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PROGRESS REPORT

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

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(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORT

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

Summary of key developments since the 45th Session of the IPCC (March 2017)

- The Task Group met for one full meeting (July 2017).
- Data supporting the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) Working Group II (WG II) summary figure SPM.2A on observed impacts are now accessible at the Data Distribution Centre (DDC).
- TGICA members and DDC Managers will liaise with Technical Support Units (TSUs) regarding potential new data sources of interest for upcoming special reports (SRs) and the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), as well as procedures for cataloguing data sources underlying key figures to ensure timely and effective DDC archiving.
- Climatological averaging of observed and projected AR5 data held at the DDC is being finalised
- DDC web pages on RCP/SSP scenarios for the AR5 are being archived and new pages for the AR6 process are under preparation.
- The second-order-draft of a TGICA Fact Sheet on “Downscaling Climate Information” is under preparation following international review.
- A first-order draft of “General guidelines on the use of scenario data for climate impact and adaptation assessment” is close to submission for international review.
- DDC user sessions have increased in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition (EITs) during the eight years 2009-2016.
- A TGICA teleconference will be arranged ahead of the 46th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-46) .

1. Background

This report outlines progress related to the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) since the previous written report, delivered by the Co-Chairs on behalf of the Task Group at the 45th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-45) (Guadalajara, Mexico, 28-31 March 2017, IPCC-XLV/INF. 4, Rev. 1).

During the period since the previous written report was submitted, the Task Group held one teleconference (17 March 2017), which was reported verbally at IPCC-45, and met for a full meeting (TGICA-25) in Exeter, United Kingdom on 5-7 July 2017. This was scheduled as potentially a final full meeting for the Task Group in its present configuration ahead of the Sixth Assessment process.

2. TGICA-25, Exeter

TGICA-25 was held on 5-7 July 2017 at the Met Office, Exeter, United Kingdom, kindly hosted by the Hadley Centre, Met Office and supported by the Government of the United Kingdom. Six TGICA members and five *ex officio* members attended along with three local guests and two administrative assistants. Six other members joined the meeting by teleconference. A special session was held on “Data and Scenarios supporting UK research and policy” at which three local guests contributed presentations on: “Climate Change Research at the UK Met Office Hadley Centre”, “High-End Climate Impacts and Extremes: The HELIX project” and “UKCP18: scenarios for the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment”.

3. Actions and progress

The main developments since the previous report are as follows:

- Background references and data underlying AR5 Figure SPM.2A on observed impacts of climate change in the Working Group II Summary for Policymakers (SPM) have been prepared and made available at the DDC in co-operation with chapter authors¹. WG II TSU is also being informed, as this may be a useful resource for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).
- Ideas are being collected by DDC managers concerning new data, in addition to that already provided for the AR5, which might be of assistance to TSUs in the AR6.
- A dialogue will be initiated to consider how raw data and processing scripts used to prepare key figures for the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5) might be provided by authors during (rather than after) SR preparation. This would involve preparing guidance for authors and is designed to accelerate the production and attribution of figures and to ensure their full and timely archiving at the DDC.
- Climatological averaging of observed and projected AR5 data held at the DDC has been undertaken for a several averaging periods defined by the IPCC in recent and earlier reports (to allow for comparison). Further checks are underway ahead of approval by TGICA and publication of these data on the DDC.
- DDC web pages developed for the AR5 that explain the new scenarios process and linking to information on the Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) and the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) referred to in the AR5 are to be archived (as PDF copies). Some pages will be updated and new pages are being prepared to introduce the RCP/SSP scenarios being applied and assessed in the AR6.
- The first-order draft of a TGICA Fact Sheet on “Downscaling Climate Information” has been reviewed by international experts and by TGICA members (following TGICA review procedures) and is now being revised by the authors. The second-order draft will be re-reviewed by TGICA members before being considered for approval. If deemed necessary by the designated editor, a second review by external international reviewers may also be required.
- A first-order draft of “General guidelines on the use of scenario data for climate impact and adaptation assessment” is close to completion and submission for international review.
- Statistics of user sessions on the DDC have been analysed for the period 2009-2016 for developing countries and countries with economies in transition (EITs) in the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Many countries show an encouraging increase in using the resources on the DDC.

4. Future meetings

No full meeting of the Task Group is scheduled or budgeted by IPCC for the remainder of 2017 ahead of decisions on the future of TGICA and the DDC at IPCC-46 . However, in light of the ongoing agenda items described above, a teleconference will be arranged ahead of IPCC-46.

¹ http://sedac.ipcc-data.org/ddc/observed_ar5/index.html