



WMO

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



UNEP

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
New Delhi, 9-11 November 2004

IPCC-XXII/Doc. 5, Rev. 1
(11.XI.2004)

Agenda item: 4
ENGLISH ONLY

REVISED PROPOSAL FOR A SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR4 SYR)

(Submitted by the Chair)

Proposal for a Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4 SYR)

BACKGROUND

Following the decision of the 21st Session of the IPCC (Vienna, November 2003) on matters relevant to the possible preparation of an AR4 SYR a scoping meeting was organized from 6-8 July 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland to develop detailed specific recommendations on the scope, content and process for the preparation of the AR4 SYR. The scoping meeting based its considerations on the draft scoping document, prepared by the IPCC Chair and comments received from governments.

The output from the scoping meeting was presented for government comments. The comments received and the output of the scoping meeting formed the basis for this revised scoping document prepared by the IPCC Chair, which was presented to the 22nd Session of the Panel. Based on discussions in the Session a contact group was set up to address some parts of the proposal and come up with revised details. These details have been incorporated in this proposal.

I. SCOPE

As defined in the IPCC Procedures the SYR would “synthesize and integrate material contained within IPCC Assessment Reports and Special Reports”. Its scope would include material contained in the three Working Group contributions to the AR4, and it would draw on information contained in other IPCC Reports as required. It would be written in an accessible, “non technical style suitable for policymakers and address a broad range of policy-relevant, but policy-neutral questions”. The SYR should be largely self-contained, but guide readers to the underlying material if they wish to look further.

The primary audience for the SYR would be policymakers, in particular from governments, advisors to policymakers, and experts. However, it is recognized that others will also make use of the report.

The proposed SYR would consist of two parts:

1. SPM: up to 5 pages of text
2. Longer Report: up to 30 pages of text

The SYR publication would also contain annexes such as glossary, maps and index.

The AR4 SYR would be self contained and published as a stand-alone publication in the six official UN languages. It would be accompanied by a CD ROM, which contains the SYR (SPM and longer report), the contributions of the three IPCC Working Groups to the AR4 in English, and the summaries of these reports (SPM and Technical Summary) in all official UN languages.

II. CONTENT

The following structure for the AR4 SYR is proposed.

Foreword

The Chairman’s foreword will describe the history of the report, its structure, the relationship to the other AR4 reports, how detailed information on topics and regions can be accessed and how it has been cross-referenced. It will describe who the intended users are. It will also state how the cross cutting themes used in the AR4 are addressed in the SYR.

Introduction

The introduction will set the context in terms of issues of relevance to policy, taking into account robust new findings and mentioning major gaps in existing knowledge. It will emphasise progress since the TAR and uncertainties.

Topics

1. Observed changes in climate and its effects (WG 1, 2, 3)
 - Past climate change including palaeoclimate aspects
 - Effects of past climate change on natural systems and society
2. Causes of change (WG 1, 2)
 - Natural and human-related factors
 - Feedbacks, via the carbon cycle and otherwise
3. Climate change and its impacts in the near and long term under different scenarios (WG 1, 2, 3)
 - Future climate change
 - Vulnerabilities
 - Hazards, risks and opportunities
 - Water, ecosystems, human well-being and development
 - Regional implications
 - Implications of timescales, inertia, and lags
 - Risks of abrupt or irreversible changes at different levels
4. Adaptation and mitigation options and responses, the inter-relationship with sustainable development, at global and regional levels (WG 2, 3)
 - Adaptation - extent, limits, costs/benefits, effectiveness and enhancement
 - Mitigation - past experience and options and policies (including costs/benefits and spillover effects); current, medium-, and long-term
 - Relationship between adaptation and mitigation options
 - Technology: timing, development, environment and integration issues
5. The long term perspective: scientific and socio-economic aspects relevant to adaptation and mitigation, consistent with the objective of the Convention, and in the context of sustainable development
 - Costs, benefits and avoided damage and risks at global and regional levels and under different stabilisation scenarios
 - Timing and equity implications
 - Relationship between adaptation and mitigation
 - Technology, timing, development, transfer, environment and integration issues

Annexes

- *User guide (how to access detailed information on inter alia regions and sectors in the SYR and the underlying Working Group reports)*
- *Glossary*
- *Maps*
- *Index*
- *List of acronyms*
- *List of authors and reviewers*

III. PROCESS

Writing Team

The IPCC Chair would lead the Core Writing Team (CWT). In accordance with the IPCC Procedures the members of the CWT would be nominated by the IPCC Chair in consultation with the Co-Chairs. The composition of the writing team would be agreed by the Bureau. The CWT should include the Co-Chairs of the three Working Groups, and a minimum of 4-6 members of the author teams from each Working Group report. The members of the CWT should be chosen to ensure that the CWT has the scientific and technical expertise needed to carry out its task, noting the need to aim for a range of views and geographical representation.

