

CLIMATE CHANGE 1995

Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation
of Climate Change:
Scientific-Technical Analyses



Contribution of Working Group II
to the Second Assessment Report of the
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



Climate Change 1995

Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation of Climate Change: Scientific-Technical Analyses

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Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Summary for Policymakers: Scientific-Technical Analyses of Impacts, Adaptations, and Mitigation of Climate Change</i>	1
<i>Technical Summary: Impacts, Adaptations, and Mitigation Options</i>	19
Part I—Introductory Materials	
A. Ecophysiological, Ecological, and Soil Processes in Terrestrial Ecosystems: A Primer on General Concepts and Relationships.....	57
B. Energy Primer.....	75
Part II—Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation Options	
1. Climate Change Impacts on Forests.....	95
2. Rangelands in a Changing Climate: Impacts, Adaptations, and Mitigation.....	131
3. Deserts in a Changing Climate: Impacts.....	159
4. Land Degradation and Desertification.....	171
5. Impacts of Climate Change on Mountain Regions.....	191
6. Non-Tidal Wetlands.....	215
7. The Cryosphere: Changes and Their Impacts.....	241
8. Oceans.....	267
9. Coastal Zones and Small Islands.....	289
10. Hydrology and Freshwater Ecology.....	325
11. Industry, Energy, and Transportation: Impacts and Adaptation.....	365
12. Human Settlements in a Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptation.....	399
13. Agriculture in a Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptation.....	427
14. Water Resources Management.....	469
15. Wood Production under Changing Climate and Land Use.....	487
16. Fisheries.....	511
17. Financial Services.....	539
18. Human Population Health.....	561
Part III—Assessment of Mitigation Options	
19. Energy Supply Mitigation Options.....	587
20. Industry.....	649
21. Mitigation Options in the Transportation Sector.....	679
22. Mitigation Options for Human Settlements.....	713
23. Agricultural Options for Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	745
24. Management of Forests for Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	773
25. Mitigation: Cross-Sectoral and Other Issues.....	799
Part IV—Technical Appendices	
26. Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations.....	823
27. Methods for Assessment of Mitigation Options.....	835
28. Inventory of Technologies, Methods, and Practices.....	845
<i>Appendix A. Expert Reviewers of the IPCC Working Group II Volume</i>	853
<i>Appendix B. Glossary of Terms</i>	863
<i>Appendix C. Acronyms and Chemical Symbols</i>	873
<i>Appendix D. Units</i>	877
<i>Appendix E. List of Major IPCC Reports</i>	879

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to provide an authoritative international statement of scientific opinion on climate change. The IPCC prepared its first comprehensive assessment report in 1990, with subsequent supplementary reports in 1992 and 1994. *Climate Change 1995* is the first full sequel to the original assessment. The IPCC's periodic assessments of the causes, consequences and possible responses to climate change are the most comprehensive and up-to-date available. These assessments form the standard scientific reference for all concerned with climate change and its consequences, in academia, government and industry worldwide. Several hundred scientists and contributors, recognized internationally as experts in their fields, were brought together in three working groups to assess climate change for this Second Assessment Report. During drafting, the chapters were exposed to extensive review by many other independent experts, and subjected to full governmental reviews. This volume, *Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation of Climate Change: Scientific-Technical Analyses*, is companion to two other volumes from the IPCC produced under the umbrella title *Climate Change 1995*. For the first time, all three volumes are published by Cambridge University Press:

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Contribution of Working Group I to the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

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*Climate Change 1995 - Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation of Climate Change:
Scientific-Technical Analyses*

This comprehensive volume provides a roadmap for navigating the sometimes divisive public debate about the consequences of climate change. It reviews what is known, unknown, uncertain and controversial about the potential impacts of climate change and finds that:

- the composition and geographic distribution of many ecosystems will shift;
- some regions, especially in the tropics and subtropics, may suffer significant adverse consequences for food security, even though the effects of climate change on global food production may prove small to moderate;
- there could be an increase in a wide range of human diseases, including mortality, and illness due to heat waves and extreme weather events, extensions in the potential transmission of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, and regional declines in nutritional status;
- some countries will face threats to sustainable development from losses of human habitat due to sea-level rise, reductions in water quality and quantity, and disruptions from extreme events;
- technological advances have increased the range of adaptation and mitigation options, and offer exciting opportunities for reducing emissions, but are not currently available in all regions of the world.

This volume will be of great value to decisionmakers, the scientific community and students.

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