Experience from the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report – from the perspective of a former Co-Chair

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The IPCC at a Crossroads: Enhancing the Usefulness of IPCC to the UNFCCC Process

COP21, Paris, 9 December 2015
What we tried to achieve:
Provide a map for policymakers

“Nova et aucta orbis terrae descriptio ad usum navigantium emendate accommodata“
Outline of the WGIII Contribution to AR5

I: Introduction

II: Framing Issues
- Concepts & methods (e.g. values, uncertainties, risks, multi-objectives)
- Compass & legend for assessment

III: Pathways for Mitigating Climate Change
- Map of consistent, feasible transformation pathways
- Exploration of costs, benefits, uncertainties, risks, value judgements

IV: Assessment of Policies, Institutions and Finance
- Exploration of policy instruments and institutions
Exploring alternative mitigation pathways

- Feasibility of 2°C: Exploring the whole solution space between 1.5°C and 4°C in terms of costs, risks, (co-)benefits and institutional requirements

 IPCC WGIII (2014)
Grand synthesis across Working Groups
Grand synthesis across Working Groups

Result of a dedicated self-organization process of different scientific communities

Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies
Grand synthesis across Working Groups

- Better interaction between WGs has to be institutionalized
- Evaluation of differential impacts (WGII) and differential mitigation costs and technology risks (WGIII) between 1.5°C / 2°C / 3°C / 4°C is essential for AR6
Science Policy Interface: Berlin WGIII SPM Plenary

INSIGHTS | PERSPECTIVES

CLIMATE POLICY

IPCC lessons from Berlin

Did the “Summary for Policymakers” become a summary by policy-makers?

4 JULY 2014 • VOL 345 ISSUE 6192 scientemag.org SCIENCE

- A rewarding experience from a Co-Chair perspective
- Is it also useful for government representatives?
- What are lessons for the IPCC?
  - IPCC responding to questions formulated by policymakers
  - More frequent direct interactions between researchers and policymakers during assessment cycle
Future Priorities and Options

• Develop better assessment and scoping tools to manage exponentially increasing literature and knowledge base

• IPCC could make more use of formats that enable more timely and rapid delivery of products addressing specific policy-relevant questions (e.g. expert workshops & reports)

• Working Group III will be essential for the future of the IPCC.
  • It can significantly contribute to developing the globally shared knowledge base informing the emerging global multi-level climate policy regime

• The IPCC should focus on developing policy maps and pathways building on strong *ex post* and *ex ante* policy analysis
  • Domestic policy packages: Ex post evaluation applying multiple criteria; evaluating alternative future policy pathways (multiple criteria); support international policy diffusion
  • International policies: Ex post evaluation applying multiple criteria; evaluation of alternative future policy pathways (multiple criteria)
Claudius Ptolemy
World Map (1482)
Gerald Mercator: World Map (1569)

“Nova et aucta orbis terrae descriptio ad usum navigantium emendate accommodata“
Towards 21st Century Mapmaking