



THE IUFRO-LED EXPERT PANEL ON ADAPTATION OF FORESTS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Linking Forest Policy and Management with Scientific Knowledge

2nd GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium, Tokyo, 15 April 2008

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- Joint CPF Initiative on Forest Science and Technology
- Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change
- Terms of Reference and main topics
- Activities and schedule
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THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS



An informal, voluntary arrangement for collaboration among 14 international organizations and secretariats

Works through Joint Initiatives and other collaborative activities

Aims at promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

JOINT CPF INITIATIVE ON FOREST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Mandate: ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49
agreed at UNFF-6:



"..welcomes the joint initiative by IUFRO, CIFOR, and ICRAF, in collaboration with other members of the CPF, on science and technology in support of the UNFF..."

(paragraph 23)

MISSION



To support inter-governmental processes and conventions by

- assessing available scientific information in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, objective, open and transparent way, and
- producing reports on issues of high concern, including emerging issues

PRINCIPLES



- Draw on work of experts from all regions of the world
- No new research, but assessment of existing information
- Feed information effectively into policy processes (“right timing”)



PRODUCTS



Focused reports reflecting state-of-the-art understanding on the subject matter

- comprehensive, peer-reviewed scientific assessment reports
- each report containing a summary for policy makers

ORGANIZATION



Established within CPF framework

Flexible and effective structure

- Steering Committee
- Thematic Expert Panels
- Coordination and facilitation by



SHAPING THE INITIATIVE



- Consultations held with policy makers and stakeholders at UNFF-7 (April 2007), CBD SBSTTA-12 (July 2007) and Forest Day Bali (December 2007)
- Adaptation of forests to climate change confirmed as priority theme

EXPERT PANEL ON ADAPTATION OF FORESTS TO CLIMATE CHANGE



- ✓ Decision to establish panel taken by Steering Committee (Sept 2007)
- ✓ Terms of Reference approved (Oct 2007)
- ✓ Chair Risto Seppälä appointed (Oct 2007)
- ✓ List of 19 Panel Members approved and two additional experts nominated (Jan 2008)
- ✓ First Expert Panel Meeting (Feb 2008, New York, hosted by UNFF Secretariat)

