

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change



Introduction to IPCC processes

Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, IPCC Vice-chair

ASSESSMENT CYCLE

WORKSHOPS ON ENGAGING DIVERSE KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND ON METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
10–12 FEBRUARY 2026 • READING, UNITED KINGDOM



ASSESSMENT CYCLE



How the IPCC works



The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations.

The World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme set up the IPCC in 1988.

The role of the IPCC is...

“... to **assess** on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the **scientific, technical and socio-economic information** relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.”

“IPCC reports should be **neutral with respect to policy**, although they may need to **deal objectively with scientific, technical and socio-economic factors** relevant to the application of particular policies.”

Assessing, not just reviewing (and we do not conduct research)

IPCC Reports

6

Assessment Reports

1990, 1995, 2001, 2007, 2013-14, 2021-23

14

Special Reports

1997, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2011, 2012, 2018, 2019

1992 Supplementary report
1994 Special report

9

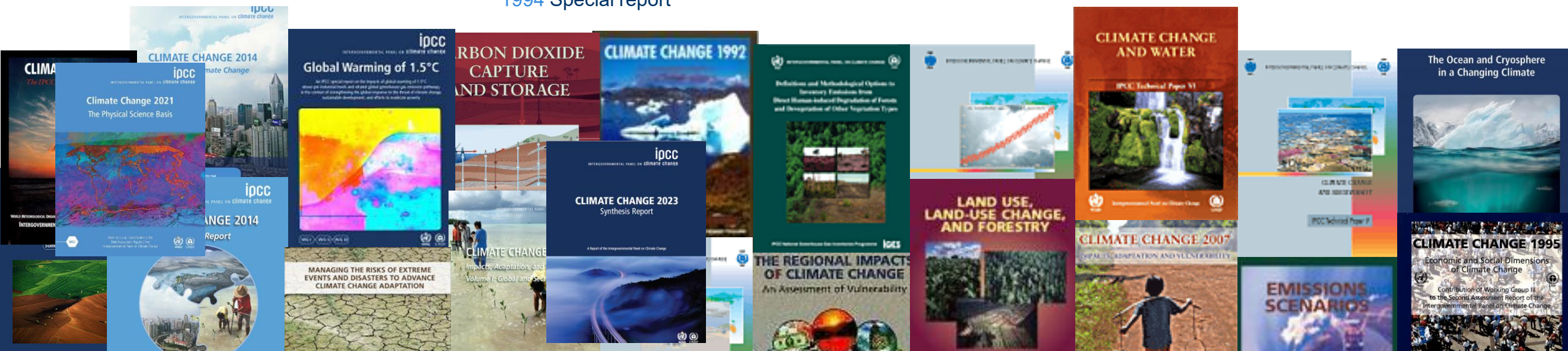
Guidelines for national GHG inventories, good practice guidance

1995, 1996, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2013, 2019

6

Technical Papers

1996-2008



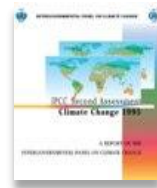
History | Evolution of the IPCC



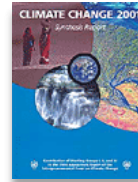
IPCC jointly established by WMO and UNEP



First Assessment Report
Led to creation of UNFCCC in 1994



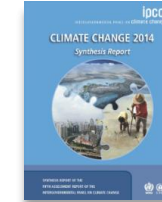
Second Assessment Report
Kyoto Protocol



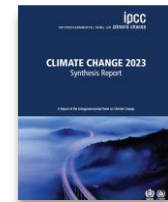
Third Assessment Report
Focus attention on adaptation to climate change



Fourth Assessment Report
2°C Limit
Nobel Peace Prize



Fifth Assessment Report
Paris Agreement - 2015



Sixth Assessment Report
First Global Stocktake - COP28

1988

1990

1995

2001

2007

2014

2023

GROWTH IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

INCREASE IN STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS

IPCC reports provide the scientific foundation for UNFCCC negotiations & COP decisions!

