



# Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis

Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

## Key messages and issues arising from the New IPCC Report

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259 Authors and Review Editors  
WGI TSU Team

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Key SPM Messages

# 19 Headlines

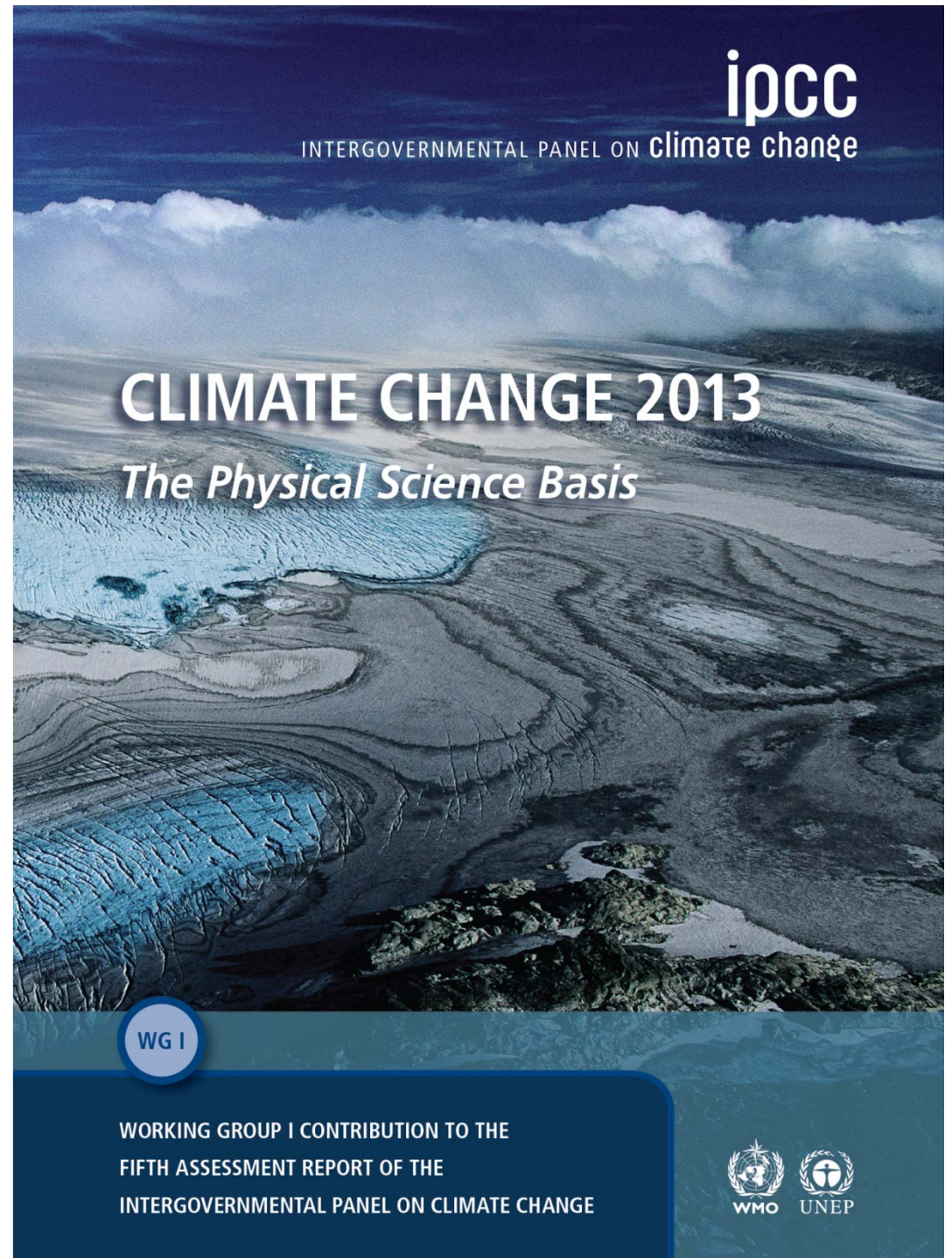
on less than 2 Pages

Summary for Policymakers

14,000 Words

14 Chapters & Atlas

1,100,000 Words





Key SPM Messages

# 19 Headlines

on less than 2 Pages

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worked hard for  
more than 3.5 years

