



International Institute for  
Applied Systems Analysis  
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science for global insight

# **IIASA's Integrated Assessment Framework and its application for the Pathways Project: Modelling approach**

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# Why integrated assessments?

- It's nothing new that almost everything depends on everything else
- Single sector analysis, planning and decision making/policy formulation
- Systems analysis, planning and decision making/policy formulation
- Starting in the early 1970s it became obvious that sector (silo) policy making only is dated:
  - Energy security
  - Local and regional air pollution
  - Climate change (IPCC assessments)
- Coherent framework for organizing and assessing knowledge about climate change – requires multi-disciplinary approach
- Uncertainty – which ones are most important
  - Complex interrelationships between natural and social factors driving climate change
  - Interactions between natural and social systems
- Differentiation among policy options
  - Carbon tax
  - Carbon budgets
  - Establishing property rights to pollution through cap and trade systems
- Integrated policy formulation with full appreciation of nexus issues

# The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

## New field for IAM research and applications

### IAM and SDGs

SDGs are not independent of each other

- Synergies (win-win configurations)
- Trade offs – implementation of one SDG at the detriment of other SDG(s)

To overcome silo-based institutional structures and face the reality of interlinkages between SDGs/sectors

Integrated policy-making:

- Accounting for interdependences between dimensions and sectors



IAMs support integrated approaches to promoting all the dimensions of sustainable development (SDGs) in a balanced manner which is one of the key principles of the 2030 agenda

# Integrated assessment models (IAM)

- Cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary
- Integrates different types of information - climate, economics, ecology, health, technology, etc. in a coherent framework
- Highly complex methodological constructs
- IAMs differ in their level of detail and the complexity and interconnections they consider
- Geographical scope is global (aggregate world regions) – temporal scope is long-term (at least decades)
- Highly assumption intensive, especially about consumer preferences or life style changes
- IAMs provide insights not answers
- IAMs are instrumental in facilitating the science-policy interface

