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PROGRESS REPORTS

Report by Working Group II

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

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Report by Working Group II

This report describes the activities undertaken by the Working Group II (WGII) since the last update presented during the Sixty-second Session of the IPCC in February 2025.

In this period considerable efforts have been made to secure a diverse and inclusive group of contributors and work processes, leading to the First Order Draft of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, a selected author pool for the WGII contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report (AR7), and the design and implementation of a number of Expert Meetings.

1. Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

To support the work of the chapter teams, the WGII Technical Support Unit (TSU) developed an Author Portal to provide a platform for chapter teams to work collaboratively on drafts, as well as providing authors with information and the resources developed in support of the drafting process, and a mechanism to support the Lead Author Meetings.

In advance of the First Lead Author Meeting, the WGII TSU, in collaboration with the TSUs of WGI and III, produced an Author Handbook as a resource for authors. The Author Handbook provides relevant introductory and background information, guidance materials, user guides, and support tools into a single reference manual to be used throughout the assessment cycle. Periodic updates to the Handbook as well as the provision of additional information will be prepared ahead of each Lead Author Meeting.

Having secured funding to support the Coordinating Lead Authors from developing countries with the recruitment of early-career scientists from developing countries as Chapter Scientists, an online application call was opened. More than 1320 applications were received for the 6 Chapter Scientists. Five of the six successful candidates were identified and onboarded in time to attend the First Lead Author Meeting with the sixth candidate identified and onboarded in time to support the preparation of the Zero Order Draft.

The WGII E-Journal Programme with Utrecht University was launched on 1 March and provides direct access to journals for all Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (LAs) and Review Editors (REs) in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The programme will continue through March 2027.

1.1 *The First Lead Author Meeting*

Ahead of the First Lead Author Meeting a series of pre-LAM webinars were organized. The pre-LAM meetings were repeated at different times to ensure broad participation across time zones and participants with introductory information, an overview of the planning for the First Lead Author Meeting, and an introduction to the tools and resources prepared by the TSUs to support the authors in their work. A first meeting of the CLAs was also held in advance of the First Lead Author Meeting to initiate coordination planning across chapters and offer an opportunity for Q&A.

The First Lead Author Meeting was held 10–14 March 2025 in Osaka, Japan. The kind invitation of the Government of Japan is gratefully acknowledged.

This first meeting of the CLAs and LAs provided a substantive start to the Special Report. The programme was primarily devoted to work in the chapter teams but also included time for plenary discussions and breakout groups on cross-chapter topics. The plenary sessions included an interactive session on day 1 as well as dedicated segment on inclusive practices. For those new to the IPCC, an evening Q&A session on IPCC and IPCC processes was organized with members of the Bureau. There was an additional emphasis on the use of IPCC uncertainty language and consistent treatment of risk, with teams of Working Group Vice-Chairs providing trainings to each

chapter team. The outcome of the First Lead Author Meeting included each chapter team producing a first annotated outline as well as agreeing writing assignments and a detailed plan for completing the Zero Order Draft.

1.2 The Zero Order Draft

On 9 May, the Zero Order Draft of the five chapters of the Special Report was submitted to the WGII TSU for compilation ahead of the informal review. On 23 May, invited experts were provided with the drafts for their feedback during an informal commenting period that was undertaken from 23 May to 20 June.

1.3 Second Lead Author Meeting

The Second Lead Author Meeting was held 21–25 July 2025 in Mombasa, Kenya. The kind invitation of the Government of Kenya is gratefully acknowledged. This second meeting of the CLAs and LAs continued the work on the Special Report. The programme was primarily devoted to working with chapter teams to consider the comments submitted during the informal review of the Zero Order Draft and to begin work on the First Order Draft. Substantive attention was also given to cross-chapter coordination. The plenary sessions included a dedicated segment on culture mapping to support inclusivity, an interactive session on the development of key messages, and a session on ‘What is an Assessment?’. The outcome of the Second Lead Author Meeting included each chapter team producing a detailed plan for completing the First Order Draft and identification of cross-chapter points-of-contact on a number of topics and agreement on the Cross-Chapter Boxes to be included in the First Order Draft.

1.4 The First Order Draft and the Expert Review

On 26 September, the First Order Draft of the five chapters of the Special Report was submitted to the WGII TSU for compilation ahead of the Expert Review.

Registration for the Expert Review opened on 17 September and will run through 30 November. The Expert Review will be undertaken from 17 October to 12 December 2025. Communication materials have been disseminated across various channels to advertise the call for experts to participate in the review, and a series of outreach events are being organized by several organizations to engage experts and raise awareness of the review.

