

Our ref.: 5199-14/IPCC/AR5

To designated IPCC Focal Points and
Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFAs)
(if no focal point has been designated)

Annex(es): 1

COPY

Geneva, 9 May 2014

Sir/Madam,

I wish to bring to your attention a matter regarding an error in the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Working Group II (WGII) Contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, that was discovered by the authors of the report after approval and acceptance at the 10th Session of Working Group II and the 38th Session of the IPCC in Yokohama, March 2014.

The error, which requires correction before publication of the SPM, is shown in **Annex 1** to this letter, along with an explanation of the motivation for the erratum.

Appendix A to the Principles Governing IPCC Work, ANNEX 3 - *IPCC Protocol for addressing possible errors in the IPCC Assessment reports, Synthesis Reports, Special Reports and Methodology Reports* (referred to below as "Error Protocol"), lays down the procedures to address alleged errors in the SPM of a Working Group Contribution (see Error Protocol Section 2, Step 5A). If Co-chairs and relevant Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) agree that there is an error, they construct an error statement and submit to the WG Bureau for approval. The Co-Chairs of WGII have informed us that this step has been concluded and that currently approval by WGII Bureau members is being sought.

The Error Protocol further stipulates: "*Following WG or TF Bureau approval, the proposed erratum is submitted to the Panel for approval. To allow for rapid response, the Panel may delegate this approval step to the Executive Committee, which can decide that the erratum be posted on the IPCC and WG or TF websites and that the claimant be informed, or can decide to defer to the next session of the IPCC Bureau or of the Panel.*"

The immediate correction of the errors described in Annex 1 would be highly desirable in order for the approved SPM to be ready for publication and distribution at the upcoming UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) meeting of 4 -15 June 2014. Consistent with the Error Protocol, we suggest using the option foreseen for rapid response and in particular to submit the corrigendum, as constructed by the WGII Co-Chairs and CLAs and approved by the WGII Bureau, to the IPCC Executive Committee for approval.

The SPM in its final form including copyedits and the correction of these errors would be made available in advance of UNFCCC SBSTA for download from the WGII and IPCC web sites together with a notice in the form of an erratum stating that the errors have been corrected.

I sincerely hope that you agree with the proposed way forward, which will enable us to distribute a fully accurate version of the WGII SPM. Unless we hear any objections by **13 May 2014, 10:00 a.m.** Geneva time we will proceed as suggested.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Representative with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Focal Point(s) of your country for information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Christ', is positioned below the closing 'Yours sincerely,'.

Renate Christ
Secretary of the IPCC

WGII AR5 SPM Error/Erratum to 29 March 2014 pre-copy-edit version:

Correction of content-related errors

Table SPM A.1

Page 32, line 5 (entry #4 in the section of the table concerning Asia; Snow & Ice, Rivers & Lakes, Floods & Drought).

The original text reads: “Increased flow in four rivers due to shrinking glaciers in the Himalayas & Central Asia (High confidence, Major contribution from climate change)”

The proposed revised text reads: “Increased flow in several rivers in China due to shrinking glaciers (High confidence, Major contribution from climate change)”

Specifically, the proposed erratum replaces “four” with “several”, and it replaces “in the Himalayas and Central Asia” with “in China”.

The motivation for the erratum is the following:

1) For changing “four” to “several”: The cited papers present conclusions on four glacier/river systems, but the data for one system (Hailuogou) are not as clear as for the other systems. The four systems are: Urumqi River (Xinjiang), Tuotuo Basin (Qinghai), Yanggong Basin (Yunnan), Hailuogou glacier (Sichuan).

2) For changing “in the Himalayas and Central Asia” to “in China”: based on a careful review of the locations, “China” is the most accurate characterization.

The data are in the following three papers (cited in the underlying report).

Casassa, G., P. Lopez, B. Pouyaud, and F. Escobar, 2009: Detection of changes in glacial run-off in alpine basins. Examples from North America, the Alps, central Asia and the Andes. *Hydrological Processes*, 23(1), 31-41

Li, Z.X., Y.Q. He, T. Pu, W.X. Jia, X.Z. He, H.X. Pang, N.N. Zhang, Q. Liu, S.J. Wang, G.F. Zhu, S.X. Wang, L. Chang, J.K. Du, and H.J. Xin, 2010: Changes of climate, glaciers and runoff in China's monsoonal temperate glacier region during the last several decades. *Quaternary International*, 218(1–2), 13-28

Zhang, Y., S. Liu, J. Xu, and D. Shangguan, 2008: Glacier change and glacier runoff variation in the Tuotuo River basin, the source region of Yangtze River in western China. *Environmental Geology*, 56(1), 59-68