

Pacific Migration Futures: A scenario approach

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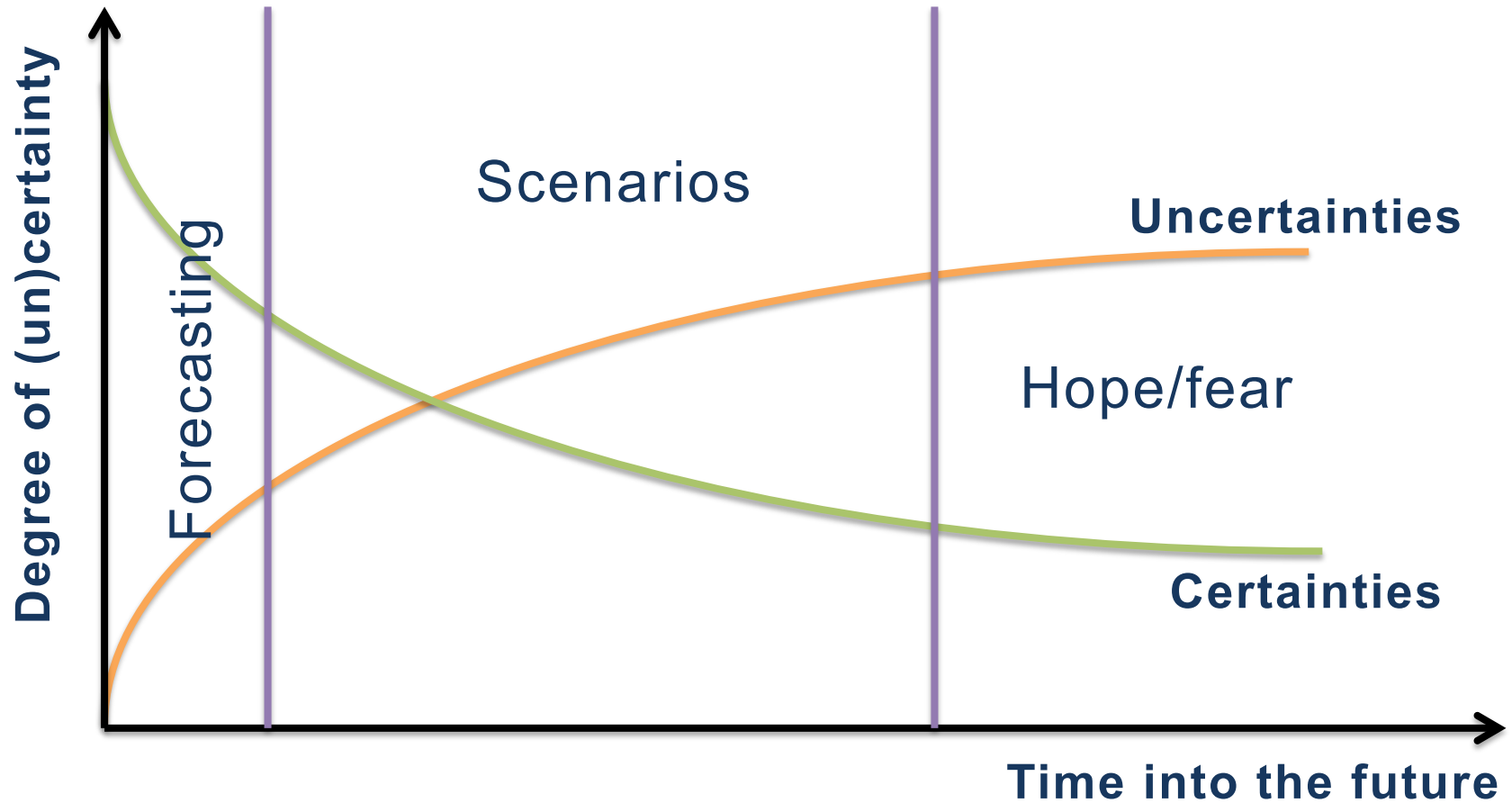
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When to use scenarios



Modified from Van der Heijden 2005

I. Project Overview and IMI's Migration Scenario Methodology

II. Pacific in 2030: Pacific Buffet

**III. What we can learn about migration drivers from scenarios?
Analysing 'relative uncertainties' for the Pacific in 2030**

**IV. Key insights about future migration in the region for researchers
and policy makers**

Final report available on IMI's website:

<http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/research-projects-pdfs/gmf-pdfs/global-migration-futures-pacific-region-final-report>

IMI's Migration Scenario Methodology: What are scenarios?

