Web Site Usability using AccessColor Color Contrast Checker
(http://www.accesskeys.org/tools/color-contrast.html)
Color Contrast

Test 4 Sites
India Environment Portal
Climate Change Scenarios GIS Portal
Georgia Coastal Ecosystems
NOAA Climate Data Center

Discuss Results
Both color difference and color brightness do not meet the recommended standard for 1% of the total text.

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Welcome to NCAR’s GIS Initiative Climate Change Scenarios GIS data portal. This portal is intended to serve a community of GIS users interested in climate change. The free datasets of climate change projections can be viewed on-line and/or downloaded in a common GIS (shapefile) or text file format. Many 2D variables from modeled projected climate are available for the atmosphere and land surface. These climate change projections were generated by the NCAR Community Climate System Model, or CCSM, for the 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

New:

- In addition to global CCSM climate projections, downscaled projections of monthly mean temperature and total precipitation for the contiguous United States are now available. The downscaled dataset was produced using a statistical downscaling method.
- Climate change projections from the Community Climate System Model (CCSM-3) are generated on a Gaussian grid, which is commonly used in scientific modeling. With a Gaussian grid, each grid point can be uniquely accessed by one-dimensional latitude and longitude arrays (i.e. the coordinates are orthogonal). In the CCSM model output, distributed here, the longitudes are equally spaced at 1.40625⁰, while the latitudes vary in spacing from 1.389⁰ to 1.400767⁰. Due to irregular nature of the gridded CCSM model output this portal distributes the datasets in a point shapefile format, where each point represents a centroid of a corresponding CCSM grid cell. To more accurately represent a continuous surface of global climate, we are providing a global/polygon/dataset for use with the CCSM modeled climate projections. This polygon layer was derived using the 4 corner coordinates, based on latitude and longitude, for each grid cell of the CCSM outputs. This creates irregular, rectangular polygons, as in a Gaussian grid of the original model output. Click here for more information.
- A tutorial on how to analyze climate projections from the CCSM in a GIS is now available. In this demonstration, we compare model output of a present-day climate simulations with future climate projections. To download the tutorial, click here.

To access data, you must register, login and accept data disclaimer. Please read data disclaimer carefully.

Thank you for visiting GIS Climate Change Scenarios website. This GIS portal is complimentary to other IPCC data distributing portals (e.g., Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison (PCMDI), and the Earth System Grid (ESG)), where complete data archive is available in common atmospheric data formats.
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Data File Formats

All data sets are provided in multiple file formats to suit various end-user requirements and software capabilities. The list below summarizes the main features of these formats and recommendations for common types of software.

- **Spreadsheet (CSV Text) format (*.csv)**
  - comma-delimited text file, containing a minimal file header listing the title, column names, column units, and column variable types (the metadata is provided separately - see below)
  - recommended for users of spreadsheet and database applications

- **Metadata for Spreadsheet (*.meta.txt)**
  - text files containing complete metadata only (no data table or statistics)
  - these files provide metadata for the corresponding *.csv file (which only includes basic column descriptions)
  - metadata files can also be used to preview metadata stored in .mat and .rpt files prior to downloading the data (provided the file format descriptors are ignored)

- **Tab-delimited Text Report format (*.rpt)**
  - conventional text file containing a complete metadata header followed by a tab-delimited data table and one or more tab-delimited statistical reports
  - recommended for users of word processor and spreadsheet programs

- **GCE Data Toolbox format (*.mat)**
  - MATLAB files with data in GCE Data Structure format
  - recommended for MATLAB users who have downloaded the GCE Data Toolbox program

- **Standard MATLAB (variables) format (*.vars.mat)**
Georgia Coastal Ecosystems

0 Errors
A Climate Service in NOAA

NOAA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Budget Request includes a reorganization that brings together its existing widely dispersed climate capabilities under a single line office management structure, the Climate Service.

The principal goal of this reorganization is to more efficiently and effectively respond to the rapidly increasing demand for easily accessible and timely scientific data and information about climate that helps people make informed decisions in their lives, businesses, and communities. NOAA provides this to citizens as climate services.

The Climate Service will allow NOAA to provide a reliable and authoritative source for climate data, information, and decision support services and to more effectively coordinate with other agencies and partners.

This website provides the context and background materials concerning the reorganization to establish a climate service in NOAA. Please check back frequently for updates.

FY2012 Budget:

- NOAA FY2012 "Blue Book" Highlights
- NOAA FY2012 "Blue Book" Reorganization Summary

"Given NOAA's distinguished history of providing climate science and services, the formal establishment of a NOAA Climate Service is both welcome and long anticipated. This step should help NOAA better collaborate with its federal and state agency, private-sector, and academic partners in the provision of such services."

William Hooke, Ph.D., American Meteorological Society
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Good for validation, may mislead for fine comparisons.