Summary for Policymakers

The Summary for Policymakers of the Working Group I (WGI) Contribution Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report was approved and accepted by the IPCC Panel on 27 September 2013. The version that was released on that date was subject to copy edit, and final layout.

The final, copy-edited version of the SPM is now posted on www.climatechange2013.org. Errors have been corrected and the errata to the 27 September version of the SPM are given below. For full transparency, the background to this step is described here.

Errors in the SPM were discovered by the authors of the report after its approval and acceptance by the IPCC. These errors have been handled in accordance with the IPCC Protocol for addressing possible errors in the IPCC Assessment reports, Synthesis Reports, Special Reports and Methodology Reports (the Error Protocol). For an error in an SPM, the Error Protocol stipulates: “Following WG or TF Bureau approval, the proposed erratum is submitted to the Panel for approval. To allow for rapid response, the Panel may delegate this approval step to the Executive Committee.” The Panel was notified about the errors and proposed corrections in a letter from the IPCC Secretariat on 31 October and agreed to delegate the approval of the errata to the Executive Committee.

At its meeting on 06 November 2013, the IPCC Executive Committee approved the errata that had been provided by the Co-Chairs of WGI and that was already approved by the WGI Bureau. These corrections have been included in the final version of the SPM that is now available from the WGI web site. The WGI report will be published by Cambridge University Press in January 2014.

WGI AR5 SPM Error/Errata to 27 September 2013 pre-copy-edit version:

Section B.5, bullet 4: The value and range given for cumulative CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production over the period 1750 to 2011 should read: 375 [345 to 405] GtC.

Section B.5, bullet 4: The value and range given for cumulative anthropogenic CO₂ emissions over the period 1750 to 2011 should read: 555 [470 to 640] GtC.

Section B5, bullet 5: The value and range given for the accumulation of carbon from anthropogenic CO₂ emissions in natural terrestrial ecosystems (i.e., the cumulative residual land sink) over the period 1750 to 2011 should read: 160 [70 to 250] GtC.

Section E.8, bullet 2: The range given for cumulative CO₂ emissions from all anthropogenic sources for limiting the warming caused by anthropogenic CO₂ emissions alone with a probability of >33% to less than 2°C since the period 1861–1880 should read: between 0 and about 1570 GtC.

Section E.8, bullet 2: The upper amounts of cumulative CO₂ emissions from all anthropogenic sources when accounting for non-CO₂ forcings as in RCP2.6, and listed for probabilities of >33%, >50%, and >66%, should read: 900 GtC, 820 GtC and 790 GtC, respectively.

Section E.8, bullet 2: The value and range given for cumulative anthropogenic CO₂ emissions emitted over the period 1870 to 2011 should read: 515 [445 to 585] GtC.