# Key (energy) challenges



**Energy Access**



**Energy Security**



**Land & Food**



**Climate Change**



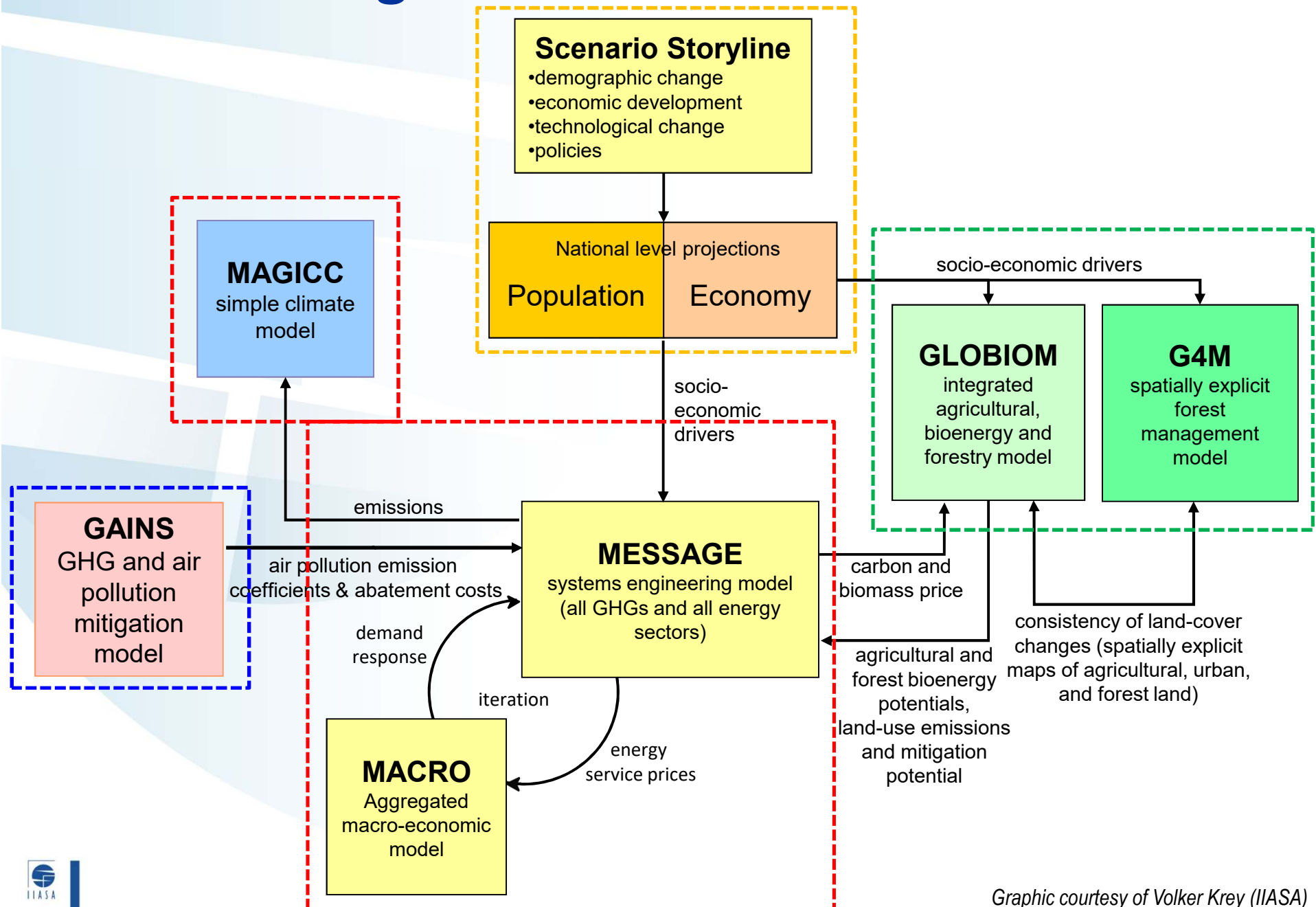
**Water Scarcity**



**Local Air Pollution**



# IIASA Integrated Assessment Framework



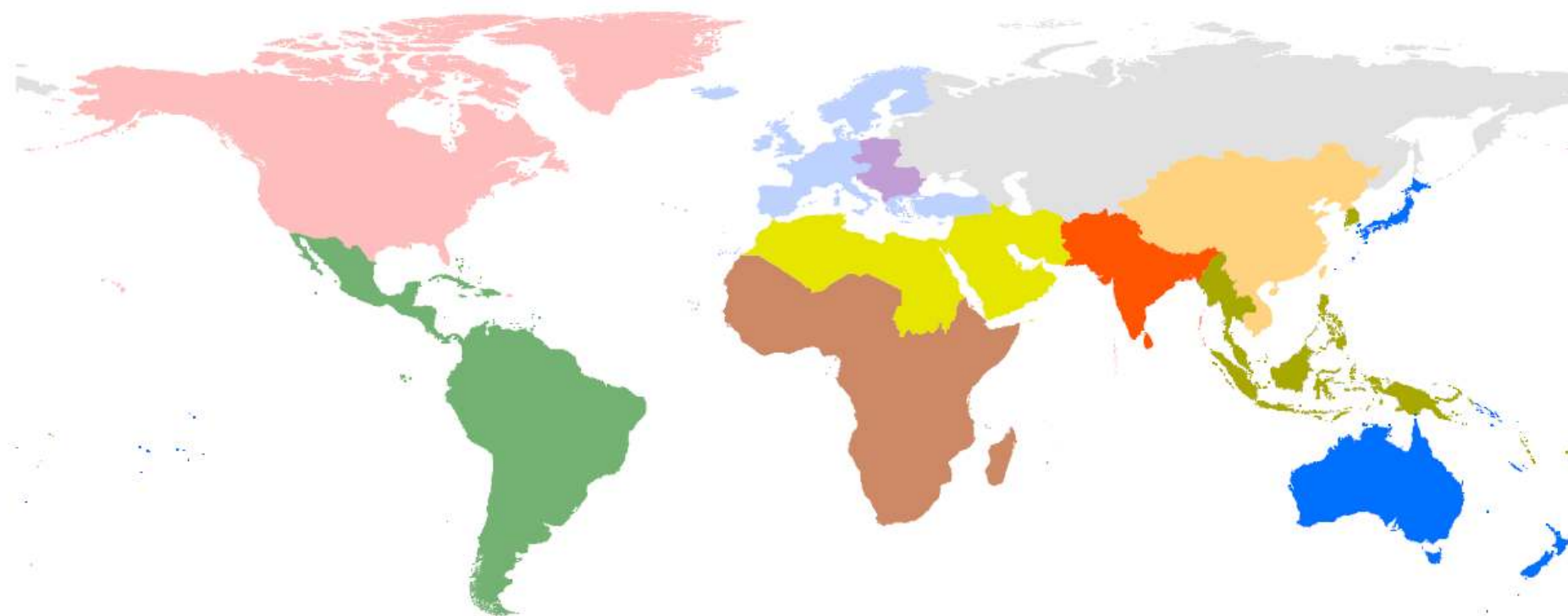
# MESSAGE<sub>ix</sub>

- *Background:* MESSAGE originated at IIASA (Austria) where the model has been continuously advanced – the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has adapted and distributed the model for capacity building and energy planning applications in IAEA Member States.
- *Purpose:* Policy analysis, electricity sector expansion, optimal supply mix, scenario development, short-medium-and long-term; energy-environment-economy analyses, NDCs, etc.
- *Geographical scope:* User defined
- *Temporal scope:* User defined
- *Sectors:* All energy relevant economic sectors (supply & demand)
- *Methodology/solution structure:* Combination of dynamic linear programming (LP) energy-engineering model (mixed integer)
- *Level of foresight in decisions:* Perfect foresight; myopic mode possible
- *Complexity:* Flexible – depending on problem formulation
- *Capacity building & training:* IAEA Technical Cooperation (more recently also IIASA, IRENA, ADB and others)

