

# ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

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## **WORKING GROUP I CONTRIBUTION TO THE IPCC FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR5)**

### **Implementation Plan**

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group I  
on behalf of the Working Group I Bureau)

#### **IPCC Secretariat**

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**Working Group I Contribution to the  
IPCC Fifth Assessment Report  
Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis**

**Implementation**

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group I  
on behalf of the Working Group I Bureau)

## **1. Activities in Support of the Assessment Process**

### **1.1 Improving the Involvement of Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition (DC/EIT)**

#### *Selection of Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, and Review Editors*

Every effort will be made to achieve a balanced geographical representation of experts and to increase the involvement of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). The nomination process will begin in late November 2009 with author selection occurring in April 2010. This effort would be greatly enhanced by the increased assistance from IPCC Focal Points in identifying and nominating DC/EIT experts.

#### *On-line Journal Access*

During the Fourth Assessment Report, Working Group I developed a platform in which WGI DC/EIT experts were provided online access to several of the leading scientific journals. This was a very successful endeavor and WGI will continue the journal access programme for the WGI DC/EIT experts (P-30, Decision 6). Negotiations with the University of Bern are ongoing, with the access portal to be completed prior to author selection for the WGI AR5.

#### *Grey Literature*

In order to improve access to information available in peer-reviewed publications in languages other than English, translation of journal abstracts into English by authors will be encouraged, with assistance by the Focal Points where appropriate (P-30, Decision 6). In consistency with the IPCC Policies and Procedures, English translations of the abstracts of the cited material will be made available during the expert and government reviews.

#### *Enhanced Communication*

There are a number of important opportunities for expanded communication mechanisms among authors in support of the WGI AR5 such as the web, email, and video conferencing that will be considered and developed during the initial phase of the AR5. It is recognized that not all countries and experts have equal access to the Internet, requiring examination of the practicality and feasibility of such approaches.

### **1.2 IPCC Expert Meetings and Workshops**

Several key IPCC Expert Meetings and Workshops are being held in support of the WGI AR5:

- ❖ An Expert Meeting on the Science of Alternative Metrics was organized by WGI in March 2009 with the participation of experts from WGIII and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI). The outcome was presented by WGI to UNFCCC in June 2009. A Meeting Report has been published and is available online from the WGI and IPCC Secretariat websites.
- ❖ A WGI/WGII Expert Meeting on Detection and Attribution Related to Anthropogenic Climate Change, held in September 2009, provided a key opportunity for the detection and attribution communities within WGI and WGII to meet and develop consistency and coherence of terminology, explore the methods used by the two Working Groups, and develop a better understanding across the two Working Groups which will improve the development of the AR5 and the process of synthesis. A 'Good Practice Guidance Paper on Detection and Attribution' is being prepared, and further collaboration between the authors of the relevant chapters within the two working group reports is planned.
- ❖ A WGI/WGII Expert Meeting on Multi-Model Evaluation will be held in January 2010. This meeting will provide an opportunity to investigate the possibility of establishing a framework for using and assessing the AR5 model set with the goal of providing tentative best practices in selecting and combining results from multiple models. This meeting will also aim to maximize the robustness of the policy relevance of the projections and encourage interaction between the WGI and WGII communities.

- ❖ A WGI Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Ice Sheet Instabilities has been proposed to IPCC-XXXI, to be held in June 2010. If approved, this workshop will bring together the leading experts on all issues related to sea level rise, including the field of ice sheet dynamics and ice sheet instabilities. The goals of the meeting will be to collect and discuss the latest results from observations related to sea level rise from oceanographic, cryospheric, and paleo records, expose the current understanding and limitations of ice sheet and ice stream dynamics, critically evaluate modelling tools used to project sea level rise, and to accelerate the science. The Workshop Report will provide timely information for assessment in the WGI AR5.
- ❖ A number of additional Expert Meetings and Workshops are being proposed by other Working Groups that would have WGI involvement. If approved, WGI would work closely with the other Working Groups to identify appropriate expert representation and provide additional support where needed.

### **1.3 Guidance Papers for Authors**

The WGI AR5 will benefit from the development and implementation of key guidance papers:

A 'Good Practice Guidance Paper on Detection and Attribution' is currently being edited for inclusion in the Meeting Report of the IPCC WGI/WGII Expert Meeting on Detection and Attribution Related to Anthropogenic Climate Change, which was held in September 2009. This guidance paper will also be provided as a stand-alone document to the Lead Authors and the scientific communities working in detection and attribution. The paper will be a reference document for detection and attribution reporting in WGI and WGII. It will contain terminology and usage that is understood by both working groups, and therefore not only serve the scientific community, but also the stakeholders when it comes to the interpretation and application of statements in WGI and WGII documents.

In addition, the IPCC WGI/WGII Expert Meeting on Multi-Model Evaluation being planned for January 2010 will produce a 'Good Practice Guidance Paper on Assessing and Combining Multi-Model Climate Projections'. This guidance paper will be published in the Meeting Report and will also be provided as a stand-alone document. The goal of this document will be to provide tentative best practices in selecting and combining results from multiple models for IPCC AR5 and outline a possible framework for analysis and assessment of models.

