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

Background to TGICA and the Data Distribution Centre (DDC)

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)

IPCC Secretariat

c/o WMO • 7bis, Avenue de la Paix • C.P. 2300 • 1211 Geneva 2 • Switzerland
telephone : +41 (0) 22 730 8208 / 54 / 84 • fax : +41 (0) 22 730 8025 / 13 • email : IPCC-Sec@wmo.int • www.ipcc.ch



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Background to TGICA and the Data Distribution Centre (DDC)

(Prepared by the Co-chairs of TGICA)

1. Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA)

TGICA is an IPCC body with members drawn from nominations by national Focal Points, bringing together diverse expertise and experiences from a cross section of research communities representing all three IPCC Working Groups as well as users of the DDC. TGICA's current mandate¹ is to “*facilitate wide availability of climate change related data and scenarios to enable research and sharing of information across the IPCC Working Groups*”. The Task Group coordinates the DDC, produces guidance materials distributed through the DDC as peer-reviewed documents of IPCC Supporting Material and contributes to building capacity in the use of data and scenarios for climate change research. Face-to-face or teleconference meetings of the Task Group are held 2-3 times per year, with sub-group tasks requiring more regular correspondence. The activities of TGICA are conducted by volunteer members, historically with limited administrative support provided from within the resources of one of the Working Group Technical Support Units.

2. Data Distribution Centre (DDC)

The DDC provides a means of accessing climate, socio-economic and environmental data, both from historical observations and from future projections (scenarios), in support of IPCC work and as used in the IPCC assessments. It is jointly managed by institutions in the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States of America². The DDC is designed primarily for climate change researchers, but is also relevant to educators, practitioners, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the public³. The DDC complements the dissemination of data and information from elsewhere in the IPCC (e.g. from the IPCC Working Groups) and from the wider international research community (e.g. the CMIP5⁴ portal at PCMDI⁵, socio-economic data at CIESIN² and emissions scenario databases at IIASA⁶), by providing access to key datasets used in IPCC assessment reports. Importantly, the DDC hosts data relevant across Working Groups with a consistent quality control and appropriate supporting materials. Uniquely, it provides a persistent (though not comprehensive) repository of data and information from all five previous IPCC assessments.

¹ www.ipcc.ch/pdf/activity/tgica-mandate.pdf

² UK: Funding from Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) – work undertaken at British Atmospheric Data Centre, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (BADC), Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) Centre for Environmental Data Archival; Germany: Funding from Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum (DKRZ) – work undertaken at DKRZ, Hamburg; USA: Funding from NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) and US Government (for TGICA travel) – work undertaken at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University, New York

³ More than 112,000 user sessions logged from Nov 2013–Nov 2014, representing over 86,000 users from developed and developing countries. The most active users are in USA and UK, with India, China and Brazil in the top 10

⁴ Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5

⁵ Program on Climate Model Diagnostics and Intercomparison

⁶ International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

DDC managers also provide expertise on data management in support of IPCC reports. For example, for the Fifth Assessment they designed the quality control protocol for climate model data, digitized key tables from the final report and in the process identified a number of minor errors, and provided guidance to the IAM⁷ and IAV⁸ communities on data stewardship. They also handle data and scenario information contained in Supplementary Material and Annexes that are included in the Assessment Reports, for eventual inclusion in the DDC. Finally, they maintain and develop the DDC website as well as conducting regular surveys of users.

⁷ Integrated Assessment Modelling

⁸ Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability