

IPCC FACTSHEET

What is the IPCC?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

IPCC assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate related policies, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The assessments are policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive: they may present projections of future climate change based on different scenarios and the risks that climate change poses and discuss the implications of response options, but they do not tell policymakers what actions to take.

The IPCC embodies a unique opportunity to provide rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision-makers because of its scientific and intergovernmental nature. Participation in the IPCC is open to all member countries of the WMO and United Nations. It currently has 195 members. The Panel, made up of representatives of the member states, meets in Plenary Sessions to take major decisions. The IPCC Bureau, elected by member governments, provides guidance to the Panel on the scientific and technical aspects of the Panel's work and advises the Panel on related management and strategic issues¹.

IPCC assessments are written by hundreds of leading scientists who volunteer their time and expertise as Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors of the reports. They enlist hundreds of other experts as Contributing Authors to provide complementary expertise in specific areas. The authors may work with Chapter Scientists who cross-check between findings presented in different parts of the report, carry out additional fact-checking, and work on reference management among other things. Chapter Scientists are usually early career scientists.

IPCC reports undergo multiple rounds of drafting and review to ensure they are comprehensive and objective and produced in an open and transparent way. Thousands of other experts contribute to the reports by acting as reviewers, ensuring the reports reflect the full range of views in the scientific community. Teams of Review Editors provide a thorough monitoring mechanism for making sure that review comments are addressed. (For more details see *IPCC Factsheet – How does the IPCC select its authors?* and *IPCC Factsheet – How does the IPCC review process work?*).

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/TOR_Bureau.pdf

The IPCC works by assessing published literature (see *IPCC Factsheet – What literature does the IPCC assess?*). It does not conduct its own scientific research. For all findings, author teams use defined language to characterize their degree of certainty in assessment conclusions². IPCC assessments point to areas of well-established knowledge and of evolving understanding, as well as where multiple perspectives exist in the literature.

The authors producing the reports are currently grouped in three working groups – Working Group I: the Physical Science Basis; Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; and Working Group III: Mitigation of Climate Change – and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI). As part of the IPCC, a Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments (TG-Data) provides guidance to the Data Distribution Centre (DDC) on curation, traceability, stability, availability and transparency of data and scenarios related to the reports of the IPCC. TG-Data replaces the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) whose mandate was to facilitate the distribution and application of climate change-related data and scenarios.

IPCC Assessment Reports cover the full scientific, technical and socio-economic assessment of climate change, generally in four parts – one for each of the Working Groups plus a Synthesis Report. Special Reports are assessments of a specific issue. Methodology Reports provide practical guidelines for the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories under the UNFCCC.

² See *Guidance Note for Lead Authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Consistent Treatment of Uncertainties*: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2017/08/AR5_Uncertainty_Guidance_Note.pdf

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Timeline – highlights of IPCC history

- 1988**- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) establish the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- The United Nations General Assembly endorses the action of UNEP and the WMO in setting up the IPCC.
- 1990**- The IPCC publishes its First Assessment Report (Working Group I – [*Climate Change: The IPCC Scientific Assessment*](#); Working Group II – [*Climate Change: The IPCC Impacts Assessment*](#); Working Group III – [*Climate Change: The IPCC Response Strategies*](#)).
- The UN General Assembly notes the report findings and decides to initiate negotiations for a framework convention on climate change.
- 1992**- The IPCC publishes Supplementary Reports (Working Group I – [*Climate Change 1992: The Supplementary Report to the IPCC Scientific Assessment*](#); Working Group II – [*Climate Change 1992: The Supplementary Report to the IPCC Impacts Assessment*](#); [*Climate Change: The IPCC 1990 and 1992 Assessments*](#)).
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) opens for signature at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.
- 1995**- The IPCC publishes its Second Assessment Report (Working Group I – [*Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change*](#); Working Group II – [*Climate Change 1995: Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation of Climate Change: Scientific-Technical Analyses*](#); Working Group III – [*Climate Change 1995: Economic and Social Dimensions of Climate Change*](#); [*IPCC Second Assessment: Climate Change 1995*](#) (includes Synthesis Report)).
- 1996**- The IPCC issues the [*Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*](#).
- 1997**- The UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol is adopted. It comes into force in 2005.
- 1998**- The IPCC sets up the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) to oversee the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme. Since 1999 the Task Force has been supported by the Government of Japan.
- 2000**- The IPCC issues the [*Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*](#).
- 2001**- The IPCC publishes its Third Assessment Report (Working Group I – [*Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis*](#); Working Group II – [*Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*](#); Working Group III – [*Climate Change 2001: Mitigation*](#); [*Climate Change 2001: Synthesis Report*](#)).
- 2003**- The IPCC issues the [*Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*](#).
- 2006**- The IPCC issues the [*2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*](#).
- 2007**- The IPCC publishes its Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) (Working Group I – [*Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis*](#); Working Group II – [*Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*](#); Working Group III – [*Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change*](#); [*Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report*](#)).

- 2007-** The IPCC shares the Nobel Peace Prize which is awarded for its “efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge of man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change”.
- 2010-** The IPCC starts a review of its processes and procedures, completed in 2012, based on recommendations from the InterAcademy Council.
- 2013 -** The IPCC approves *[Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis](#)*, the Working Group I contribution to AR5
- The IPCC approves two Methodology Reports: the *[2013 Supplement to 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands](#)* (Wetlands Supplement) and the *[2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidelines Arising from the Kyoto Protocol](#)* (KP Supplement).
- 2014-** The IPCC approves *[Climate Change 2014: Impacts Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)* and *[Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change](#)*, the Working Group II and Working Group III contributions to AR5. The Fifth Assessment Report was completed in 2014 with the *[Synthesis Report](#)*.
- 2017-** The IPCC approves the outlines of the Working Group contributions to the Sixth Assessment Report.
- 2018-** The IPCC approves *[Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty](#)*.
- 2019-** The IPCC approves the *[2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories](#)*.
- The IPCC approves *[Climate Change and Land, an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems](#)*.
 - The IPCC approves the *[Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate](#)*.
- 2020-** The IPCC approves the outline of the Synthesis Report to the Sixth Assessment Report to be finalized in 2022.
- 2021-** The IPCC approves Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, the Working Group 1 contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (TBC).
- 2022-** The IPCC to approve Climate Change 2022: Impacts Adaptation and Vulnerability and Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change, the Working Group II and Working Group III contributions to the Sixth Assessment Report. The IPCC to approve the Synthesis Report to the Sixth Assessment Report. (TBC).

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How does the IPCC select its authors?

The role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to the understanding of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Hundreds of leading experts in the different areas covered by IPCC reports volunteer their time and expertise as Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors to produce these assessments. Many hundreds more are involved in drafting specific contributions as Contributing Authors and commenting on chapters as Expert Reviewers¹.

Following a call to governments and IPCC observer organisations for nominations and the submission of detailed CVs, authors are selected on the basis of their expertise. The composition of author teams aims to reflect a range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views and backgrounds. A comprehensive assessment requires author teams to include a mix of authors from different regions and from developed and developing countries to ensure that reports are not biased towards the perspective of any one country or group of countries and that questions of importance to particular regions are not overlooked.

The IPCC also seeks a balance of men and women, as well as between those experienced with working on IPCC reports and those new to the process, including younger scientists. Author teams may also include experts from industry and from non-profit organizations who bring a valuable perspective to the assessment.

Chapter teams comprise Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors². The Bureau of the relevant IPCC Working Group or Task Force selects scientists for these roles from nominations of experts from their respective countries by IPCC member governments and observer organizations or from other experts known through their publications and work.

Experts who are nominated by governments and observer organizations but not selected are encouraged to contribute to the report as Expert Reviewers. (See *IPCC Factsheet – How does the IPCC review process work?*)

¹ The process for selecting authors is described in sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 of **Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports:**

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>

² The roles of the different categories of authors are described in Annex 1 to **Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports:**

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>

For the Fifth Assessment Report a total of 831 experts were originally selected as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors from 3,598 nominations across the three Working Groups (including some experts nominated for more than one Working Group). For the Sixth Assessment Report, 743 experts were selected as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors from about 2,827 nominations. Author numbers may change slightly over the course of an assessment, for instance with the addition of an author with additional expertise or with a resignation due to health or time conflicts.

Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors have collective responsibility for the contents of a chapter. They may enlist other experts as Contributing Authors to assist with their work. Contributing Authors, who number many hundreds, provide specific knowledge or expertise in a given area, and help ensure that the full range of views held in the scientific community is reflected in the report.

Balanced assessment of the full range of scientific views, protected from the influence of special interests, is supported through the method of author team selection, multiple rounds of review of each report, and IPCC's Conflict of Interest Policy³.

