

Findings of the Citizen Audit of the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report



April 14, 2010

report text by **Donna Laframboise**

above graphic by Donna Laframboise

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Citizen Audit Main Findings

released April 14, 2010

UN's Climate Bible Gets 21 'F's on Report Card

- all 18,531 references cited in the 2007 IPCC report were examined
- 5,587 are not peer-reviewed
- IPCC chairman's **claim** that the report relies solely on peer-reviewed sources is not supported
- each chapter was audited three times; the result most favorable to the IPCC was used
- **21 out of 44 chapters contain so few peer-reviewed references, they get an F**
- 43 citizen auditors in 12 countries participated in this project
- [full report card here](#)
- [detailed results here](#)

| grade | chapters (out of 44) | % of chapters receiving this grade |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| F (59% & below) | 21 | 48 |
| D (60-69%) | 4 | 9 |
| C (70-79%) | 6 | 14 |
| B (80-89%) | 5 | 11 |
| A (90-100%) | 8 | 18 |

Table 1

BACKGROUND AND INTRO

United Nations countries belong to an organization called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which publishes a report every six years. Often referred to as the "climate bible" the latest one was released in 2007 and is relied on by governments around the world. Billions of dollars are spent on national and international policies based on its findings. Judges consult it when trying cases. Scholars and journalists cite it thousands of times a year.

The IPCC report contains 44 chapters and is nearly 3,000 pages long. Written by people organized into three teams - Working Group 1, 2 and 3 - it consists of three smaller reports bundled into one.

PEER-REVIEWED LITERATURE CLAIM

The chairman of the IPCC has **declared repeatedly** that the report is based solely on peer-reviewed literature. (This means research papers that have been submitted to an academic journal, scrutinized by anonymous referees, and frequently altered in order to qualify for publication. Although the peer-review process does not guarantee accuracy, the fact that research findings have undergone this process promotes a feeling of confidence.)

This Citizen Audit focused its attention on the peer-reviewed literature claim. A **team** of 43 volunteers from 12 countries examined the list of references at the end of each chapter. We sorted these references into two groups - articles published in peer-reviewed academic journals and other references. (Non-peer-reviewed material is often called "grey literature".) Then we calculated the percentage of references that do, indeed, appear to be peer-reviewed.

In elementary schools in the United States, students are assigned grades ranging from an A to an F, based on the mark they've achieved out of 100 (see Wikipedia's [table here](#)). Most parents would be alarmed if their child brought home a report card similar to the one received by the IPCC.

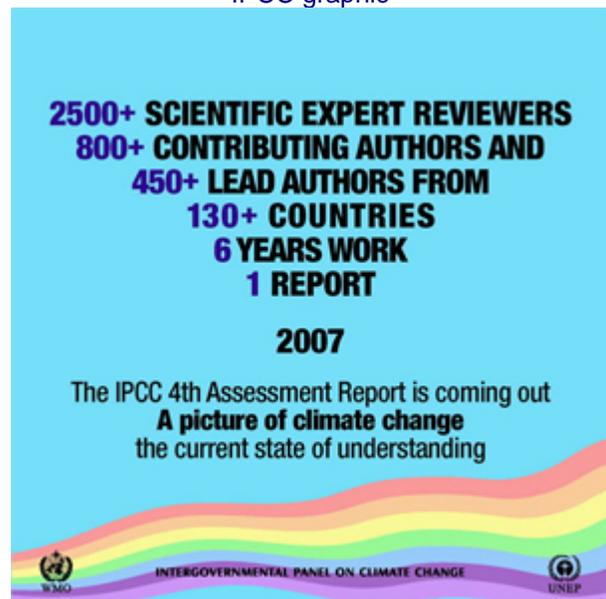
21 out of 44 chapters contain so few peer-reviewed references that the IPCC received an F. The IPCC relied on peer-reviewed literature less than 60 percent of the time in these chapters.

5,587 references in the IPCC report were not peer-reviewed. Among these documents are **press releases**, newspaper and magazine **articles**, **discussion papers**, MA and PhD **theses**, **working papers**, and **advocacy** literature published by **environmental** groups.

