

#### Summary

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments and special reports are widely regarded as the most authoritative sources on climate science. However, the institution faces challenges in its need for continuous evolution to address the fast pace of climate research and knowledge needs.

Participants at a University of East Anglia (UEA) workshop in July 2023 recommend the following to enhance IPCC relevance, inclusivity, and impact:

1. enhanced inclusivity and equity
2. improved usability and impact of reports
3. structural and procedural reforms
4. leveraging information technology, and
5. capacity building.

#### Introduction

UEA researchers have made a substantial contribution to the IPCC across academic disciplines, placing the University in a unique position to highlight challenges and propose solutions for improved IPCC processes and reports.

Our policy briefing synthesises recommendations from the [UEA Workshop on IPCC](#) to enhance its processes and reports in the Seventh Assessment and beyond, focusing on inclusivity, usability and impact.

#### Challenges

Workshop participants identified significant challenges faced by the IPCC including:

1. **Barriers to Inclusivity:** Structural inequities in the IPCC process, including limited access to resources and barriers for Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILTK), and long-standing barriers that restrict Global South participation, resulting in assessments that overlook underrepresented communities' experiences and solutions.
2. **Useability and Accessibility:** IPCC reports can be inaccessible to policymakers and non-specialists, reducing their effectiveness.
3. **Time Lag in Reporting:** The IPCC's seven-year cycle lags behind real world changes, climate science, and policy needs, leaving policymakers without timely assessments to inform new insights.
4. **Rapidly Expanding Literature:** The vast volume of climate research challenges IPCC authors in comprehensively reviewing and integrating relevant findings. Limited inclusion of non-

English and grey literature causes regional biases, overlooking insights from the Global South and emerging disciplines.

**5. Consensus-Driven Approach:** IPCC operates on a consensus model to ensure broad international buy-in. This can lead to conservative findings that may understate risks.

## Recommendations

Our workshop's insights underscore the need to evolve the IPCC's processes and outputs as well as climate academia to better meet the needs of policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders.

*Key recommendations:*

- 1. Equity and Inclusivity:** Broaden representation of perspectives in IPCC assessments, incorporating ILTK and engaging researchers from underrepresented regions.
- 2. Enhance Usability and Impact of Reports:** 1. Develop concise summaries of IPCC reports for diverse audiences, including policymakers. 2. Publish reports that recognise barriers to action, provide examples of successful implementation strategies, and focus on actionable recommendations. 3. Enhance the use of graphics and figures to support dissemination to stakeholders to support impact.
- 3. Structural and Procedural Reforms:** Introduce staggered production of Working Group (WG) reports to improve cross-WG integration and coherence. Explore options for shorter, targeted special reports or annual updates on emerging topics.
- 4. Leverage Information Technology:** Utilise AI and machine learning tools to manage the growing volume of climate literature, ensuring comprehensive and efficient synthesis.
- 5. Capacity Building:** Train policymakers, especially in the Global South, to use IPCC datasets for practical applications. Establish co-productive research partnerships between academics, policymakers, and practitioners.

## Call To Action

UEA urges the IPCC in its Seventh Assessment to implement our recommendations at the earliest opportunity to further enhance the relevance, inclusivity, and impact of IPCC assessments.

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