# MESSAGE<sub>ix</sub> Regions

## REGION

NAM	PAO	SAS	AFR
LAM	EEU	PAS	FSU
WEU	MEA	CPA	





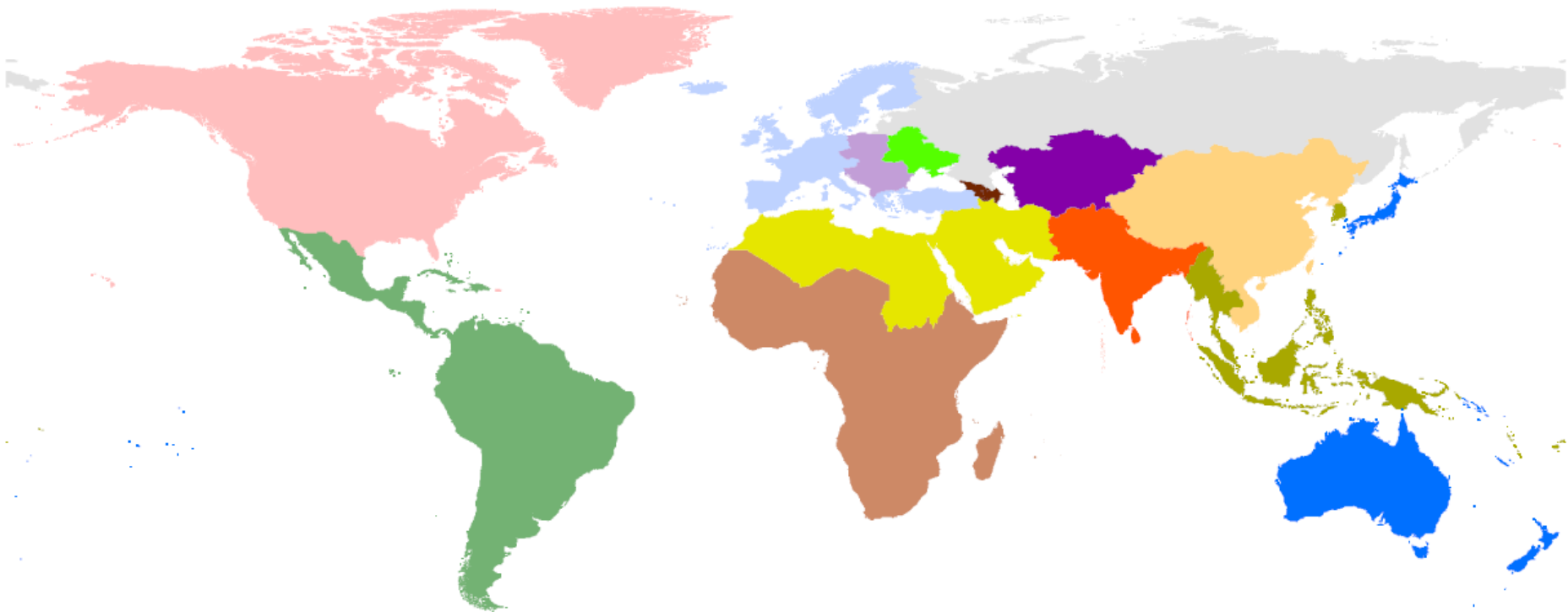
# Model adjustments for the Pathways Project

- Regional resolution
- SSP2 trends/philosophy introduced for the new regions (MESSAGE and MACRO)
- Base year updated to 2015
- Introduction of 5 year time steps
- Update of energy resources of UNECE regions (remaining regions to follow)
- Energy trade adjustments
- Introduction of nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
- MACRO regions revised - now consistent with new MESSAGE regions
- Note: New regional resolution only implemented for MESSAGE and MACRO – not the full suite of IAM models

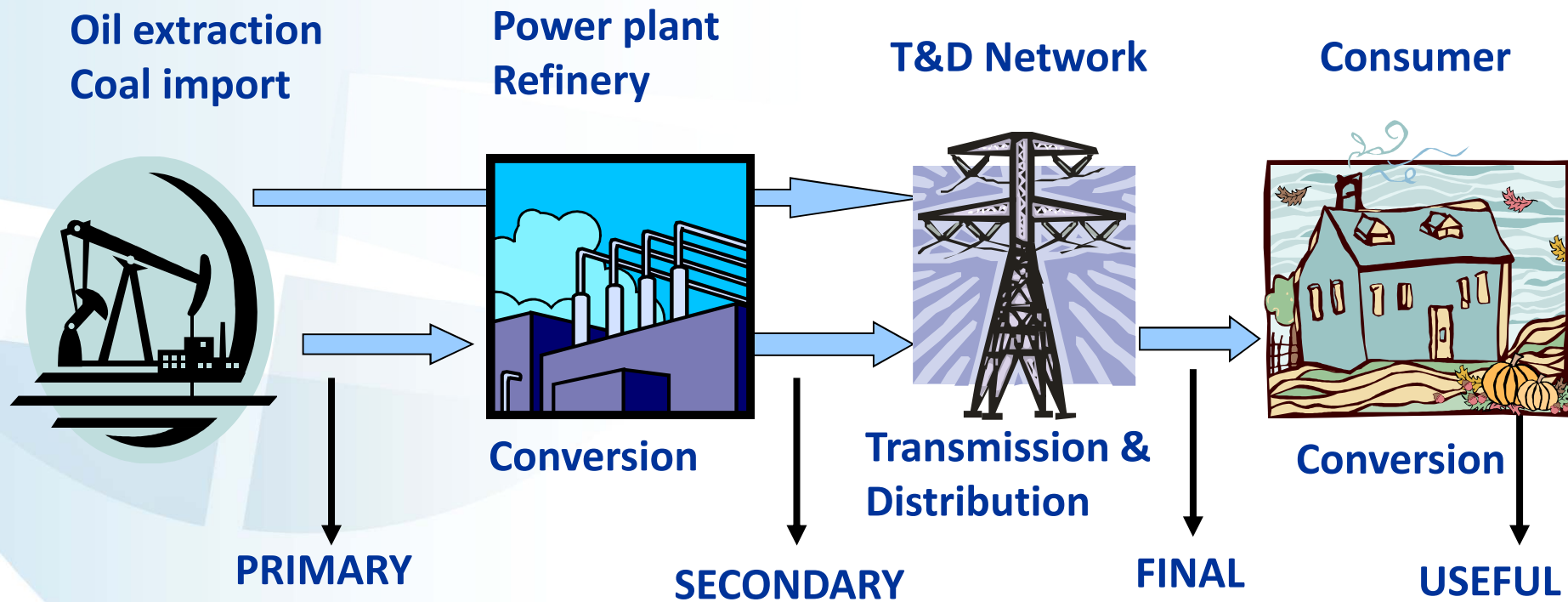
# MESSAGE<sub>ix</sub> Regions – new 14 regions

