



# Scenarios

Uniwersytet Warszawski  
Master Program in Sustainable Development  
Climate Change

Students:



# Content

- I. Scenarios driving forces
- II. SRES Scenarios
- III. RCP Scenarios
- IV. RCP Scenarios
- V. Global Carbon Project

**If you were to create a  
projection/scenario:**

**What variables would  
you include??**

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# Concepts



# Definition of scenario

**Scenarios provide a basis for assessing the risk of crossing identifiable thresholds in both physical change and impacts on biological and human systems.**

Scenarios describe plausible trajectories of different aspects of the future that are constructed to investigate the potential consequences of anthropogenic climate change.

**Scenarios represent many of the major driving forces:**

- including processes,
- impacts (physical, ecological, and socioeconomic)
- potential responses that are important for informing climate change policy.

*“Scenarios are images of the future or alternative futures”*

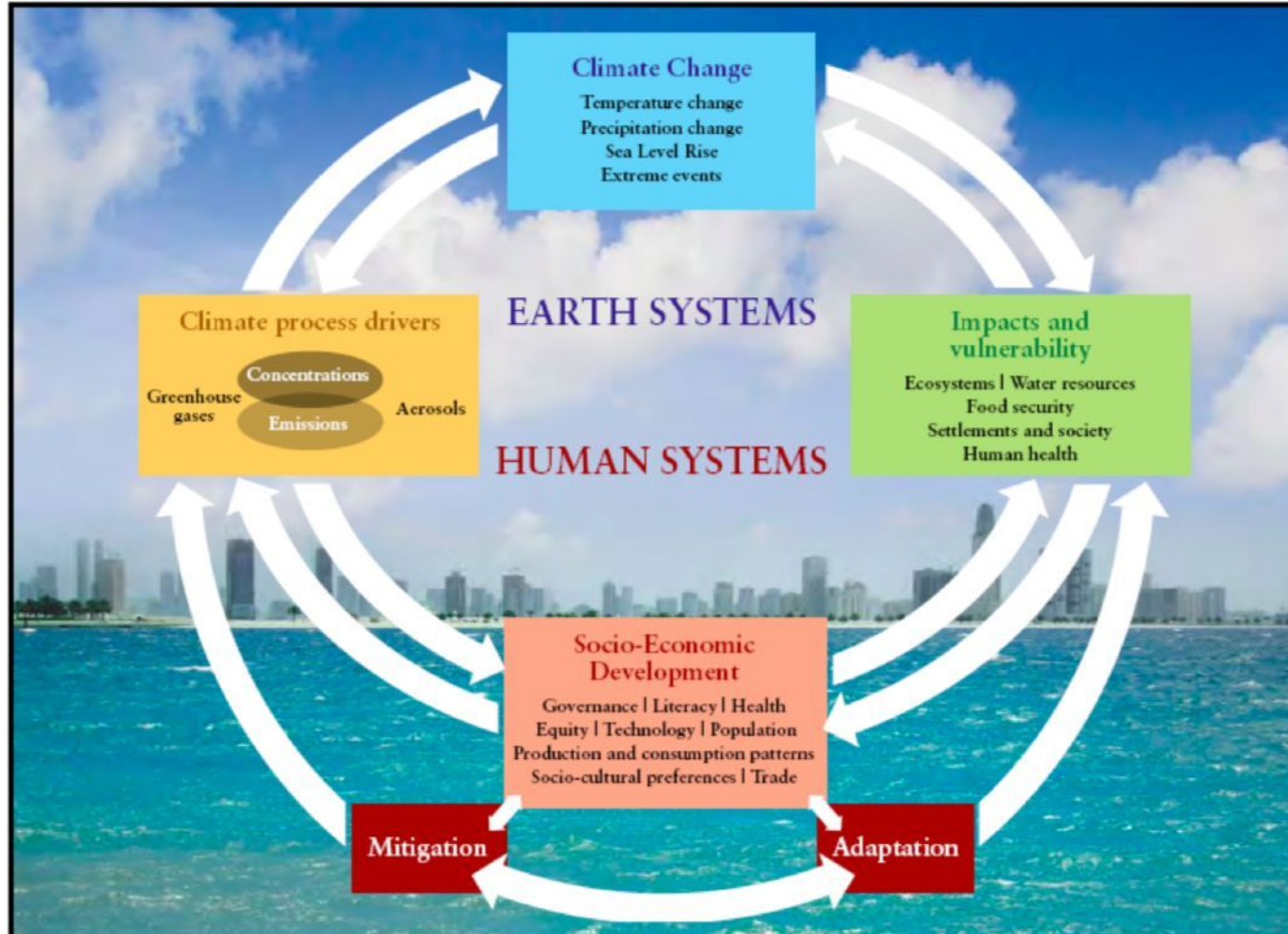


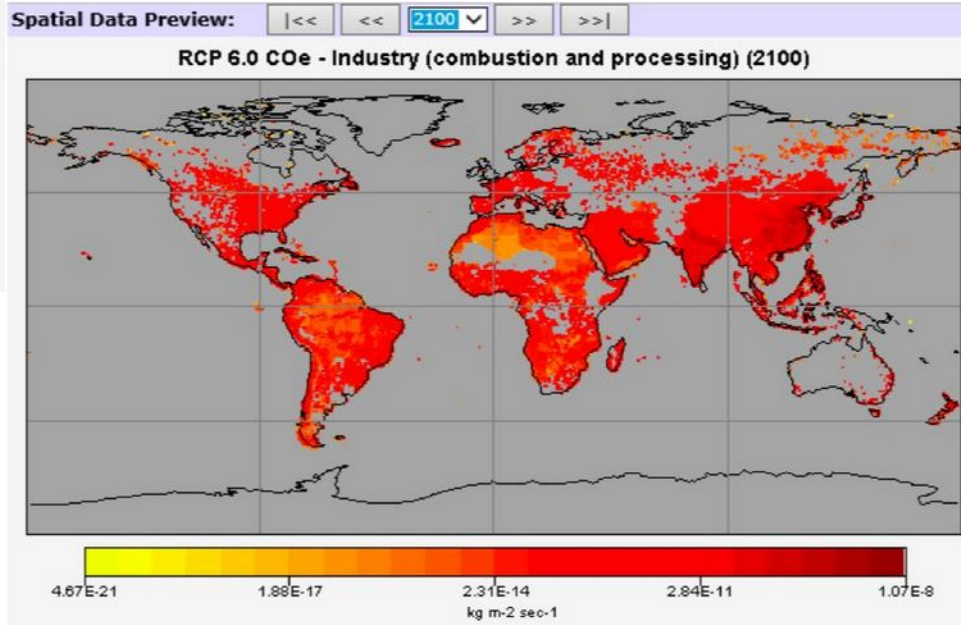
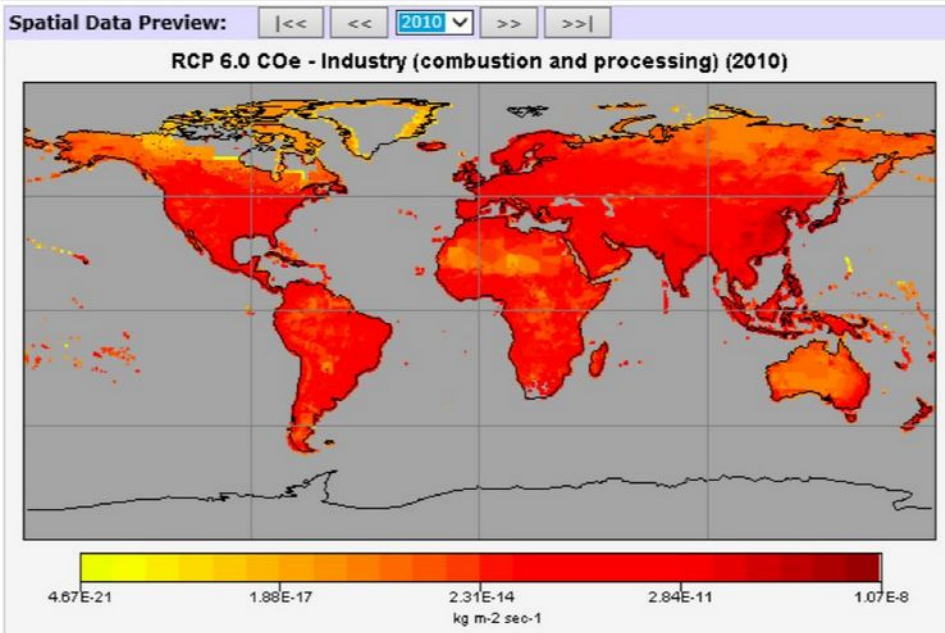
# Purpose of scenario

They are used to hand off information from one area of research to another (e.g., from research on energy systems and greenhouse gas emissions to climate modeling)

- Many climate modelling teams are working at the same time
- There is a need to compare studies
- It creates possibility of validation of other models
- Easier and less time consuming communication between teams
- Lower cost of running models
- Short supply of powerful computers

# Why it is important?





What RCPs consist of?





