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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPCC ERROR PROTOCOL

Progress Report

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPCC ERROR PROTOCOL

Progress Report

State of play in the implementation of the Error Protocol since the 40th Session of the Panel

The IPCC Protocol for Addressing Possible Errors in IPCC Assessment Reports, Synthesis Reports, Special Reports or Methodology Reports was adopted by the Panel at its 33rd Session in Abu Dhabi (UAE), 10-13 May 2011. The [Error Protocol](#) is included in Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work as Annex 3. This document and the guidance for claimants on how to submit an error claim to the IPCC are available on the main IPCC [website](#).

The Error Protocol internal tracking system, developed in consultation with Technical Support Units (TSUs), as described in paragraph 3 of the Principles of the Error Protocol, is maintained by the Secretariat and resides on a protected website, accessible to the members of the IPCC Executive Committee with individual credentials. It provides a record of the steps taken in dealing with each claim, based on information entered primarily by the relevant TSU. It also includes the possibility of attaching and accessing the most relevant documentation related to the individual errors. The Secretariat offers technical support and training sessions for the use of the tracking system.

Although the protocol is intended to address the full range of possible errors from typographical errors to complicated issues of sourcing, interpretation, analysis, or assessment, arising from errors either of fact or accuracy, it is appropriate to note that the overwhelming majority of the errors tracked since the adoption of the Error Protocol in May 2011 is of typographical and technical nature.

At the time of the 40th Session of the IPCC (October 2014), 12 error claims were being processed. Since then 10 of these claims have been closed. In the meantime 8 new claims have been received, three of which have been processed and closed. Therefore by 6 February 2015 there were 7 claims being processed but not yet closed.

Rapid response approval procedures were implemented for three of the error claims mentioned in the previous paragraph to handle errors identified after approval and acceptance of SPMs and SYR by IPCC plenary sessions in order to avoid delays in the printing of the reports:

- In December 2014 at the request of WGI Co-Chairs
- In January 2015 at the request of the Chair of the IPCC and the Co-Chairs of WGIII
- In February 2015 at the request of the Chair of the IPCC

In these three instances, the errors and their corrections were brought to the attention of the Panel and approved by the IPCC Executive Committee following the rapid response approval procedures provided for in Annex 3 of Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work.

In general, the implementation of the Error Protocol and the use of the internal tracking system, albeit with some challenges due to their complexity, are proceeding in a satisfactory way, providing the process and tools to address and monitor in a rigorous way the claims of possible errors that are submitted to the IPCC. In general, the length of time needed to process and close error claims depends on the complexity of the alleged error, the availability of experts that need to be involved in accordance with the process described in the Error Protocol, and the diligence in moving the process forward. Some claims have taken a longer-than-expected time to be solved.

In the light of the experience gained in the implementation of the Error Protocol, additional clarification of “document of reference” and how errors are reflected in printed, translated and e-versions seems necessary. The issue is further elaborated in document IPCC-XLI/Doc.12.