



Climate Science and the IPCC 5th Assessment Report (AR5): Lessons Learned and Next Steps

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Global Ministerial Environmental Forum
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The IPCC after Copenhagen

Common problem perception was reached in Copenhagen



UNITED
NATIONS

Copenhagen Accord



Framework Convention
on Climate Change

Distr.
LIMITED

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18 December 2009

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Fifteenth session
Copenhagen, 7–18 December 2009

Agenda item 9
High-level segment

Draft decision -/CP.15

Proposal by the President

Copenhagen Accord

The Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers, and other heads of delegation present at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen,

In pursuit of the ultimate objective of the Convention as stated in its Article 2,

Being guided by the principles and provisions of the Convention.



Is the IPCC Doing the Right Tasks?

- The science as assessed in the IPCC AR4 clearly shows:
 - Warming of the climate system is unequivocal
 - Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is *very likely* due to the observed increase in concentrations of greenhouse gases from human activities
 - Observational evidence from all continents and most oceans shows that many natural systems are being affected by regional climate changes, particularly temperature increases.
 - The risks associated with climate change can be diminished with a portfolio of measures to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the climate changes that cannot be avoided.
- Intergovernmental aspect is an added value and a unique feature of the IPCC

New working program for 2009 – 2014: Fifth Assessment Report AR5

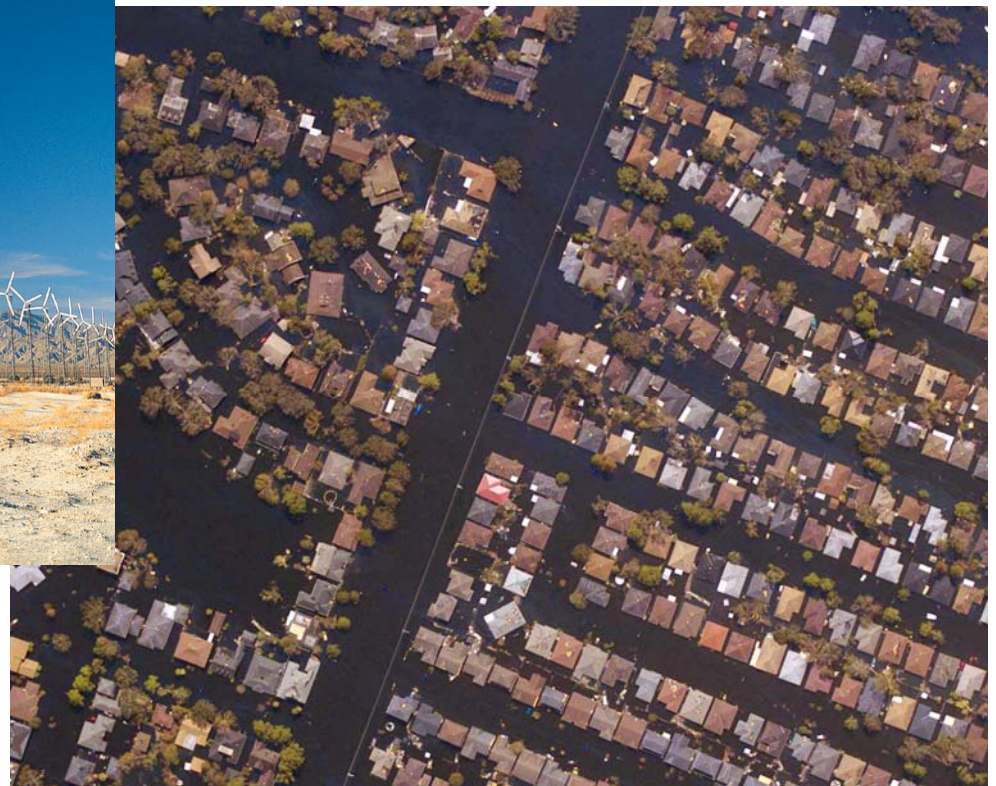
Important Innovations in AR5: Special Reports

Special Reports as a “fast-track” to be more relevant

Special Report on Renewables



Special Report on Extreme Events



Challenges and Innovations in WGI

- Address major uncertainties in dedicated chapters
 - Clouds and aerosols
 - Near-term climate change: Projections and predictability
 - Sea level rise
 - Climate phenomena and their relevance for future regional climate change
- Provide quantitative climate change information for stakeholders
 - Two projection chapters
 - Atlas of global and regional climate projections