# Limitations and problems

- Uncertainties
- Disagreements
- Scenarios help in the assessment of future developments in complex systems that are either inherently unpredictable, or that have high scientific uncertainties.
- Methodological differences
- Different sources of data
- Computer calculating power



# Scenario driving forces

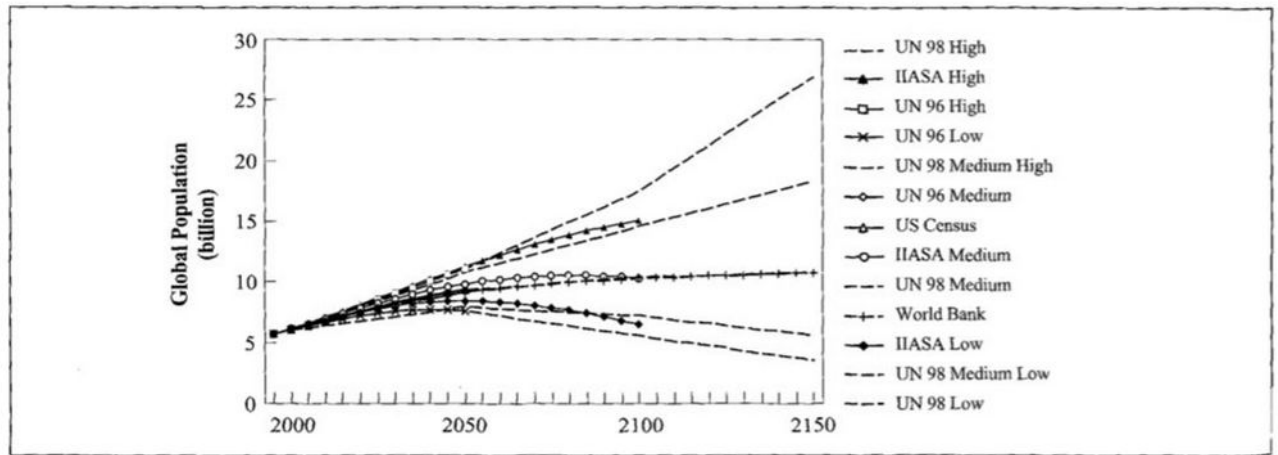
- **Population** (trends, projections, demography, aging, urbanization, economic growth)
- **Economic and social development** (social and institutional changes, international trade, innovations, social advancement of the poor, behavior of the wealthy)
- **Energy and technology** (energy use and emissions by major sectors as [agriculture, industry, buildings, transport], energy resources, fossil and fissile resources, renewables, energy supply technologies)
- **Agriculture and land use** (carbon dioxide from anthropogenic land use, methane from rice production, nitrous oxides emission,
- **Other gas emission** (Nitrous oxide, methane, sulfur dioxide, ozone precursors, halocarbons)
- **Policies and their influence**

**Table 3-1:** Population of the world and by major areas between 1800 and 1996 in millions. Data source: UN, 1998.

|                             | 1800 | 1850 | 1900 | 1950 | 1996 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| World                       | 978  | 1262 | 1650 | 2524 | 5768 |
| Africa                      | 107  | 111  | 133  | 224  | 739  |
| Asia                        | 635  | 809  | 947  | 1402 | 3488 |
| Europe                      | 203  | 276  | 408  | 547  | 729  |
| Latin America and Caribbean | 24   | 38   | 74   | 166  | 484  |
| Northern America            | 7    | 26   | 82   | 172  | 299  |
| Oceania                     | 2    | 2    | 6    | 13   | 29   |

# Population trends

# Population estimations





# Economic growth trends

*Table 3-2: Per capita GDP growth rates for selected regions and time periods, in percent per year. Data source: Maddison, 1995.*

|                                     | 1870–1913 | 1913–1950 | 1950–1980 | 1980–1992 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Western Europe                      | 1.3       | 0.9       | 3.5       | 1.7       |
| Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA | 1.8       | 1.6       | 2.2       | 1.3       |
| Eastern Europe                      | 1.0       | 1.2       | 2.9       | -2.4      |
| Latin America                       | 1.5       | 1.5       | 2.5       | -0.6      |
| Asia                                | 0.6       | 0.1       | 3.5       | 3.6       |
| Africa                              | 0.5       | 1.0       | 1.8       | -0.8      |
| World (sample of 199 countries)     | 1.3       | 0.9       | 2.5       | 1.1       |

**Table 3-5:** Global fossil and fissile energy reserves, resources, and occurrences (in ZJ ( $10^{21}$ J)). Global and regional estimates are discussed in detail in Rogner (1997) and Gregory and Rogner (1998).

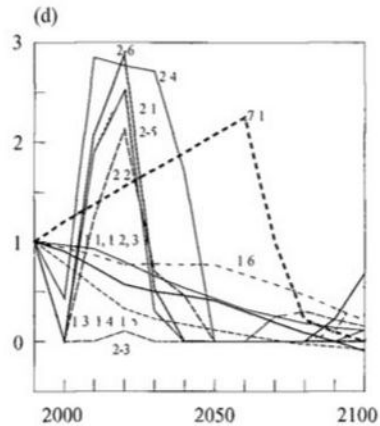
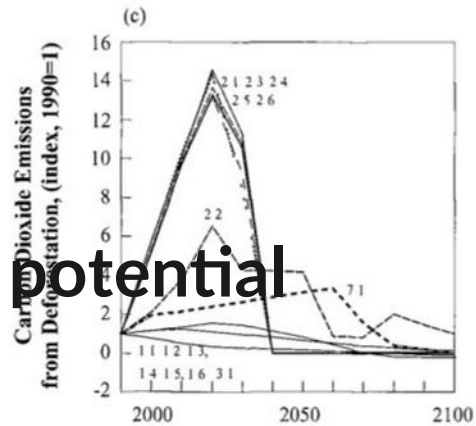
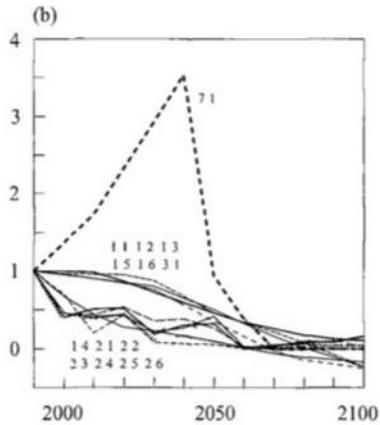
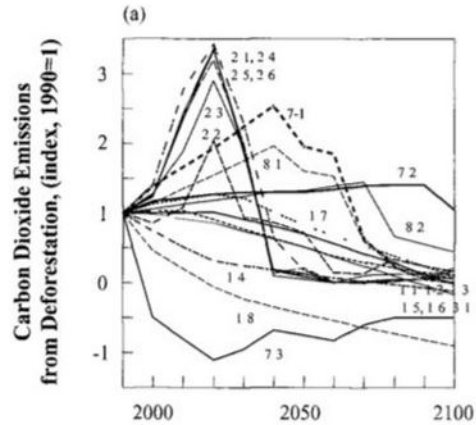
|                | Consumption |      | Reserves Identified | Conventional Resources Remaining to be Discovered |       | Recoverable with Technological Progress | Additional Occurrences |
|----------------|-------------|------|---------------------|---|-------|---|------------------------|
|                | 1860–1990   | 1990 |                     | Low   | High  |   |                        |
| <i>Oil</i>     |             |      |                     |   |       |   |                        |
| Conventional   | 3.35        | 0.13 | 6.3                 | 1.6   | 5.9   |   |                        |
| Unconventional | —           | —    | 7.1                 |   |       | 9                                       | >15                    |
| <i>Gas</i>     |             |      |                     |   |       |   |                        |
| Conventional   | 1.70        | 0.07 | 5.4                 | 9.4   | 22.6  |   | >10                    |
| Unconventional | —           | —    | 6.9                 |   |       | 20                                      | >22                    |
| Hydrates       | —           | —    |                     |   |       |   | >800                   |
| <i>Coal</i>    | 5.20        | 0.09 | 22.9                |   |       | 80                                      | >150                   |
| <i>Total</i>   | 10.25       | 0.29 | 48.6                | >11.0   | >28.5 | >109                                    | >987                   |
| <i>Nuclear</i> | 0.21        | 0.02 | 2.0                 |   |       | >11                                     | >1,000                 |

## Oil reserves, resources and occurrences

## Renewable energy potential

**Table 3-6:** Global renewable energy potentials for 2020 to 2025, maximum technical potentials, and annual flows, in EJ. Data sources: Watson et al., 1996; Enquete-Kommission, 1990.<sup>2</sup>

|            | Consumption |      | Potentials by 2020–2025 | Long-term Technical Potentials | Annual Flows |
|------------|-------------|------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|            | 1860–1990   | 1990 |                         |                                |              |
| Hydro      | 560         | 21   | 35–55                   | >130                           | >400         |
| Geothermal | —           | <1   | 4                       | >20                            | >800         |
| Wind       | —           | —    | 7–10                    | >130                           | >200,000     |
| Ocean      | —           | —    | 2                       | >20                            | >300         |
| Solar      | —           | —    | 16–22                   | >2,600                         | >3,000,000   |
| Biomass    | 1,150       | 55   | 72–137                  | >1,300                         | >3,000       |
| Total      | 1,710       | 76   | 130–230                 | >4,200                         | >3,000,000   |