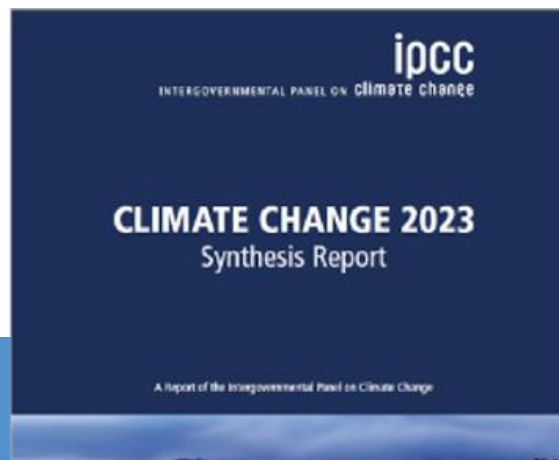
Key reports (e.g., AR5) have shaped major agreements like the Paris Agreement

COPs formally acknowledge IPCC findings, reinforcing their authority.

IPCC findings can inform policy instruments (e.g., Kyoto Protocol rules, loss and damage discussions).

Sixth Assessment Cycle

SEVENTH ASSESSMENT CYCLE

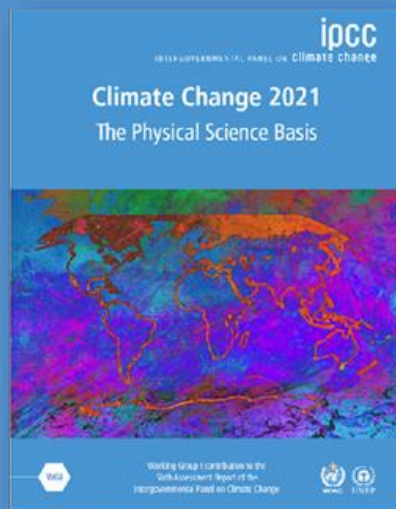


WGI

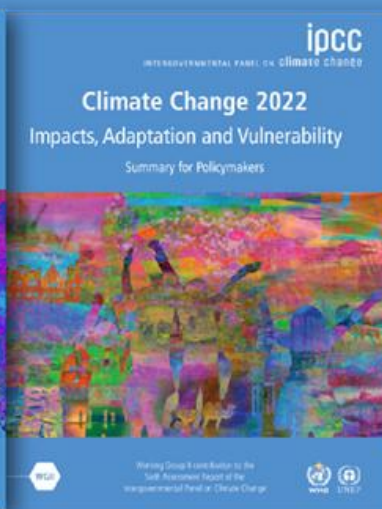
WGII

WGIII

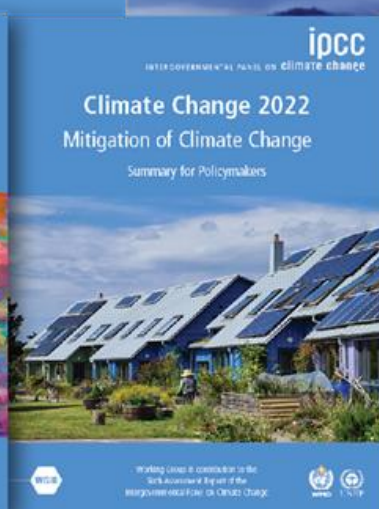
Special Reports



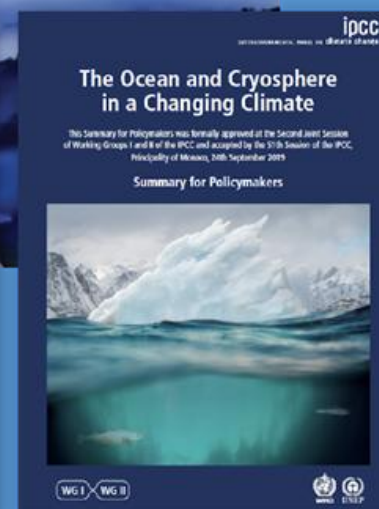
Climate Change 2021:
The Physical Science Basis



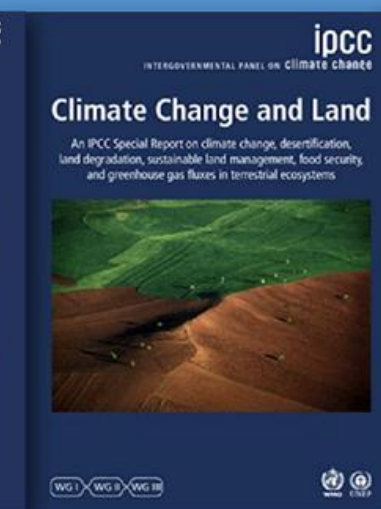
Climate Change 2022:
Impacts, Adaptation and
Vulnerability



