

Q&A Report

Mini e-course: 'How to review IPCC Assessment Reports - webinars and guidance for climate experts: Webinar 1: How does the IPCC work?

Question

No.	Question	Answer(s)	Additional Answers
1	IPCC don't pay for research, what can researchers do to get financing for their activities?	live answered	
2	The reports are produced in English, which is logical. The translations are available in other "major" languages only several months later, which sounds incredible. How can individuals contribute to speeding up the process?	live answered	
3	How many experts are from Africa and do they take the same stance as countries with the African Union position on the IPCC?	live answered	
4	As an early career researcher, I aspire to be a contributor. Can you elaborate more on the criteria for selecting authors. Also, what is the basic requirement to become an expert reviewer?	live answered	
5	How to integrate the group?	We are sorry, the question is not clear to us. May we invite you to specify your question a bit more and mail to info@futureclimateafrica.org , we will try to answer you then by email.	
6	Quelles sont les sources de financement de IPCC?	live answered	
7	My query to Jean Pascal, could you please explain in simple words, IPCC is policy relevant not policy prescriptive?	live answered	
8	Thank you for considering me in this webinar. How do you manage influence of biased reviewing as there are large number of reviewers?	The IPCC authors will consider each comment and judge its validity on its scientific quality, and policy relevance. Strong opinions based on a (political) biases will be ignored. However, biases may be difficult to completely avoid. The best way to avoid biases is to have more review comments from experts with a different background on the same statement and find a balance in the wording	
9	Can a PhD student be a reviewer of the AR6 WGII? If so, how and when to register as a perspective reviewer? Thanks.	Yes absolutely. For registering as a (prospective) reviewer go to https://apps.ipcc.ch/comments/ar6wg2/fod/register.php . You have to self-declare your areas of expertise. the chapters will be available as of 18 October	
10	One of the challenges is that several types of data will refer to a common point e.g. farm or llocal area. This could affect agriculture and trade. The drive for transparency through supply chains as example. What are plans for a common identification framework? E.g. the Global Location Number from the global standards body, GS1.	Apologies, I dont know the answer to that. The best way to find out how these data are handled is to check the draft texts of the WG II draft report by becoming an Expert Reviewer. If still unclear you may wish to contact an author who could help you with this question. You could contact in that case the TSU of Working Group II, through their contact page on https://www.ipcc.ch/working-group/wg2/	
11	Combien d'employes compte IPCC actuellement? Ou sont-ils localises? Et quels sont leurs principaux domaines de competences?	Les seuls employés rémunérés sont les 18 membres du personnel du secrétariat central à Genève, Suisse, voir https://www.ipcc.ch/secretariat/ . Les coprésidents et secrétariats de Groupes de Travaux (TSUs) sont généralement payés par le pays /gouvernement dans lequel ils se trouvent, 10-15 employés chacun.Les auteurs du GIEC ne sont pas payés par le GIEC, ils le font à leurs propres frais ou à ceux de leurs universités et institutions. Les auteurs sont entre autres sélectionnés en fonction de leur expertise, voir https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/04/FS_select_authors_fr-1.pdf	
12	To Pascal: what is the nature of the content for which some countries can request to be changed or where parties might not have consensus? Please give an example. Asnwer:	Countries can ask for a better reflection of the content of the undelying report in the SPM. For example, Tuvalu obtained the following footnote in the AR7 WGIII SPM in 2007; "Tuvalu noted difficulties with the reference to "low costs" as Chapter 9, page 15 of the WGIII report states that: "the cost of forest mitigation projects rise significantly when opportunity costs of land are taken into account". This footnote was attached to the statement "Forest-related mitigation activities can considerably reduce emissions from sources and increase CO2 removals by sinks at low costs, ...".	
13	How the authors are selected ? What is the difference between the authors and the experts ?	Before the start of each assessment , authors are nominated by governments and international organisations. The Working Group Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs select the authors based on the needed expertise for each chapter, geographical balance, gender balance, and age balance. For more info please check https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/FS_select_authors.pdf	
14	Considering that LDCs will be the most affected communities, please can both Leo and Jean Pascal highlight the importance for climate experts from developing countries to include their review comments?	live answered	
15	What is the OA/QC protocol for choosing scientific literature in order to eliminate misleading reports?	There is no strict QA/QC protocol for that. But priority is given to articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Also 'grey' literature and reports including from large institutions as World Bank, IEA, UN Environment or Research organisations which have been thoroughly reviewed, can be assessed. It is up to the authors to judge the scientific quality and policy relevance of these sources. More about this in Webinar 2, Tuesday 22 October	
16	To Leo Meyer, How do you ensure a balanced authorship, in the event there are two conflicting perspectives concerning a given issue? you mentioned a review team is meant to filter out,which is based on consensus.	live answered	
17	Can an organisation engage the IPCC volunteers to undertake a research, produce or review a document??	That will be up to that organisation to decide	
18	Did you receive comments from West Africa Sahel region?	I cannot give you specific numbers but as far as we know: in the past there have been little expert review comments on draft IPCC reports from the West Sahel region	

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19	What will happen if authors refuse to endorse a proposal for change on a particular text?	The authors have to consider each and every review comment. Authors may reject a comment if they decide that that comment is not valid or not relevant. They have to deliver an explanation why a certain comment is rejected, and the Review Editors have to check if these explanations are appropriate. The author responses to each review comment will become public and online once the report is published.	
20	Thanks for the very useful information! There is a space for legal specialists (Scientist lawyers) to becoming reviewers? Or this is only a possibility for other scientists?	For becoming an Expert Reviewer, any background will do as long you feel that you have relevant expertise on one ore more of the subjects covered in the draft report. You will have self-declare your expertise. Legal expertise may be welcome. What you could do: please register as an Expert reviewer, and once the draft report is available (as of 18 October) search for issues with legal dimensions that would meet your expertise and interest. If you are aware of relevant additional literature on legal matters, please notify the authors in your comments and provide the references. Dont worry in case you would not have any comments after all, no problem, nobody will come after you if you don't submit any comments after all! for registration as an IPCC Expert Reviewer for the First Order Draft of the WG II report, please click https://apps.ipcc.ch/comments/ar6wg2/fod/register.php . More on how to review in Webinar nr 2.	
21	Is there any plans in the IPCC to create the speedy peer review for climate change scientific reports to help the new scientists	The IPCC has no authority about the speed of reviews of other scientific reports than its own. With regard to early career scientists, these are welcome to follow our mini course.	
22	IPCC assessment reports are to be disclosed to the governments of developing countries	Yes all IPCC reports are open source reports - available on the web and available to everyone, you can find them on https://www.ipcc.ch/ under 'reports'	
23	Are Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), specifically African Islands, differentiated in the regional analysis? Research and data on SIDS (both on Adaptation and Mitigation) are strong enough compared to mainland?"	Re the first question: yes Ch 15 of the WG II report will be on small islands. Re your second question: we cannot answer that, may we recommend you to register as an Expert Reviewer and check Ch 15	
24	I wish to undersand how you consider the relevance of reviewer's comments and what is required to integrate the comments in the Second Order Draft.	IPCC authors have to consider each comment and respond to it. the comments and responses will become available online after publication of the report. Authors decide how comments are taken into account when writing the Second Order Draft.	
25	Considering that climate change is increasingly manifesting social and moral dimensions, how does IPCC consider and incorporate views from:	see below	
26	Considering that climate change is increasingly manifesting social and moral dimensions, if at all, how does IPCC consider and incorporate views from: 1) Indigenous Science, 2) Faith science?"	In the regional chapters of the WG II report, the authors will address cultural and psychological dimensions (values, attitudes, ethical aspects, identity, behaviours, and different types of knowledge systems) . You may wish to check as an Expert Reviewer to what extent Indigenous Science and Faith science is addressed. If you would know relevant scientific literature on the subject to mentioned please bring that to the attention of the authors	
27	There are instances where policies are hardly implemented on the ground. Does the IPCC reporting address that? If so, how?	IPCC can only address what is published in scientific literature. The WG II report addresses adaptation policies in their sectoral chapters. If you would be aware of literature describing accepted (governmental) policies that are not implemented, and if that literature is not referred to, please notify the authors by submitting review comments to the relevant sections	
28	Quelle est la contribution des communication climat	Apologies but the question is not clear to us. May we suggest you send an email to info@futureclimateafrica with a more specific question? We will try to find the answer!	
29	¿Cómo creen que se podrá difundir más los reportes del IPCC en la comunidad universitaria de los países en desarrollo?	live answered	El IPCC esta haciendo esfuerzos para hacer talleres regionales en conjunto con los estados miembros para diseminar mas los reportes. Todo el material del IPCC esta disponible en la web. Los resúmenes para políticas estan en varios idiomas. Se puede contactar con los autores de tu país para que puedan ayudar a diseminar mas y participar en los eventos.
30	Is IPCC consider Trainers of Trainers for reviewers to allow more capacity to developing countries to participate as reviewers?	As capacity building is not in the mandate of the IPCC , there are no specific actions by the IPCC to have more trainers in reviewing their reports. However, the IPCC has some documentation with guidance for reviewers, also available on the FCFA website under 'useful links'. More in Webinar 2.	
31	Does IPCC have enough observational data in each country/regions to report the reality of climate change in such areas?	IPCC assessments report extensively about observations of climate change and its impacts on regional levels (not at specific country levels) , based on numerous data and measurements reported in the scientific literature. The question is of course, what is 'enough' - specific data on local levels are not always available, but science is progressing and more observational data become available each year.	
32	Je voulais dire auparavant, quel est le rôle des communications nationales climat dans les différents rapports IPCC?	Les communications nationales peuvent être utilisées comme source d'information par les auteurs des rapports du GIEC si l'information pertinente n'est pas déjà disponible dans une revue à comité de lecture. Comme toute source provenant de la "littérature grise", les auteurs doivent cependant exercer une prudence particulière lorsqu'ils utilisent ces sources d'information.	

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33	Will this group be having any webinar on Policy brief formulation any time soon?	We are sorry, we do not deliver such a course. NB 'Policy briefs' in the sense of recommendations to governments are not in the mandate of the IPCC. IPCC can provide policy options for adaptation and mitigation, and the authors do assess scientific literature on climate policy analysis.	
34	Would experts be limited to participating (contribution/review) be in only one stream or can individuals contribute/review multiple streams/chapters/Group reports?	An Expert Reviewer has to register for each specific review again. But once registered to a First Order or Second Order Draft review one has access to all chapters of that review. Moreover, Expert Reviewers that have submitted review comments on the First Order Draft of one of the reports will receive an invitation by the IPCC for the review of the Second Order Draft	
35	For Civil Society organizations pushing for more climate action in countries where Governments are still not in tune with below 1.5 degree targets, which channel would you recommend to highlight IPCC's publications not only for Governments and the Private Sector, but also for the general public?	I would recommend the Summary for Policymakers of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees, see https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_HR.pdf . However this may not be the easiest source for the general public. Outside the IPCC you may find other helpful resources for this subject such as the yearly UNEP- emission GAP reports https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2018 , and the Climate Action Tracker, https://climateactiontracker.org/ , please note these are NOT IPCC reports!	
36	Para organizaciones de la sociedad civil enfocadas en acción climática en países donde los gobiernos parecen todavía no estar en línea con objetivos en línea para estar debajo de 1.5°C, ¿qué canal recomendaría para hacer más visibles los reportes del IPCC no sólo para Gobiernos y Sector Privado, pero también para el público en general?	Creo es la misma pregunta que antes en Inglés. Recomendaría el Resumen para responsables de políticas del Informe especial sobre el calentamiento global de 1.5 grados, consulte https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_HR.pdf . Sin embargo, esta puede no ser la fuente más fácil para el público en general. Fuera del IPCC, puede encontrar recursos útiles para este tema, como los informes anuales de GAP de emisiones del PNUMA, mire https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2018 , y el Climate Action Tracker, https://climateactiontracker.org/ . ¡Tenga en cuenta que estos NO son informes del IPCC!	