

## IPCC Press Release

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10.00 HRS ON TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

### IPCC report shows climate change is taking hold

This meeting at the Royal Geographical Society in London, 18 – 19 September marks the completion and release of the full 1000-page IPCC Working Group II Fourth Assessment. Until now, the findings of the Assessment have only been available in the 30-page Summary for Policymakers (SPM).

Thirteen leading authors of chapters the Assessment, as well as the Co-chair of Working Group II and the IPCC Chair will speak on the key messages of the Assessment, many of which are not included in the SPM and have not previously been reported.

The programme of the meeting is attached. It allows for detailed discussion of the issues, as well as individual meetings of authors with the press.

Amongst the new, and previously unpublished, messages and inferences of IPCC Working Group II are the following which will be expanded upon at the conference:

1. The 'bottom line' conclusion is that certain regions (not named in previous assessments by the IPCC) are judged to be the most affected by climate change. These are Africa, Asian megadeltas, small islands and the Arctic.
2. And some sectors and systems are also identified as being most affected, including:
  - water (especially in the dry tropics),
  - agriculture (especially in low latitudes),
  - human health in countries with low adaptive capacity,
  - some ecosystems: coral reefs, sea-ice biomes, coastal ( e.g. mangrove and salt-marshes), tundra/boreal/mountain.
3. It is probably too late to avoid some impacts, including major ones in developing countries, because about 1°C of warming is already in the climate system. Examples of these impacts will be presented
4. Moreover, if warming is not kept below 2°C (which will require the strongest of mitigation efforts, and currently looks very unlikely to be achieved), then substantial global impacts will occur, such as: species extinctions and millions of people at risk from drought, hunger and flooding, etc.
5. This means that adaptation will be crucial, especially to avoid the most damaging effects in the near-term (up to around 2050) before any mitigation could begin to 'bite'. But mitigation measures are needed now to avoid large temperature increases after 2050, which otherwise would exceed our capacity to adapt. So achieving, soon, the right combination of adaptation and mitigation, is the most urgent task of the policymakers e.g. at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bali this December.

6. Important effects of anthropogenic warming are already being felt. In April the published SPM of Working Group II reported that observed effects of anthropogenic climate change can now be detected on every continent. The full Assessment brings out the extent of this: some effects are being observed now, which were more distant future predictions in the Second and Third Assessments of 1995 and 2001. In other words they are occurring faster than previously expected.
7. Some new effects have been detected since the Assessment was completed, such as the appearance this year in Italy of Chikungunya, an infectious disease similar to Dengue and transmitted through the mosquito *Aedes albopictus*. The disease has not previously been recorded in Europe.

ENDS

### Background notes

1. The programme of the meeting is attached.
2. Contact numbers for interviews with individual speakers are as follows:  
Martin Parry: 07766 712397  
Others: either 07753 880658 or 07753 880737
3. Digital copies of key figures will be available on CD at the meeting
4. The New Technical Summary of the Assessment is now complete and will be reported on at the meeting. Copies will be available for the press.
5. The full volume, which is the subject of the meeting, is the contribution of Working Group II to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment:  
*Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, M.L. Parry, O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden and C.E. Hanson, Eds., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 985 pp.  
Available from: [Twww.ipcc-wg2.org/index.html](http://www.ipcc-wg2.org/index.html)
6. The IPCC Chairs and authors who will speak at the meeting are:  
*Chairs:*  
Rajendra (R.K.) Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC  
Martin Parry, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II  
*Authors:*                      *Chapter:*  
Cynthia Rosenzweig              Assessment of Observed Changes and Responses in Natural and Managed Systems  
Andrew Watkinson              Assessment of Observed Changes and Responses in Natural and Managed Systems  
Tony Nyong                      Africa  
Saleemul Huq                      Inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation  
Robert Nicholls                   Coastal systems and low-lying areas  
David Vaughan                   Polar regions  
Zbyszek Kundzewicz              Fresh water resources and their management  
Andreas Fischlin                   Ecosystems, their properties, goods and services  
Bill Easterling:                   Food, fibre and forest products  
Bettina Menne                   Human health  
Jorgen Olesen                   Europe  
Jose Moreno                      Europe  
Neil Adger                      Assessment of adaptation practices, options, constraints and capacity

**CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS, ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY**  
A meeting to present and discuss the results of the  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II Fourth Assessment

Draft programme

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Key vulnerabilities and the international response**

**09.00 – 10.00** Doors open and registration

**Session 1: Key messages**

**Chair: Sir Gordon Conway, Chief Scientist, DfID and President RGS-IBG**

10.00 – 10.15	Opening Welcome	Sir Gordon Conway, President of the RGS
10.15 – 10.45	The IPCC Fourth Assessment	R.K. Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC
10.45 – 11.15	Key impacts from climate change: An Overview of the Working Group II IPCC Assessment	Martin Parry, Co- Chair of Working Group II of the IPCC
<b>11.15 – 11.45</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	

**Session 2: Key impacts: Now and in the Future**

**Chair: Andrew Watkinson, Director, Tyndall Centre**

11.45 – 12.15	Impacts are occurring now: Observed effects on natural and human systems	<i>Cynthia Rosenzweig, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies</i>
12.15 – 12.45	Discussion	
<b>12.45 – 13.45</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	

**Session 3: Key vulnerabilities: Africa**

**Chair: Saleemul Huq, IIED**

13.45 – 14.15	The impact of climate change on Africa	<i>Tony Nyong IDRC, Nairobi</i>
14.15 – 14.35	<b>Keynote address:</b> title to be confirmed	Gareth Thomas, Minister for the Department for International Development
14.35 – 15.00	Concerns and roles of the INGO sector (with regard to climate change and Africa)	Geoffrey Dennis, CEO CARE UK
15.00 – 15.30	Discussion	
<b>15.30 – 16.00</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	

**Session 4: Other key vulnerable areas**

**Chair: Chris Rapley, Science Museum**

16.00 – 16.30	The threat to coastal populations	<i>Robert Nicholls, University of Southampton and Tyndall Centre</i>
16.30 – 17.00	Impacts on polar regions	<i>David Vaughan, British Antarctic Survey</i>
17.00 – 17.30	General discussion	



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**Wednesday 19th September**  
**Impacts on global resources and business in Europe**

**08.30 – 09.00** Doors open and registration

**Session 1: Impacts on global systems**  
**Chair: Chris West, Director, UKCIP**

09.00 – 09.45.	Water resources:	<i>Zbigniew Kundzewicz, Polish Academy of Sciences</i>
	Ecosystems:	<i>Andreas Fischlin, ETH, Zurich</i>
09.45 – 10.30	Food supply:	<i>Bill Easterling, Penn State Univ.</i>
	Human health:	<i>Bettina Menne, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health</i>
10.30 -11.00	Panel Discussion	The speakers

**11.00 – 11.30** Coffee/tea break

**Session 2: Europe: Business and policy perspectives**  
**Chair: Martin Parry, Chair IPCC Working Group II**

11.30 – 12.00	The impact on the European resource base	<i>Jørgen Olesen, Danish Inst for Agric. Sci.; Jose Moreno, Univ. Castilla la Mancha</i>
12.00 – 12.30	Impact on business in Europe and the UK	Lord Adair Turner, House of Lords
12.30 – 13.00	Discussion	
<b>13.00 – 14.00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
14.00 – 14.30	How far can the impacts be avoided by adaptation?	<i>Neil Adger, UEA and Tyndall Centre</i>
14.30 – 15.00	Where do we go from here? Some reflections on what has been learned so far and the remaining key gaps in knowledge	Robert Watson, Chief Scientist, Defra
15.00 – 15.45	Discussion; followed by summing up and thanks	<i>Martin Parry</i>

The meeting will be held in the Ondaatje Theatre at the Royal Geographical Society with IBG

Speakers shown in italics played a role in the IPCC Working Group II Fourth Assessment as Lead Authors or Review Editors.



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II

