Coordinated climate change experiments to be assessed as part of the IPCC AR5

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Coordinated climate change experiments (formulated by WGCM and AIMES) to be run for assessment in IPCC AR5 Two classes of models to address two time frames and two sets of science questions:

1. Decadal prediction (2005-2030) higher resolution (~50 km), no carbon cycle, some chemistry and aerosols, single scenario, science question: e.g. regional extremes

2. Longer term (to 2100 and beyond) intermediate resolution (~200 km), carbon cycle, specified/ simple chemistry and aerosols, new mitigation scenarios: *"representative concentration pathways" (RCPs)* science question: e.g. feedbacks

(Meehl and Hibbard, 2007; Hibbard et al., 2007)

Developmental version of CCSM3.5 (last 20 years of 20th century)

DJF Total Precipitation (mm/day)



Need higher resolution to simulate extreme precipitation events Hi-CGCM = T106 (~100 km) Mid-CGDM = T42 (~240 km)



⁽Kimoto et al., 2005)



Greater uncertainty towards higher values due in part to uncertainty in the size and nature of the carbon cycle feedback

Expt #1: Diagnose climate and carbon cycle feedbacks



emissions = CO2 flux + CO2 concentrations



Expt #2: Carbon cycle response with no climate change

Climate change (AOGCM or ESM)

Carbon cycle and compatible emissions (ESM or offline carbon cycle model)





#2 - #1 = effect of climate
feedbacks on compatible
emissions

Expt #3: Fully coupled ESM climate change projection

Use emissions from RCP scenario, calculate fully coupled climate system response, compare temperature change to experiment 1 to determine size of carbon cycle feedback in terms of climate change



CCWG recommendations:

- 1. 0.5 degree AOGCM version for decadal prediction experiments
- 2. 2 x 2.5 degree ESM for long term experiments

Next: Mitigation/adaptation

New mitigation scenarios run with earth system models will have implicit policy actions to target future levels of climate change

But we can only mitigate part of the problem, and we will have to adapt to the remaining climate change

The challenge: use climate models to quantify time-evolving regional climate changes to which human societies will have to adapt



KAKUSHIN: Global Warming Experiment on the Earth Simulator





Stabilization at SP550 requires a cumulative 24% reduction of permissible emissions due to positive carbon cycle feedback (23% for SP1000)

MIROC integrated earth system model (Kawamiya et al.)