## REGION

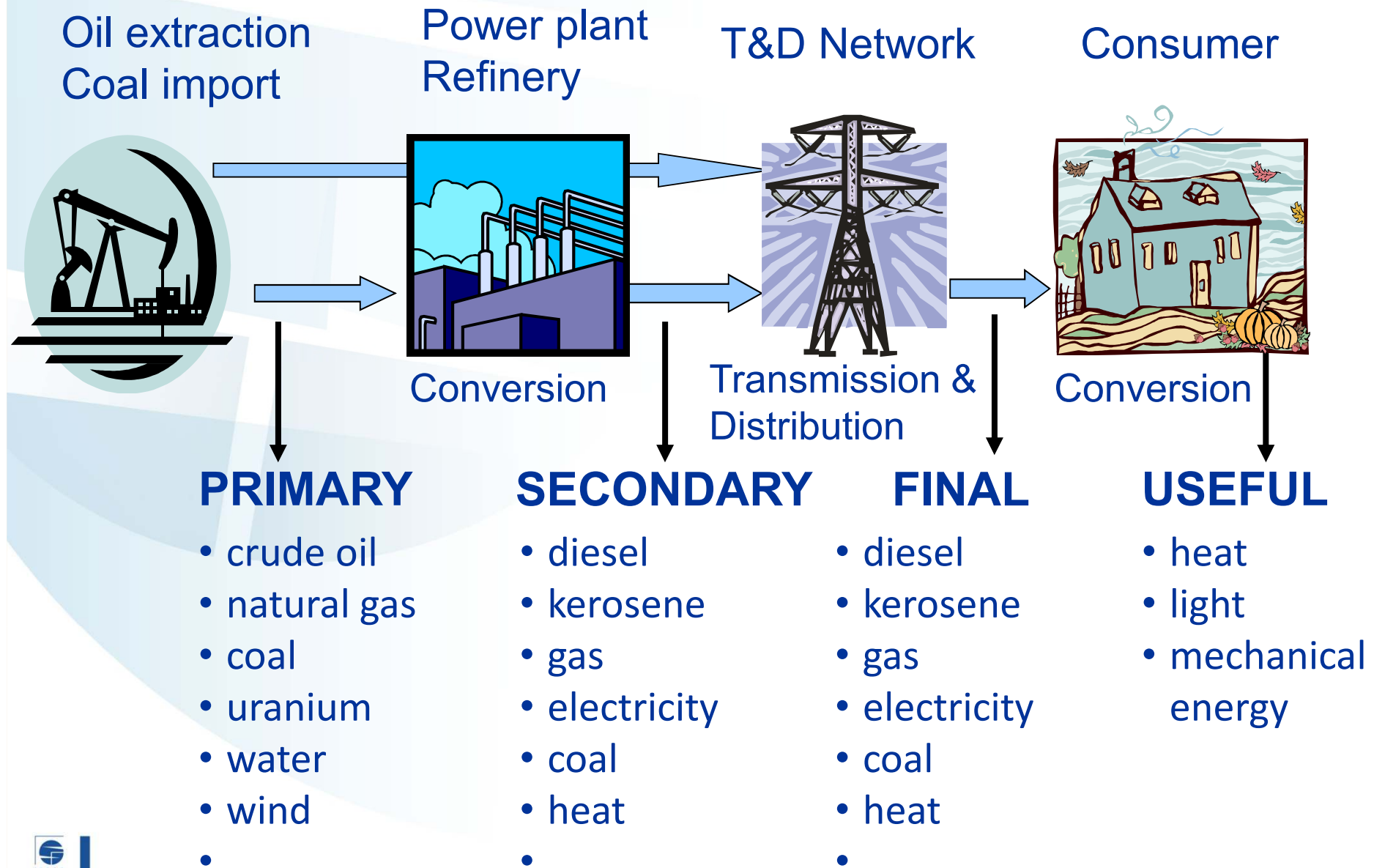
NAM	PAO	SAS	AFR	CAS
LAM	EEU	PAS	RUS	SCS
WEU	MEA	CPA	UBM	



# Modelling with a Quantitative Approach



# MESSAGE<sub>ix</sub> Energy System



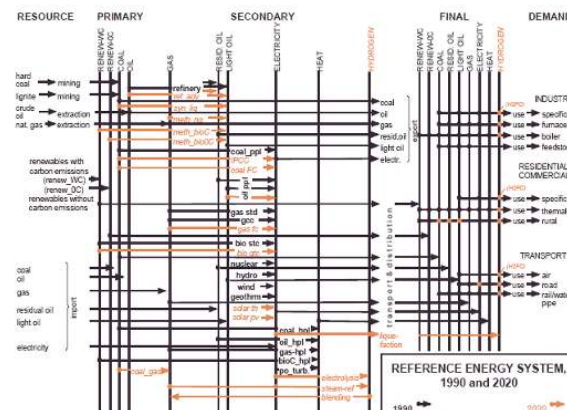
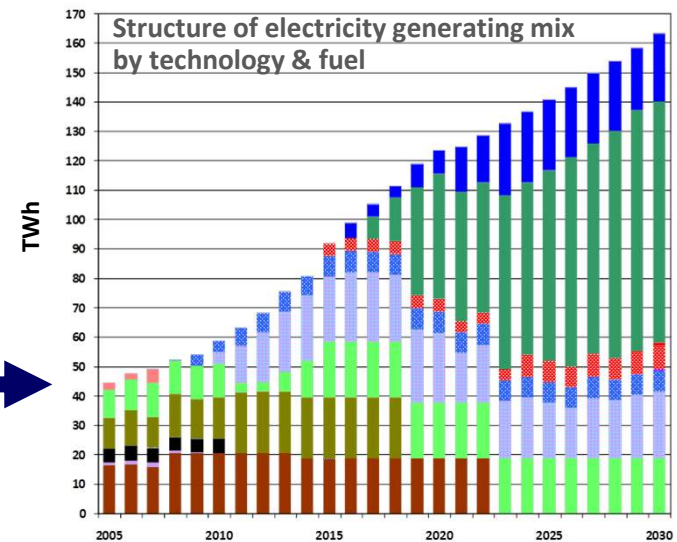
# MESSAGE: Model for Energy Supply System Alternatives and their General Environmental Impacts

## INPUT

- Energy system structure (including vintage of plant and equipment)
- Base year energy flows and prices
- Energy demand via link to MACRO
- Technology and resource options & their techno-economic performance profiles
- Technical and policy constraints

