

## ***ICONICS Conference Call 27 November 2017***

### ***Participants:***

Tom	Brian
Kris	Elmar
Bas	Tim
Ben	

### ***Summary of earlier discussions on the future of ICONICS:***

ICONICS should be proud of what was accomplished over the last few years in developing the framework for and completing the global SSPs, including quantifications and narratives. There was a strong consensus that ICONICS provided a real service to the scientific community. Even if nothing else happens, the narratives and datasets will underpin research over the coming years, help meet the ESM needs of CMIP6 and provide a framework for IAV and IAM research and assessment.

Of those who responded to questions about the future of ICONICS, there was consensus that additional work is needed, particularly on (1) raising awareness about SSPs and their appropriate use, including providing guidance and developing a scenario forum; (2) further development of sub-global and sectoral extensions, including developing the adaptation / risk management aspect of the sectoral and regional SSPs.

Specifically:

(1) There remains limited awareness of the SSPs across the climate science and related research communities. Helping the broader research community understand and apply the SSPs and associated scenarios appropriately across a wide range of research applications is important and will not be undertaken by others. There are a range of ways to reach out, so it would be useful to have a group explore options and identify funding sources to support their development.

There also were multiple suggestions for providing guidance on developing and applying SSP-based scenarios. Keywan is leading a paper on this topic. In addition, TGICA is developing guidelines on scenario application in IAV that includes discussion of the application of the SSPs. Reinvigoration of PROVIA provides an opportunity for co-branding.

ICONICS could be an SSP reference group on socioeconomic scenarios for engagement by research programs such as WCRP (through CMIP), Future Earth, and PROVIA.

There was strong support for a scenarios forum and for moving the ICONICS website to the University of Washington.

(2) Regional and sectoral extensions are beginning to ramp up. There is an opportunity to inform the development of these extensions. Cataloguing in a central location the many SSP-based scenario efforts underway would be helpful to other researchers, including methods, tools, results, and experiences. Developing an interactive map would be helpful, with clickable links to information about ongoing, completed, or planned SSP exercises at different scales. PROVIA might have interest in helping curate and coordinate such an activity. There also is an opportunity to link this effort with CORDEX. Related to the extensions is integrating risk management into the extensions.

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The main topics discussed were:

- Proposals for structuring a new working group on communication
- Plans for the scenarios forum

Communication working group: Topics/ issues that could be included are providing oversight for the website; help with developing tools such as interactive maps of SSPs research; support a review of the use of SSPs in the peer-reviewed literature; develop a list of scientists with expertise on SSPs who could support research groups on using the SSPs; and support the scenarios forum.

Updates: The ICONICS website will be moved to the University of Washington early in 2018. Keywan is leading a guidance paper on the SSPs across the WGs, to hopefully inform the cross-cutting scenario team planned for the AR6. Jason Lowe (TGICA) is leading a guidance paper on scenarios in general.

The scenarios forum will likely be held in early 2019, to allow sufficient time for planning. About 300 participants are expected based on recent interest in Impacts World 2017 and other conferences. There is interest in sessions on topics such as what is useful in the SSPs and what is missing, scenarios featuring shocks (climate or development), applications of SSPs at the scale of cities, update on the AgMIP RAPs, and update on the scenarios developed for IPBES. Potential leads for funding will be pursued. Brian will lead re-forming the science steering committee.

Discussions on a possible working group on sectoral and regional extensions was postponed until the next call. Kasper sent thoughts for that working group, including the importance of putting some minimum effort into keeping track of developments in the use of SSP data and the use of the SSP narratives; keeping track of adaptation and mitigation scenarios as they are embedded in the SSPs; and linking with other assessments such as IPBES.

The next conference call will be in Jan/Feb. Everyone is invited to submit names of possible new members of ICONICS. ICONICS members also should indicate to Kris, Tom, and Kasper interest in helping with particular working groups and/or specific tasks.