

**THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPCC
Abu Dhabi, 10-13 May 2011**

IPCC-XXXIII/Doc. 17
(19.IV.2011)
Agenda Item: 10.2
ENGLISH ONLY

PROGRESS REPORT

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

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

PROGRESS REPORT

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

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 IPCC-XXXII/Doc.10 for descriptions of the first two Lead Authors Meetings and the zero- and first-order draft reviews, and the revised work plan to accommodate a WGII Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) scheduling conflict. Refer to <<http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr>> for a description of all activities conducted to date.

2. Progress since IPCC-XXXII (Busan, Republic of Korea • 11-14 October 2010)

All major milestones are publicized at <http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/provisional_schedule.html>. See <<http://ipcc-wg2.gov/meetings/>> and <<https://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/meetings/meetings.html>> for SREX milestones harmonized with AR5 commitments for both Working Groups I and II.

Meetings

Highlights include the planning, organization, and conduct of several international meetings:

- Third Lead Authors Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland (25-28 October 2010)
- SREX Adaptation Cross-Chapter Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland (29 October 2010)
- Fourth Lead Authors Meeting – Gold Coast, Australia (16-19 May 2011).

With the addition of Review Editors to the assessment process, the last two Lead Authors Meetings involve 107 writing team members, plus additional Working Group Bureau members, IPCC officials, and Technical Support Unit (TSU) members.

The SREX Summary for Policymakers core writing team (SPM CWT) was formed prior to the Third Lead Authors Meeting, with the agenda accommodating its first meeting on the afternoon of 28 October. The SREX SPM CWT consists of 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), Taikan Oki (Japan), Roger Pulwarty (USA), Sonia Seneviratne (Switzerland), Maarten van Aalst (Netherlands), Carolina Vera (Argentina), and Thomas Wilbanks (USA), plus Working Group Co-Chairs and TSU staff. Refer to <http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/authors/writing_team_pb.html> for the chapters from whence CWT members derive.

Two additional events were added on to the Third Lead Authors Meeting: (i) SREX Glossary Editorial Team Meeting, and (ii) SREX Adaptation Cross-Chapter Meeting. As with the SREX SPM meeting, the former took place on the afternoon of 28 October. The latter consisted of a full-day meeting (29 October) to work out redundancies, synthesize content, and streamline message across Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8. The glossary editors met to resolve terminology discrepancies and other consistency issues between the climate science, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and disaster risk management communities. Dialog continued via e-mail exchanges between the glossary editors and Coordinating Lead Authors after the meeting, resulting in supporting material posted for information as part of the Government and Expert Review.

A series of SREX SPM CWT WebEx sessions were conducted from November-February, culminating in the first-order draft SPM circulated for review.

Plans for the Fourth Lead Authors Meeting (Gold Coast, Australia • 16-19 May 2011) are well advanced. The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) of Griffith University is the local host, with the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) the sponsor. Meeting logistics were posted on the SREX Author Portal on 18 February 2011, and DCCEE issued formal invitations soon thereafter. The Government and Expert Review comments collation and other supporting materials serving as basis for the meeting were disseminated to writing teams on 15 April, allowing a full month to review before the Gold Coast meeting. The provisional agenda and additional meeting documentation will be disseminated to writing teams on 2 May 2011. As of 15 April, there are 98 confirmed participants for SREX LAM4.

Review Period

The second-order draft was prepared from 29 October 2010 to 21 January 2011. The SREX Government and Expert Review launched on 7 February and ran through 1 April 2011. The WGII TSU deployed a mechanism to accommodate the requirements of the following categories of reviewer:

- Government Focal Points
- Observer Organizations representatives
- Expert reviewers of the first-order draft chapters
- Unsolicited experts.

