Theme 2: Science to take stock and assess progress on mitigation

Updated Scenario Planning and Current Schedules for CMIP6

D. Carlson and the CMIP6 team

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) serves as a fundamental basis for international climate research. The process represents a remarkable technical and scientific coordination effort across dozens of climate modelling centres, involving ca. 1000 or more researchers.

A sequence of CMIP phases has underpinned and enabled a parallel sequence of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports. The Fifth Assessment Report openly acknowledges a heavy reliance on CMIP phase 5.

The present WCRP poster on “Updated Scenario Planning and Current Schedules for CMIP6” informs on the latest CMIP6 scenario matrix, the timeline for the CMIP6 DECK, historical, and MIP simulations as well as their analysis.¹

In designing CMIP6, the CMIP Panel – an oversight group of international scientists – undertook a rigorous assessment of past performance and future needs. For CMIP6, the Panel defined five key design goals: ensuring consistency across CMIP phases; science-based priority outlines; supporting self-determined schedules by modeling groups; strengthening a coherent scientific framework; and maintaining an open and inclusive process.

¹ An overview over CMIP6 and its scenario framework is given in the following two papers:
