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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 during the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report cycle since the 49th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-49) in May 2019.

Recent key activities and meetings for Working Group II, in chronological order, have been:

- Completion of the Informal Review of the Internal Draft of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, 10 May 2019 – 21 June 2019;
- Completion of the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate Final Draft, May 2019;
- Completion of the Final Government Distribution of the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate Final Draft and Final Government Review of the SPM, 14 June – 9 August 2019;
- Participation in the IPCC-related activities of the 50th Session of SBSTA, June 2019;
- Organization of the Second Lead Author Meeting for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, July 2019;
- Participation in the SPM Drafting Authors Meeting for the Special Report on Climate Change and Land, held in Geneva, Switzerland, July 2019;
- Participation in the First Joint Session of Working Group I, Working Group II and Working Group III for the approval/acceptance of the Special Report on Climate Change and Land, held in Geneva, Switzerland, August 2019;
- Organization of the SPM Drafting Authors Meeting for the Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, held in Monte Carlo, Monaco, September 2019;
- Organization of the Second Joint Session of Working Group I and Working Group II for the approval/acceptance of the Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, held in Monte Carlo, Monaco, September 2019;
- Development of a dedicated microsite for the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate www.ipcc.ch/srocc/;
- Release of the Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, September 2019;
- Completion of the First Order Draft of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, October 2019;
- Completion of the Expert Review of the First Order Draft of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, 18 October – 13 December 2019;
- Participation in the Scoping Meeting for the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, Singapore, October 2019;
- Presentation of the Special Report on Climate Change and Land to the UNFCCC in Madrid, Spain, December 2019;
- Presentation of the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate to the UNFCCC in Madrid, Spain, December 2019;
- Preparation of the Third Lead Author Meeting for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, to be held in Faro, Portugal, 26 January – 1 February 2020;
- Numerous outreach and communication events and activities for the Special Report on Climate Change and Land and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (ongoing).

2. Activities of Working Group II

Key activities that have been completed since IPCC-49 :

2.1 IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

- On 31 May 2019, the Final Draft of the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) was submitted to the Working Group II Technical Support Unit. The Final Draft included a Technical Summary, 6 Chapters (including Supplementary Material), the Integrative Cross-Chapter Box on Low-lying Islands and Coasts and a Glossary. In addition, a Final Draft of the Summary for Policymakers was prepared for final Government Review.

The graphics for the SROCC SPM were developed by graphics experts through the dedicated support of the Government of Norway. The support of the Government of Norway is gratefully acknowledged.

- From 14 June to 9 August 2019, the Final Government Distribution of the SROCC Final Draft and the Government Review of the SPM was undertaken. During the eight-week period, 3037 comments were submitted by 38 Governments and the European Union.
- On 25 September 2019, following the approval of the SROCC SPM and the acceptance of the underlying report during the Second Joint Session of Working Group I and Working Group II, SROCC was launched to the public during a Press Conference in Monaco.
- On 2 December 2019, the finalized IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate was published online, containing the SPM, Technical Summary, 6 Chapters (including Supplementary Material), the Integrative Cross-Chapter Box on Low-lying Islands and Coasts, four Annexes (Glossary, Acronyms, List of Contributors, List of Reviewers), and an Index. Individual graphic files have also been made available, as well as the First and Second Order Drafts, the Expert and Government Review Comments submitted on those drafts and the author team responses.
- Following the SROCC Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan developed in March 2019, a number of media and outreach materials were developed and events held to support the wide communication and dissemination of the findings of the report.

To support the launch of the report, a dedicated SROCC microsite was developed. The site provided access to the approved SPM and the Final Draft of the underlying report. The site also included detailed background and supporting materials from the development of the report. Separate download files for the Headline Statements and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were made available. Materials developed to support the launch of the report included the development of a general presentation and short trailer to introduce the report. In addition to press information to support print, radio and television media, a series of webcards were developed for the launch of the report on social media.

In December 2019, a series of events and activities were undertaken to support COP-25 and the presentation of the report to stakeholders and policymakers. A SBSTA-IPCC Special Event was organized to formally present the report to COP. The IPCC Pavilion included a dedicated day to SROCC events, with three events held to communicate the report. An extended video was produced and launched at the pavilion.

The Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Authors, and TSU members have been heavily engaged in the global communication of the report. Interest continues to be high and a number of outreach and communication activities are planned for 2020, including special sessions and major scientific conferences. Additional detail on media and outreach activities is contained in the report on Communications and Outreach.

2.2 Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

- On 4 October 2019, the First Order Draft of the Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report, with 18 Chapters and 7 Cross-Chapter Papers, was submitted to the Working Group II Technical Support Unit for compilation and Expert Review. The draft included 20 Cross-Chapter Boxes and a set of 85 proposed FAQs.

The Expert Review of the First Order Draft was held from 18 October to 13 December 2019. In advance of the start of the review, a registration to review was opened with wide distribution, including invitations to register and review to all experts nominated but not selected for a role in the report, and letters to the Focal Points of all member Governments and Observer Organizations informing of the review and inviting participation of experts in the review. During the eight-week review period, 2326 experts registered to review the draft, with 16,348 comments submitted by 760 Expert Reviewers. The comments were compiled by the Working Group II Technical Support Unit and circulated to the chapter teams on 20 December 2019. The authors will consider the comments during the Third Lead Author Meeting and in the development of the Second Order Draft. The Second Order Draft will be circulated for Expert and Government Review from 7 August to 2 October 2020.

2.3 Synthesis Report to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

- Working Group II has been actively engaged in the scoping of the Synthesis Report. The Scientific Steering Committee for the Scoping of the Synthesis Report has included both Co-Chairs and two Working Group II Vice-Chairs, supporting the IPCC Chair in particular in the preparation and execution of the Scoping Meeting (21–23 October 2019, Singapore) and in the finalization of the documentation for the IPCC Session. The Working Group II Technical Support Unit has worked closely with the Technical Support Units of Working Group I and Working Group III to provide additional operational and scientific support.

3. Meetings of Working Group II

Key meetings completed or in preparation since IPCC-49 :

- The Working Group II Second Lead Author Meeting was 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 (ICIMOD) 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 held at ICIMOD headquarters and fostered exchange between ICIMOD community and the authors. The second event was held at the venue and provided an opportunity to engage with students and early career scientists. The media activities and outreach events were well attended and reinforced the importance of communication.

The second meeting of Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors was critical in making progress on the Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report. The chapter teams discussed the comments received in the informal review of the Internal Draft and began preparing the First Order Draft.

A specific focus of the Second Lead Author Meeting was on regional integration, with the first day of the meeting entirely dedicated to this. The regional integration day included participation by the Lead Authors of the regional chapters, the Coordinating Lead Authors of all chapters, the Cross-Chapter Paper Leads, and a number of Working Group I Authors. Additional handshake linkages across the Second Lead Author Meeting were furthered by the attendance of

representatives from the Working Group I and Working Group III Bureau. An additional dedicated day to support the Cross-Chapter Papers was held at the end of the week.

The Second Lead Author Meeting included a programme of diversity training for all authors, with a dedicated presentation from a local expert followed by an interactive event for all participants. The diversity programme also included a dedicated workshop for Coordinating Lead Authors with a series of activities targeting inclusivity. This was held as part of an extended meeting of the Coordinating Lead Authors on the last day of the meeting. The diversity programme was supported through an in-kind contribution from ICIMOD and is gratefully acknowledged.

The Working Group II Third Lead Author Meeting will be held at the University of the Algarve in Faro, Portugal from 26 January to 1 February 2020. The kind invitation from the Government of Portugal to host this meeting is gratefully acknowledged.

The Third Lead Author Meeting will be a key milestone in the development of the Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report. This meeting will include the Review Editors for the first time. The comments received during the Expert Review of the First Order Draft will be considered by the author teams and work will begin on the Second Order Draft.

Dedicated days have been included in the programme to focus on the development of the Cross-Chapter Papers as well as on the development of the Technical Summary and the Summary for Policymakers. The Third Lead Author meeting will also include a focus on the Working Group II and Working Group III linkages, including a dedicated satellite meeting on Climate Resilient Development Pathways and Shared Socioeconomic Pathways. Additional time will also be considered for the Working Group I and Working Group II linkages. A number of authors and Bureau Members from Working Group I and Working Group III will be participating in the meeting in support of the cross-Working Group handshakes.