

IPCC Special Report - Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation

Scope

The IPCC has initiated an assessment of the effect that climate change has on the threat of natural disasters and how nations can better manage an expected change in the frequency of occurrence and intensity of severe weather patterns. This will be the first global scientific effort examining the linkages between disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change. It will be undertaken by over 90 experts.

The call for the assessment – consisting of an extensive survey of scientific and technical data available through 2010 – comes in response to the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (2007) that projected that more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, storms and heat waves were likely in the future warmer world. The proposal for a Special Report, prepared with the involvement of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), was formally presented by the government of Norway.

The report aims to become a resource for decision-makers to prepare more effectively for managing the risks of these events, thereby also contributing to the goals of the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change.

The report is being prepared under the leadership of Working Group II of the IPCC, which deals with "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability", and with the participation of Working Group I of the IPCC on the "Physical Science Basis".

It is planned to be released in the 4th quarter of 2011.

Chapters of the Report

1. Climate change: new dimensions in disaster risk, exposure, vulnerability, and resilience
2. Determinants of risks: exposure and vulnerability
3. Changes in climate extremes and their impacts on the natural physical environment
4. Changes in impacts of climate extremes: human systems and ecosystems
5. Managing the risks from climate extremes at the local level
6. Managing the risks from climate extremes at the national level
7. Managing the risks: international level and integration across scales
8. Toward a sustainable and resilient future
9. Case studies

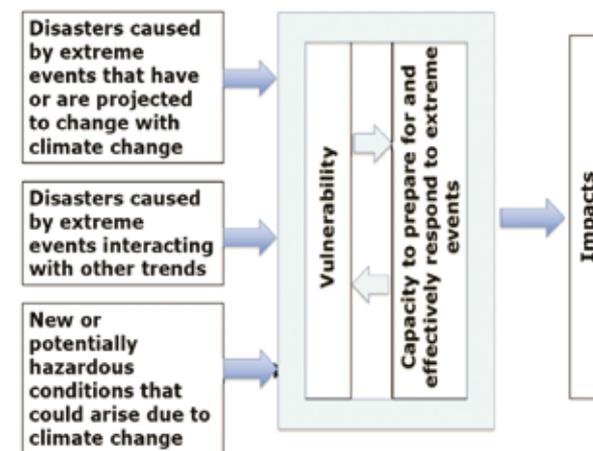
Note: Each chapter will pose and address a limited number of carefully selected "Frequently Asked Questions" concerning key stakeholder concerns.



Photo Credit: NASA

Case Studies

Links between climate change and disaster risk



Case studies will appear in the report in three ways. Examples useful for illustrating specific points will be integrated into the chapters for which they are most relevant, in some cases as boxes. Other case studies will form a thread that runs through all of the chapters, providing a frame of reference for managing risks at many different levels, and when the risks are known relatively well and relatively poorly. A third set of case studies will be collected in a separate chapter, at the end of the volume.

Team of Authors

The IPCC team of authors includes economists, sociologists, risk analysts, hydrologists, agricultural experts, health researchers, and risk reduction practitioners alongside climate scientists, and represents a diverse range of developing and developed countries.

The Goal of the Special Report

The experts will assess scientific understanding of the links between climate change and alterations in the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme events, underlying vulnerabilities to these changes, the impacts that have or can arise from the interaction of vulnerabilities with climate change, and the strategies, policies and measures that can increase resilience to climate extremes.



Photo Credit: © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/ Earth From Above - Flooded houses south of Dhaka, Bangladesh (23°41'N, 90°25'E)

Preparation of the Report

The First Lead Authors (LA) Meeting for this Special Report was held in November 2009 and two more are planned for 2010. A Fourth LA Meeting and the session to approve the report and its Summary for Policymakers will occur in 2011.

Special reports of the IPCC follow the same procedures as the Assessment Reports, taking into consideration all the latest relevant scientific literature produced worldwide, with a multistage peer review process by experts and a multistage review by governments.

The IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the leading body for the assessment of climate change, established by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme. Its main activity is to prepare at regular intervals of five to seven years comprehensive assessment reports about climate change. IPCC reports should be neutral with respect to policy, although they may need to deal objectively with scientific, technical and socio-economic factors relevant to the application of particular policies.

The IPCC is currently starting the preparation of its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), which will be finalised in 2014. The Fourth Assessment Report was published in 2007, when the Panel was honoured with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In addition to this Special Report, the IPCC is also preparing a Special Report entitled "Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation" that will be released in early 2011.

For further information please contact:

IPCC Working Group II Technical Support Unit
c/o Carnegie Institution for Science
260 Panama Street
Stanford, CA 94305
USA

Phone: (+1) 650-462-1047
Fax: (+1) 650-462-5968
email: tsu@ipcc-wg2.gov

<http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov>

For general information on the IPCC, please see:
<http://www.ipcc.ch>

IPCC SPECIAL REPORT

MANAGING THE RISKS

OF EXTREME EVENTS

AND DISASTERS TO

ADVANCE CLIMATE

CHANGE ADAPTATION

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON
climate change



Updated version May 2010