Citizen Audit graphic



IPCC graphic



WHY THESE FINDINGS MATTER

Governments around the world need to base their policies on impeccable research - not a report that relies on 5,587 instances of grey literature to make its case. If individuals with an agenda had wished to manipulate this report, they were afforded thousands of opportunities to do so.

Rajendra Pachauri, the IPCC chairman, has repeatedly trumpeted his organization's full reliance on peer-reviewed literature. But the report falls well short of that standard. *If the IPCC has misled the public about a matter this straightforward surely its ability to accurately describe more complex topics is called into question.*

OUR METHODOLOGY

Most chapters in the IPCC report contain hundreds of references. Not every reference is adequately documented, and classifying some as peer-reviewed or grey literature involves a measure of discretion. Our [How-To Guide](#) advised auditors to: "Give the IPCC the benefit of the doubt."

Each chapter was examined by three citizen auditors working independently of each other (often on different continents). On those occasions in which the auditors arrived at slightly different results, the span between the highest and lowest result does not exceed five percent. **We used the result most favorable to the IPCC to calculate our findings.** [more about our [quality assurance](#) mechanisms]

WHO WE ARE

This project was administered by Canadian [blogger](#) Donna Laframboise, author of the upcoming book *Decoding the Climate Bible*. On March 8, she [invited citizen volunteers](#) to help audit the 2007 IPCC report. More than [40 people](#) participated in this crowd-sourcing project, collectively donating hundreds of hours of their personal time. The last audit was completed on April 7.

These [citizen auditors](#) live in different parts of North America but also in Australia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, The Netherlands, and the UK. Among them are a medical doctor, a lawyer, and people with degrees in engineering, chemistry, geophysics, mathematical physics, and plasma physics. Others have commerce, economics, and arts degrees. Some are retired. Nine are women.

IPCC Report Card

BACKGROUND

United Nations countries belong to an organization called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which publishes a report every six years. Often referred to as the "climate bible" these reports are relied on by governments around the world.

The latest was released in 2007. Sometimes called the AR4 (the Fourth Assessment Report), it contains 44 chapters and is nearly 3,000 pages long. Written by people organized into teams - Working Group 1, 2 and 3 - it consists of three smaller reports bundled into one.

The chairman of the IPCC has **repeatedly said** the report relies *solely* on peer-reviewed literature to support its findings. He has said research that hasn't appeared in peer-reviewed journals should be thrown "into the dustbin" (see the last line of [this newspaper article](#)). But our audit has discovered almost 5,600 non-peer-reviewed references in this report.

In elementary schools in the United States, students are assigned grades ranging from an A to an F, based on the mark they've achieved out of 100 (see Wikipedia's [table here](#)). Most parents would be alarmed if their child brought home a report card similar to the one received by the IPCC.

Lowest to Highest Grades

(click each chapter for the relevant section of the IPCC report)

| 2007 IPCC report (AR4) | grade | % peer-reviewed | total number of references | % <i>not</i> peer-reviewed |
|---|-------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Working Group 3, Chapter 4 | F | 15 | 360 | 85 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 7 | F | 23 | 352 | 77 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 1 | F | 24 | 50 | 76 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 5 | F | 27 | 260 | 73 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 6 | F | 29 | 379 | 71 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 12 | F | 37 | 414 | 63 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 13 | F | 40 | 354 | 60 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 11 | F | 42 | 372 | 58 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 2 | F | 46 | 302 | 54 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 7 | F | 46 | 244 | 54 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 10 | F | 47 | 191 | 53 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 13 | F | 48 | 491 | 52 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 9 | F | 53 | 361 | 47 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 17 | F | 53 | 275 | 47 |

