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PROGRESS REPORTS

**Progress Report of the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact
and Climate Analysis (TGICA)**

(Submitted by the TGICA Co-Chairs, Timothy Carter and Bruce Hewitson)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Report of the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA)

This report outlines notable developments related to the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) since the last progress report, delivered for IPCC-XXXVII (Batumi, 14-18 October 2013, IPCC-XXXVII/Doc. 12) by TGICA Co-Chair Timothy Carter. During this period, the Task Group met for one full meeting in Geneva on 25-27 February 2014. This is described in the next section, followed by a summary of status on key TGICA agenda items approved, in progress and upcoming, and an update on TGICA membership.

1. TGICA-20: 25-27 February 2014, World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

TGICA-20 was held on 25-27 February 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, kindly hosted by the IPCC Secretariat. It was attended by 14 TGICA members and *ex officio* members, five members of the IPCC Secretariat provided local support and there was a guest presentation by Dr Reto Knutti from ETH, Zurich. One new member, Dr Gian-Kasper Plattner (Head of the Working Group I Technical Support Unit) was welcomed to his first full TGICA meeting to replace Dr Pauline Midgley, for whom this marked the final meeting. Another seven members contributed by teleconference to segments of the meeting.

2. Items approved

A procedural document on *Data and Information Attribution Policy* was approved. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that, for data and information resources distributed via the IPCC Data Distribution Centre (DDC), clear and unambiguous attribution is given to: a) the authors of the resource; b) the distributor of the resource; and c) the organization or institution responsible for reviewing or ensuring the quality of the resource.

A YouTube video has been prepared that demonstrates the use of the Data Distribution Centre (DDC). This will now be linked to on both the TGICA and DDC web pages.

3. Items in progress

In the interests of brevity, action items that were listed in the previous Progress Report are only repeated in this section where there are significant changes to report. They are again organised under three headings: (a) development of the DDC, (b) preparation of Technical Guidelines and Fact Sheets, and (c) Capacity Building.

(a) Development of the Data Distribution Centre is the responsibility of the DDC managers in close collaboration with a DDC work group, and under the overall direction of TGICA.

Archiving of data and scenario information

- A subset of the CMIP5 climate model data prepared for the AR5 process and quality controlled is now online
- Other datasets additional to CMIP5 that have been assessed in the AR5 (across all three Working Groups) are being scrutinised by TGICA members for potential archiving or linking by the DDC. These include: WG I atlas data; data in WG I Annex II on emissions, atmospheric abundances and burdens, and radiative forcing, emissions scenario and observed historical data archived for WG III, data underlying Figures and Tables and Supplementary Material from chapters in all three WG reports.

Updating tasks:

- Pages describing the "Scenarios process for AR5" will be promoted to the main DDC menu to increase their prominence and accessibility.

New supporting documentation under development:

- A discussion document is under development to improve the DDC landing page, so that the options for data access are made clearer and more transparent for different types of users.
- An online DDC glossary will be finalised ahead of the next meeting. This is fully consistent with the glossary definitions presented in the AR5. Definitions have also been agreed for a number of important terms on the DDC that do not appear in existing IPCC glossaries.
- A new document including criteria for linking to external portals hosting relevant data has been approved for initial testing using candidate data sets identified by TGICA members. Following testing and possible revision, the document will be submitted to TGICA for final approval and posting.

Development of the DDC website:

- A full DDC webpage content review has been conducted to identify pages that require updating or replacement, problem datasets and possible pages to develop in light of emerging new data and information from the AR5 (e.g. on observed impacts and impact projections). Revisions are now ongoing.
- A discussion document will be prepared suggesting how data content on the DDC originating from the assessment reports can be enhanced in the next IPCC cycle.
- A discussion document is under preparation for mapping a long-term vision for the DDC.

(b) Technical Guidelines and Fact Sheets. TGICA also develops Technical Guidelines and (shorter) Fact Sheets for assisting researchers in the accessing, processing, application and interpretation of data and scenarios.

Five documents are at different stages of preparation. By the next Webex:

- A first draft of new Technical Guidelines to replace the 2007 version of "General guidelines on the use of scenario data for climate impact and adaptation assessment" will be presented.
- A revised full draft of a Fact Sheet, provisionally titled "Downscaling of climate data for application in impact and adaptation assessment" will be reviewed by TGICA members.
- The first draft of a Fact Sheet on "Socioeconomic data and its limitations for IAV analyses" is under development for presentation.
- Draft outlines are being prepared for two new Fact Sheets on: 1) data provided by the DDC in general; and 2) the nature and attributes of GCM data.