assessed over  
9,200 publications

analyzed more than  
2 million Gigabytes

produced more than  
1,200 diagrams

responded to 54,677  
review comments

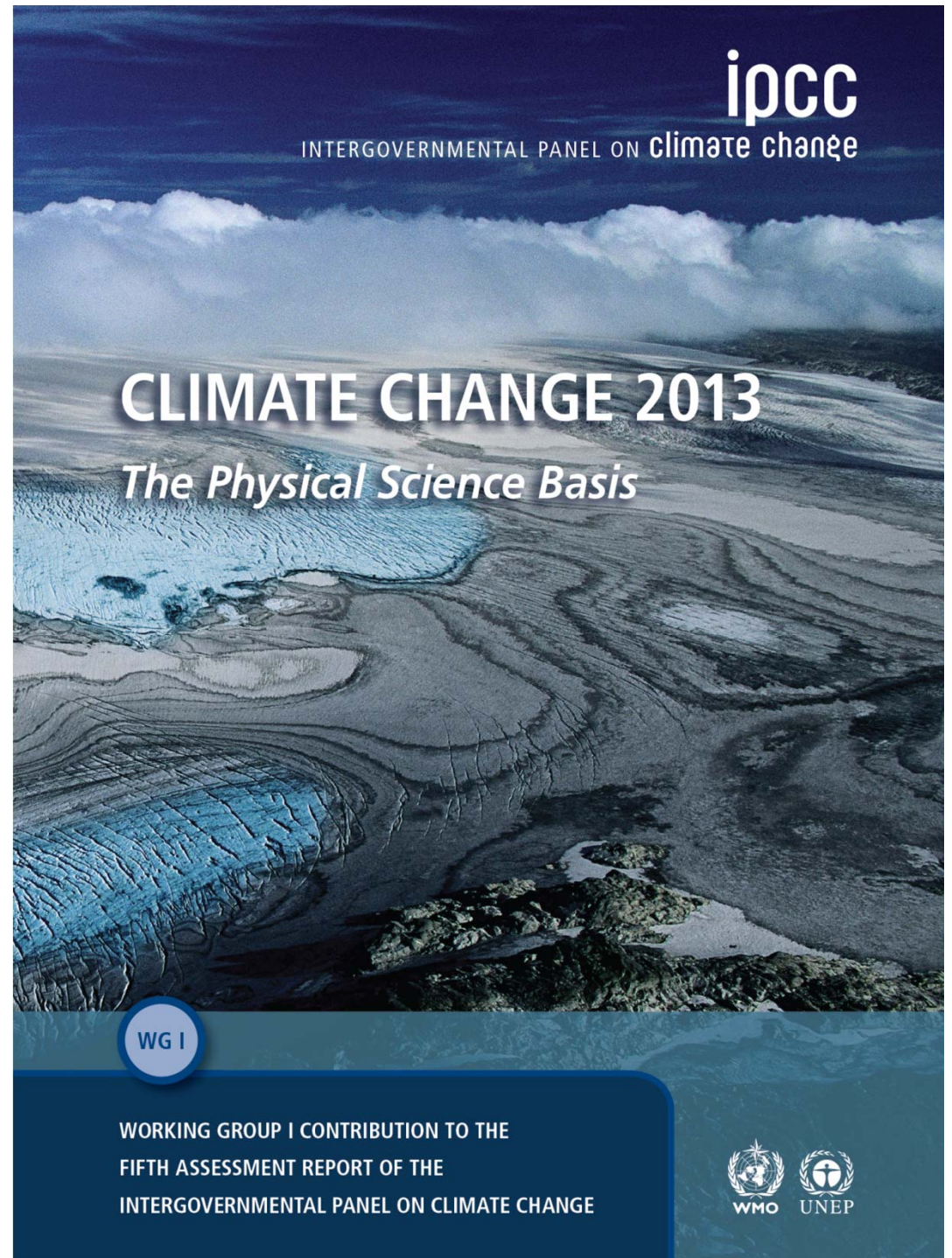




Observations

Understanding

Future



# Observation

What has changed?

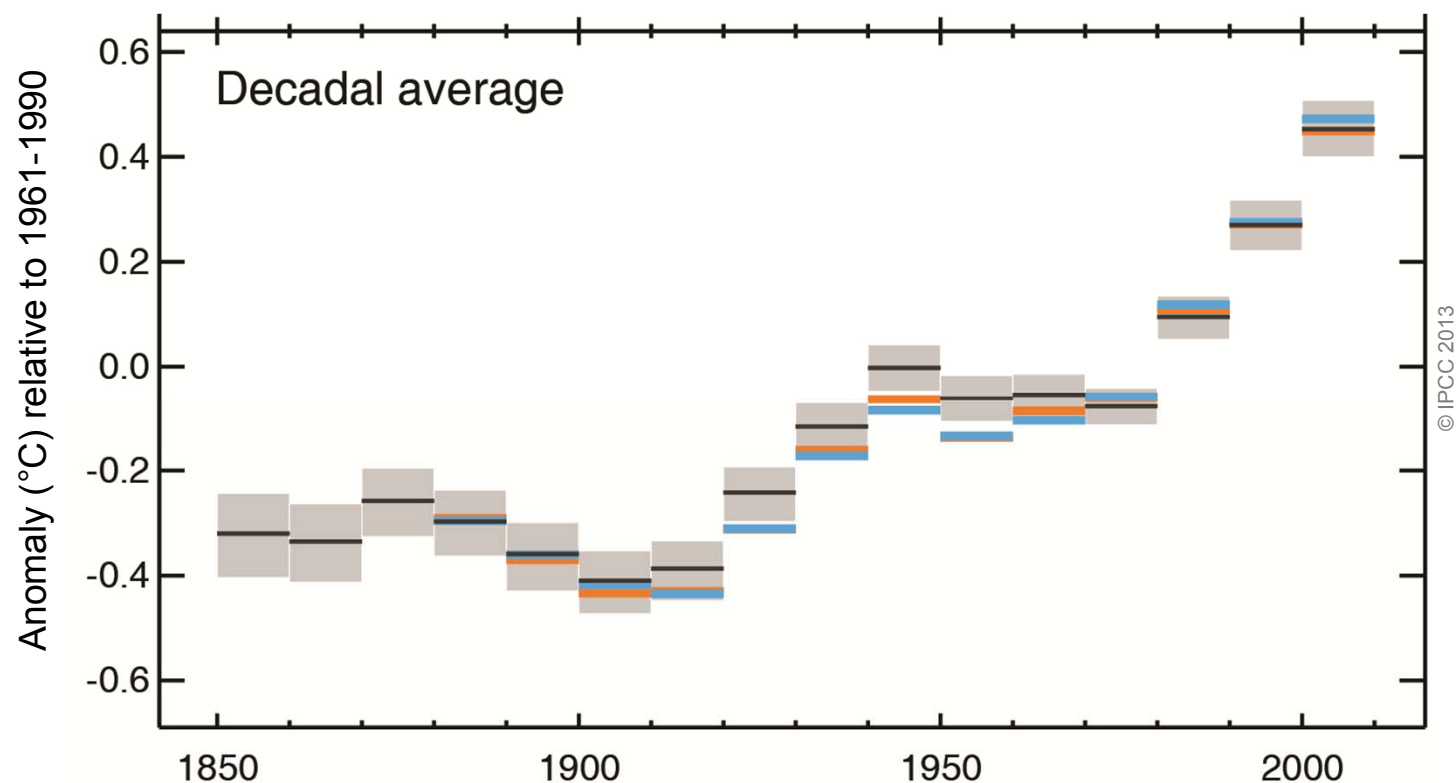
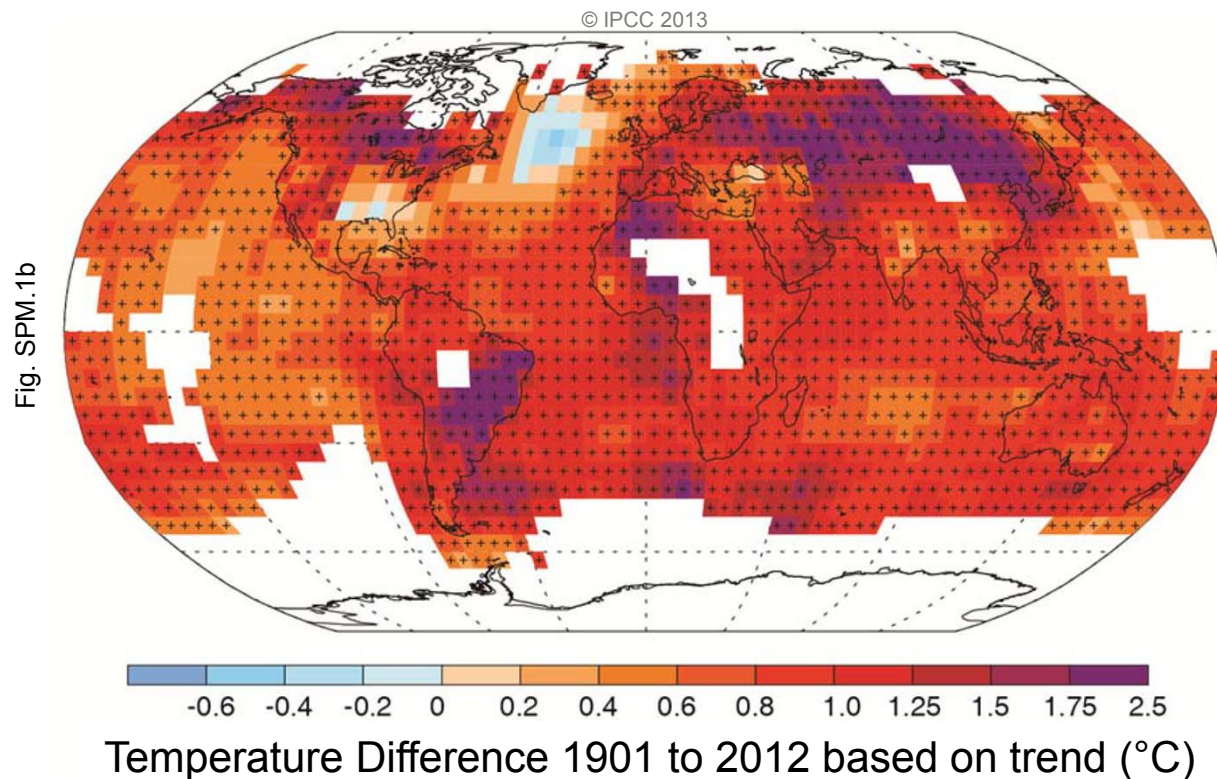


Fig. SPM.1a

Each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850.

