



IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land

On 2 – 6 August 2019 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will meet in Geneva, Switzerland, to consider *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems* (SRCCL).

Over two years in the making, the Special Report on *Climate Change and Land* explores how the way we use our land contributes to climate change and how climate change affects our land. It follows the Special Report on *Global Warming of 1.5°C* released in October 2018. *The Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, to be finalized in September 2019, will look at oceans and the frozen world.

The full title reflects the breadth of the report, which covers: greenhouse gas fluxes related to land; interactions between climate change and desertification, land degradation and food security; land-related impacts and risks; response options that help adapt to climate change; response options that reduce land-related emissions or enhance the take-up of carbon by land systems; and links to sustainable development more broadly.

The approved Summary for Policymakers will be presented at a live-streamed press conference at 10 a.m. CEST on 8 August 2019 at the World Meteorological Organization.

THE NUMBERS BEHIND THE SCIENCE

107 Authors

The Special Report on *Climate Change and Land* was prepared by **107 leading scientists from 52 countries** across all regions of the world, who acted as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review

52 Countries

53% of the authors are from developing countries, making this the first IPCC report to have more authors from developing countries than from developed countries.

96 Contributing Authors & 11 Chapter Scientists

The author teams in turn enlisted the help of **96 Contributing Authors and 11 Chapter Scientists**.

7,000 Studies

Over **7,000 papers were assessed** in this report.

28,275 Comments

The report received a **total of 28,275 comments from expert reviewers and governments** (First Order Draft 10,401; Second Order Draft 14,831; Final Government Draft: 3,043).

WHAT THE REPORT COVERS

Desertification, land degradation and food security are covered in Chapters 3, 4 and 5, making up the core of the report. Chapters 1-2 introduce and give the context to the report, with Chapter 2 looking at overall land and climate interactions. Chapter 6 examines links between desertification, land degradation, food security and greenhouse gas (GHG) fluxes as well as synergies and trade-offs associated with response options. Chapter 7 covers risks arising from interaction of climate change with desertification, land degradation, food security as well as management responses and decision-making across different scales.

The draft outline of the report was prepared in February 2017, and the Panel approved it in March of the same year during their 45th Session (Guadalajara, Mexico). The Special Report also has a Summary for Policymakers, a Technical Summary and Frequently Asked Questions.

APPROVED REPORT OUTLINE

Chapter 1: Framing and Context

- Socio-economic, biogeochemical, and biophysical interactions between climate change and desertification, land degradation, food security and GHG fluxes
- Additional and alternative demands for, and use of, land in the context of climate change, as well as socioeconomic and technological changes.
- The contribution of this report in relation to reports by IPCC and other relevant institutions (for instance IPBES, UNCCD, FAO, etc.)
- Key concepts and definitions including vulnerability assessments, adaptation limits, and residual risks
- Treatment of uncertainties
- Integrated storyline of report, chapter narrative, sequence, linkages

Chapter 2: Land–Climate interactions

- Climate change and variability, including extremes, that influence desertification, land degradation, food security, sustainable land management and GHG fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems
- Terrestrial GHG fluxes in natural and managed ecosystems (e.g. soils, forests and other land cover types) and related stocks: methods, status, trends, projections, and drivers
- Biophysical and non-GHG feedbacks and forcings on climate
- Consequences for the climate system of land-based adaptation and mitigation options, including negative emissions

APPROVED REPORT OUTLINE

Chapter 3: Desertification

- The specific nature of desertification
- Status, current trends and future projections of desertification linked to climate change, globally and regionally
- Climatic and anthropogenic direct and indirect drivers of desertification including extremes such as drought
- Attribution: distinguishing between climatic- and human-induced changes
- Desertification feedbacks to climate, including sand and dust storms
- Climate-desertification interactions, including past observations and future projections
- Observed and projected impacts of desertification on natural and human systems in a changing climate. This could include the role of aerosols and dust, impacts on ecosystem services (e.g. water, soil and soil carbon and biodiversity) and impacts on socio-ecological systems (e.g. impacts on vulnerable communities, poverty, food security, livelihoods, and migration).
- Technological, socio-economic and policy responses to desertification under a changing climate including economic diversification, enabling conditions, co-benefits as well as limits to adaptation
- Hotspots and case-studies