Climate Change 2022:
Mitigation of Climate
Change



Ocean and Cryosphere in
a Changing Climate



Climate Change and
Land



Global Warming of
1.5 °C

The IPCC seventh assessment cycle

SEVENTH ASSESSMENT CYCLE

ipcc
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change



Special Report on Climate Change and Cities



SCOPED AUTHORS WRITING (March 2027)

Seventh Assessment Report Working Group I, II, III contributions



SCOPED AUTHORS WRITING

2023

New Chair & Bureau
elected (July)

Methodology Report on Short-lived Climate Forcers



SCOPED AUTHORS WRITING

Update of the 1994 Technical Guidelines on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability



SCOPED AUTHORS WRITING

2024

Products & workplan
for seventh cycle
decided (January)

Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage



SCOPED AUTHORS

Synthesis Report After AR7 (late 2029)



2025

2026

2027

2028

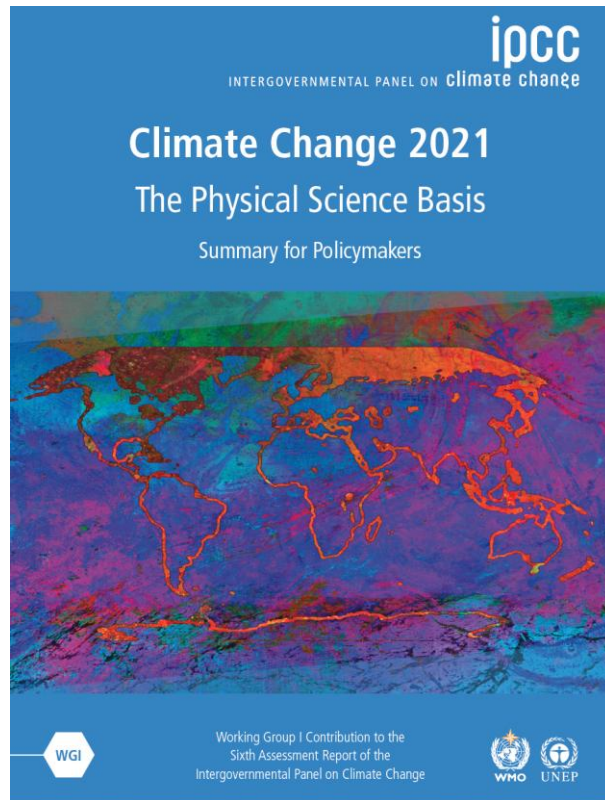
2029

WORKSHOPS ON ENGAGING DIVERSE KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND ON METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
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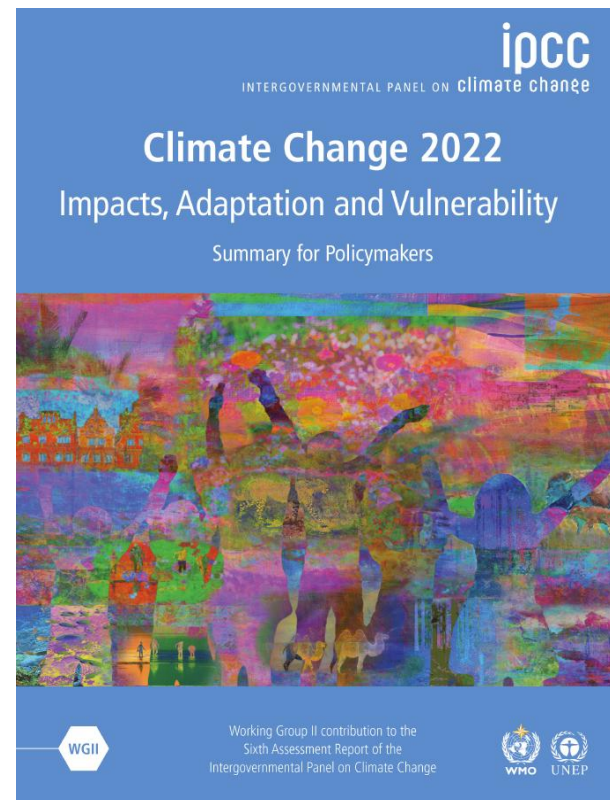
The AR6 Climate Report



