DEVELOPING PLAUSIBLE SCENARIOS

PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of this discussion is to start engaging with the inherent uncertainty of the future, by thinking of alternative plausible development trajectories for your system. The questions below are designed to stimulate thinking about the future that integrates insights from the horizon scanning (work card 23), with your evolving system understanding, and with the developing change narrative, in a way that prepares you for developing strategies for change in Phase 4.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• How would some of the key drivers of change, currently acting on the system as well as emerging ones, influence your system dynamics moving forward? Keep in mind the previous analysis of system feedbacks, thresholds, and traps and phases of change.

• How would different future trajectories, and the benefits they entail, be more or less desirable for different groups of people?

• Which trajectories would best be able to fulfill the aspirations held in the system by the widest number of stakeholders, and are there other trajectories that are clearly undesirable for everyone?
• Does the scenario analysis suggest or reveal any critical future decision points where action is needed to avoid certain thresholds, or to more fundamentally redirect the system’s trajectory?

• Does the analysis reveal any new potential opportunities that have not been considered before?

• What are the main uncertainties about the future?