



Chair Modeling for sustainable development



# Le processus d'écriture du 6<sup>ème</sup> rapport du GIEC

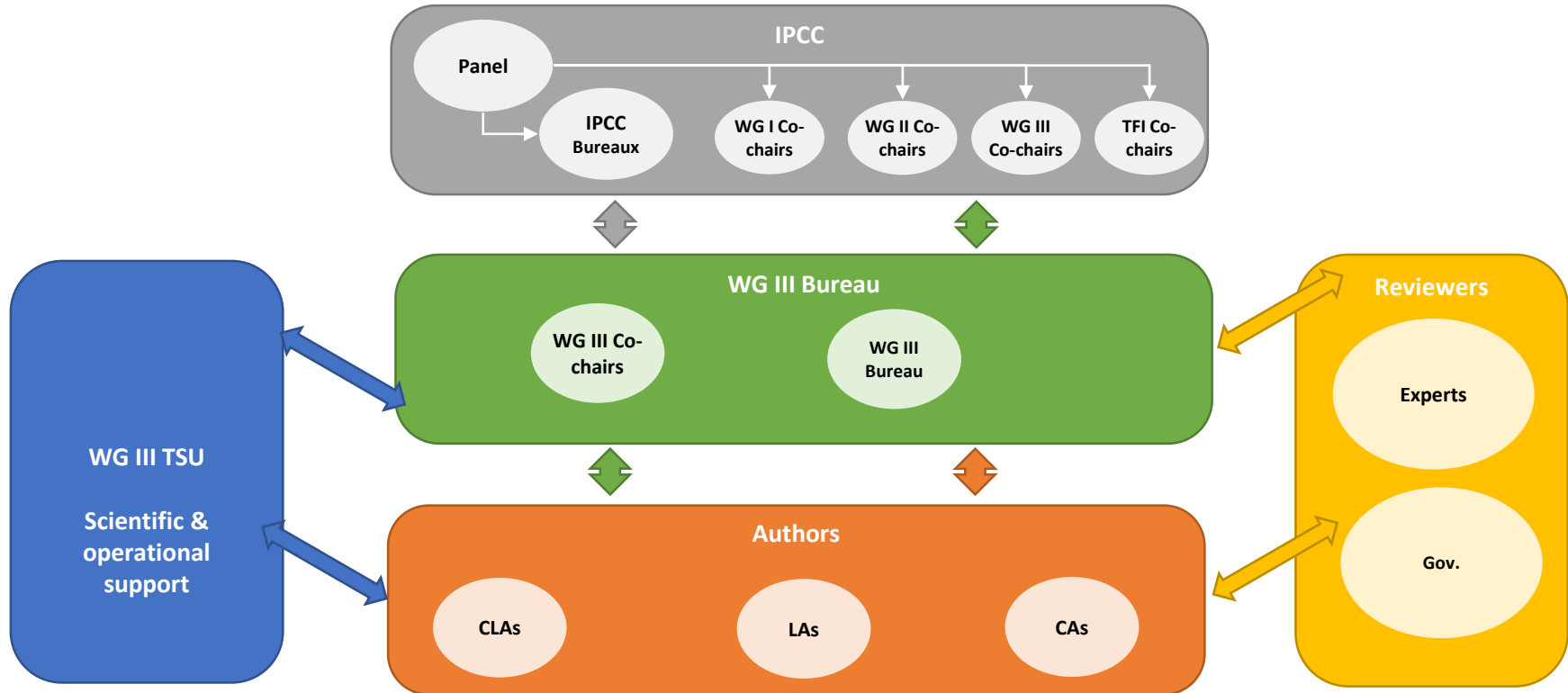
Nadia Maïzi, MINES ParisTech  
Courtesy D. Roberts/R.Slade

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MINES ParisTech, le 13 Novembre 2019

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# Who is involved



# Roles and Expectations of Authors

## Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs)

- Overall responsibility for coordinating major sections of the report
- Lead the development of crosscutting scientific or technical issues

