

THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE IPCC
Geneva, 6-9 June 2012

IPCC-XXXV/Doc. 17
(8.V.2012)
Agenda Item: 5.1
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF FIFTH ASSESSMENT
REPORT (AR5)**

Working Group I Progress Report

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

PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUP I TOWARDS THE IPCC FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group I

1. Summary

The following is a report on the activities of WGI since IPCC-XXXIV in November 2011.

Recent key activities and meetings for WGI, in chronological order, have been:

- Outreach and communication activities in support of the Special Report on Managing the Risk of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (ongoing);
- Work in the subgroup of the Executive Committee (ExCom-CS) to develop the IPCC Communications Strategy and its implementation (ongoing);
- Completion of the First Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, November 2011;
- Presentation on the Special Report on Managing the Risk of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation to the UNFCCC in Durban, South Africa, November 2011 (by video);
- Completion of the Expert Review of the First Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 16 December 2011 – 10 February 2012;
- Completion of the Zero Order Draft of the Technical Summary for the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, January 2012;
- Completion of the compilation and distribution to authors of the review comments submitted during the Expert Review of the First Order Draft, February 2012;
- Completion of the internal review of the Zero Order Draft of the Technical Summary for the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, March 2012;
- Presentation on the Special Report on Managing the Risk of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation to the Geneva Environment Network, Geneva, Switzerland, March 2012;
- Presentation on Greenhouse Gas Metrics in the Working Group I contribution the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report to the UNFCCC SBSTA Workshop on Common Metrics in Bonn, Germany, April 2012 (by video);
- Completion of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Third Lead Author Meeting, held in Marrakech, Morocco, 16–20 April 2012;
- Transition from the interim Working Group I Conflict of Interest Policy to the IPCC Conflict of Interest Policy, to be completed by October 2012
- Preparation of the Expert and Government Review of the Second Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, October-November 2012;
- Preparation of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Fourth Lead Author Meeting, to be held in Australia, January 2013;
- Preparation of the Twelfth Session of Working Group I, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, September 2013;
- Involvement and support of the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (ongoing).

2. Activities in Support of the WGI AR5

Key activities that have been completed or are under preparation in support of the WGI AR5 since IPCC-XXXIV:

- In November 2011 the First Order Draft of the WGI AR5 was completed, with 14 Chapters and 2 Annexes being submitted to the WGI TSU for compilation and distribution. In preparation of the Expert Review of the First Order Draft, the WGI Bureau and TSU developed an online registration process. The registration site was launched on 16 September 2011 and IPCC Focal Points and Observer Organizations were contacted and requested to provide additional Expert Reviewers. The WGI TSU received and processed almost 1500 registrants.

The Expert Review of the First Order Draft was held from 16 December 2011 – 10 February 2012. During the eight-week review period 659 Expert Reviewers submitted 21,400 comments. Review comments were compiled and distributed to the chapter teams in February. At the WGI Third Lead Author Meeting, held in April in Morocco, the chapter teams, now also including the Review Editors, met to consider the comments received; provide written responses to the comments; and to begin work on the Second Order Draft. The authors and REs were asked to look critically at the review comments received in order to identify any sections of the Chapters that may have been under-reviewed in the FOD and to facilitate targeted reviews of the SOD.

- The WGI Co-Chairs proactively introduced an interim Conflict of Interest Policy (CoI) in October 2010, which covers all those involved in the preparation of WGI AR5: CLAs, LAs and REs as well as all members of the WGI Bureau and the WGI TSU. At its session in May 2011, the IPCC Panel agreed to introduce an IPCC CoI Policy and noted that the WGI interim CoI Policy is broadly consistent with this IPCC Policy. In October 2011, the first annual update of the WGI CoI Policy was undertaken with 100% compliance. At its session in November 2011, the IPCC Panel adopted a Conflict of Interest implementation plan and decided that, in order to ensure a smooth transition, the existing interim arrangements would continue to operate for non-Bureau members until the Executive Committee decided that the implementation procedures apply to those individuals. Based on a decision by the Executive Committee in March 2012, the WGI transition to the IPCC CoI Policy began with the WGI Third Lead Author Meeting. All WGI Authors and Review Editors received the relevant CoI documentation and background information in the materials distributed at the meeting. WGI aims to complete the transition by October 2012.
- In October 2012 the Second Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report will become available for Expert and Government Review. The eight-week review period will be held from 5 October – 30 November 2012 and will include the first formal review of the Technical Summary and Summary for Policymakers. In preparation of the review, the WGI Bureau and TSU are developing an enhanced review mechanism to accommodate both individual experts and member Governments.

A complete listing of all activities in support of the development of the WGI AR5 is available from the WGI website: <http://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/AR5/AR5.html>.

3. Meetings in Support of the WGI AR5

Meetings that have been completed or are under preparation in support of the WGI AR5 since IPCC-XXXIV:

- The *Working Group I Third Lead Author Meeting* was held in Marrakech, Morocco, 16-20 April 2012. The support of the Government of Morocco, Direction de la Météorologie Nationale, and the assistance of the WGI Vice-Chair, Abdalah Mokssit are kindly acknowledged.