³ The IPCC Conflict of Interest Policy is here: <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/ipcc-conflict-of-interest-2016.pdf>

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What literature does the IPCC assess?

The Assessment Reports and Special Reports produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) cover a wide range of disciplines in fulfilling the IPCC's mandate of assessing scientific, technological and socio-economic information in order to provide policymakers with a clear view of the current state of scientific knowledge relevant to climate change.

The IPCC does not conduct its own research, run models or make measurements of climate or weather phenomena. Its role is to assess the scientific, technical and socio-economic literature relevant to understanding climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. Author teams critically assess all such information from any source that is to be included in the report¹.

Author teams use calibrated uncertainty language to express a level of confidence in findings based on the strength of the scientific and technical evidence and the level of agreement in the scientific, technical and socio-economic literature².

At the beginning of the assessment process, each IPCC Working Group sets cut-off dates by which time literature has to be accepted for publication by scientific journals, if it is to be included in the current assessment. Cut-off dates ensure the assessment is as up to date as is practical while ensuring that author teams have sufficient time to fully evaluate all literature included in the assessment. For the Sixth Assessment Report the cut-off dates were set so that literature has to be accepted for publication approximately one-three months before completion of the final draft.

Like other scientific publications, IPCC reports refer to cited material in the text with the full citations listed at the end of the relevant chapter so that readers can check the original sources. Copies of material that is cited in IPCC report drafts but not widely available are made available to reviewers upon request during the review period.

In the assessment process, emphasis is placed on the evaluation of all cited literature and of its sources. Contributions to IPCC reports take full advantage of peer-reviewed³ and internationally

¹ The procedures for dealing with scientific literature are described in Annex 2 (page 17) to **Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports**:
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² See *Guidance Note for Lead Authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Consistent Treatment of Uncertainties*:
<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/05/uncertainty-guidance-note.pdf>

³ Peer review is the process by which scientists with relevant expertise critically evaluate the methods and conclusions of primary research papers or the balance and thoroughness of reviews and reports.

available literature. Sources other than scientific journals also provide crucial information for a comprehensive assessment. Examples include reports from governments, industry and research institutions, international and other organizations, and conference proceedings. Information about certain experiences and practices in mitigation and adaptation activities in particular may be found in sources other than traditional scientific and technical journals. Such materials may utilize a wide range of quality-assurance mechanisms, including but not limited to formal peer review. Author teams using literature of this kind have a special responsibility to ensure its quality and validity.

The number of sources cited in the Sixth Assessment Report will total many thousands. This is an indication of the extensive literature base on which IPCC reports and their conclusions are built.

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How does the IPCC review process work?

The IPCC is committed to preparing reports that aim for the highest standards of scientific excellence, balance, and clarity. Multiple stages of review are an essential part of the IPCC process to ensure a comprehensive, objective and transparent assessment of the current state of knowledge of the science related to climate change¹. [Expert Reviewers](#) and governments are invited at different stages to comment on the scientific, technical and socio-economic assessment and the overall balance of the drafts. The review process includes wide participation, with hundreds of reviewers critiquing the accuracy and completeness of the scientific assessment contained in the drafts.

Assessment Reports and Special Reports are prepared by chapter teams of authors and Review Editors. (See *IPCC Factsheet – How does the IPCC select its authors?*) The Review Editors ensure that all substantive comments received during review are given appropriate consideration by the author teams and ensure that genuine diversity in perspectives in the literature is reflected adequately in the report.

The first draft of a report is prepared by the authors based on scientific, technical and socio-economic literature in scientific journals and other relevant publications. (See *IPCC Factsheet – What literature does the IPCC assess?*) This First Order Draft is reviewed by experts. Every interested expert is encouraged to submit comments. Working Groups, members of the author teams, governments, IPCC observer organizations, and other organizations can all encourage experts to register as reviewers, facilitating the participation of experts encompassing as wide a range of views, expertise and geographical representation as possible. For the Fifth Assessment Report, experts could register as reviewers through a process of self-declaration of expertise.

After the expert review of the First Order Draft, author teams prepare a Second Order Draft of the report, taking into account the review comments received; a first draft of the report's Summary for Policymakers (SPM) is also prepared. These are subject to simultaneous review by experts and governments. Experts who registered for the review of the First Order Draft of the report are automatically registered for this round of review; further experts may register at this stage.

