

# The IPCC and the Sixth Assessment Cycle

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The IPCC does not conduct its own research. It identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion and where further research is needed. It is a partnership between scientists and policymakers and it is this that makes its work a credible source of information for policymakers. IPCC assessments are produced according to procedures that ensure integrity, in line with the IPCC's overarching principles of objectivity, openness and transparency. IPCC reports are policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive.

Since 1988 the IPCC has produced five comprehensive Assessment Reports and several Special Reports on specific topics. IPCC has also produced Methodology Reports, which provide practical guidelines on the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories for the inventory reporting requirements of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was finalized between 2013 and 2014. Its key findings are:



- Human influence on the climate system is clear
- The more we disrupt our climate, the more we risk severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts
- We have the means to limit climate change and build a more prosperous, sustainable future

The IPCC is currently in its Sixth Assessment Cycle, during which it will produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and the Sixth Assessment Report.

During its 43rd Session (Nairobi, April 2016), the Panel accepted the invitation from the UNFCCC to produce a Special Report by 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, and to prepare it in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

At the same Session, the Panel decided to produce two other Special Reports, namely one on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere, and one on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.

The Panel also decided to refine the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in order to update and provide a sound scientific basis for future international climate action especially under the Paris Agreement. The Methodology Report on this will be finalized in May 2019.

The Special Report on global warming of 1.5°C will be ready for the facilitative dialogue of the UNFCCC at the end of 2018. The Sixth Assessment Report will be ready for the first UNFCCC global stocktake to take place in 2023.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON  
climate change



# The Sixth Assessment Cycle

## Special Reports

September 2018

Global warming of 1.5°C

An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C 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

September 2019

Special Report on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere (provisional title)

September 2019

Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (provisional title)

## Methodology Report

May 2019

2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

## Sixth Assessment Report

April 2021

Working Group I contribution  
The physical science basis

July 2021

Working Group III contribution  
Mitigation of climate change

October 2021

Working Group II contribution  
Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability

April 2022

Synthesis Report

## Others

Cities

A conference on cities and special attention to cities in the Sixth Assessment Report with the intention of a Special Report on climate change and cities in the Seventh Assessment Cycle

Expert Meetings

Several Expert Meetings and workshops are held to support the preparation of the Sixth Assessment Report. Reports of these meetings are published as supporting materials

Outreach

Communication and outreach of the IPCC process and its findings

# ipcc contribution to climate science and policymaking



## Abbreviations

FAR: First Assessment Report

SAR: Second Assessment Report

TAR: Third Assessment Report

AR4: Fourth Assessment Report

AR5: Fifth Assessment Report

AR6: Sixth Assessment Report

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

WMO: World Meteorological Organization

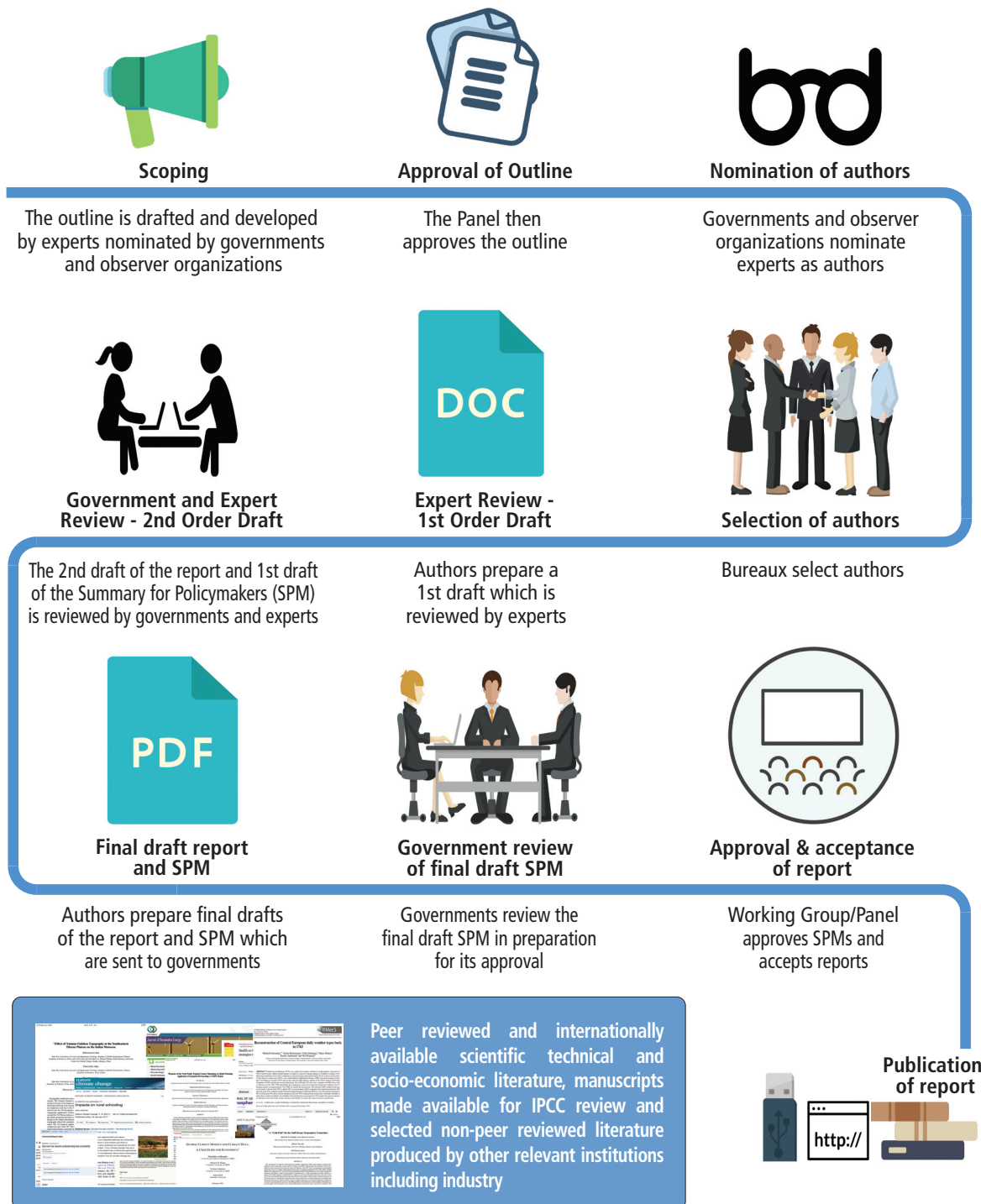
SR1.5: Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty

SR2: Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems

SROCC: Special Report on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere

MR: Methodology Report. 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

# How does the IPCC produce reports?



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February 2017