234 authors, **65** countries

14,000+ scientific papers

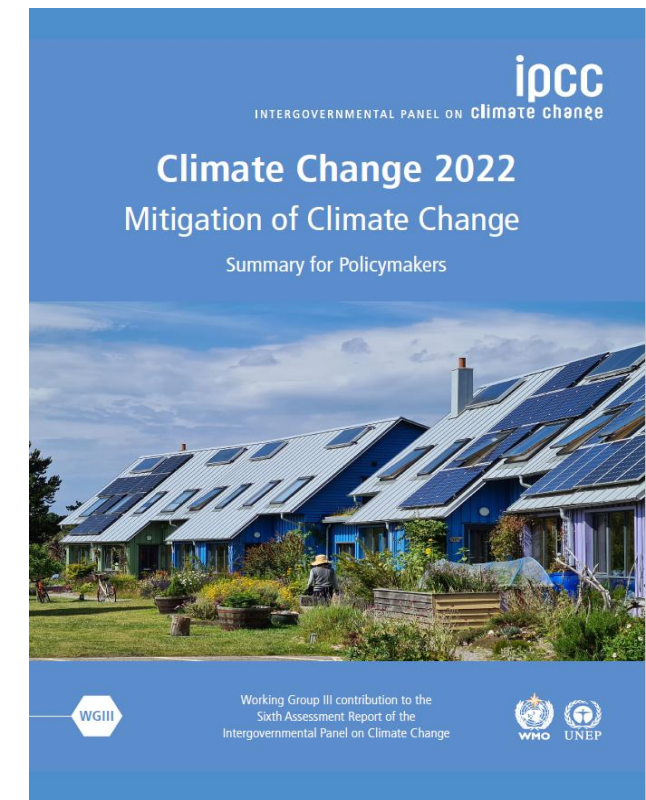
78,000+ review comments



270 authors, **67** countries

34,000+ scientific papers

62,000+ review comments



278 authors, **65** countries

18,000+ scientific papers

59,000+ review comments

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7

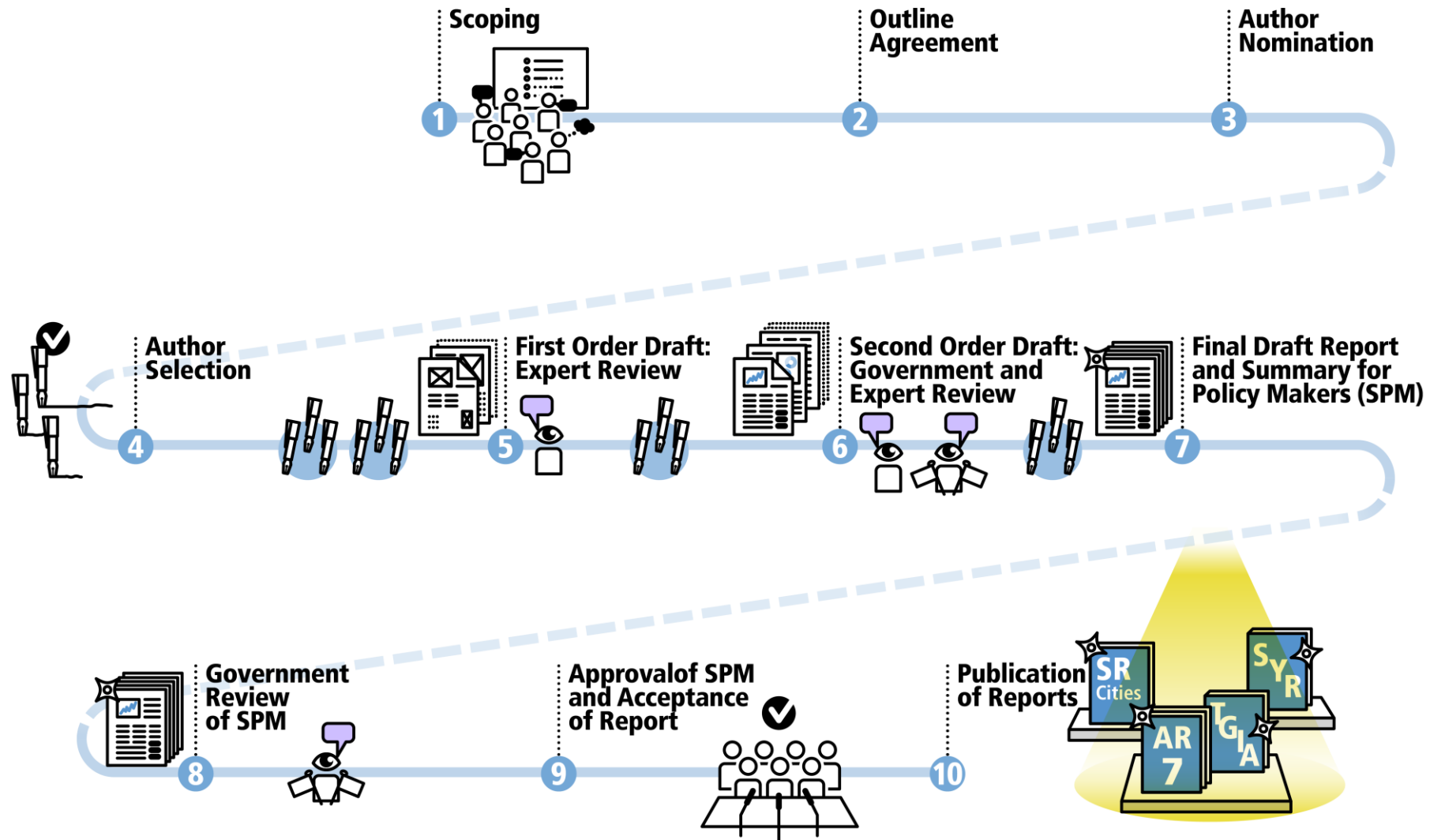
SEVENTH ASSESSMENT CYCLE

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WORKSHOPS ON ENABLING DIVERSE KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND ON METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
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The report process in ten steps



Structure of IPCC

Intergovernmental Panel

The 195 member governments appointing National Focal Points

IPCC Plenary

Meeting of representatives of IPCC member governments

IPCC Bureau

IPCC Chair and Vice-Chairs plus Co- and Vice-Chairs of WGs and TFI

Executive Committee

IPCC Chair, IPCC Vice-Chairs, Co-Chairs of TFI and WGs

Secretariat

Oversees the process and provides support

Working Groups and TFI

The three Working Groups and the TFI form the basis of the operational branch of producing the reports

