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Can scenario planning catalyse transformational change? Evaluating a climate change policy case study in Mali

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Highlights:

- Scenario planning has the potential to enable networking and learning across boundary
- Scenario process alone may not be sufficient to stimulate transformational change
- For institutional and policy transformation to occur, a more extended learning process is required
- Stakeholders engagement across scales is key for the scenario exercise to catalyse transformation

1. Introduction

Dryland regions of Africa are exposed to critical and increasingly complex sustainability challenges, including population growth, economic volatility and urbanisation which intersect with extreme climate events and generate unexpected outcomes and shocks for livelihoods and food systems [1, 2]. Previous research, including work from Hendrix and Salehyan [3] demonstrates a possible relationship between environmental shocks (e.g., deviations from normal rainfall patterns) and the propensity for increased political tensions and communal conflicts. In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), many such tensions have emerged in recent decades, partly resulting from competition over access to natural resources [4, 5].

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