| 2007 IPCC report (AR4) | grade | % peer- reviewed | total number of references | % <i>not</i> peer- reviewed |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Working Group 2, Chapter 20 | F | 53 | 220 | 47 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 18 | F | 56 | 270 | 44 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 9 | F | 56 | 229 | 44 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 14 | F | 58 | 562 | 42 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 16 | F | 58 | 194 | 42 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 3 | F | 58 | 358 | 42 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 10 | F | 59 | 391 | 41 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 11 | D | 62 | 330 | 38 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 6 | D | 65 | 443 | 35 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 2 | D | 67 | 374 | 33 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 15 | D | 68 | 361 | 32 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 5 | C | 70 | 444 | 30 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 3 | C | 71 | 377 | 29 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 12 | C | 71 | 633 | 29 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 19 | C | 71 | 273 | 29 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 8 | C | 75 | 557 | 25 |
| Working Group 3, Chapter 8 | C | 77 | 317 | 23 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 1 | B | 80 | 264 | 20 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 4 | B | 82 | 917 | 18 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 4 | B | 85 | 257 | 15 |
| Working Group 2, Chapter 1 | B | 86 | 650 | 14 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 11 | B | 89 | 609 | 11 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 6 | A | 93 | 609 | 7 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 8 | A | 94 | 686 | 6 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 9 | A | 94 | 535 | 6 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 2 | A | 95 | 759 | 5 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 10 | A | 95 | 545 | 5 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 3 | A | 96 | 804 | 4 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 5 | A | 96 | 289 | 4 |
| Working Group 1, Chapter 7 | A | 96 | 869 | 4 |

| 2007 IPCC report (AR4) | grade | % peer- reviewed | total number of references | % <i>not</i> peer- reviewed |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | 18,531 | |

Table 2

Of the 44 chapters in the IPCC report:

- 21 received an F** - 59% or fewer references are peer-reviewed
- 4 received a D - 60-69% of references are peer-reviewed
- 6 received a C - 70-79% of references are peer-reviewed
- 5 received a B - 80-89% of references are peer-reviewed
- 8 received an A - 90-100% of references are peer-reviewed

Detailed Findings

BACKGROUND

United Nations countries belong to an organization called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This organization releases a report every six years. Often referred to as the "climate bible," it is relied on by governments around the world.

The 2007 report is divided into three smaller reports - written by Working Group 1, 2 and 3 - and contains 44 chapters in total. The chairman of the IPCC has repeatedly claimed that the report relies solely on peer-reviewed literature to support its findings. This is not the case.

| 2007 IPCC report (AR4) | % of references <i>not</i> peer-reviewed | number <i>not</i> peer-reviewed | total number of references |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| report overall | 30 | 5,587 | 18,531 |
| Working Group 3 | 57 | 2,307 | 4,033 |
| Working Group 2 | 34 | 2,849 | 8,272 |
| Working Group 1 | 7 | 431 | 6,226 |

Table 3

OUR METHODOLOGY

A team of 43 volunteers from 12 countries examined the list of references at the end of each chapter. We sorted these references into two groups - articles published in peer-reviewed academic journals and other references. Not every reference is adequately documented, and classifying some as peer-reviewed or gray literature involves a measure of discretion. Our How-To Guide advised auditors to: "Give the IPCC the benefit of the doubt."

Each chapter was examined by three citizen auditors working independently of each other (often on different continents). On those occasions in which the auditors arrived at slightly different results, the span between the highest and lowest result does not exceed five percent. **We used the result most favorable to the IPCC in determining our findings.** [more about our quality assurance mechanisms]

to see the citizen audits of each chapter, click the **a**, **b**, and **c**

| Working Group 3 | grade | % of references peer-reviewed | number <i>not</i> peer-reviewed | total number of references |
|---|-------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chapter 1 a b c | F | 24 | 38 | 50 |
| Chapter 2 a b c | F | 46 | 164 | 302 |
| Chapter 3 a b c | F | 58 | 150 | 358 |
| Chapter 4 a b c | F | 15 | 306 | 360 |
| Chapter 5 a b c | F | 27 | 189 | 260 |
| Chapter 6 a b c | F | 29 | 270 | 379 |
| Chapter 7 a b c | F | 23 | 271 | 352 |
| Chapter 8 a b c | C | 77 | 72 | 317 |
| Chapter 9 a b c | F | 56 | 100 | 229 |
| Chapter 10 a b c | F | 47 | 102 | 191 |
| Chapter 11 a b c | D | 62 | 127 | 330 |
| Chapter 12 a b c | F | 37 | 262 | 414 |
| Chapter 13 a b c | F | 48 | 256 | 491 |
| | | | 2,307 | 4,033 |