Following receipt of the review comments, author teams then prepare final drafts of the full report and SPM, taking into account review comments received. The final draft of the report is distributed to governments for a final round of written comments on the SPM, before governments meet in plenary session to approve the SPM line by line and accept the underlying report. (See *IPCC Factsheet – How does the IPCC approve reports?*)

¹ The review process is described in sections 4.2, 4.3.4, 4.4 and 4.6 of **Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work**, the **Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports**:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>

All comments submitted through this review process are addressed by authors, and a written response is provided to each comment on the First Order and Second Order Drafts for later publication.

There are special procedures for the review of the Synthesis Report and its SPM, which undergo one round of simultaneous expert and government review. After revision the Synthesis Report and SPM are sent to governments and IPCC observer organizations for consideration before governments meet in Plenary Session to approve the SPM and adopt the Synthesis Report.

During the review period, access to the First Order and Second Order Drafts is provided to those who register as Expert Reviewers on condition that the drafts are not cited, quoted or distributed. The drafts are not made public before the final document is approved because they are works in progress and may not yet meet IPCC quality and accuracy standards. Draft text will necessarily change as review comments are addressed and the latest literature is assessed. The IPCC sets cut-off dates for literature to be accepted for publication by scientific journals, if it is to be included in the current assessment: for the Sixth Assessment Report, literature must be accepted for publication approximately one-three months before completion of the final draft. To assure transparency, First and Second Order Drafts are made publicly available, along with the reviewer comments and the responses of the author teams to all comments, when the final reports are published.

Number of review comments on Sixth Assessment Report

Number of comments

Working Group I	First Order Draft	23,462
	Second Order Draft	51,387
Working Group II	First Order Draft	16,348
	Second Order Draft	40,293
Working Group III	First Order Draft	21,703
	Second Order Draft	32,665
Synthesis Report	First Order Draft	TBD
Total		TBD

Note: The number of comments for the Second Order Drafts include comments from experts and governments.

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What is an Expert Reviewer of IPCC reports?

Review in the IPCC process

“**Review** is an essential part of the **IPCC process**. Since the IPCC is an intergovernmental body, review of **IPCC documents** should involve both peer review by **experts** and review by **governments**.”¹

Every **IPCC report** goes through several drafts and reviews to ensure it is as robust, comprehensive and balanced as possible.

The review process is critical for ensuring the assessment is scientifically rigorous, exhaustive, objective and transparent; broad participation in the **IPCC review process** is one of the core strengths of **IPCC assessments**.

The **First-Order Draft** is open to review by experts; the **Second-Order Draft** is reviewed by governments and experts; and governments send comments on the **Summary for Policymakers**, and the **Overview Chapter** in the case of a Methodology Report, during the Final Government Distribution. In the case of a **Synthesis Report** draft, it undergoes a single simultaneous government and expert review; followed by a government review of the final draft through the Final Government Distribution.

All review comments submitted by experts or governments are addressed by the authors. The comments and the author responses, together with the drafts, are published after the report is finalized.

How do experts become reviewers of IPCC reports?

Experts are invited to register for the review through the website of the **IPCC Working Group** or **Task Force** responsible for the report.

Because the aim of the expert review is to get the widest possible participation and broadest possible expertise, those who register are accepted unless they fail to demonstrate any relevant qualification.

Sometimes the Working Group or Task Force Bureau concerned will also invite specific individuals to register to take part in the expert review, for instance if they have a particular area of expertise to contribute. This does not give them more legitimacy than any other expert reviewer.

¹ [Principles Governing IPCC Work](#), paragraph 3





The role of expert reviewers of IPCC reports

Expert reviewers may submit comments on one sentence or section of a report, or a whole chapter of the full report. They may consider scientific substance or the structure of the report. Often they will point out a published paper that the report authors may not have included in their assessment, but which could be relevant.

Expert reviewers agree not to cite, quote or distribute the draft, because at this stage the report is still a work in progress and has not yet been formally considered by the IPCC. They must submit their comments through the IPCC website.

Expert reviewers who submit comments are credited by name in the final report for their contribution. Such comments are a vital contribution to the quality of the assessment. But because the review is essentially open to all through a self-declaration of expertise, it follows that having been a registered expert reviewer does not by itself serve as a qualification of the expert or support their credibility in a different context.

For more information on this topic, please see our [Factsheet](#) on the IPCC review process.

Follow the IPCC on  @ipcc ,  @ipcc_ch ,  @ipcc ,  @ipcc and send questions to ipcc-media@wmo.int

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How does the IPCC approve reports?

IPCC reports are developed through multiple rounds of drafting and review. (See *IPCC Factsheet – How does the IPCC review process work?*) As the culmination of a report's development, IPCC member governments endorse the report. The endorsement process is based on a dialogue between those who will use the report – the governments – and those who write it – the scientists. Endorsement by governments acknowledges that the report is a definitive assessment that has been developed following the IPCC's defined procedures, underpinning the report's authority. The IPCC has different levels of endorsement, including "approval", "adoption" and "acceptance"¹.

"Approval" is the process used for IPCC Summaries for Policymakers (SPMs). Approval signifies that the material has been subject to detailed, line-by-line discussion, leading to agreement among the participating IPCC member countries, in consultation with the scientists responsible for drafting the report. This process strengthens the SPM by ensuring that SPM statements are as direct, clear and unambiguous as possible in summarizing the material contained in the corresponding Working Group Assessment Report or Special Report. Participation of assessment authors ensures that any changes to the SPM are consistent with the underlying report and are scientifically robust.

"Adoption" is the process used for IPCC Synthesis Reports. Adoption is a section-by-section discussion leading to agreement among participating governments in consultation with the authors. This process ensures that the Synthesis Report effectively integrates material from the underlying Working Group Assessment Reports and Special Reports. The SPM of a Synthesis Report is approved line by line, as described above.

"Acceptance" is the process used for the full underlying report in a Working Group Assessment Report or a Special Report after its SPM has been approved. Acceptance by governments signifies that the Technical Summary and chapters of the underlying report present a comprehensive, objective and balanced view of the subject matter. Acceptance does not involve line-by-line discussion and consultation between the scientists and the governments. Changes (other than grammatical or minor editorial changes) after acceptance are limited to those necessary to ensure consistency with the Summary for Policymakers, and are identified in writing after SPM approval.

¹ The approval, adoption and acceptance process is described in sections 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 of Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports: <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>

Assessment Reports and Special Reports are approved and accepted by the responsible Working Group, with the government representatives to the Panel coming together in a Plenary Session of the Working Group. (For a description of the Working Groups see *IPCC Factsheet – What is the IPCC?*)

For an SPM approved by a Working Group to be endorsed as an IPCC Report, it must also be accepted at a Session of the Panel. Because the Working Group approval process is open to all governments, Working Group approval of an SPM means that the Panel cannot change it. However, it is necessary for the Panel to review the Report at a Session, note any substantial disagreements, and formally accept it.

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How does the IPCC deal with alleged errors?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has clear procedures for investigating, and if necessary, correcting alleged errors in its published reports.

The [IPCC Protocol for Addressing Possible Errors in IPCC Assessment Reports, Synthesis Reports, Special Reports or Methodology Reports](#), the “Error Protocol”, is used to correct errors of fact or accuracy that could have been avoided in the context of the information available at the time the report was written. It cannot be used to make changes that reflect new knowledge or scientific information that became available only after the literature cut-off date for the report in question. (See *IPCC Factsheet – What literature does the IPCC assess?*) It cannot be used to propose the consideration of additional sources not cited in the existing assessment, unless directly relevant to an error of fact or accuracy. It must also not be invoked to reflect a new interpretation of knowledge or scientific information presented in the assessment.

Reports of alleged errors are sent to the IPCC Secretariat (see the [Error Protocol](#) for details). The Secretariat maintains an internal error tracking system.

The precise steps to be followed vary according to the category of publication in which the alleged error occurs, e.g. a Summary for Policymakers, Technical Summary or Chapter in an Assessment Report or Special Report; a Synthesis Report; or an Overview Chapter in a Methodology Report. Full details about the handling of alleged errors are given in the Error Protocol.

Consensus decisions on whether action is necessary are taken by the current Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the relevant Working Group or Task Force, or by the IPCC Chairman and the IPCC Bureau if the alleged error is in a Synthesis Report. The relevant Coordinating Lead Authors of the report containing the alleged error are involved as appropriate, as are the previous Co-Chairs and previous IPCC Chairman for alleged errors regarding previous assessment cycles.

In cases where consensus cannot be reached on whether action is warranted, the IPCC Chair appoints an Independent Review Committee consisting of at least three experts not involved in drafting the original material to evaluate the alleged error.

If it is agreed that action is necessary, errata are posted on the IPCC and Working Group or Task Force websites after conclusion of the process. A short explanatory statement about the error may also be posted. The claimant is informed by the IPCC Secretariat at the conclusion of the process.

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