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FUTURE OF THE TASK GROUP ON DATA AND SCENARIO SUPPORT FOR IMPACT AND CLIMATE ANALYSIS (TGICA)

Collated Comments from Governments and IPCC Observer Organizations on the revised TGICA Vision Document

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)

FUTURE OF THE TASK GROUP ON DATA AND SCENARIO SUPPORT FOR IMPACT AND CLIMATE ANALYSIS (TGICA)

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At the 41st Session (Nairobi, Kenya, 24-27 February 2015), the Panel requested the Secretariat to consult the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impacts and Climate Analysis (TGICA) Co-chairs to update the TGICA vision paper for the 43rd Session, taking into account the views of scientists, IPCC Bureau, submissions from Governments and IPCC Observer Organizations, and recommendations from an IPCC expert meeting on this issue, which should be organized by the Secretariat (paragraph 15 of Decision IPCC/XLI.4 on the Future Work of the IPCC).

On 14 October 2015, Governments, IPCC Observer Organizations and the IPCC Bureau were invited to provide comments on the updated TGICA vision document. The following submissions, sorted in alphabetical order, were received:

Governments

- Canada
- China
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Korea
- Libya
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Russian Federation
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

Observer Organizations

- European Commission
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Other Comments

- Indiana University

GOVERNMENTS COMMENTS

CANADA

IPCC Secretariat,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the TGICA vision paper. Canada has reviewed the options presented in the vision paper and recommends that the IPCC develop an alternative proposal or option focused on the Data Distribution Centre (DDC). Details on Canada's position are outlined below.

Canada's comments on TGICA vision paper

Support for curation of datasets

- The role of IPCC bodies is to focus on IPCC work and products. There is relevance in TGICA's role specific to the curation of IPCC related datasets. However, we see less relevance, impact and demand with respect to TGICA's role in climate services (duplication with the National Hydrometeorological Services Community of WMO, the Global Framework for Climate Services), guidance products and capacity building efforts.
- The current TGICA structure is not the best mechanism to achieve data curation goals
 - Open data and data curation require ongoing resources and a similar resourcing model to that of a TSU
 - Curation of IPCC datasets needs to be coordinated with other international organizations with overlapping mandates (PCMDI, CIESN2 etc.)

Recommendation: DDC focused path forward

- Canada does not support the proposed options, as they do not place an emphasis on strengthening the DDC
- Canada would support an option that discontinues TGICA's efforts which are focused on providing guidance and building capacity, but maintains and strengthens the DDC
- Recommendation that the IPCC task a small group to prepare an option specific to the DDC, ensuring that it does improve accessibility and usability, for consideration by the Panel in advance of IPCC-43

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Karen L. Dodds, Ph.D.
IPCC Focal Point (Canada)

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CHINA

Comments by Chinese Government on Vision Paper on TGICA

17 November 2015

The Chinese government appreciates the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) for its efforts on TGICA's future. It is our belief that TGICA and the Data Distribution Centre (DDC) did play an important role in the preparation of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).

The Chinese government believes that the function of TGICA should be enhanced in view of the important role of the analysis and application of scientific data in future assessment. The current TGICA vision paper has made clear analysis on strengthening TGICA and upgrading DDC and can serve as the discussion paper for the 43rd Session of IPCC. The Chinese government also would like to suggest the following possibilities for consideration:

1. Enhance the application service of data of a higher temporal resolution; and upgrade the DDC server and network devices and download function.
2. Explore the possibility to establish the regional data centres and improve the capability of developing countries in the application of scientific data during AR6;
3. Improve the cooperation with national agencies like NMHSs in observation data, data application and evaluation, and promote data sharing;

We hope that TGICA can contribute more to the AR6 with its improved strengths.

FINLAND

Dear Madam/Sir,

In response to your letter of 14 October 2015 asking views on the TGICA Vision Paper, I am submitting this concise reply from Finland.

We very much appreciate Secretariat's effort to collect comments on the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impacts and Climate Analysis (TGICA) Vision Paper and to submit interim analysis of the recently finalized IPCC Data Distribution Centre (DDC) survey. It is important to collect information to support planning and decision making of the future of the TGICIA. Finland supports the relevant work done under TGICIA and we hope solutions to continue facilitating wide availability of climate change related data and scenarios will be found.