As was the case during the writing of the TAR SYR it is suggested that the Core Writing Team be assisted by an extended writing team. It should include up to one member of the author team from each chapter of the working group contributions to the AR4. The function of the extended writing team would be comparable to that of contributing authors.

Review Editors would assist the writing team. They would carry out their task as described in IPCC procedures.

Time schedule

- The members of the writing team would be chosen in late 2005, after the second Lead Authors meetings of the Working Groups have been held and the scientific technical issues addressed in AR4 Working Group contributions are more clearly defined.
- Stock taking by the CWT would begin in the first half of 2006
- Writing of the SYR would begin in the second half of 2006 after the second order draft of all three working group reports have been sent out for expert government review.
- After an informal review by lead authors of the three working group reports the CWT will start drafting of the First order draft of the SYR
- The First order draft of the SYR will be sent for an 8 weeks simultaneous government expert review after all working group contributions have been approved/accepted.
- The final draft would be submitted to governments and participating organizations 9 weeks before the Session of the Panel that adopts/approves the AR4 SYR to allow for 8 weeks government consideration.
- Adoption and approval of the SYR and its SPM is foreseen from 22-26 October, 2007 to allow delivery of an unedited version of the AR4 SYR to the next UNFCCC COP which is scheduled to take place during 5-16 November 2007.

Management of the SYR

The IPCC Chair will chair the writing team and provide overall guidance to the development of the SYR. The organization of writing team meetings, the review and publication process will be managed and coordinated by the IPCC Secretariat.

The preparation of the AR4 SYR will require considerable technical support, including for management of the writing and review process, editing and layout of the report. The present TSUs have indicated that they would not, or only to a very limited extent, be available for the SYR. Therefore it will be necessary to mobilize additional staff and expertise. Present TSUs will however be asked to provide support to the development of the SYR in particular as far as their Working Group contributions are concerned, e.g. facilitating file and data transfer for adjusting graphics, ensuring consistency with final WG contributions and development of index, search facility and glossary. It is suggested that a SYR support team be established that will be coordinated by the Secretary of the IPCC under the overall guidance of the IPCC

Chair. The offer of the IPCC Chair to seek support as in kind contribution from the Government of India is envisaged as a resource to assist the Chair.

Based on previous experience the following expertise and staff support would be required:

1 full-time professional staff member for two years with experience in climate change science:

This staff member would be in charge of liaison with the writing team, compilation of draft reports, management of the review process and liaison with other members of the technical support team. Secondment of a Junior Programme Officer from WMO/UNEP will be explored.

1 administrative assistant with expertise in electronic publishing:

This person would assist in the preparation of the draft reports, in the compilation of the review comments and in finalizing the report. The same person should remain involved for a period of two years, but depending on other technical expertise available, would not necessarily be required full time during the first year. Arrangements with WMO for allocation of a qualified staff member will be explored.

IT expertise for indexing, website and CD RoM development, including intelligent search facility:

It is planned that an intelligent indexing and search facility would be developed and applied to all WG contributions to the AR4. The costs for application of the system to the SYR are expected to be in the order of 30.000 SFR

Graphics work

The graphics in the SYR should be in the same style as those for the WG summaries. The costs for additional graphics, specifically designed for the SYR are expected to be in the order of 50.000 SFR.

Layout, translation and printing in 6 UN languages

The estimated costs are 300.000 SFR, but final costs will depend on number of pages

Staff of present TSUs will provide support as far as inputs from their respective WGs and their contributions are concerned.

Regular staff of the IPCC Secretariat will arrange writing team meetings and the plenary session for adopting/accepting the SYR and provide administrative support to the process. Hence, based on the assumption that staff support as indicated above can be mobilized from WMO/UNEP, the cost of IT inputs, graphics, layout, translation and printing of the SYR in 6 UN languages is estimated at 380,000 SFR.