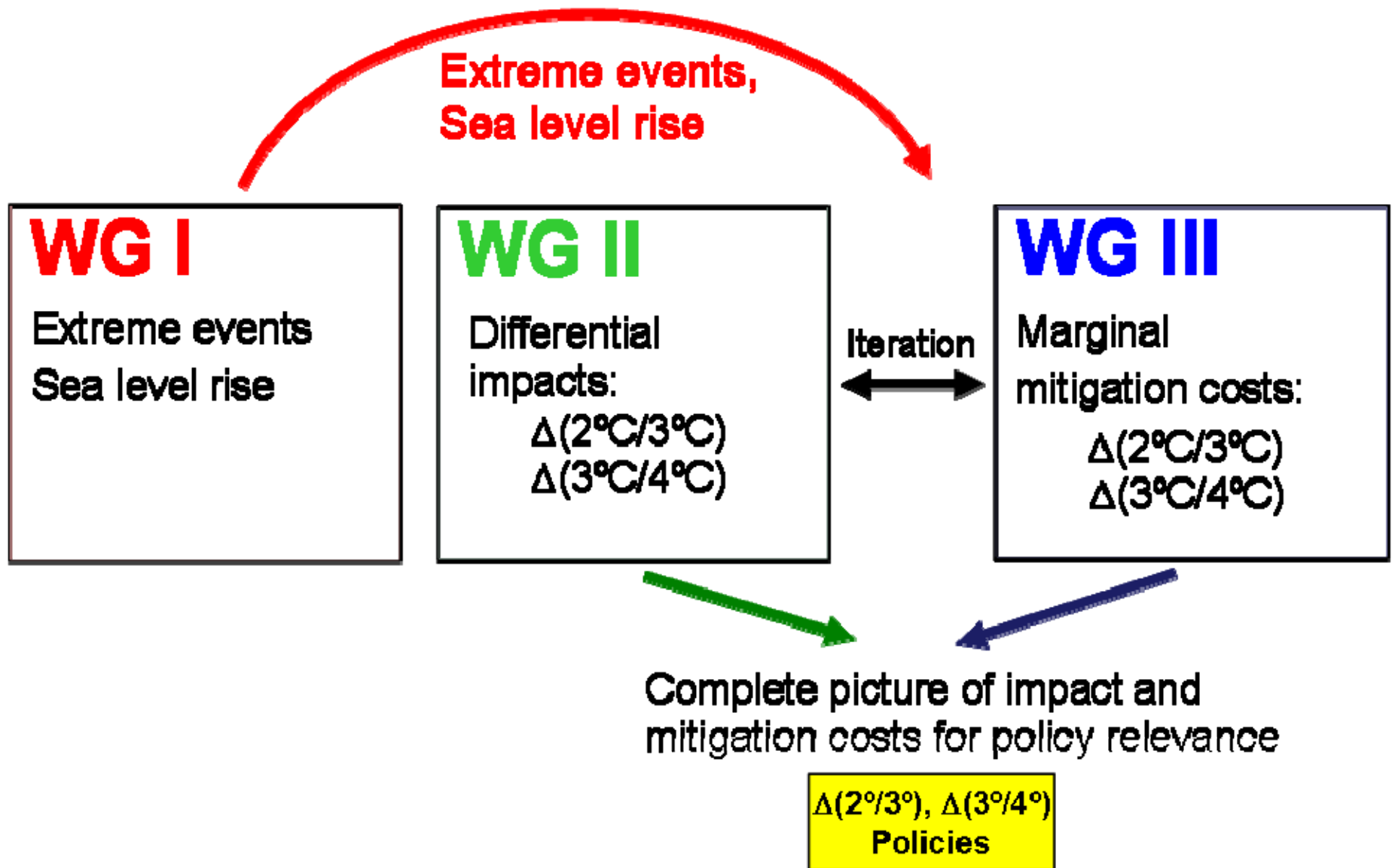
Challenges and Innovations in WGII

- Much greater regional detail on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation interactions
- More information on the impacts and costs of climate change for different sectors and regions.
- Increased focus on
 - Risk management framing
 - Multiple stresses framing
 - Expanded treatment of adaptation

Challenges and Innovations in WGIII

- The future is unknown but the solution space for mitigation can be explored
- If-then-type analyses:
 - Failure of technologies
 - Failure of a global agreement
- Exploring alternative development pathways, their costs and risks
- Improved treatment of risk and ethical issues in the context of sustainable development

AR5 Innovation: Considering Risk/Uncertainty in all WGs



Is the IPCC Doing these Tasks Right?

- An independent group of highly respected experts has been set up which evaluates the procedures and its implementation
- Enhancing the cooperation across the Working Groups
- Facilitating consistency by establishing a common scenario process
- Improving the review process
- Exploring alternative pathways in order to assess the whole solution space without being policy prescriptive

Final Remark

- The IPCC is the honest broker between experts and decision makers in business, politics and civil society.
- The IPCC should be policy relevant without being policy prescriptive.
- This mandate has not been changed - it is more important than ever.