

3.1.1 General tools

IPCC-TGCIA Guidelines on the Use of Scenario Data for Climate Impact and Adaptation Assessment

<i>Description</i>	<p>Guidelines on the Use of Scenario Data for Climate Impact and Adaptation Assessment represent part of an initiative of the IPCC Task Group on Scenarios for Climate Impact Assessment (TGCIA) to improve consistency in the selection, interpretation, and application of scenarios (climate, socioeconomic, and environmental) in climate impact and adaptation assessments. They provide user support for the IPCC Data Distribution Centre, which was established under the Task Group, to make freely available a number of global data sets of baseline and scenario information on climatic, environmental, and socioeconomic conditions.</p> <p>The guidelines have four main objectives: 1) introduce and describe the information and analytical tools being provided by the Data Distribution Center, 2) offer guidance on how to interpret the baseline and scenario data held by the DDC and elsewhere, 3) highlight and illustrate the key steps and procedures commonly required in applying a baseline and scenario data in impact and adaptation assessment, and 4) suggest standards for reporting the results.</p>
<i>Appropriate Use</i>	Scenario data should be applied as part of a greater methodological framework for climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment (see Chapter 2).
<i>Scope</i>	All regions and sectors.
<i>Key Output</i>	The DDC provides three types of data or information: observed global climate data sets, nonclimatic baseline and scenario information, and results from global climate model experiments.
<i>Key Input</i>	Not applicable.
<i>Key Tools</i>	GCMs, weather generators (see summary table in this section), statistical downscaling (see summary table in this section), high resolution GCM experiments, sensitivity analysis, among others.
<i>Ease of Use</i>	Depends on techniques employed.
<i>Training Required</i>	Depends on guidelines employed.
<i>Training Available</i>	No formal training offered.
<i>Computer Requirements</i>	Depends on how scenarios are applied and in the context of which framework.
<i>Documentation</i>	Available at http://ipcc-ddc.cru.uea.ac.uk/guidelines/guidance.pdf .
<i>Applications</i>	Not applicable.

IPCC-TGCIA Guidelines on the Use of Scenario Data for Climate Impact and Adaptation Assessment (cont.)

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<i>Cost</i>	Guidelines and data are provided free of charge.
<i>References</i>	Carter, T.R., M. Hulme, and M. Lal. 1999. <i>Guidelines on the Use of Scenario Data for Climate Impact and Adaptation Assessment</i> . Task Group on Scenarios for Climate Impact Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.