

Our ref.: 5371-19/IPCC/SROCC

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

COPY

Geneva, 17 December 2019

Subject: *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*

Sir/Madam,

Allow me to bring to your attention two errors found in the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC). These errors were discovered after the approval of the SPM at the 51st Session of the IPCC in Monaco, September 2019.

The errors which require correction are explained in **Annex 1** to this letter.

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).

After agreeing that action on the alleged error is warranted, the Chair of the IPCC, WGII Co-Chairs and relevant authors have constructed an erratum statement. This erratum statement was approved by the IPCC WG I and WG II Bureau.

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, or can decide to defer to the next session of the IPCC Bureau or of the Panel."

Consistent with the Error Protocol, we suggest using the option foreseen for rapid response for this error and I kindly ask for your agreement to delegate the approval of the proposed erratum to the IPCC Executive Committee.

Unless we hear any objections by **Friday 27 December 2019, 10:00 a.m.** CET Geneva time, we will proceed as suggested.

A copy of this letter is being sent for information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Permanent Representatives from your country to the World Meteorological Organization and to the United Nations Environment Programme.

Yours sincerely,



(Abdalah Mokssit)
Secretary of the IPCC

IPCC Secretariat

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IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) Summary for Policymakers (SPM) Error Notification and Erratum Proposal

In the text below, red highlights the two errors within the text to be corrected, yellow indicates corrected text.

A.3.1

Total GMSL rise for 1902–2015 is 0.16 m (*likely* range 0.12–0.21 m). The rate of GMSL rise for 2006–2015 of 3.6 mm yr⁻¹ (3.1–4.1 mm yr⁻¹, *very likely* range), is unprecedented over the last century (*high confidence*), and about 2.5 times the rate for 1901–1990 of 1.4 mm yr⁻¹ (0.8– 2.0 mm yr⁻¹, *very likely* range). The sum of ice sheet and glacier contributions over the period 2006–2015 is the dominant source of sea level rise (1.8 mm yr⁻¹, *very likely* range 1.7–1.9 mm yr⁻¹), exceeding the effect of thermal expansion of ocean water (1.4 mm yr⁻¹, *very likely* range 1.1–1.7 mm yr⁻¹)²² (*very high confidence*). The dominant cause of global mean sea level rise since 1970 is anthropogenic forcing (*high confidence*). {4.2.1, 4.2.2, Figure SPM.1}

A.3.1

Total GMSL rise for 1902–2010 is 0.16 m (*very likely* range 0.12–0.21 m). The rate of GMSL rise for 2006–2015 of 3.6 mm yr⁻¹ (3.1–4.1 mm yr⁻¹, *very likely* range), is unprecedented over the last century (*high confidence*), and about 2.5 times the rate for 1901–1990 of 1.4 mm yr⁻¹ (0.8– 2.0 mm yr⁻¹, *very likely* range). The sum of ice sheet and glacier contributions over the period 2006–2015 is the dominant source of sea level rise (1.8 mm yr⁻¹, *very likely* range 1.7–1.9 mm yr⁻¹), exceeding the effect of thermal expansion of ocean water (1.4 mm yr⁻¹, *very likely* range 1.1–1.7 mm yr⁻¹)²² (*very high confidence*). The dominant cause of global mean sea level rise since 1970 is anthropogenic forcing (*high confidence*). {4.2.1, 4.2.2, Figure SPM.1}

The correction in date is needed because the values (0.16 [0.12–0.21]) refer to 1902–2010, not 1902–2015 as given.

The correction of *likely* to *very likely* is needed to be consistent with the underlying Chapter 4 assessment, which describes the range for the rate of sea level rise over the 1902–2010 period as *very likely*.

Proposed Erratum:

SROCC SPM A.3.1, Line 1: Replace '1902–2015' with '1902–2010' and replace '*likely*' with '*very likely*'