



“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

Rome, November 2012

The Project



Originated by dialogue between EC-IFAS, UNRCCA and FAO

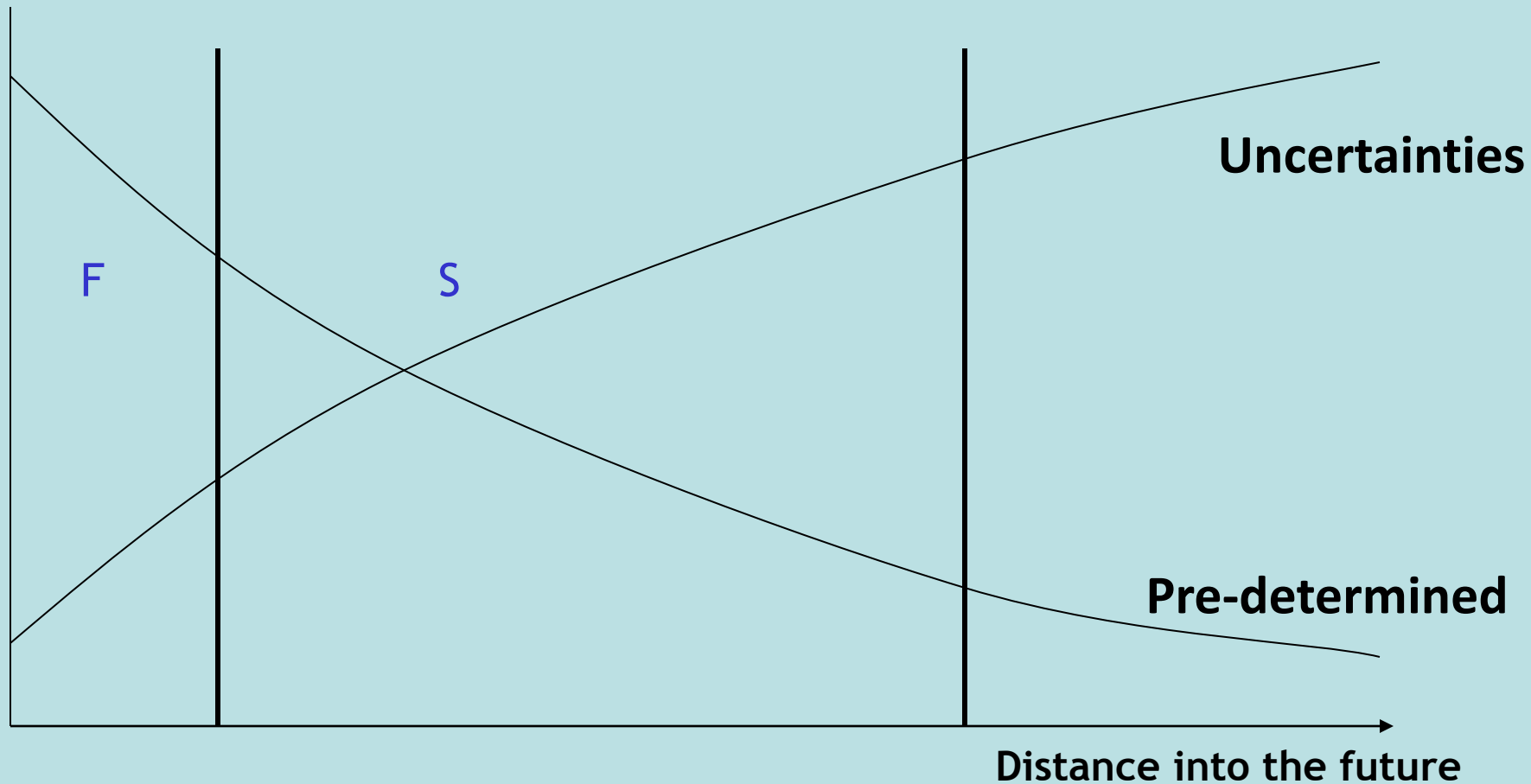
Objective: to strengthen regional cooperation and promote sustainable natural resource management through enhanced mutual understanding and improved decision making

Resulted in a set of plausible scenarios for the Aral Sea Basin for 2040

It further resulted in the alignment of views among participants and other important process gains

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 are not predictions; they can help us to make sense of what might happen; we fool ourselves if we contend that we can forecast the future

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'

