

Socioeconomic scenarios as part of the analysis of climate impacts

Orly Stampfer

Marc Levy, Valentina Mara, Maria-Ioanna Kairi
CIRESIN, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory
Columbia University

Why do socioeconomic scenarios matter?

- Vulnerability to climate impacts depends on both climate exposure and underlying socioeconomics.
- There are many sophisticated and rigorous climate exposure scenarios, while there are few and less rigorous socioeconomic scenarios
- IPCC SRES socioeconomic scenarios cover a small range, are deterministic, have low spatial and temporal variation, and only look at income.

How can we improve socioeconomic scenarios?

- CIRESIN scenarios can be run thousands of times, and while they are based in history, they also allow for variation.
- CIRESIN scenarios look at income, type of government, and major internal conflict.



AP, 2008

VS.



BBC, 2005

Comparison between IPCC SRES and CIRESIN scenarios for Ecuador and Haiti 2008-2100

