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PROGRESS REPORT

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

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PROGRESS REPORT

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

1. Background

As reported at the 30th session of the IPCC (21-23 April 2009 • Antalya, Turkey), Working Group II was requested by the IPCC Bureau to take the lead in organizing a scoping meeting, which was conducted 23-26 March 2009, and hosted by the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT) in Oslo, Norway. The principal objectives of the scoping meeting were to foster collaboration and discussions between climate science researchers spanning all three IPCC working groups (science, impacts and adaptation, mitigation) and experts in the disaster preparedness and risk management communities.

A scoping paper was prepared for the 30th session of the IPCC to inform the Panel's decision to undertake the Special Report, with the involvement of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). It was further decided that Working Group II oversee preparation of the assessment. The IPCC issued a press release announcing these decisions (see the 23 April 2009 entry at http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/press-releases/ipcc_pr_antalya_april_2009.pdf). Proceedings were then developed and posted on the IPCC Working Group II web site on 18 June 2009. Respective postings can be accessed at:

http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/extremes_documents/doc14.pdf

http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/extremes_documents/SREX-Oslo_Proceedings.pdf

Much more information on Special Report development and status – including the approved outline and provisional schedule – can be found at http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/Index_extremes.html.

2. Progress since IPCC-XXX

A call for Lead Author and Review Editor nominations was issued to Governments and Observer Organizations on 25 May 2009, with nominations packages accepted through 27 July 2009. A Science Steering Group (SSG) – different than the one convened for the Scoping Meeting – had the task of evaluating Government and Observer Organization inputs in order to achieve the necessary disciplinary, gender, and regional balance required to undertake a comprehensive assessment. See http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/extremes_ScienceSteeringGroup.html for the SSG listing, which included membership of the IPCC Working Groups I and II communities, and researchers and practitioners representing experts in disaster preparedness and risk management.

A closed nominations review web site was generated for SSG-only use, and three teleconferences took place – 16 June, 13 August, and 19 August – in support of the effort to develop a strong slate of candidate authors and review editors to bring before the WG1 and WG2 Bureaus for concurrence. This concurrence window was open from 26 August - 7 September 2009, with augmentations to the team listings (based on both acceptance/regrets and identified disciplinary or regional gaps) made through the 40th session of the IPCC Bureau (17-18 September 2009 • Geneva, Switzerland).

Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, and Review Editors (CLA/LA/REs) were notified of their appointments on 10 September 2009, with a request that confirmations of acceptance or regrets be forwarded to the Working Group II Technical Support Unit (TSU) no later than 23 September 2009. On 24 September 2009, logistics information was forwarded to all confirmed CLAs and LAs regarding the first Lead Authors Meeting to be held at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Panama City, Panama), 9-12 November 2009. Review Editors will become engaged in the assessment process just prior to the third Lead Authors Meeting (see http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/provisional_schedule.html).

A password-protected Author Portal has been built to facilitate writing team communications, consisting of the meeting logistics; writing team listings, complete with submitted CVs and contact

information; and tools to support the drafting process, such as Stanford library access for developing country and economy-in-transition (DC/EIT) authors, grey literature archives, and drafts repository and exchange services.

On 28 September 2009, the IPCC Secretariat was provided the following URL to forward on to IPCC Focal Points, publicizing the final SREX writing team composition: <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/authors/writing_team_pb.html>. Click on the PDF icon above the table for a screen capture, which includes chapter, role, name, affiliation, and citizenship as collected by the SREX nominations system.

3. Relevant SREX Writing Team Statistics

The SREX SSG and the Working Groups I and II Bureaus gave careful attention to disciplinary, regional, and gender balance issues as prospective writing team constructs were debated. In the confirmation cycle, two Review Editors sent regrets due to the time commitment required that was explained in the appointment memos. These gaps (for Chapters 4 and 5) remain to be filled, and will require involvement of the WG2 Bureau to resolve. The following statistics capture the regional and gender balance achieved for the 107 individuals named here:

<http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/authors/SREX-writing_team.pdf>

Note that the Working Group II TSU has been unable to establish contact for only two of the targeted experts, and continues pursuit of the needed confirmations.

The category “Trust Fund Potentials” – so named since some DC/EIT authors are employed by international organizations with adequate travel funds at their disposal – has been included to show that the SREX writing teams fall within the approved IPCC budget. For example, for the Panama meeting, 43 eligible individuals were forwarded to the attention of the IPCC Secretariat (on 24 September 2009) with 45 slots in the approved 2009 budget.

Finally, with the involvement of ISDR and experts/institutions not familiar with the IPCC process, it is worth capturing the ratio between Observer Organization and Government-nominated individuals, though this statistic may be somewhat skewed as some members of the disaster risk reduction community sought out IPCC Focal Points and some Governments paid special attention in entraining the needed expertise outside scope of traditional climate science communities.

Gender: 30 female, 77 male
Regional Breakout: 9(I), 24(II), 9(III), 20(IV), 11(V), 34(VI)¹
Trust Fund Potentials: 47
Government/Observer Organization Ratio: 79 / 28

Females comprise 28% of the CLA/LA/RE total, with DC/EIT experts comprising 44%.

Statistical breakouts per chapter can be requested of the Working Group II TSU by sending mail to <tsu@ipcc-wg2.gov>.

4. Future Work Plan

Two Lead Authors Meetings are planned for 2010, and a fourth Lead Authors Meeting and the session to approve the Summary for Policymakers and accept the underlying document in 2011. Refer to the provisional schedule via the URL provided earlier in this document for more information, including time frames for the various reviews.

This schedule has been carefully crafted to both support development of and avoid conflicts with major milestones of the Working Group I and II contributions to the Fifth Assessment Report.

¹ For ease of reference, the WMO regional breakout used to compile statistics follows: Region I (Africa), Region II (Asia), Region III (South America), Region IV (North America, Central America, and the Caribbean), Region V (Southwest Pacific), and Region VI (Europe).