Yours,
Heikki Tuomenvirta
Secretary of the Finnish IPCC working group
(on behalf of the Focal Point Petteri Taalas)

FRANCE

Dear Acting-Secretary of the IPCC,

We agree with this document at this stage.

best regards,
nicolas beriot
IPCC focal point in France

GERMANY

20 November 2015

Comments on TGICA vision paper from the Government of Germany

The German government thanks the Co-Chairs of the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impacts and Climate Analysis (TGICA) for the update of the vision paper on the current work and potential future activities of the TGICA and the IPCC Data Distribution Centre (DDC).

For this submission experts across all three Working Groups of the IPCC who contributed to the Fifth Assessment Report and potential users from the scientific community have been consulted. We have assessed the implications of the three options presented by the TGICA vision paper based on the following general criteria:

- benefit for the work programme and the products of the IPCC, i.e. the Assessment and Special Reports
- guarantee the scientific excellence and high quality of products
- improve user friendliness and political relevance of IPCC products
- increase coherence and consistency across IPCC products
- facilitate the integration of climate research across scientific disciplines in support of the assessment process
- ensure the participation of experts from developing countries and enhance the scientific knowledge base about climate change in such countries
- enhance the transparency of the IPCC working procedures
- reduce the workload for the IPCC authors
- efficiency and effectiveness of the work processes
- adequacy of budget implications in relation to all other activities of the IPCC within the sixth assessment cycle

Assessment of the current situation

General remarks:

- The conduct of the TGICA is governed by its mandate and related specification of activities which date from an IPCC Bureau Session of September 2003. The core mandate of the TGICA is to “facilitate wide availability of climate change related data and scenarios to enable research and sharing of information across the three IPCC working groups” and to “disseminate information in support of IPCC work, as well as IPCC ‘approved’, ‘adopted’, ‘accepted’, and ‘supporting’ material”.
- We note that during the past twelve years the usage and management of data and scenarios – both within the IPCC and outside – have significantly changed. Some of the tasks that had originally been assigned to TGICA are no longer needed. For example, the IPCC is much less involved in the scenario process as these are now prepared by the research community, or the discovery of climate change data is much easier than a decade ago due to the existence of strong internet search engines.

TGICA:

- The core activity of the TGICA is the coordination of the DDC, see below.
- TGICA's mandate is to identify information needs in support of IPCC work, to facilitate research on climate impacts, adaptation, and mitigation, and to make related recommendations on cross-cutting issues, in consultation with the three Working Group Co-Chairs. However, during the AR5-cycle TGICA did not seem optimally embedded within the activities of the Working Groups. Data and related information have rather been exchanged directly between relevant authors, without considering the involvement of TGICA. We suggest exploring new, more efficient ways to enhance cross cutting activities between Working Groups in the AR6 cycle.
- One of TGICA's activities requested in the document from the 2003 Bureau meeting mentioned above is the development of technical guidelines and fact sheets. From the material available at the DDC website we conclude that TGICA's productivity has been limited during the AR5 cycle. Some information prepared by the TGICA is provided directly on the DDC website. Eight documents published between 2003 and 2011 can be downloaded from the DDC website. Additional information material was announced in TGICA's progress reports to IPCC plenary sessions, for which the extent, purpose, process or outcomes are not fully clear. We therefore suggest assessing the need and the scope of any guidance material related to climate data and an assessment of the feasibility of implementation.
- Another activity of the TGICA specified in the document from the 2003 Bureau meeting is to contribute to building capacity in the use of data and scenarios for climate-related research in developing and transition-economy regions and countries. TGICA is supposed to work with organizations and activities that have training as their core mandate, and not develop training programs on its own. The 2003 document does not give any further detail on TGICA's capacity building activities. Capacity building generally is not considered a key activity of the IPCC, and this also pertains to the TGICA. Given the current budgetary restrictions of the IPCC, any activities beyond its core activity – which is the establishment of scientific assessments of climate change – should in our view be considered of secondary priority.
- According the 2003 document the TGICA may convene expert meetings (i.e., beyond its own meetings) as needed. The TGICA has conducted one IPCC Expert Meeting in the AR5-cycle in 2015 which was related to capacity building. Please see the previous paragraph on our views on the engagement of the IPCC in capacity building activities. The TGICA has not conducted any expert meetings on cross cutting issues in the AR5 or the Special Reports. From this we conclude that expert meetings have proven more useful at Working Group level.

