



IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Synthesis Report

November 2014

Ethics

Mitigation and adaptation raise issues of equity, justice, and fairness. . . Many of those most vulnerable to climate change have contributed and contribute little to GHG emissions. Delaying mitigation shifts burdens from the present to the future.

Unlikely events

Evaluating responses to climate change involves assessment of the widest possible range of impacts, including low-probability outcomes with large consequences.

Ethical analysis

Decision-making about climate change involves valuation and mediation among diverse values, and may be aided by the analytic methods of several normative disciplines. Ethics analyses the different values involved and the relations between them. Recent political philosophy has investigated the question of responsibility for the effects of emissions. . .

Valuation in economics

. . . Economics and decision analysis provide quantitative methods of valuation. . . Economic methods can reflect ethical principles, and take account of non-marketed goods, equity and the differing values of money to different people.

Global commons

Effective mitigation will not be achieved if individual agents advance their own interests independently. Climate change has the characteristics of a collective action problem at the global scale. . . Cooperative responses, including international cooperation, are therefore required to effectively mitigate GHG emissions.



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