



IMPRESSIONS



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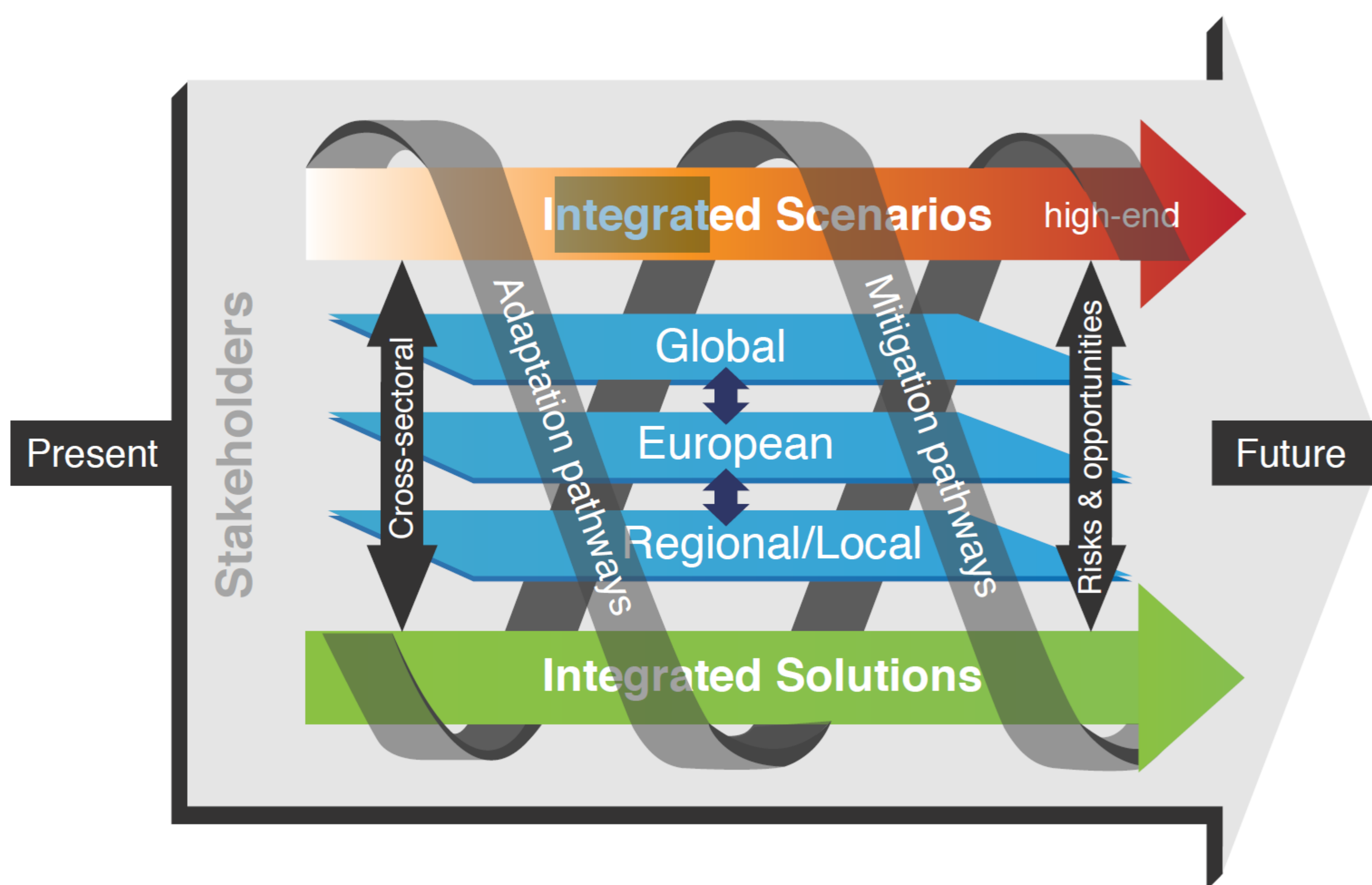
BACKGROUND

There is widespread acceptance that the climate is changing. Although the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognised that increases in global temperature should be below 2°C to avoid severe impacts, current emission trends suggest that limiting warming to the 2°C target will be difficult. Indeed, without significant reductions in emissions, projections point to much more substantial warming.

Despite the increasing plausibility of these high-end scenarios, there are few studies that assess their potential impacts, the ability of adaptation options to reduce vulnerabilities, and the potential synergies and trade-offs between adaptation and mitigation. Thus, it is vital that decision-makers have access to reliable scientific information on these uncertain, but potentially high-risk, scenarios of the future to inform adaptation planning.

OVERALL AIM

IMPRESSIONS aims to advance understanding of the consequences of high-end climate and socio-economic scenarios and to help decision-makers apply such knowledge within integrated adaptation and mitigation plans.



IMPRESSIONS will...

- work with decision-makers to better understand their knowledge needs and maximise their active participation in the research to ensure relevant and useful outcomes;
- develop a novel stakeholder-driven methodology for the creation of an integrated set of high-end climate and more extreme socio-economic scenarios;
- apply these scenarios to a wide range of existing and new spatially-explicit models of impacts and adaptation in five case studies covering global, European and regional/local (Scotland, Iberia and Hungary) scales;
- embed the impacts modelling work within an integrated assessment approach which advances the analysis of multi-scale and cross-sectoral synergies and trade-offs;
- evaluate the time- and path-dependency of adaptation and mitigation options taking account of the non-linearity, complexity and tipping points described in the scenarios and impact model results;
- communicate the results to a broad community of stakeholders to enhance current approaches to climate change policies and actions.

PARTNERS

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- University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden
- Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- Danish Meteorological Institute, Denmark
- Finnish Environment Institute, Finland
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