DDC:

- To our knowledge no specific decision has been taken by the IPCC Panel about the terms of reference of the DDC. Its activities are briefly illustrated in the Panel decision about the TGICA from 2003 mentioned above that states that the DDC "provides data sets, climate and other scenarios, and other materials (e.g., technical guidelines on use of scenarios)". The TGICA has established a set of procedures as described in the DDC Governance document (http://www.ipcc-data.org/docs/TGICA_DDC_Governance_2012feb08.pdf). This document has however not been approved by the IPCC Panel. A revision of this document for the AR6-cycle might be useful.
- We have been informed that the DDC mainly provides data from previous IPCC reports. A significant fraction of its users are climate scientists using data from Assessment Reports as reference data in their research, and climate service centers deriving regional climate information from the DDC reference data for their customers. During the establishment of the AR5, data from models, observations and scenarios used have mainly been stored at and provided by external data centers, e.g. IIASA, CMIP6 Archive Centers (PCMDI, BADC, DKRZ), or the IPCC Working Groups. The DDC has been used during the AR5-cycle by the Working Groups 2 and 3 as one resource to obtain the climate model data from the AR4.
- The most important function of the DDC is to provide a long-term archive of a snapshot of the data used for an assessment to be used as IPCC reference data from each cycle. This is ensures repeatability and reproducibility of the statements contained in the assessment reports based on such data, and thus the credibility and integrity of the IPCC. For example, after the publication of a

report, climate model data from Working Group 1 can only be obtained at the DDC, because they are not archived at scientific data centers that provide them during the assessment-making (e.g. PCMDI). For the long-term usage of the data, the DDC adds a detailed documentation, checks the quality, and establishes a second copy. Options for improvements of the long-term archival process of WG2 and WG3 data should be explored to ensure equally long term accessibility and usability.

- Interactions of the DDC with other activities related to data within the IPCC (Working Groups, TFI, and the Secretariat) and outside the IPCC (GFCS, WGRC, PROVIA, IIASA, ESGF) and potential synergies should be further explored. We look forward to the institutional mapping of international fora co-ordinating data and scenario information for use in climate change assessment, mentioned in section 2.4 of the vision paper. This information will help identifying the scope of and potential alternatives to the current mode work.
- In order to analyse the needs of user communities two surveys were done in 2007 and 2009. In 2015, the latest survey obtained only 150 responses between January and October 2015. This lack of responses is in contrast to the more than 3000 weekly visits to the DDC webpage and the more than 200 000 downloads during the same period, presented by the TGICA Co-Chairs at IPCC43 (see also http://www.dkrz.de/daten-en/wdcc/projects_cooperations/ipcc-data/ipcc-ddc-statistics), and we would like to better understand the reasons for this difference. The interim analysis of the survey presents responses to suggestions of potential future topics to be addressed at the DDC. To assess these results we would need more detailed information about the present information provided at the DDC and the additional resources needed to cover additional topics. To this end we look forward to the final results from the online DDC User Survey mentioned in section 2.2 of the vision paper in order to identify target users, their needs, and the additional resources needed to response to specific upgrades or downgrades of the DDC.
- We note that the DDC is also engaged in the provision of data that are contained in tables or figures in the AR5, with the help of those who created the material. We consider this a useful activity that is worth exploring as part of the review of the DDC.
- The DDC is based on in-kind support from three countries to the DDC, contributions from external data centers and functions supplied by the AR5 WG TSUs. While appreciating these contributions we stress the need for wider and potentially enhanced support.

Conclusions

- From this assessment we conclude that the effectiveness and efficiency of the setting and activities of the TGICA as well as the impacts of its products seem currently to be of limited relevance for the main activity of the IPCC, i.e. the establishment of scientific assessments of climate change. Therefore we do not support the status quo, i.e. Option 2 of the vision Paper.
- Because the current settings have not proven successful in addressing the evolving needs of the IPCC in terms of data and scenario management, we do not support Option 3 of the vision paper, i.e. further strengthening the current model.
- Therefore, we urge to thoroughly consider Option 1, i.e. to discontinue TGICA and the DDC in their current form. All functions and activities of the TGICA and of the DDC should be reviewed in order to find more effective and efficient implementations of those functions of the TGICA which are still relevant to the IPCC, and to establish long-term solutions for the essential services of the DDC, in particular the long term archiving of IPCC reference data.
- We suggest that this review should be the main activity at the TGICA Expert Meeting in January 2016. This would include an assessment of the benefits and the risks implied in ending activities as well as potential alternatives, and the associated costs. The TGICA vision paper, the present submissions, the institutional mapping, the results from the user survey and the DDC Governance document would provide useful starting points for the discussion. Participants should include experts from all three IPCC Working Groups and the TSUs including providers and users of climate change data and scenarios, technical experts on data management and storage, as well as government representatives. Their different perspectives would help identifying requirements and potential improvements when preparing options for the decisions regarding the TGICA and the DDC to be taken by the IPCC Plenary at IPCC43.

