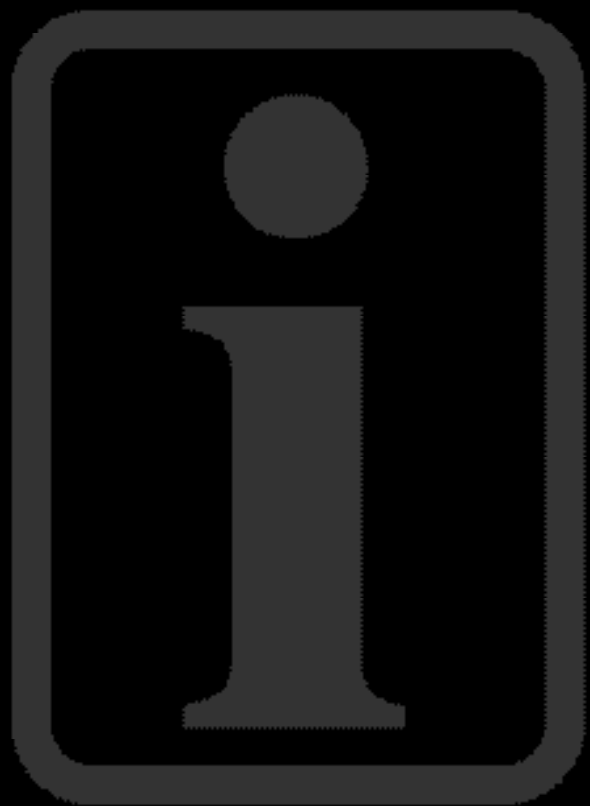


Memories of the Future

South African Scenarios to 2014

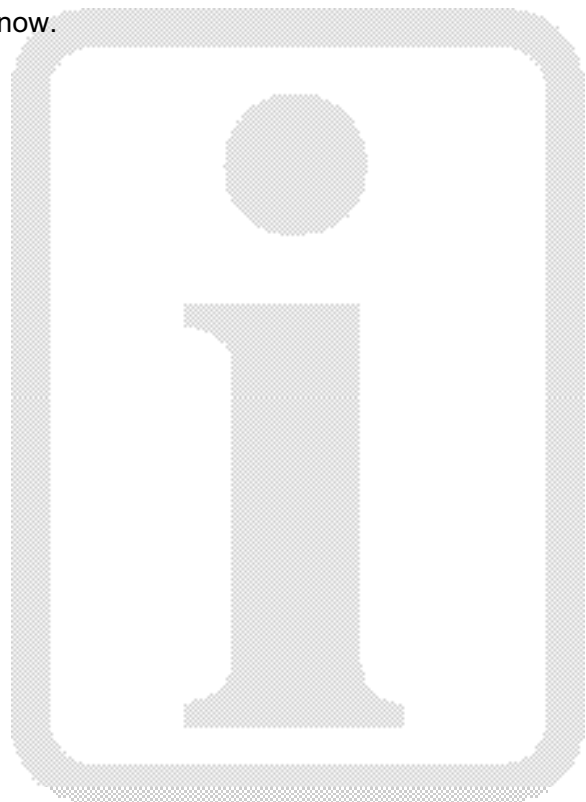


Produced by the Policy Co-ordination and Advisory Services
The Presidency



INTRODUCTION

South African Scenarios 2014 describe relevant and challenging memories of the future that will help us make decisions in the present. These scenarios are a tool for allowing us to think beyond narrow horizons, and to anticipate the unknown. By doing this, we can make better decisions now.



The project has been consultative in conception and execution. A Reference Group of Ministers and a Core Team of Directors General, as well as outside experts, have provided valuable input throughout. A government-wide research workshop for the Ten-Year Review contributed to understanding long-term Key Driving Forces, or KDFs. The involvement of departmental experts, coupled with work at FOSAD in December 2002 and interviews with German and UK institutes, enabled the Team to produce the initial scenarios which were presented to the January Lekgotla.

After reporting to Cabinet in January 2003, further work entailed commissioning in-depth research. The KDFs and storylines were then amended, and presented to focus groups from Business Trust, International Investment Council, labour and NGOs. On the basis of feedback from these focus groups and the Core Team, these revised scenarios are being presented to the July Lekgotla.

Once the project team has received guidance from the July 2003 Cabinet Lekgotla, these scenarios will be used by DG Clusters to test their Ten Year Plans. This will help test the robustness of plans for a wide range of possible outcomes. The scenarios can also be used by Departments and Provinces to test their individual plans.

“I never think about the future. It comes soon enough.”

Albert Einstein.

Scenario planning is not about predicting the future. Rather, scenario planning is about creating various 'alternative futures' that are rooted in an understanding of current social dynamics. Creating plausible alternative futures widens the range of expectations about the future. Policy makers can 'think the unthinkable' and plan accordingly. This enables us to create policy which is robust and yet flexible.

