



WMO

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



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## **PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUP II TOWARDS THE IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR4)**

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

## WORKING GROUP II PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FOURTH ASSESSMENT

### 1. The Fourth Assessment Report

The outline for the Working Group II contribution to the Fourth Assessment was agreed at the IPCC Plenary XXI in Vienna, November 2003. Since that time, the major activities have been the selection of the writing team, and the First Lead Author meeting. These are described in further detail below.

#### 1.1 Timeline

WGII plans to have four Lead Author meetings, scheduled as follows:

LA1: September 20-23, 2004, Vienna, Austria

LA2: March 14-17, 2005, Cairns, Australia

LA3: Nov. 29 – Dec. 2, 2005, provisionally Costa Rica

LA4: Sep 11 – 14, 2006, provisionally Gaborone, Botswana.

In addition, one meeting for the preparation of the Summary for Policymakers is planned for November 2006. It is anticipated that the WGII Plenary to approve the contribution to AR4 will be in April 2007.

#### 1.2 Author selection

Following the approval of the outline, procedures were set in motion to select the writing team. Widespread consultation was undertaken to identify the key experts in each chapter of the AR4. The database of government nominations, together with the results of the consultation, formed the basis for the author selection.

The WGII Bureau met in March 2004 to select and approve the list of authors and Review Editors for the AR4.

The author team currently consists of:

47 Co-ordinating Lead Authors (CLAs)

125 Lead Authors (LAs)

In addition, there are 46 Review Editors (REs). Thus, the writing team of authors and Review Editors consists of 218 experts, selected with due consideration of the geographical and gender balance. An analysis of the author list has been carried out, comparing the TAR and AR4, as follows:

	CLA+LA <sup>1</sup>	Countries Represented		Author %			Gender	
		Annex 1	DC/EIT	Annex 1	DC/EIT	Int. Org	M	F
<b>TAR</b>	177	16	38	58.2	41.8	n/a	86	14
<b>AR4</b>	172	24	37	52.3	42.4	5.2	85	15

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<sup>1</sup> This number excludes Co-chairs and TSU staff

### 1.3 First Lead Author meeting

The first Lead Author meeting was held in Vienna, 20-23 September 2004. Prior to the meeting, a set of goals was established. By the end of the meeting, it was planned that each chapter would have produced the following:

- Chapter outline giving section headings, lengths of sections, writing responsibilities and key references
- Writing timetable
- Provisional list of Contributing Authors with contact information where possible
- Information on whether a separate chapter meeting is needed
- Information on any problems identified

At the meeting the TSU provided information to authors concerning:

- The outline approved by Plenary, with further comments and guidance provided by Plenary at its November 2004 session
- Criteria regarding the knowledge base available for assessment
- The assessment process and its timelines
- Tasks and responsibilities for CLAs and LAs
- Procedures for identifying and contacting CAs
- Best practice example of a zero order draft
- Style guidance and template for submitted drafts
- Glossary of terms
- Assumptions common to assessment in all chapters, especially about future trends affecting impacts, adaptation and vulnerability
- Background paper on regional case studies
- Background papers on treatment of uncertainty
- Papers on Cross cutting themes

All chapters achieved the meeting objectives, giving a firm foundation for the preparation of the Zero-Order Draft.

### 1.4 Activities between LA1 and LA2

The Second Lead Author meeting will be held 14-17 March 2005, in Cairns, Australia. At the present time (October 2004), the following major activities are underway:

- The chapter writing teams are preparing the Zero Order Draft, due for delivery to the TSU on December 10<sup>th</sup>
- The procedures for the informal review of the ZOD are being finalized
- Timelines for the preparation of the Technical Summary and the Summary for Policymakers are being developed.
- Strategies to manage the flow of information between chapters are being developed; especially from the regional and sectoral chapters into the four synthesising chapters on Adaptation, Adaptation and Mitigation, Key Vulnerabilities and Climate Change and Sustainability
- Preliminary preparations for LA2 are underway.

The TSU has set up electronic facilities for authors to support the writing process. These are:

- Mailing lists for each chapter, and for the CLAs.
- Web-based file-sharing facilities, hosted by the British Atmospheric Data Centre. There is one area for each chapter. Areas are also planned for 'themes', such as a Health-related impacts theme to link all authors throughout the WGII AR4 working on this topic.

## 2. Cross-cutting themes

Working Group II is responsible for the Cross-Cutting Themes on 'Water' and on 'Article 2 and Key Vulnerabilities'.

### 2.1 Water

The Co-Anchors for this theme are Zbigniew Kundzewicz and Luis Mata, who are the CLAs for Chapter 3 (Water) in the WGII AR4. They have written a Concept Paper for this CCT.

IPCC XX (Paris 2003) decided that a Scoping Paper for a possible Technical Paper be prepared. This Scoping Paper was written by the Co-Anchors, and submitted to IPCC XXI (Vienna, November 2003). Plenary will recall that it agreed (IPCC XXI) to the recommendation for a Technical Paper on Climate Change and Water to be produced by WGII in later 2007 or early 2008. This should consolidate the water-relevant information in AR4 into a single document of about 100 pages, aimed predominantly at the water management community.

There was a discussion on the technical paper at the Vienna LA1 meeting, led by Zbigniew Kundzewicz and Luis Mata.

### 2.2 Scoping Key Vulnerabilities, and the science to address UNFCCC Article Two

A concept paper on this theme was prepared by Patwardhan, Semenov and Schneider, entitled *Assessing the Science to Address UNFCCC Article 2*.

A chapter related to this issue (Ch19. Assessing Key Vulnerabilities and the Risk from Climate Change) is included in the WGII Assessment, with Patwardhan, Semenov and Schneider being the CLAs.

WGII organised a first meeting on Article 2 and Key Vulnerabilities, in Buenos Aires in May 2004. The participants reviewed the issues and considered how best to incorporate knowledge of these issues in the WGII Assessment, especially Chapter 19.

The report of the meeting is available from the IPCC WGII web page at: <http://www.ipcc-wg2.org/index.html>.

The issue of Key Vulnerabilities was addressed by the CCT Co-Anchors, Patwardhan, Schneider and Semenov, at LA1 in Vienna.

### 2.3 Other activities on CCTs in WGII

1. WGII is currently working with WGIII on a possible meeting on Adaptation-Mitigation and Sustainable Development, provisionally scheduled for February 2005. WGIII has prime responsibility for these CCTs.
2. We have asked the WGII authors for comments on the current version of the Guidance Note on Uncertainty, prepared by WGI.