KOREA

Submitted by the Republic of Korea

We would like to express our gratitude and respect for the IPCC's support and passion towards the TGICA and DDC, and expect the continued attention going forward. Hereby, we would like to submit our views regarding the paper on the management of TGICA and DDC in the future as follows.

Comments on the Future of TGICA and IPCC Data Distribution Centre

After reviewing the options for the future role of TGICA and the DDC, we suggest that option 3 is recommendable since we believe that the more disseminating the information on climate change and related data is beneficial to the countries or peoples with less capacity.

That direction could be greatly helpful to support capacity building for responding to climate change.

Specifically, we would like to address the role of TGICA and DDC to promote the accessibility of the relevant data, not to produce additional climate data or their analysis since adding additional scientific data can need much larger resources than current cost and quality control may request additional resources. Thus, we prefer the enhancing their role to efficiently coordinate existing climate and relevant data for expecting users and support the data handling for them.

Also, the coordination and dissemination of data sets should be more user-friendly, and the additional information for local or regional climate and related data should be available with multiple language support, which could give great support for local climate change

LIBYA

Dear Ms. Joelle,

I have reviewed TGICA vision paper and I strongly agree to Option 3 to deploy increased resources for strengthening TGICA and upgrading DDC through dedicated support and by using the scientific and technical expertise more efficiently.

Best Regards

Abd Elfatah H. Shibani
Director-General
National Meteorological Centre (NMC) / Libya
& Libya IPCC Focal Point

NETHERLANDS

Dear Bruce Steward,

We acknowledge the added value of TGICA and DDC. Besides the strong connection between WGI and WGII material, TGCICA played a modest role in supporting the discussion on scenarios, which have been resulted in the RCPs and SSPs. We therefore advise to keep at least the status quo (option 2).

However, since strengthening of TGICA is recommended in the vision paper regarding data, structure and governance (option 3), we feel especially the need to incorporate more WGIII material and to integrate that with WGI/WGII material as well. We therefore prefer to strengthen TGICA in that direction, rather than to upgrade DDC.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Rob van Dorland
Focal point IPCC of the Netherlands
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NORWAY

Comments to the TGICA Vision document

In addition to the vision document itself, my comments also builds on the experience from AR5 and my involvement in WGI, WGIII and SyR.

Traceability, transparency and accessibility of IPCC data and results are of very high importance for the assessment work carried out by the IPCC. Thus, there are some essential functions that have to be secured and carried out for IPCC to do a good job and fulfil its mandate in the future.

These functions and the implied tasks should be clearly identified, and one should further consider how these could be taken care of and organized in the future.

It seems that the TGICA and DDC have not functioned as intended and that some changes are needed to handle the flow, accessibility and storage of data in a manner that strengthens the work and value of the IPCC output.

An upscaling of TGICA as indicated by Option 3 may increase the complexity of the IPCC structure by adding one more organizational unit. In my view, it should instead be considered whether the identified functions and tasks could be moved to the WG TSUs where the data is closer to the scientists and the authors (or alternatively, to the secretariat in Geneva). If the tasks and functions are allocated to the TSUs it should be done in a way that enhances the contact and flow of data between the WGs.

POLAND

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Our ref.: AW-6/15

Warsaw, 20 November 2015

Mr Bruce Stewart

Acting Secretary of the IPCC
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Switzerland

SUBJECT: The comments of the Government of Poland on TGICA revised vision paper

Dear Sir,

The Government of Poland welcomes the revised TGICA vision paper and notes the request to examine and provide comments on the substance of the document as it was expressed in the letter ref. 5360-15/IPCC/TGICA.

The Government of Poland considers the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impacts and Climate Analysis (TGICA) and IPCC Data Distribution Centre (DDC) play an important role in enabling the collection, storage, processing and exchange of information, data and scenarios between different teams working on the IPCC reports. The need for their continued existence is indicated by multiple groups of users, especially in the context of the necessary closer cooperation between the Working Groups of the IPCC. The group of outstanding experts during the recent IPCC meeting on regional climate projections and their use in impact and risk analysis studies (September 2015, Brasil) postulated the need for stronger cooperation between WGI and WGII on the issue of regional scenarios of extreme climate events and study their impact on other areas of life. In the case of any restrictions in operational activities of TGICA and DDC, each Working Group would have its own dataset and such co-operation would be seriously limited. At the same time from an economic point of view, the maintenance of the three separate databases can not be regarded as more beneficial option.

