IMAGINE –
A FIRST IN MALTA

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- CAMP Malta Project - Between 2000 and 2002 was the first project which included IMAGINE (then still called Systemic Sustainability Analysis, then Systemic and Prospective Sustainability Analysis) as a key project in the whole exercise

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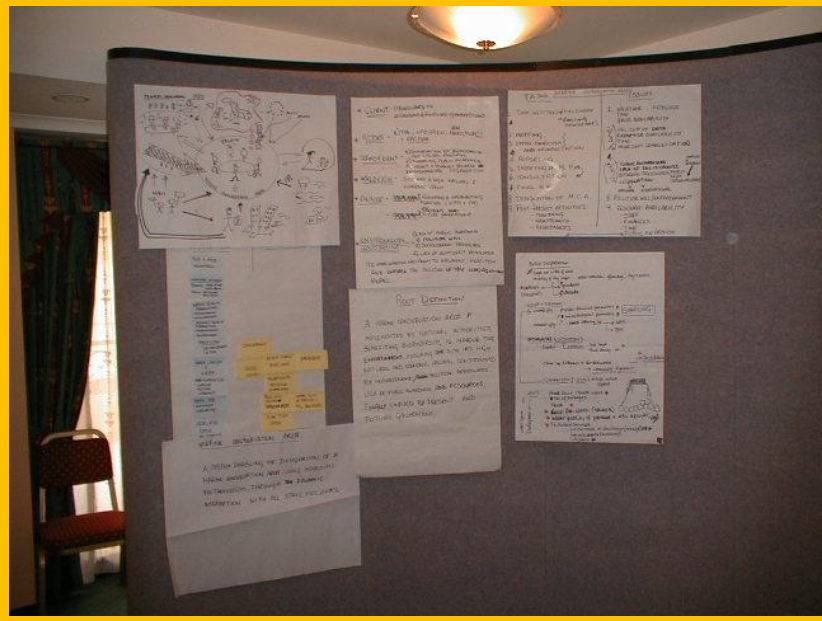
- IMAGINE one of three cross-cutting projects. The individual thematic projects were:

- Sustainable Coastal Management
- Marine Conservation Areas
- Integrated Water Resources Management
- Erosion/Desertification Control Management
- Tourism and Health

- The other two cross-cutting activities were:

- Participatory Programme
- Data Management



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The main objectives of IMAGINE (Malta) were:

- **to contribute to efforts towards a sustainable development of the island, and in particular of its north-west area by preparing a set of sustainability indicators and a systemic sustainability analysis, to be made on the primary basis of a description and assessment of the level of sustainability by consideration of the main indicators and the process which generated them;**

- **to introduce and apply the systemic sustainability analysis as a specific tool for empowering sustainable management, in this case coastal and marine areas;**

- **to contribute to the preparation of comprehensive integrated final Project documents, by presenting significant analysis; and,**

- **to create inputs of interest for the programme and activities of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development.**