1.5 Third Lead Author Meeting

The Third Lead Author Meeting will be held 12–16 January 2026 in Oslo, Norway. The kind invitation of the Government of Norway is gratefully acknowledged. Cross-Working Group coordination efforts are underway to support the logistical arrangements and the programme planning.

2. Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report

2.1 Nomination and Selection of Authors

2.1.1 Nomination of Authors

A call to the Focal Points of IPCC member Governments, Observer Organisations and Bureau Members inviting the nomination of experts for the roles of CLA, LA and RE opened on 7 March 2025 and closed on 17 April 2025.

During the nomination period, the WGII Bureau and TSU Members participated in several outreach events that were organized by governments, observer organizations, and regional institutes and organizations to engage experts and raise awareness of the nominations processes and period. The below table provides an overview of the outreach events that were organized to support the engagement of experts in the AR7t with WGII participation.

Event	Date
<i>Outreach Event on IPCC Processes for Eastern Africa</i>	31 March
Small Islands	31 March
Singapore/Southeast Asia	1 April
<i>Understanding the IPCC and opportunities to participate in the IPCC's Seventh Assessment report</i> Southern Africa	2 April
<i>How to become an IPCC Author</i> Central, South and North America	3 April
<i>Find out how to shape one of the decade's most important climate reports</i> Asia	4 April
South-West Pacific I	4 April
South-West Pacific II	7 April
<i>Outreach event on IPCC processes for West Africa</i>	7 April
<i>Author nomination for IPCC AR7: Central and Eastern Europe</i>	7 April
<i>Outreach event on IPCC processes for Central Africa</i>	8 April
<i>How to get involved in IPCC assessments: Webinar for Indigenous Peoples</i>	7 and 8 April
<i>Outreach event on IPCC processes for North Africa</i>	9 April
<i>Webinaire d'information du 7ème cycle d'évaluation du GIEC for West Africa</i>	9 April
Mountains	9 April
Asia II	10 April
Southeast Europe/Türkiye	11 April
East Africa	15 April

1541 experts from 117 countries were nominated for a role in the WGII AR7 and TGIA. The regional distribution of the experts nominated were Africa: 12%, Asia: 23%, South America: 10%, North America, Central America and the Caribbean: 16%, South-West Pacific: 9%, Europe: 30%.

51% of the nominations came from developing countries or countries with economies in transition and 49% from developed countries. Of the experts nominated, 56% were male and 44% female. 60% of experts nominated indicated they had no IPCC experiences, while 23% indicated they had some experience (e.g., Contributing Author, Expert Reviewer) and 17% indicated they had previously held the role of CLA, LA or RE (see also tabulated statistics later in this document).

2.1.2 Selection Process

The process and timeline for the selection of experts for invitation as CLAs, LAs and REs was developed and agreed upon with the members of the WGII Bureau. The selection process prioritized consideration of the criteria defined by the IPCC policies and procedures: the scientific, technical and socio-economic expertise, including the range of views; geographical representation; a mixture of experts with and without previous experience in IPCC; experts with a range of backgrounds (academic, government, private sector); and gender balance. To support the selection process, the WGII Bureau developed a list of areas of expertise mapped to the agreed outline.

An iterative approach was undertaken to develop the author listing. As a first step, the complete list of nominations (the 'Full List') was provided to the WGII Bureau with direct links to the CVs. Each WGII Bureau member considered the nominations and then indicated 60 experts across the report to form a 'Long List'.

As a next step, the WGII Co-Chairs worked from the Long List to develop a proposed Short List of CLAs. The proposal, along with statistics on both the Long List and the CLA Short List, were circulated to the WGII Bureau for feedback. The CLA short list was then iterated based on this feedback and then discussed in detail during a meeting of the WGII Bureau.

In a third step, the WGII Co-Chairs, working from the Long List and CLA Short List developed an initial emerging Short List of author teams. Experts were drawn from the Full List in response to ensure coverage in expertise and geographic representation. This initial Short List was then provided, along with statistics on distribution and balances within and across chapters, to the WGII Bureau for comment. The WGII Bureau reviewed the emerging chapter teams and provided feedback, in particular highlighting gaps and overlaps. WGII Bureau Members then suggested experts to address overlaps and fill gaps.

The Short List was iterated in response to the feedback received, and a revised Short List, with proposals for potential leads of the Cross-Chapter Papers and the Atlas was returned, along with updated statistics. A WGII Bureau call was held to further discuss the emerging teams and agree on the next steps.