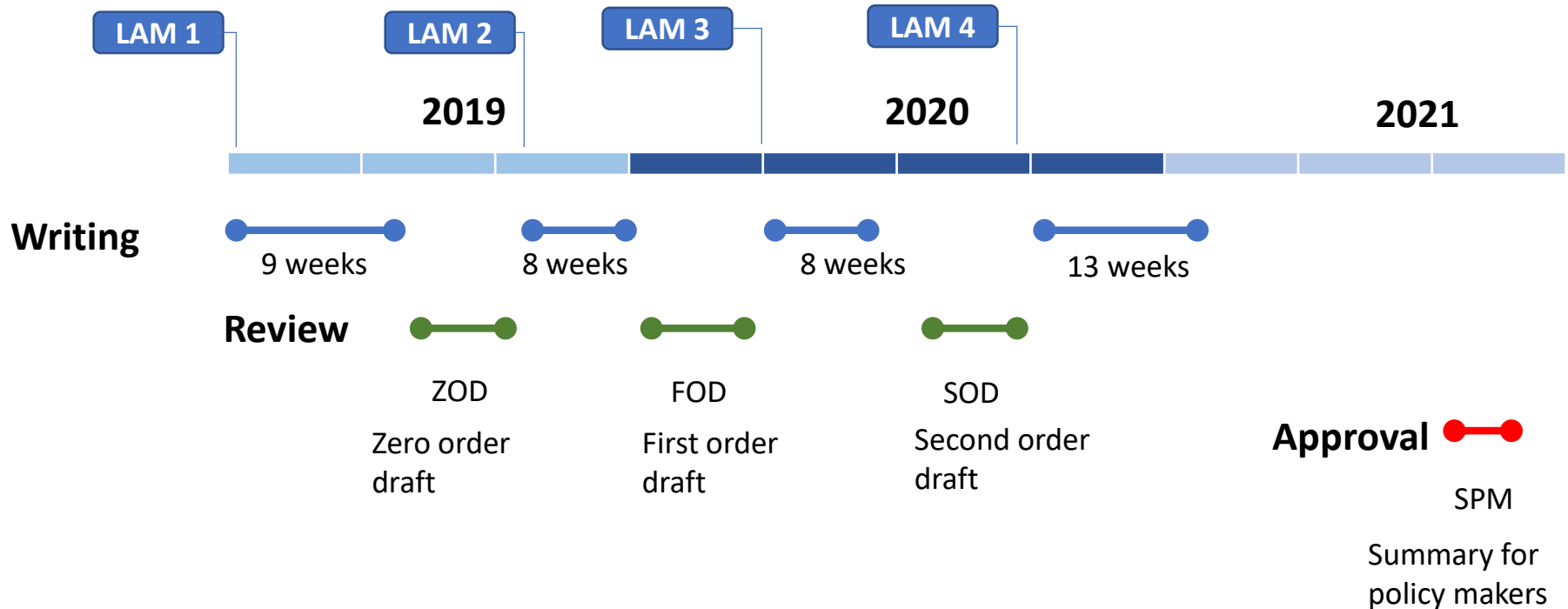
## Lead Authors (LAs)

- Write designated sections
- Synthesise material drawn from literature
- To take account of review comments

## Contributing Authors (CAs)

- Prepare technical information (text, graphs or data) for assimilation by LAs into the draft sections

# 4 writing periods, 3 reviews





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# Converger vers le « SPM » : Summary for Policy Makers

