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Independent Study & Mentorship

6 December 2024

Subject: 2023 IPCC Synthesis Report

MLA Citation:

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report*.
IPCC, 2023.

Assessment:

The 2023 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Synthesis report presents an in-depth summary of scientific findings on climate change, crucial to understanding how policies were and are being made to mitigate its effects. Thus, my original work, analyzing the report, reduces the over 40-page document into an easy-to-digest presentation. The report uses information from previous IPCC assessment and displays the rise in greenhouse gas concentrations, the impact on ecosystems, and the human cost of extreme weather events. It also emphasizes the need for global cooperation and transitions toward renewable energy sources to limit warming to 1.5°C, or 2.7°F, above pre-industrial levels.

Reading this report allowed me to truly understand global climate initiative. I had previously believed that historic international agreements would address rising climate change, but the report reveals that even the current efforts are unable to to meet temperature goals. For example, although many countries allegedly follow net-zero goals, the report's data still

demonstrates a continuing rise in fossil fuel consumption. Thus, the inconsistency raised questions about political will and the barriers that prevents effective change.

Specifically, I found the emphasis on adaptation as interesting. I had focused on mitigation in my earlier research, analyzing reports from Mr. Bruce McCarl. The IPCC report expanded my understanding of proactive resilience strategies and the discussion on coastal defenses and community-based approaches to manage flood risks allowed me to shift my research direction to also take in account adaptive infrastructure innovations in urban environments.

I also found a point in the report, systematic changes in promoting sustainable transitions as important. I found that the argument that societal transformation was as needed as technological innovation interesting as one would believe that society would try its hardest to mitigate negative impacts of the environment. Nonetheless, the report mentions behavioral shifts, like changes in consumption patterns and transportation choices, as effective variables in reducing emissions. And, based on my interview with Mr. Bruce McCarl, I was able to reflect on a previously spoke about topic, individual and collective action outside of governmental policy frameworks. Therefore, I am inspired to wonder how education and media can further increase public awareness and create a sustainable lifestyle for the further generations.

A key section of the report further discusses the inequities of climate change impacts, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities. This resonates with my belief on environmental justice, that climate solutions must prioritize social equity. Thus, I reconsidered my previous perspective on resource allocation, understanding that effective climate policies need to integrate equitable, or fair, frameworks rather than treating them as inferior or as secondary considerations.

The IPCC 2023 Synthesis Report overall deepened my understanding of the complexities of climate change, and the interconnectedness of science, policy, and society. As I move forward with analyzing the document for my original work, I want to explore how technological advancements can also be evaluated due to IPCC recommendations. I also want to discover how public engagement and potentially education can determine behavior. Analyzing the synthesis report highlighted multifaceted issues in environmental economics, ultimately reminding me to change my perspectives to understand beyond the surface of what the report is saying in order to discover the true effects of climate change.