# Agriculture and deforestation

potential



**SRES**

**Methodology & Scenarios**



# Storylines driving forces

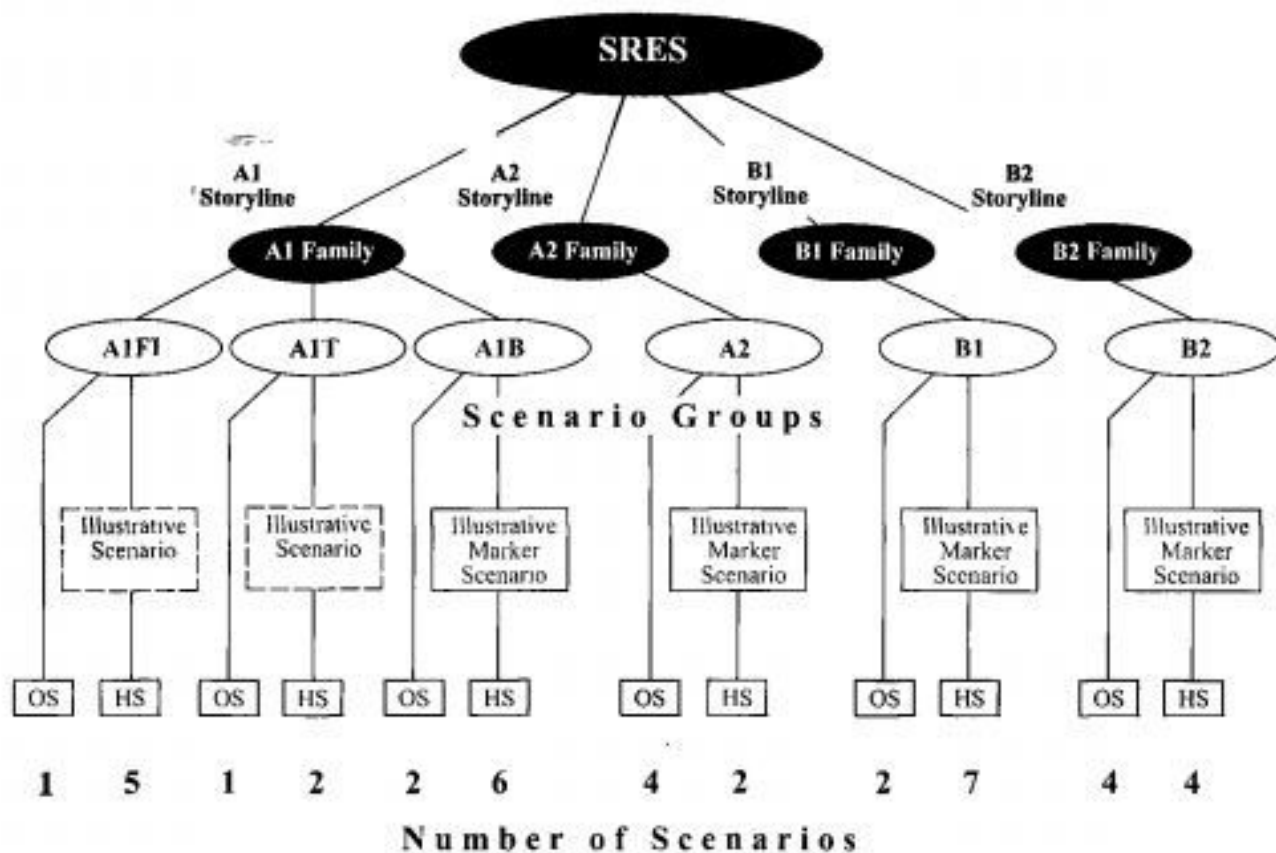
- Population growth: fast, moderate, slow.
- Economic growth *vis à vis* Environmental-friendly policies.
- Development: Regional *vis à vis* Global.
- Technological development: fast or slow.
- GHG emissions: high, low.



**IPCC assessment report  
projections for the future are  
often made in the context of a  
specific scenario family.**

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**Box SPM-1: The Main Characteristics of the Four SRES Storylines and Scenario Families.**



Source:  
SRES, IPCC, 2000 - Nebojsa  
Nakicenovic and Rob Swart  
(Eds.) Cambridge University  
Press, UK.

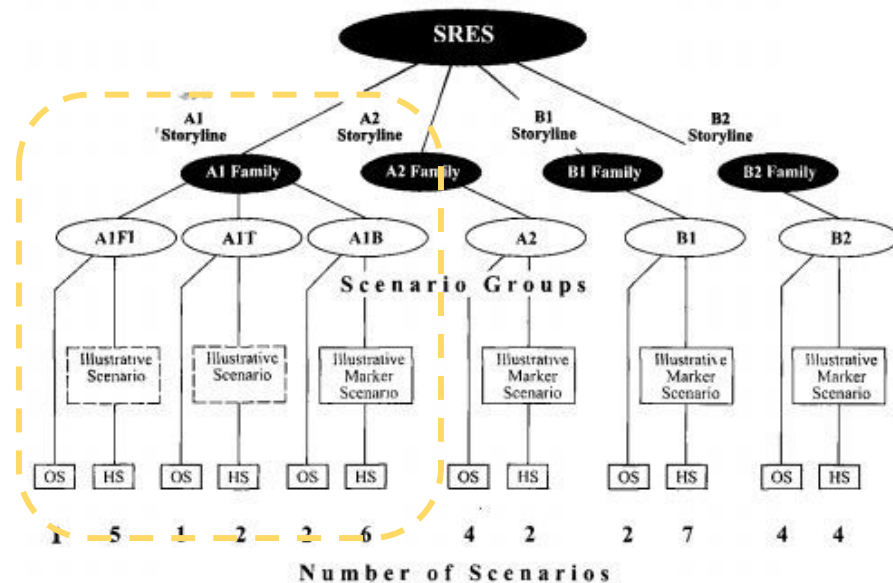
[https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/emissions\\_scenarios-1.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/emissions_scenarios-1.pdf)

**Figure SPM.1:** Schematic illustration of SRES scenarios. Four qualitative storylines yield four sets of scenarios called

**Four from 40 scenarios  
are designated as  
*marker scenarios.***

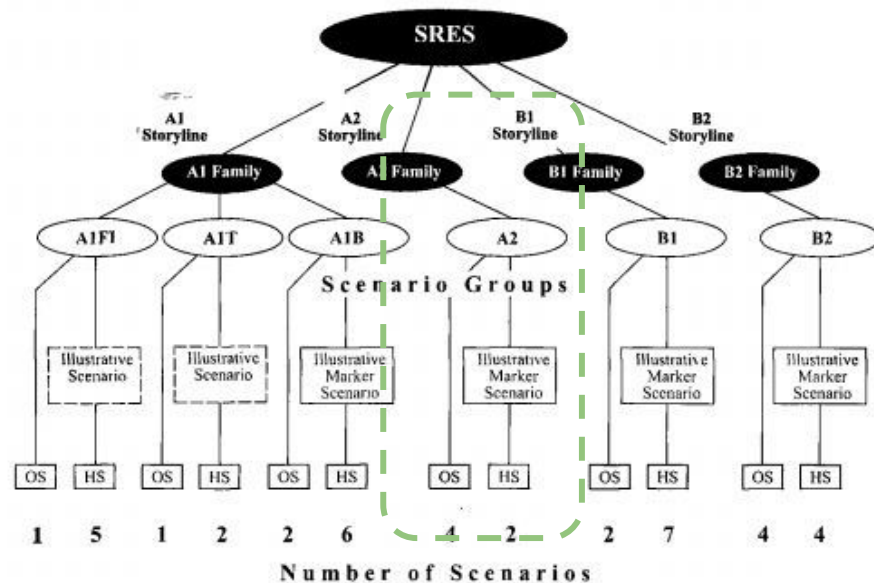
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Box SPM-1: The Main Characteristics of the Four SRES Storylines and Scenario Families.



**Figure SPM-1:** Schematic illustration of SRES scenarios. Four qualitative storylines yield four sets of scenarios called “families”: A1, A2, B1, and B2. Altogether 40 SRES scenarios have been developed by six modeling teams. All are equally valid with no assigned probabilities of occurrence. The set of scenarios consists of six scenario groups drawn from the families: one group each in A2, B1, B2, and three groups within the A1 family, characterizing alternative development energy technologies: A1FI (fossil fuel intensive), A1B (balanced), and A1T (predominantly non-fossil fuel). Within each family and group of scenarios, some share “harmonized” assumptions on global population, gross world product, and energy. These are marked as “HS” for harmonized scenarios. “OS” denotes scenarios that explore uncertainties in driving forces beyond those of the harmonized scenarios. The number of scenarios developed within each category is shown. In each of the six scenario groups an illustrative scenario (which is always harmonized) is provided. Four illustrative marker scenarios, one for each scenario family, were used in draft form in the 1998 SRES open process and are included in

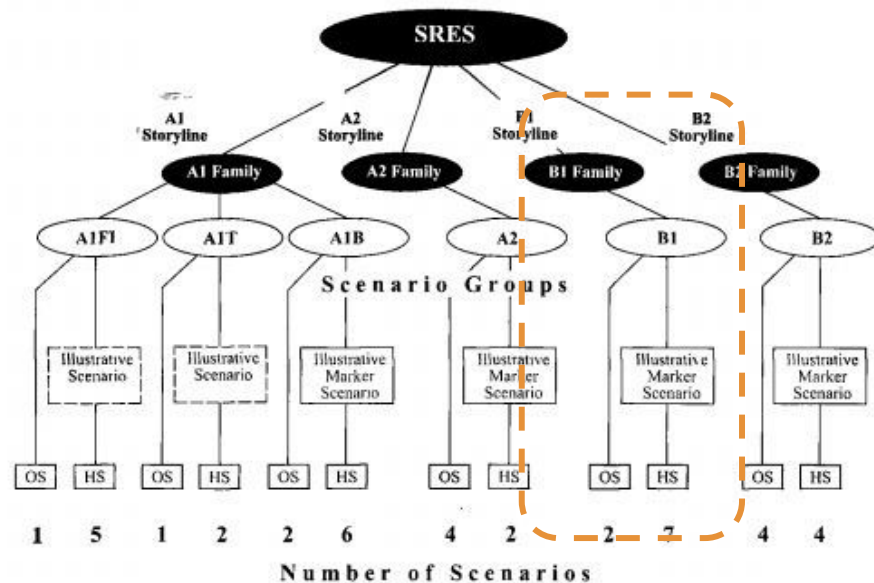
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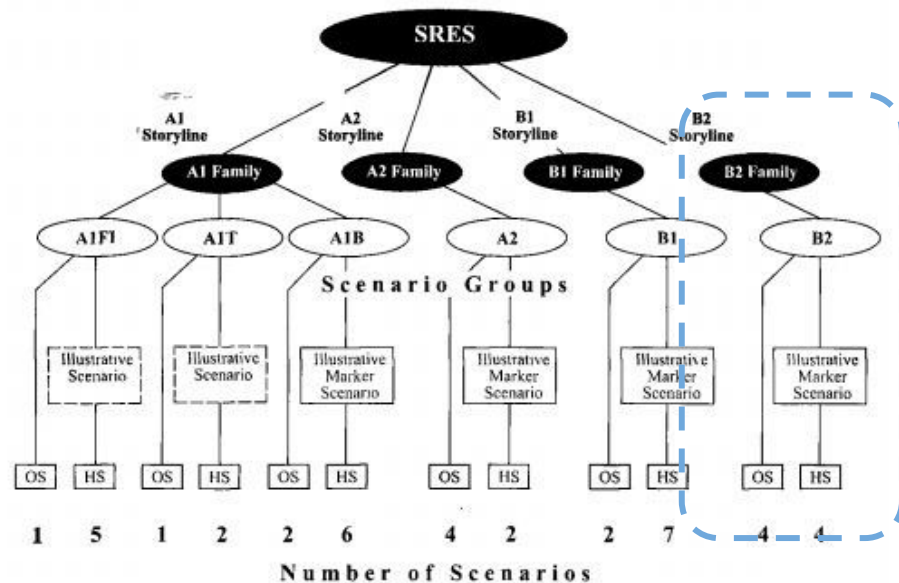
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## B2 Family



