

FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE IPCC
Kyoto, Japan, 8-12 May 2019

IPCC-XLIX/INF. 8
(11.IV.2019)
Agenda Item: 6.6
ENGLISH ONLY

PROGRESS REPORTS

Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of Working Group II)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report

1. Summary

The following is a report on the activities of Working Group II towards the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report since IPCC-XLVIII in October 2018.

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

- Development of an Author Portal to support the production of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, December 2018;
- Presentation of the Special Report of Global Warming of 1.5°C to the UNFCCC in Katowice, Poland, December 2018;
- Production of an Author Handbook to support the preparation of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, January 2019;
- Organization of the First Lead Author Meeting for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, held in Durban, South Africa, January 2019;
- Participation in the Fourth Lead Author Meeting for the Special Report on Climate Change and Land, held in Cali, Columbia, February 2019;
- Organization of the Fourth Lead Author Meeting for the Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, held in Kazan, Russian Federation, March 2019;
- Participation in the SPM Drafting Authors Meeting for the Special Report on Climate Change and Land, held in Geneva, Switzerland, March 2019;
- Organization of the SPM Drafting Authors Meeting for the Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, held in Bremen, Germany, April 2019;
- Completion of the Internal Draft of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, anticipated April 2019;
- Preparation for the Informal Review of the Internal Draft of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, to be held May-Jun 2019;
- Preparation of the Second Lead Author Meeting for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in July 2019.

2. Activities in support of the Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report

Key activities that have been completed since IPCC-XLVIII:

- In December 2018, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit developed an Author Portal to provide a user-friendly platform for authors to obtain background information, guidance notes, user guides, and other resources developed in support of the drafting process. The Author Portal includes an interface to facilitate Lead Author Meetings, as well as direct access to the Document Management System. The Document Management System is a platform that supports the sharing and development of drafts within and across chapter teams. The Document Management System includes a number of additional tools developed to support the Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, Review Editors, and Chapter Scientists, including a mechanism for the upload of non-published, non-peer reviewed, and non-English literature, as well as a platform to support the submission of comments and questions during Lead Author Meetings.

- In advance of the First Lead Author Meeting, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit produced an Author Handbook to support the assessment process. The Author Handbook uses modules to compile relevant introductory and background information, guidance materials, and support tools into a single reference manual to be used throughout the assessment cycle. Updates to existing modules and the inclusion of additional modules is planned for.
- A number of linkages have been established within and across Working Groups to support cross-cutting topics for the Sixth Assessment Report, including groups discussing adaptation, regional issues, and scenarios. Several discussion papers and concept notes are also currently under development. Topics include e.g., adaptation, risk, and indigenous knowledge.
- On 26 April 2019, the Internal Draft of the Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report, with 18 Chapters and 7 Cross-Chapter Papers, will be submitted to the Working Group II Technical Support Unit for compilation and circulation to invited experts for feedback during an informal review period. A proposed list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be included in the drafts. The set of FAQs is being developed with the chapter teams and is informed by feedback received during an open survey of suggested titles. The survey was launched on 26 March and closed on 12 April. Over 300 individuals, including IPCC Bureau Members and Focal Points of IPCC member Governments and Observer Organizations, participated in the survey.

3. Meetings in support of the WGII AR6

Meetings completed or in preparation since IPCC-XLVIII:

- The Working Group II First Lead Author Meeting was held in Durban, South Africa, 20–25 January 2019. The kind invitation from the Government of South Africa to host this meeting is gratefully acknowledged.

Following on the positive experience of previous Lead Author Meetings, a number of activities were organized to support communications. Prior to the Opening Ceremony, a Media Briefing was held to provide the local and national media with background information on the IPCC, the role of Working Group II, the Sixth Assessment cycle, and the purpose of the meeting. Two outreach events were organized during the week. The first was organized for students and held at the University of KwaZulu Natal, and the second was held at Buffelsdraai, a landfill site community reforestation project, and provided an opportunity for a number of Authors and Bureau members to engage with the organizers and community members. The media activities and outreach events were well attended and reinforced the importance of communication.

This first meeting of the Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors provided a substantive start to the Report. The first afternoon of the meeting was dedicated to an introductory session for those authors new to the IPCC process. This session not only provided an opportunity for those new to the IPCC to become more familiar with the IPCC and its process and procedures, but also provided individuals with dedicated time in small groups with Bureau members and Technical Support Unit for question and answer sessions.

The First Lead Author Meeting was primarily devoted to work in the chapter teams, but also included time for plenary discussions, meetings of the Cross-Chapter Papers, and breakout groups on cross-chapter topics. Work was also initiated on the development of the Frequently Asked Questions and the Glossary. The plenary presentations provided an introduction to the Working Group II contribution with emphasis on the scoping and outline development, as well as dedicated presentations on diversity and inclusivity, and enhanced communications and graphics. The meeting included a focus on cross-Working Group linkages, with participation by the Working Group I Atlas Coordinating Lead Authors and a Working Group III Vice-Chair. Use of IPCC Uncertainty Language was highlighted, with teams of Working Group II Vice-Chairs providing trainings to each chapter team.

The chapter teams developed a detailed plan for completing the Internal Draft by April 2019 and initiated discussions on cross-chapter issues and expertise gaps to be filled through Contributing Authors. The survey of participants provided strong positive feedback, in particular with regard to the usefulness of including an introductory session for those new to the IPCC.

- The Working Group II Second Lead Author Meeting will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 14 to 19 July 2019. The kind invitation from the Government of Nepal to host this meeting in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development is gratefully acknowledged.

This second meeting of Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors will be critical in making progress on the Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report. The chapter teams will discuss the comments received in the informal review of the Internal Draft and how to address these in preparing the First Order Draft. It is anticipated that a number of cross-chapter breakout groups will be held to focus on issues of gaps, overlaps and chapter boundaries. Additional time will also be allocated to the further development of the Cross-Chapter Papers.

A specific focus of the Second Lead Author Meeting will be on regional integration, with the first day entirely dedicated to this. This day will include the Lead Authors of all regional chapters as well as all Coordinating Lead Authors and Cross-Chapter Paper Leads. To facilitate cross-Working Group linkages, a select number of Working Group I and Working Group III authors as well as Bureau members will be required. A request has been made to the Financial Task Team to include additional trips (8) in the budget allocation for this meeting to support the travel of those required to ensure these cross-Working Group linkages.