Chapter 4: Land Degradation

- Processes that lead to degradation and their biophysical, socio-economic, and cultural drivers across multiple temporal and spatial scales
- Linkages and feedbacks between land degradation and climate change, including extremes (e.g. floods and droughts), erosion, and their effects on ecosystems and livelihoods
- Status, current trends and future projections of land degradation linked to climate change, globally and regionally
- Attribution: distinguishing between climatic- and human-induced changes
- Direct and indirect impacts of Climate Change on Land Degradation, Land Degradation on Climate Change, and reactive and proactive response options, such as land restoration, for key socio-ecological systems
- Observed and projected impacts of land degradation on natural and human systems in a changing climate. This could include impacts on ecosystem services (e.g. water, soil and soil carbon, biodiversity) and impacts on socio-ecological systems (for example, impacts on vulnerable communities, poverty, food security, livelihoods, and migration).
- Integrated higher-level responses, e.g. sustainable land management (where possible related to the SDGs), including considerations of cost, incentives and barriers and limits to adaptation
- Hotspots and case-studies

Chapter 5: Food Security

- Framing and Context: food and nutrition security (availability, access, utilization, stability, affordability), food systems (including trade and markets), farming systems including agroforestry, food-energy-water nexus, and the role of desertification and land degradation.
- Status, current trends and future projections of food and nutrition security linked to climate change, globally and regionally
- Attribution: distinguishing between climatic- and human-induced changes
- Observed and projected impacts of climate change and variability, including extremes, on food and nutrition security, including food production, prices and livelihoods

APPROVED REPORT OUTLINE

Chapter 5: Food Security - CONTINUED

- Impacts of food and nutrition security on climate change
- Responses in terms of adaptation considering the full range of options and their use, as well as limits to adaptation
- GHG mitigation options associated with food supply and demand
- The influence of land based mitigation options on food and nutritional security
- Synergies and trade-offs between adaptation and mitigation (considering scales, linkages, and co-benefits), sustainable land management
- Consequences of measures to enhance food and nutrition security for adaptation and mitigation in a changing climate
- Hotspots and case-studies

Chapter 6: Interlinkages between desertification, land degradation, food security and GHG fluxes: synergies, trade-offs and integrated response options

- Combined and interactive effects between desertification, land degradation, food security and GHG fluxes, and scenarios
- Economic and social dimensions of response options including sustainable land management: synergies/trade-offs/side-effects/co-benefits
- Impacts of land-based mitigation options on land degradation, desertification, food security, and ecosystems and their services (e.g. soil, fresh water, biodiversity)
- Impacts of land-based adaptation options on land degradation, desertification, food security, ecosystems and their services and limits to adaptation
- Land-based negative emissions (including the role of forests, soils and the use of biomass) and their role in balancing anthropogenic sources and sinks
- Adaptation-mitigation interactions and co-benefits
- Competition for land
- Case-studies

Chapter 7: Risk management and decision making in relation to sustainable development

- Risks arising from interaction of climate change with desertification, land degradation, food security and other development pressures (.e.g. conflicts, migration)
- Management responses to areas of substantive risk arising from climate change
- Synergies and trade-offs of response options that affect sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Governance, institutions and decision-making across multiple scales that advance adaptation, mitigation and sustainable land management in the context of desertification, land degradation and food security

The Special Report on Climate Change and Land is being prepared by all three IPCC Working Groups in consultation with the Task Force on Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI), with technical support from the Working Group III Technical Support Unit.

For more information contact:

[IPCC Working Group III](#) Technical Support Unit

C/o Centre for Environmental Policy

Imperial College London

14 Princes Gardens

London SW7 1NA

UNITED KINGDOM

Phone: +44 207 594 9958

Email: tsu@ipcc-wg3.ac.uk

IPCC Secretariat

ipcc-sec@wmo.int