24

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| Variable               | A1   | A2                                       | B1   | B2  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Economic growth        | Very rapid.  | Slow.                                    | Rapid change, towards services and in information. | Intermediate.                                 |
| Population growth      | Low.   | High.                                    | Low.   | Moderate.                                     |
| Tech change            | Rapid introduction of new and efficient technologies.          | Fragmented and slow.                     | Introduction of clean and resource-efficient tech. | Compared to A1, B1: Less rapid, more diverse. |
| Globalization          | Convergence among regions.                                     | Heterogenous world. Regionally oriented. | Convergent world.                                  | Emphasis on local solutions.                  |
| Environmental approach | --   | --                                       | Reduction of materials intensity.                  | Oriented to environmental protection.         |
| Society approach       | Capacity building, increased cultural and social interactions. | Preservation of local identities.        | Improved equity.                                   | Oriented to social equity.                    |

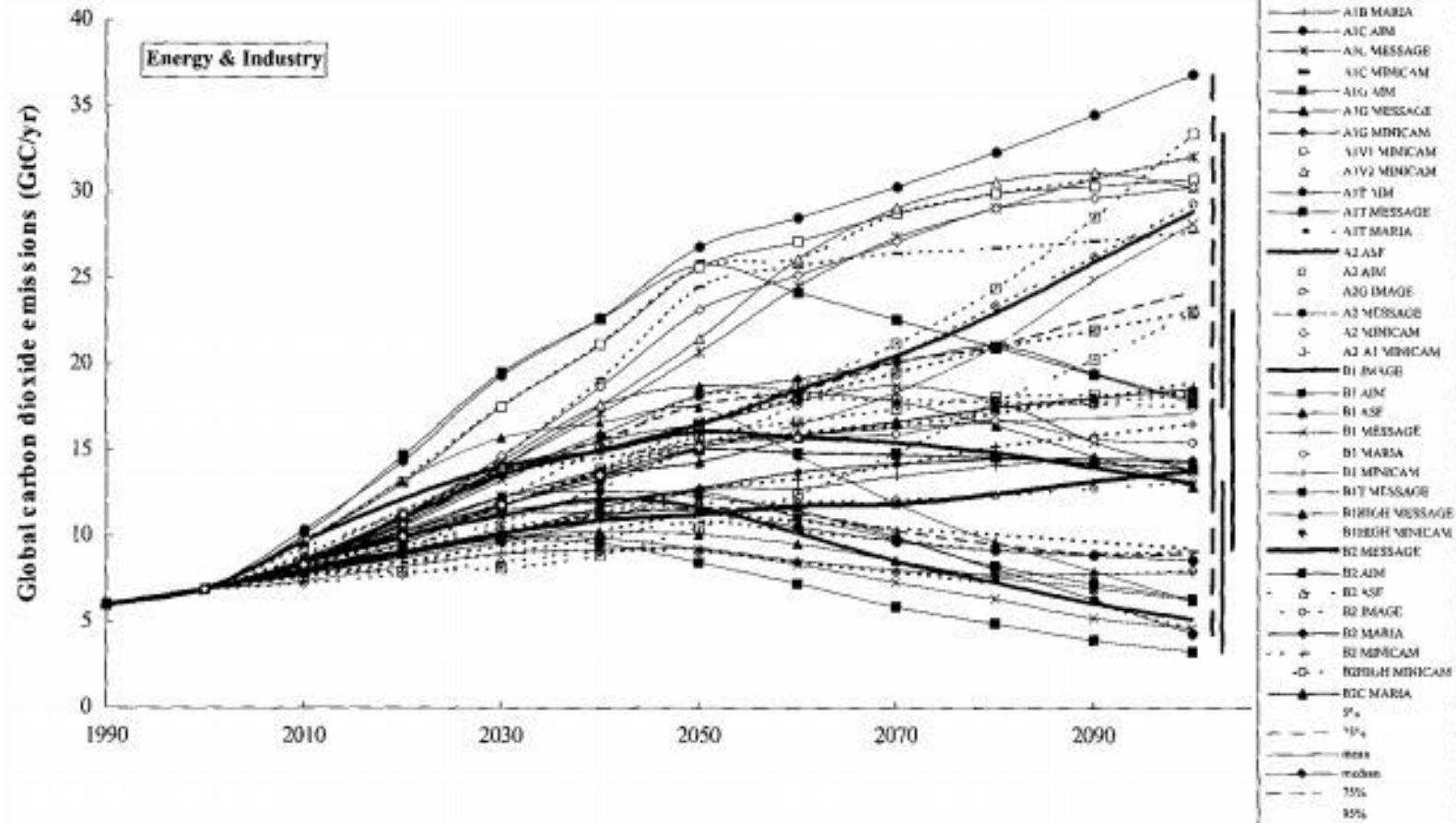


| Modeling approach  | From  |
|--|---|
| Asian Pacific Integrated Model (AIM)   | National Institute of Environmental Studies in Japan.   |
| Atmospheric Stabilization Framework Model (ASFCF)  | ARC Consulting in the USA.  |
| Integrated Model to Assess the Greenhouse Effect (IMAGE)                                       | National Institute for Public Health and Environmental Hygiene (RIVM) + Dutch Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) WorldScan model, the Netherlands. |
| Multiregional Approach for Resource and Industry Allocation (MARIA)                            | Science University of Tokyo in Japan.   |
| Model for Energy Supply Strategy Alternatives and their General Environmental Impact (MESSAGE) | International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria.   |
| Mini Climate Assessment Model (MiniCAM)  | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), USA.  |

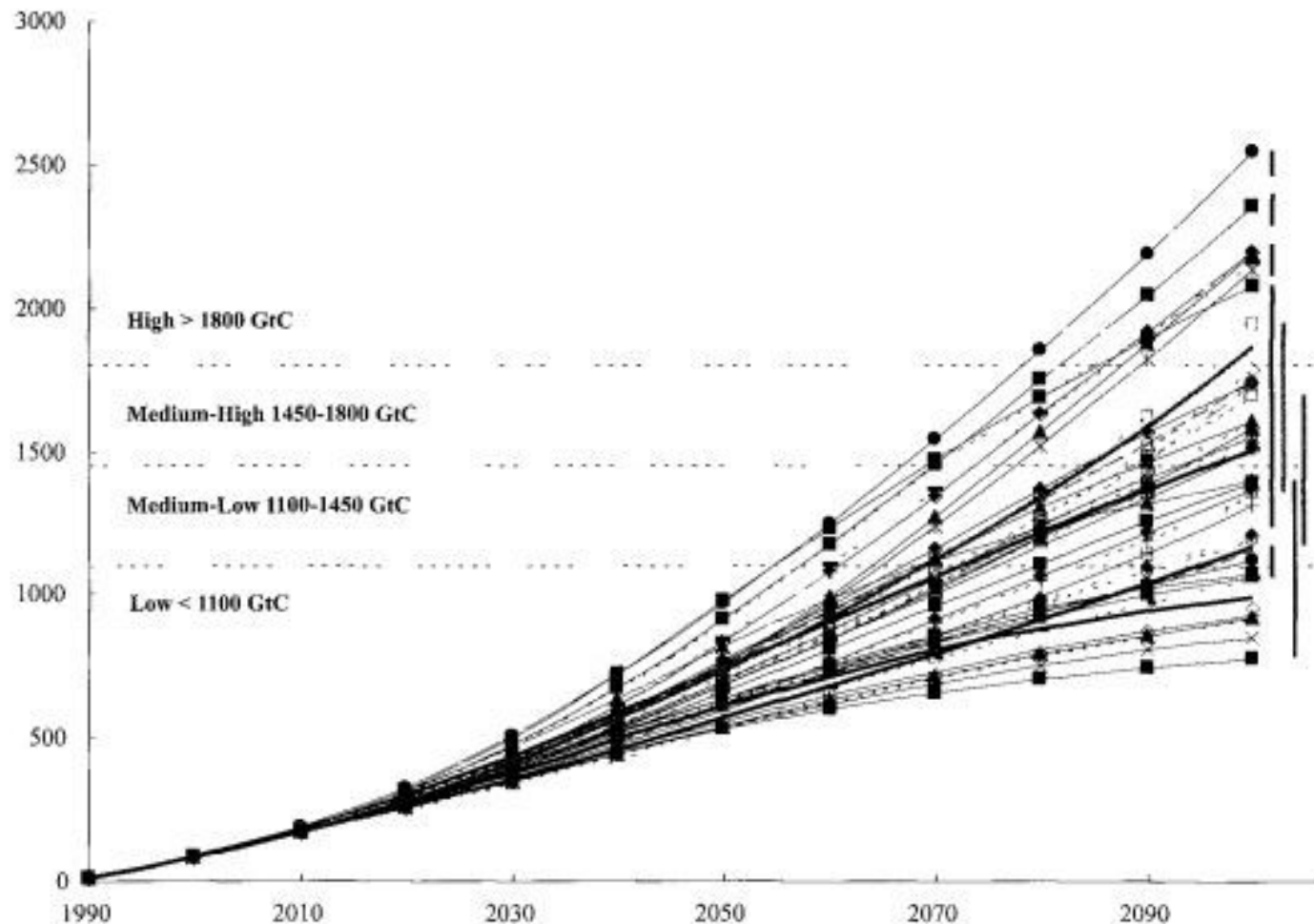
**These scenarios are based on a thorough review of the literature, the development of narrative "storylines", and the quantification of these storylines with the help of six different integrated models from different countries.**

