



## **Evaluating the use of verbal probability expressions to communicate likelihood information in IPCC reports**

Adam Harris  
University College London

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) prescribes that the communication of risk and uncertainty information pertaining to scientific reports, model predictions etc. be communicated with a set of 7 likelihood expressions. These range from “Extremely likely” (intended to communicate a likelihood of greater than 99%) through “As likely as not” (33-66%) to “Extremely unlikely” (less than 1%). Psychological research has investigated the degree to which these expressions are interpreted as intended by the IPCC, both within and across cultures. I will present a selection of this research and demonstrate some problems associated with communicating likelihoods in this way, as well as suggesting some potential improvements.