In the Northern Hemisphere, 1983–2012 was *likely* the warmest 30-year period of the last 1400 years (*medium confidence*).



Warming of the climate system  
is unequivocal



## Thematic Focus Element TFE.1 | Water

The water cycle consists of water vapour forms, and water occurs primarily in liquid form as surface water, snow and ice on land, as much of it evaporated from the ocean to provide soil moisture. The movement of water in the atmosphere is critical to the global climate system.

TS

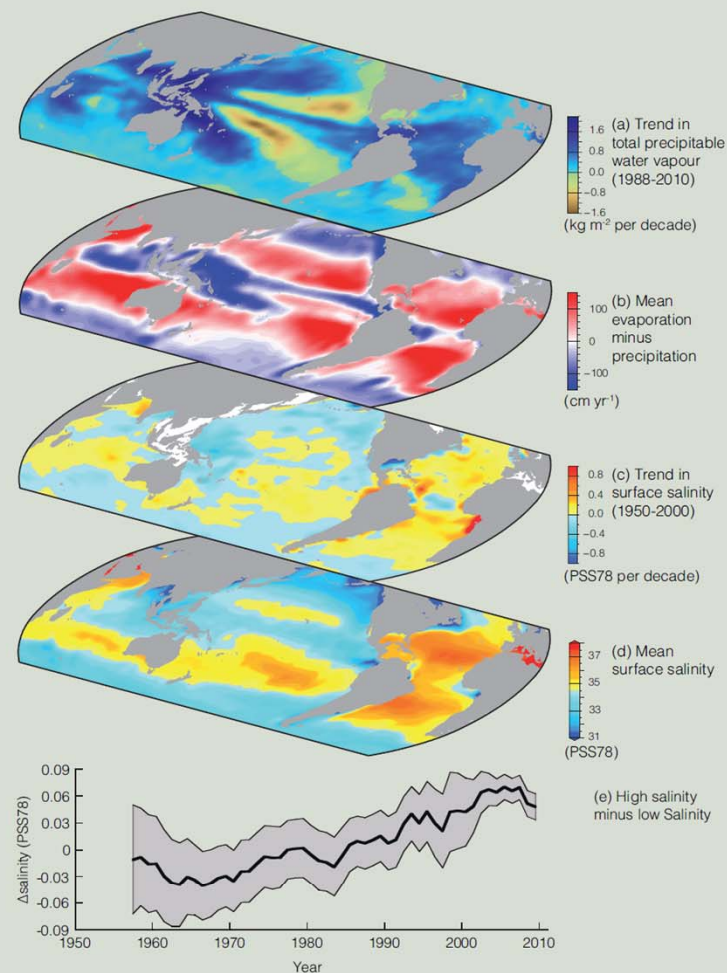
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## Technical Summary

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TFE.1 (continued)



**TFE.1, Figure 1 |** Changes in sea surface salinity are related to the atmospheric patterns of evaporation minus precipitation ( $E - P$ ) and trends in total precipitable water: (a) Linear trend (1988 to 2010) in total precipitable water (water vapour integrated from the Earth's surface up through the entire atmosphere) ( $\text{kg m}^{-2}$  per decade) from satellite observations. (b) The 1979–2005 climatological mean net evaporation minus precipitation ( $\text{cm yr}^{-1}$ ) from meteorological reanalysis data. (c) Trend (1950–2000) in surface salinity (Practical Salinity Scale 78 (PSS78) per 50 years). (d) The climatological mean surface salinity (PSS78) (blues <35; yellows-reds >35). (e) Global difference between salinity averaged over regions where the sea surface salinity is greater than the global mean sea surface salinity ("High Salinity") and salinity averaged over regions with values below the global mean ("Low Salinity"). For details of data sources see Figure 3.21 and FAQ 3.2, Figure 1. (3.9)