Scenarios are stories about possible future drivers and patterns of migration. They explore potential changes in the broader context within which migration takes shape to understand possible migration outcomes.

- Focus on possibility, not probability; **scenarios are not predictions**
- Effective scenarios must challenge the *status quo*
- Tools to prompt innovative thinking about future migration, its opportunities, its challenges, and potential policy responses
- No single scenario attempts to get the future 'right', rather a set of scenarios may offer a range of valuable insights

IMI's Migration Scenario Methodology: Relative certainties

Relative certainties are *long-term trends or forces* that

- we understand relatively well
- we know influence almost all aspects of society at all levels*

The analysis of relative certainties help us to

- identify *continuities* and *discontinuities*
- assess what is *plausible* to occur within the time horizon (2030)
- explain the *impact* of these factors *on migration*

* Strategic Futures Studies, Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies, 2008

IMI's Migration Scenario Methodology:

Relative certainties

Political

EXTERNAL

- ▶ Increasing geo-political importance of Pacific
- ▶ Increasing influence of China in Pacific Islands

Economic

REGIONAL ECONOMY

- ▶ Persisting Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) economies of scale relative to Pacific Islands
- ▶ Closer ANZ economic relations

FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS

- ▶ Increasing net FDI in Pacific
- ▶ Increasing foreign aid dependency
- ▶ Increasing interest in Pacific natural resources by foreign companies

Social

EDUCATION

- ▶ Increasing education aspirations
- ▶ Improving education access
- ▶ Increasing literacy

HEALTH

- ▶ Declining maternal mortality

CULTURE

- ▶ Persisting Pacific norms and cultures
- ▶ Persisting importance of kinship ties

Demographic

URBAN

- ▶ Urbanisation

POPULATION

- ▶ Youth bulge in Melanesia
- ▶ Declining fertility
- ▶ Population growth in absolute terms
- ▶ Ageing population ANZ, EU, North America
- ▶ High youth population in Pacific Islands relative to ANZ

MIGRATION

- ▶ Growing Pacific diaspora

Environmental

SLOW ONSET CLIMATE CHANGE

- ▶ Rising sea levels

LAND

- ▶ Persisting importance of customary land tenure

Technological

INFORMATION AND NETWORKS

- ▶ Advancing ICT
- ▶ Increasing ICT usage and connectivity

IMI's Migration Scenario Methodology: Key Uncertainties

Factors that *have two (or more) possible outcomes*, which are *relevant to migration* in the *time frame* for which you are to make scenarios

- Identifying and analysing key uncertainties is **the most important component** of the scenario methodology, for it is the evolution of various uncertainties that determine the different, yet plausible, future migration scenarios
- Often it is the more uncertain factors for which we are the **least prepared**

IMI's Migration Scenario Methodology: Key Uncertainties

Political

NATIONAL

- ▶ Immigration/emigration policies
- ▶ Political restructuring and reform, especially Melanesia
- ▶ Political instability and conflict

PACIFIC REGION

- ▶ Shifting geopolitics in Pacific
- ▶ Regional integration and cooperation
- ▶ Strengthening of sub-regions
- ▶ Territorialisation of Pacific waters

INTERNATIONAL

- ▶ Influence of China and Asia in Pacific
- ▶ US/China relations in Pacific

Economic

NATIONAL

- ▶ Relative economic growth
- ▶ Supply of and demand for skilled labour
- ▶ Economic development agendas

REGIONAL

- ▶ Regional economic integration

INTERNATIONAL

- ▶ Global economic volatility
- ▶ Global financial recovery
- ▶ Foreign investment in Pacific
- ▶ Diversification and expansion of remittances

Social

MIGRATION

- ▶ Social polarisation between migrants and non-migrants
- ▶ Erosion of traditions and cultures
- ▶ PICTs' attitudes towards migration
- ▶ Media & public portrayal of migrants and asylum seekers in ANZ
- ▶ PICTs and NZ as attractive destinations to settle
- ▶ Extent of diaspora engagement in Pacific