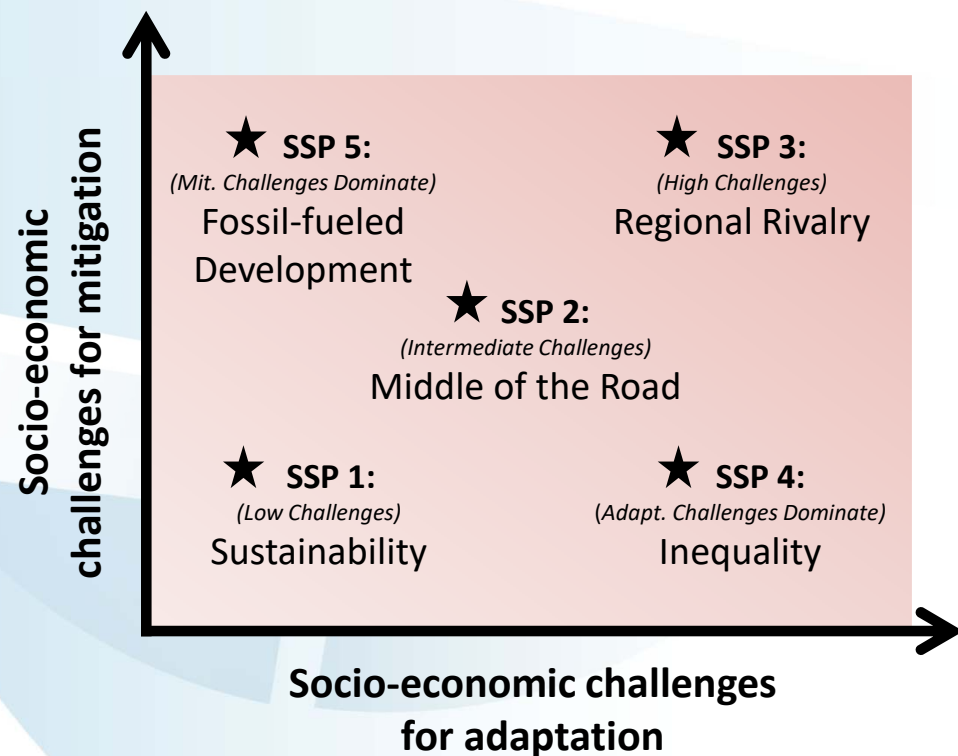


## OUTPUT



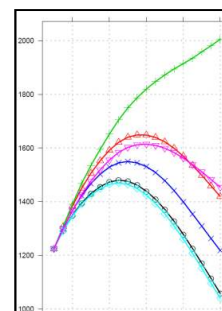
- Primary and final energy mix
- Electricity generating mix, capacity expansion/retirement, investments
- GHG missions, air pollution, wastes
- Health and environmental impacts - via link to GAINS and LCA module
- Resource use - energy, water, land (via link to GLOBIOM), materials
- Trade & import dependence
- Prices

# Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs)



## Narrative

Qualitative description of broad patterns of development  
Logic relating elements of narrative to each other



## Quantitative elements

National:  
Population  
Education  
Urbanization  
GDP  
Technology

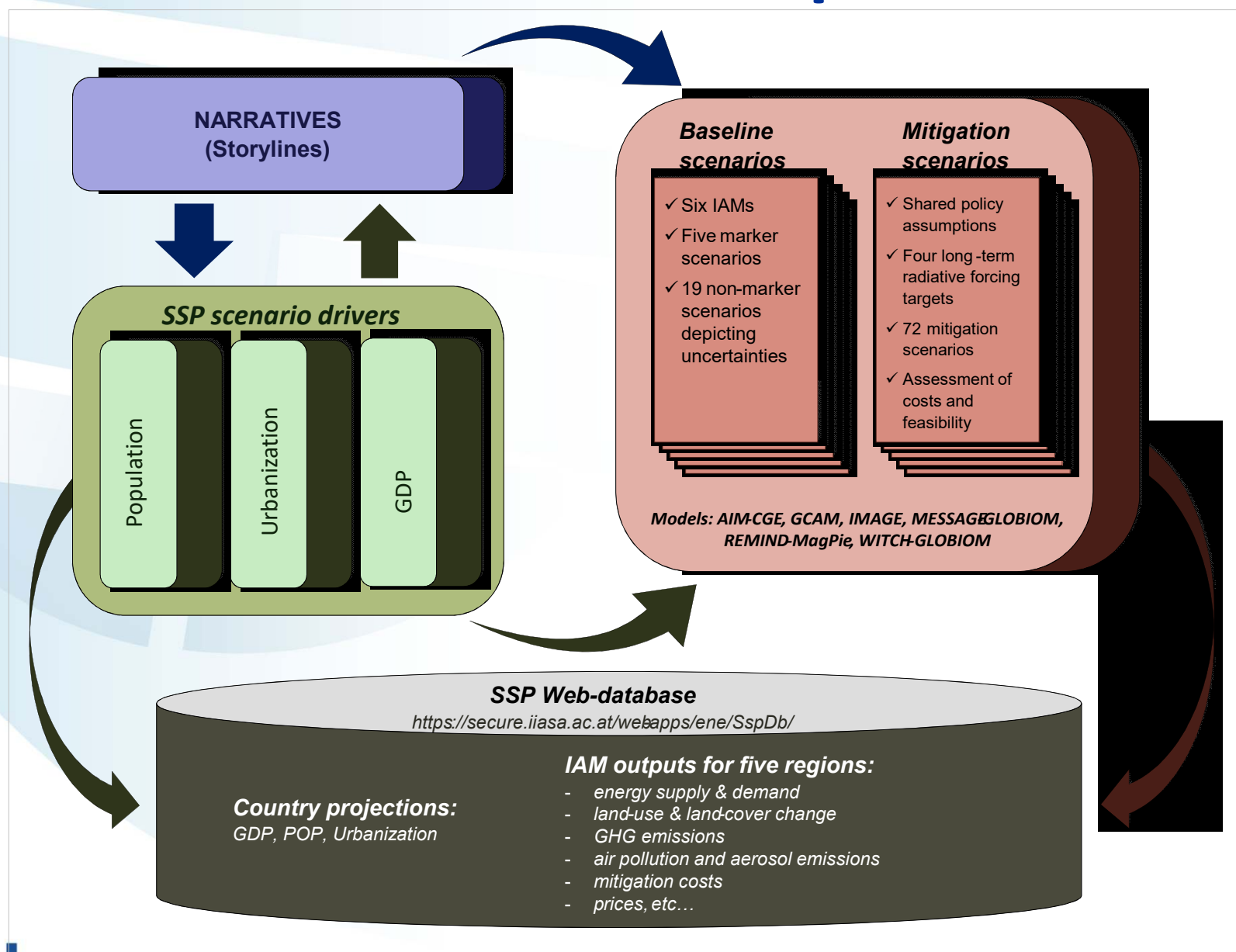
SSP narratives, quantitative elements: **2017 special issue of *Global Environmental Change*.**  
SSP Database, hosted by IIASA.