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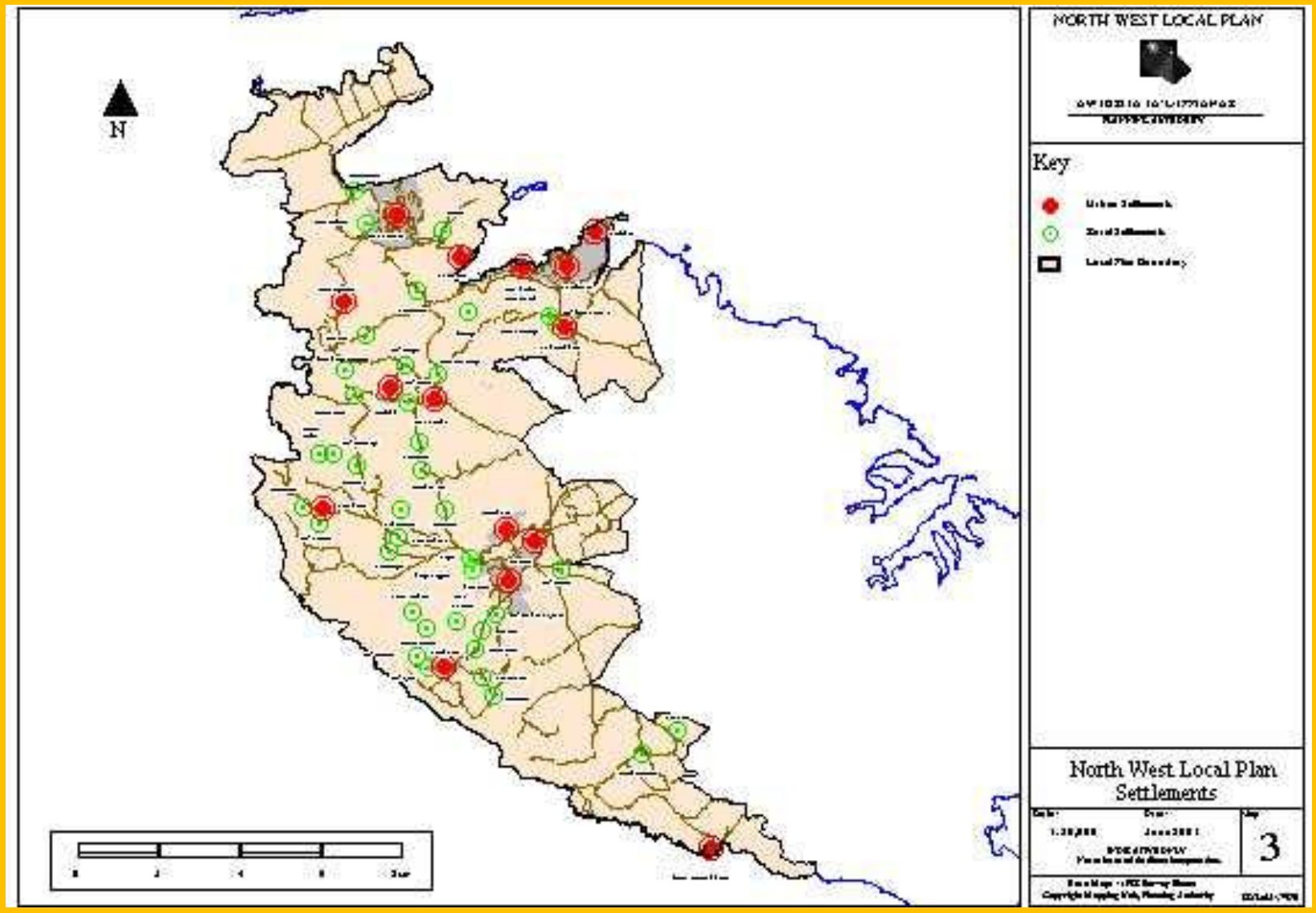

