

Latest News

Welcome to the first IPCC Working Group II (WGII) Newsletter. We hope you find it useful. We welcome your input so please feel free to comment on and criticise it so that we can improve the style and impact of future issues.

The IPCC's Plenary XXI in Vienna agreed the outlines of the three working group contributions to the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), due out in 2007. In WGII Plenary the chapters and indicative content were agreed and the outline itself is presented in this newsletter so that you can see its structure and how it fits together.

Chris Sear has joined the TSU team and replaces Kathy Maskell as Deputy Head (Science). Kathy continues part-time on a freelance basis to help us with the author nomination process. Her experience of previous assessments is invaluable. Chris is already enjoying the work and relishes the challenges ahead. The Met Office has now advertised for its new Head of TSU to replace Mike Harrison who has moved to another position in the Met Office. The closing date was 21st November, so we are looking forward to having a new Head of Unit and a full complement of staff in the near future.

Searching for Authors

At the beginning of the AR4 process is the search for authors and reviewers. The IPCC Secretariat is formally requesting nominations through government focal points and that request will go out before the end of November. This process culminates early in the new year, when requests for nominations close.

Please ensure that you lobby your government focal point as soon as possible with the names of anyone (including yourself) who might have the expertise and experience needed to contribute to the AR4 and can deliver a product (scientifically robust text) or reviews in any of the areas covered by our chapter list. If you don't know who your government focal point is, then contact IPCC Secretariat for this information. For any other information about the process or WGII please contact Norah: norah.pritchard@metoffice.com. Thanks.

Remember, WGII needs new experts, especially from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (EITs) and from industry, business and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Further information about WGII and the Fourth Assessment Report can be found at: <http://www.ipcc-wg2.org/index.htm>

Your WGII Bureau with the IPCC Acting Secretary, Renate Christ, from earlier in 2003



We are pleased to announce that IPCC Plenary XXI in Vienna, Austria in early November 2003 agreed the following outline and indicative content for the WGII component of AR4:

CLIMATE CHANGE 2007: IMPACTS, ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY

Summary for Policymakers

Technical Summary

Introduction

- Scope of this Assessment
- Relation to other reports and studies

I. ASSESSMENT OF OBSERVED CHANGES

1. Assessment of Observed Changes and Responses in Natural and Managed Systems

- Methods in detection and attribution of observed changes
- Systems and sectors under investigation: observed changes including vulnerability and adaptation
- Larger scale aggregation and attribution

II. ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE IMPACTS AND ADAPTATION: SYSTEMS AND SECTORS

2. New Assessment Methodologies and the Characterisation of Future Conditions

- New developments in methods
- Characterising the future: climate/other environmental/socio-economic assumptions

3. Fresh Water Resources and their Management

- Water cycle: precipitation, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, snow cover
- Surface water: rivers, lakes, ice cover; quantity and quality
- Groundwater: extraction, salinisation; quantity and quality
- Water demand and use: agriculture, industry, energy, domestic
- Extreme events: floods, droughts and other precipitation events

4. Ecosystems, their Properties, Goods and Services

- Grasslands and savannahs
- Forests and woodlands
- Deserts
- Tundra
- Mediterranean ecosystems
- Wetlands
- Freshwater lakes and rivers
- Mountains
- Oceans, shallow seas and their ecosystems
- Overall implications for biodiversity

5. Food, Fibre and Forest Products

- Food-crop farming
- Livestock production
- Industrial crops and biofuels
- Forestry
- Fisheries: marine and fresh water; aquaculture and marine farming
- Global food trade and food security
- Subsistence systems, local food supply, regional employment and rural livelihood
- Further environmental consequences with respect to: water use, run-off, land use

6. Coastal Systems and Low-lying Areas

- Natural systems, including their services
- Human society
- Extra-coastal effects on coastal environments

7. Industry, Settlement, and Society

- Industry: manufacturing, construction, energy
- Services: retailing and trade, transport, tourism, insurance and finance
- Utilities: water supply, energy, waste disposal
- Human settlement: urbanisation, urban design, planning, rural settlement
- Social issues: demography, migration, employment, livelihood and culture

Continued.....

