

FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPCC
Nairobi, Kenya, 11-13 April 2016

IPCC-XLIII/Doc. 13
(17.III.2016)
Agenda Item: 12
ENGLISH ONLY

IPCC LIBRARY FACILITY

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)

IPCC LIBRARY FACILITY

Extensive access to scientific journals and publications is essential for IPCC authors during the process of drafting IPCC reports. Accessing such sources of information in many cases requires to pay subscriptions and in many cases the costs are high in particular when the task is of the scale necessary for an IPCC assessment. This poses important challenges for many authors, in particular for authors from developing countries.

During previous assessment cycles agreements were reached by individual Technical Support Units with publishers or with university libraries. This approach however had also considerable transactional costs.

With a more integrated approach for the work between the different IPCC Working Groups during the Sixth Assessment cycle it would be desirable to establish a centralized IPCC library facility that would help authors to access relevant journals and publications at no cost. This would require the facility to enter into the necessary agreements with publishers.

Following consultation, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has manifested willingness in developing, hosting and managing such an IPCC library facility. UNEP would, with additional support from a temporary staff member funded by IPCC, (see budget below):

- Assess the list of scientific journals and publications cited in the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (WGI, WGII and WGIII) and Special Reports (SRREN¹ and SREX²);
- Circulate the list among the members and advisory members of the IPCC Executive Committee (ExCom), requesting them to amend and make it fit to the expected needs of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Working Groups and authors, indicate what type of access would be necessary;
- Make an inventory of the publishing houses and the major climate change related libraries and institutions within and outside the UN system holding or having access to the required journals and publications;
- Enter in Memoranda of Understanding or other instruments with the relevant publishers and libraries that would allow IPCC authors to access the necessary journals and publications;
- Establish, staff (with funding provided by IPCC as budgeted below) and service a system for managing the IPCC library facility. The facility should provide free pdf copies of papers in these journals or publications to authors either through access codes (for a direct access to the online journal archive) or through email request and upload of pdf copies of the articles. This second option should work very fast (1-2 days) to support the work of authors in real time.
- The facility should be operative for the start of the work of the authors for the first Special Report of the AR6 cycle (July 2017).

The Panel is invited to adopt a Decision giving a formal mandate to UNEP in this regard.

¹ Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation

² Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation

The Panel is invited to thank UNEP for the generous offer and authorizes the Acting Secretary of the IPCC to conclude an agreement with UNEP regarding the IPCC library facility.

Budget for Library Facility Staff Support – funding required

Additional Staff required	Amount
International UN Volunteer (2 years)	\$107,300
Total	\$107,300