

Supplementary Materials: The interview study

The selection strategy was to reach a broad range of experience among those with central roles within the assessment work. As part of this strategy, the interview composition would also reflect the composition of the IPCC in the sense of including experts from all three working groups, from different regions, and with different genders.

Another selection criterion was that the expert should currently work or have recently worked within the IPCC, thereby knowing the current way the IPCC works. Many of the interviewees had also been involved in earlier assessments, which provided opportunities to also ask questions about historical change in IPCC assessment practices and how they evaluate these changes (why it happened and with what implications). Selected interviewees were also drawn from a broad range of positions/roles within the IPCC, such as both authors (Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, Review Editors) and in leadership/coordination roles (Co-chairs, Technical Support Units).

The interviews were conducted between March and November 2020, lasted between 60 and 90 minutes, and took place digitally. Before the interview, the respondent was informed about the aim of the study and completed a consent form.

The composition of the interview study is as follows:

- *Disciplinary composition*: 14 natural scientists – 3 social scientists – 1 non-scientific competence (administrative officer);
- *Gender composition*: 12 males – 6 females;
- *Regional composition*: 7 Europe, 7 North America, 2 Asia, 1 Africa, and 1 South America.

In relation to the IPCC's experts, the interview study had a similar composition in terms of gender composition (in its latest assessment cycle (AR6), 66% were males and 34% females) but lower in terms of regional representation (in AR6, 35% of the experts were from the Global South). In terms of disciplinary composition, the IPCC has no data on this topic. See Standring 2022 for information about the expert composition of the IPCC.

Many of the experts had been involved in several assessments and in different types of roles, thereby having considerably broad and deep experience with the IPCC.

Roles/Positions	Contributions
National Focal Points	2
Secretariat	1
Co-Chair	2
Co-ordinating Lead Author	9
Lead/Review Author	20
Technical Support Unit	<3
Working Groups	
Working Group I	12
Working Group II	17
Working Group III	5
Assessment Reports	

AR6	13
AR5	7
AR4	4
AR3	6
AR2	5
AR1	2

The interview study was semi-structured around six topics:

- Involvement, motivation, and implications for your academic career.
- Similarities and differences between your work as an IPCC expert and your work at a university/research institute.
- Interdisciplinarity: why and how has it been conducted in the assessment work? Your evaluation of it – hindrances and opportunities in collaboration with other disciplines and research traditions.
- Opportunities and challenges you find in the assessment work.
- Future challenges for the IPCC and what competences are needed to cope with them.
- Science for policy: what role does the IPCC play in climate policies, and what role should it play? What are the challenges for the IPCC in its effort to be policy-relevant?