EDUCATION

- ▶ Education access and quality
- ▶ Education outsourcing
- ▶ Technical & professional skill levels
- ▶ English language proficiency

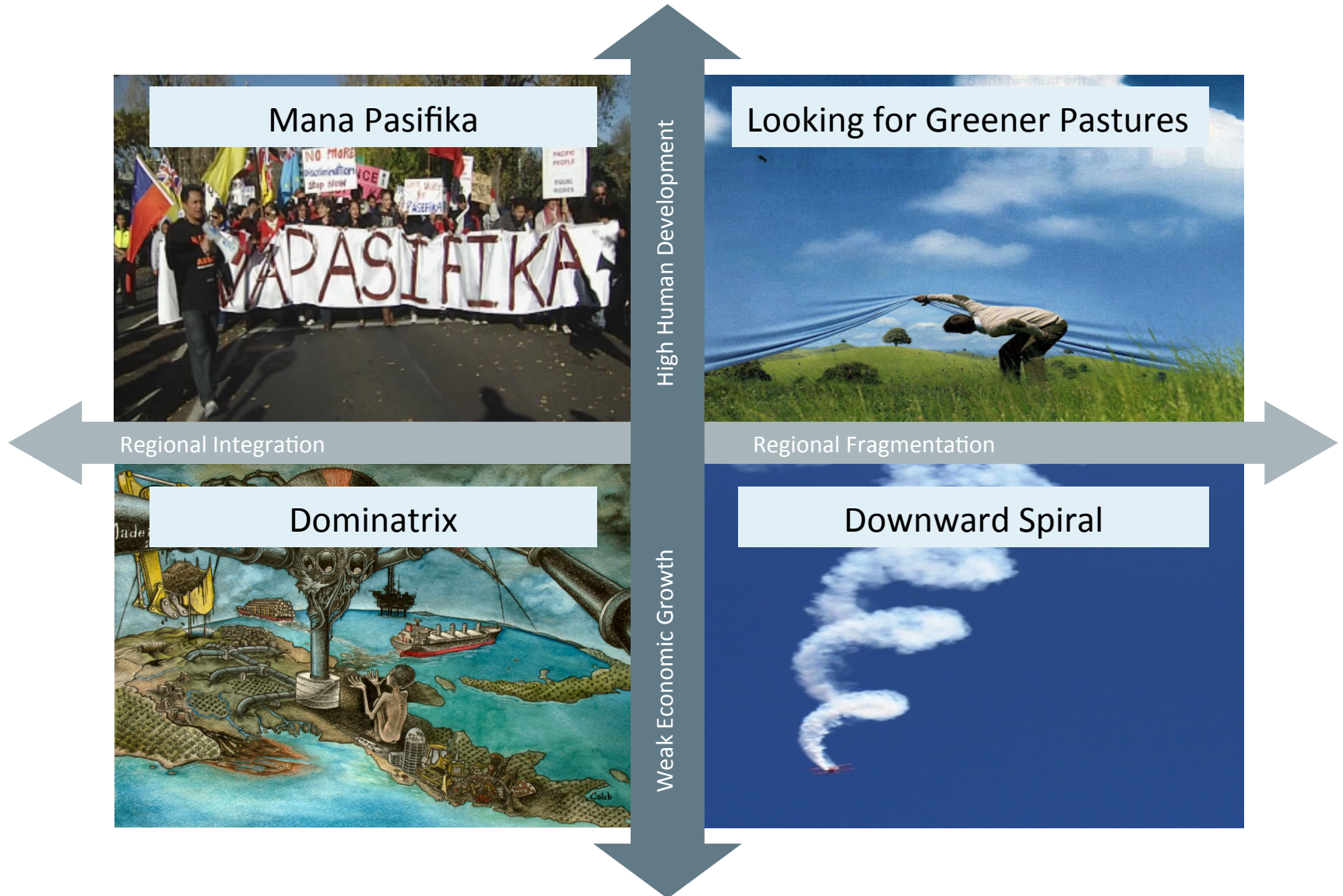
HEALTH

- ▶ Healthcare access and quality

GENDER

- ▶ Changing gender roles

Pacific in 2030



Pacific Buffet

*A future of increased
privatisation and
economic growth
driven by a natural
resource boom in
many Pacific countries*



