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OTHER PROGRESS REPORTS

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

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group II and I)

PROGRESS REPORT

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

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group II and I)

1. Background

A decision was taken at the 30th Session of the IPCC (Antalya, Turkey • 21-23 April 2009) to undertake the Special Report, following IPCC procedures and with the involvement of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). Refer to IPCC-XXXI/Doc.7 for key milestones in the first 6 months of the SREX development cycle – including the author selection process and associated statistics – and to <http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr> for a brief description of all activities conducted to date.

2. Progress since IPCC-XXXI (Bali, Indonesia • 26-29 October 2009)

All meetings and review periods are publicized at http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/provisional_schedule.html.

Meetings

Highlights include the planning, organization, and conduct of several international meetings (110 participants for the first two, and 30 for the chapter meeting):

- First Lead Authors Meeting - Panama City, Panama (9-12 November 2009)
- Second Lead Authors Meeting - Hanoi, Vietnam (22-25 March 2010)
- SREX Case Studies Cross-Chapter Meeting - Geneva, Switzerland (17-19 May 2010).

The Zero-Order Draft was prepared after the First Lead Author Meeting. In addition to regular interaction with the writing teams regarding content and file preparations, the Working Group II TSU designed and deployed a static password-protected draft (and supporting files) site for the informal peer review, and a comments upload mechanism.

The First-Order Draft was prepared after the Second Lead Authors Meeting. The Working Group II TSU designed a more secure site for the Expert Review, which includes registration and certifications pages, as well as user-specific access credentials to protect integrity of drafts to the extent feasible.

The Third Lead Authors Meeting – which involves Review Editors for the first time in the drafting process (increasing participation to 125 scientists) – will be held at WMO Headquarters (25-28 October 2010 • Geneva, Switzerland). The agenda accommodates the first session of the SREX Summary for Policymakers (SPM) core writing team, which consists of the following members: Ian Burton (Canada), Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum (UK), Omar-Dario Cardona (Colombia), Susan Cutter (USA), Pauline Dube (Botswana), John Handmer (Australia), Padma Lal (Fiji), Allan Lavell (Costa Rica), Robert Lempert (USA), Gordon McBean (Canada), Reinhard Mechler (Germany), Tom Mitchell (UK), Neville Nicholls (Australia), Carlos Nobre (Brazil), Karen O'Brien (Norway), Roger Pulwarty (USA), Sonia Seneviratne (Switzerland), Carolina Vera (Argentina), and Thomas Wilbanks (USA), plus WG Co-Chairs and TSU staff. Two additional events will take place: (i) SREX Glossary Editorial Team Meeting, and (ii) SREX Adaptation Cross-Chapter Meeting. The latter will take place on 29 October 2010, with the objective to work out redundancies, synthesize content, and streamline message across Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8. The glossary editors will meet to resolve terminology discrepancies and other consistency issues between the climate science, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and disaster risk management communities.

Review Periods

One round of review was completed, and another nearing completion, at time of this Progress Report's dissemination:

- Informal Peer Review (3 February - 5 March 2010)
- Expert Review (26 July - 20 September 2010)

For the Informal Peer Review, of the 187 solicited reviews [67 external reviewers and 120 writing team members (plus IPCC officials)], 46 responses were received for a total of 1,749 discrete comments. These comments were thoroughly considered by the author teams in Hanoi.

