

Belmont CRA: Scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services

21-22 Oct 2013 - Workshop summary

**Biodiversity futures: projecting changes in
biodiversity and ecosystem services for
decision-making**

Some key definitions

Socio-economic scenarios

or

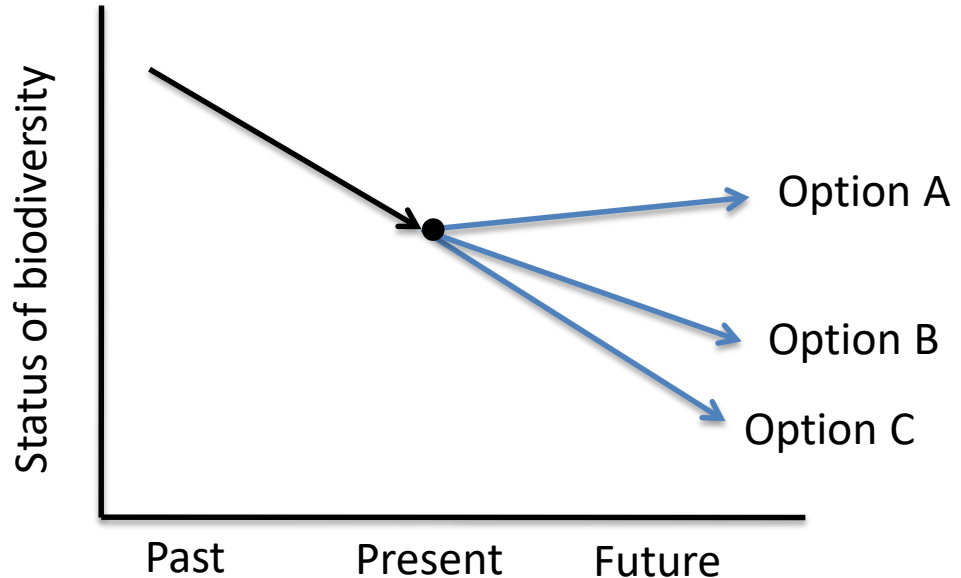
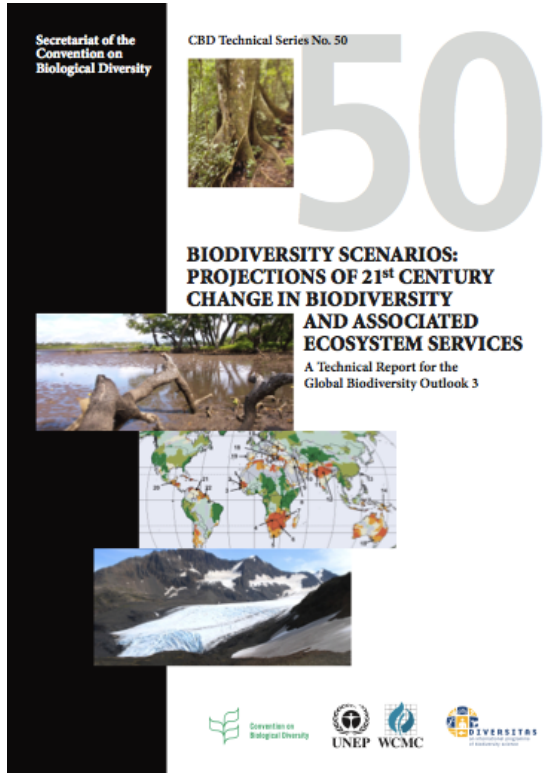
Management options

+

Biodiversity

models

“Biodiversity Scenarios”



Why do we need scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services?

- i) understanding and synthesizing a broad range of observations,
- ii) alerting decision makers to undesirable future impacts of global changes such as land use change, invasive alien species, overexploitation, climate change or pollution,
- iii) providing decision support for developing adaptive management strategies and,
- iv) exploring the implications of alternative social-ecological development pathways and policy options.

The focus of call is on improving the usefulness of scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services for decision making

The objective is to support interdisciplinary research that is highly relevant to national scale decision making, global research programs (e.g., Future Earth), global assessments (e.g., IPBES and IPCC) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g., CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD)

The relevance for IPBES is particularly high

due timing (the IPBES work program will start in 2014), context (IPBES is focusing on assessment past, present and futures of biodiversity and ecosystem services) and the need for knowledge generation in support of assessment activities. In particular, the work program for IPBES includes a guide for scenarios to be developed for 2015 and use of scenarios in thematic, regional and global assessments (2015-2018).

Core of call: Projects must include "Biodiversity Scenarios"; i.e., socio-economic scenarios and/or management options linked with biodiversity models must be at the core of all proposals.

Main themes that must be addressed in proposals:

- Making global biodiversity scenarios relevant for national decision making and vice-versa. This focuses on
 - i) involving decision makers at multiple scales in the definition, development and use of biodiversity scenarios and
 - ii) developing methodologies that link regional and global scale scenarios.
- Multidimensional aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This focuses on providing decision makers with a broader set of indicators.

Additional key issues to be addressed

- Estimation and communication of uncertainty
- Coupling of socio-economic and biodiversity dynamics (e.g., bioeconomic models)
- Model improvement (e.g., inclusion of adaptation of organisms and ecosystems, species interactions, etc.)
- Coupling models across gradients of human transformation in terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems.
- Translating knowledge into action

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Structure of call for proposals

- 1) Rapid funding (one round selection, one-year projects 2014-2015): Networking and capacity building.
- 2) International collaborative research projects (two round selection, 2-3 year projects 2015-2017)

All projects must include partners from at least 3 countries.

All collaborative research projects should include travel funding for a international workshop (potentially coordinated by Future Earth and IPBES) in late 2015 or in 2016.