

SAAREMAA · SCENARIO EXPLORATION SYSTEM

Two levers, four futures, played twice.



What twenty land-use tokens did about it.

ACT! SUMMER SCHOOL · TARTU



HOW THE SCENARIO RAN

Left to Itself

– – · five, ten and twenty years

5 yrs

An unprecedented storm wrecks farmland and knocks out power. Every actor builds defences: windbreaks and wave breaks, protected crops and houses, buried cables, climate monitoring.

10 yrs

The robotics boom arrives. The table turns it into a workforce question and a quality question — retraining for drones and systems, and a law making large owners spend part of the gain on ecosystem condition.

20 yrs

A national security threat lands and everything becomes preparedness: pooled resources across Baltic states, localised supply chains, resilient infrastructure. Nobody argues.

WHERE THE LAND ENDED UP

4₋₁

Protected

8₋₁

Production

5₋

Multi-functional

3₊₂

Built

HOW THE SCENARIO RAN

Wanted Twice

+ + · five, ten and twenty years

5 yrs

Global trade tensions open the scenario. Business campaigns for coexistence — the local cow grazing under turbines — while the EU presses for less invasive corridors and the C.S.O. asks for the cable to go underground.

10 yrs

Great rural hollowing is drawn, against the logic of this scenario. Business expands regardless: conditions are right, capital is there, almost nothing is in the way. A production token becomes built.

20 yrs

A hazard develops in the Baltic. The table converges on local government's move, Business scales its sites, and the C.S.O. — bought out of every option — stops.

WHERE THE LAND ENDED UP

5₋

Protected

8₋₁

Production

4₋₁

Multi-functional

3₊₂

Built

BOTH EXPLORATIONS

Where the land ended up

Twenty tokens, moved by the players.

	Start	Left to Itself (- -)	Wanted Twice (+ +)
Protected	5	4 -1	5
Production	9	8 -1	8 -1
Multi-functional	5	5	4 -1
Built	1	3 +2	3 +2

Each phase started again from the same twenty tokens.

Built land grew either way

Built land started at one token. In both explorations it finished at three. Two futures set on opposite policy levers, and the direction of travel for built land was identical.

Left to Itself



BUILT

Wanted Twice



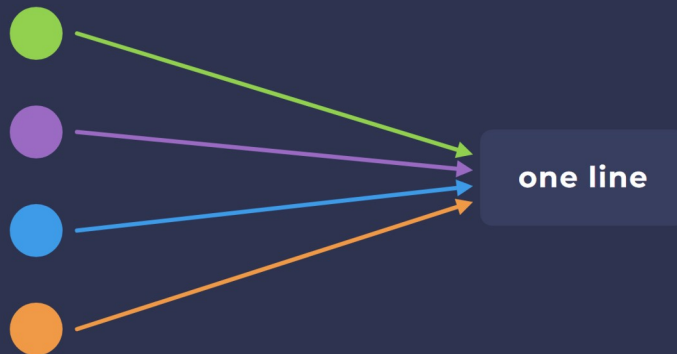
BUILT

The build-out was not what the scenarios controlled. What they decided was which land paid for it.

Crisis made us agree

A storm in round one and a security threat in round three pushed every actor into a united front. The path forward felt obvious and almost nothing was contested.

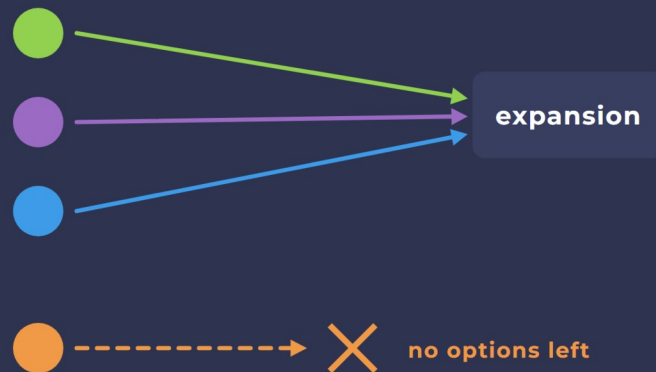
FOUR ACTORS



Emergency framing collapses the plurality of interests a land-use decision normally carries. Agreement arrived, the trade-offs were never argued, and a protected token moved anyway.

Abundance did the same thing

In Wanted Twice capital was sufficient and almost nothing stood in the way of expansion. By round three the civil society actor had been collaborated out of every option and could only stop.