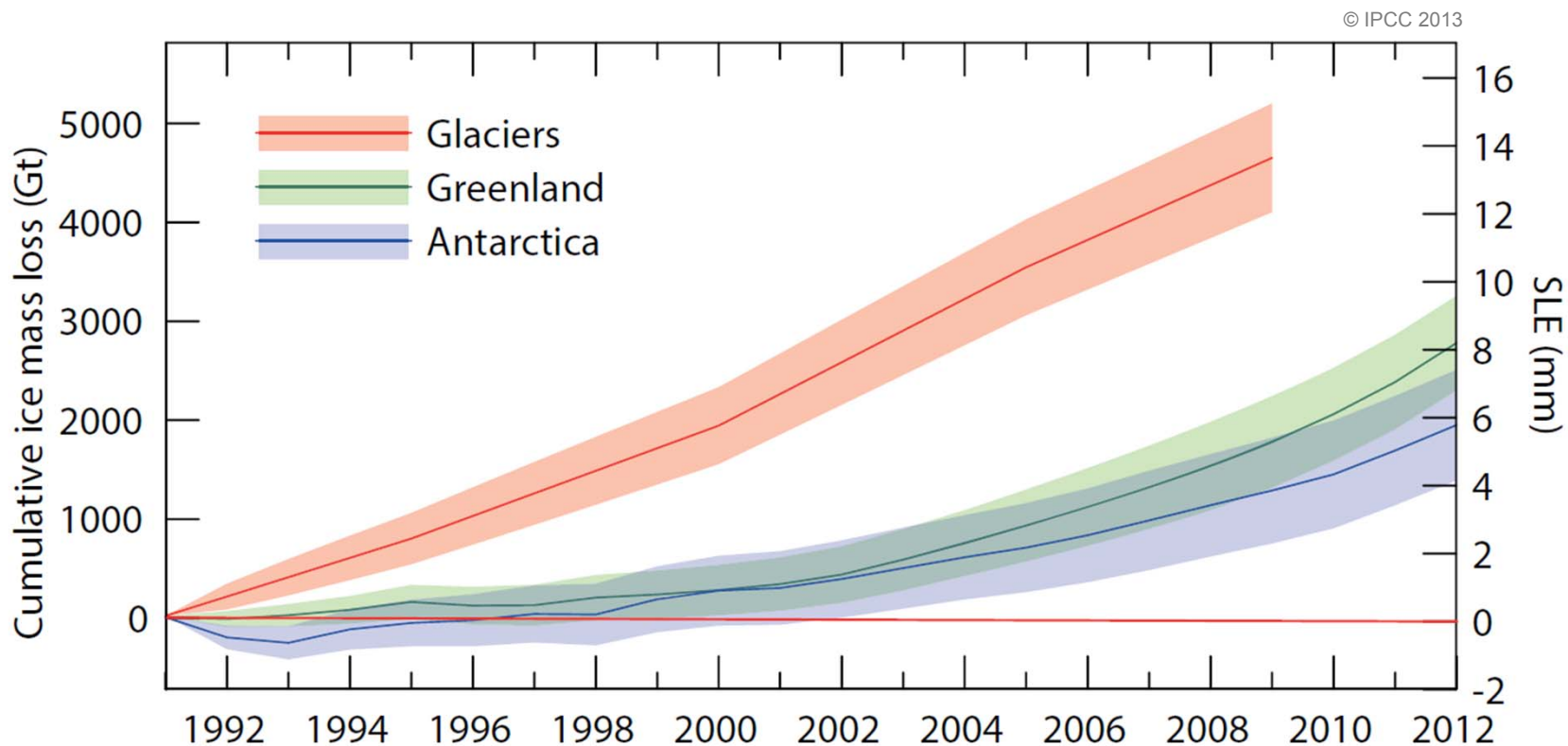


Fig. TS.3

Ice loss from	Glaciers	226 ( $\pm 60\%$ ) Gt yr <sup>-1</sup>	(1993-2009)
	Greenland	215 ( $\pm 25\%$ ) Gt yr <sup>-1</sup>	(2002-2011)
	Antarctica	147 ( $\pm 50\%$ ) Gt yr <sup>-1</sup>	(2002-2011)

100 Gt yr<sup>-1</sup> of ice loss corresponds to 0.28 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> of global mean sea level rise



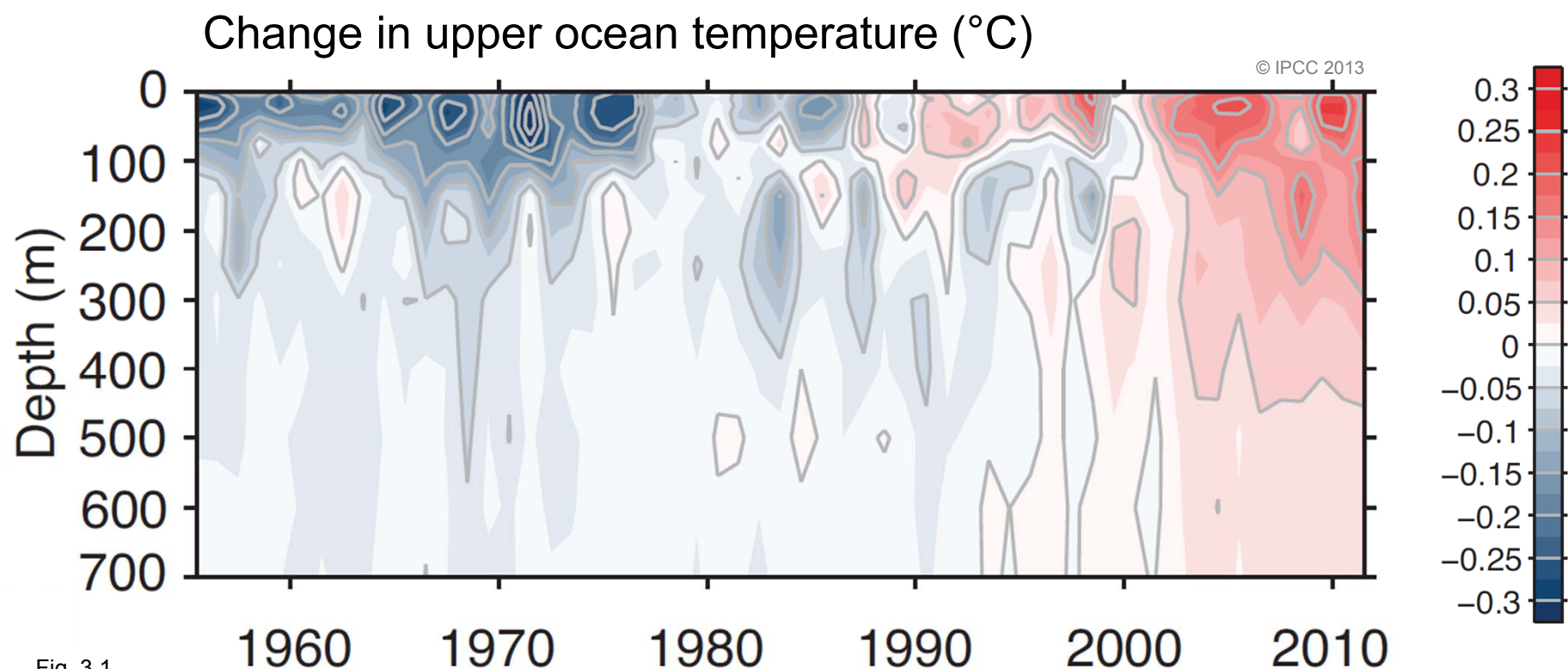
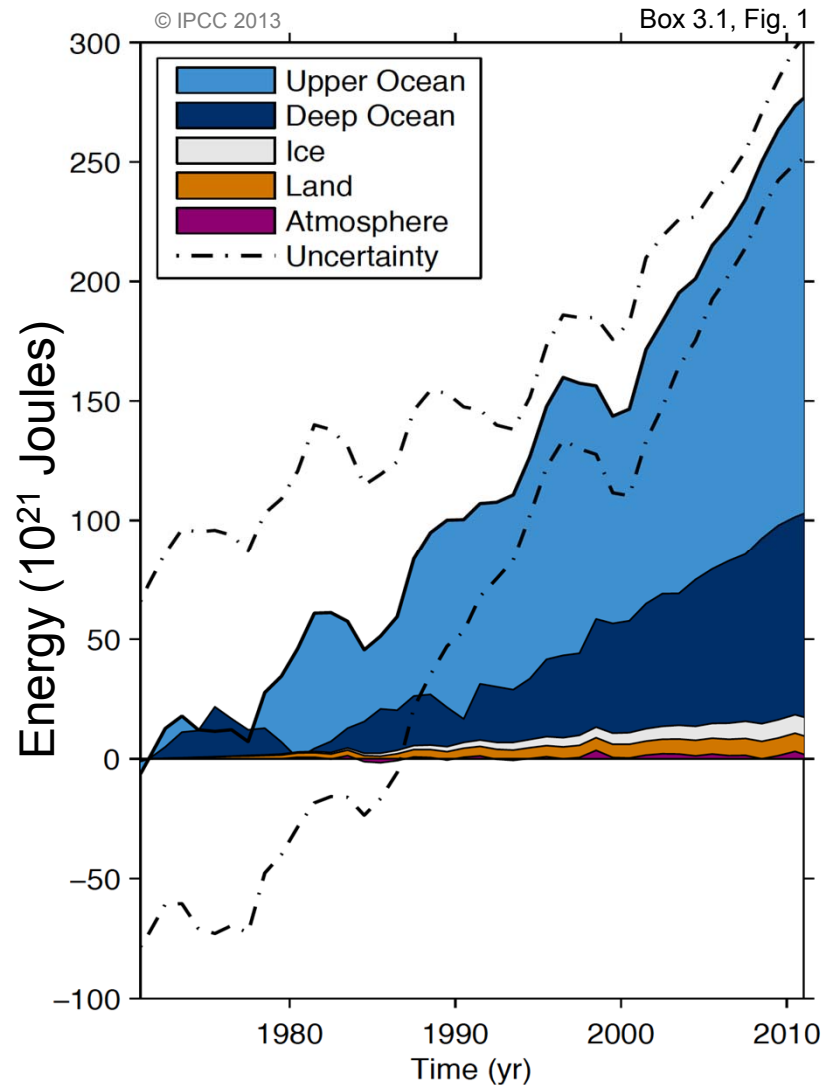


