

UPCOMING IPCC REPORTS

OVERVIEW

Between February and early April 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will release two more major reports in the IPCC AR6 report cycle establishing an authoritative updated global assessment of the science, impacts, and economics of climate change.

The 6th Assessment Report cycle started with three special reports: on the [1.5 degree target](#), on [oceans and the cryosphere](#), and on [climate change and land](#). For each report cycle the IPCC also historically releases three standard global reports broken down by subject matter, known as the Working Group I, II, and III reports

The [Working Group I](#) report on the basic physics of climate change, including physical impacts, was released in August 2021 and widely covered as a “[code red](#)” on climate change.

Between February and April 2022, the IPCC will release the final two Working Group reports of its 6th report cycle:

- [Working Group II \(WGII\)](#): **Coming late Feb/early March 2022**. Focuses on the ecological and social consequences of the physical impacts detailed in the WGI report, organized by region and economic sector. Also covers the potential of and limits to adaptive measures.
- [Working Group III \(WGIII\)](#): **Coming late March or early April 2022**. Covers paths and options for limiting global warming, particularly in line with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement (2°C and 1.5°C), including public policy and required economic investments.

The Working Group reports help frame climate policy for countries around the world, including the U.S., and provide the science basis for the critically important Global Stocktake under the Paris Climate Agreement.

They will be followed by a [Synthesis Report](#) in **October 2022**, which will combine the conclusions of the three Working Group Reports and the three special reports released in IPCC cycle 6. The Synthesis Report will complete the work of the 6th report cycle, and attention will shift to the 7th report cycle.

GENERAL REPORT PROCESS

All Working Group reports follow the same process and format:

- IPCC scientists write the report, including a draft executive summary known as a Summary for Policy Makers (SPM).
- Governments that are party to the IPCC participate in a plenary meeting, where they work with IPCC scientists to edit the draft SPM and then approve it. All edits must be approved by the authoring scientists.
- When the SPM is approved, governments will also accept the full report submitted by the IPCC scientists.
- The Working Group II report is the second time that an SPM will have been edited and approved virtually.

ANTICIPATED MEDIA TIMELINE FOR WORKING GROUP II

NOTE: Despite very close release dates, the Working Group II and Working Group III reports require totally separate plenary and registration processes. The following timeline focuses only on Working Group II. It is based on the official IPCC schedule, as well as our experience working on past IPCC report releases. We will issue fresh guidance for Working Group III after the Working Group II report is released. Remember that all dates are tentative and subject to change.

JANUARY

Jan 17: Journalist registration for the Working Group II report begins. Registration enables journalists to receive an embargoed copy of the final Working Group II Summary for Policy Makers. [Register here](#).

Late-Jan: The IPCC will set up a form for journalists to request interviews with IPCC authors to be scheduled for after the report is released. All interview requests must be submitted via this form. It will take several days for journalists to hear back about their interview dates.

FEBRUARY

Feb 14: Virtual intergovernmental plenary session begins. The morning opening session is open to the media, and we'll share instructions for how to join when we have them. Closed session begins in the afternoon and editing starts.

Feb 25: Tentative plenary session end date. (Past plenary sessions have run overtime for 1-2 days, so dates below are approximate.)

Feb 25-26: Likely Summary for Policy Makers approval window.

Feb 26-27:

- Once approved, the IPCC circulates the embargoed Summary for Policy Makers, press release and potentially other materials to registered reporters.
- Embargoed author teleconference briefings, by region/timezone.

Feb 28:

- Official IPCC global press conference will take place on Berlin time. Embargo lifts at the beginning of this press conference. Summary for Policy Makers and possibly full report are available online for all journalists.
- Scheduled interviews with report authors, requested via the portal, begin after global press conference.

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