# Reference SSP Scenarios

- Well established in the IAM and climate change communities
- Consistent with the Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) – SSPs substitute for the key driving forces of future GHG emissions used by RCPs
- No need to add yet another set of scenarios
- Five SSPs cover a wide range of futures
- Six IA modeling teams – different methodologies, geographical resolutions, energy system representation, IAM linkages and features
- One representative Marker Scenario for each SSP
- For each SSP multiple IAM runs exploring uncertainty ranges

# Illustration of SSP development



# The Scenario Matrix Architecture

Challenge to mitigation

## SSP5: Fossil fueled development

- Rapid economic growth, free trade fueled by carbon-intensive fuels
- High technology development
- Low regard for global environment & SDGs
- Technology fixes
- Low population and high mobility



Markets first



Clash of civilisations

## SSP3: Regional rivalry

- Competition among regions
- Low technology development
- Environment and social goals not a priority
- Focus on domestic resources
- High population growth
- Slow economic growth dev. countries

## SSP2: Middle of the Road

## SSP1: Sustainability

- Global cooperation
- Rapid technology dev.
- Strong env. policy
- Low population growth
- Declining inequity
- Focus on renewables & efficiency
- Dietary shifts
- Forest protection



UN world



Have's and have not's

## SSP4: Inequality

- Inequality across and within regions
- Social cohesion degrades
- Low technology development
- Environment priority for the few affluent
- Limited trade