Following on the positive experience of previous WGI Lead Author Meetings, a WGI Media Briefing was held prior to the Opening Ceremony to provide the local and national media with background information on the IPCC, the role of WGI, the AR5 process, the purpose of LA3, and to provide a question and answer opportunity for members of the press. At the request of the local organizers, the WGI Co-Chairs also participated in a press conference with local and national dignitaries which was organized by the host organization and held immediately following the Opening Ceremony. These events, as well as individual interviews, were the subject of a variety of media coverage including local and national television, radio, and newspaper reports.

LA3 was a critical meeting in the preparation of the WGI contribution to the AR5. This was the first opportunity for the REs to meet in addition to the CLAs and LAs. WGI held a half-day introductory meeting with the REs prior to the start of the core meeting to emphasize the importance of this position; provide guidance on the role and responsibilities of RE; and provide a question and answer opportunity. The chapter teams met for four days to discuss the comments received during the Expert Review of the First Order Draft and how to respond to these in preparing the Second Order Draft. In addition to the individual chapter meetings, cross-chapter sessions were held to further develop three of the Annexes to the WGI AR5: Annex I: Atlas of Global and Regional Climate Projections, Annex II: Climate System Scenario Tables, and Annex III: Glossary. Additional breakout groups were held in support of a number of cross-chapter topics, including the Frequently Asked Questions. In addition, a first meeting of the Technical Summary Writing Team was held immediately following LA3.

- The *Working Group I Fourth Lead Author Meeting* will be held in Australia, 14-19 January 2013. The support of the Government of Australia and the assistance of the Australian Focal Point, Harinder Sidhu, are kindly acknowledged. This will be a crucial meeting in the preparation of the WGI contribution to the AR5. The Chapter teams will discuss the comments received in the Expert/Government Review of the Second Order Draft and how to address these in preparing the Final Draft. The Technical Summary Writing Team and the Summary for Policymakers Drafting Authors will each meet for one day immediately following LA4. Due to the anticipated workload associated with the expected amount of review comments, WGI is looking into the possibility adding an additional day for individual chapter team meetings.
- The *Twelfth Session of Working Group I (WGI-12)* will be held in Stockholm, Sweden from 23-26 September 2013. The support of the Government of Sweden and the assistance of the Swedish Focal Point, Marianne Lillieskold, are kindly acknowledged. At this session the SPM will undergo line-by-line approval and the underlying report accepted. In advance of the approval session, a pre-meeting of the CLAs and SPM Drafting Authors will be held from 20-21 September 2013.

A complete listing of all meetings in support of the development of the WGI AR5 is available from the WGI website: <http://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/meetings/meetings.html>.

4. Development of Cross-Cutting Themes and Methodologies

The implementation plan for WGI AR5 presented to the Panel at its 31st Session described how the WGI AR5 contribution will address the relevant Cross-Cutting Themes and Methodologies (CCTs and CCMs). These were considered in the development of the approved outline for WGI AR5, and the WGI authors have been informed accordingly. Several Expert Meetings and Workshops, many convened jointly with other WGs, were held in support of the CCTs and CCMs during the AR5 cycle to help inform the drafting of the AR5. Cross-Chapter discussions within WGI as well as Cross-WG discussions initiated by the authors and facilitated by the TSUs are taking place, as needed. In its meeting at LA3, the WGI Technical Summary Writing team discussed ways of ensuring that the Technical Summary, as well as covering the WGI AR5, gives appropriate attention to the relevant CCTs and CCMs. This will be achieved through Technical Summary Thematic Focus Elements (TFE). The Technical Summary TFEs will be a novel addition to the classic narrative and will provide concise, yet comprehensive syntheses of the WGI AR5 assessment of key policy-relevant topics.

5. Special Reports

The First Joint Session of WGI and WGII was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 14-17 November 2011 to approve the Summary for Policymakers for the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) and accept the underlying report. Since that time the WGI Co-Chairs and TSU have been assisting in the finalization and publication of the report, as well as participating in the communication and outreach activities. The WGI Co-Chairs and TSU have supported the communication and outreach activities for the report through presentations from Durban to Geneva and through the active involvement of the Chapter 3 authors in the series of regional outreach events. Additional detail on SREX communication and outreach activities is available from the Working Group II Progress Report. Information on all aspects of SREX is available from the dedicated website: <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/>.

6. Synthesis Report

Working Group I has been actively involved in the preliminary development of the Synthesis Report (SyR). In support of the physical science basis, the Synthesis Report Core Writing Team will include nine authors and three review editors from the WGI AR5 author team, as well as the WGI Co-Chairs and TSU Director of Science. In its meeting at LA3, the WGI Technical Summary Writing team discussed ways of ensuring that the WGI Technical Summary serves as a good foundation for not only the WGI Summary for Policymakers, but also for the AR5 Synthesis Report.