Fig. 3.1

It is *virtually certain* that the upper ocean (0-700 m) warmed from 1971 to 2010, [...]. It is *likely* that the ocean warmed between 700 and 2000 m from 1957 to 2009.

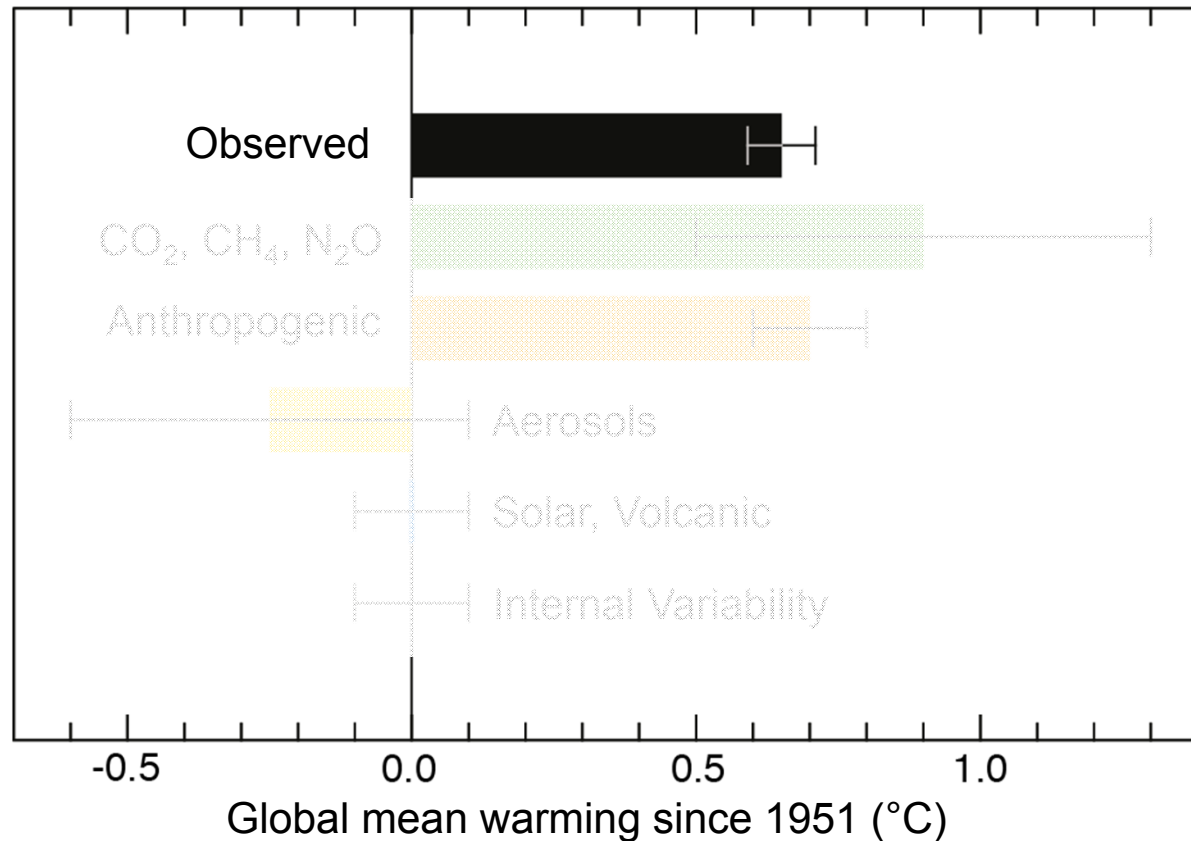


Ocean warming dominates the increase in energy stored in the climate system, accounting for more than 90% of the energy accumulated between 1971 and 2010 (*high confidence*).



# Understanding

Why has it changed?

