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## IPCC MEDIA ADVISORY

### IPCC releases full special report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Weather Events

In recent years, extreme weather and climate events have taken many lives and caused billions of dollars in economic losses. Is climate change leading to increases in the number and severity of extreme events? How do social and environmental factors interact with weather and climate events to create disasters? And what can be done to make societies more resilient to extremes? A Special Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) – assesses the scientific information on these questions.

The report will be published electronically on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. The print edition is due to be published in mid-May. The report's 19-page Summary for Policymakers <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/> was released in November 2011. The full 592-page report appearing on 28<sup>th</sup> March provides the detailed evidence underlying the findings highlighted in the Summary for Policymakers, complete with graphics, full reference details, report glossary and index. In addition the chapters provide comprehensive detail on the concepts and determinants of disaster risk, an assessment of past and future changes in climate extremes and their impacts at global and regional scales, and a discussion of local to international level approaches for managing weather-related risks. Case studies are used to provide valuable insights into best practices and experiences.

“Hundreds of scientists from around the world worked for more than two years on the new Special Report. Next week's release of the Special Report provides the full fruits of that effort – with all of the evidence, documentation, and assessment that make IPCC reports uniquely relevant to the development of good policy,” said Chris Field, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II, which together with Working Group I was responsible for the development and preparation of the report.

Media representatives are cordially invited to a **press conference** by telephone on **28<sup>th</sup> March** to present the findings of the Special Report. The press conference will take place at **13.00 GMT** (09.00 Eastern daylight time, 14.00 British summer time, 15.00 Central European summer time, 21.00 Hong Kong/Singapore time).

Journalists can obtain access **under embargo** to a PDF of the full report and to press materials from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March**. Journalists should register at <http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/srex.launch.htm> for access to this material and dial-in details for the press conference. The report and articles based on it are **embargoed for publication** until **1500 GMT** (11.00 EDT, 16.00 BST, 17.00 CEST, 23.00 Hong Kong/Singapore time) on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, when the report will be released to the public. Registration will also provide an e-mail address to be used to request interviews with the press conference speakers and report authors. The IPCC is operating an embargo not because the material is being withheld but to provide adequate time for all interested journalists to research their articles.

The press conference will be conducted in English, and the embargoed materials will be made available in English.

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Once the report is released to the public, the IPCC website will also include report drafts, comments by reviewers on those drafts, responses by authors to review comments, downloadable graphics, and some material used by the authors from sources other than peer-reviewed journals.

The speakers at the press conference will be R.K. Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC, Thomas Stocker, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I and Chris Field, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II. Over the next several months, a series of outreach events in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas will introduce the report and provide a platform for policymakers and practitioners to discuss its implications.

Following the press conference, a recording of the event will be posted online at [www.srex.org](http://www.srex.org) and [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).

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### **Notes for editors**

The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assess scientific information related to climate change, to evaluate its environmental and socio-economic consequences and to formulate realistic response strategies.

The IPCC has produced a series of Assessment Reports (in 1990, 1995, 2001 and 2007). The Fifth Assessment Report will appear in four stages in 2013 and 2014. It has also produced several Special Reports (of which Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) is the latest), Technical Papers, Methodologies and other key documents. Together these have become the standard references for policymakers and scientists.

The IPCC assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information produced worldwide relevant to understanding climate change and its effects. It does not conduct any research itself or monitor climate-related data. The work of the IPCC is carried out by thousands of scientists on a voluntary basis.

In 2007 the IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore.

The IPCC is currently organized in three Working Groups and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Working Group I assesses the physical science basis of climate change (what causes it and what will happen next); Working Group II deals with climate change impacts, adaptations and vulnerability (what is climate change doing to the Earth and human society); and Working Group III examines the mitigation of climate change (what can we do about it).

The Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) was produced by Working Group I, whose Co-Chairs are Qin Dahe and Thomas Stocker, and by Working Group II, whose Co-Chairs are Vicente Barros and Chris Field.