



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WG-II: 7th/INF. 1
Item 2
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IPCC WORKING GROUP II - 7th SESSION
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**WORKING GROUP II CONTRIBUTION TO THE
IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR4)**

Background Information

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

THE WORKING GROUP II CONTRIBUTION TO THE IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT:

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED WGII OUTLINE

Objectives which have guided planning of the outline:

- To provide an assessment of current knowledge, with emphasis on new knowledge since the IPCC TAR and limiting re-iteration to that essential for understanding.
- To include a balanced coverage of the major systems, sectors and regions, focusing on the main issues and avoiding duplication where possible.
- To give attention to the range of possible effects, those both potentially positive as well as negative.
- To reduce the size of the resulting Report to about two-thirds the length of TAR (i.e., 650 rather than 1000 pages).

The proposed structure:

- Adopts the same regions as TAR, to enable updated knowledge to be readily appreciated. The proposed regional chapters are considered a core minimum that would be in the Assessment Report, and would not be affected by different options regarding regional outreach subsequently chosen by Plenary.
- Adopts a slightly different set of systems and sectors to give greater attention to food and to coastal/low-lying areas.
- Gives greater attention to assessment of responses to impacts (adaptation, etc).
- Gives greater attention to impacts of climate change in the context of other stresses.
- Gives greater attention to the assessment of current impacts and adaptation. This will help answer questions about potential effects in the future, such as: What systems are more sensitive/resilient than others? How are they affected? What can we learn from current adaptation?

Other points of emphasis related to Cross-Cutting Themes and which will be treated in the Assessment as follows:

- Uncertainty and risk – treated throughout the assessment.
- Technology –treated throughout the assessment, as a set of assumptions about the future.
- Regions – in Section III.
- Water – throughout the Assessment, but particularly in Chapter 3 and in regional chapters.
- Assessing the Science to Address UNFCCC Article 2 – in chapter 19, drawing on earlier chapters.
- Adaptation and Mitigation – in Chapter 18.
- Sustainable Development – in Chapter 20, drawing on earlier chapters

Ecosystems and their services

The content guide for this chapter will need to differ in a small way from others, as follows:

1. Scope; services as conceptualized in the Millenium Assessment; key issues; summary of TAR conclusions; specific methods

2. Current sensitivity/vulnerability: to weather and climate; and to other stresses; current acclimation and adaptation
3. Assumptions about future trends: climate, and other drivers
4. Key magnitudes/rates of impacts and future vulnerabilities; effects on ecosystem services (including economic analysis where possible)
5. Acclimation and adaptation: practices, options and constraints
6. Implications for sustainable development
7. Key uncertainties, unknowns, research gaps and priorities

Suggested length of chapters:

Introduction	5 pages
1. Assessment of Observed Changes in Natural and Managed Systems	40 pages
2. New Methods and Scenarios of the Future	30 pages
3. Fresh Water Resources and their Management	30 pages
4. Ecosystems and their Services	30 pages
5. Food, Fibre, Forestry, and Fisheries	30 pages
6. Coasts and Low-lying Areas	30 pages
7. Settlement, Industry and Services	30 pages
8. Human Health	30 pages
9. Africa	30 pages
10. Asia	30 pages
11. Australia and New Zealand	25 pages
12. Europe	25 pages
13. Latin America	30 pages
14. North America	25 pages
15. Polar Regions (Arctic and Antarctic)	25 pages
16. Small Islands	25 pages
17. Assessment of Adaptation Options, Capacity and Practice	25 pages
18. Assessment of Inter-relationships between Adaptation and Mitigation	25 pages
19. Assessing Key Vulnerabilities and the Risk from Climate Change	25 pages
20. Perspectives on Climate Change and Sustainability	25 pages
List of Authors, Reviewers	10 pages
Glossary	15 pages
Index	35 pages

TOTAL PAGES 630