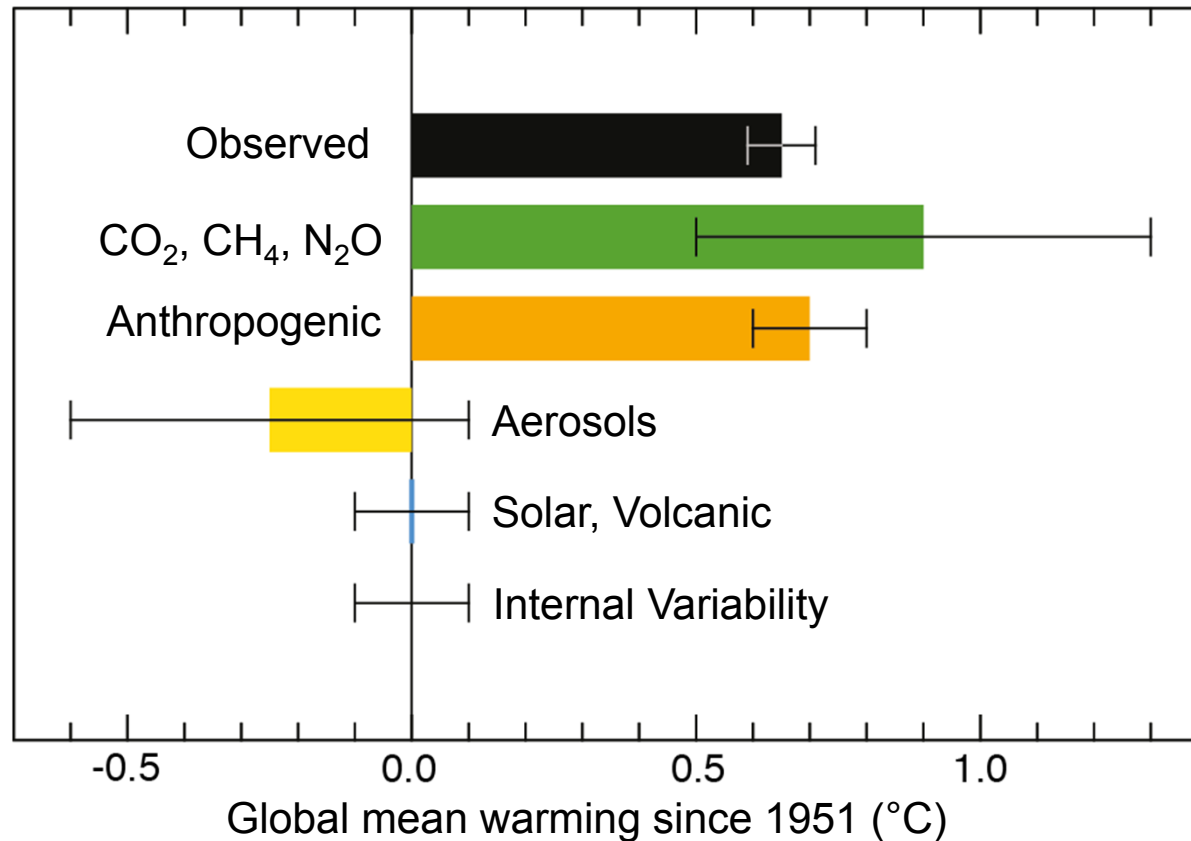


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Fig. TS.10

The observed warming 1951–2010 is approximately 0.6°C to 0.7°C.





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Fig. TS.10

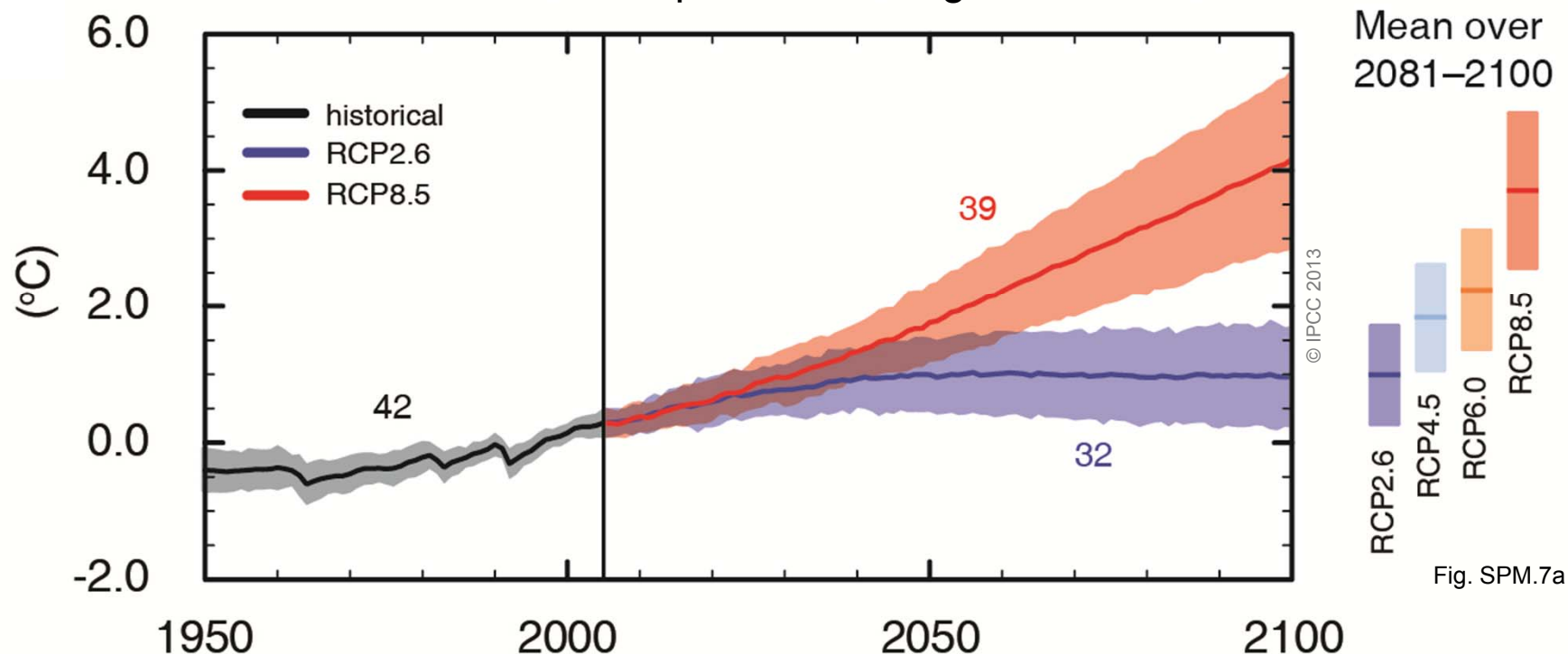
It is *extremely likely* that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.

# Future

## How will it change?

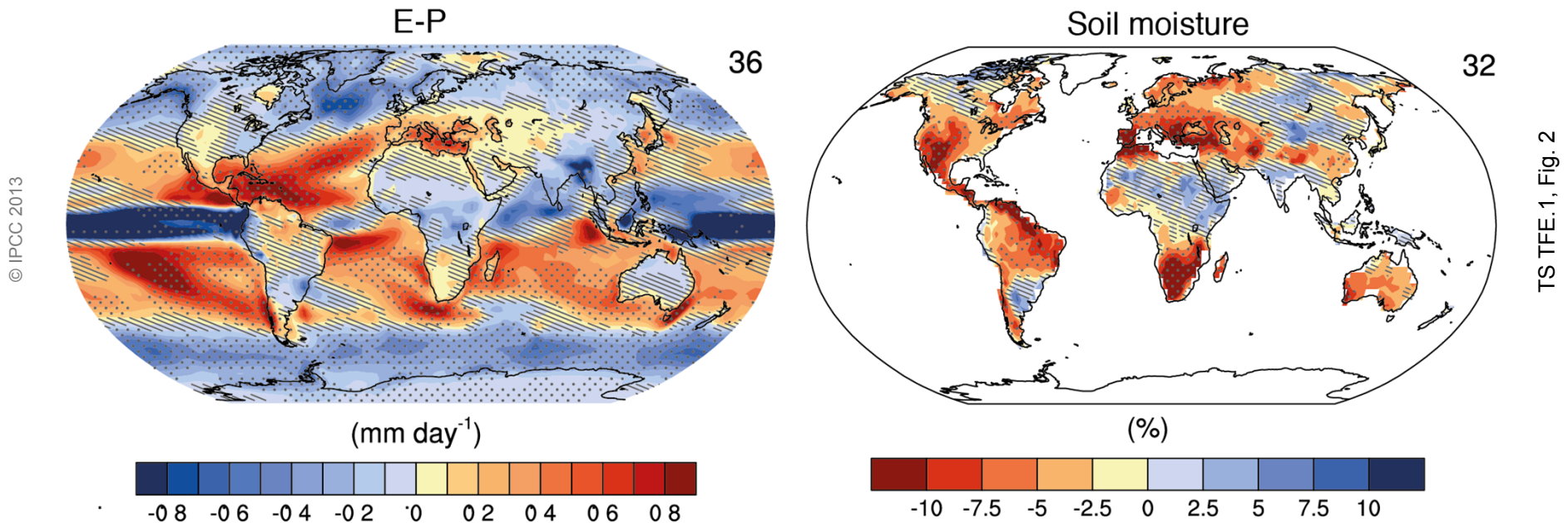


## Global mean surface temperature change from 1986-2005



Global surface temperature change for the end of the 21st century is *likely* to exceed 1.5°C relative to 1850–1900 for all scenarios except RCP2.6.

