

## **SCOPE, CONTENT AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR4 SYR)**

### **I. SCOPE**

As defined in the IPCC Procedures the SYR would “synthesize and integrate material contained within IPCC Assessment Reports and Special Reports”. Its scope would include material contained in the three Working Group contributions to the AR4, and it would draw on information contained in other IPCC Reports as required. It would be written in an accessible, “non technical style suitable for policymakers and address a broad range of policy-relevant, but policy-neutral questions”. The SYR should be largely self-contained, but guide readers to the underlying material if they wish to look further.

The primary audience for the SYR would be policymakers, in particular from governments, advisors to policymakers, and experts. However, it is recognized that others will also make use of the report.

The proposed SYR would consist of two parts:

1. SPM: up to 5 pages of text
2. Longer Report: up to 30 pages of text including maps and figures

The SYR publication would also contain annexes such as glossary, and index.

The AR4 SYR would be self contained and published as a stand-alone publication in the six official UN languages. It would be accompanied by a CD ROM, which contains the SYR (SPM and longer report), the contributions of the three IPCC Working Groups to the AR4 in English, and the summaries of these reports (SPM and Technical Summary) in all official UN languages.

### **II. CONTENT**

The following structure for the AR4 SYR is proposed. It contains agreed topic headings and a list of bullets that are intended as guidance to the authors. Cross Cutting Themes need to be given careful attention throughout the report.

#### **Foreword**

The Chairman’s foreword will describe the history of the report, its structure, the relationship to the other AR4 reports, how detailed information on topics and regions can be accessed and how it has been cross-referenced. It will describe who the intended users are. It will also state how the cross cutting themes used in the AR4 are addressed in the SYR.

#### **Introduction**

The introduction will set the context in terms of issues of relevance to policy, taking into account robust new findings and mentioning major gaps in existing knowledge. It will highlight new findings since the TAR and uncertainties.

## Outline of Topics

1. Observed changes in climate and its effects (WG 1, 2)
  - Past climate change including palaeoclimate aspects
  - Effects of past climate change on natural systems and society
2. Causes of change (WG 1, 2, 3)
  - Natural and human-related factors
  - Feedbacks, via the carbon cycle and otherwise
3. Climate change and its impacts in the near and long term under different scenarios (WG 1, 2, 3)
  - Future climate change
  - Vulnerabilities
  - Hazards, risks and opportunities
  - Water, agriculture, ecosystems, human well-being and development
  - Regional implications
  - Implications of timescales, inertia, and lags
  - Risks of abrupt or irreversible changes
4. Adaptation and mitigation options and responses, the inter-relationship with sustainable development, at global and regional levels (WG 2, 3)
  - Past experience and options and policies (including costs/benefits, co-benefits, and spillover effects); extent, limits, effectiveness and enhancement, sectoral and regional considerations, current, medium-, and long-term, for:
    1. Adaptation
    2. Mitigation
  - Relationship between adaptation and mitigation options
  - Technology: timing, development, transfer, environment and integration issues
  - International cooperation
5. The long-term perspective: scientific and socio-economic aspects relevant to adaptation and mitigation, consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention, and in the context of sustainable development
  - Costs, benefits and avoided damage and risks at global and regional levels and under different scenarios
  - Timing of mitigation and equity implications
  - Relationship between adaptation and mitigation
  - Technology flows and development
  - Broader environment and integration issues
6. Robust findings, key uncertainties

## Annexes

- *User guide (how to access detailed information on inter alia regions and sectors in the SYR and the underlying Working Group reports)*
- *Glossary*
- *Index*
- *List of acronyms*
- *List of authors and reviewers*

### **III. PROCESS**

#### **Writing Team**

The IPCC Chair would lead the Core Writing Team (CWT). In accordance with the IPCC Procedures the members of the CWT would be nominated by the IPCC Chair in consultation with the Co-Chairs. The composition of the writing team would be agreed by the Bureau. The CWT should include the Co-Chairs of the three Working Groups, and a minimum of 4-6 members of the author teams from each Working Group report. The members of the CWT should be chosen to ensure that the CWT has the scientific and technical expertise needed to carry out its task, noting the need to aim for a range of views and geographical representation.

As was the case during the writing of the TAR SYR it is suggested that the Core Writing Team be assisted by an extended writing team. It should include up to one member of the author team from each chapter of the working group contributions to the AR4. The function of the extended writing team would be comparable to that of contributing authors.

Review Editors would assist the writing team. They would carry out their task as described in IPCC procedures.

#### **Time schedule**

- The members of the writing team would be chosen in late 2005, after the second Lead Authors meetings of the Working Groups have been held and the scientific technical issues addressed in AR4 Working Group contributions are more clearly defined.
- Stock taking by the CWT would begin in the first half of 2006
- Writing of the SYR would begin in the second half of 2006 after the second order drafts of all three working group reports have been sent out for government/expert review.
- After an informal review by lead authors of the three working group reports the CWT will start drafting of the First order draft of the SYR
- The First order draft of the SYR will be sent for an 8 weeks simultaneous government/expert review after all working group contributions have been approved/accepted.
- The final draft would be submitted to governments and participating organizations 9 weeks before the Session of the Panel that adopts/approves the AR4 SYR to allow for 8 weeks government consideration.
- Adoption and approval of the SYR and its SPM is foreseen from 22-26 October, 2007 to allow delivery of an unedited version of the AR4 SYR to the next UNFCCC COP which is scheduled to take place during 5-16 November 2007.

#### **Management of the SYR**

The IPCC Chair will chair the writing team and provide overall guidance to the development of the SYR. The organization of writing team meetings, the review and publication process will be managed and coordinated by the IPCC Secretariat.

The preparation of the AR4 SYR will require considerable technical support, including for management of the writing and review process, editing and layout of the report. The present TSUs have indicated that they would not, or only to a very limited extent, be available for the SYR. Therefore it will be necessary to mobilize additional staff and expertise. Present TSUs will however be asked to provide support to the development of the SYR in particular as far as their Working Group contributions are concerned, e.g. facilitating file and data transfer for adjusting graphics, ensuring consistency with final WG contributions and development of index, search facility and glossary. It is suggested that a SYR support team be established that will be coordinated by the Secretary of the IPCC under the overall guidance of the IPCC Chair. The offer of the IPCC Chair to seek support as in kind contribution from the Government of India is envisaged as a resource to assist the Chair.