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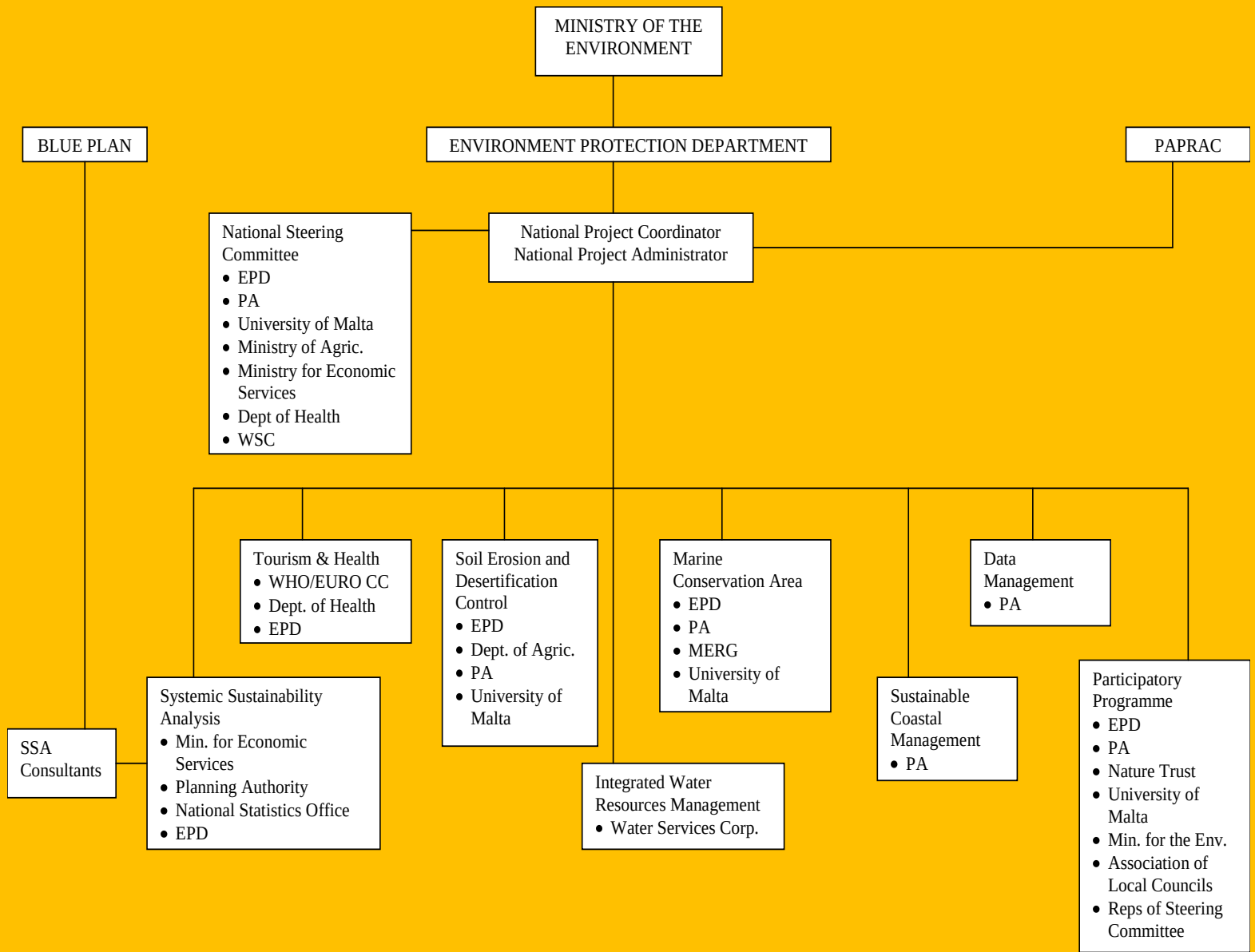

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- The main achievement of IMAGINE has been that it has brought the various thematic groups together and was one of the few occasions when all teams met and discussed their individual projects and problems.

- This project introduced the dimension of sustainable development to the thematic projects through the formulation of sustainability indicators and what do these indicate in terms of potential future scenarios.

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- The prospective dimension of IMAGINE has been important in extending the use of SIs from simply indicators of the current situation to indicators of possible future situations, thus becoming a planning tool to determine what policies need to be taken and which actions are to be implemented to achieve the desired scenario.

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Participation at workshops averaged between 15 and 25 participants.

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- The IMAGINE exercise has also offered its proponents an opportunity to test the approach and identify what elements worked and which did not work as expected in the context of the Maltese situation.

- This instigated some changes to the approach particularly the involvement of stakeholders from the project conception stage so as to encourage ownership of the project from an early stage.