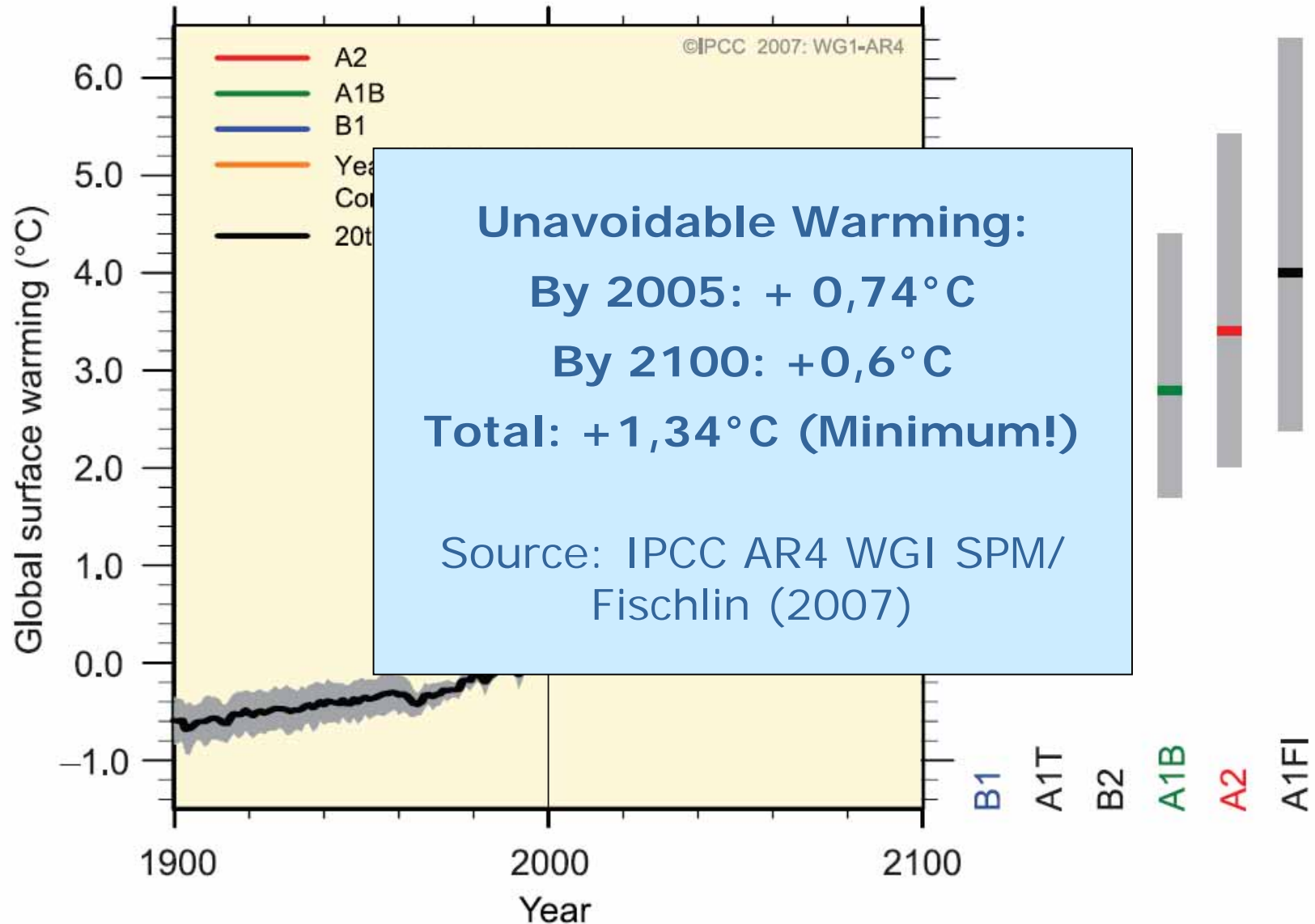
TASK OF EXPERT PANEL



- Provide sector-specific assessment of available knowledge about impacts and vulnerabilities of forests, and adaptation options
- Recognize various spatial and temporal scales involved
- Make best use of information provided by IPCC, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Prepare report for use by UNFF-8 (April 2009), and by also UNFCCC and CBD

IPCC (2007)

MULTI-MODEL AVERAGES AND ASSESSED RANGES FOR SURFACE WARMING



FUTURE RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS



The resilience of many ecosystems is likely to be exceeded this century by an unprecedented combination of climate change, associated disturbances and other global change drivers.

(high confidence)

IPCC, 2007. SPM WGII, p.11

ADAPTATION DEFINITION



“Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their **effects**, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities” (IPCC, 2007)



MAIN TOPICS FOR REPORT



- **Introduction:** Forests, their goods and services in a changing climate
- **Past and current observations**
- **Potential future impacts and vulnerabilities:**
 - Scenarios
 - Environmental impacts and vulnerabilities
 - Economic impacts and vulnerabilities
 - Social impacts and vulnerabilities
 - Cross-cutting aspects
- **Adaptation options:**
 - Policy options
 - Management options for

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES



Examples:

- Extreme events (floods, storms, drought,...)
- Disturbances (pests, fires,...)
- Ecological processes (tree growth, mortality,...)
- Changes in structure, composition and distribution of forest ecosystems



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES (ctd.)



Examples:

- Increased response by **invasive species**
- Impacts on **water resources**
- **Biodiversity change** and functional changes in forests



ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES



Examples:

- Impacts on markets (wood products, marketed/marketable non-wood products)
- Cross-sectoral impacts of market forces on land values (agriculture, etc.)
- Risk related issues such as insurance
- Impacts on employment



SOCIAL IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES



Examples:

- Ecosystem services supporting food security, subsistence needs and rural livelihoods
- Human health, eco-tourism, recreational and lifestyle issues
- Effects on indigenous and local communities living traditional lifestyles
- Inequalities and conflicts