Table 4

| Working Group 2 | grade | % of references peer-reviewed | number <i>not</i> peer-reviewed | total number of references |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chapter 1 a b c | B | 86 | 92 | 650 |
| Chapter 2 a b c | D | 67 | 122 | 374 |
| Chapter 3 a b c | C | 71 | 109 | 377 |
| Chapter 4 a b c | B | 82 | 167 | 917 |
| Chapter 5 a b c | C | 70 | 134 | 444 |
| Chapter 6 a b c | D | 65 | 157 | 443 |
| Chapter 7 a b c | F | 46 | 132 | 244 |
| Chapter 8 a b c | C | 75 | 137 | 557 |
| Chapter 9 a b c | F | 53 | 168 | 361 |
| Chapter 10 a b c | F | 59 | 160 | 391 |
| Chapter 11 a b c | F | 42 | 214 | 372 |
| Chapter 12 a b c | C | 71 | 186 | 633 |
| Chapter 13 a b c | F | 40 | 211 | 354 |
| Chapter 14 a b c | F | 58 | 235 | 562 |
| Chapter 15 a b c | D | 68 | 115 | 361 |
| Chapter 16 a b c | F | 58 | 81 | 194 |
| Chapter 17 a b c | F | 53 | 129 | 275 |
| Chapter 18 a b c | F | 56 | 119 | 270 |
| Chapter 19 a b c | C | 71 | 78 | 273 |

| Working Group 2 | grade | % of references peer-reviewed | number <i>not</i> peer-reviewed | total number of references |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chapter 20 a b c | F | 53 | 103 | 220 |
| | | | 2,849 | 8,272 |

Table 5

to see the citizen audits of each chapter, click the [a](#), [b](#), and [c](#)

| Working Group 1 | grade | % of references peer-reviewed | number <i>not</i> peer-reviewed | total number of references |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chapter 1 a b c | B | 80 | 54 | 264 |
| Chapter 2 a b c | A | 95 | 41 | 759 |
| Chapter 3 a b c | A | 96 | 33 | 804 |
| Chapter 4 a b c | B | 85 | 39 | 257 |
| Chapter 5 a b c | A | 96 | 13 | 289 |
| Chapter 6 a b c | A | 93 | 43 | 609 |
| Chapter 7 a b c | A | 96 | 32 | 869 |
| Chapter 8 a b c | A | 94 | 44 | 686 |
| Chapter 9 a b c | A | 94 | 34 | 535 |
| Chapter 10 a b c | A | 95 | 29 | 545 |
| Chapter 11 a b c | B | 89 | 69 | 609 |
| | | | 431 | 6,226 |

Table 6

Fairness, Quality Assurance & Minor Data Adjustments

PROCESS & PHILOSOPHY

Each of the 44 chapters in the 2007 IPCC report was audited by three individuals working independently. Auditors had no way of knowing who else was examining their particular chapter. They received a list of references cut-and-pasted from the online version of the IPCC report as an e-mail attachment. They were asked to highlight either the peer-reviewed or the non-peer-reviewed references, to count them, and to return the file.

A brief [How-To Guide](#) for this project was written by a citizen auditor who had already examined thousands of IPCC references in the course of conducting research for his blog. That guide advised citizen auditors to "**Give the IPCC the benefit of the doubt.**" A [project FAQ](#) was authored by Donna Laframboise. Except for a couple of auditors who joined this project early on the first day, every auditor was directed to these documents (as well as to a [sample chapter](#)) when they initially signed on.

The IPCC chairman has declared that non-peer-reviewed research sources belong in the dustbin (see the last lines of this [newspaper article](#)) but this project does not necessarily take that position. Its primary goal was to determine whether the [chairman's claim](#) (frequently repeated by journalists) that this report is based *only* and *solely* on peer-reviewed literature is accurate.

UNCERTAIN REFERENCES

Citizen auditors were given the option of highlighting references about which they felt uncertain in an alternate color, thereby requesting a second opinion. Out of 132 audits, this mechanism was triggered by citizen auditors 32 times.