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**Global atmospheric concentrations of GHG have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values.**

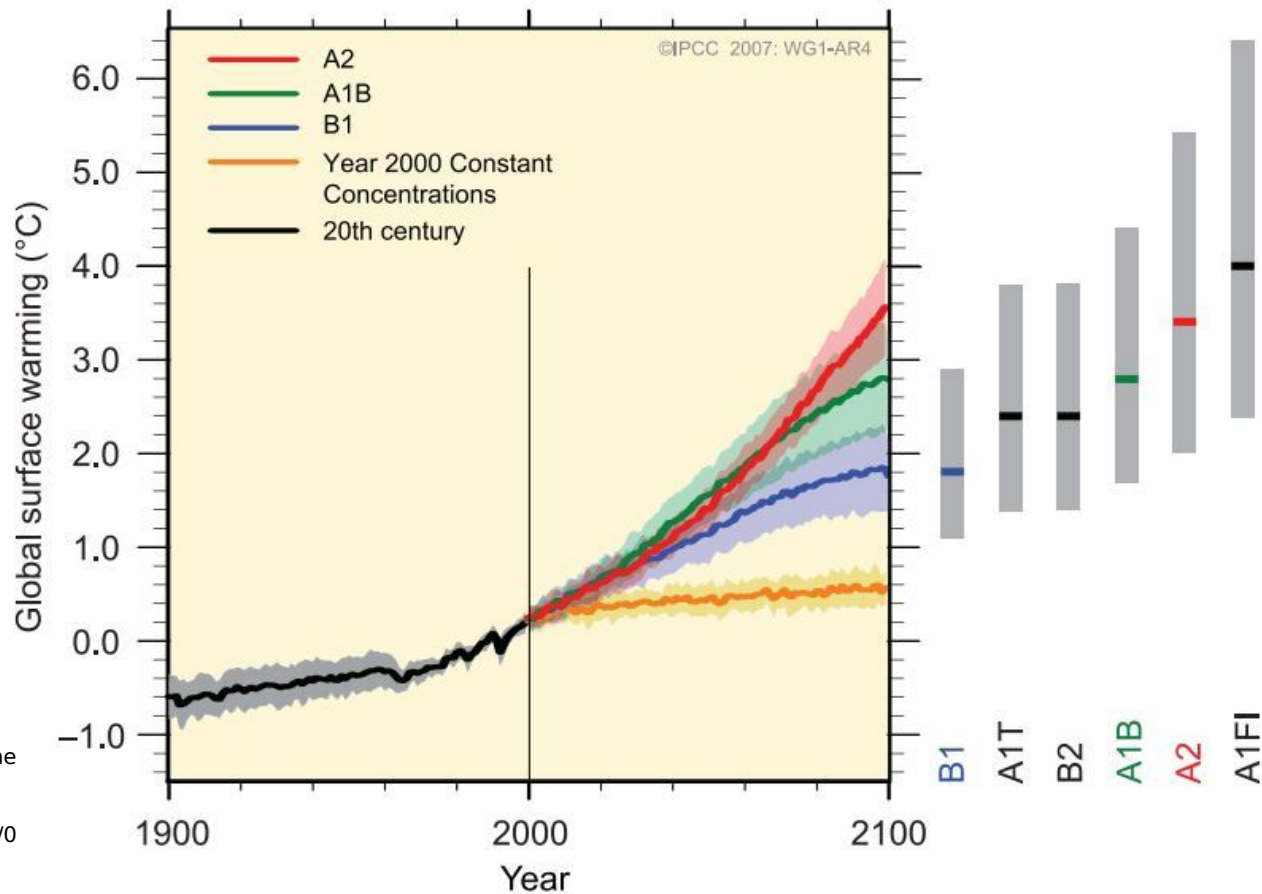


Global cumulative carbon dioxide emissions (GrC)



- A1B A1M
- A1B A1F
- ▲ A1B IM A0B
- × A1B MESSAGE
- A1B MINICAM
- † A1B MARIA
- A1C A1M
- × A1C MESSAGE
- - - A1C MINICAM
- A1D A1M
- ▲ A1D MESSAGE
- A1D MINICAM
- - □ A1V1 MINICAM
- △ A1V2 MINICAM
- A1T A1M
- A1T MESSAGE
- - ● A1T MARIA
- A2 A1F
- A2 A1M
- A2 IM A0E
- A2 MESSAGE
- A2 MINICAM
- × A2-V1 MINICAM
- B1 IM A0E
- B1 A1M
- ▲ B1 A1F
- × B1 MESSAGE
- B1 MARIA
- B1 MINICAM
- B1T MESSAGE
- ▲ B1HIGH MESSAGE
- B1HIGH MINICAM
- B2 MESSAGE
- B2 A1M
- - △ B2 A1F
- - □ B2 IM A0E
- B2 MARIA
- + B2 MINICAM
- - □ B2HIGH MINICAM
- ▲ B2C MARIA
- - - 3%
- - - 2.5%
- median
- median
- - - 7%
- - - 9%

### MULTI-MODEL AVERAGES AND ASSESSED RANGES FOR SURFACE WARMING



Source:  
IPCC, 2007: Summary for Policymakers. In:  
Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science  
Basis. Contribution of Working  
Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4-wg1-spm-1.pdf>

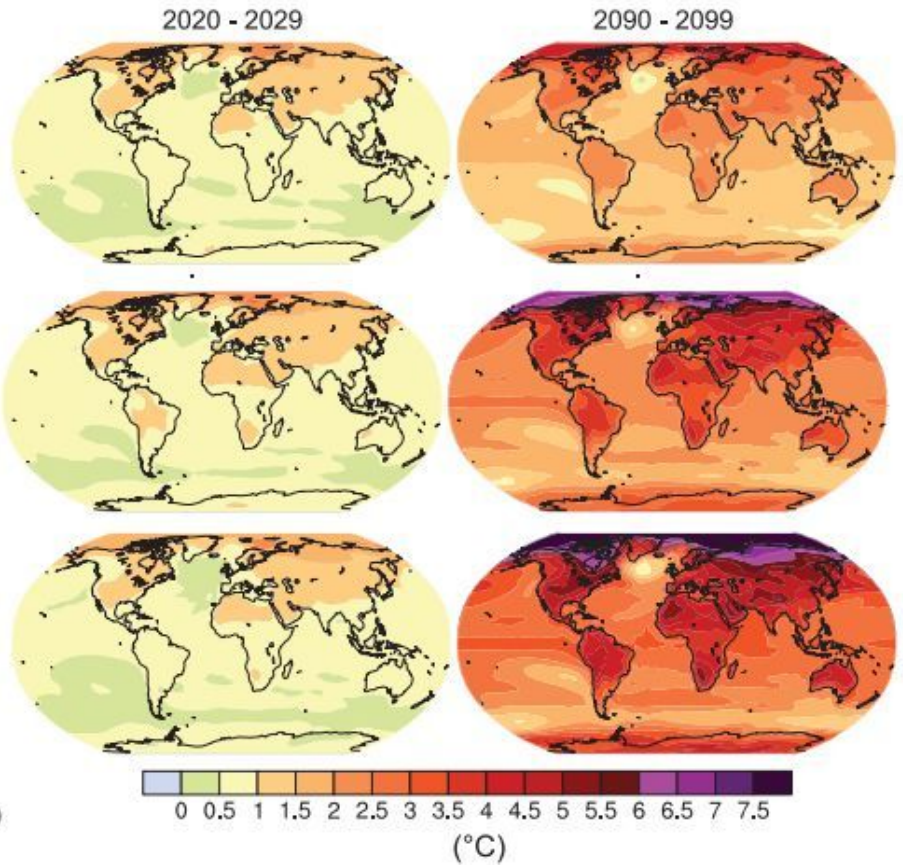
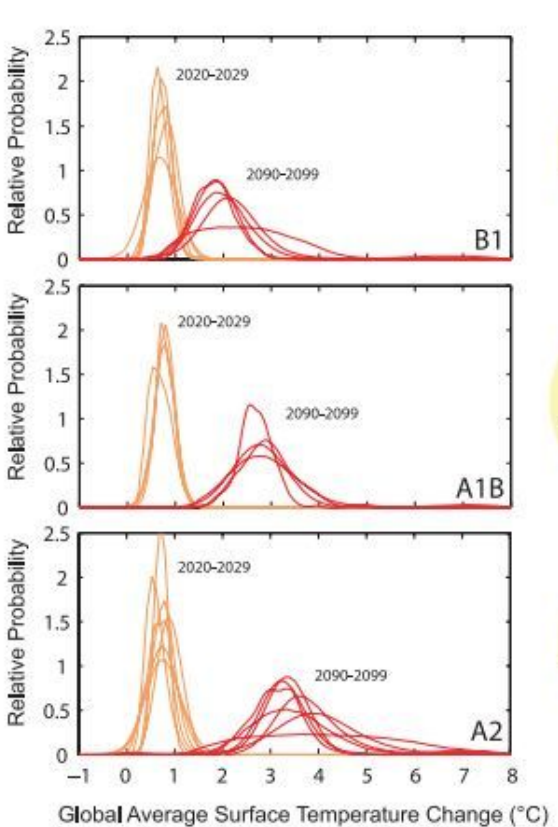
permanently frozen regions. (10.9, 10.6)