Strong Economic Growth

Political instability and conflict

Pacific Buffet

Headlines in 'Pacific Buffet'

Mallion Oil & Gas
secure majority
stake in Papua
New Guinea's
exploration
licences
(2014)



Pacific Islands
make strides to
convert urbanisation
challenges to
opportunities
(2020)

2 Chinese
nationals killed
in renewed
violence in
Honiara
(2024)



Pacific region
becomes a hub
for off-shore
banking (2028)

2010

2015

2020

2025

2030



Port Moresby's
slums on the rise
as population
doubles in less
than a decade
(2019)

Samoa voted
world's best eco-
tourism
destination
(2023)

Solomon Islands:
new gold
deposits to
benefit locals,
officials say
(2026)

Analyzing uncertain future drivers of migration using scenarios: Customary land tenure

Mana Pasifika – Eco growth and regional integration

- Maori experience of slowly reclaiming sovereignty and the right to self-determination
- The cultural differences among PICTs have been revived and strengthened
- Development of both communal and Pasifika identities. These identities are particularly strong within younger generations.
- Customary land a source of increased equality; responsible management
- Updated system

Pacific Buffet – Ego growth driven by natural resources and pol stability

- Customary land tenure replaced by private and commercial ownership
- Increase in the exploration for oil gas and mineral deposits, esp. by foreign companies (oil in PNG, nickel and gold on Fiji, gold in Sol Is.)
- Higher rates of urbanisation than anticipated; displacement to cities
- Corruption has remained a significant challenge
- Land disputes, inter-communal tensions + violence → internal displacement

Analyzing uncertain future drivers of migration using scenarios: Shifting geopolitics

Mana Pasifika– Eco growth and regional integration

- PICTs more active in regional and global politics
- Formation of ‘Mana Pasifika’
- Union is eager to engage China, which continues to have a strong presence in region
- Rise in influence of Diaspora on region
- Global distribution of power largely unchanged; US slightly weaker
- Re-energized relations between ANZ and PICTs

Pacific Buffet– Ego growth driven by natural resources and pol stability

- Strengthening of international trade between PICTs and countries outside
- In PNG, foreign companies have nearly exclusive exploration rights
- In Sol Is, a Chinese state-owned enterprise has largest stake in exploration rights. Chinese companies developed much of infrastructure
- Rise of humanitarian and development assistance structures.
- ANZ economies continue to expand

Insights about future patterns of mobility in the Pacific

Mana Pasifika

- Free movement in the region
- Increase in migration flows to/from China
- Increase in high skilled immigration and student migration at the tertiary level
- Increase in intra-regional mobility, which is more circular and temporary
- Increase in tourism
- Migration has become a key engine for human development
- Migrant remittances are more targeted and more effectively harnessed
- Diasporas are more active in Pacific affairs

Pacific Buffet

- Privatization of land leading to higher-than-anticipated rates of urbanisation
- Development-induced displacement
- Increased socio-economic inequalities contributing to increased intra-regional mobility, esp. to A+NZ, Fiji, PNG
- Some internal displacement and irregular migration to A+NZ, caused by land disputes and conflict
- Rise in overseas higher skilled workers
- Emigration of the skilled (middle)

Insights about future patterns of mobility in the Pacific

Other insights and key questions

- Technological change
- Movement to cities
- New emigration destination
- Pacific diasporas

Insights from the process

I thought the workshop was an interesting exercise that highlighted the diversity of views across the Pacific. I was regularly surprised that each individual in my group had comments that seemed to reflect their own national circumstances. So even though everyone was very knowledgeable about factors affecting migration from their country's perspective we all had a lot to learn about migration in the region (myself included). I think it really demonstrates that people-to-people links in the Pacific region are fairly weak and that the region is quite fragmented – hence the workshop was useful to promote this awareness. In terms of policy I think this means we need to tread carefully and try to promote information-sharing as much as possible.

LABOUR MOBILITY & TRADE, PACIFIC DIVISION, AUSAID

I learnt so much from the Scenarios planning, and have certainly applied some of the techniques ... in some of my practical problem-solving with Pacific counterparts and New Zealand employers over the last few months here in the RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employer) space at the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

RSE; SETTLEMENT, PROTECTION & ATTRACTION DIVISION;
IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND; MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT