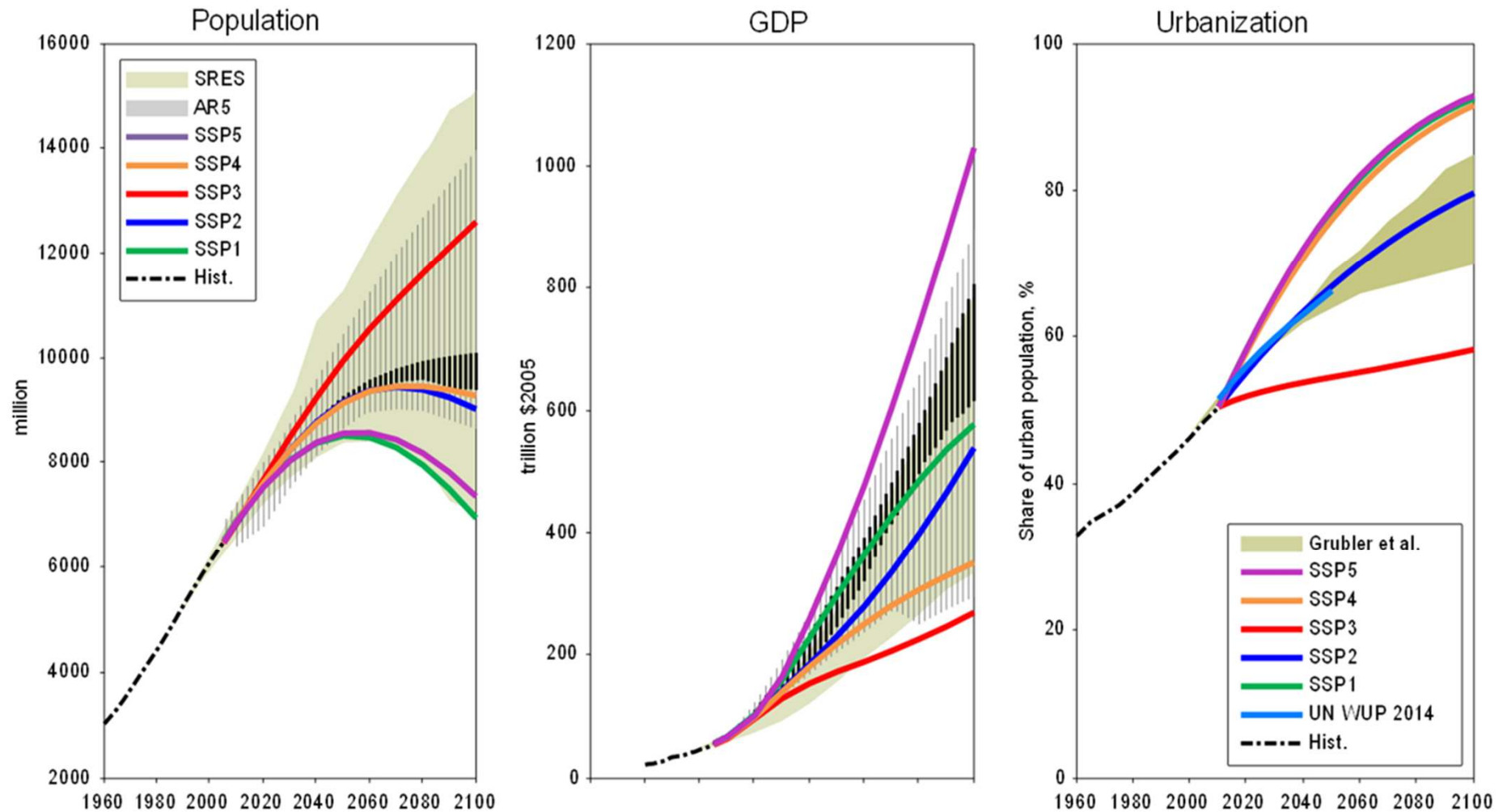
Challenge to adaptation

# SSP2: Middle of the road

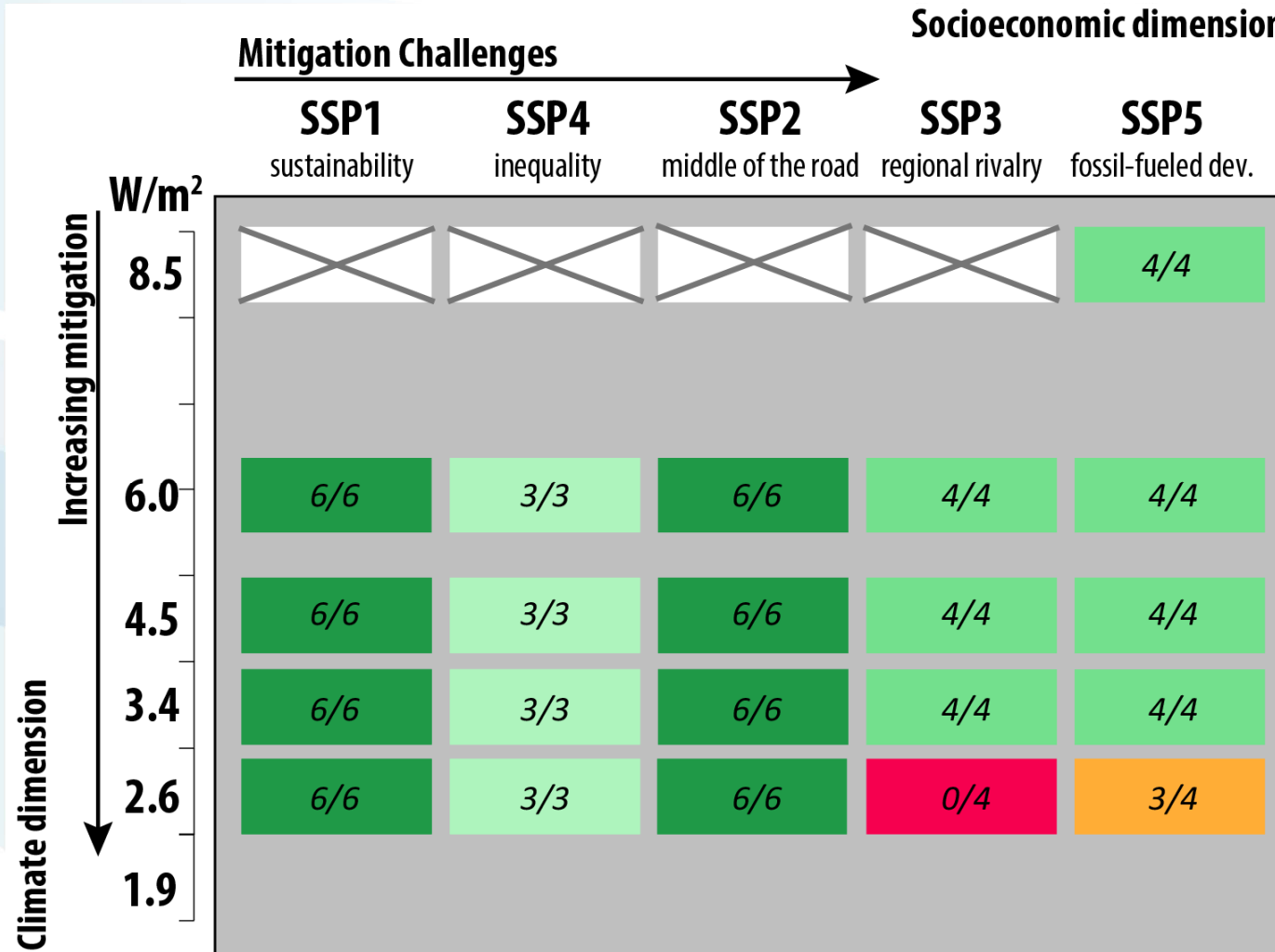
Social, economic, and technological trends proceed along historical patterns

- Development and income growth proceed unevenly
- Slow progress on reaching sustainable development goals
- Technological developments proceed without breakthrough
- Environmental systems experience degradation
- Fossil fuel dependency decreases slowly
  - no reluctance to use unconventional fossil resources
- Moderate population
- Income inequality persists or improves slowly

# Illustrative SSP ranges



# The SSP-RCP scenario Matrix





# Summary

- Good progress – project on time (accounting for the delayed start)
- Now ready to tackle the detailed scenario work
- Some methodological adjustments may become necessary along the way with adequate mathematical representation of signposts or adaptive policy pathways (low probability)
- Following scenario activities provide the point of departure
  - No policy (climate or SDG related)
  - Implementation of NDCs
  - A global carbon budget consistent with a max 2°C limit
  - Assessing different policy pathways for reaching climate and SDG targets
  - Analysis of the agreed metrics and performance targets
  - Iteration
- Based on the plausibility of the results obtained from these three scenarios, additional scenarios may be designed pending availability of resources