### PROJECTIONS OF SURFACE TEMPERATURES

**B1**

**A1B**

**A2**



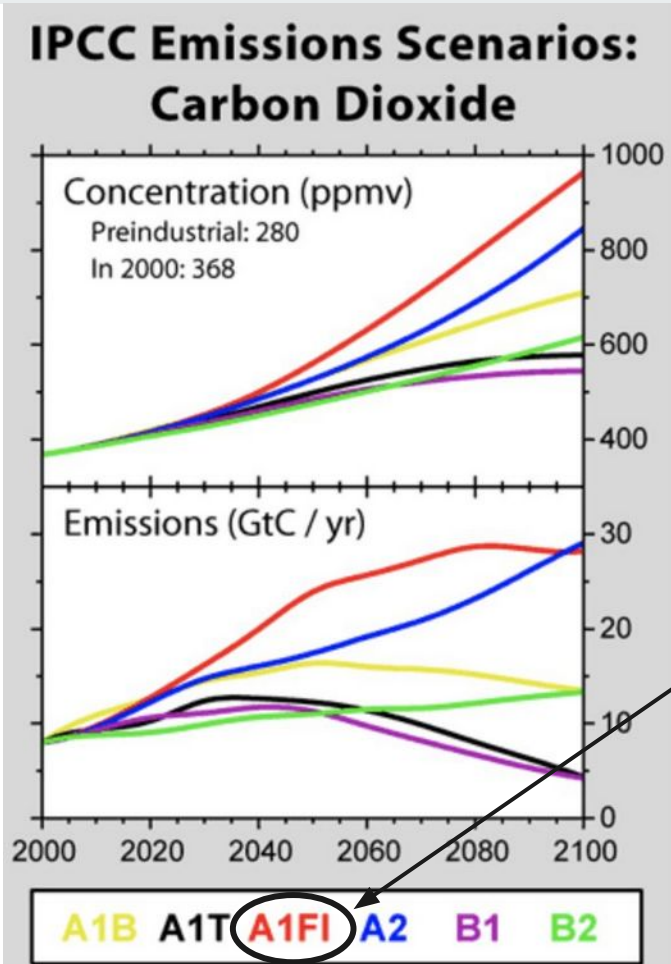
Source: IPCC, 2007: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4-wg1-spm-1.pdf>





Estimated CO2 concentrations (top)  
and Annual Carbon Emissions  
(bottom) for the  
Various IPCC SRES Scenarios.







# Representative Concentration Pathway

- Internally consistent
- Time-dependent
- Multiple socioeconomic scenarios



# SRES vs RCP

| The Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) | The Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)                                |
|--|---|
| Released by the IPCC in 2000                     | Adopted by the IPCC for the 5th Assessment Report (AR5) in 2014 (replaced SRES) |
| Families: A1, A2, B1, B2                         | Pathways: RCP 2.6, RCP 4.5, RCP 6.0, RCP 8.5                                    |
| No-policy  | RCP2.6, RCP 4.5, and RCP6.0 are climate-policy scenarios                        |
| The sequential approach                          | The parallel approach   |

**The goal of working with scenarios is not to predict the future but to better understand uncertainties and alternative futures, in order to consider how robust different decisions or options may be under a wide range of possible futures.**

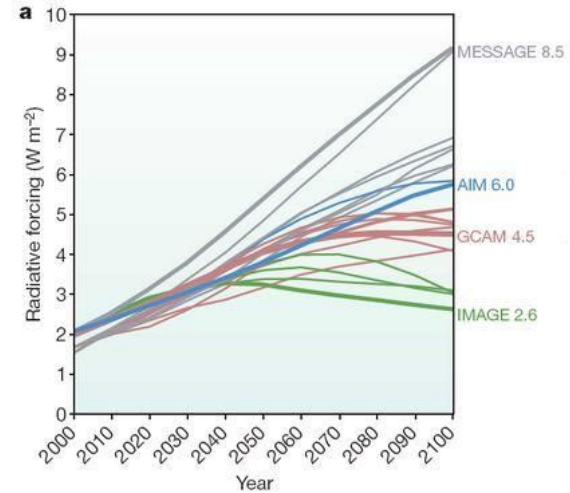


# The Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP)

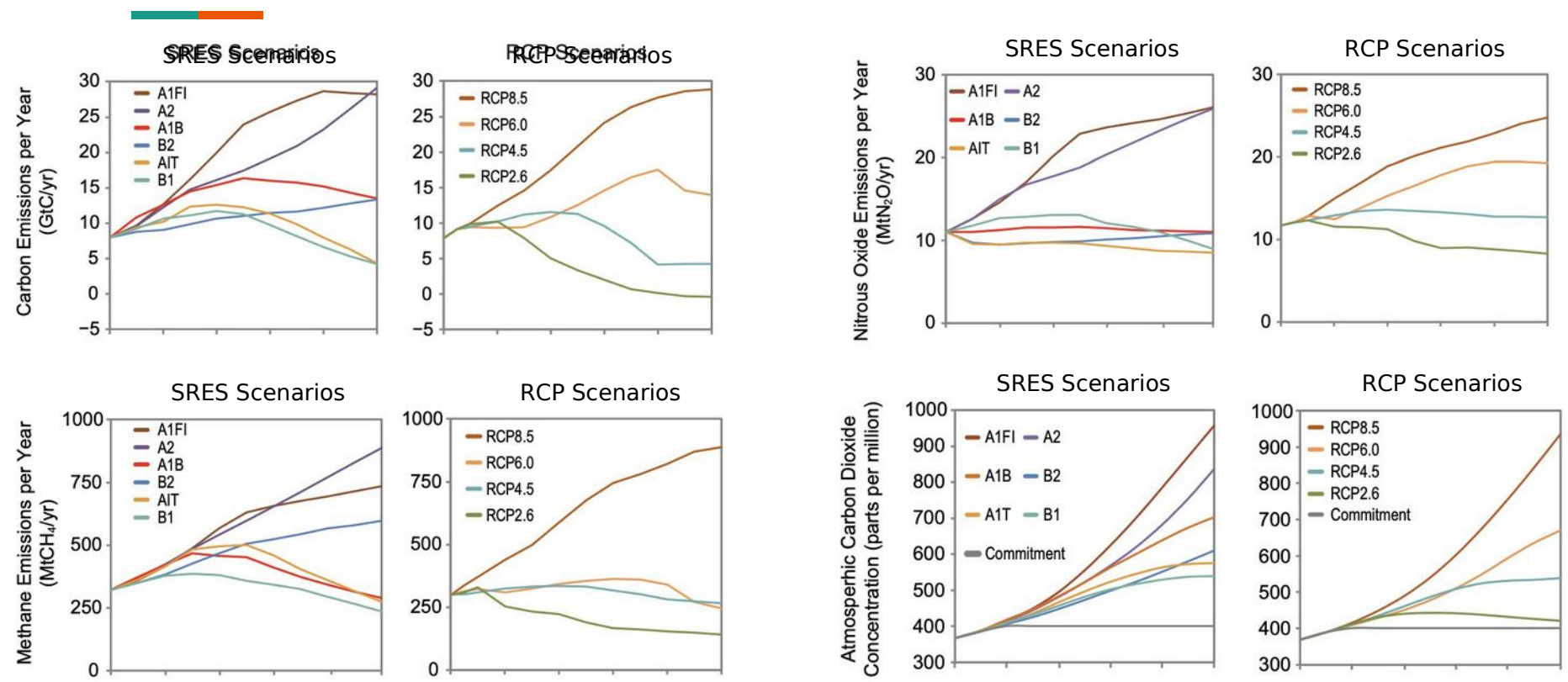
- Radiative forcing scenarios - not emissions scenarios
- The 5th Assessment Report (AR5) in 2014
- Supersedes the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES)
- Extended Concentration Pathways (ECPs)

# The Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP)

- RCP 2.6 - stringent mitigation scenario
- RCP 4.5 - intermediate stabilization pathway
- RCP 6.0 - intermediate stabilization pathway
- RCP 8.5 - very high GHG emissions



# Emissions, Concentrations, and Temperature Pro



**Below 2 °C**

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# 3650 GtCO<sub>2</sub>

To keep global warming likely below 2°C the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all anthropogenic sources has to remain below this amount.

**About 1900 GtCO<sub>2</sub> were emitted by 2011**

Estimated total fossil carbon reserves exceed remaining amount (1000 GtCO<sub>2</sub>) by a factor of 4 to 7, with resources much larger still





## RCP 2.6

- global warming **below 2°C** (between 0.3°C to 1.7°C)
- “**peak-and-decline**” scenario
  - GHG peak between in 2020 & then declines
  - radiative forcing level peak up **3.6 W/m<sup>2</sup>** by mid-century & then return **2.6 W/m<sup>2</sup>** by 2100
- very strict climate policy interventions
- substantial net negative emissions
- the cumulative emission reduction over century amount **70%**

**Scenarios without additional efforts to emissions lead to pathways ranging between RCP6.0 and RCP8.5**

—



# Baseline scenario

- Assumes that some of the historical trends continue in the next decades.
- GHG concentrations rise substantially over time leading to a radiative forcing of about  $7.2 \text{ W/m}^2$  by 2100.
- The global mean temperature increase of about  $4.9^\circ\text{C}$  by 2100.



# Beyond year 2100

- Warming will continue beyond 2100 under all RCP scenarios except RCP2.6
- Surface temperatures will remain at elevated levels for many centuries
- Stabilization of global average surface temperature does not imply stabilization for all aspects of the climate system.
- A great amount of is irreversible on a multi-century to millennial timescale.



