



WMO

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



UNEP

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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PROGRESS REPORT BY WORKING GROUP I

(Submitted by the Co-chairs of Working Group I)

PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUP I TOWARDS THE IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR4)

1. Fourth Assessment Report

1.1. Second Lead Authors Meeting.

Since the last Progress Report by the WG I Co-Chairs (April 2005), the major activity towards the delivery of the Fourth Assessment Report has been the Second Lead Author meeting. This meeting was held in Beijing, China, May 10-12, at the kind invitation of Dr. Qin Dahe, WG I Co-chair, and his colleagues at the China Meteorological Administration. An option for advance individual chapter meetings was taken up by most chapters on May 9. WG I was pleased to welcome the Chair of the IPCC to this meeting.

The internal review of the Zero Order Draft (ZOD) took place from January 31 to April 8. Nearly 3000 helpful review comments were received from over 120 invited reviewers with chapters typically receiving between 100 and 300 comments (See Figures 1 and 2). The primary purpose of the second LA meeting was to enable authors to consider these comments, and to agree upon revisions that should be made to progress from the ZOD to the First Order Draft (FOD).

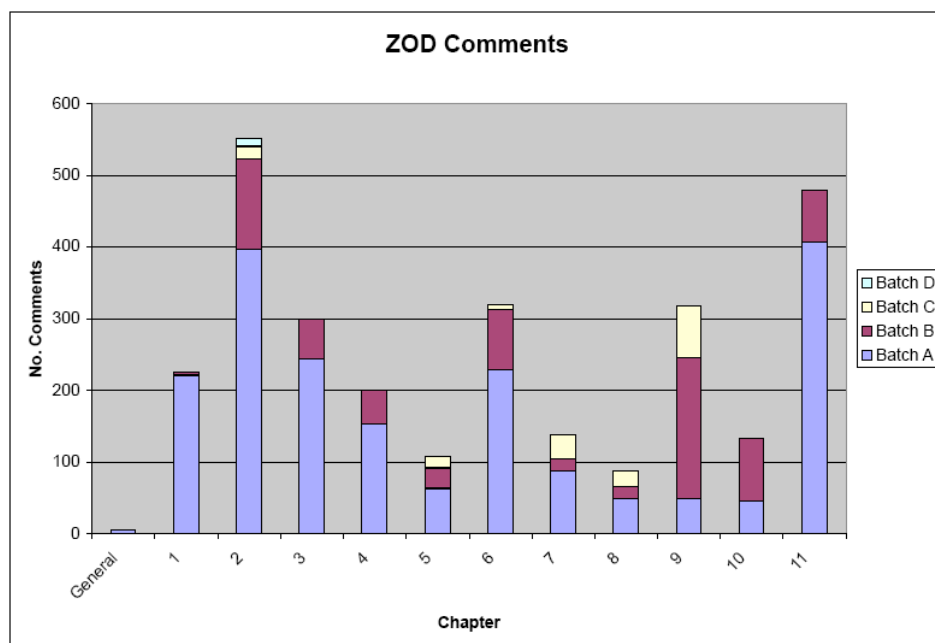


Figure 1. Numbers of comments received on WG I Zero Order Draft by chapter.

The Beijing meeting also focussed on key cross-chapter interactions including issues around radiative forcing, issues around biogeochemistry, approach to coverage of observations across chapters, and approach to coverage of modelling on various time scales. Additional cross-chapter issues covered by smaller subgroups dealt with such matters as the definition of climate sensitivity, etc. Specific plans were agreed as to how to treat these and other overlapping matters for the FOD.

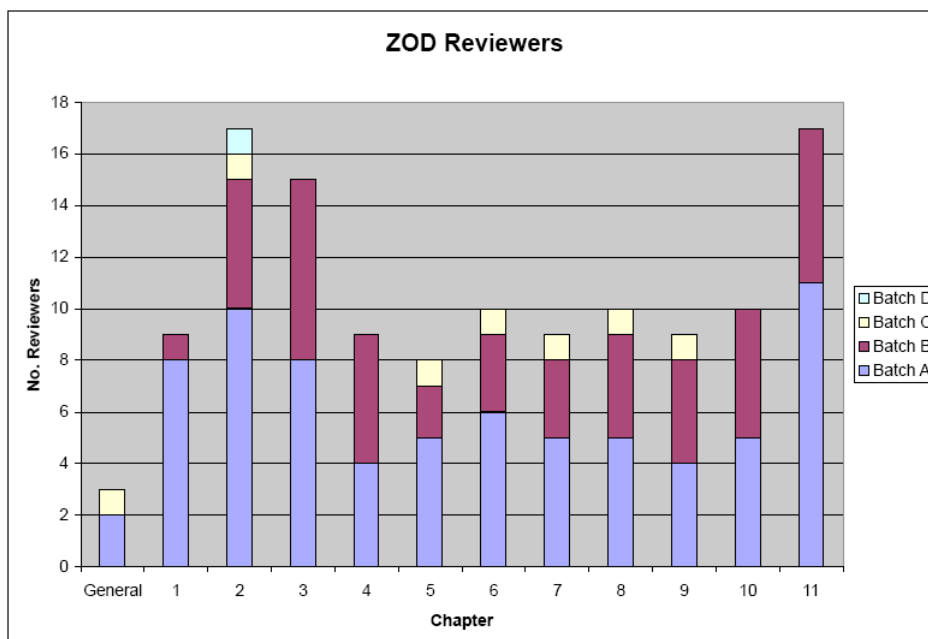


Figure 2. Numbers of reviews received of WG I Zero Order Draft chapters.

