

Deadlines for literature cited in the Working Group I Fourth Assessment Report

The Working Group I Fourth Assessment Report (WG1-AR4) must be clearly based on the peer reviewed literature, noting that this should also include non-English language publications. Although there is provision in IPCC rules for citing unpublished or non peer-reviewed sources, the use of such material should be limited in WG I, as explained in more detail below.

The deadlines for publication of peer reviewed papers that can be cited in the WG I Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) are determined by the IPCC rules for the review process together with some practical considerations regarding the time to submit and review a journal paper. The constraints can be summarized as follows:

When authors start to write the first draft for the AR4 they should have final or draft material for all work that is being cited in front of them. In practice this means that by May 2005, papers cited need to be either published or available to LAs in the form of a reasonably accurate draft of what is expected to be the final publication.

When the first draft of the AR4 is sent out for expert review, copies of any cited papers not already published must be made available to reviewers on request. This means that LAs need to ensure that drafts of any such papers are sent to the TSU before or at the same time as the chapter drafts, for which the absolute deadline is August 12. Such drafts will be made available to reviewers in confidence solely for the purposes of the review and are not to be copied, cited or re-distributed by them.

When the second draft of the AR4 is written authors need to be sure that any cited paper that is not yet published will actually appear in the literature, is correctly referenced, and will not be subsequently modified (except perhaps for copy editing). In practice this means that by December 2005, papers cited need to be either published or "in press".

When the second draft of the AR4 is sent to Governments and experts for the second round review, the TSU must hold final preprint copies of any unpublished papers that are cited in order that these can be made available to reviewers. This means that by late-February 2006 if LAs can not assure us that a paper is in press and provide a preprint we will ask them to remove any reference to it.

Authors may also cite unpublished or non-peer reviewed reports including internal agency reports and web-based material. We are asking our LAs to restrict use of such material to work that provides straightforward extensions of previously documented datasets, models or analyses. Non-peer reviewed material should not be cited to introduce new methods or results that are significantly different from those covered in the existing peer reviewed literature.

The above constraints are necessary because the IPCC assessment process is under intense scrutiny and we have an obligation to ensure that the literature is reported accurately and in a balanced way that is fair to the science community, the review process, and our final policymaker audience.