

The IPCC's review process

SIR – You questioned the ability of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to provide balanced assessments and avoid bias grounded in the opinions of particular authors (“A climate of conflict”, June 25th). But you ignored the many layers of procedures at the IPCC that have been designed specifically to minimise the possibility that reports are influenced by the strong opinions of individual authors. The IPCC relies on the participation of people from academic institutions, NGOs, business and industry in order to get access to the relevant expertise. Controls occur both in the selection of author and the input from expert and government reviewers. The review process and the governmental approval of final reports are independently monitored.

The IPCC has now approved a formal policy on conflicts of interest as recommended by the InterAcademy Council, a network of national science councils. This is an already endorsed increment in a pervasive system and is not a first step in a whole new area. Our new special report on renewables continues the tradition of balanced, thorough assessments at the IPCC.

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