

Expert Review of the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

The purpose of this note is to explain the process for the Expert Review of the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC). The expert review is an integral part of the preparation of IPCC reports and Expert Reviewers are acknowledged in the report once it is published.

Background

The IPCC Procedures require the expert review process to be objective, open and transparent, with wide participation involving as many independent experts as possible¹. The revised wording of the Procedures approved at the 33rd Session of the IPCC in Abu Dhabi, 10-13 May 2011 stressed the need to seek a wide participation in the process². The purpose of the Expert Reviews is to ensure that the report is comprehensive, objective and balanced.

The First Order Draft (FOD) of the SROCC was available for expert review from 4 May to 29 June 2018. The Second Order Draft (SOD) will be available for review by Experts and Governments from 16 November 2018 to 11 January 2019.

Expert Review Process

The IPCC Procedures require that the review be carried out by experts. This is not a public review and prospective. Expert Reviewers are requested to provide information on their relevant scientific and technical expertise when they register.

The IPCC Procedures state that *the review shall be undertaken by experts nominated by governments and participating organizations. In addition, the Working Group Bureaus shall seek the participation of the range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views, expertise, and geographical representation.*

The IPCC Secretariat will notify member governments and observer organizations of the call for registration and start of the review, inviting them to solicit the participation of their experts. All those previously nominated for a role in the SROCC but not selected will be invited to participate. Those individuals who have contacted the WGII TSU about the possibility of being an Expert Reviewer will also be contacted. There will be an announcement on the IPCC website and on social media that the review registration site is open. All experts who submitted comments on the FOD will be invited to review the SOD and to submit further comments.

The process includes an online registration system for Expert Reviewers that requests: contact details, a description of expertise related to the chapters that will be reviewed, a list of up to five most relevant publications, and highest academic degree. A personal and non-transferable username and password is generated for each Expert Reviewer upon successful completion of the registration.

¹ See Section 4.2.4.1 of Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work: <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles-appendix-a.pdf>

² See Section 5 of Decisions Taken with Respect to the Review of IPCC Processes and Procedures: http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session33/ipcc_p33_decisions_taken_procedures.pdf

To access the draft, Expert Reviewers must agree to the terms of the review, that all drafts and any supporting material such as unpublished literature are provided strictly for the purpose of the review and must not be cited, quoted, or distributed. Expert Reviewers are requested not to discuss the contents of the SOD in public fora such as blogs and other media. The final version of the SROCC will become public following its acceptance by the IPCC in September 2019.

Review comments should focus on substantive issues and must be provided in English, using the Excel comments sheet provided by the review system. Constructive contributions are sought:

- Considering the structure, comprehensiveness and balance in chapters, including appropriate use of peer-reviewed literature;
- Wherever possible, providing suggestions for revisions of specific text and provide supporting evidence from the literature as appropriate;
- Giving full citations for any suggested relevant papers;
- Considering ways of shortening the text without loss of relevant information;
- Considering ways of improving the presentation of material graphically or through tables;
- Avoiding suggesting revisions that would go beyond the Panel-approved outline for the chapters of the report: http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session45/Decision_Outline_SR_Oceans.pdf;
- Recognizing that authors are required to work within page length constraints and must present a concise assessment of current knowledge, not a scientific review of how that knowledge was derived.

In accordance with the IPCC Procedures, copies of any non-published or non-publicly available literature that is cited in the draft report will be provided to reviewers upon request during the review period. An online form is available for this purpose from the review website.

All Expert Review comments on the FOD and the SOD, together with the author team responses to those comments, will be made available on the IPCC website after acceptance of the report by the Panel and its publication. Review comments will not be anonymous and Expert Reviewers will be identified as part of the public record of the AR6, with their name, affiliation, and country of residence being published in the Annex of Reviewers in the final report.