



# MEGASTRAT

**Making Megatrends Applicable For Individual  
Opportunity Forecasts And Strategic  
Development**

**5 Generic Stages of Scenario  
Development**



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## Generic Stages of scenario development

### Introduction to the Generic Stages of scenario development

A generic phase model appears to be a useful guide for creating good scenarios. The tool describes the essential phases for creating a scenario.

### Description

#### What is this tool about

A generic phase model appears to be a useful guide for creating good scenarios. The tool describes the essential phases for creating a scenario. The five generic phases are defined here by Metzger et al. (2010) and date back to Schwartz (1998). The model consists of the identification of the focus question, the identification of the key drivers, the determination of the scenario logic, the description of the scenario assumptions and the assessment of the outcome.

#### For which purposes is it used in LTFS

The generic stages of scenario development covers the basic steps to create a scenario and can be used in almost any environment. It serves as an initial guide to show the necessary steps in creating a scenario.

#### Limitations of the tool (if any)

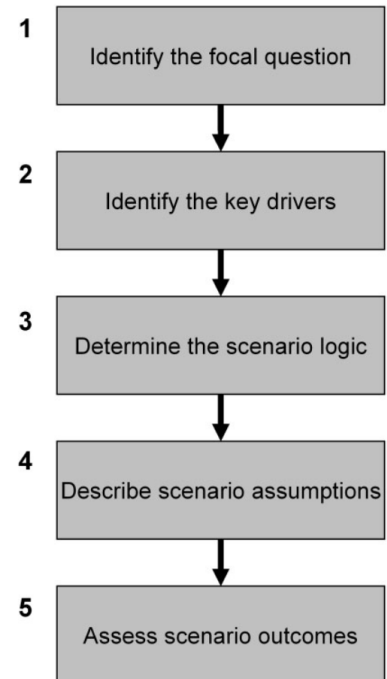
The accuracy of the key drivers and assumptions in a scenario is limited by knowledge gaps or incorrect information. There are processes about which we know little or nothing, accordingly assumptions and drivers are notably uncertain.



## When and how to use this tool

1. **Identify the focal question:** Identify the target of the scenario exercise and define system boundaries in spatial and temporal manner.
2. **Identify the key drivers:** Identify the drivers that affect the focal questions, both directly and indirectly, and determine the most important and uncertain drivers.
3. **Determine the scenario logic:** Define the framework within the scenario assumptions are developed, based on the most important drivers.
4. **Describe scenario assumptions:** Describe the principles and assumptions for the alternative futures using qualitative scenario storylines and trends of the most important drivers.
5. **Asses scenario outcomes:** Assess the Implications or potential impact of the scenario assumptions by either using qualitative storylines and images, or by developing quantitative scenarios based on numeric models.

### Stages in scenario development



## Material needed

## Resources

### Papers:

- Rounsevell, M.D.A. and Metzger, M.J. (2010), Developing qualitative scenario storylines for environmental change assessment. *WIREs Clim Change*, 1: 606-619.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.63>
- Metzger, M. J., M. D. A. Rounsevell, H. Van den Heiligenberg, M. Pérez-Soba, and P. Soto Hardiman. 2010. How personal judgment influences scenario development: an example for future rural development in Europe. *Ecology and Society* 15(2)  
<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol15/iss2/art5/>

### Books:

- Schwartz, P. (1998). *The Art of the Long View: Planning for the Future in an Uncertain World*. John Wiley & Sons.