Further, the Government of Poland notes that the effectiveness of the database requires the introduction of standards for the comprehensive description of data and metadata, and the preparation of indices allowing for quick access to the desired information. The preparation of the instructions for users and full documentation of database content would be another element facilitating the use of data. Further, it would allow for the expansion of the range of potential users, interested in studies of the impact of climate change on other domains of life as well as aspects of adaptation and mitigation. The Quality Control procedures should also be developed and implemented to increase confidence in the data.

The mentioned plan requires, however, the increase the scope of activities of both TGICA and DDC and support them with additional staff, whose task will be to coordinate all the work. The Government of Poland is committed that the change of the mode of operations of TGICA by giving it the status similar to the status of the TFI (IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories) would be one of the possible solutions. However, at the same time the enhancement of the role of TGICA should be clearly defined with its new tasks, including the principles on which the database will be accessible for users other than those directly preparing IPCC reports. A fast-growing database needs but also increase the resources of the DDC, both human resources (increase of staff with several new posts, called for a 4.5 time in place of the current incomplete 2) and data storage and access facilities.

To conclude, summarizing the three presented options concerning the future development of the TGICA, the Government of Poland is committed to support Version 3 of the Report on the Future Options from TGICA, namely "Deploy increased resources for strengthening TGICA and upgrading the DDC", modified to increase the efficiency of its implementation. At the same time, it should be clearly stated that the financial implications of implementation of the proposed activities should be carefully examined to prevent IPCC from the considerable increase of the costs of analyzed gremia.

The Government of Poland looks forward to the discussion on the future of TGICA during 43rd Session of IPCC in April next year and its outcomes supporting the actual excellent activity of the group.

Yours sincerely,
Signed by Janusz Filipiak

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

November 29, 2015

Mr. Bruce STEWART,
Acting Secretary of the IPCC

Dear Mr. Stewart,

In response to your request of October 14, 2015, ref 5362-15/IPCC/TGICA, regarding a vision paper

'The Future of TGICA and the IPCC Data Distribution Centre', we herewith submit the below comments of the Russian Federation that we have to the date. We must apologize for delayed response.

1. We support strengthening of TGICA, in particular, upgrading the Data Distribution Centre (DDC) and allocation of one additional FTE/year by the IPCC. This should be taken into account during the preparation of the IPCC budget for AR6.
2. DDC should keep balance between climate data and projections on one hand, and data on observed and projected impacts, adaptation and vulnerability on the other hand. Currently, there is a certain bias: data on impacts of climate change on socio-economic and especially on ecological systems are insufficiently presented. TGICA mandate should be revised accordingly: biological/ecological impacts should be included along with physical, social, and economic impacts.
3. IPCC Assessment Dataset Index (p. 2.3 A new look at documenting data associated with IPCC Assessments & Annex 1).

Good idea, it would be useful to start construction of such an index from AR5. WG2 TSU, for instance, has all numerical information quoted in the WG2 contribution to the AR5 (volume 2 of the AR5) as corresponding papers with numbers highlighted.

4. In general, TGICA should be oriented mostly to facilitating data and scenario support for future assessments, rather than to distribution of information from already published IPCC products.

Sincerely,

Signed Professor Sergey SEMENOV,
Russian FP for the IPCC

SWITZERLAND

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Future of TGICA and the Data Distribution Centre Berne, November 2015

Switzerland welcomes the opportunity to present its comments on the Vision Paper elaborated by the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) on its future and the one of the Data Distribution Center (DDC).

1. We consider that both the TGICA and the DDC should continue to exist and carry on tasks aiming at facilitating the access to climate and scenario data to both experts and the public at large, as well as contributing to the consistency between WGs on these matters, as appropriate and feasible.
2. We welcome the efforts done by the TGICA and the DDC to identify ways to better responding to users' needs, as well as those engaging with other pertinent bodies that may generate data and information relevant to the work of the IPCC.
3. In this context, we propose to clarify and to strengthen the role and the efficiency of these two bodies.
4. To that aim, a number of adjustments of the Terms of Reference of both the TGICA and the DDC appear to be necessary. They are on:
 - Their twofold purpose:
 - i) Providing climate and scenario data and information to the experts and the public, including the data and figures contained in the ARs, in a user friendly manner;
 - ii) Helping in strengthening the consistency of the work of the whole IPCC (e.g. in assisting and facilitating the collaboration between the WGs);
 - Their precise role in the framework of AR6, and in particular in supporting the WGs by avoiding duplication of efforts;
 - Their specificity and added-value compared to other international relevant fora by refining the specific and complementary role the DDC can play in the distribution, dissemination of know-how, and archiving of climate change data.
5. We consider that the scoping process for the AR6 should be used to better defining which support and role the TGICA and the DDC could play in the IPCC process.
6. A possible extension of resources for the TGICA and the DDC can then be considered once a better-defined role and function of these two bodies has become available.