## Change in water cycle properties from 1986-2005 to 2081-2100 in RCP8.5



The contrast in precipitation between wet and dry regions and between wet and dry seasons will increase, [...]

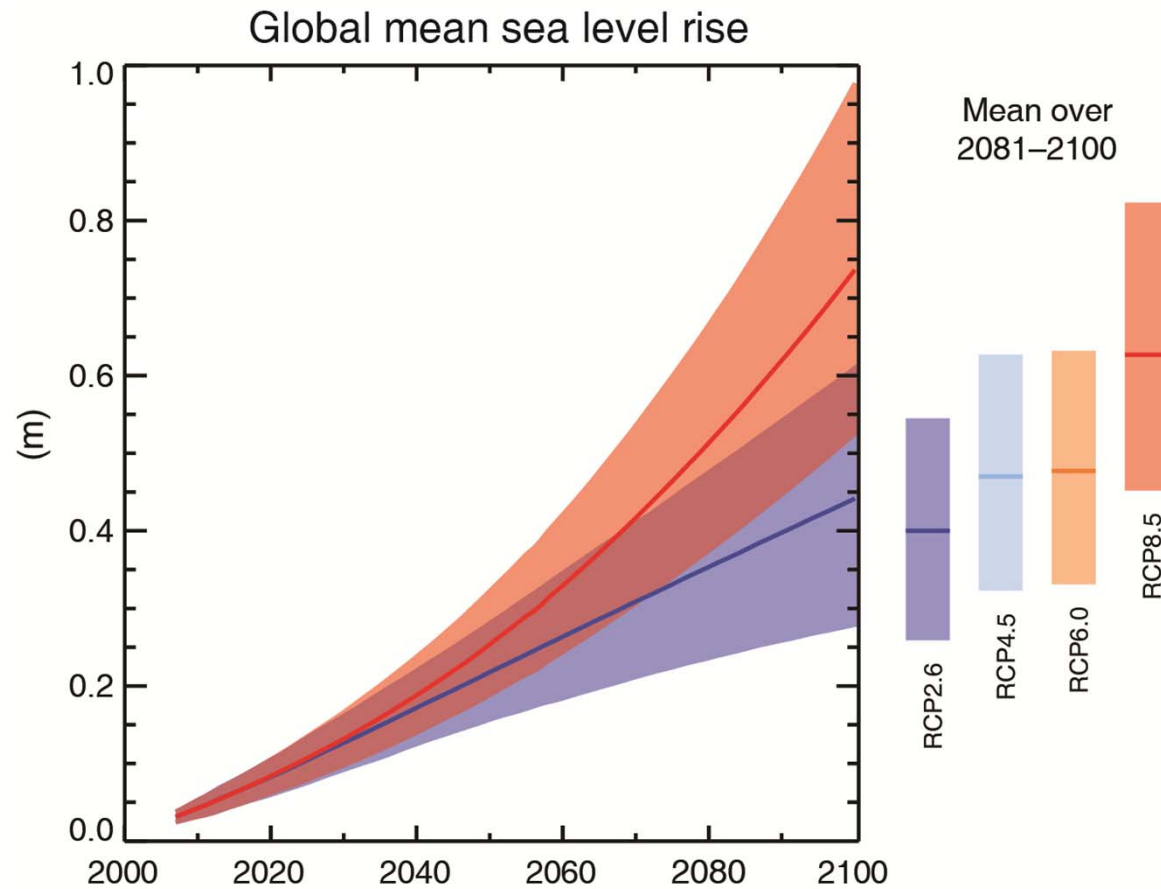


Fig. SPM.9

RCP2.6 (2081-2100), *likely* range: 26 to 55 cm

RCP8.5 (in 2100), *likely* range: 52 to 98 cm



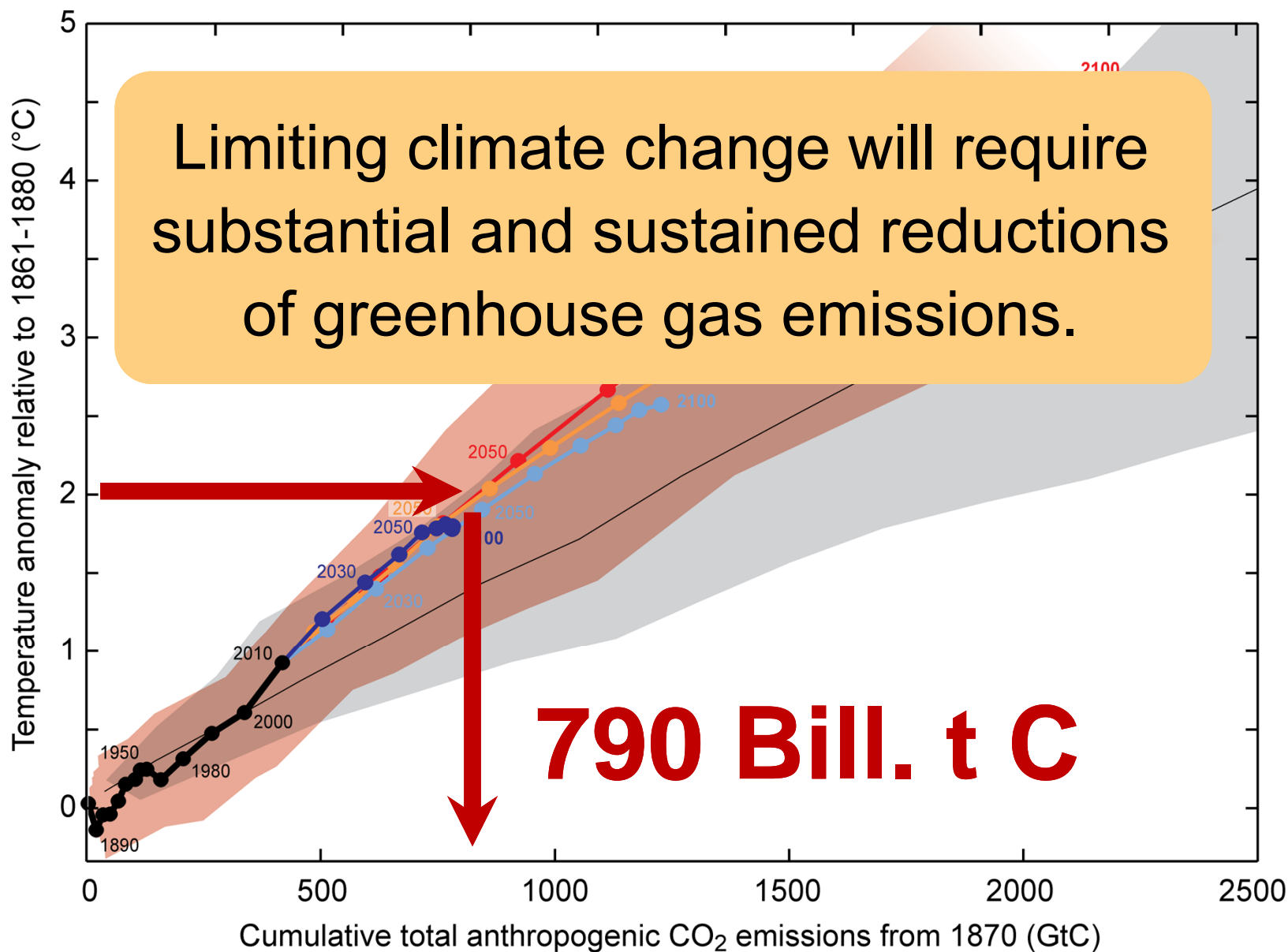
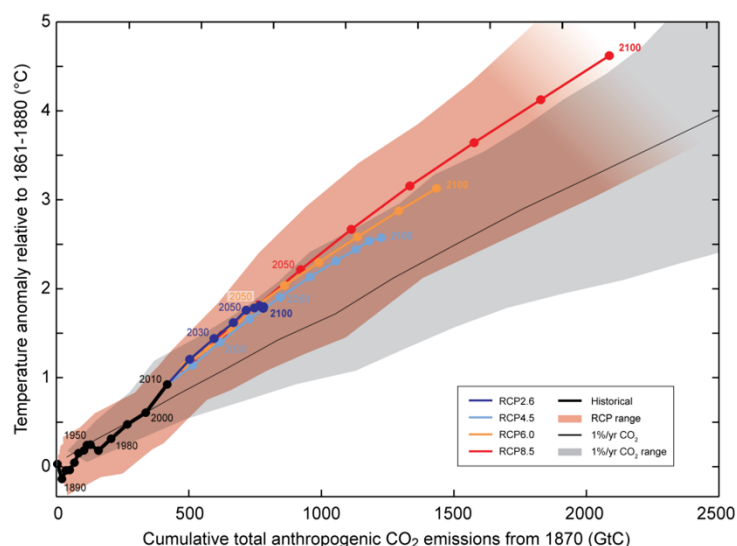


Fig. SPM.10



Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

Budget for the 2°C target: 790 Bill. t C

CO<sub>2</sub> emitted until 2011: –515 Bill. t C

