

Foreword SRCCS

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was jointly established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988. Its terms of reference include: (i) to assess available scientific and socio-economic information on climate change and its impacts and on the options for mitigating climate change and adapting to it and (ii) to provide, on request, scientific/ technical/socio-economic advice to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). From 1990, the IPCC has produced a series of Assessment Reports, Special Reports, Technical Papers, methodologies and other products that have become standard works of reference, widely used by policymakers, scientists and other experts.

At COP7, a draft decision was taken to invite the IPCC to write a technical paper on geological storage of carbon dioxide¹. In response to that, at its 20th Session in 2003 in Paris, France, the IPCC agreed on the development of the Special Report on Carbon dioxide Capture and Storage.

This volume, the Special Report on Carbon dioxide Capture and Storage, has been produced by Working Group III of the IPCC and focuses on carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS) as an option for mitigation of climate change. It consists of 9 chapters covering sources of CO₂, the technical specifics of capturing, transporting and storing it in geological formations, the ocean, or minerals, or utilizing it in industrial processes. It also assesses the costs and potential of CCS, the environmental impacts, risks and safety, its implications for greenhouse gas inventories and accounting, public perception, and legal issues.

As is usual in the IPCC, success in producing this report has depended first and foremost on the knowledge, enthusiasm and cooperation of many hundreds of experts worldwide, in many related but different disciplines. We would like to express our gratitude to all the Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, Contributing Authors, Review Editors and Expert Reviewers. These individuals have devoted enormous time and effort to produce this report and we are extremely grateful for their commitment to the IPCC process. We would like to thank the staff of the Working Group III Technical Support Unit and the IPCC Secretariat for their dedication in coordinating the production of another successful IPCC report. We are also grateful to the governments, who have supported their scientists' participation in the IPCC process and who have contributed to the IPCC Trust Fund to provide for the essential participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. We would like to express our appreciation to the governments of Norway, Australia, Brazil and Spain, who hosted drafting sessions in their countries, and especially the government of Canada, that hosted a workshop on this subject as well as the 8th session of Working Group III for official consideration and acceptance of the report in Montreal, and to the government of The Netherlands, who funds the Working Group III Technical Support Unit.

We would particularly like to thank Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC, for his direction and guidance of the IPCC, Dr. Renate Christ, the Secretary of the IPCC and her staff for the support provided, and Professor Ogunlade Davidson and Dr. Bert Metz, the Co-Chairmen of Working Group III, for their leadership of Working Group III through the production of this report.

¹ See <http://unfccc.int>, Report of COP7, document FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1, Decision 9/CP.7 (Art. 3.14 of the Kyoto Protocol), Draft decision -/CMP.1, para 7, page 50: "Invites the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in cooperation with other relevant organisations, to prepare a technical paper on geological carbon storage technologies, covering current information, and report on it for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its second session".

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