WGI

The Physical Science Basis

WGII

Impacts, Adaptation & Vulnerability

WGIII

Mitigation of Climate Change

TFI

Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Technical Support Units (TSUs)

Each Working Group and the TFI is supported by a TSU

Scientists and experts

Scientists and experts from around the world are involved in the preparation of IPCC reports.



Authors & Scientists



Expert Reviewers



Review Editors

ASSESSMENT CYCLE

Scope of IPCC principles and procedures

ASSESSMENT CYCLE



What is an IPCC assessment?

What is an IPCC Assessment?

Review

Critical analysis & summary

Synthesis

Integration to increase applicability and relevance

Assessment


Synthesis with a purpose: data, models, assumption & expert judgment to address complex issues & inform policy

IPCC findings are qualified by **confidence statements**, based on the quality of evidence and the degree of agreement in the literature

IPCC assessment

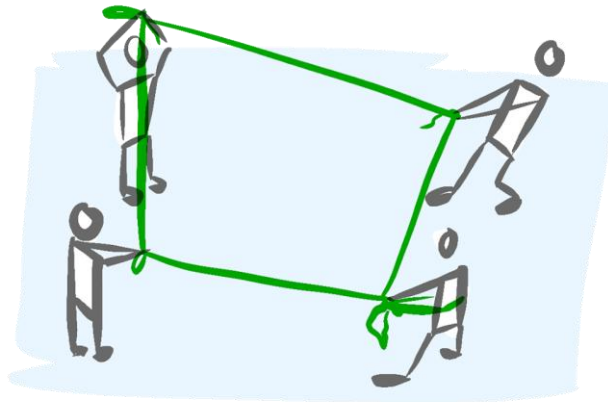
An assessment responding to policy demand via the Working Group outlines with specific requirements, such as confidence language, diverse input, etc.

