radiative/thermal properties. As part of the TAR, the IPCC will futher examine the use of Global Warming Potentials for each gas for a wide range of time horizons.

Methodologies

The IPCC will continue to place a high priority on the further development of methodologies for greenhouse gas inventories. The methodologies work will be guided from a policy perspective, i.e., priority setting, by the Joint IPCC - SBSTA/SBI/FCCC Secretariat Working Group, thus ensuring that the work of the IPCC is relevant and timely. The work program will concentrate on aspects of land-use change and forestry issues, analysis of uncertainties, and assessment of national feedback.

IPCC Synthesis Report – Policy Relevant Scientific Questions

The Synthesis Report will address policy-relevant scientific questions of greatest interest and importance to policymakers, in particular, the Conference of Parties to the FCCC and its two subsidiary bodies (SBI and SBSTA). Last year, the IPCC requested input from governments through SBSTA and SBI and received a number of useful suggestions, especially from the European Union. I will continue, through the Joint Working Group, to closely coordinate with the FCCC Secretary and the co-chairs of SBI and SBSTA, in order to identify the key issues that should be addressed within the Synthesis Report. The IPCC Plenary must approve the final list of questions that will be addressed in the Synthesis Report.

The Synthesis Report, which will not be policy prescriptive, will address these policy-relevant scientific questions in the light of information contained within the three Working Group Reports (chapters, technical summaries, and Summaries for Policymakers). It will, *inter alia,* provide information from all three working groups that is most relevant to Article II of the FCCC, and provide policymakers with information that will allow them to evaluate the implications of no action, implemented actions, and agreed and proposed targets and timetables to limit greenhouse gas concentrations (including decisions taken at COP-3 in Kyoto). It will also assess the impact of Annex I actions on developing countries.

Policy-relevant scientific questions could include:

- a wide range of non-intervention scenarios for the future of all greenhouse gas emissions and sinks and aerosols, what are the resulting atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols, the global and climatic changes and associated impacts?
- what policy intervention scenarios for emissions and sinks would be needed to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a range of levels?
- what are the impacts of climate change associated with each of these scenarios and with different stabilization levels (note the time lags between climate change and impacts)?
- what possible combination of policies concerning all sources and sinks might be able to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations at different levels and for different constraints on rates of change?