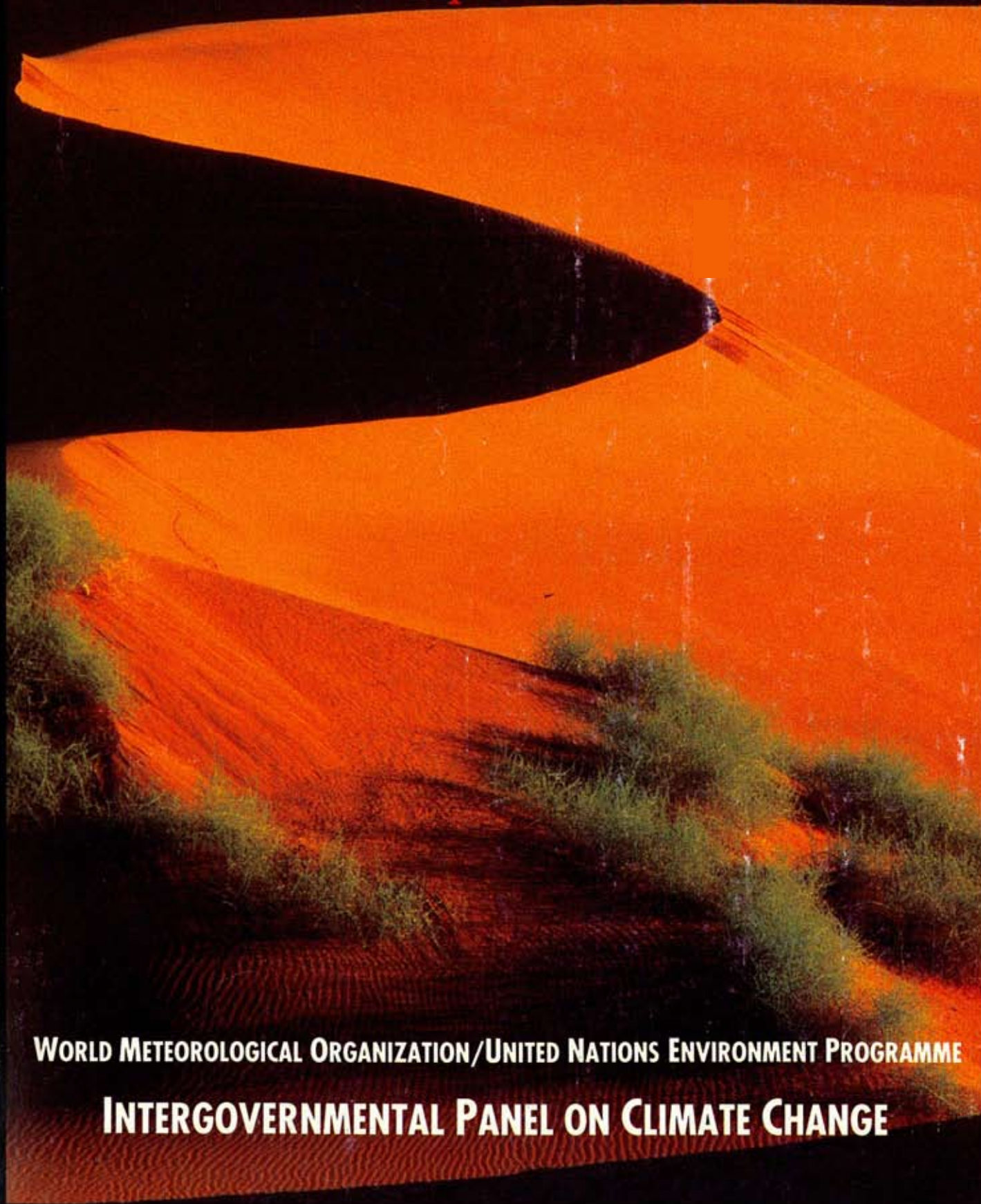


CLIMATE CHANGE

The IPCC Impacts Assessment



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION/UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

This is the Report of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was set up jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme in 1988. It is an assessment of the physical and biological impacts of climate change and forms the companion volume to the Report of Working Group I, the IPCC Scientific Assessment.

The topics covered by this assessment include:

- Agriculture and forestry
- Natural terrestrial ecosystems
- Hydrology and water resources
- Human settlements and socio-economic activities
- Oceans and coastal zones
- Cryosphere and permafrost

Several hundred international scientists participated in the preparation and review of this assessment, making it the most authoritative statement of the views of the majority of the international scientific community at this time. While the information presented here is the best available, it is clear that there are gaps in our knowledge that require further research.

The assessment will provide informed input to the scientific, political and economic debates and negotiations that will take place in the immediate future. Appropriate strategies in response to the issue of climate change can be based on the scientific foundation that the Report provides. This assessment is, therefore, an essential reference for all who are concerned with climate change and its consequences.



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