

The SRES and Millennium Ecosystem Assessment scenarios

The IMAGE 2.2 Implementation

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Dear Sir or Madam,

You have downloaded the User Support System of the "The IMAGE 2.2 Implementation of the SRES and Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) scenarios. This User Support System (USS) presents information on the IMAGE model (Integrated Model to Assess the Global Environment, the 2.2 version) and includes the implementation of the IPCC SRES scenarios, formerly (2001) published as "The IMAGE 2.2 Implementation of the SRES scenarios: A comprehensive analysis of emissions, climate change and impacts in the 21st century" and MA scenarios (2004). The USS includes information on indirect driving forces (population, income, energy use and agriculture), direct driving forces (emissions and land use) and all kinds of variables on the state of environment and ecological services (e.g. climate change, land cover, sea-level rise, and change in agricultural yields).

A technical upgrade of this USS version has been issued in November 2012. The data is now residing on a PBL server and a viewer is installed on your computer. The software will make a connection to this server and retrieve the data for the USS, both the SRES and the MA scenarios.

The included documentation was originally written for the SRES scenarios and you will find the narratives and assumptions for the IPCC scenarios (SRES: A1B, A1F, A1T, A2, B1 and B2) there and an additional description of the MA scenarios and references to the MA documentation can be found in MAscenarios.pdf.

Aim of IMAGE

The Integrated Model to Assess the Global Environment (IMAGE) is a dynamic integrated assessment modelling framework for exploring global change. The main objectives of IMAGE are to contribute to scientific understanding and support decision-making by quantifying the relative importance of major processes and interactions in the society-biosphere- climate system. To accomplish this, IMAGE provides:

1. dynamic and long-term perspectives on the systemic consequences of global change;

2. insights into the impacts of global change;
3. a quantitative basis for analysing the relative effectiveness of various policy options to address global change.

Historic Background

The IMAGE modelling framework has continued to evolve over the years to incorporate the latest insights in environmental modelling. The IMAGE 2.2 version has been used in 2001 to elaborate the IPCC SRES scenarios, the results of which have been widely made available by means of a CD-ROM (now downloadable via the IMAGE website). The IMAGE 2.2 version was also used to develop the Millennium Ecosystem Scenarios. The IMAGE 2.3 version was used extensively to develop different climate change mitigation scenarios. In 2006, IMAGE 2.4 was released. This model version has, for instance, been used to develop the IMAGE contribution to the OECD environmental outlook and the IPCC-Representative Concentration Pathways. With this, IMAGE continues to be at the forefront of the integrated modelling of environmental change, and is internationally recognized as being one of the leading parties in this field.

Contents of the download package

- The IMAGE 2.2 User Support System (USS), a comprehensive and interactive graphical interface to view and analyse scenarios of global change.
- Extensive documentation on the models and indicators in the help function (F1).
- A manual to provide an overview of the possibilities and special features of the USS, and a step by step guide how to use them.
- A tool for exporting data to GIS-software.

Conclusion

We hope that this User Support System is a supportive tool to many policy makers, stakeholders and scientists in the world of integrated assessment and global change, as well as anyone who is interested in understanding the complex interactions of the earth system. We welcome comments and suggestions for improvement.

Sincerely yours,

The IMAGE Team.

November 2012.

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