# **Emissions Scenarios**

# **Global Carbon Project**

**Global Carbon Project is the way of Advancing Knowledge of the Global Carbon Cycle and its Management.**

**Established in 2001 as a framework for international coordinated research:**

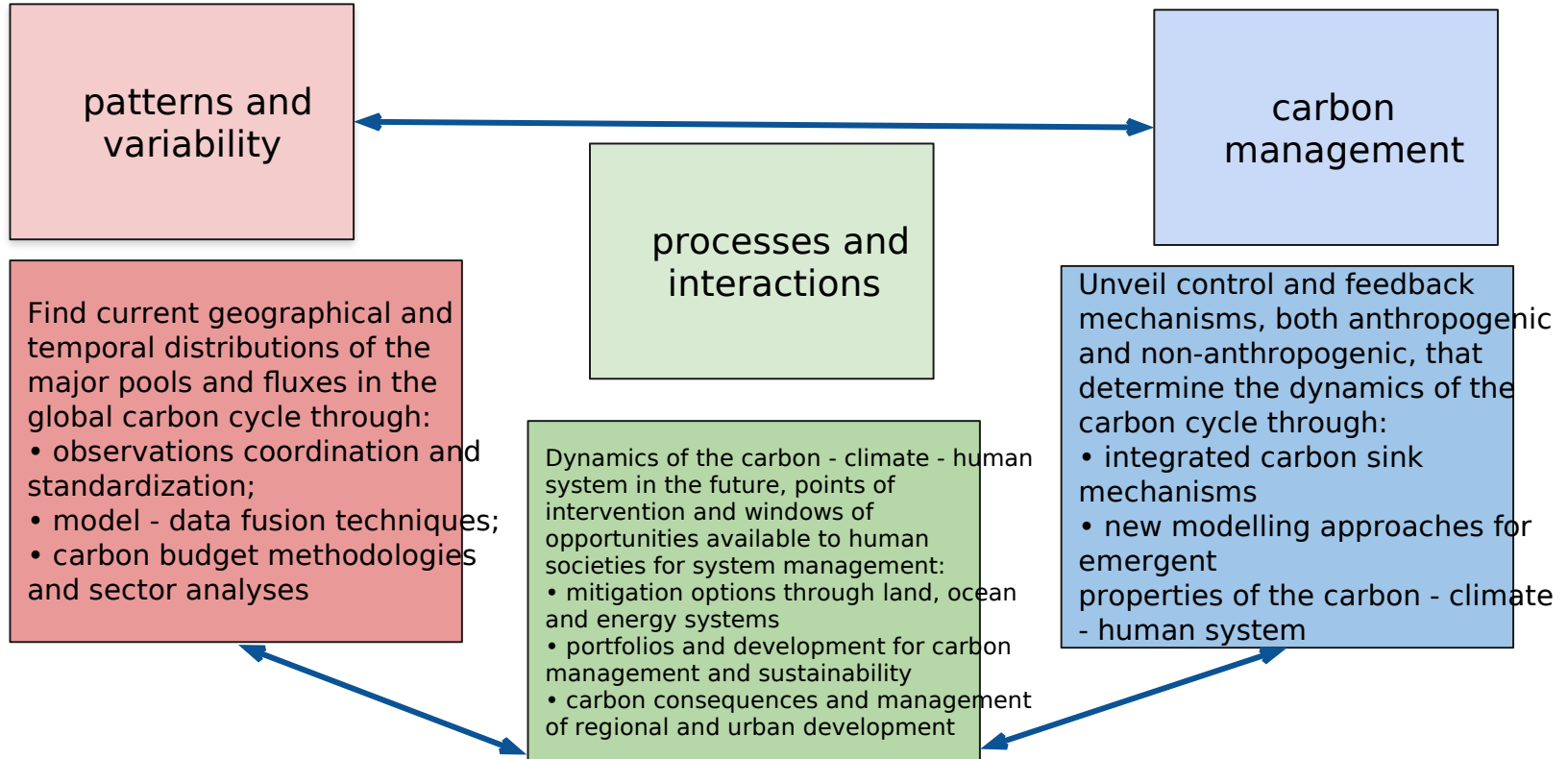
- **carbon cycle**
- **fundamental understanding**
- **supports policy development**
- **stabilization of GHGs in the atmosphere.**

# The scientific goal

develop a complete picture of the global carbon cycle

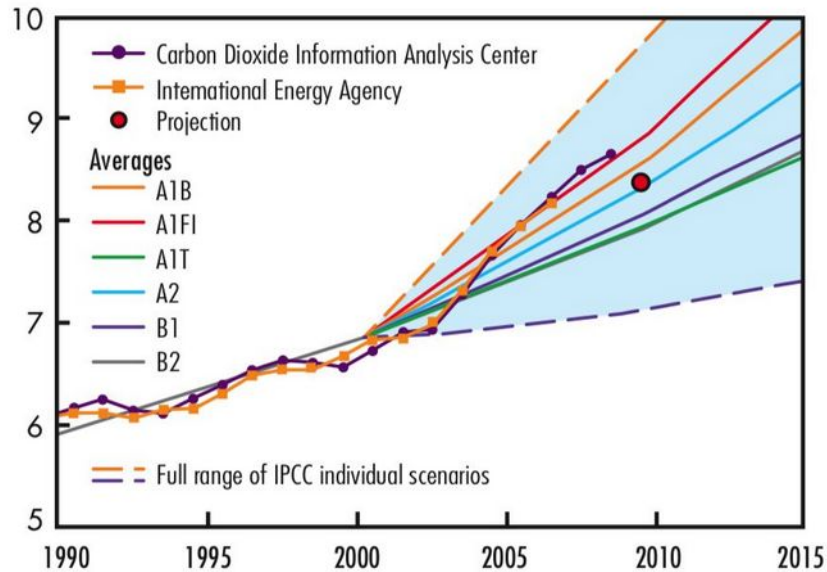


# Research areas of GCP

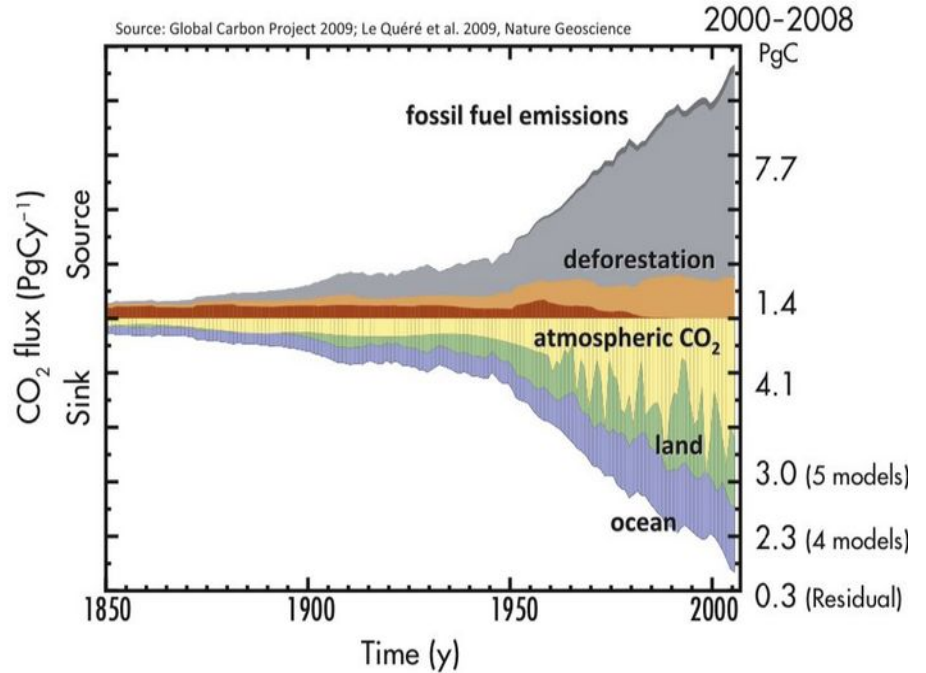




# 1. State of the Global Carbon Budget



- Fossil fuel emissions: Actual vs. IPCC scenarios



- Human Perturbation of the Global Carbon Budget

## 2. Vulnerabilities of the Carbon Cycle

The GCP has focused on permafrost, methane hydrates, vegetation fires, tropical peatlands and ocean pumps in terms of their: carbon pool size, drivers and processes that can lead to destabilization of pools resulting in carbon emissions and internal dynamics of these pools. Researches are considering by revealing the mechanisms of functioning and influence on Carbon Cycle of Frozen Carbon, Methane Hydrates, Tropical Peatlands, Oceans, Fires and Drought.