### **1.4 Access to Data and Model Results**

Due to the increasing use of very large datasets and analyses of large amounts of computer model output, coordinated access methods and web-based tools developed during AR4 will continue to be used to provide greater efficiency and enable a larger expert community to examine data or model results. During the course of the AR5, the scientific community will provide new compilations of data and model results directly relevant to the report. To ensure that these are as widely accessible as practical, the climate modelling community will be encouraged to provide their results in an open manner and in ways that support the assessment process. In addition, the WGI TSU will work with the author teams and scientific organizations, such as the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), to develop consistent and open approaches to data access. Where appropriate, data management and access will be provided through the IPCC Data Distribution Centre under the mandate of TGICA. Other data sets may be best managed by existing international science initiatives, such as the Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison (PCMDI).

### **1.5 Cross Cutting Methodologies and Themes**

The IPCC Cross Cutting Methodologies (CCMs) and Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs), which are an integral component of the AR5, are joint activities of two or more of the Working Groups. Cross-chapter and cross-WG communication related to the CCMs and CCTs will be supported and implemented via video and web conferencing and cross-chapter meetings. Where practical and feasible, complementary authors, either shared or exchanged between the WGs, may be appropriate

in ensuring cross-WG linkages, At the invitation of the Co-Chairs, selected authors from one WG could then attend the relevant parts of the other WG's LA meetings. Specific implementation of the CCMs and CCTs within the WGI Chapter Outline is provided in detail in WGI-11/INF. 1.

## 2. Proposed Timetable

The proposed timetable of WGI AR5 related meetings and other activities is as follows:

| Year | Month   | Activity  |
|------|---------|---|
| 2009 | Nov     | Call for Government Lead Author nominations                           |
| 2010 | Jan     | WGI/WGII Expert Meeting on Multi-Model Evaluation, Boulder, USA       |
|      | Apr     | Bureau selection of Lead Author teams                                 |
|      | Jun     | IPCC Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Ice Sheet Instabilities, Malaysia |
|      | Sep     | First Lead Author Meeting, Kunming, China                             |
| 2011 | Jan     | Completion of 'zero order' draft                                      |
|      | Feb-Mar | Informal review of 'zero order' draft                                 |
|      | May     | Second Lead Author Meeting, location tbc                              |
|      | Sep     | Completion of first draft   |
|      | Oct-Nov | 8-week Expert Review of first draft                                   |
| 2012 | Jan     | Third Lead Author Meeting, location tbc                               |
|      | Jun     | Completion of second draft  |
|      | Jul-Aug | 8-week Government and Expert Review of second draft                   |
|      | Sep     | Fourth Lead Author Meeting, location tbc                              |
| 2013 | Jan     | Completion of final draft   |
|      | Mar-Apr | 8-week Government Review of SPM                                       |
|      | Jun     | Submission to WGI Plenary for approval, location tbc                  |

In order to conserve resources and reduce both the carbon footprint and the demands on the time of the volunteer author teams, efforts will be made to hold all individual chapter meetings and TS/SPM writing team meetings in conjunction with Lead Author Meetings. The TSU will also help support the use of technology, such as video and web conferencing, to enhance chapter communication and reduce travel.

It is expected that a few subgroups of the inter-WG and cross-WG LA teams will need to have additional meetings to consider specific issues such as content boundaries or the exchange of information in specific areas with other Working Groups. These activities are anticipated to occur in 2011 and are included in the budgetary provisions below, but it is not possible to specify dates or other details at this stage.

### 3. Budgetary Implications for the IPCC Trust Fund

Anticipated costs to the IPCC Trust Fund for Expert Meetings, Workshops, and Lead Author Meetings in support of the WGI AR5 are as follows:

| Activity   | Purpose/ Comments   | DC/EIT Support | Cost CHF |
|--|---|----------------|----------|
| <b>Meetings and Workshops – 2010</b>                   |   |                |          |
| Expert Meeting on Multi-Model Evaluation               | To provide best practices in selecting and combining results for multiple models in IPCC AR5  | 16 journeys    | 72,000   |
| Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Ice Sheet Instabilities | To inform on the latest results from observations and discuss all issues related to sea level rise including the field of ice sheet dynamics and instabilities to accelerate the science in AR5 | 40 journeys    | 180,000  |
| First Lead Author Meeting                              | Estimating 3 to 5 DC/EIT LAs per chapter  | 65 journeys    | 292,500  |
| <b>Meetings and Workshops – 2011</b>                   |   |                |          |
| Second Lead Author Meeting                             | As for Second Lead Author meeting   | 65 journeys    | 292,500  |
| Cross-WG Chapter meetings                              | Provisional for DC/EIT WGI LA support for cross-WG chapter meetings   | 20 journeys    | 90,000   |
| <b>Meetings and Workshops – 2012</b>                   |   |                |          |
| Third Lead Author Meeting                              | Includes 10 additional trips for DC/EIT REs   | 75 journeys    | 337,500  |
| Fourth Lead Author Meeting                             | As for Third Lead Author meeting  | 75 journeys    | 337,500  |
| <b>Meetings and Workshops – 2013</b>                   |   |                |          |
| TS/SPM Writing Team Meeting                            | Preparatory meeting prior to WGI Plenary  | 10 journeys    | 45,000   |

Note that this table does not include meetings of the IPCC Governing bodies; in particular it does not include Bureau meetings or the WGI Plenary Session in 2013 to approve the WGI AR5.