In the final step of the selection process, the WGII Bureau met in Geneva from 30 June to 1 July to finalise the chapter and TGIA teams.

The treatment of linkages to the other Working Groups is described in a separate section below.

2.1.3 Summary of Size, Distribution, and Balance

The WGII AR7 consists of 20 chapters, 5 cross-chapter papers, and a digital interactive atlas. This is in comparison with the 18 chapters and 7 cross-chapter papers in WGII AR6, which resulted in the publication of three volumes. The TGIA, to be developed in conjunction with the WGII AR7 and published as a separate product, consists of 4 sections.

The WGII AR7 implementation plan that accompanied the outline submitted to the IPCC for agreement (IPCC-LXII/Doc. 15) indicated that chapter teams would require 10-15 experts and the TGIA 20 experts. To ensure geographic representation additional trips to support the participation of experts from developing countries and countries in transition were requested. The Panel approved an allocation of 130 trips from the IPCC Trust Fund (Decision IPCC-LX-10).

Increased inclusivity in the cycle is a priority within WGII. The WGII Bureau selected authors from a broad range of disciplines to ensure the coverage of the primary expertise needs with a range of views and professional backgrounds for the chapters and TGIA. This included both traditional academics as well as practitioners. Careful consideration was given to geographic representation while acknowledging the funding limits for authors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Indigenous knowledge holders were selected for roles across the report. Gender balance across the report was also prioritized and the selection process included an interim report to the IPCC Gender Action Team. The WGII Bureau also considered experts with and without IPCC experience to ensure a mix of authors with assessment experience and fresh perspectives.

The preparation of and expertise needs for the cross-chapter papers and the atlas were also considered during the selection of authors. The leads of the cross-chapter papers will be drawn from the thematic chapters, with cross-chapter paper authors being drawn from across the report.

In selecting REs, emphasis has been placed on selecting experts who have considerable international stature in their fields and/or who have previously acted in senior roles in previous IPCC assessments. This will bring the benefits of broad expertise and prior experience with the assessment process. It is anticipated that the considerable workload for REs in considering all the authors' responses to the comments received experienced in previous cycles is likely to increase in AR7. Key REs from the chapters will also be sought to act as REs on cross-chapter papers. As has

been the previous practice and in recognition of the considerable experience and expertise that WG Vice-Chairs bring to the IPCC, the WGII Vice-Chairs will form part of the RE selection.

The WGII Bureau selected 249 experts from 91 countries to serve as CLAs, LAs and REs on the WGII AR7. The tables below provide a summary overview of the numbers and percentages of experts nominated and selected as CLAs, LAs and REs for WGII AR7 across a range of IPCC criteria and with comparison to WGII AR6 nominations and selection.

	AR7 Nominations		AR7 Selection		AR6 Nominations		AR6 Selection	
Total	1541	100%	249	100%	1037	100%	261	100%
DC/EIT	782	51%	139	56%	498	48%	115	44%
Female	676	44%	129	52%	332	37%	107	41%
New*	1281	83%	163	65%	762	74%	139	53%

* Experts who have no previous experience as IPCC CLA, LA or RE

	AR7 Nominations		AR7 Selection		AR6 Nominations		AR6 Selection	
Africa	191	12%	44	18%	101	10%	25	10%
Asia	362	23%	32	13%	234	23%	42	16%
Europe	457	30%	57	23%	323	31%	82	31%
North America, Central America and the Caribbean	247	16%	51	20%	189	18%	57	22%
South America	153	10%	31	12%	77	7%	17	7%
South-West Pacific	131	9%	34	14%	113	11%	38	15%

Invitations from the WGII Bureau were extended to selected experts in the week of 7 July 2025. The final slate of CLAs, LAs and REs was submitted to the IPCC Secretariat for circulation to the IPCC Focal Points and posting on the IPCC website on 6 August 2025.

2.1.4 Treatment of Linkages to Other Working Groups

Many experts were nominated for roles in more than one WG contribution. This presented a challenge as well as an opportunity when developing WG author teams in parallel. Regular exchanges were held among the Co-Chairs and TSUs of the WGs as well as extensive discussions within WGs. In addition, detailed options have been considered for increasing coordination and collaboration between the WGs (e.g., inclusion of WGI and WGIII expertise in the WGII chapters, LAs selected in one WG serving as Contributing Authors in another WG, organization of a Joint First Lead Author Meeting).

Consideration was also given to the many experts nominated for the WGII AR7 who are currently serving in the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities. Some overlap is useful to support an update of new knowledge and to ensure that the WGI and WGIII knowledge in this report is transferred to WGII AR7. Therefore, the WGII AR7 includes a limited number of experts from the Special Report.