Agreement ↑	High agreement Limited evidence	High agreement Medium evidence	High agreement Robust evidence
	Medium agreement Limited evidence	Medium agreement Medium evidence	Medium agreement Robust evidence
	Low agreement Limited evidence	Low agreement Medium evidence	Low agreement Robust evidence
	Evidence (type, amount, quality, consistency) →		



Confidence Scale

Ways to get involved



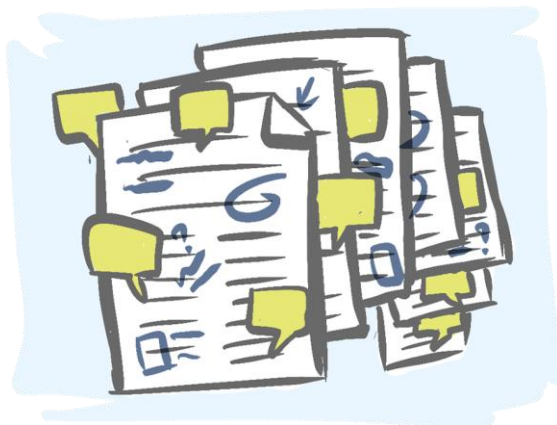
◀ **Experts** can help with **scoping** – *pre-scoping webinars*



◀ **Scientists** can write papers and **compile journal special issues** – including topics emphasized in the outline



◀ **Authors** can help with **writing** – as *Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, Review Editors, Contributing Authors*



◀ **Professionals** can help with **reviews** – *various versions will circulate*



◀ **Stakeholder networks** can help with **outreach** (e.g. factsheets)

IPCC Procedures

The IPCC's work is guided by a set of principles and clear procedures for all the main activities of the organization.

OVERVIEW
IPCC SESSIONS
SESSIONS OF THE
IPCC BUREAU
MEETINGS OF THE
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
[PROCEDURES_](#)

The **Principles Governing IPCC Work** lay down the role, organisation and procedures of the IPCC.

They establish comprehensiveness, objectivity, openness and transparency as guiding principles of IPCC Work.

Principles Governing IPCC Work

Set out the mandate and membership of the organisation

Three detailed appendices define the process for

APPENDIX A | Preparing IPCC reports

APPENDIX B | Managing its finances

APPENDIX C | Holding elections for the Bureau

Appendix A includes three annexes

ANNEX 1 | Tasks / responsibilities (report authors and reviewers, focal points)

ANNEX 2 | Use of literature in IPCC reports

ANNEX 3 | Protocol for addressing possible errors in IPCC reports













Governance documents with mandates for:

Bureau; Executive Committee; Secretariat; and Technical Support Units

IPCC's processes and procedures should be reviewed at least every five years

Roles in IPCC

-  Nominated by governments
-  Nominated by governments/observers
-  Self-nominated subject to screening
-  Elected by Panel
-  Selected by WG Bureau
-  Enlisted by CLAs/LAs

ROLES	APPOINTMENT	TASKS
WG Co-chair	 	Operates Technical Support Unit (TSU) Oversees scientific quality Agrees the list of authors, REs and expert reviewers
WG Vice-chair	 	Oversees scientific quality Agrees the list of authors, REs and expert reviewers May act as RE
Coordinating lead author (CLA)	 	Takes overall responsibility for coordinating a chapter
Lead author (LA)	 	Produces designated sections on the basis of the best scientific, technical and socio-economic information available
Contributing author (CA)		Prepares technical information for assimilation by the LAs
Expert reviewer		Comments on draft text
Review editor (RE)	 	Ensures comments are afforded consideration, advises on how to handle contentious/controversial issues (2-3 REs per chapter)

Roles in IPCC

ROLES

Chapter scientist (CS)

Selected by CLAs, or by WG co-chairs/CLAs following advertisement

TSU member

Appointed by Co-chairs

Secretariat

Led by a Secretary (WMO) and a Deputy Secretary (UNEP)

Appointed and employed by WMO (except Deputy Secretary)

15 people overall, based at WMO, Geneva

TG-Data

Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments

TASKS

Assessment support (graphics, reference checking, text checking)

No mention of this role in IPCC procedures (it has emerged through WG practice)

Scientific, technical and operational support for Co-chairs and WG Bureau

Supports the Panel, IPCC Chair and IPCC Bureaux in the delivery of their mandate

Manages the IPCC Trust Fund

Supports the Working Groups in the organisation of their meetings

Ensures the curation, traceability, stability, availability and transparency of data and scenarios underlying IPCC reports

Follows the [FAIR principles](#) (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability)