

Q&A Report

Topic

Mini e-course 'How to review IPCC Assessment Reports: webinars and guidance for climate experts - Webinar 2: How to Conduct an IPCC Review

Question Details

#	Question	Answer(s)
1	Where on the website can I find a recording of this webinar and the previous IPCC webinar?	Hello. The recording of this webinar will be posted on the FCFA website within the next day or so. We will notify all participants once it is available online. The recording of the previous webinar and presentations are available via this link https://futureclimateafrica.org/news/mini-e-course-how-to-review-ipcc-assessment-reports-webinars-and-guidance-for-climate-experts/
2	To Dr. Leo Meyer: What is the minimum number of chapters in a report an expert reviewer can review?	live answered
3	Can you use literature published by Think Tanks?	live answered
4	How is judgement made to include additional literature (either grey or peer reviewed articles) suggested by reviewers in a report?	live answered
5	Is there a deadline (number of days/weeks) given for reviewing a paper?	live answered
6	How many comments do reviewers generally leave?	That varies: in the case of Expert Reviewers the number of comments may vary from one comment to 20 or more. Some comments are just one line, other comments may be lengthy. Sometimes a group of climate experts work together and have one central person who uploads the combined comments. During the review of the Second Order draft, governments can submit comments as well. Some governments collect a lot of comments through their experts so that may add up to dozens. As explained during the course, the quantity is fully up to the Expert Reviewer and the area of his/her expertise.
7	How do reviewers know the outcome of the review conducted? Is there a way to follow up on this?	live answered
8	Los revisores deben ser climat�logos, o pueden ser tambi�n de ciencias sociales? Los revisores deben participar necesariamente en las revisiones de los DOS (primero y segundo) œœdrafs�, o cada revisor puede escoger si revisa solo uno de los borradores o los dos?	live answered
9	Do review comments need to be supported by literature reference?	live answered
10	Can I site my own piece of published work as source to justify comments I make on the report?	live answered
11	Please can you explain clearly how to review effectively without going through the whole lines of the chapters.	May we recommend the following: 1) read the Executive summary of a chapter that is of interest to you. find the section(s) and /or paragraph(s) in which you are interested and matches your expertise, and read it carefully. Normally you will find a bold printed statement with a more detailed explanation below it. Sometimes, in the text you will read references to other parts of the report: read those as well. You may want to check the literature references. Please consult the presentations and the guidance note for first-time reviewers on the FCFA website (Google: FCFA mini course IPCC review) for more information. If you have more questions please write to info@futureclimateafrica.org .

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12	I will restructure the first question to Leo. What is the max number of chapters one is allowed to review!????	live answered
13	Comment vérifier la prise en compte de ses commentaires ?	Il y a 2 façons: (1) s'inscrire à la relecture du 'Second Order Draft' du rapport dévaluation du WG II (ce sera possible début août 2020) et vérifier si le texte (ou la figure ou le tableau) a bien été amendé suite à vos commentaires. Un auteur combine souvent plusieurs commentaires de révision et réordonnement de textes. Mais il est parfois impossible d'identifier précisément ce qui s'est passé avec votre commentaire à ce stade. (2) Après la publication du rapport (pour le Groupe de travail II, c'est prévu pour la fin de 2021), le GIEC mettra en ligne tous les commentaires des relecteurs et les réponses des auteurs.
14	After requesting for access to closed peer-reviewed articles (from UNEP), how quick can I receive feedback?	That should take no more than 2 days - we tested it a year ago. Hopefully that is still the case!
15	Is it still time to join the on going review? If so how to quickly proceed?	live answered
16	Is there a chance to discuss the comment with TSU, LA or CLA in case it's rejected? in order to know the reason of rejection !!	live answered
17	When is the second review period?	The Second Order Draft (SOD) of the WG II report will be reviewed by Experts and Governments from 7 August - 2 October 2020. In case you have submitted comments to the First Order Draft (before 13 December midnight CET) you should receive an invitation (I assume early August) from the IPCC to take part in SOD review as an Expert Reviewer as well.
18	How can I maximize my input in reviewing with limited references specially in Africa	live answered
19	Are there professionals whose role it is to review the document as a whole following the first order and second order draft? (i.e. before taking the document to plenary)	live answered
20	Will reviewers to first order draft be notified when the second order draft is opened? Or one has to keep following it?	In case you have submitted comments to the First Order Draft of the WG II report (before 13 December midnight CET) you should receive an invitation (I assume early August) from the IPCC to take part as an Expert Reviewer in the Second Order Draft of the WG II report. That draft will be reviewed by Experts and Governments from 7 August - 2 October 2020.
21	Les sources non accessibles en lignes sont-elles valables (articles publiés dans des revues ou journaux) qui ne sont pas mis en ligne ?	Ces sources ne sont pas exclues mais il est alors conseillé d'envoyer cet article ou rapport à la TSU du groupe de travail II (adresse électronique address_tsu@ipcc-wg2.awi.de), qui peut relayer cette source aux auteurs. Le document doit être envoyé sous forme électronique. S'il s'agit d'une copie papier, vous devez d'abord la passer au scanner. Les auteurs devront juger si cette source est de qualité et de pertinence suffisantes pour être prise en compte dans leur évaluation.

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22	It is recommended that reviewers should not pay attention to typo errors; is it not useful at all to point them out if one comes across such mistakes	Correct. This was mentioned during the webinar. The TSU will take care of the copy-editing, spelling checks and layout details before publication.
23	The question from Yabi(in French) is : How can you verify that your comments have been considered???	There are 2 ways: (1) register for the Second Order Draft as an Expert reviewer of the WG II report (will be possible early August 2020) and check what has happened with the text (or figure or table). However, authors often combine several review comments and re-order texts, add and delete material it is not always possible to identify what happened precisely with your comment at that stage. But after publication of the report (WG II is expected end 2021), the IPCC will put online all review comments and its author responses.
24	What are the main next step for doing the review	live answered
25	Translation of the french question (Ibouraima Yabi): Are literature sources that are not available or assessible online also acceptable or relevant?	Those sources are not excluded but we recommend to send that article or report to the WG II TSU (email address tsu@ipcc-wg2.awi.de) who can relay that source to the authors. The document should be sent in an electronic form. If it is a hard copy you would need to scan it first. The authors will have to judge if that source is of sufficient quality and relevance to take into account in their assessment.
26	What if my current unpublished research findings are quite relevant to be included in the report?"	live answered
27	Do reveiwers get recognition for their work done? Are these mentioned anywhere in the final document?	live answered
28	Can a system within IPCC be set up to ensure there is feedback from varied backgrounds, and not rely on who decides to voluntarily review? This is mostly important because scientists tend to not have a policymaking perspective.	In theory that would be possible if the IPCC highest body, being the session of all 195 Governments (called 'the Panel') would decide by consensus to amend the existing review procedures. We understand your point, but it is doubtful if that will happen. Some government representatives would need to submit detailed proposals for amending the IPCC Procedures to the Panel. It would be doubtful if the Panel would be receptive for this, for several reasons. (1) The threshold for reviewers should be kept low, normally no expert should be excluded, it is a bottom-up process, (2) governments and policy makers can nominate expert reviewers as many as they want - these can be scientists who understand policy making as well, (3) co-chairs and authors can nominate Expert Reviewers if they want to make sure that all relevant disciplines are well represented in the review, (4) each review has hundreds to thousands of reviewers - therefore normally the backgrounds in disciplines and perspectives will vary anyway, (5) the IPCC governments themselves review the report when it is in a more mature stage ((Second Order draft review, review of the final draft of the Summary for Policy Makers), judging the policy relevance of statements.