2.2 Chapter Scientists Programme

Acknowledging the key role of Chapter Scientists in the support of the chapter team and the important capacity building opportunity for early-career scientists from developing countries participating as Chapter Scientists, and recognizing the success of the Chapter Scientists programme that was developed for the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, the WGII Co-Chairs and TSU, with support from WGI and WGIII, explored options for the provision of funding for Chapter Scientists

from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for all CLAs from developing countries and countries with economies in transition and for all three Working Groups. A call for applications was coordinated by International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) External Activities Unit, together with the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), with funding from Wellcome Trust. At the time of the preparation of this Progress Report over 1300 applications had been received.

2.3 First Lead Author Meeting

2.3.1 pre-First Lead Author Meeting Activities

A series of coordinated activities were organized ahead of the First Lead Author Meeting. All calls and activities were organized at multiple times to accommodate time zone differences.

In September, a cross-Working Group webinar was held to introduce the selected CLAs, LAs and REs to the IPCC, its policies and procedures and the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report. A WGII webinar followed to welcome the WGII chapter teams to the WGII contribution to the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report and to provide initial information on the report production process and to provide an opportunity for Q&A. A second webinar is scheduled in late November ahead of the First Lead Author Meeting.

A first Coordinating Lead Author Meeting (CLAM) was also held in September, with additional CLAMs scheduled in October and November.

To offer a more informal opportunity for authors to ask questions and engage with the Co-Chairs, 'Coffee with Co-Chairs' sessions were organized for early October with another call organized for early-November.

To support the work of the chapter teams, the WGII TSU developed an Author Portal to provide a platform for chapter teams to work collaboratively on drafts, as well as providing authors with information and the resources developed in support of the drafting process, and a mechanism to support the Lead Author Meetings. A training was organized in early October to support onboarding of authors to the tools and platforms that will be used in the preparation of the WGII report.

To further support the work of the chapter teams, the WGII TSU is producing an Author Handbook as a resource for authors. The Author Handbook will provide relevant introductory and background information, guidance materials, user guides, and support tools into a single reference manual to be used throughout the assessment cycle. Periodic updates to the Handbook as well as the provision of additional information will be prepared ahead of each Lead Author Meeting.

Additional webinars and trainings will be organized after the First Lead Author Meeting to further support the chapter teams in the preparation of their chapter drafts.

2.3.2 First Lead Author Meeting Programme Planning

A Joint Working Group I / II / III First Lead Author Meeting will be held 1–5 December 2025 in Paris, France. The kind invitation of the Government of France is gratefully acknowledged.

Cross-Working Group preparations are currently underway to prepare the cross-Working Group elements. In parallel, the WGII Bureau is developing the programme for the WGII sessions. A cross-Working Group training on inclusivity as well as a dedicated WGII programme is planned, pending successful completion of the procurement process for the professional trainers that has been undertaken by the IPCC Secretariat.

3. IPCC Expert Meeting on Methodologies, Metrics, and Indicators for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation

Following the approval of the proposal for the Expert Meeting by the IPCC at its Sixty-second Session (Decision IPCC-LXII-4), the WGII Co-Chairs established a Scientific Steering Committee to lead the design, convening of and reporting of the Expert Meeting and to advise the WGII Bureau on the

selection of participants. The Scientific Steering Committee includes members of the WGII and WGI Bureau as well as external experts and is Chaired by WGII Vice-Chair, Adelle Thomas. Meetings of the Scientific Steering Committee were held in May and August. The next meeting will be held in late October.

The Expert Meeting will be held 3–5 March 2026 in Accra. The kind invitation of the Government of Ghana is gratefully acknowledged

4. IPCC Task Group on Data

WGII was actively engaged in the selection process for the IPCC Task Group on Data (TG-Data). A cross-WG process and timeline were developed by the WGI TSU, in collaboration with WGII and WGIII. The selection followed an interactive process within the WGII Bureau and across the IPCC Bureau.

5. SBSTA-62

WGII provided a number of contributions to the SBSTA Session in June 2025. Members of the WGII Bureau participated in the SBSTA-IPCC Side Event *Informing Climate Action: the Science and Cross-cutting Topics of the IPCC's Seventh Assessment Report*. In addition, and in follow-up to the COP29 decision inviting an update on the ongoing work of WGII, WGII prepared a special event with UNFCCC during a session on the Global Goal on Adaptation. Members of the WGII Bureau participated in and contributed to a range of other events and activities.