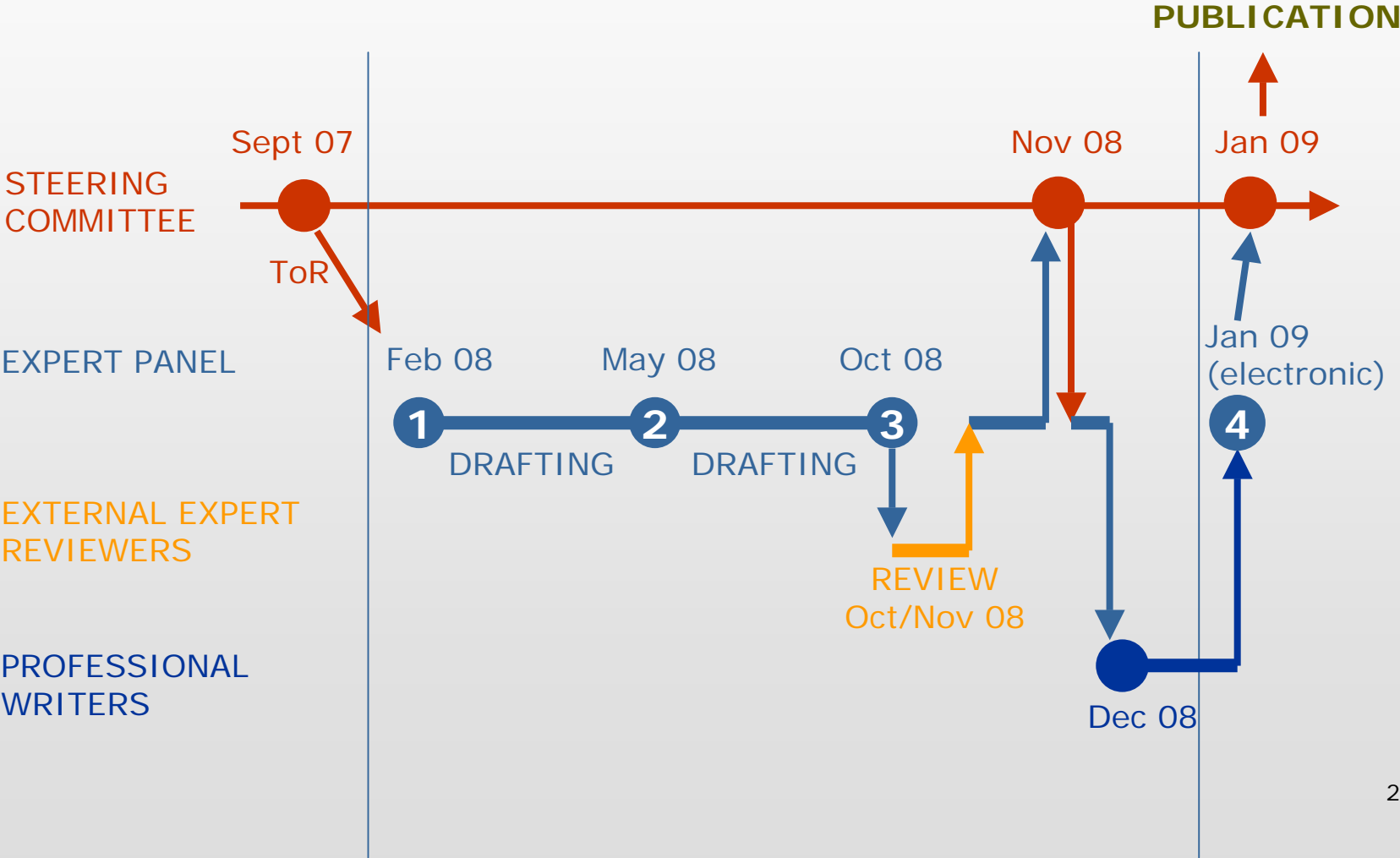


MODALITIES OF WORK



- Panel Chair: overall coordination
- Panel Members: serve as Coordinating Lead Authors / Lead Authors
- Contributing Authors: assist with work of CLAs and LAs
- IUFRO Secretariat: provides operational and technical support

KEY STEPS IN PREPARING THE ASSESSMENT REPORT



IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS



- Preparation of first draft of assessment report (underway)
- Second Expert Panel Meeting in May 2008 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy



FURTHER INFORMATION



<http://www.iufro.org/science/science-initiative/>

The screenshot shows the IUFRO website interface. At the top left is the IUFRO logo and the tagline 'The Global Network for Forest Science Cooperation'. A navigation menu includes 'DISCOVER IUFRO', 'SCIENCE IN IUFRO', 'WHO IS WHO', 'EVENTS', 'PUBLICATIONS', 'MEMBERSHIP', and 'MEDIA'. The main content area is titled 'Joint Initiative on Science and Technology' and describes it as an activity of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). It mentions the initiative was launched in April 2007 and provides a global mechanism for linking science and technology. Below the text are logos for partner organizations: Convention on Biological Diversity, CIFOR, World Agroforestry Centre, IUFRO, and the Global Forests Forum on Forests.