

Media Briefing, Monday, 27 January 2020, 08:00
University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal

IPCC holds Third Lead Author Meeting in Portugal for the Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) - Climate Change 2021: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

From 26 January to 1 February 2020, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is bringing together around 260 experts from more than 60 countries to Faro, Portugal, to discuss the development of the Working Group II contribution to Sixth Assessment Report. Experts at the meeting will be from IPCC Working Group II that assesses impacts, adaptation and vulnerability. The meeting is hosted by the Government of Portugal and the University of Algarve. The IPCC will hold a briefing with the press on 27 January 2020, 08:00 at the Gambelas Campus of the University of the Algarve, Faro.

The IPCC Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) - Climate Change 2021: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

260 authors from more than 60 countries

Scientific Leadership

IPCC Working Group II – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

With support from the Working Group II Technical Support Unit

Outline

Summary for Policymakers
Technical Summary

Chapter 1: Point of departure and key concepts

SECTION 1: Risks, adaptation and sustainability for systems impacted by climate change

Chapter 2: Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their services

Chapter 3: Ocean and coastal ecosystems and their services

Chapter 4: Water

Chapter 5: Food, fibre, and other ecosystem products

Chapter 6: Cities, settlements and key infrastructure

Chapter 7: Health, wellbeing and the changing structure of communities

Chapter 8: Poverty, livelihoods and sustainable development

SECTION 2: Regions

Common elements across all regional chapters

Chapter 9: Africa

Chapter 10: Asia

Chapter 11: Australasia

Chapter 12: Central and South America

Chapter 13: Europe

Chapter 14: North America

Chapter 15: Small Islands

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CROSS-CHAPTER PAPERS

- Biodiversity hotspots (land, coasts and oceans)
- Cities and settlements by the sea
- Deserts, semi-arid areas, and desertification
- Mediterranean region
- Mountains
- Polar regions
- Tropical forests

SECTION 3: Sustainable development pathways: integrating adaptation and mitigation

Chapter 16: Key risks across sectors and regions

Chapter 17: Decision-making options for managing risk

Chapter 18: Climate resilient development pathways

ANNEX I: Regional Atlas

ANNEX II: Glossary

ANNEX III: List of Acronyms

ANNEX IV: List of Contributors

ANNEX V: List of Reviewers

Timeline

6 – 10 September 2017, Montreal, Canada 46 th Session of the IPCC	Outline for AR6 Working Group II contribution agreed
15 September – 27 October 2017	Call for nominations of Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors
29 January – 4 February 2018	Selection of Authors
20–25 January 2019, Durban, South Africa	First Lead Authors Meeting
14–19 July 2019, Kathmandu, Nepal	Second Lead Authors Meeting
18 October – 13 December 2019	Expert Review of the First Order Draft
26 January – 1 February 2020, Faro, Portugal	Third Lead Authors Meeting
7 August – 2 October 2020	Expert and Government Review of the Second Order Draft
1–7 November 2020	Fourth Lead Authors Meeting
28 May – 23 July 2021	Final Government Distribution of the Final Draft and Final Government Review of the Summary for Policymakers
4 – 8 October 2021 [TBC]	IPCC approval of the Summary for Policymakers and acceptance of the underlying Report

What is the IPCC?

The IPCC provides regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and endorsed by the UN General Assembly, the IPCC provides governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC reports are also a key input into international climate change negotiations.

The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO. The IPCC currently has 195 members. Thousands of people from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC. For the assessment reports, IPCC scientists volunteer their time to assess the thousands of scientific papers published each year to provide a comprehensive summary of what is known about the drivers of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and how adaptation and mitigation can reduce those risks.

An open and transparent review by experts and governments around the world is an essential part of the IPCC process, to ensure an objective and complete assessment and to reflect a diverse range of views and expertise. Through its assessments, the IPCC identifies the strength of scientific agreement in different areas and indicates where further research is needed. The IPCC does not conduct its own research.

The IPCC is divided into three Working Groups and a Task Force. Working Group I deals with the Physical Science Basis of Climate Change, Working Group II with Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, and Working Group III with Mitigation of Climate Change. The main objective of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories is to develop and refine a methodology for the calculation and reporting of national greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

Alongside the Working Groups and the Task Force, other Task Groups may be established by the Panel for a set time period to consider a specific topic or question. One example is the decision at the 47th Session of the IPCC in Paris in March 2018 to establish a Task Group to improve gender balance and address gender-related issues within the IPCC.

What is the Sixth Assessment Cycle and the Sixth Assessment Report?

At its 41st Session in February 2015, the IPCC decided to produce a Sixth Assessment cycle. At its 42nd Session in October 2015 it elected a new Bureau that would oversee the work on this report and Special Reports to be produced in the assessment cycle. At its 46th Session in April 2016, it decided to produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).

The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was released in October 2018. The Methodology Report 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories was released in May 2019. The Special Report on Climate Change and Land was released on 8 August 2019 and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate on 25 September 2019.

The three Working Group contributions to the AR6 will be finalized in 2021 and the AR6 Synthesis Report will be completed in the first half of 2022.