



# DECISION TREE TO SUPPORT THE ARTICULATION OF AN OVERARCHING GOAL

## PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

The purpose of this activity is to inform a discussion among stakeholders/coalition members regarding the main goal of the Wayfinder process. The goal should bring together people's aspirations and some expression of the dilemmas being addressed with the level of change required (adaptation, transformation, etc. The goal is more specific than the broad aspirations stated in the beginning of the process. It is also based on a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities of the system. Articulating a high-level goal for the process is important for the remainder of the Wayfinder process as the goal captures the intent of what stakeholders in the system want to achieve and why. See also related discussion guide.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

Required skills: Moderate facilitation skills

Time: 2-3 hours

Materials: recording materials

## HOW TO DO IT

### STEP 1

Start this exercise by refreshing participants memory about the differences between adaptive and transformative change.

*Adaptation is a gradual process, whereby a system adjusts its behavior in response to ongoing change. It refers to sustaining, innovating and improving a system on the current trajectory of development. Many of the development challenges that we face today are so severe that adaptation will not be enough.*

*Transformation reflects a radical form of system change, whereby people intervene to deliberately “rewire” the system so that dominating social-ecological system interactions change. This “rewiring” creates a new development trajectory, which is substantially different in terms of the outcomes it over time will produce*

#### **STEP 2**

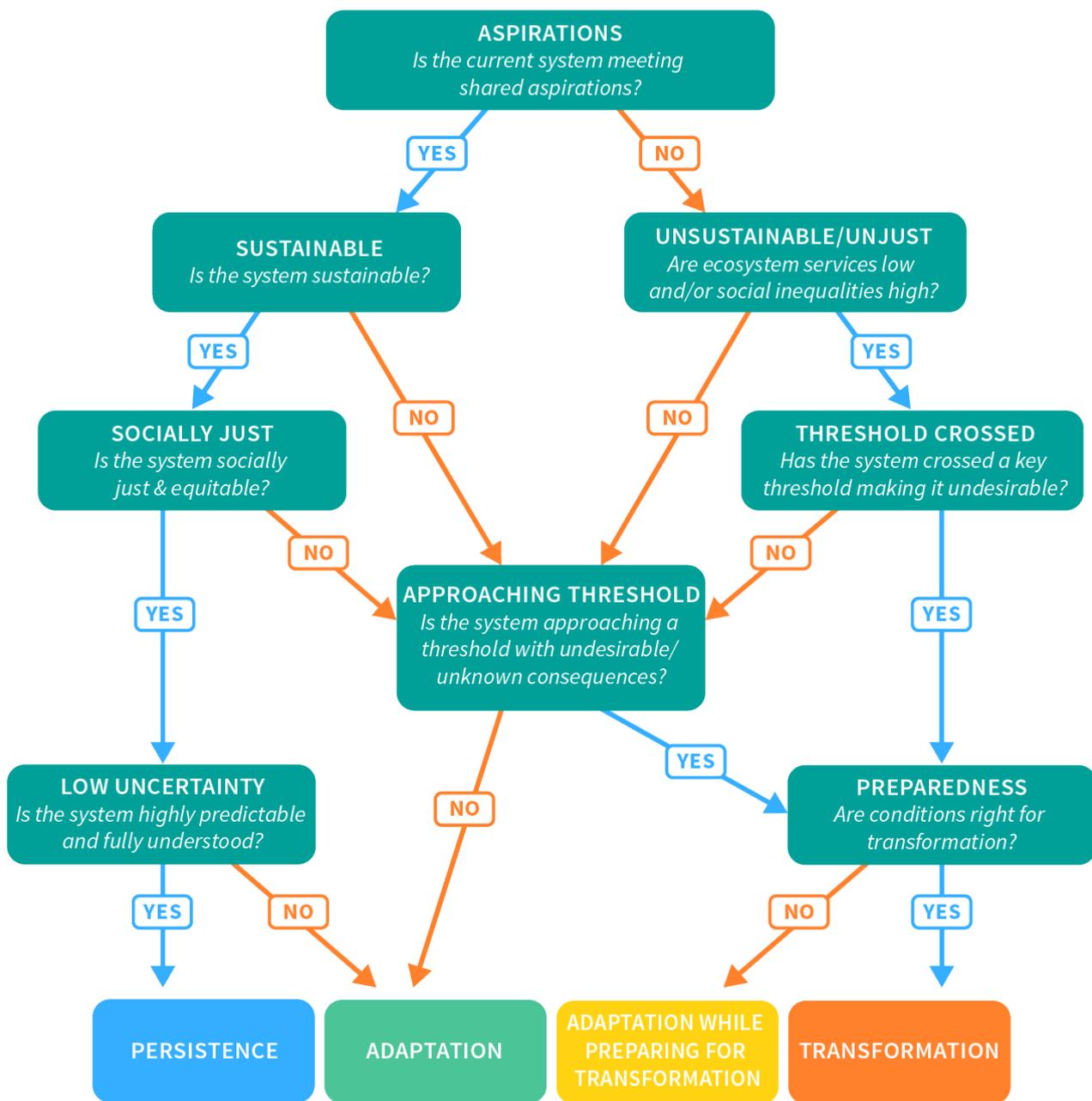
Use the decision tree figure and the accompanying table below to discuss what level of change that will be required in your system. While working through the decision tree use the questions to stimulate discussions and record any supporting evidence and underlying assumptions for each decision point.

#### **STEP 3**

Try to articulate a high-level goal for the Wayfinder process that integrate the dilemmas, the level of change and the aspirations.

## **TIPS**

Although the decision tree treats these goals as discrete, remember that different levels of change might be needed for different system parts or scales. The answers to the questions will not always simple yes/no, but will often have to be more nuanced and descriptive.



<b>Decision point question</b>	<b>Yes/No/Descriptive answer</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Underlying Assumptions</b>
ASPIRATIONS Is the current system meeting shared aspirations?			
SUSTAINABLE Is the system sustainable?			
UNSUSTAINABLE/UNJUST Are ecosystem services low and/or social inequalities high?			
SOCIALLY JUST Is the system socially just & equitable?			
THRESHOLD CROSSED Has the system crossed a threshold making it undesirable?			
UNCERTAINTY Is the system highly predictable and well understood?			
APPROACHING THRESHOLD Is the system approaching a threshold with undesirable/unknown consequences?			
PREPAREDNESS Are conditions right for transformation?			
LEVEL OF CHANGE What level of change will be required to address dilemmas?			