

Our ref.: 5261-22/IPCC/GEN

To designated IPCC Focal Points and
Ministries of Foreign Affairs (if no focal point
has been designated)

COPY

Geneva, 13 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Preparing IPCC assessment reports is a massive undertaking underpinned by and generating a huge amount of data and information. These data and information resources are managed by a mechanism called the [IPCC Data Distribution Centre \(DDC\)](#).

There is a growing interest and demand for data emanating from the IPCC's reports, as well as for guidance on how to interpret and use it. This data includes, for example, observed and projected climate change impacts such as sea level rise, GHG emission scenarios, as well as adaptation and mitigation options.

In the Sixth Assessment Cycle and for the first time in its history, the IPCC has made this data available to the public at publication time. Data contributed by authors and used in the figures of the report have been quality controlled and archived at the DDC. A catalogue of these various datasets is now operational and allows citizens and scientists to search for data underlying the key figures included in the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). Also for the first time, the AR6 report includes an online [Interactive Atlas](#) giving the public access to regional information on climate change scenarios.

The DDC also archives key science datasets, such as, for example, the climate model simulations that underpin much of the report's climate projections, observed CO₂ concentrations and future GHG emission scenarios. The long-term archival of these datasets that shape the reports' outcome is an activity which started 25 years ago, backed by the generous contribution of Germany, the UK, and later NASA.

DDC activities ensure the traceability and transparency of the IPCC's assessments, and facilitate reproducibility by external researchers. Importantly, they ensure current and future generations have access to the information that defines the state of the art in climate science, and shapes the policy discourse and decision making around climate change.

Thus far, funding for DDC has been ad hoc, supported by institutional in-kind contributions (DKRZ) and government contributions (U.S., UK, Spain). Some of these funds will come to term in March 2023 and will not be renewed. Without rapid intervention, DDC activities will grind to a halt, and no resources will be in place to archive upcoming data from the IPCC Seventh Assessment Cycle, including a Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

The Co-Chairs of the IPCC Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments (TG-Data), are responsible for ensuring the continuity of DDC services to the IPCC. In light of the above, they are seeking donations to establish an IPCC Data Fund dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of data used and generated by the IPCC. The operating costs of the DDC are evaluated at around 700,000\$US per year to maintain current services. As with the IPCC Scholarship Fund, structures and processes approved by the IPCC would determine the governance and administration of the funds.

We would greatly appreciate your favourable consideration of this request for funds to support the creation of this Fund with the view to ensure the continuity of the DDC operations.

Please communicate your response to ipcc-sec@wmo.int at your earliest convenience.

For any further information please contact: tg-data-executive@groups.wmo.int.

A copy of this letter is being sent for information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Permanent Representatives from your country to the World Meteorological Organization and to the United Nations Environment Programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Mokssit', with a small upward-pointing arrow above the 't'.

(Abdalah Mokssit)
Secretary of the IPCC