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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

Since the last Progress Report by the Co-Chairs (September 2005), the major activities towards the delivery of the Fourth Assessment Report have been:

1. the Expert Review of the First-Order Drafts;
2. the regional database;
3. completion of the First Order Drafts of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and Technical Summary (TS), in time for discussion by the Writing Team at Mérida;
4. the Third Lead Author meeting in Mérida, Mexico;
5. work on the Second-Order Drafts of the chapters;
6. preparation of the Second-Order Drafts of the Technical Summary and Summary for Policymakers;
7. preparation for the Fourth Lead Author meeting; and,
8. participation in preparations for the Synthesis Report.

These are described in further detail below.

1. Expert Review of the First-Order Draft

The twenty chapters of the Working Group II Fourth Assessment were sent out for Expert Review on 9th September 2005, and the review period ended on 4th November 2005. The table below sets out the number of reviews received for each chapter.

Chapters	TOTAL number of reviews
Chapter 1	88
Chapter 2	60
Chapter 3	61
Chapter 4	69
Chapter 5	58
Chapter 6	68
Chapter 7	49
Chapter 8	57
Chapter 9	41
Chapter 10	49
Chapter 11	69
Chapter 12	66
Chapter 13	57
Chapter 14	65
Chapter 15	65
Chapter 16	41
Chapter 17	59
Chapter 18	44
Chapter 19	49
Chapter 20	40
TOTAL	1155

The smallest number of review received for a chapter was 40, and the average was 58. In total, 770 experts contributed to the review.

In parallel with the main Expert Review:

- a small group of authors from the other Working Groups were asked to review WGII chapters which interface with chapters in WGI and WGIII, particularly with respect to the need to ensure complementarity and consistency between those chapters, and
- a small group of reviewers were identified to review both Chapter 17 (Adaptation) and Chapter 18 (Adaptation and Mitigation) to ensure complementarity and consistency.

Expert Review comments were collated by the Technical Support Unit, and circulated to authors and Review Editors by 5th December 2005. This allowed six weeks for comments to be considered and acted upon, prior to the Third Lead Author meeting.

2. The regional database

Following the submission of the First-Order Drafts, each chapter was asked to supply a reference list annotated with the keywords necessary for the compilation of the regional database which will accompany the Working Group II AR4. This process will continue with the Second-Order Drafts.

3. Completion of the First-Order Draft of the SPM and Technical Summary

Between September 2005 and the Third Lead Author meeting in January 2006, and following the submission of the chapter First-Order Drafts, the WGII Co-Chairs worked with the Writing Team (Co-ordinating Lead Authors and WGII Bureau members) to produce the First-Order Drafts of the SPM and Technical Summaries. Copies were available for discussion at the Third Lead Author meeting (see Section 4 below).

4. Third Lead Author meeting

A very successful Third Lead meeting was held in Mérida, Yucatan, on 16-19th January 2006. WGII was pleased to welcome the Secretary of the IPCC to this meeting. On the preceding day, 15th January, a Working Group II Bureau meeting was held. This was the first Lead Author meeting attended by the Review Editors.

Attendees were provided with a ‘Yellow Book’ of documents, which complemented the ‘Green Book’ used at LA1 in Vienna, and the ‘Blue Book’ used at LA2 in Cairns. This book contained the following:

- Chapter length instructions. The First-Order Drafts were over length. This paper showed the authors the extent to which each chapter needs to be shortened in the Second-Order Draft.
- Procedures for addressing comments. Based on the *Principles Governing IPCC Work*, this set out the actions required of the authors in order to properly address reviewers’ comments on the First-Order Drafts, and to be seen to have done so.
- Guidance notes for Review Editors.
- Technical notes to authors covering formatting of the Second-Order Draft, preparation of the glossary, use of units abbreviations and acronyms, guidance on the use of grey literature etc. etc.
- Suggestions for effective use of figures and tables in the WGII AR4.
- The First-Order Draft of the Summary for Policymakers, together with the timeline for the preparation of the SPM and TS.
- The First Order Draft of the Technical Summary.

The primary objectives of the meeting were:

- to agree revisions needed to the First-Order Drafts of the chapters,
- to revise the key conclusions of the chapters,
- to revise the Executive Summaries of the chapters.

In addition, a number of cross-chapter meetings were held to discuss the cross-chapter case studies. As a result, five topics have been selected to progress further:

- Coral reefs
- Megadeltas
- Indigenous knowledge for adaptation
- Drought in the Sahel
- The European heatwave of 2003

Authors were asked to produce the following outputs by the afternoon of Day 4 of the meeting:

- Revised Executive Summary.
- Revised sections for input to the SPM and Technical Summary.

Co-ordinating Lead Authors and Bureau members were requested to stay an extra day in order to discuss the development of the Summary for Policymakers. On this additional day, as a basis for discussion, attendees were provided with the outputs delivered by each chapter on Day 4, together with two tabled documents:

- The draft writing assignment plan for the Technical Summary
- Information on how statements in the SPM and Technical Summary will be sourced.

Following discussion in Plenary, revisions of the SPM Key Messages were identified which are feeding into the development of the Second-Order Drafts.

5. Second-Order Drafts of Chapters

Eight individual chapter meetings were held in March and April 2006 as part of the efforts by the authors to produce the chapter Second-order Drafts.

Authors submitted their Second-Order Drafts on 21st April 2006. These are currently being formatted ready to send out for the Government and Expert Review on 26th May 2006.

6. Second-Order Drafts of the SPM and Technical Summary

The meeting by the Writing Team for the SPM and TS on Day 5 of the Third Lead Author meeting laid the foundation for the preparation of the Second-Order Drafts of these documents. The Writing Team reviewed and revised the Key Messages, and agreed writing assignments and schedules for the preparation of the SODs.

7. Preparations for the Fourth Lead Author meeting

The Fourth Lead Author meeting will be held in southern Africa on 11-14 September 2006. There will be a meeting of the SPM and Technical Summary Writing Team immediately following, on 15th September. Preparations for this meeting are on schedule.

8. Participation in preparations for the SyR

WGII has participated fully in the preparations for the SyR. Most recently, author names were submitted for consideration by the IPCC Chair, to integrate into the SyR CWT.