The IPCC Secretariat sent correspondence initiating the review (reference numbers 5127-11/IPCC/SREX and 5128-11/IPCC/SREX for the first two categories, respectively), with the WGII TSU using Secretariat-supplied contact information to send user-specific access credentials to points-of-contact immediately thereafter. The WGII TSU then sent mail to the 453 accepted registrants for the Expert Review – not just to the 220 individuals submitting comments, but less than the database of 857 experts compiled (i.e., shunning the 'cold call' approach) – alerting them to the Government and Expert Review, and reminding them of their user-specific credentials. Unsolicited expert reviewers completed a registration and certification procedure to grant access to the review site – that is, agreeing not to cite, quote, or disseminate draft materials, and acknowledging that it is to be used solely for review purposes. Pre-registered individuals already accepted these conditions and re-affirmed them.

The WGII TSU went to great lengths to ensure the confidentiality of the draft chapters and SPM by developing this system of unique usernames and passwords for screened and approved registrants, since these drafts have not been completely reviewed or quality checked (i.e., pre-decisional). The WGII TSU monitored access to the password-protected site, and when anomalous activity detected (e.g., sustained hits) followed up with the offending entities. To date, the WGII TSU has not seen anything in the popular press to indicate leaked material. The closed web site contained the drafts themselves, supporting materials, the comments spreadsheet, and instructions, as well as the comments file upload mechanism. The schedule allowed 10 days (4-14 April) for the WGII TSU to generate the general, SPM, and chapter comments collations, summary statistics, reviewer listing, and supporting materials (e.g., suggested tables/figures) before disseminating to the writing teams.

The review generated 10,538 comments, stemming from 161 spreadsheets. There were 552 registered expert reviewers (99 via the unsolicited expert registration system), resulting in 107 sets of comments. WGII AR5 and SREX writing team members themselves submitted an additional 20 sets. There were 193 FP/MFA and 85 Observer Organization pre-registrations, which resulted in draft downloads by 47 Governments and 21 international organizations. Of these, 23 Governments¹ and 8 Observer Organizations submitted comments.

¹ Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

3. Process Issues

Independent actions were taken to resolve several writing team issues, involving either lack of substantive engagement or heightened responsibility:

- Following consultation with the WGI Bureau, Amadou Gaye (Senegal) resigned his role as Lead Author on Chapter 3, Changes in Climate Extremes and Their Impacts on the Natural Physical Environment.
- At the behest of the WGII Bureau, Charles Scawthorn (USA) resigned his role as Lead Author on Chapter 4, Changes in Impacts of Climate Extremes: Human Systems and Ecosystems.
- With the endorsement of the WGII Bureau, Mark Pelling (UK) was elevated from Lead Author to the role of Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 8, Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Future.
- Due to time commitments associated with a high-level appointment in the Ministry of Science and Technology, Carlos Nobre (Brazil) sought and the WGII Bureau accepted a reclassification of role from Coordinating Lead Author to Lead Author of Chapter 4, Changes in Impacts of Climate Extremes: Human Systems and Ecosystems.

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

4. Work Plan

The revised schedule as reported in IPCC-XXXII/Doc.10 remains intact, as is the 2011 Trust Fund SREX budget approved at IPCC-XXXII. The remaining SREX development milestones follow (not including ongoing production):

7 February - 1 April 2011 (8 weeks)

SREX Government and Expert Review

4-15 April 2011

WG2 TSU collates and distributes Government/Expert Review comments
(4 weeks for authors to review comments)

16-19 May 2011

SREX Fourth Lead Authors Meeting – Gold Coast, Australia

20 May - 5 August 2011 (11 weeks)

SREX final drafts prepared, then to WGII TSU

31 May 2011

Literature cut-off for “accepted” papers

8-19 August 2011

WGII TSU consolidates and distributes SREX final draft

22 August - 14 October 2011 (8 weeks)

SREX Final Government Distribution

17-24 October 2011

WGII TSU collates and distributes SREX SPM comments received from Governments
(3 weeks for CWT review)

14-17 November 2011

Session to approve SREX SPM and accept underlying document – Uganda (TBC)

The Government of Norway has offered to help underwrite costs associated with the joint WGI and WGII session.