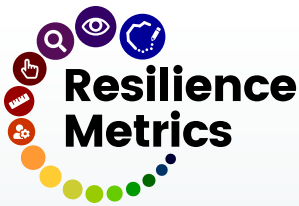
• **How to play the game**

Step 1: What is our future?

Handout the scenario narratives*: Facilitator tip: Don't hand these out before now as it confuses people if they get these too early in the process.

- ◇ One person roll the dice 5 times
- ◇ Write down what number is rolled each time

Each roll of the dice represents an event that causes the current situation to be pushed towards a specific scenario.



One event will likely not push the group into a new scenario but cumulative effects overtime may alter the “state” of a system enough to require different approaches to management. So:

- ◆ **Add up what you rolled for your final score**
 - Ex. Participant 1 rolled 1+2+3+4+5 = 15
- ◆ **Determine what scenario you are in using the table below**

	Current State Maintained	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
Total #	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-30

Step 2: Is my agency’s strategy still effective?

If your community moves into a new scenario, reflect on the changes outlined in that scenario (refer to scenario narratives*).

- ◆ Is each individual’s strategy still effective in light of changes within the scenario?
- ◆ What strategies are successful in the new scenario? Why or why not?
- ◆ If not successful, can it be altered to be effective in the new scenario?
- ◆ Or can it be combined with another strategy to be more effective?

Fill out your **worksheet** (see Resources), as you discuss what the new scenario means for your chosen strategy.

Step 3: Do I need to pay to modify my strategy?

The group will decide what strategies are successful and which ones are not based on their knowledge of the community and best-available science (Facilitation tip: You might also use a vision to check against, if one was previously developed).

- ◆ If the group decides a strategy works, then the participant does not have to pay for modifications.
- ◆ If the group decides a strategy does not work and needs to be altered in some way, then the participant has to pay one of its pieces of candy to the bank (center of the table).
- ◆ If the group is undecided, that participant has to roll the dice.
 - Roll an even number and your strategy works,
 - Roll an odd number and your strategy does not work, and you owe the bank one piece of candy.

Repeat with each participant. Keep repeating until all four scenarios have been explored by the group.

- **How to win the game**

- ◆ There will be one individual winner within each group that is the agency with the most resources remaining (i.e., pieces of candy/ trinkets). This means this agency chose a strategy that required the least maintenance and modification over the long-term, proving to be resilient in multiple scenarios.



- ◇ There will be one group winner out of all groups that is the community with the most resources remaining (i.e., pieces of candy/ trinkets). This means this community chose strategies that required the least maintenance and modification over the long-term, proving to be resilient in multiple scenarios.
- **Wrap-up and reflections**

Begin by determining who the individual and group “winners” are. If multiple people or groups seem to have been successful, begin a discussion around why those individuals/groups were successful. Then the facilitator continues to guide a discussion amongst all participants to elicit what lessons were learned throughout the process. Sample prompting questions below:

- ◇ What strategies seemed to be the most resilient?
- ◇ Community vs. individual (agency) successes?
- ◇ How many rounds did your group complete? Why fast or slow?
- ◇ What did you struggle with throughout the game?
- ◇ Was there one scenario that seemed to be particularly difficult for your agency or community?

Example Use and Outcomes

At the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR), we utilized this exercise to explore how the climate scenarios developed by the City may impact specific adaptation and resilience strategies being considered for implementation. The game helped participants to better plan when considering uncertain future conditions.

Other Resources/ References

The following climate adaptation games guided the development of this:

- Game of Floods. County of Marin Community Development Agency. <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/sea-level-rise/game-of-floods>
- Decisions for the Decade Game. Rand Corporation, Robert Lempert and USC Sea Grant, Juliette Hart. Session at the California Adaptation Forum; Decisions for the Decade: Serious Games for Gnarly Problems (Sept 7, 2016).
- Scenario narratives specific to your region/community/sector must be developed ahead of time, e.g., by working with local experts and stakeholders or drawing on existing pertinent climate projections and impacts studies.
- Job Aid “Worksheet: Climate Scenarios Game of Futures”
* Scenario narratives specific to your region/community must be developed ahead of time, e.g., working with local experts and stakeholders or drawing on existing climate projections for your area. The scenario narratives used at Kachemak Bay are available at www.ResilienceMetrics.org/About.