**Remaining emissions: 275 Bill. t C**

**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 2012: 9.7 Bill. t C/yr**

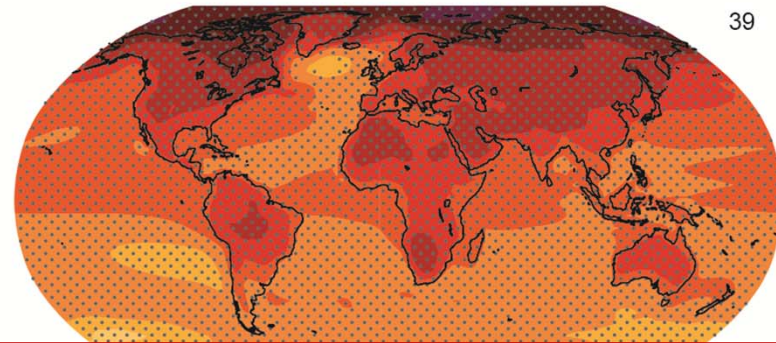
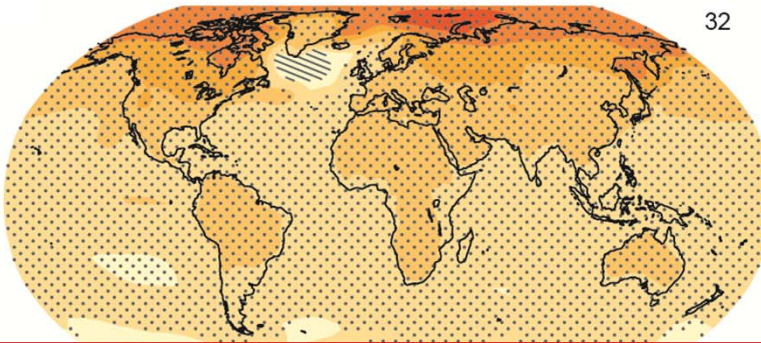
**RCP2.6**

$\text{CO}_{2\text{eq}} = 475 \text{ ppm}$

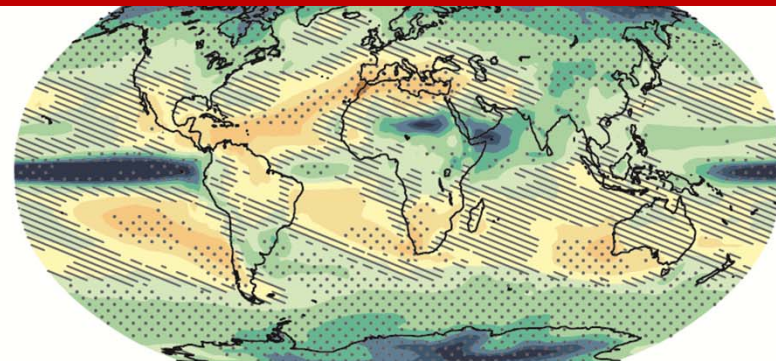
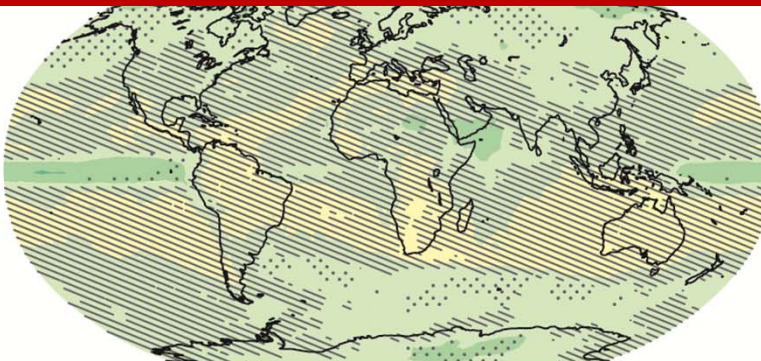
**RCP8.5**

$\text{CO}_{2\text{eq}} = 1313 \text{ ppm}$

Change in average surface temperature (1986–2005 to 2081–2100)



**We have a choice.**





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Further Information

[www.climatechange2013.org](http://www.climatechange2013.org)

Full report and background  
information now available

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