8. Human Health

- Thermal stress
- Physical effects of extreme weather and climate events
- Synergies and interactions with environmental quality e.g. air and water quality and aeroallergens
- Infectious diseases (including water- and vector-borne) and changing distributions; emerging diseases
- Changes in food quality, food supply and nutrition
- Demographic, economic and social aspects of health
- Cumulative effects; multiple stresses

III. ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE IMPACTS AND ADAPTATION: REGIONS

Chapter 9: Africa

Chapter 10: Asia

Chapter 11: Australia and New Zealand

Chapter 12: Europe

Chapter 13: Latin America

Chapter 14: North America

Chapter 15: Polar Regions (Arctic and Antarctic)

Chapter 16: Small Islands

IV. ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSES TO IMPACTS

17. Assessment of Adaptation Practices, Options, Constraints and Capacity

- Methods and concepts: vulnerability, resilience, adaptive capacity
- Assessment of current adaptation practices: current vulnerability, risk management, local knowledge; adapting to current climate and other stresses; policies and institutions
- Assessment of adaptation capacity, options and constraints: criteria for decision making; effectiveness; benefits and costs; limitations/barriers; role of technology; links to development; equity issues
- Enhancing adaptation: opportunities; development and transfer of technologies and know-how; constraints; adaptive learning

18. Inter-relationships between Adaptation and Mitigation

- Elements for effective implementation: determinants, capacities
- Objectives and decision processes: reducing sensitivity vs. exposure; dealing with risk
- Scale issues: global, national, sectoral, local and project levels
- Timing issues: timing of outcomes, including rates of change; time discounting
- Differing roles of stakeholders: governments, private, civil society
- Consideration of costs and damages avoided and/or benefits gained
- Synthesis of complementarities and differences between adaptation and mitigation; mixes of strategies
- Uncertainties, unknowns, priorities for research

19. Assessing Key Vulnerabilities and the Risk from Climate Change

- Methods and concepts: issues relating to Article 2 of the UNFCCC; reasons for concern; measuring damage; identifying key impacts and vulnerabilities, and their risk of occurrence
- Approaches to determining levels of climate change for key impacts
- Assessing key global risks
- Assessing key risks for regions and sectors
- Assessment of response strategies to avoid occurrence: stabilisation scenarios; mitigation/adaptation strategies; avoiding irreversibilities; role of sustainable development; treatment of uncertainty
- Uncertainties, unknowns, priorities for research

20. Perspectives on Climate Change and Sustainability

- Summary of new knowledge relating to impacts and adaptation
- Impacts and adaptation in the context of multiple stresses
- Implications for environmental quality
- Implications for risk, hazard and disaster management
- Global and aggregate impacts
- Implications for regional and sectoral development; access to resources and technology; equity
- Sub-regional and local issues
- Opportunities, co-benefits and challenges for adaptation (including over long term)
- Uncertainties, unknowns, priorities for research

List of authors and reviewers

Glossary

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If you have moved, or this newsletter is not for you but you know someone who should perhaps receive it, then please let us know by contacting Norah at the address on the first page. Thank you.

Three IPCC assessments have been completed. The Third Assessment Report (TAR) was issued in 2001 and the Fourth Assessment (AR4) is due to report in 2007. It is AR4 planning that is now underway. The work of the AR4 author teams being nominated and chosen over the next few months will begin in earnest later in 2004, so there is still plenty of time to get research work completed, written, published and noticed. Look out for more on IPCC assessments and information sources in our next newsletter in a few months.

Martin and Osvaldo



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¿ WHAT'S Next ?		
Year	Month	Activity
2004	Jan	Request for government nomination closes
2004	Feb-Apr	WGII Bureau selection of CLAs, LAs and REs
2004	Apr	IPCC Bureau review of CLAs, LAs and REs
2004	May	Expert meeting on Art. 2 / Key Vulnerabilities
2004	Sep	1st Lead Author meeting
2004	Nov-Dec	Informal review of 0th draft
2005	Mar	2nd Lead Author meeting
2005	Jul-Aug	Expert review of 1 st draft
2005	Oct	3rd Lead Author meeting
2006	?	1 st Expert meeting on Water
2006	Feb-Mar	Government and expert review of 2 nd draft
2006	Jun	4th Lead Author meeting
2007	Feb-Mar	Final government review
2007	Apr	Approval by WGII Plenary