In the interests of consistency, Laframboise provided the second opinion in every case. Completed audits were returned in no particular order, and second-opinion assessment occurred in a similar fashion. Of the 316 references in which a second-opinion was sought, Laframboise ruled that 230 of them were peer-reviewed and 86 were not. Thus, she **ruled in the IPCC's favor 73% of the time.**

A note authored by Laframboise appears near the top of all audit files in which this mechanism was triggered.

MINOR DIFFERENCES IN RESULTS

Most chapters contain hundreds of references. The complete name of the publications and organizations involved is not always provided. Frequently, publication names are abbreviated in an inconsistent manner within an individual chapter - as well as across working groups. Thus, some amount of discretion was involved in decoding certain references, and in deciding whether or not they are peer-reviewed.

In five chapters, all auditors reported an identical peer-reviewed total. In 21 others, the auditors' results were within 1 or 2 percent of each other. In every case in which there was a difference of opinion, **we used the number most favorable to the IPCC.**

MINOR DATA ADJUSTMENTS

In six chapters out of 44, the span between the highest and lowest results initially reported by the auditors exceeded 5 percent. This prompted an examination of the audits by Laframboise who then asked six auditors to take a second look at their findings. In all but one case, Laframboise assured the auditors that the final decision was theirs. If they felt strongly that their initial result should stand, their totals would be respected.

In four cases, auditors who re-examined their audit felt the total percentage of peer-reviewed references should rise slightly. In one case, the auditor felt it should be slightly reduced. (This auditor then inquired about other files he'd worked on. On learning that there was one other instance in which there was some doubt, he re-examined his audit and adjusted his total slightly downward.)

In one final case, an auditor was asked to take a second look at his file but time constraints prevented him from doing so. Because this was the last audit outstanding in the entire project, Laframboise disregarded the results of that single anomalous audit and assigned the chapter to a fourth auditor.

[see a spreadsheet of our findings here](#)

How the IPCC Report Has Been Advertised

click a quote to go to its source

"People can have confidence in the IPCC's conclusions...Given that it is **all** on the basis of **peer-reviewed** literature." - Rajendra Pachauri, IPCC chairman, June 2008

"The IPCC doesn't do any research itself. We **only** develop our assessments on the basis of **peer-reviewed** literature." - Rajendra Pachauri, IPCC chairman, June 2007

"This is based on **peer-reviewed** literature. That's the manner in which the IPCC functions. We don't pick up a newspaper article and, based on that, come up with our findings." - Rajendra Pachauri, IPCC chairman, June 2008 (*click quote to go to YouTube video. Remarks begin at 1 minute, 15 seconds*)

[in the **online version** of this document a sound clip appears here]
[regarding news articles in the report]

"As IPCC Chairman Rajendra K. Pachauri recently stated: 'IPCC relies entirely on peer reviewed literature in carrying out its assessment...'" - US Environmental Protection Agency, December 2009 (bottom of PDF's page 7)

"When asked if the discussion paper could be taken into consideration...[Pachauri] said, 'IPCC studies **only peer-review science**. Let someone publish the data in a decent credible publication. I am sure IPCC would then accept it, **otherwise** we can **just throw it into the dustbin**.'" - *Times of India*, November 2007

"This is the **key document on climate change**, and from now on you can **forget any others** you may have read or seen or heard about. This is the one that matters. It is the tightly distilled, **peer-reviewed research** of several thousand scientists" - *Irish Independent*, November 2007

"Make no mistake about how central the IPCC is to the global warming debate. The IPCC's reports are why ours and other governments...are calling for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions...[those] attacking the IPCC...have never researched nor published any climate science in peer-reviewed journals - and peer review is how science works." - ABC News, Australia, November 2009

"The IPCC bases its work on papers that have been published in the **peer-reviewed scientific literature**." - *The Economist*, December 2009

"The IPCC does not do scientific research itself, but builds its assessments on **peer-reviewed** and published **scientific papers**." - ABC News, Australia, February 2007

"The IPCC relies on the **peer-reviewed scientific literature** for its conclusions, which must meet the rigorous requirements of the scientific method..." - Joe Romm, *Salon.com*, February 2008

"The first phase [of the IPCC report] will be released in Paris next week...The report will draw on **already published peer-reviewed science**." - CBC News, Canada, January 2007

"Without a strong, **peer-reviewed science base** [provided by the IPCC]...the case for action on climate change would not be as unequivocal as it is today." - Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary General, August 2008

"[The IPCC report] used **only peer reviewed published science**..." - Associated Press science writer Seth Borenstein, February 2007. This story appeared in newspapers large and small in countries that included **Russia, Canada, and the United States**.