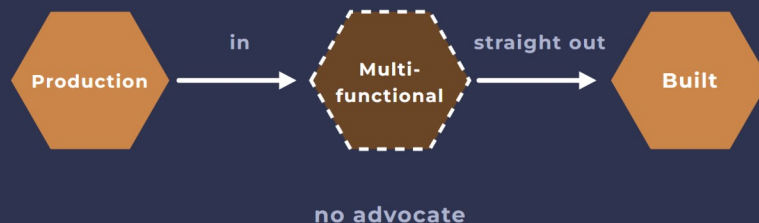


Crisis and abundance are opposite conditions that produced the same table: one effective voice. Participation needs friction to mean anything.

Nobody spoke for the middle

Multi-functional land means extensive use, where production means intensive. It was never anyone's objective: in one scenario it took a token from production and passed one straight to built, in the other it simply lost one.

WHERE THE TOKENS WENT

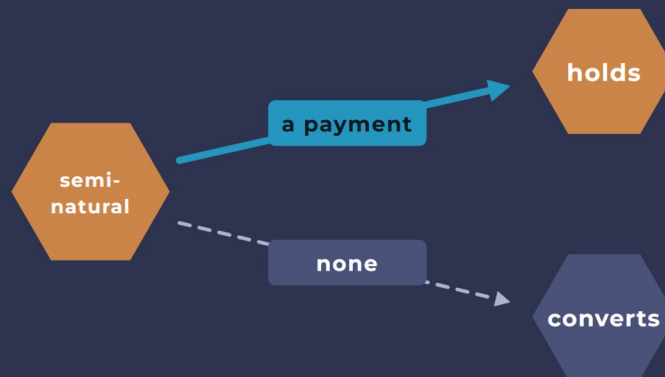


The C.S.O. is the actor you would expect to defend the extensive middle. In neither scenario did the conditions leave it able or inclined to — and that is exactly where Saaremaa's alvars and wooded meadows sit.

What this says about the island

Energy and infrastructure arrive with a mechanism behind them: capital, targets, corridors, a schedule. Semi-natural land arrives with a payment, or with nothing at all.

ONE SEMI-NATURAL HECTARE



Where the payment exists, the land holds. Where it does not, the land converts. That is a claim about how instruments are designed.

What we can now answer

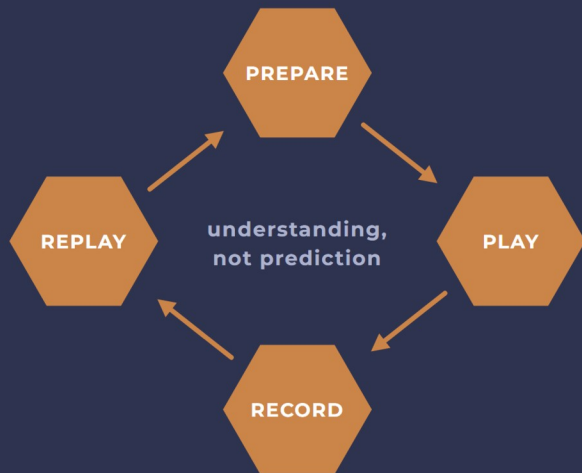
Q1 What are critical driving forces or future events that could affect Saaremaa's future land-use?

Two proved decisive: the orientation of CAP payments, and the rate of renewable build-out — chosen from thirty STEEPVL factors on high importance and high uncertainty. Around them, twelve variable drivers and five megatrends supplied the events.

Q2 What possible land-use strategies adopted by stakeholders in Saaremaa could be envisioned in different scenarios in the horizon of 20–30 years?

Four scenarios, two of them played out to twenty years. Every actor's strategy is on record round by round — and in both futures built land tripled, while the land that paid for it changed.

What the system actually produced



- 1 Believable, but not a simulation. We produced conditions, not a forecast of 2045.
- 2 Preparation decided the session, not the play.
- 3 The record is the output. It can be checked, argued with, and acted on.
- 4 Half of every result is design. So replay it with a different table.

What we would change

- 1 National security risk is too strong. It unites the table, so no conflict develops.
- 2 Great rural hollowing does not fit the scenario framework at all.
- 3 Add a farming business seat. Energy and farming want the same land.
- 4 Refusing a collaboration is a real move. Nobody used it.
- 5 Add energy megatrends. None of the five is about energy.

Thank you for your attention.



Questions welcome.

