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PROGRESS REPORTS

Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of Working Group II)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

1. Summary

The IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) is under the joint scientific leadership Working Group I and Working Group II, with Working Group II providing the operational lead for the production of the report. The following is a report on the activities undertaken in support of SROCC since IPCC-XLVIII in October 2018.

Recent key activities and meetings for SROCC, in chronological order, have been:

- Completion of the SROCC Second Order Draft (including the First Order Draft of the Summary for Policy Makers), October 2018;
- Completion of the Government and Expert Review of the SROCC Second Order Draft, 16 November 2018 – 11 January 2019;
- Completion of the compilation and distribution to authors of the review comments submitted during the Government and Expert Review of the Second Order Draft, January 2019;
- Participation in the site-survey for the Second Joint Session of Working Group I and Working Group II, held in Monaco, February 2019;
- Completion of a SROCC Communications Strategy, March 2019;
- Organization of the SROCC Fourth Lead Author Meeting, held in Kazan, Russian Federation, March 2019;
- Organization of the SROCC SPM Drafting Authors Meeting, held in Bremen, Germany, April 2019;
- Preparation of the SROCC Final Draft, to be completed in May 2019;
- Preparation for the Final Government Distribution of the Final Draft and Final Government Review of the SPM, to be held 14 June – 9 August 2019;
- Preparation of the SPM Drafting Authors Meeting and Second Joint Session of Working Group I and Working Group II, to be held in Monaco, in September 2019.

2. Activities in support of the preparation of SROCC

Key activities that have been completed since IPCC-XLVIII:

- In October 2019, the SROCC Second Order Draft was completed, with 6 Chapters, the Integrative Cross-Chapter Box on Low-lying Islands and Coasts and 1 Annex being submitted to the Working Group II TSU for compilation and distribution. In addition, the First Order Draft of the Summary for Policymakers was completed. In preparation for the Government and Expert Review, an online registration site was launched on 9 November 2018. The Working Group II Technical Support Unit received and processed 1462 registrations.
- The Government and Expert Review of the Second Order Draft was held from 16 November 2018 to 11 January 2019. In support of the Expert Review and in response to an increasing number of requests for group reviews, in particular from organization facilitating early-career scientists, a document on guidelines to support group reviews was prepared. In addition, the WGII Technical Support Unit held a series of WebEx sessions, which among others included engagement with Working Group I and Working Group II Vice-Chairs on issues such as Use of IPCC Uncertainty Language as well as feedback from SROCC authors.

During the eight-week review period 471 Expert Reviewers, 35 governments and the European Union submitted 16,137 comments. Review comments were compiled and distributed to the chapter teams on 18 January 2019. The comments were considered by the Chapter teams during the Fourth Lead Author Meeting, which was held 3–9 March 2019, in Kazan, Russian Federation.

- In February 2019, members of the Working Group II Technical Support Unit met with members of the IPCC Secretariat, the WMO Conference Officer, and representatives from the Government of Monaco and the Foundation of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, to complete a 2-day site-survey of the facilities proposed for the Second Joint Session of Working Group I and Working Group II to approve the SROCC Summary for Policymakers and accept the underlying Report, to be held in September 2019. The generous support of the Government of Monaco and the HSH Prince Albert II Foundation are gratefully acknowledged. The site-survey offered an excellent opportunity to prepare for the session and was well received by all involved.
- In June 2019, the Final Draft of the SROCC will be circulated for Final Government Distribution and a final Government Review of the Summary for Policymakers. The eight-week period will be held from 14 June to 9 August 2019. Comments submitted will be considered by the Summary for Policymakers Drafting Authors ahead of the Second Joint Working Group I and Working Group II Session.

3. Meetings in support of the SROCC

Meetings that have been completed since IPCC-XLVIII:

- The SROCC Fourth Lead Author Meeting was held in Kazan, Russian Federation, from 3 to 9 March 2019. The kind invitation from the Government of the Russian Federation to host this meeting is gratefully acknowledged.

A number of communications activities were organized around the meeting. Prior to the Opening Ceremony, a Media Briefing was held to provide the local and national media with background information provided on the IPCC, SROCC, and the purpose of the meeting. The Media Briefing included Russian-English translation and well attended by journalists and journalism students from Kazan Federal University. An outreach event was organized with Kazan Federal University for students. The event provided a unique opportunity for the next generation of scientists to learn more about the IPCC and engage with members of the IPCC Bureau. During the course of the week, media training was available, with more than 50 individuals participating in the 30-minute sessions offered.

The Fourth Lead Author Meeting was a critical meeting in the preparation of SROCC. Chapter teams met to discuss the comments received during the Government and Expert Review of the Second Order Draft and how to respond to these in preparing the Final Draft. In addition to the individual chapter meetings, plenary sessions and cross-chapter breakout groups were held, including targeted meetings on the Cross-Chapter Boxes, the Frequently Asked Questions, and the Glossary. A number of meetings of the SROCC Summary for Policymakers Drafting Authors were held throughout the week and on the day immediately following the Fourth Lead Author Meeting.

To support the discussions during the plenary sessions of the Fourth Lead Author Meeting, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit developed a question and answer tool ahead of the meeting that was integrated into the SROCC Author Portal. This tool facilitated communication with and among the participants by allowing a secondary method to raise questions and comments during the sessions. As the mechanism also provided fellow participants with the option to remark or respond to the questions or comments raised, it added a further level of cross-participant engagement. The tool was positively received by the participants and will be used during the Lead Author Meetings organized Working Group II in the future.

- On 3–4 April 2019, the Working Group II Technical Support Unit hosted a Summary for Policymakers Drafting Authors Meeting in Bremen, Germany. This two-day meeting offered an opportunity for the more than 40 members of the drafting team to meet to continue discussion of the comments received during the Government and Expert Review and to continue work on the development of the text and graphics. The meeting included both plenary and breakout group sessions, with dedicated time to support the development of the graphics. Substantive progress was made on the development of the draft, which will be circulated for Government Review from 14 June to 9 August 2019 ahead of the Joint Working Group I and Working Group II Session in Monaco from 20 to 23 September 2019.