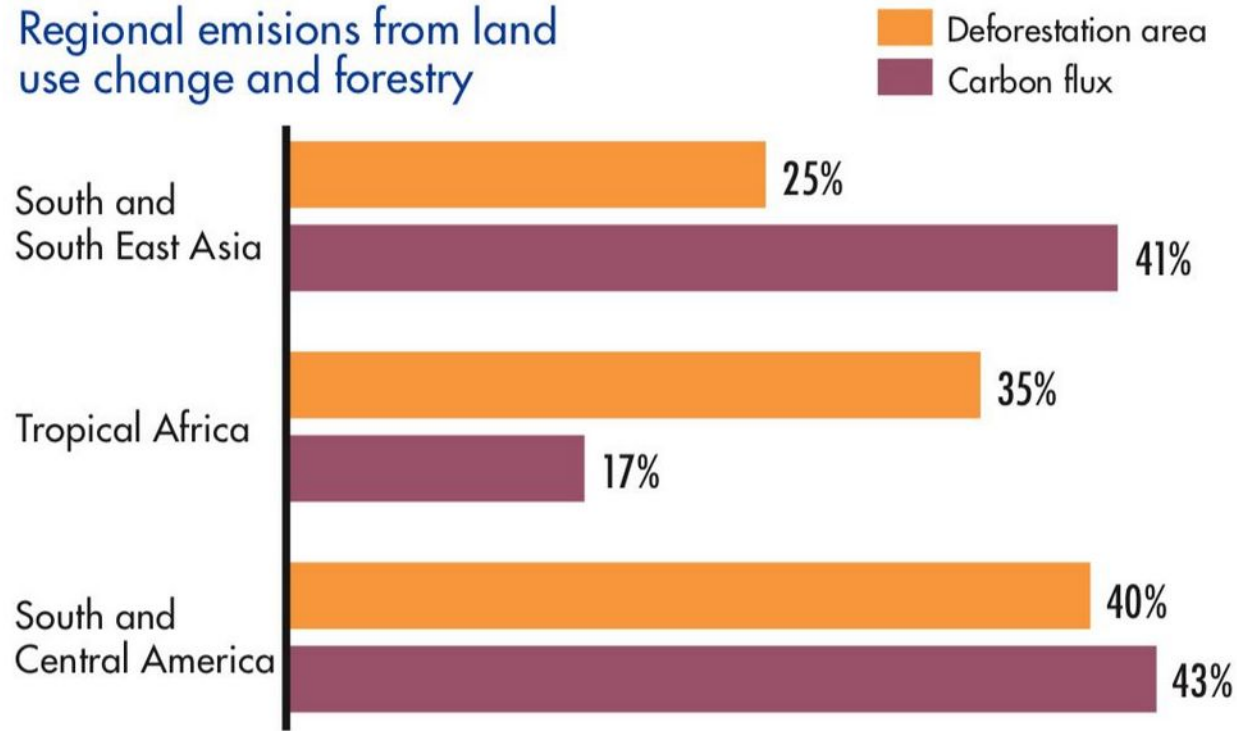
## 3. Low Carbon Pathways: Urbanization and Cities

**Cities and Urbanization are responsible for the majority of global energy related CO2 emissions**

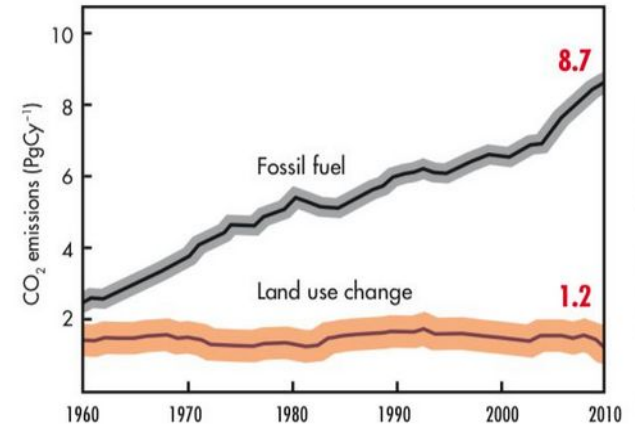
The GCP launched the Urban and Regional Carbon Management Initiative since late 2005 in order to:

1. Understand urbanization and urban development pathways from top-down and bottom-up analyses;
2. Develop scientific networks, modelling forums, scientific information consolidation, synthesis, and contributions to international assessments and science-policy interaction.

## Regional emissions from land use change and forestry



- Land Use Change and Forestry  
Regional carbon emissions' shares  
(2000-2005)



- and historical emissions (1960 - 2010)

## 4. Land Use, Forest and Carbon

**Land-based carbon management** - a key area in science and policy development.

The GCP community has contributed to:

- **Assessment** of global potentials for the development of Reduced **Emissions** from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD);
- **Consolidation** of scientific information on carbon accounting methods consistent with policy requirements;
- **Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification** (MRV) for land-based carbon management, such as REDD.

## 5. Global Assessments and Synthesis

GCP has initiated the Regional Carbon Cycle Assessment and Processes (RECCAP) initiative, a global coordination effort among researchers and institutions planning to:

- **Establish** the mean carbon balance of large regions of the globe, including their component fluxes;
- **Test** the compatibility of regional bottom-up estimates with global atmospheric constraints
- **Evaluate** the regional 'hot-spots' of inter-annual variability and possibly the trends.

## 6. Policy Links and Outreach

**Online platform** shows the activities and research outcomes of the project and acts as a scientific resources center for the broader carbon cycle research and policy communities.



# Discussion



# Discussion

- 1) Do you think that different types of scenarios help to understand how the world could look like? (in terms of sociological understanding)
- 2) Which driving force in your opinion is the most important?
- 3) What scenario you think is the most likely to happen?
- 4)

**Would you propose another  
scenario narrative?**

—





# Scenarios

Uniwersytet Warszawski  
Master Program in Sustainable Development  
Climate Change

Students:  
Ania Frączyk, Michał Kruszyński, Alfonso Mendoza,  
Gabriela Uberna, Kseniya Rusak.

**How will the world's climate change in the coming century?**

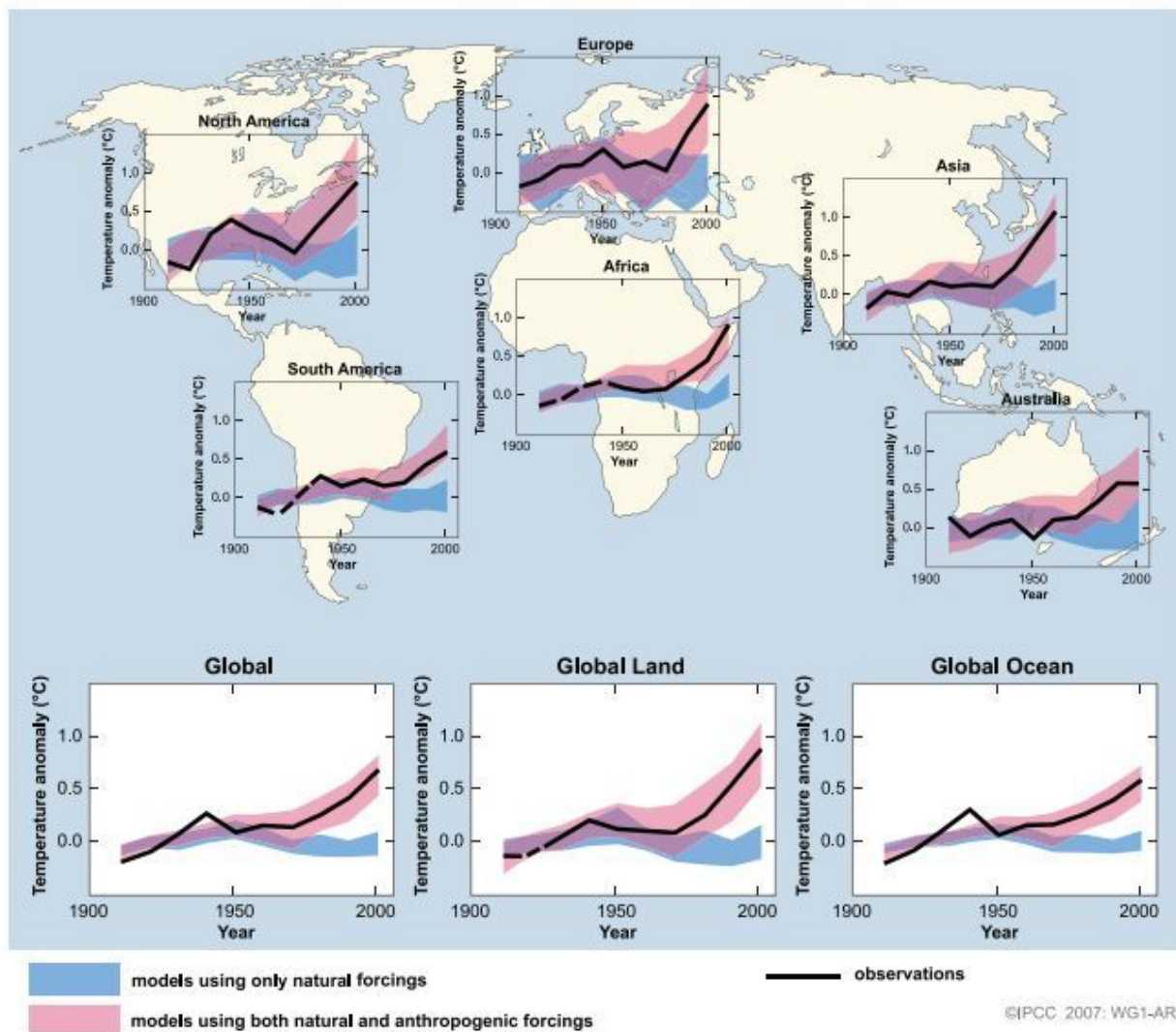
**It depends on how human societies develop in terms of demographics and economic development, technological change, energy supply and demand, and land use change.**

# Global and continental temperature change.

and  
ings.

Source:  
IPCC, 2007: Summary for Policymakers. In:  
Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science  
Basis. Contribution of Working  
Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4-wg1-spm-1.pdf>



# Proposed Structure [current]

| a. Student1   | b. Student2   | c. Student3   | d. Student4    | e. Student5  |
|---|---|---|----------------|--|
| Concepts<br>SRES + RCP  | SRES Methodology<br>SRES Scenarios  | RCP2.6 & RCP4.5   | RCP6 & RCP8.5  | Emissions Scenarios<br>Global Carbon Project   |
| <p>Definition of “scenario” purpose, characteristics, uses, limitations, types.</p> <p>+<br/>Driving forces: Population , Projections, Economic Development, Structural and Technological Change.</p> | <p>Storyline, Scenario. Drivers. Prospects. Modeling approaches.</p> <p>+<br/>Leads~moderates discussion.</p> | <p>Narrative, Scenario. Drivers. Prospects. Development. Energy. Resource availability. Tech change. Prospect Future Energy. Land use changes. Env. policies.</p> | <p>Íbidem.</p> | <p>Emissions Scenarios for all families. (Carbon dioxide, other greenhouse, aerosols).</p> <p>+<br/>Regional distribution.</p> |