

FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE IPCC
Geneva, Switzerland, 27 – 30 September 2022

IPCC-LVII/INF. 3
(23.VIII.2022)
Agenda Item: 7.2
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

This report describes the activities undertaken by Working Group II since the update provided for the 54th (bis) Session of the IPCC in December 2021 (IPCC-LIV(bis)/INF.2).

1. Summary

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

- Summary for Policymakers Writeshop for the for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, held virtually 2–3 December 2021;
- ICOMOS-UNESCO-IPCC Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage, and Climate Change, held virtually 6–10 December 2021;
- Informal Presentations to Governments on the Summary for Policymakers for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, held on 17 and 19 January 2022;
- Preparatory Meeting of Drafting Authors of the Summary for Policymakers for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, held virtually 1–2 February 2022;
- Approval of Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Summary for Policymakers and Acceptance of the underlying scientific and technical assessment during the 12th Session of Working Group II, held virtually 14–27 February 2022;
- Release of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Summary for Policymakers, Press Conference in Berlin, Germany, 28 February 2022;
- Outreach and communication activities in support of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (28 February 2022 – ongoing);
- Participation in the Third Core Writing Team Meeting of the Synthesis Report for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, held in Dublin, Ireland 25–28 April 2022;
- Presentation of Working Group II to the UNFCCC at SBSTA-56 in Bonn, Germany, June 2022;
- Online publication of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, August 2022.

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

Key activities completed or in preparation since the reports prepared for the 54th (bis) Session of the IPCC:

- From 2–3 December 2021, Working Group II organized a ‘Writeshop’ to consider the comments submitted during the Government Review support the preparation of a revision of the Summary for Policymakers in response to those comments. The meeting included dedicated sessions on each section as well as the figures. To ensure wide participation of authors across time zones, each section session was held at two different times, with the second session building on the outcomes of the first. Stocktake sessions were held in early and mid-January to advance the completion of the revised Summary for Policymakers.
- The ICOMOS-UNESCO-IPCC Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change was held virtually from 6 to 10 December 2021. The co-sponsored meeting brought together over 100 researchers and practitioners from around the world to strengthen the synergies at the culture, heritage and climate change nexus. The meeting provided participants with the opportunity to discuss the state of knowledge and the gaps in knowledge. Three white papers were developed to help initiate discussion among the participants. A report of the co-sponsored meeting is currently being produced. Additional information, including recordings of the opening ceremony and the panel discussions, is available from the meeting [website](#).

- In preparation of the approval session, informal presentations on the Summary for Policymakers for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report were offered to governments on 17 and 19 January 2022. Two sessions were held each day, at times that are convenient for all time zones, with the same topics from the first session repeated in the second session that day. The topics of the informal presentations were informed by the comments received during the government review and included an overview of the narrative; observed impacts considering attribution, and compound impacts and exposure and vulnerability; risk including tipping points/irreversibility; adaptation options and feasibility considering maladaptation and limits to adaptation; climate resilient development pathways. Following the presentations, Q&A sessions were held to provide member government representatives with an opportunity to ask clarification questions.
- From 1–2 February 2022, Working Group II organized a preparatory meeting for the Drafting Authors of the Summary for Policymakers. This meeting was held to support the completion of the floor draft and prepare authors for the approval process. The meeting built on the lessons learned from the earlier writeshop and stocktake sessions held, and focussed on bringing authors from across sections together for a final reading. Additional section meetings and trainings were held in the following week to support the completion of the floor draft and the preparations for the Working Group II Session. The floor draft of the revised Summary for Policymakers was made available to governments on 11 February 2022.

3. Meetings in support of the Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report

Key meetings completed or in preparation since the reports prepared for the 54th (bis) Session of the IPCC:

- The Twelfth Session of Working Group II was hosted by the Government of Germany and held virtually from 14 February to 27 February. The Summary for Policymakers was approved and the underlying report accepted. Recognising the close proximity of the Working Group II and Working Group III Sessions, the two Working Groups harmonised meeting arrangements as closely as possible for the benefit of all participants while building on the experience from the Working Group I approval session. A consultation paper on the format and duration of the Working Group II and Working Group III Sessions was prepared and presented to the Executive Committee at its 98th Meeting on 6 October 2021. The consultation paper was then circulated to IPCC member Governments for feedback on 14 October 2021. A Task Team, Co-Chaired by the three IPCC Vice Chairs, with participation of Working Group II and Working Group III Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, was established to support the preparation of the Guidance Notes for the Sessions and the schedules.

4. Communications and Outreach

4.1 Communication and Outreach Materials

The Working Group II Authors, Bureau Members and Technical Support Unit have been actively involved in the development of a number of dedicated materials to support the communication and outreach of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. These gave included:

- press release
- press conference slide deck
- video trailer
- main video
- video soundbites
- Fact Sheets
- overarching FAQs
- photo collection

- figure collection (SPM and Atlas), including a figure index
- microsite

The main tool for all communication and outreach activities is the set of internal key messages based on the SPM and developed in close cooperation with communication expert Susan Escott. The storyline and wording of the messages are reflected in all Working Group II communication products and help Working Group II authors and Bureau members to be comprehensive and consistent in their messaging. In addition, the Working Group II communication team provided a long list of questions and answers that authors could use as training material in preparation for interviews, outreach presentations, or panel discussions.