"The [IPCC] report will draw on already published **peer-review science**." - Associated Press science writer Seth Borenstein, January 2007. This story appeared in newspapers in countries that included **South Africa and the United States**.

"The knowledge of climate change contained within **peer-reviewed scientific publications** is periodically assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change." - Science Alert.com, November 2008.

"Journalists must follow basic principles for screening evidence - making sure, for example, that scientific research is **properly peer reviewed**. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a **particularly valuable source of information** on climate change..." - *The New Nation*, Bangladesh, September 2009

[click a quote to go to its source](#)

Some of the News Releases Cited by the IPCC Report

Working Group 2, Chapter 5

COPA COGECA, 2003a: Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the European Union General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union, CDP 03 61 1, **Press release**, Brussels. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch5s5-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch5s5-2.html

Working Group 2, Chapter 9

FAO, 2004: Locust crisis to hit northwest Africa again: situation deteriorating in the Sahel. **FAO News Release**, 17 September 2004. <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2004/50609/>

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch9s9-references.html

Working Group 2, Chapter 11

Premier of Victoria, 2006: Ballarat's future water supplies secured by major Bracks government action plan. **Media release**, 17 October 2006.

http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/news_item.asp?id=978.

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch11s11-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch11s11-2-5.html

Working Group 2 - Cross Chapter Studies

COPA COGECA, 2003b: Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the European Union General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union, CDP 03 61 1, **Press release**, Brussels <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg2/ar4-wg2-xccc.pdf> Reference at p. 848.

Relevant paragraph at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg2/ar4-wg2-xccc.pdf> Note: paragraph at p. 846

Working Group 2, Chapter 13

World Bank, 2002a: Desarrollo en riesgo debido a la degradación ambiental: Comunicado de prensa (Development at risk from environmental degradation: **News release**), No. 2002/112/S.

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch13s13-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch13s13-2-5-1.html
http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch13s13-4-2.html

Working Group 3, Chapter 4

Snow, T., White House **Press Briefing**, 2006:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/10/20061031-8.html>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/10/20061031-8.html#> accessed 31 October 2006.

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg3/en/ch4s4-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg3/en/ch4s4-2-2.html

World Bank, 2005: An open letter to the Catholic Relief Services and bank information centre in response to the report 'Chad's Oil: Miracle or Mirage for the poor?'. **News release** no: 2005/366/AFR, Washington D.C. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg3/en/ch4s4-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg3/en/ch4s4-5-4-2.html

Working Group 3, Chapter 5

Power System, 2005: **Press release** 2005.6.27. Development of High Power and High Energy Density Capacitor (in Japanese). <[http:// www.powersystems.co.jp/newsrelease/20050627nscreleaser1-1.pdf](http://www.powersystems.co.jp/newsrelease/20050627nscreleaser1-1.pdf)> accessed 30/05/07. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg3/en/ch5s5-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg3/en/ch5s5-3-1-3.html

Some of the Discussion Papers Cited by the IPCC Report

Working Group 2 Chapter 4

Banzhaf, S. and J. Boyd, 2005: The architecture and measurement of an ecosystem services index. **Discussion paper** RFF DP 05-22, Resources for the Future, Washington, District of Columbia, 57 pp. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch4s4-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch4s4-5.html

Working Group 2, Chapter 5

Sedjo, R.A. and K.S. Lyon, 1996: Timber supply model 96: a global timber supply model with a pulpwood component. Resources for the Future **Discussion Paper** 96-15. [Accessed 21.03.07: <http://www.rff.org/rff/Documents/RFF-DP-96-15.pdf>]
http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch5s5-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch5s5-3-2-2.html