Experts who had significant expertise and/or publications in particular areas addressed by the Special Report were identified for the Expert Review, via the following means: (i) nominated to serve as Coordinating Lead Author / Lead Author / Review Editor (CLA/LA/RE) but not selected to serve on one of the SREX chapter teams; (ii) participated in the Informal Peer Review; (iii) put forward by an SREX Review Editor fulfilling his/her duties as described in the IPCC Rules and Procedures; (iv) recommended by another member of the chapter team, or by the WG Co-Chairs, WG Bureau members, or TSU staff; and (v) received unsolicited requests via IPCC Secretariat or Working Group II TSU to be included. These sources resulted in a broadcast to 665 discrete accounts – describing the registration process, and purpose and objectives of the review. The registration page URL and associated static username/password pair were also sent to IPCC Focal Points, along with a consolidated listing of experts contacted so that they could entrain scientists from within their own countries should gaps in expertise be noted. This approach has yielded 411 registered and approved expert reviewers as of 8 September 2010. A dynamically built list is maintained at <ipcc-wg2.gov/extremes-sr/review/FOD/reviewers.php> so that all registered users, including Focal Points, can see who is involved in the review. Each registered expert certified that he/she would adhere to the terms of the review (i.e., not to cite, quote, or disseminate) before a unique username/password pair was provided to access the draft chapters and the comments upload mechanism. On 7 September 2010, an SREX Expert Review comments due date reminder was sent to the original list, supplemented by approved registrants (with dupes removed). With active engagement of the IPCC Focal Points, the broadcast list expanded from 665 to 857 subscribers.

3. Process Issues

At its 41st session (19-20 May 2010), the IPCC Bureau was informed of several issues that warranted its attention: (i) author team composition and (ii) outline refinement.

Author Team Composition

Two nominated experts – Pascal Girot (France) and Lenkiza Angulo Villarreal (Peru) – declined roles in response to the SREX appointment letters issued 10 September 2009. As such, Chapters 4 and 5 had always lacked a full complement of Review Editors. In addition, Gustavo Wilches-Chaux resigned his post as a Chapter 5 Lead Author on 1 February 2010.

Via e-mail consultation and concurrence on 4 April 2010, the Working Group I and II Bureaus approved Dr. Avelino Suarez (Cuba) as Review Editor for Chapter 4, and Mr. Eduardo Calvo (Peru) as Review Editor for Chapter 5.

A determination was made that selection of a new Lead Author for Chapter 5 this far into the drafting process was unnecessary; instead, expertise from within was deemed the most expeditious and efficient solution. Chapter 5 needed additional expertise on community-scale adaptation, so Dr. Roger Pulwarty (USA) – already a Lead Author on Chapter 2 – was recruited. He is listed as a Lead Author on both chapters.

Chapter 9 needed an additional Coordinating Lead Author, and the Working Group I and II Bureaus approved moving Dr. Virginia Murray (UK) from Lead Author to Coordinating Lead Author status.

Refer to <ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/authors/writing_team_pb.html> for a table that captures the current writing team composition.

Outline Refinements

The author teams refined the chapter outlines based on review comments received on the Zero-Order Draft. In some chapters, minor changes were made to re-order or present the relevant information more logically. The revised outline was presented at the 41st Session of the IPCC Bureau (BUR XLI/Doc.5, Add.1), and can be found here: <ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/approved_outline.html>.

4. Revised Work Plan

At its 41st session, the IPCC Bureau was also informed that schedule adjustments were needed, to harmonize scheduling with Working Group II's many other commitments.

In December 2009, the Working Group II TSU received an offer from the Japanese Government to host the First Lead Author Meeting (LAM1) for its contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), dovetailed with a Joint Expert Meeting on Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biology and Ecosystems (see the links within <ipcc-wg2.gov/meetings> for more detail). To accommodate dates that would not conflict with exams in Japan, the AR5 LAM1 needed to occur a month earlier than originally planned with consequent repercussions on SREX development. The following adjustments were made to SREX milestones:

- 1) Working Group II AR5 LAM1 moved from February to January 2011.
- 2) The SREX Government/Expert Review shifted (now 7 February - 1 April 2011)
- 3) SREX LAM4 shifted (now 16-19 May 2011)
- 4) The SREX Final Government Distribution shifted (now 22 August - 14 October 2011)
- 5) The SREX Joint Approval Session shifted (now 14-17 November 2011).

There is no impact to the Trust Fund budget for SREX, as all schedule modifications occur within the calendar year.