

## IPCC Factsheet: How does the IPCC select its authors?

The role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to the understanding of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Hundreds of leading experts in the different areas covered by IPCC reports volunteer their time and expertise as Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors to produce these assessments. Many hundreds more are involved in drafting specific contributions as Contributing Authors and commenting on chapters as Expert Reviewers<sup>1</sup>.

Following a call to governments and IPCC observer organisations for nominations and the submission of detailed CVs, authors are selected on the basis of their expertise. The composition of author teams aims to reflect a range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views and backgrounds. A comprehensive assessment requires author teams to include a mix of authors from different regions and from developed and developing countries to ensure that reports are not biased towards the perspective of any one country or group of countries and that questions of importance to particular regions are not overlooked.

The IPCC also seeks a balance of men and women, as well as between those experienced with working on IPCC reports and those new to the process, including younger scientists. Author teams may also include experts from industry and from non-profit organizations who bring a valuable perspective to the assessment.

Chapter teams comprise Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors<sup>2</sup>. The Bureau of the relevant IPCC Working Group or Task Force selects scientists for these roles from nominations of experts from their respective countries by IPCC member governments and observer organizations or from other experts known through their publications and work.

Experts who are nominated by governments and observer organizations but not selected are encouraged to contribute to the report as Expert Reviewers. (See IPCC Factsheet – *How does the IPCC review process work?*)

<sup>1</sup> The process for selecting authors is described in sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 of **Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports**: <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The roles of the different categories of authors are described in Annex 1 to **Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, the Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports**: <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles-appendix-a-final.pdf>

For the Fifth Assessment Report a total of 831 experts were originally selected as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors from 3,598 nominations across the three Working Groups (including some experts nominated for more than one Working Group). Author numbers may change slightly over the course of an assessment, for instance with the addition of an author with additional expertise or with a resignation due to health or time conflicts.

Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors have collective responsibility for the contents of a chapter. They may enlist other experts as Contributing Authors to assist with their work. Contributing Authors, who number many hundreds, provide specific knowledge or expertise in a given area, and help ensure that the full range of views held in the scientific community is reflected in the report.

Balanced assessment of the full range of scientific views, protected from the influence of special interests, is supported through the method of author team selection, multiple rounds of review of each report, and IPCC's Conflict of Interest Policy<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> The IPCC Conflict of Interest Policy is here:  
<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-conflict-of-interest.pdf>

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