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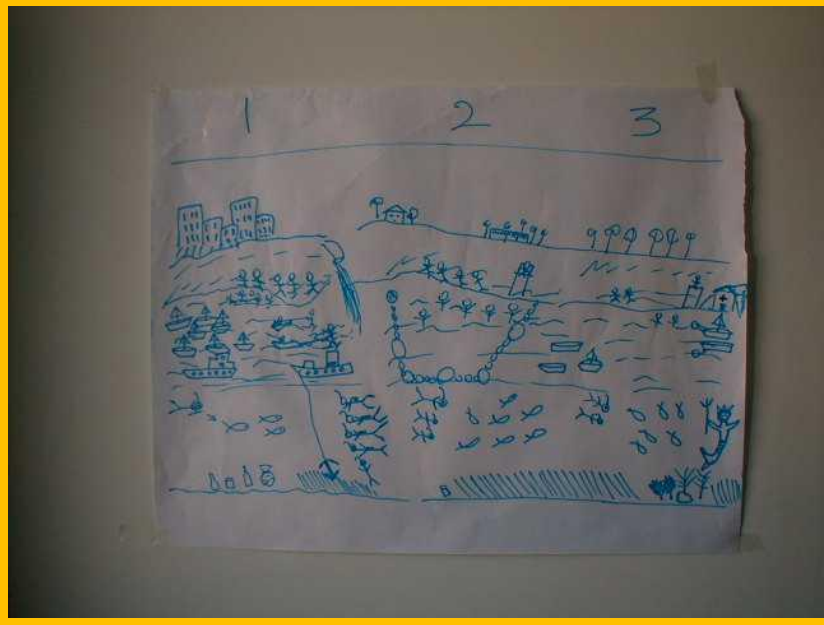
- The project also indicated that the level of understanding of sustainable development varies between participants and this may have restricted the active participation of specific stakeholders. For example, when asked to identify bands of equilibrium it was only some NGOs who responded.



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Indicateur	Domaine	Polarité	Note	Maximum	Minimum	2000
Scheduled/protected areas in NW	1	>	% of the total coastal area of the NW	80	65	66
Abandoned agricultural land	1	>	% of total agricultural land	25	7	15
Fish farms in the NW	1	<	number of farms	5	2	5
Cars travelling through the NW	1	<	number of cars during peak	3000	1000	4500
Marine vessels in the NW	1	<	number of marine craft during peak weekend	700	400	1000
Enforcement actions by PA	1	>	annual number of cases	60	25	68
Marine conservation/protected areas	1	>	% of coastal length	20	10	0
Diving in the NW	1	<	No. of dives	40000	15000	55000
Bathing water quality	1	>	% of samples meeting acceptable levels of faecal coliforms (<1000mg/l)	95	85	98.3
Number of breaches in rubble walls	1	<	No. of breaches	10	5	11
Pollution in ground water	1	<	Level of nitrate (mg/l)	50	25	65.27
Unemployed as a % of working population	2	<	% of working population in NW	3	1	1.8
Full time farmers	2	>	% of total farmers	50	40	44
Tourist accommodation occupancy - winter	2	>	occupancy % during winter	55	35	26
Employment in tourism	2	>	fulltime employees in NW % of total	25	15	14
No. of claims for storm damage	2	<	No. of annual claims	50	25	72
TSE recycled water	2	>	% of water consumed	80	50	4.6
leaked water	2	<	cubic metres per hour	600	300	1200
level of bunkering operations	2	<	% of total operations in Malta	20	5	19.3
Population growth in the NW	4	>	annual rate of growth	5	2	1.4
population density in NW	4	>	population per sq km	500	300	328
Beach closure	4	<	number of days during summer	15	2	25
Tourist resident ratio -summer	4	X	daily tourists as a % of residents	95	70	136
Gastroenteritis outbreaks in NW	4	<	No. of total outbreaks in a year	3	1	5
Quality of drinking water (1)	4	<	Level of chloride (mg/l)	800	200	517
Quality of drinking water (2)	4	<	Level of nitrate (mg/l)	50	15	56
Quality of bathing water	4	>	No. of points obtained on faecal coliform readings	50	35	40