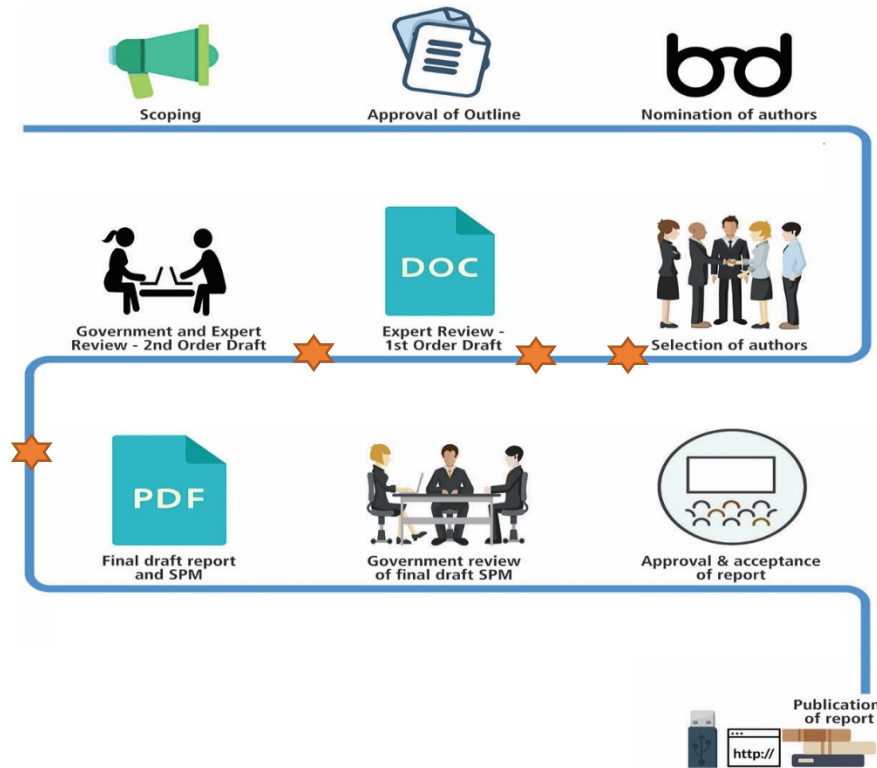


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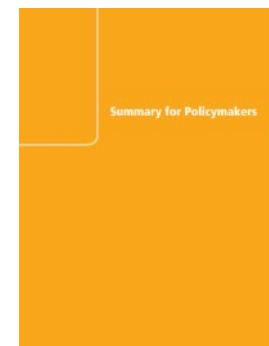
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# The official AR6 IPCC writing and review process



# The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of each report is the most influential IPCC output



*“IPCC assessments present an unparalleled opportunity for climate science to speak directly to power.”*

*“No minister will ever read an assessment in full”*

*Richard Black, Nature Climate Change, 2015,  
“no more summaries for wonks”*

# The SPM needs to be...

- Policy-relevant but not policy prescriptive
- A distillation of key findings from chapters
- Subject to extensive review by experts and governments
- Approved line by line in plenary





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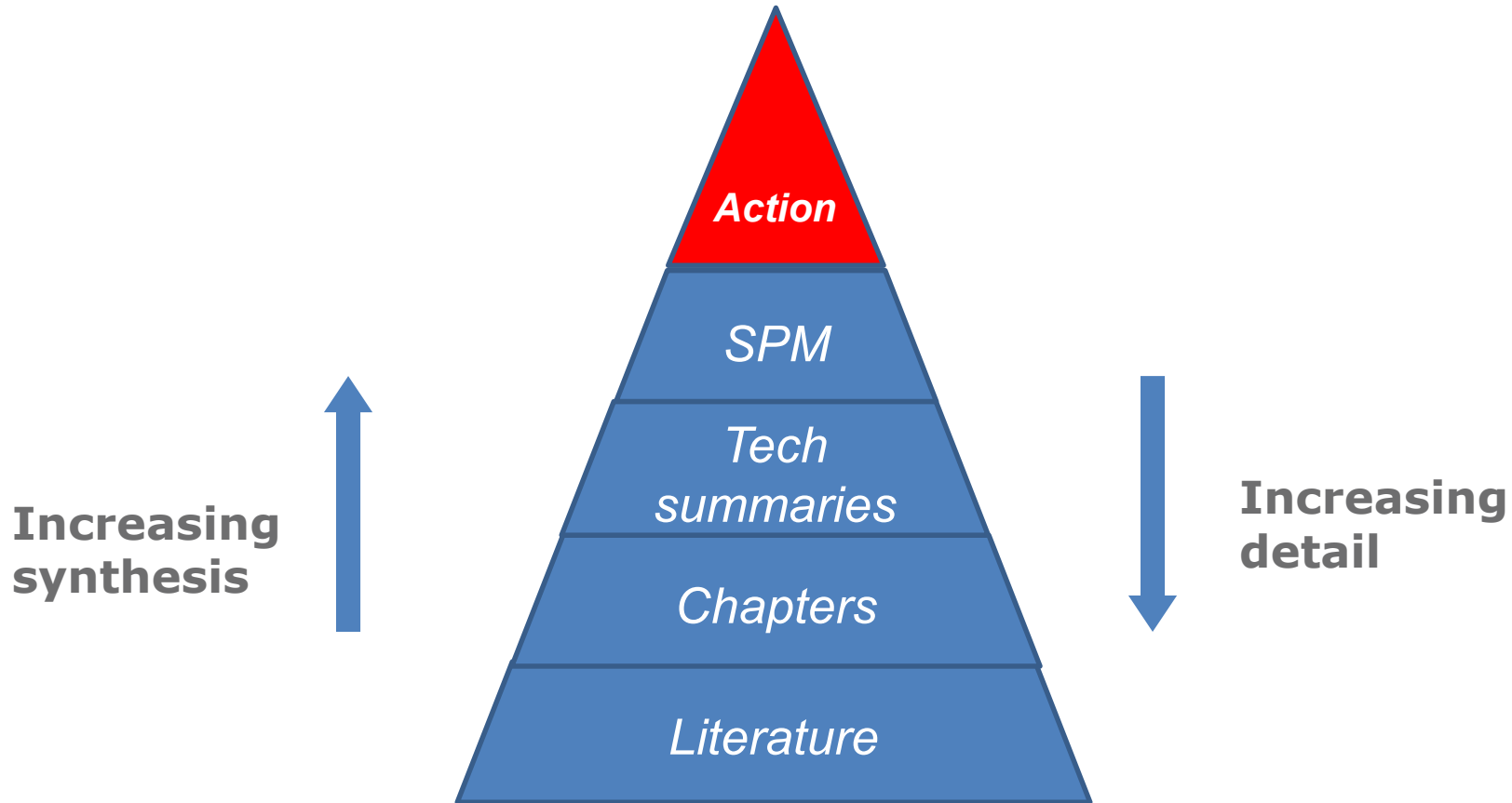
# Un processus non linéaire