Working Group 2, Chapter 9

Kurukulasuriya, P. and R. Mendelsohn, 2006a: A Ricardian analysis of the impact of climate change on African cropland. Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa (CEEPA) **Discussion Paper** No. 8. University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 58 pp. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch9s9-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch9s9-4-4.html

Kurukulasuriya, P. and R. Mendelsohn, 2006b: Crop selection: adapting to climate change in Africa. Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa (CEEPA) **Discussion Paper** No. 26. University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 28 pp. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch9s9-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch9s9-5-1.html

Seo, S.N. and R. Mendelsohn, 2006a: Climate change impacts on animal husbandry in Africa: a Ricardian analysis. Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa (CEEPA) **Discussion Paper** No. 9, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 42 pp. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch9s9-references.html

Relevant paragraph at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch9s9-4-4.html

Working Group 2, Chapter 11

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UN's Climate Bible Gets 21 "F"s on Report Card

for release 14 April 2010

TORONTO -- 21 of 44 chapters in the United Nations' Nobel-winning climate bible earned an F on a [report card](#) released today. Forty citizen auditors from 12 countries examined 18,500 sources cited in the report – finding 5,600 to be not peer-reviewed.

Contrary to [statements by the chairman](#) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the celebrated 2007 report does not rely solely on research published in reputable scientific journals. It also cites press releases, newspaper and magazine clippings, student theses, newsletters, discussion papers, and literature published by green advocacy groups. Such material is often called "grey literature."

"We've been told this report is the gold standard," says Canadian blogger Donna Laframboise, who organized the online crowdsourcing effort to examine the references. "We've been told it's 100 percent peer-reviewed science. But thousands of sources cited by this report have been nowhere near a scientific journal."

Based on the [grading system](#) used in US schools, **21 chapters in the IPCC report receive an F** (they cite peer-reviewed sources less than 60% of the time), 4 chapters get a D, and 6 get a C. There are also 5 Bs and 8 As.

In November, IPCC chairman Rajendra Pachauri disparaged non-peer-reviewed research in an [interview](#) with the *Times of India* (see the end of the article):

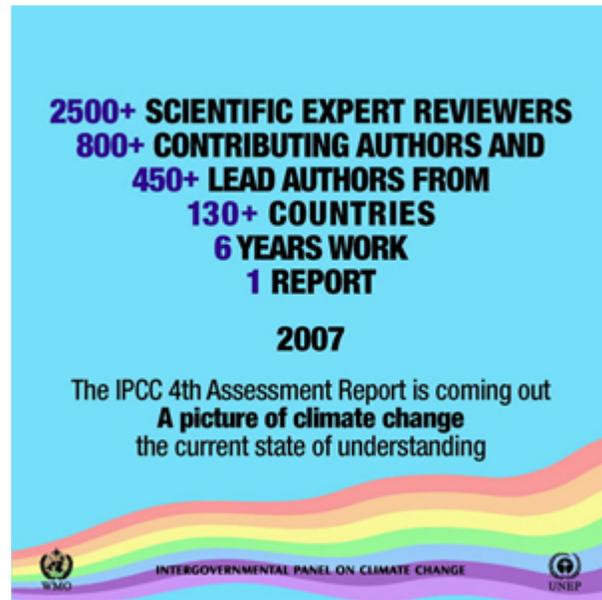
IPCC studies only peer-review science. Let someone publish the data in a decent credible publication. I am sure IPCC would then accept it, otherwise we can just throw it into the dustbin.

[THE CITIZEN AUDIT REPORT IS HERE](#)

contact: Donna Laframboise - NOconsensus.org AT gmail.com



Citizen Audit graphic



IPCC graphic

[press release ends]

Final Note:

The original, online version of this report was released on April 14, 2010. The PDF version was produced in early May 2010.

For info regarding the history and purpose of this project please see:

[Help Audit the UN Climate Report – Crowdsourcing project](#) and

[Who's Concerned About the Climate Report?](#)

Also, please see the list of citizen auditors who donated hundreds of hours of their personal time - thereby making this project possible:

[Citizen Auditors list](#)