TURKEY

Dear Sir/Madame,

As the National Focal Point of Turkey to IPCC, I would like to inform you that regarding the Options for the Future Role of TGICA and the DDC of TGICA Vision paper, Turkey supports the Option 3 (Discontinue or severely curtail TGICA and discontinue the DDC) and we are of the opinion that technical support and additional activities listed in Table 1 would contribute substantially to the IPCC and climate change research community.

Best regards,

Mehrali ECER
National Focal Point of TURKEY on IPCC

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Bruce Stewart, (Acting Secretary of the IPCC),
By email: ipcc-sec@wmo.int

Your ref: 5360-15/IPCC/TGICA
25 November 2015

Dear Bruce,

RE: Review of updated TGICA Vision Paper

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to examine and review the revised TGICA Vision Paper. The UK would like to thank the members of the Task Group for their work in pulling together and revising the paper. We feel it is a useful document but would like to suggest some further amendments so the paper may better inform discussions by the Panel at its 43rd Session in April 2016.

Discussion of the TCIGA mandate will need to consider firstly what the future core requirements of the IPCC are in relation to climate change related data and scenarios and secondly how those requirements can best be delivered. The data usage and management landscape in which TGICA sits has changed significantly since the mandate of the Task Group was agreed and there are now other organisations that may be better placed to meet some or all of IPCC's requirements.

The UK suggests, therefore, that a comprehensive review of the aims and objectives of all other relevant global and regional programmes/activities would enable evidence-based assessment of the options. Building on the institutional mapping suggested in Section 2.4 of the Vision Paper, such a review would identify where IPCC shares common objectives with them, clarify whether or not there may be duplication and prioritise any gaps which IPCC/TGICA would be uniquely-placed to fill. Key organisations that should be covered in this review include the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), Future Earth, IIASA and the UNEP programme PROVIA.

The Vision Paper would further benefit from consideration of alternative resourcing and institutional models for improving efficiency and prioritising the activities of the TGICA and DDC. Presently, resourcing assessment is limited to staffing costs; a more thorough assessment would be a requirement of decision making at the 43rd Session in April 2016. This would enable an assessment of, for instance, whether the TGICA and DDC would better fit within the framework of a related global programme, and might also thus benefit from access to more resources.

Finally, the UK feels that the three options, as currently drafted in the Vision Paper, could potentially limit the scope of discussions at IPCC43. There are a range of outcomes that sit between discontinuing or severely curtailing TGICA and DDU and the *status quo*, such as refocussing the work of TGICA on areas that uniquely need to be delivered by the IPCC. It would therefore be helpful to amend or expand the options to accommodate the full range of possible outcomes.

The UK looks forward to the production of the final vision paper for consideration by the Panel in April.

Yours faithfully,

Signed, Sarah Honour
UK IPCC Focal Point

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

All –

Please note that the U.S. intends to make a submission in response to this, but the timing is quite challenging with Paris prep. As a result, we may miss the Nov 20 deadline, but will try to get something to you ASAP.

Thank you
David

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OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS COMMENTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The EU delegation is happy to provide to you the following submission:

It is the opinion of the European Union delegation that the TGICA has played a key role in facilitating and improving links between the 3 IPCC working groups, as well as providing each of the working groups with easy and (to some extent) supported access to authoritative and quality-controlled scenario data, such as coming from CMIP cycles. This support has been fundamental to the success of IPCC Assessments.

In our view the key role played by TGICA in; (i) integrating across the IPCC working groups, (ii) providing supported access to quality-controlled scenario data, (iii) providing best practice guidance on the use of scenarios in climate impact, adaptation and mitigation work and (iv) building science capacity with respect to regional climate change analysis in developing countries; will all only grow and become of increased importance as we move towards AR6 and beyond. In particular, the combination of CMIP5 and CMIP6 projections, combined with delivery of regional projection data through CORDEX, offers enormous potential for a step change in our collective ability to understand and assess regional risks linked to global change. The opportunity for developing nation scientists to take a lead on assessing regional climate change over their own regions is one of the major contributions CORDEX made in its first few years and hope the TGICA can continue this effort with CORDEX and other initiatives. As more scenario data of increased resolution and detail becomes available to, and used by a wider community, the demands on the TGICA and DDC will increase as will the importance of providing supported access to the spectrum of data required by the IPCC working groups and guidance on how to best use such data, both for these groups and the wider user community.