Dr David Wratt of the WGI Bureau and Dr David Fahey of the author team are coordinating the process of addressing a series of 'Questions about climate change', and they led a lunchtime meeting with CLAs and chapter volunteers involved in these. Questions were included in the ZOD, are being dealt with within chapters, and are generated and controlled by the author teams themselves. At the Beijing meeting, the reviews of the ZOD questions were considered and next steps for the FOD were agreed. The questions will be fully reviewed again as part of the chapters in both the Expert Review of the FOD and Government and Expert Review of the Second Order Draft.

The WGI Bureau met on May 9 to agree upon the process to be followed for selection of the SPM/TS writing team and the approach to work on the TS and SPM. These and other issues were then also covered by the WGI Bureau in meetings with the CLAs during May 10-11-12.

Representatives from the first four of the eleven WGI chapters gave their views of the WG1 AR4 as a whole in a closing Plenary. The next four and final three will do likewise at the upcoming third and fourth LA meetings, respectively, allowing each chapter an opportunity to present their considered view of key topics not just in their own chapter but in others as well, through the course of the LA meetings. This session was deemed of great interest by many attendees.

1.2 First Order Draft and Preparations for Expert Review

First order drafts of all eleven chapters of the WG1 report have now been received by the WG I TSU. After checking and processing to ensure completeness and consistency in formats the FOD will be posted for review on September 9th with all comments due by November 4th. A closed web site is being established for the review which will provide integrated access to the draft chapters, copies of all unpublished material used by the authors, and review materials. Information on access to this site will be sent to all reviewers, the full IPCC Bureau, and TSUs before September 9th.

An extensive list of potential Expert Reviewers has been compiled from various sources. All experts nominated by governments in 2003 for any WG1 AR4 role have been included. In addition some science organizations have made subsequent nominations and a number of individuals have asked to be reviewers. A publicly available web page has been established at the WG1 web site where anyone can register their interest in being a reviewer and indicate which chapters they intend to review. Initial email contact has been made with over 1000 potential reviewers and over 400 have already confirmed their willingness to carry out this important role. Review Editors and the WG I Bureau have also been asked to recommend to appropriate

experts that they register as reviewers. So far over 80 additional experts have been included through the open registration system.

Based on responses so far we expect that the FOD will be reviewed by of order 600 reviewers and attract about 20,000 comments. In preparation for this we have redesigned the web based review system used for the internal review of the ZOD. Reviewers will now be asked to submit review comments in the form of a spreadsheet which has evolved from that used by the IPCC Greenhouse Gas Inventories Program and for the Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System. The review web pages will provide access to a spreadsheet template for review comments, and a facility for uploading completed comments linked to an automated checking and email confirmation system. Procedures to accommodate experts with limited internet access have also been established.

2. Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System (SROC)

Copy-editing of all portions of the Special Report has now been completed by the WG I and WG III TSUs, and layout has been completed by the RIVM studio. WG I organized graphics editing of all the figures used in the SPM and TS for the report which enabled a more professional presentation of the report through consistent use of color, fonts, and other details of the graphics. The complete document is now at the printer (Cambridge University Press).

3. Outreach

WG I Co-chair Susan Solomon was among the presenters reporting on the SROC at the SBSTA meeting in May, 2005 at Bonn, at the Association for Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) meeting in Denver in July, 2005, and at the Open Ended Working Group of the Montreal Protocol in July, 2005. A second ASHRAE session including a presentation by Dr Solomon is slated for their larger annual meeting in January, 2007.

Dr Susan Solomon attended the Global Energy and Water Experiment (GEWEX) project meeting of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) in June, 2005, and gave a presentation on progress relating to the AR4.

WG I Co-chair Qin Dahe acted as co-convenor of a very successful symposium on Assessments of Global Environmental Change at the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS) meeting in Beijing in August, 2005. The symposium provided specific coverage of recent IPCC activities including: a review of the scoping and preparation of the WG I AR4 report (Qin Dahe), outcomes from the recently completed SROC (Guus Velders), results of an inter-comparison project for radiative forcing in climate models in support of the AR4 (Bill Collins), a summary of the CLIVAR workshop on model results held in Hawaii in March in support of the AR4 (Keith Dixon), and developments in the treatment of uncertainties in the AR4 (Martin Manning).

4. Cross Cutting Themes

Following a further round of commentary, based on discussions at the second LA meetings of each of the three Working Groups, the Uncertainty Guidance Note for authors of the AR4 being prepared by Martin Manning, Michel Petit and Richard Moss has been finalized and is now publicly available on the IPCC web site as: <http://www.ipcc.ch/activity/uncertaintyguidancenote.pdf> .