Participants



From all six Aral Sea basin riparians

From government, and outside government

A total of 42 individuals involved



Northern
Aral Sea

K a z a k h s t a n

Balkhash

Lake Balkhash

Aralsk

Kokaral

Karateren

Barsakelmes

Western
Aral Sea

Eastern
Aral Sea

Moynak

Sarygamysh Lake

K y z y l k u m

Kara-Bogaz-
Gol

Golden
Age Lake

Turkmenistan

K a r a k u m

Ashgabat

Karakum Canal

Atrek

Tejen

Murgab

Amu Darya

Zaravshan

Aydar Lake

U z b e k i s t a n

Tashkent

Bishkek

Kyrgyzstan

Dushanbe

Tajikistan

Pamir

Afghanistan

H i n d u k u s h

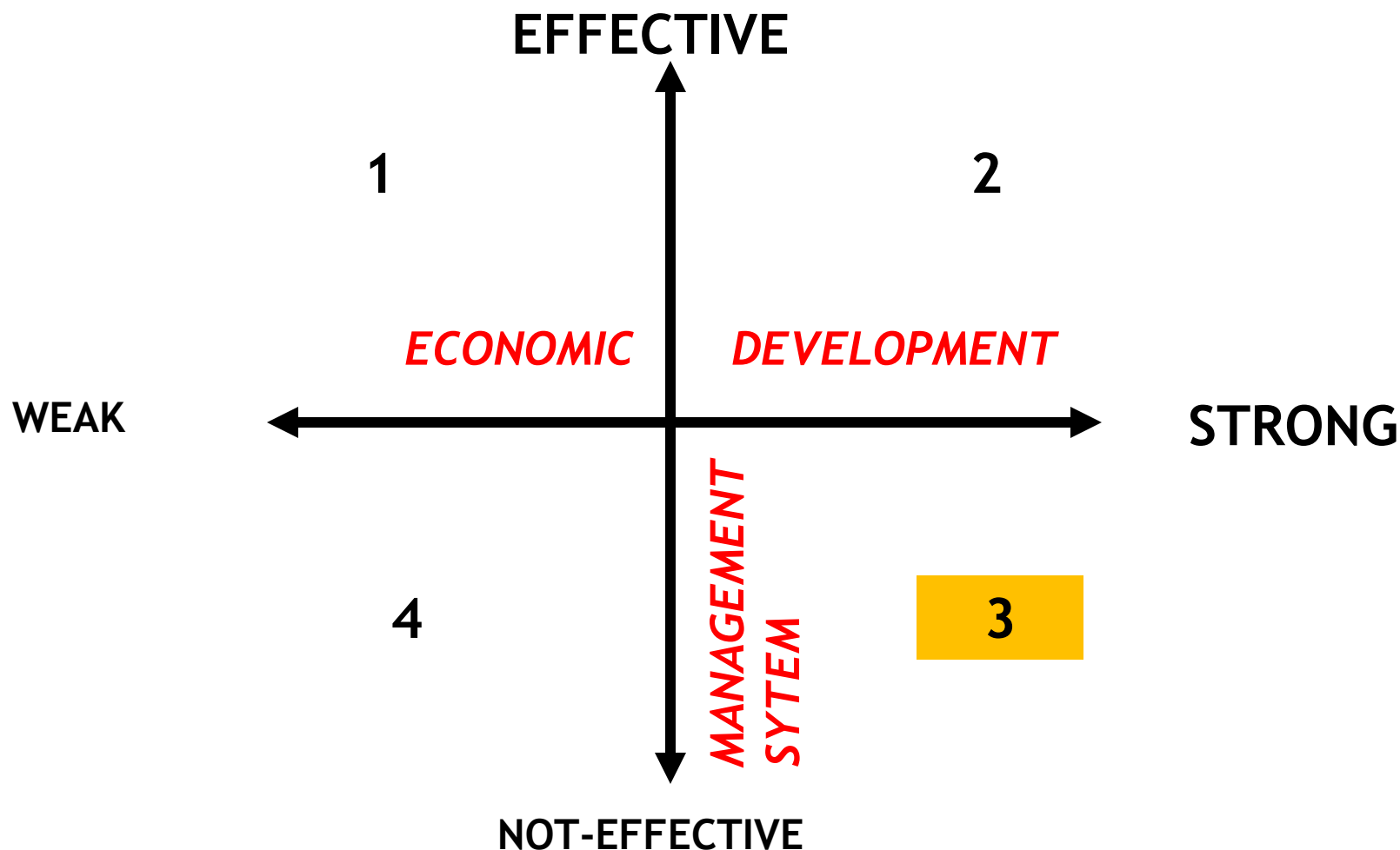
Kabul

Islamabad

Pakista

I r a n

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 Thinking



- Stretching mental models
- Enables 're-perceiving': to approach a complex issue from a fresh perspective
- 'rehearsing the future'; better prepared, better decisions, quicker response

Key is active stakeholder participation: some 42 decision makers involved

Scenario Frame



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WEAK

STRONG

EFFECTIVE

WISE OWL

**CAMEL WITH
SIX HUMPS**

**MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM**

INEFFECTIVE

DEAD END

**SWAN, PIKE
LOBSTER**

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



- irrigation
- hydro power
- etc.



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

Enlarging common ground: jointly identifying areas where cooperation makes sense

Not directly related to river flows: better prospects for a negotiated solution

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’

First step in the second phase of the project last week in Ashgabat

Project Status



Scenario Development

1

Collection baseline info

Building scenario logics and developing scenario set

Preparation Communication Package / Training of Facilitators

2

Preparation of comprehensive package

Series of workshops to train scenario facilitators

Use of the Scenario Tool

3

By government agencies, civil society, international agencies and others to analyze policy questions, options, common ground, etc within the context of the scenario set



Thank You !