Other documents:

- Following preliminary discussion on the topic, it was decided to prepare a scoping document on "Technologies for adaptation" ahead of the next Webex meeting, with a view on mapping out the most appropriate next steps for TGICA.
- A shortlist of possible new Fact Sheets has been identified by the members and a suggestion for their prioritisation will be presented at the next Webex.

(c) Capacity Building. TGICA contributes a supporting role to capacity building activities in the use of data and scenarios for climate change research in developing countries and economies in transition.

Ongoing activities:

- A list of networks for possible future outreach has been revised and will be made available to TGICA members as an online, updatable version.
- A TGICA Expert Meeting/on Regional Capacity Building, previously scheduled for mid-2014, will now take place in May 2015 in conjunction with a full TGICA meeting at a venue still to be determined. IPCC funding for this meeting has already been approved and would need to be rolled over to the 2015 budget. Using the AR5 as context, the aim is to engage with individuals who have responsibilities in developing national- and regional-scale climate risk/impacts and adaptation assessments, or who influence major decision making on climate resilient development (e.g. governmental decision makers, senior/lead adaptation specialists in development banks, experts in insurance/reinsurance industry, etc.), and to open a dialogue on

the types of climate change data and information that may be of interest and importance for making sound judgements in discharging their responsibilities. Potential co-funders are being approached, including START and the WCRP Working Group on Regional Climate (WGRC). A scoping document for this meeting will be presented at IPCC-XL in Copenhagen.

New supporting information:

- A new web page introducing capacity building activities in TGICA is being developed for the TGICA pages hosted at the IPCC website.
- A TGICA sub-group is developing a document describing what information there is available on the DDC that supports capacity building, to provide a quick access overview.

4. Other initiatives

- An electronic TGICA flyer is to be prepared by the Secretariat in co-operation with the Co-Chairs and DDC Managers.

5. TGICA membership and resourcing

Change of membership. There has been one change of membership since October 2013. Dr Pauline Midgley, ex officio member from the Working Group I Technical Support Unit, has been replaced by Gian-Kasper Plattner.

TGICA membership refreshment process. With the end of the current AR5 cycle approaching, and assuming continued endorsement of TGICA by the Panel, in line with its mandate TGICA is due to refresh its membership after mid-2015. In view of the ongoing work of the group, and in the interests of an effective transition, the TGICA Co-Chairs would like to request that the nomination and selection process be expedited as speedily as possible, while ensuring the highest possible credentials of nominated candidates. It is especially important that candidates be nominated who can offer not only internationally recognised expertise in a relevant field of climate change research, but also a commitment of time to the work of the group that extends beyond participation at TGICA meetings alone. In addition, in the interests of continuity, it would be desirable for a proportion of the existing membership to be retained on the Task Group for the next IPCC cycle.

TGICA resourcing and a proposal. The Task Group is only able to function thanks to the generosity of member governments via the IPCC Trust Fund and to administrative support from one of the three Working Group Technical Support Units (currently the WG II TSU in USA). Grateful thanks are also due for the substantial long-term commitment by the United Kingdom, Germany and USA to fund and administer the Data Distribution Centre. On the other hand, it should also be noted that the TGICA members contribute their time largely on a voluntary basis.

Following discussion by the membership about resourcing and effectiveness of the Task Group, especially during busy and/or transition periods for the IPCC (e.g. deadlines for assessment reports; periods between cycles), the idea of arranging for continuous support of TGICA has been raised. This could involve a full time IPCC administrative position earmarked for TGICA support and advertised internationally. Candidates could be selected by the Secretariat in close collaboration with the TGICA Co-Chairs and three Working Group Co-Chairs. The successful applicant could be based at the Secretariat in Geneva, or at the same institution as one of the Co-Chairs, or perhaps based in Geneva while flexible for short-term postings to assist the Co-Chairs. Such a position would be beneficial to TGICA, offering continuous and dedicated support to the Co-Chairs, including taking on some administrative tasks they themselves have handled in the past, but also arranging Webex, face-to-face and Expert meetings, overseeing the updating of TGICA online materials, monitoring progress on different actions and liaising with the three Working Groups. This arrangement would also relieve the existing pressures currently placed on the responsible WG TSU.

6. Next meeting

A Webex will be scheduled for the end of August or early September 2014. The next full meeting (TGICA-21) has been scheduled tentatively for November 2014 (ahead of the COP 20) at a venue to be arranged. The following full meeting (TGICA-22) is planned for May 2015, in association with a TGICA Expert Meeting (see above). This will be the final meeting of the present membership cycle. However, it would be desirable to schedule TGICA-23 for as early as possible after the nomination of the new TGICA committee.