

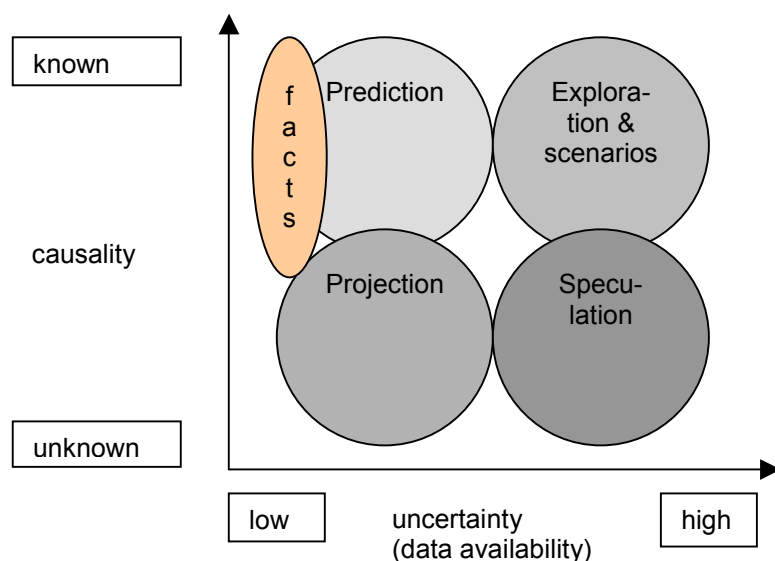
Rik Leemans – Introduction to scenarios

Summary of the talk given on the 21st of September 2005 as an introduction to the scenario issue by Monika Bertzky

Scenarios are an approach to assess the future

History: going back to the world wars, since 1960's used from big companies, e.g. shell oil: low prices in the 70's were likely to rise and traditional forecasting didn't work out → OPEC cartel was formed in 1972 and first scenarios were developed.

Scenarios, predictions and projections – clarifying the differences



Methods for scenarios:

- Judgement methods
- Extrapolative methods
- Causal and mathematical models

Types:

- Qualitative or quantitative
- Exploratory or Anticipatory
- Baseline or policy
- Expert-based or participatory

Traditional scenario development

- ♦ Use of expert judgement for most probable future scenarios
- ♦ Limited consistency between driving forces
- ♦ Use of simple aggregation models to quantify consequences of these drivers
- ♦ Neglecting important interactions & feedbacks

Example for a modern scenario project: RSA Mont Fleur

→ involving stakeholders, 4 scenarios developed:

- ostrich: white government without blacks
- lame duck: doesn't address the problems
- icarus: strong black government
- flight of the flamingos: harmony of all

Summary: strong trend from narrow to interdisciplinary approaches and to involving stakeholders, also from solely quantitative approaches to comprehensive more narrative ones.

→ one of the reasons why the future is unpredictable is that we can influence it!