The Future of IPCC: Context – Tasks - Challenges

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Prof. Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer in collaberation with Dr. Timm Zwickel, TSU



Research Domain Sustainable Solutions

Chair: Economics of Climate Change



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

IPCC Working Group III - Mitigation Co-Chair of WG III



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Key Messages of AR4

- Ambitious climate protection (<=550 ppm CO2-eq) costs about 1-2% of global GDP
- Portfolio of mitigation options is necessary: CCS, energy efficiency and renewables have a high economic potential; nuclear energy has a moderate potential.
- All sectors can contribute to GHG reduction. AR4 shows first sectoral assessments
- Pricing of CO₂ is necessary, but needs to be flanked by other measures

AR4 Result: Goal Determines Measures



AR4 Result: Macro-Economic Costs in 2030

Costs are global average for least cost appoaches from top-down models

Costs do not include co-benefits and avoided climate change damages

Trajectories towards stabilization levels (ppm CO ₂ -eq)	Median GDP reduction[1] (%)	Range of GDP reduction [2] (%)	Reduction of average annual GDP growth rates [3] (percentage points)
590-710	0.2	-0.6 – 1.2	< 0.06
535-590	0.6	0.2 – 2.5	<0.1
445-535[4]	Not available	< 3	< 0.12

[1] This is global GDP based on market exchange rates.

[2] The median and the 10th and 90th percentile range of the analyzed data are given.

[3] The calculation of the reduction of the annual growth rate is based on the average reduction during the period till 2030 that would result in the indicated GDP decrease in 2030.

[4] The number of studies that report GDP results is relatively small and they generally use low baselines.

AR4 Result: Portfolio of Mitigation Options is Needed

The range of stabilization levels can be achieved by:

- deployment of a portfolio of technologies that are currently available
- technologies that are expected to be commercialised in coming decades

This assumes that appropriate and effective incentives are in place for development, acquisition, deployment and diffusion of technologies and for addressing related barriers.



AR4 Result: All Sectors Can Contribute



Note: estimates do not include non-technical options, such as lifestyle changes.



Luderer et al. (2009)

AR4 Result: All Sectors Can Contribute

WORLD, 410ppm CO₂ only







Luderer et al. (2009)

Reduction by 18 Gt Corresponds to 95% of Potential

according to McKinsey Cost Curve v2.0



AR4 Result: Pricing of CO₂ is Necessary

A price for CO_2 should lead to CO_2 -mitigation in all sectors:

- To reach stabilization around 550ppm CO₂-eq by 2100 a CO₂-price of 20-80US\$/tCO₂ is necessary by 2030.
- In the above price level might induce a major shift towards low carbon technologies.
- There is more than one method to internalize the social costs of carbon: prices vs. quantities

Costs are reduced when all sectors are included.

AR4 Result: Importance of Technology Policies

- The lower the stabilization levels (550 ppm CO2-eq or lower) the greater the need for more efficient RD&D efforts and investment in new technologies during the next few decades (for achieving stabilisation and reducing costs).
- Government support through financial contributions, tax credits, standard setting and market creation is important for effective technology development, innovation and deployment.
- Government funding for most energy research programmes has been flat or declining for nearly two decades (even after the UNFCCC came into force); now about half of 1980 levels. These findings are not in accordance with the required portfolio of mitigation options needed to be persued.

20000 20.00% 18000 18.00% 16000 16.00% 14000 14.00% 12000 12.00% 10.00% 10000

AR4 Result: R&D-Investment in Energy Technologies



Updated version of IPCC (2007), AR4

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- More consistent scenarios: The separation of baseline scenarios and policy scenarios has been done in a somewhat misleading way.
- More important role of "2nd-best" scenarios in cost assessment
- Clearer handling of uncertainties and risks
- Introduce coherent metrics in top-down and bottom-up analysis
- Design policy chapter to be of more use for policy makers

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Context of AR5



2006:

Stern report

IPCC receives Nobel price





2008:

Obama is elected US-president - Steve Chu is designated secretary of energy

AR5 Context: Financial Crisis



Source: New Energy Finance

➔ The financial crisis and the accompaining economic stimulus packages effect climate policies – especially renewables

AR5 Context: Transatlantic CO₂-Market



"The European Commission is preparing to call on the United States to create a trans-Atlantic system of carbon trading"

- Harald Tribune, Friday January 23rd 2009

AR5 Context: Renaissance of Coal





AR5 Context: Renaissance of Coal



Edenhofer, Kalkuhl (2009) Data Source: IEA

AR5 Context: "Infinite" Exhaustible Ressources



- conventional resources and reserves
- cumulative historical consumption
- coal+CCS (zero-emissions; 400ppm-eq scenario)
- Implicit biomass+CCS (negative emissions; 400ppm-eq scenario)
- unconventional resources and reserves
 estimated consumption (400ppm-eq scenario)
 estimated additional consumption (BAU scenario)

Sources: Reserves BGR 2008; Cumulative historical consumption: Marland u. a. 2008; Scenarios: Edenhofer u. a. 2009.

AR5 Context: Nuclear Energy



Source: Framatome

"Nuclear energy, already at about 7% of total primary energy [16% of world electricity production], could make an increasing contribution to carbon free electricity and heat in the future. The major barriers are: long-term fuel resource constraints without recycling; economics; safety; waste management; security; proliferation, and adverse public opinion". IPCC, 2007, WG III.





EPR in Olkiluoto, Finnland, Source: Framatome

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Outcomes of Inconsistent Scenarios

Baseline scenarios being inconsistent with policy scenarios lead to "false" assessments of strategies and costs of mitigation.

Comparison of Scenarios in AR5



baselines should be self-consistent

Comparison of Scenarios in AR5



Baselines and policies go together and define scenarios: Scenarios without mitigation (only baseline) or with mitigation (baseline + policy).

Comparison of Scenarios in AR5



Ex-post clustering of scenarios defines a storyline for each cluster. Clustering is essential to derive policy-relevant messages.

Model Comparision RECIPE



- All options for 450 ppm-only
- No CCS
 - No biomass beyond its use in the baseline
 - No renewables beyond its use in the baseline
 - No nuclear beyond its use in the baseline
- No CCS, no nuclear beyond its use in the baseline

Delay of Policies Leads to Escalation of Mitigation Costs



➔ Global costs can be minimized by mitigating as soon as possible with as many participants as possible

Luderer et al. (2009)

Policy Delay and Enery Mix (REMIND)



Increase driven by coal

Lessons to be Learned from Scenarios

- There is more than one way towards a low carbon economy.
- Scientists are not entitled to defend one "right" scenario.
- However, scientists can explore self-consistent scenarios and should assess costs, feasibility, social acceptability, trade-offs and risks.
- As a honest broker, the IPCC should offer a set of alternatives without being prescriptive.

Glamour and Distress of Abatement Cost Curves



Why Climate Policy Has to Include All Sectors

Global cost curve of GHG abatement opportunities beyond business as usual



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1) Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation [Due to be publish: End of 2010]

2) Infrastructure & Megacities: Adaptaion and Mitigation [In co-operation with WGII]

Goal:

- Aquire missing expertise
- Results to be taken into account by AR5

- 1) Stablization Targets and Costs
- 2) Impacts and Dangers
- 3) Sectors and Technologies
- 4) Sustainability and Risks
- 5) Policy Perspectives

A Bridge into the Future



- Take part in discourse with science, politics and civil society on how to tackle climate change
- Provide empirical data to make out mitigation potentials
- Share expectations about future carbon markets

The IPCC is the honest broker between experts and decision makers in business, politics and civil society.

The IPCC should be policy relevant without being policy prescriptive.