Climate Change and the 2022 IPCC Report A Threat to Human Wellbeing and the Health of our Planet Ethel Howley, SSND

Despite efforts to reduce the risks, human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world. People and ecosystems least able to cope are being hardest hit, according to the scientists in the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC), February 2022 report. This Panel is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. Its members are from 195 countries. They provide political leaders with periodic scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and risks, as well as strategies for adaptation and mitigation. The Chair of the IPCC has said, "This report is a dire warning about the consequences of inaction. It shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our wellbeing and a healthy planet. Our actions today will shape how people adapt and nature responds to increasing climate risks."

The report emphasizes the interdependence of climate, biodiversity and people while integrating natural, social and economic sciences more strongly than earlier IPCC assessments. It calls us to the urgency of immediate and more ambitious action to address climate risks. At the same time, it offers new insights into nature's potential not only to reduce climate risks but also to improve people's lives. Adequate finance and political support are essential.

Climate change is a global challenge requiring local solutions. Cities can provide opportunities for climate action by requiring green buildings, reliable supplies of clean water and renewable energy, and sustainable transportation systems that connect urban and rural areas, all of which can lead to a more inclusive society. The impacts of climate change on nature and people around the globe were analyzed for this report along with future impacts at different levels of warming in order to offer options to strengthen nature 's and society's resilience to ongoing climate change, to fight hunger, poverty, and inequality. Earth is home, our only home. We must commit to respecting and protecting her integrity. Indeed (all) life depends on this.

To read a summation of the 6 biggest takeaways of the IPCC 2022 report, click here