



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
International Affairs Division

IPCC Reports and the International Policymakers

José Romero

29 August 2013

IPCC Media Workshop Berne



Contents

- A. The questions of Governments to the scientific community about climate change
- B. Getting the answers from science: IPCC
- C. Use of the answers from science in policy processes



A: The questions of Governments to science

- What is known about the **influence of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions** (GHG) on the global climate system?
- What are / may be the long-term changes of the climate system?
- What are / may be the **impacts of climate change** on ecosystems, economic activities, human health, etc.?
- What are the options for adapting to these changes?
- What can be done to **mitigate climate change**?
- Which **methodologies** do allow to estimate anthropogenic GHG emissions?



B: Getting the answers from science: IPCC (1)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is known about the influence of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) on the global climate system?• What are / may be the long-term changes of the climate system?	<p>IPCC Working Group I <u>Assess:</u> current knowledge of the physical climate system; the factors that drive climate change; past climate and projections of future climate change; detection and attribution of human influences on recent climate</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are / may be the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, economic activities, human health, etc.?• What are the options for adapting to these changes?	<p>IPCC Working Group II <u>Assess:</u> the sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and vulnerability of natural and human systems to climate change; potential impacts; adaptation options at regional and global scales</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can be done to mitigate climate change?	<p>IPCC Working Group III <u>Assess:</u> technological and biological options to mitigate climate change; costs and ancillary benefits of these options and the barriers to their implementation; policies, measures and instruments to overcome these barriers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which methodologies do allow to estimate anthropogenic GHG emissions?	<p>IPCC The Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories <u>Elaborates:</u> methodologies for the national GHG inventories (sources and sinks)</p>



B: Getting the answers from science: IPCC (2)

Role of the Governments in the IPCC process

- Decisions on the organisation of the IPCC and its processes
- Provision of funding
- Nomination of experts for the management of the process (e.g. IPCC Chair, Co-chairs of the Working Groups, other members of the Bureau, etc.)
- Nomination of experts for the elaboration of the IPCC works
- Review of the draft documents (assessment reports and methodologies)
- Approval of the works (assessment reports and methodologies)
- Use of the findings and of the methodologies of the IPCC at national and international level (e.g. in the UNFCCC process)



B: Getting the answers from science: IPCC (3)

Some details

- Decisions on all aspects of the IPCC are adopted in frequent (1 or 2 times per year) IPCC Plenaries with participation open to all Governments and observer organisations
- The average annual budget of the IPCC is around CHF 6 million
- Once nominated and elected, IPCC officers are independent of their Governments
- The IPCC works are elaborated according to highest scientific standards and in full independence from the Governments



B: Getting the answers from science: IPCC (4)

Some details (cont.)

- The review of the draft documents (assessment reports and methodologies) by the Governments does not mean that the Governments influence the scientific content of the IPCC works
- The “Approval” of IPCC Summaries for Policymakers (SPM) signifies that the material has been subject to detailed, line by line discussion and agreement between Governments and IPCC experts
- The words in the approved SPM may differ from those initially proposed by the IPCC experts, but the scientific content and the message are fully respected



B: Getting the answers from science: IPCC (5)

The Swiss support to the Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I, Professor Thomas Stocker, and to the Technical Support Unit

Switzerland has supported the work of the IPCC since inception because:

- The IPCC is the most important source of scientific information on matters of climate change
- The information provided by the IPCC is necessary to inform the international negotiation process under the UNFCCC
- The IPCC provides elements to the UNFCCC for a quantitative definition of its ultimate goal, the stabilisation of the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases at a level that prevents dangerous interference with the climate system, as well as a numerical value for the elevation of the average global temperature compared to preindustrial values, the famous 2 degrees target



B: Getting the answers from science: IPCC (6)

(cont.)

Switzerland benefits also of the IPCC at the national level:

- As an alpine country, highly vulnerable to climate change, we need information and tools to manage the risks derived from climate change
- The information provided by the IPCC supports the Swiss ambitious climate policies on mitigation and adaptation (e.g. the recent IPCC Special Reports on renewable energies (SREN), and on extreme events and adaptation (SREX))
- The participation of Swiss experts to the IPCC offers the possibility to the Swiss scientific community to cooperate with the most reputed representatives of the international scientific community



C: Use of the answers from science in policy processes (1)

Practically, how do the IPCC works help policymakers (national and international level)?

- **Raising awareness on the risks posed by climate change**
Fosters climate policies (e.g. the Swiss CO2 Law and the adaptation strategy); changes public and business behaviour
- **Underlying the global nature of climate change**
Fosters international cooperation on climate change issues: adoption of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol; financing (GEF); technology transfer; etc.
- **Providing quantified estimates of the emissions reductions to reduce risks**
E.g. the 2 degrees target to be reviewed (COP 17 decision)



C: Use of the answers from science in policy processes (2)

(cont.)

- **Identifying reduction potentials (mitigation) in sectors**
E.g. reduction potential in the energy sector; in forests (REDD+), etc.
- **Identifying climate-friendly technologies**
E.g. the recent publication of the Special Report on renewable energies (SREX)
- **Evaluating vulnerabilities and adaptation possibilities**
E.g. approaches for avoiding “maladaptation”
- **Estimating the costs (policies, measures and technologies)**
E.g. cost of measures with and without the carbon market certificates
- **Providing methodologies for estimating GHG emissions**
E.g. for news gases (NF3); wetlands; wood products



Thank you for your attention

www.ipcc.ch

www.bafu.admin.ch

www.unfccc.int