

Global Change: Enough water for all?

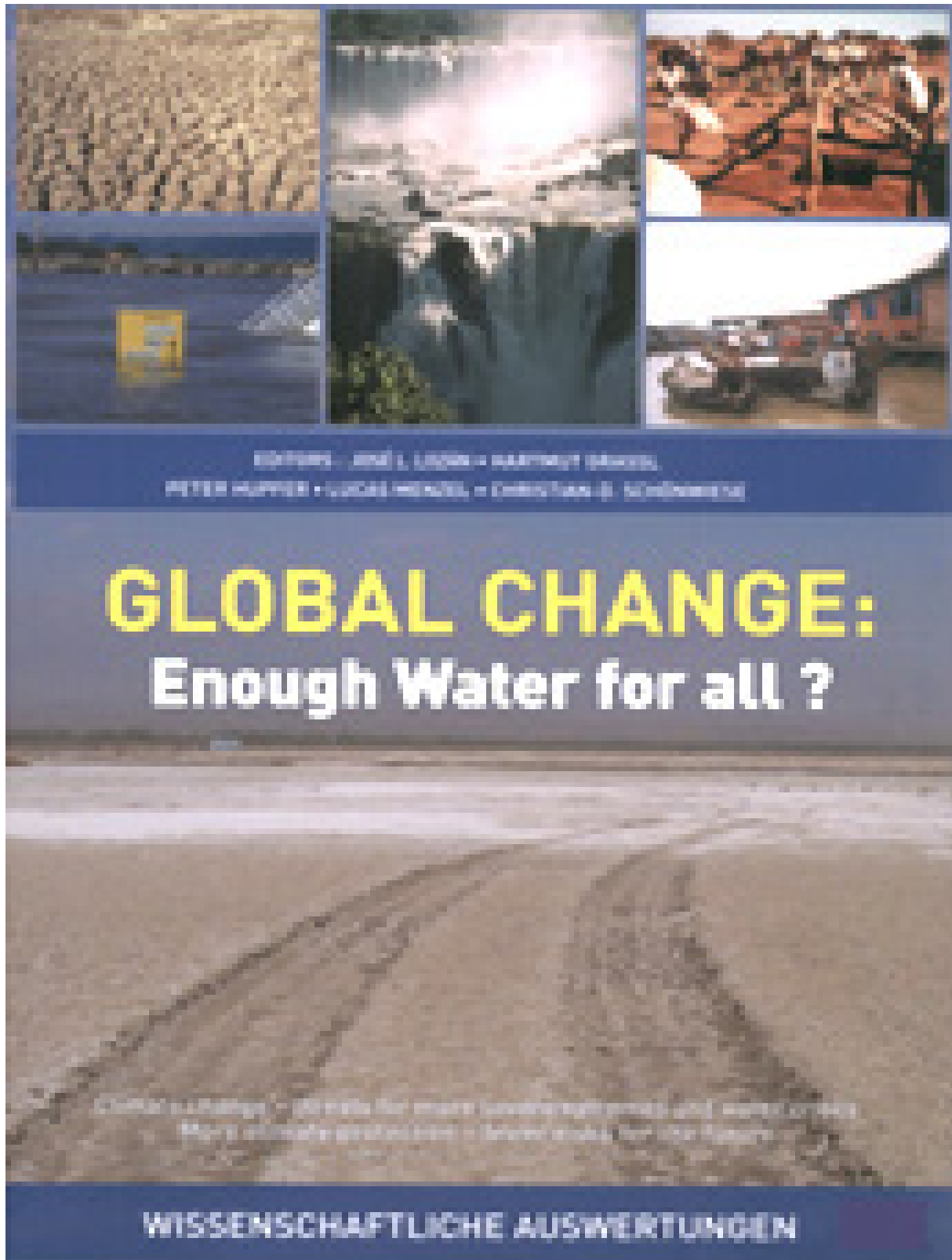
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(Eds.): José L. Lozán, Hartmut Graßl, Peter Hupfer, E. Raschke & Ch.-D. Schönwiese
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Foreword by Prof. Dr. Klaus Töpfer

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Scientists inform directly

Wissenschaftler informieren direkt

Das Klima des 21. Jahrhunderts wird wesentlich durch die Menschheit mitbestimmt sein. Der Leser findet im vorliegenden Buch Informationen über die zukünftige Entwicklung von Lufttemperatur, Niederschlägen, Meeresspiegel, Gebirgsgletschern, großen Eisschilden, Meereisdecke, Permafrost, Desertifikation u.a sowie über die Folgen für Pflanzen und Tiere, Landwirtschaft, Forstwirtschaft, Wasserverfügbarkeit, Gesundheit des Menschen und Stadtklima.

Ergänzend wird ein Überblick über die Klimageschichte und die gegenwärtige Klimabeeinflussung gegeben. Seit Beginn der Industrialisierung beeinflusst der Mensch zunehmend das Klima der Erde vor allem durch den Gebrauch fossiler Energieträger und durch die Vernichtung der Wälder. Allein der Kohlendioxidgehalt hat sich bis heute über 30% erhöht und droht, sich bis zum Jahr 2035 zu verdoppeln, wenn die Massnahmen zur Reduzierung der Emissionen nicht konsequent angewandt werden. Die Temperatur kann viel schneller ansteigen und Werte erreichen, die die Menschheit noch nicht erlebt hat. 1998, 1997, 2001, 1995, 1990, 2000, 1991, 1994 waren in abnehmender Reihenfolge die wärmsten Jahre des 20. Jahrhunderts. Viele der in den 1980er Jahren für das 21. Jahrhundert prognostizierten Veränderungen wie Erwärmung, Anstieg des Meeresspiegels, Zunahme von Infektionskrankheiten können bereits heute in Anfängen festgestellt werden.

Das Buch ist an einen großen Interessentenkreis gerichtet, nämlich alle, die am Klimaschutz interessiert sind, besonders Studierende, Lehrer und Wissenschaftler sowie Umweltorganisationen.

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