We are therefore of the opinion that option number 3 in the document: Strengthening the role of the TGICA and DDC, is the best option for the international climate science community.

However, we are in favour that the TGICA expert meeting at the end of January is requested to (i) assess which of the current activities of TGICA are essential to IPCC's assessment making and (b) suggest how these could be best implemented. This should not be conditioned by a mandate on reducing the TGICA activities, but should be a comprehensive assessment which may lead to expert suggestions on how best strengthening the TGICA role.

With best regards

Mr Andrea TILCHE
Head of Unit

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FAO

Please find below the comments from FAO.

Regards
Office of the Director
Climate, Energy and Tenure Division

1. FAO supports the proposal to strengthen both the TGICA and DDC as outlined under option 3. There is a growing request from users worldwide to be able to access IPCC-relevant data, including original data used in IPCC ARs. At the same time, the significant interconnections across physical, biological and socio-economic domains require a strengthened IPCC portal and distribution capacity, increased metadata functionality and easiness of use. It is not possible to leave this task to the single WG TSUs, as in the status quo, therefore the proposed role for a TGICA full-time coordinator is welcome.
2. It is suggested that, while the TGICA is being strengthened, attention be paid to ensure better coordination, coherency and efficiency of data development and use with other relevant existing UN data efforts. In particular linkages to existing data and metadata already developed and maintained by the UN system should be capitalized upon by IPCC, helping to maximize use of the additional resources needed while increasing international data coherency. Many UN databases are already at the core of, or form the basis for, critical IPCC analyses, including UNSD data for socio-economic analysis, IEA data for energy statistics, and FAO data for activity data, impacts, adaptation and emission statistics for agriculture, forestry and land use (the AFOLU sector).
3. Challenges to effectively implementing point 2. above require consistency between IPCC and UN type data. Convergence of these entities is necessary to create an improved, cost-effective and more coherent DDC under the TGICA, and in fact it is made necessary, as well as more easily achievable, by the current emergence of Big Data.
4. While a strengthened DDC that is well-connected with the relevant UN systems is necessary to offer users a global set of well-coordinated scenarios, recent experience suggests that IPCC should also strive to highlight the many sectoral and regional databases and projections that may arise from specific WG efforts and even chapters --even when, or perhaps especially when, they offer data that are not necessarily consistent with the global scenarios, yet often contain more appropriate information on specific analysis of given sectors and regions by users

STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Attn: Bruce Stewart, Acting Secretary
Bonn, 20 November 2015

Re: Comments on the revised TGICA vision paper

Dear Mr Stewart,

The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the revised vision paper of the IPCC Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impacts and Climate Analysis. My colleagues Dr Erik Kemp-Benedict and Dr Henrik Carlsen have read the revised vision paper with interest and provide the following comments:

- TGICA to date has been very ‘science driven’. If more resources were committed to TGICA (which SEI would encourage), then it should strive to interact more strongly with users outside the climate change research community, thus responding directly to Challenge 2.2. However, none of the options outlined in Section 3 of the revised vision paper contains concrete suggestions as to the necessary steps to meet this challenge.
- Under Challenge 2.5, it reads, “It has been particularly difficult to establish ongoing activities within the impacts, adaptation and vulnerability research and practitioner communities.” In our view, TGICA could play a more active role in facilitating increased interaction between IPCC WG1 and WG2. In addition, it could collaborate with the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA), which is one of the four components of the World Climate Programme. Such facilitation and collaboration could be connected to the emerging issue of climate services for adaptation, and lead to more ‘user-centred’ or ‘decision-driven’ WG1 activities.
- We would encourage TGICA to consider more strongly the cross-scale nature of climate data and its applicability at the subnational and local levels.
- The suggested future technical support for TGICA (Table 1) strikes us as requiring more than one full-time equivalent per year. A more realistic set-up would be to engage two full-time people, with, for example, one person working on publications and other communication issues and the other, more senior person working full-time on everything else.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail (richard.klein@sei-international.org) should you require any further information.