"We will not perceive meaning from the outside world unless it is relevant to an option for the future which we have already worked out in our imagination". - Arie de Geus

"Snapshots of the future are already in the present" - Arie de Geus, Scenario Planner

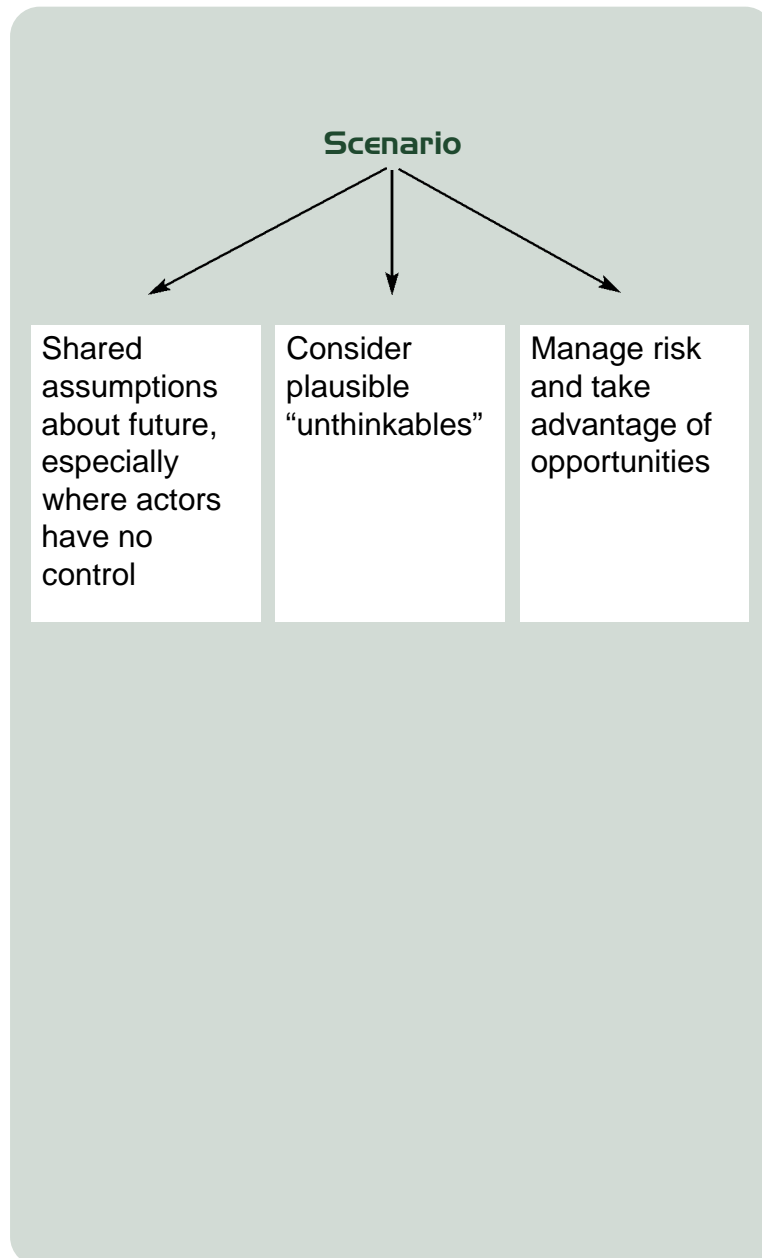
The Inductive Method

Key Driving Forces (KDF's)



Scenarios & Storylines

- No Precise Answer
- Not Forecasting but a broad sweep of relevant, plausible and challenging possibilities



In five months' time, it will be 2004.

In 17 months' time, it will be 2005.

In 120 months' time, it will be 2014.

"Those who have knowledge, don't predict. Those who predict, don't have knowledge."

Lao Tzu, 6th Century BC

Chinese

Poet and Strategist

Where have we come from?

Going back just one generation:

1964: **The Rivonia Treason Trialists begin their term of life imprisonment** for "conspiring to commit acts of sabotage in preparation for guerilla warfare".

1974: **The National Party wins its sixth General Election in a row.** The Riotous Assemblies Amendment Act is passed.

1984: **The new Tricameral Parliament begins its first sitting in three separate but "equal" chambers, sparking nationwide protests and mass action.** South Africa and Mozambique sign the Nkomati Accord.

1994: **South Africa holds its first democratic election.** The first non-racial democratic government is elected, and Nelson Mandela is inaugurated as President.

2014: **What will South Africa and the world look like in 2014?** How will policy cope with the possible landscapes of the future? How will current policy contribute to shaping these possible futures?