4.2 Microsite

The dedicated microsite of Working Group II was launched on 28 February 2022 at the time of the press conference. The website provides a single access point for the report and is being updated as materials become available. In addition to providing the PDFs of the approved Summary for Policymakers and the Final Draft of the accepted underlying assessment, the website includes extensive background information and communication materials.

On 3 August 2022, the finalized Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report was published online. The 3056-page report includes the Summary for Policymakers, the Technical Summary, 18 Chapters, 7 Cross-Chapter Papers, 5 Annexes (Global to Regional Atlas, Glossary, Acronyms, List of Contributors, List of Expert Reviewers), and an Index. The online Supplementary Material provided for the Technical Summary, Chapters and Cross-Chapter Papers was also published alongside the report. The Summary Volume (containing the Summary for Policymakers, Technical Summary, Frequently Asked Questions and Glossary), as well as a stand-alone brochure of the Frequently Asked Questions were also produced and provided. Individual graphic files have subsequently been made available for download. Additional resources will be uploaded as they become available (e.g., individual reference libraries, compilation of the cross-working group and cross-chapter boxes) and work is underway on the html version of the report.

The print-ready files have been transmitted to Cambridge University Press and the report will be printed as a 3-volume set. The Summary Volume has been provided to the IPCC Secretariat for translation and print.

4.3 Communication and Outreach Activities

To support the authors in the preparation of their media and speaking engagements a series of trainings were undertaken including chapter team training session to encourage the development of joint chapter key messages as well as six weeks of individual training sessions in the run-up to the launch. All training sessions were run virtually, which worked very well and allowed Working Group II to offer training sessions to all authors.

The Working Group II communications team also encouraged Working Group II authors to register for the IPCC interview system that journalists use to select potential interview partners. More than 150 authors and Bureau members signed up for the interview system, which was a new record for the IPCC.

For the first time in IPCC history, Working Group II and III ran a joint communications webinar for their authors' home institution press officers to get them involved in the AR6 outreach activities as well. This initiative led to many new contacts, new local media coverage and inspired several of local communications teams to produce additional promotional material such as video trailers introducing the IPCC report and the work done by the respective authors. Furthermore, local outreach activities resulted in interview requests for Working Group II authors that were not known by the media before.

In the run-up to the Working Group II approval session, the Working Group II Co-Chairs participated in six embargoed media briefings, organized by the IPCC media team in Geneva and by the UN Foundation. Five out of those 6 briefings were run off-the-record and for selected groups of reporters only. The sixth briefing was an open, on-the-record media workshop and reached roundabout 100 journalists from North, Central and South America. This high number of participants showed that open, on-the-record pre-approval briefings are the most efficient communication tool and help to reach reporters from regions or media outlets that have not been reached by the IPCC in the past.

In addition, the Working Group II TSU worked together with four Science Media Centres (UK, Germany, Austria, New Zealand) to organize regional embargoed media briefings for the day before the official press conference. In those briefings, more than 100 of the world's leading science reporters used the opportunity to talk to selected Working Group II authors about the approved SPM, which helped to communicate the report's global and regional key findings.

Furthermore, the Working Group II communications team selected authors for additional pre- and post-launch media briefings organized by the Friends of the IPCC – for example in North America, Africa, India/Bangladesh, France and South America.

All communication activities during the Working Group II approval session were supported by communications managers from IPCC Working Group I and III, by communication expert Susan Escott, and by members of the IPCC Secretariat. Due to this close and trusted cooperation, it was possible to:

- benefit from contacts and experiences made during the approval session of the Working Group I report;
- guarantee consistent messages across all three Working Groups (all open questions had been solved before the start of the approval session);
- produce the outreach products listed above and release them in a timely manner and
- support authors, Bureau and TSU members whenever questions came up or advice was needed.

In June 2022, a series of events and activities were undertaken to support SBSTA-49 and the presentation of the report to stakeholders and policymakers. A SBSTA-IPCC Special Event was organized to formally present the report to UNFCCC. During this event, the new Working Group II video produced by Melissa Walsh premiered. There was an unprecedented call upon the WGII Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Authors and TSU to participate in the activities and events, including the Structured Expert Dialogue, the Research Dialogue, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and the Technical of the Global Stocktake.

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 in the second half of 2022, including special sessions and major scientific conferences. Additional detail on media and outreach activities is contained in the report on Communications and Outreach.

5. Synthesis Report

The Working Group II authors selected for the Synthesis Report Core Writing Team as well as members of the Working Group II Bureau and Technical Support Unit continue to be actively engaged in the preparation of the Synthesis Report. This has included participation in the Third Core Writing Team Meeting held in Dublin, Ireland from 25 to 28 April 2022, as well as weekly calls with authors and periodic calls of the Scientific Steering Committee. The outcomes of these activities are contained in the report of the Synthesis Report.