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MATTERS RELATED TO OTHER ACTIVITIES

Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments

This report describes the activities undertaken by the Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments (TG-Data) since its establishment in November 2025 following the start of the Seventh Assessment Cycle.

1. Establishment and functioning of TG-Data for the seventh assessment cycle

1. The Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments (TG-Data) for the Seventh Assessment Cycle was established in the fourth quarter of 2025, following the selection of its members by the IPCC Bureau in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.
2. In preparation for the transition between assessment cycles, the outgoing TG-Data prepared handover documentation and recommendations informed by experience from the Sixth Assessment Cycle. These materials were made available to the newly established TG-Data and provided an important basis for continuity.
3. Following its establishment, TG-Data became operational with support from the IPCC Secretariat. The Task Group initiated its work through an inaugural teleconference, followed by an online preparatory meeting, and held its first face to face meeting in December 2025, hosted by the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Institute in Frankfurt, Germany.
4. The meetings provided an opportunity for onboarding of members, review of the Terms of Reference, and consideration of handover materials and recommendations from the previous Task Group. These inputs informed early discussions on priorities and the initial consolidation of a structured workplan for the Seventh Assessment Cycle.
5. Participation included TG-Data members, ex officio representatives of the IPCC Data Distribution Centre (DDC) partners, representatives of Working Group Technical Support Units (TSUs), and the IPCC Secretariat, supporting early coordination across IPCC data functions.

2. Positioning of TG-Data within the Seventh Assessment Cycle

6. TG-Data supports the Seventh Assessment Cycle by providing guidance and coordination on data matters, in close liaison with the Working Groups, their Technical Support Units, the Data Distribution Centres, and the IPCC Secretariat.
7. The Task Group contributes to coherence, consistency, transparency, and traceability across IPCC data related activities throughout the assessment cycle, operating as a technical and oversight body engaged at multiple stages of the assessment workflow.
8. In the early phase of the Seventh Assessment Cycle, TG-Data engaged with Working Groups and their data representatives during the first Lead Author Meeting (LAM1) in Paris, immediately prior to the TG-Data face to face meeting in Frankfurt. These interactions supported early identification of data and knowledge management needs arising from the assessment process.
9. TG-Data also engaged with teams involved in cross cutting and methodological activities, including discussions with the team supporting the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (SRCities), to exchange experience on data workflows and inform coordination between upstream assessment needs and downstream data services provided through the Data Distribution Centres.

10. TG-Data engagement spans the full assessment lifecycle. The Task Group works closely with Working Groups and their data representatives at early stages of the assessment process, supporting data and knowledge management needs upstream while complementing downstream functions of the Data Distribution Centres related to curation, access, and long term preservation.

3. TG-Data workplan for the seventh assessment cycle

11. Building on its initial meetings and early engagement with Working Groups, TG-Data agreed on a structured workplan for the Seventh Assessment Cycle. The workplan provides an overarching framework for TG-Data activities, with priorities and specific actions to be identified and reviewed annually.
12. TG-Data provides, in close liaison with the three IPCC Working Group Bureaus (WGBs), strategic oversight and coordination across the DDC partners to promote coherence, complementarity, and efficient use of resources. In this role, TG-Data monitors planned and ongoing activities of DDC partners to avoid unnecessary overlap and promote clear delineation of roles and responsibilities across components. Through structured dialogue with DDC managers, Working Group Technical Support Units, and the IPCC Secretariat, TG-Data supports alignment of DDC activities with assessment needs, identifies gaps or overlaps at an early stage, and facilitates coordination where cross-cutting issues arise, while respecting the operational autonomy of individual DDC partners.
13. The workplan is organised around four complementary pillars that define the scope and direction of TG-Data's contribution to the Seventh Assessment Cycle. The pillars provide continuity while allowing flexibility to respond to evolving data and knowledge management needs at different stages of the assessment process.

Pillar 1: Strategic coordination and oversight of the DDC system.

Under this pillar, TG-Data supports oversight and strategic coordination of the Data Distribution Centres, with a focus on coherence, continuity, and sustainability of the federated DDC system. Activities include coordination across DDC partners, identification and management of cross-cutting issues and risks, and structured dialogue with DDC institutions. This work is undertaken in liaison with the WGBs and the IPCC Secretariat to ensure alignment with assessment needs and institutional processes.

Pillar 2: Data management support to Working Groups.

This pillar focuses on guidance and coordination on data and knowledge management in support of Working Groups and their Technical Support Units. TG-Data aims to facilitate consistent consideration of data management throughout assessment workflows, contributing to transparency, traceability, and long-term usability of IPCC assessment outputs.

Pillar 3: Outreach and dissemination.

Under this pillar, TG-Data supports outreach and dissemination related to IPCC data products beyond core assessment processes, including capacity-building activities on the use of IPCC data and scenarios, particularly in developing and transition-economy regions, in line with its Terms of Reference. Activities are undertaken in coordination with the Data Distribution Centres, TSUs, and with the support of the IPCC Secretariat to support broader understanding, accessibility, and informed reuse of IPCC data resources.

Pillar 4: Strategic partnerships and external engagement.

This pillar covers TG-Data's strategic engagement with relevant external organisations, initiatives, and networks dealing with data within the scope of the IPCC process. Such engagement aims to support data stability, accessibility, long-term preservation, and sustained institutional capacity, while ensuring alignment with Working Group needs.

4. Key TG-Data activities planned for 2026

14. Activities under Pillar 1 – Oversight and strategic coordination of the DDC system

- a. Regular coordination and information exchange with DDC managers, including structured discussions on cross-cutting issues related to data access, curation, continuity, and sustainability of the federated DDC system;
- b. Review and consideration of DDC annual reports and forward plans for the purposes of oversight, coordination, and reporting to the IPCC Bureau and the Panel;
- c. Liaison with Working Group Bureaus, TSUs, and the IPCC Secretariat on matters related to data infrastructure needs arising from the assessment process, including alignment between Working Group requirements and DDC services;
- d. Monitoring risks and dependencies relevant to the provision of data support and identifying issues that may require attention or guidance at the Bureau or Panel level.

15. Activities under Pillar 2 – Data management support to Working Groups, in close collaboration with Working Group Technical Support Units

- a. Development of WGI GitHub Organisation and Repository Guidelines in collaboration with WGI TSU representatives, including review of the proposed GitHub organisation structure and repository guidance, and co development of author facing documentation;
- b. Review, drafting, and updating of author guidance materials in collaboration with WGI, WGII and WGIII TSU representatives, including FAIR and CARE related guidance, website content, and other digital materials;
- c. Development of supporting communication materials, informed by author guidance, including videos and webinars, to facilitate consistent understanding and use of data related guidance by authors and TSUs;
- d. Coordination and scoping of data and figure archiving support across Working Groups, including a shared digital archival support approach and targeted figure data management support for WGI, focusing on requirements, workflows, and alignment with existing DDC and Secretariat processes;
- e. Development of review standards and protocols for interactive products, aligned with IPCC review stages, to guide their review within existing IPCC review processes, including products such as the Atlas.

16. Activities under Pillar 3 – Outreach and dissemination, in coordination with the Data Distribution Centres and Technical Support Units

- a. Dissemination and outreach activities by TG-Data and the Data Distribution Centres, including demonstrations, presentations, and workshops related to IPCC digital products at relevant scientific and data forums, implemented on a recurring basis across the assessment cycle.

- b. Organisation of training and capacity-building activities linked to AR7 digital products, including virtual training workshops tailored to Working Groups and specific products, conducted in coordination with Technical Support Units, the Data Distribution Centres, and with support from the IPCC Secretariat.

17. Activities under Pillar 4 – Strategic partnerships and external engagement

- a. Assessment of strategic partnerships and external engagement needs relevant to data support, including identification of priority areas where external collaboration may add value within the mandate of the Panel, with further discussion and consolidation of activities under this pillar planned in 2026.

18. TG-Data organisational and coordination activities include the following:

- a. Regular engagement of TG-Data co-chairs in monthly online meetings with Data Distribution Centre managers to support ongoing coordination and information exchange;
- b. Additional ad hoc coordination calls held by the co-chairs with DDC partners, TSUs and the IPCC Secretariat, as required;
- c. Formation of ad hoc groups within TG-Data around specific activities to advance work under the agreed pillars while maintaining flexibility and responsiveness to emerging needs;
- d. Regular TG-Data meetings held online on a quarterly basis, complemented by additional meetings where required to address time-sensitive or cross-cutting issues;

5. Closer collaboration with Working Groups and Technical Support Units

- 19. The activities outlined above are implemented through close and continuous collaboration with the Working Groups and their Technical Support Units. This collaboration provides the primary interface through which TG-Data supports the assessment process.
- 20. TG-Data engages with Working Groups through their TSUs to support data and knowledge management needs arising during the assessment process. This engagement is designed to be two-way, supporting authors and TSUs while ensuring that Working Group needs are reflected in the services provided by the Data Distribution Centres.
- 21. Particular emphasis is placed on the early stages of the assessment process, where data and knowledge management considerations first emerge and where coordination can most effectively support consistency, transparency, and traceability across assessment products. Early engagement also supports timely identification of issues that may require coordination across Working Groups or with the DDC partners.

6. Overview of the Data Distribution Centres, components, and operational activities in 2025

- 22. The IPCC Data Distribution Centre (DDC) operates as a federated system composed of several institutional and functional components that support access to, curation, documentation, and long-term preservation of data underpinning IPCC assessment products. The system is implemented through designated partner institutions responsible for one or more DDC components covering distinct data domains and services, including climate model output, scenarios, socio-economic and geospatial data, catalogues, and associated user support functions. Together, these components contribute to transparency, traceability, and the long-term accessibility of data underpinning IPCC assessment products, highlighting the importance of sustained support for the functioning of the federated DDC system.

23. In 2025, the DDC system comprised several institutional components delivered through designated partner institutions. Metadata and repository services were coordinated through the Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA, United Kingdom). Climate model data access and related services were provided by the Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum (DKRZ, Germany), whose role concluded at the end of 2025. Socio-economic, scenarios, and geospatial data services were delivered by the Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN) at Columbia University (United States). Digital and interactive products, including the Working Group I Interactive Atlas and associated datasets, were supported by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, Spain). Catalogue services were operated by MetadataWorks (MDW, United Kingdom).
24. The summary of activities presented below is based on progress reports submitted by the DDC institutions to TG-Data in 2025 for the purposes of information sharing and coordination.
- a. During 2025, the Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA, United Kingdom) continued to maintain metadata and repository services supporting IPCC data holdings. Activities included documentation and curation of datasets underpinning IPCC figures and tables, maintenance of persistent identifiers and metadata records to support traceability, operation of user support and helpdesk services, and preparation of catalogue structures to accommodate evolving data and documentation requirements.
 - b. MetadataWorks (MDW, United Kingdom) delivered operational services related to catalogue management and metadata workflows. Activities included maintenance and enhancement of dataset catalogues, refinement of metadata schemas in collaboration with the WGI TSU data team, support for figure-level data archiving, and operation of the DDC catalogue helpdesk.
 - c. The Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN), Columbia University (United States) continued to curate and provide access to socio-economic, demographic, scenarios, and spatial datasets relevant to IPCC assessments. Activities included maintenance and updating of data holdings, harmonisation and documentation of datasets to support reuse across assessment products, and coordination related to anticipated data needs, including support to SRCities through metadata forms, preparation of training workshop materials, and planning of the Digital Case-study Gallery (DCSG).
 - d. The Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, Spain) continued operation and support of the IPCC WGI Interactive Atlas, including hosting, maintenance, and help desk services. The Atlas provides access to assessed climate information and enables users to explore, visualise, and export underlying datasets with associated metadata and documentation.
 - e. During 2025, the Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum (DKRZ, Germany) continued to provide climate model data access and related services, while supporting continuity of relevant DDC functions as its long-standing role concluded at the end of the year. Activities focused on maintaining data services and coordination to support an orderly transition.

7. Forward outlook, continuity, and system-wide considerations

25. Looking ahead, TG-Data will continue to support the functioning of the federated Data Distribution Centre (DDC) system as a key enabler of effective assessment delivery, transparency, and long-term accessibility of IPCC data products. The activities described in this report illustrate that data support for IPCC assessments spans the full assessment lifecycle, from early-stage preparation and author support to downstream curation, documentation, and public access.

26. TG-Data notes positively the preparation of a new German DDC role at the German Meteorological Service (DWD), in close cooperation with the Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum (DKRZ). The establishment of this arrangement is expected to contribute to continuity following the conclusion of the long-standing DKRZ role and to further strengthen the federated nature of the DDC system. With the support of the IPCC Secretariat, TG-Data will continue to engage with DDC partners to support coordinated integration as this arrangement becomes operational.
27. As the DDC system evolves, TG-Data anticipates increased coordination and collaboration across participating institutions, including closer alignment of data curation practices, documentation approaches, catalogue development, maintenance of IPCC digital products, and user support functions. A federated approach that enables trusted data service providers to contribute through designated DDC roles, under the oversight of TG-Data, can further strengthen resilience, continuity, and preparedness across assessment cycles.
28. TG-Data notes that the continued functioning of the federated Data Distribution Centre system relies on the sustained commitment and support of participating institutions and governments. Continued engagement and support will help ensure the stability and long-term accessibility of data services supporting IPCC assessment activities.
29. In parallel with these system-wide developments, TG-Data has initiated several efforts to further support implementation of its workplan and to strengthen data management practices across Working Groups. One such activity involves the systematic mapping of data workflows across Working Groups, documenting how data move through stages such as input, intermediate processing, final datasets, and figure-level outputs. The mapping captures key aspects including data types, knowledge systems, code and tools, licensing arrangements, DOI status, and responsible actors. Initial inputs have been compiled for several Working Groups, and this work will continue in collaboration with TSUs as Working Group data practices evolve.
30. TG-Data also notes progress in the development of collaborative data infrastructure to support assessment workflows. In particular, guidance has been prepared for the AR7 WGI GitHub organisation (IPCC-AR7-WG1), covering repository structure, workflows, permissions, and basic data and metadata practices. A repository template has been developed to support implementation by authors, and training activities are planned to support consistent use of these repositories across chapter teams.
31. TG-Data further anticipates continued work on approaches to the review of digital and interactive assessment products, including products such as the Interactive Atlas. Initial discussions have begun on potential review standards and protocols aligned with existing IPCC review stages, with further work planned in collaboration with the relevant Working Groups.

8. Expected Outcome.

The Panel is invited to:

- Take note of the progress report of the TG-Data, including its establishment, initial activities, and planned work for 2026.
- Approve the structured workplan of TG-Data for the Seventh Assessment Cycle, including its support to the Working Groups, coordination of the Data Distribution Centres, and work on data management guidance, archiving, outreach, and review of digital products.
- Encourage continued collaboration among TG-Data, the Working Groups, the Technical Support Units, the Data Distribution Centre partners, and the Secretariat to support continuity, transparency, and long-term accessibility of IPCC data products across the Seventh Assessment Cycle.