With kind regards,

Signed, Professor Richard Klein
Theme leader ‘Reducing Climate Risk’

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UNFCCC

Mr. Bruce Stewart
Acting Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change
c/o World Meteorological
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Switzerland

Date: 23 November 2015
Reference: YN/IFV/jc
Direct line: +49 228 815-1422

Dear Mr. Stewart,

I refer to your letter of 14 October 2015, inviting Governments and Observer Organizations to submit views on the revised vision paper of the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impacts and Climate Analysis (TGICA). These views, together with views from the IPCC Bureau and an IPCC expert meeting on this matter, will provide the basis for preparing a final vision paper for consideration by Panel at its 43rd session to be held in April 2016.

In this regard, I would like to thank you for your invitation and stress the key role of TGICA, and the Data Distribution Centre (DOC) it oversees, for facilitating wide availability of climate change related data and scenarios to enable sharing of information across the IPCC Working Groups. The paper elaborates well this role and documents the need for the continuation and strengthening of TGICA so that it can carry out all its mandated activities, including those that are currently addressed in a limited manner due to resource limitations.

Furthermore, given the unique role of the DOC for providing access to authoritative data scenario information underpinning the IPCC assessment process and the considerable investment already made into the development and maintenance of the DOC, we are of the view that it is highly desirable to maintain the DOC and make provision for sustainable support of this centre.

Some areas where TGICA could increase its presence with a strengthened mandate and associated support are provided below, without any prejudice towards the final results of discussions at IPCC 43. In particular, TGICA could:

- Address better the growing need for developing technical guidance for practitioners and policy makers on how to use climate data and scenarios to support impact assessment and adaptation planning and practices. At present, due to limited resources, the work of TGICA has been limited, to a large extent, to the development of technical guidance materials and fact sheets mainly targeting researchers;
- Develop regionally relevant data and support materials and provide technical support for adaptation planning in developing countries in collaboration and coordination with relevant international bodies and programmes, including constituted bodies the expert groups established under the UNFCCC;

- Align its work with other relevant fora such as the Global Framework for Climate Services and Future Earth;
- Ensure the long-term preservation of data used in the IPCC assessments given the transitory nature of the Working Groups leadership and their Technical support Units;
- Develop further a cross-Working Group dataset index that will allow for gathering information from authors as they prepare the report (currently this is done after the report is prepared) and will lead to efficiency savings and a better way of documenting data resources in IPCC assessment reports.

Considering the above, I would like to conclude by stressing that, in our view, the options two and three of the vision paper deserve further consideration, bearing in mind their resource implications and the availability of such resources.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed Youssef Nassef, Coordinator, Adaptation Programme

UNEP

Our Reference: E0/1948/2015

Date: 15 December 2015

Dear Mr Stewart,

Reference is made to your letter dated 14 October 2015, your ref. 5361-15/IPCCrGICA, inviting Governments and Observer Organizations to examine and review the revised Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impacts and Climate Analysis (TGICA) vision paper and provide comments to the IPCC Secretariat.

I am pleased to inform you that the paper was circulated among relevant UNEP experts and no comments have been received from them.

I look forward to further cooperation between IPCC and UNEP, and take this opportunity to wish you and your team every success in the New Year 2016!

Yours Sincerely,

Signed Jacqueline McGlade
Chief Scientist of UNEP
Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment
United Nations Environment Programme

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OTHER COMMENTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Dear Sirs,

The vision paper was seen by the School's Environmental Science Faculty.

I am reproducing below a comment which highlights the dilemma presented in the paper and suggest a possible way out for the future work of the Data Centre:

" In the US, the multiplicity and overlap of sources of climate-change-related information is beginning to be viewed by those "on the ground" as almost burdensome. There are so many large complex syntheses, and so few "translations" of these that provide simple, straightforward suggestions for practitioners with particular focuses (hardwood timber producers in the Northeast, wildlife-habitat managers in the Southwest, e.g.). I suspect the EU may be similarly rich in syntheses, but I can't speak to the availability of practitioner-level guidelines. In class I have used one EU document for water managers that seemed fairly well focused.

Perhaps the **DDC might turn its attention to identifying those areas for which** (1) climate-change vulnerability assessments, (2) high-level syntheses involving climate, natural resources, social, and economic issues, and (3) practitioner-level guidelines for on-the-ground work are lacking, and then work to fill those specific needs. This is a form of upgrading, but not a universal upgrade.

Upgrading in ways that are redundant with existing world expertise and capacity would be wasteful, and the DDC ought to be in a position of judging need and responding to provide a more level playing field with respect to capacity worldwide."

[Prof. Vicky Meretsky can be contacted for follow up on this suggestion]

We feel that with the growing popular awareness regarding the consequences of climate change there is need for the DDC to purvey data in an easily digestible form for laymen and to expand the IPCC outreach to educational institutions round the world.

Best Wishes

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