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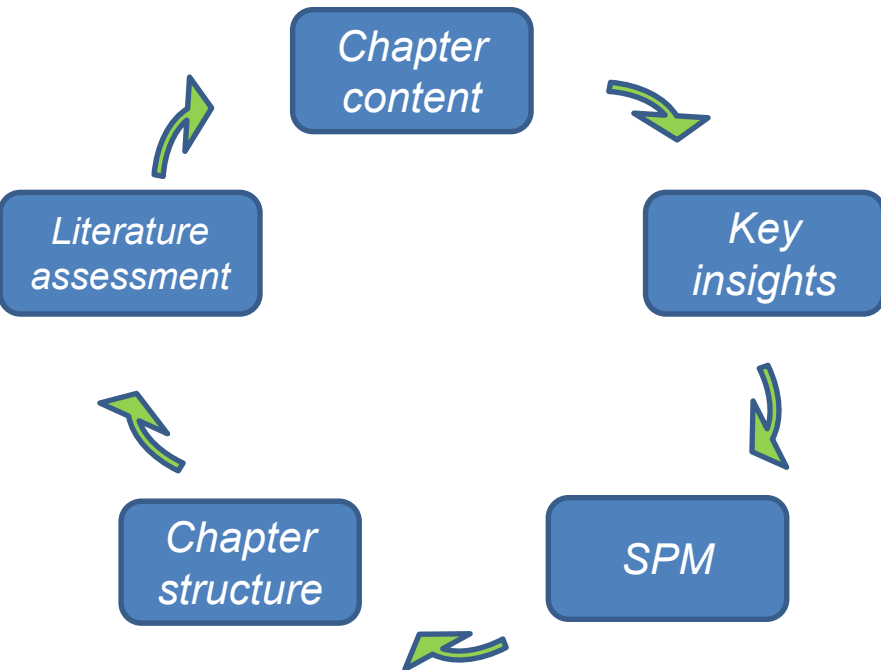
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The SPM synthesises chapter insights, and statements must be underpinned by evidence presented in chapters...



# ...but the writing process is not linear



“a multistage crucible of revision and approval, as individuals together navigate complex science-policy terrain”

Mach et al. Sci. Adv. 2016

# Governmental approval builds joint ownership

*“The governmental approval process builds joint ownership of current knowledge by scientists and governments... increasing the traction and relevance of SPM assessment findings, increasing their influence beyond that of the underlying report”*

*Mach, 2016*



Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III (WGIII-12) and Thirty-ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-39)

7-12 April 2014 | Berlin, Germany

**ipcc**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change





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# Et au final une co production



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# Government feedback can be tough

e.g. – 25,000 government & expert comments on the 1.5°C SPM FOD

- **Too long, figures too complex**
  - “Difficult to understand and contains extremely much information...”
- **Too general**
  - “It does not address clearly the decision makers needs [there are no] specific answers to questions such as how feasible is 1.5c”
  - “There are statements in the SPM, that are so vague and general as to be useless.
- **Too prescriptive**
  - “ The report openly supports the "ethical imperative" for wealth redistribution to compensate for impacts of climate change” this is policy-prescriptive and a view categorically rejected by some UNFCCC parties ...”
- **Too much repetition, deviation, hesitation...**
  - “this statement is perceived as a repetition of previous statements and thus does not add much new...”
  - “Is this specific to 1.5°C?”
  - “Key statements in the SPM do not reflect the material in the underlying chapters.. pretty bland and almost common sense”

# The SPM is targeting policymakers, not fellow scientists

“The IPCC has shown a remarkably consistent capacity to turn out documents that defy comprehension [...] despite the undoubted quality of the underlying assessments”

*Richard Black, Nature Climate Change, 2015*

[SPM] is widely criticized as being unreadable and inaccessible for non-specialists”

*IPCC Expert Meeting on Communications, Oslo, Norway 9-10 Feb 2016*