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- A total of 63 SIs were identified for the five thematic projects. A Table listing all SIs and the relationship between each SI was also presented.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	SUSTAINABLE COASTAL MANAGEMENT												
1	Scheduled/protected areas in NW												
2	Applications granted - agriculture												
3	Abandoned agricultural land												
4	Fish farms in the NW												
5	Bunkering operations in NW												
6	Hardstone quarries												
7	Cars travelling through the NW												
8	Marine vessels in the NW												
9	Full time farmers												
10	Fish catch												
11	Tourist accommodation occupancy - winter												
12	Employment in tourism												
13	Population growth in the NW												
14	population density in NW												
15	Full time fishermen												
16	Beach closure												
17	Tourist resident ratio -summer												
18	Marine conservation/protected areas												
19	Diving in the NW												
	TOURISM AND HEALTH												
20	Gastroenteritis cases												
22	Pest control												
23	Sea water quality												
	SOIL EROSION & DESERTIFICATION												
24	Rills and gullies												
25	Monetary compensation for storm damage												
26	Breaches in rubble walls												
27	Hunting and trapping sites per catchment area												
	INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANG.												
28	Quality of drinking water												
29	Use index												
30	Water consumption												
31	Pollution in groundwater												
	MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS												
32	phc in effluent (bunkering)												
33	Marine vessels in MCA												
34	Complaints by visitors												

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Where it not for IMAGINE the various thematic groups would have rarely met and discussed issues relating to their individual project.

More integration of the project teams and their activities would have been appropriate in the light of the Final Integrated Project document. On various occasions the teams expressed concern over a lack of knowledge of what other projects are doing and it was mainly during the IMAGINE sessions that such information was presented.

It is important that any future CAMP projects consider the various projects as one whole exercise and provides for the mechanisms whereby interaction and integration between projects is more frequent and a vital aspect of CAMP projects.

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Secondly, were it not for the project teams and their commitment to their individual projects, CAMP would have faltered. Support from the heads of the organizations was not so forthcoming as one would expect and more involvement of the relevant Ministries and Parliamentary Secretaries is warranted, particularly in view of the continuation of the projects. The CAMP (Malta) project sparked a series of activities which departments and government agencies proposed and saw as important. Therefore, the exercise should not have ended with CAMP. Without the political support and the support of the heads of the various agencies continuity is uncertain. The Marine Conservation Area project progressed.

One of the main shortcomings of the overall project was that certain aspects of the projects were not allocated the required time and it often seemed that time to certain tasks was allocated as 'charity'. The time allocated to the IMAGINE workshops, for example, an occasion when teams met and discussed various issues was seen as a burden by many and often participation was not as expected. IMAGINE was introduced into CAMP (Malta) at a late stage and therefore it was not included in the thematic projects' Terms of Reference. It needed to be entrenched from the start.

With regard to IMAGINE it was healthy to see the participation of the various stakeholders and their discussion of sustainable development and SIs. It was also positive to see sectors which do not usually meet discussing common concern e.g. tourism and agriculture.

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Another positive aspect emerged during the workshop discussions where teams would discuss issues in a systemic and integrated manner and together seek common solutions. This shows that such positive exchanges are possible between different sectors.

Unfortunately, IMAGINE did not progress further after the end of the CAMP (Malta) Project. This was because the IMAGINE Project had no ownership by any entity to ensure its continuation after the end of CAMP (Malta). Nonetheless, there were opportunities to present this approach as part of the DEDUCE workshop held in Malta.

The DEDUCE Project had the objective to evaluate the utility of SIs for an optimal decision-making at European coasts, following the principles and criteria established by the EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. This was a transnational project supported by Interreg IIIC – South Community Initiative Programme. Some of the SIs identified are similar to the ones identified as part of the IMAGINE project, although the methodology was different. A presentation was made of the IMAGINE approach mainly to create an awareness of this tool and its potential in taking SIs further into scenario building and policy formulation.

Thank you